

WAR AND PROPAGANDA

The use of the internet in Informational War:
Propaganda of coverage and coverage of
propaganda of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan-
The Greek case

Basic notions

Three are the basic notions taking part into our presentation:

1. WAR
2. PROPAGANDA
3. INTERNET

From industrial wars to contemporary wars

Industrial war

- From WWI (1914)- wars conducted during the 1970's
- Territorial sovereignty as main cause
- Mobilization of great parts of population engaging gradually the sum of society
- Dominant role of the state (takes control of key structures)

From industrial wars to contemporary wars

Contemporary informational wars

- They are presented as interventions on behalf of an ecumenical discourse and an ecumenical value system
- They are characterized by a catalytic for the outcome of the war disproportion of power between the adversaries
- They are expected to last only a few weeks
- They tend to be rationalized cloaked in the necessity of global peace and harmony
- More than ever “informational wars” aiming at defining war as a situation comprised of “information procedures”

Propaganda

Kaleidoscopic notion including many different aspects

1. Method of dispersion of lies (early 20th century theorists)
2. Psychological method, based on psychological manipulations
3. Act or series of acts aiming at certain aims and results
4. Communication process

Propaganda

We define propaganda in order to clarify what propaganda means for the contemplations and the rationale of the current research:

Propaganda is both discourse and action, thought and implementation. To be more specific we consider propaganda as deliberately conducted process of thought, discourse and action or discourse as action, practiced by individuals or groups using means of communication and aiming at influencing other individuals or groups to adopt or not to adopt certain opinions, attitudes or practices

The internet informational environment

In Greece 42% of the users surf the internet searching and downloading news updates from news portals

- Decentralized structure  extrication from a single central control organization  considered to be more independent than traditional media
- Information abundance
- Great speeds of information dissemination
- Merger of different types of discourse, such as text, sound, image and video within the same medium

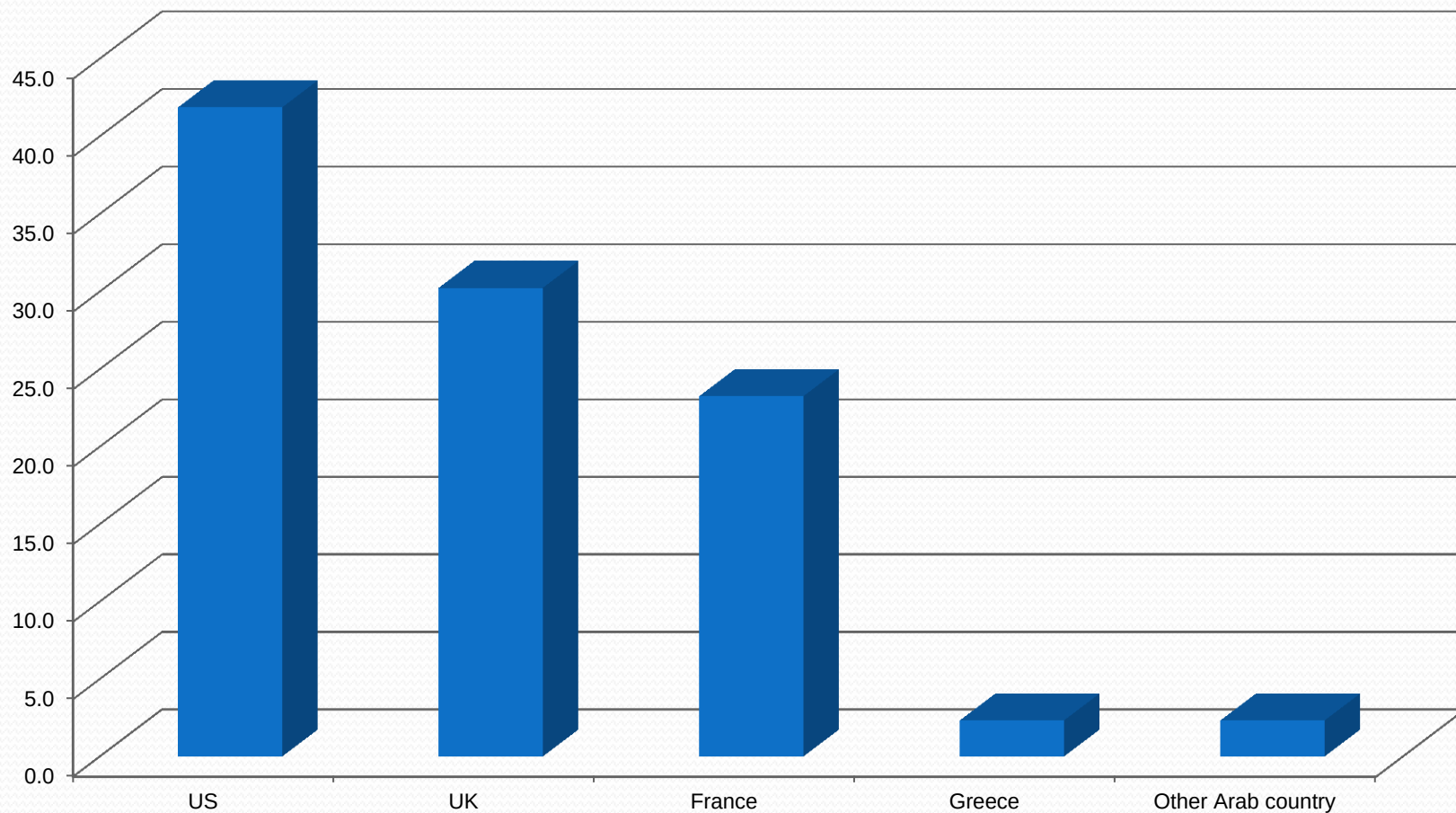
Main Research Question-Research Method

Our main research question is whether the news articles of three Greek portals (ert.gr, in.gr, flash.gr) reporting the news on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan can be said to conduct a coverage containing propagandistic elements promoting the strategy of informational war of western coalition forces

Content analysis of all articles (79) of three news portals reporting on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (www.ert.gr, www.flash.gr, www.in.gr) presented between 12 April and 12 May

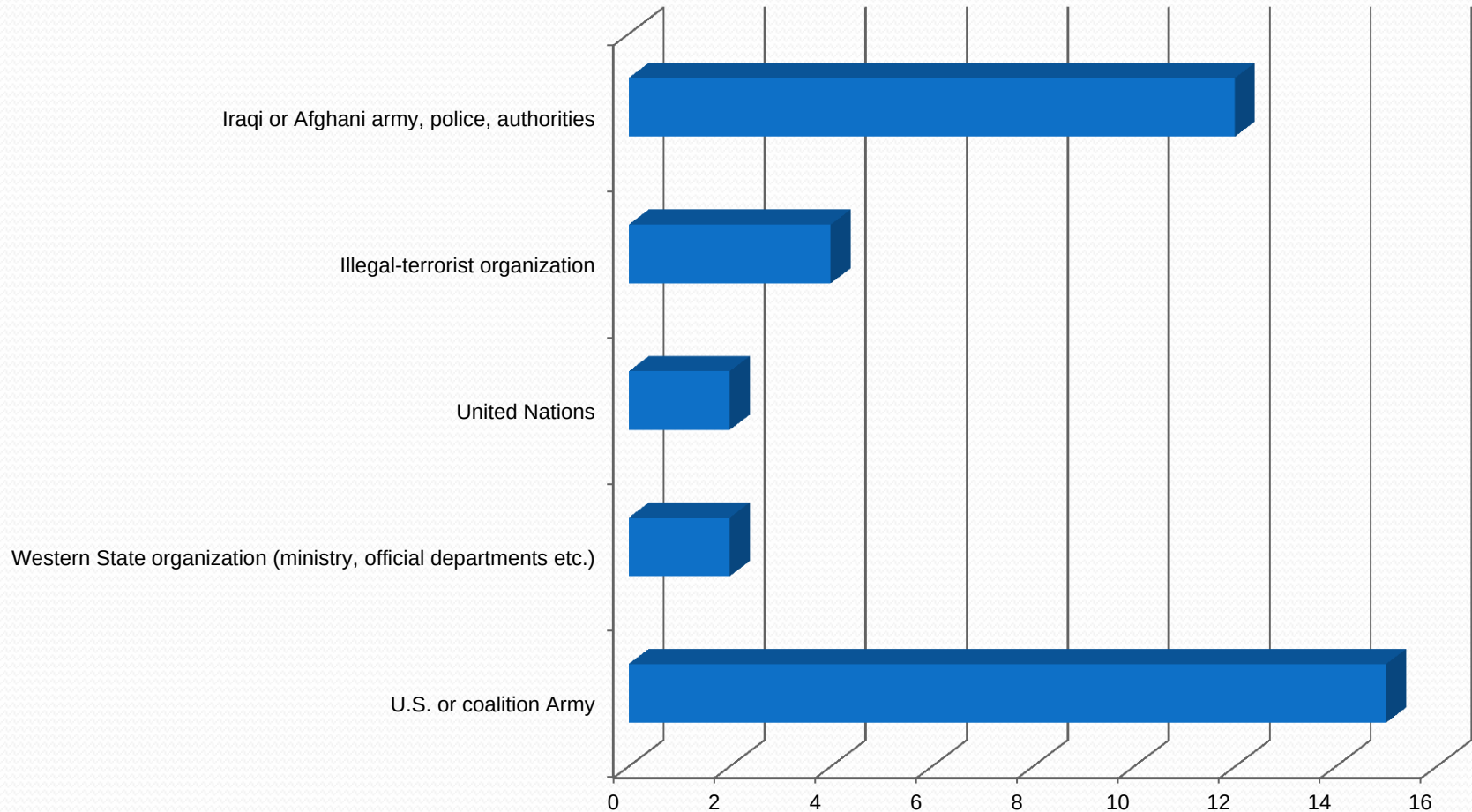
Key Findings-Sources

Nationality of Journalist source



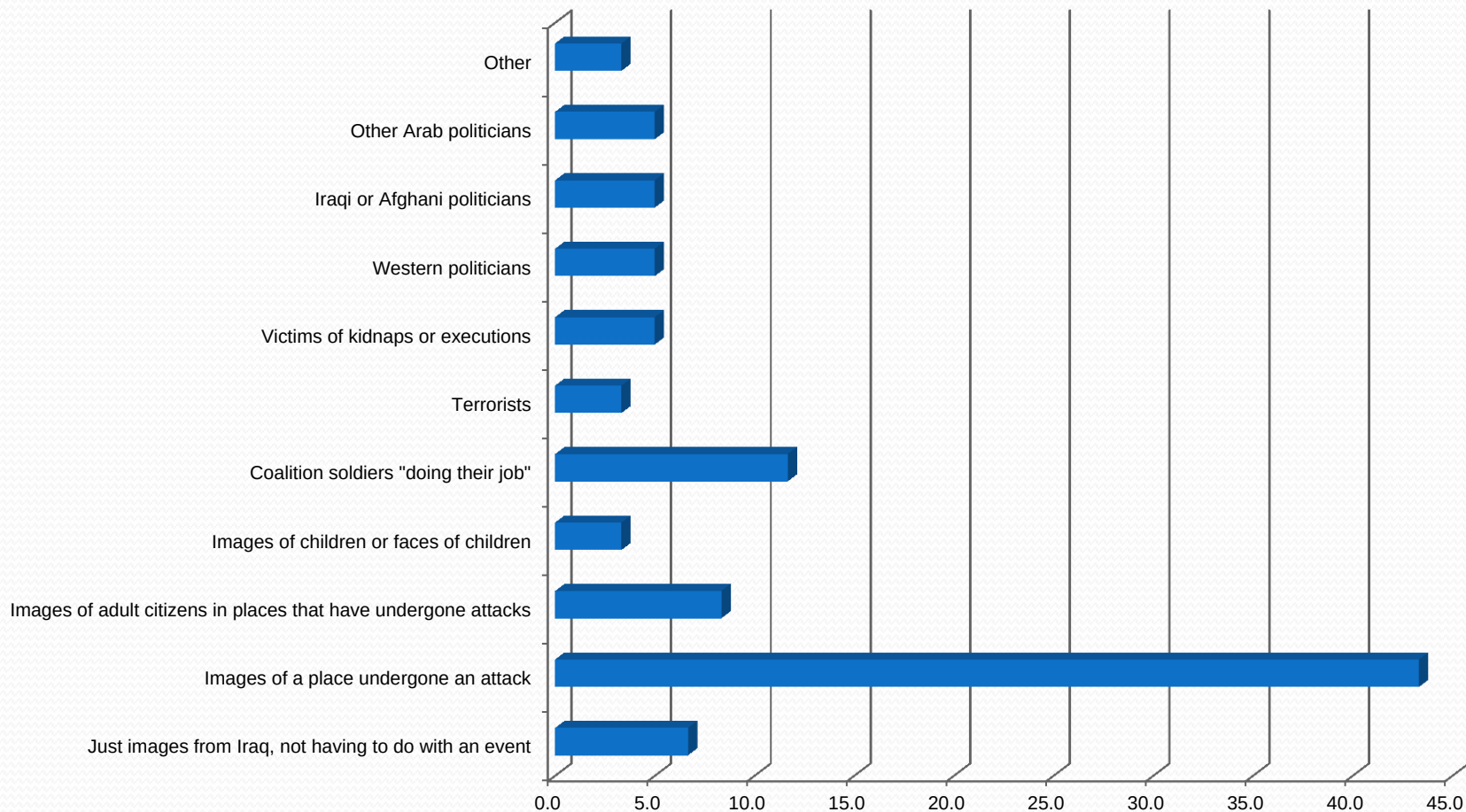
Key Findings-Sources

Original non-journalist source of the article



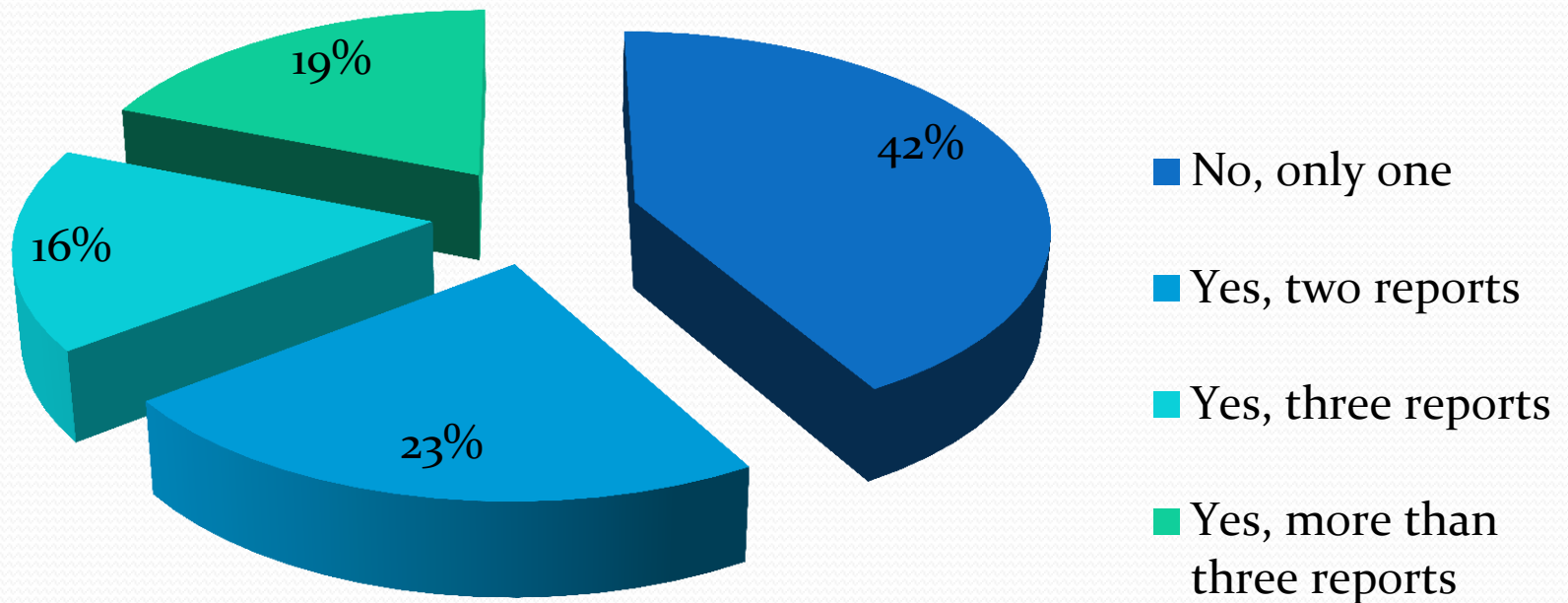
Key Findings-Visual dramatization

What do images show us?



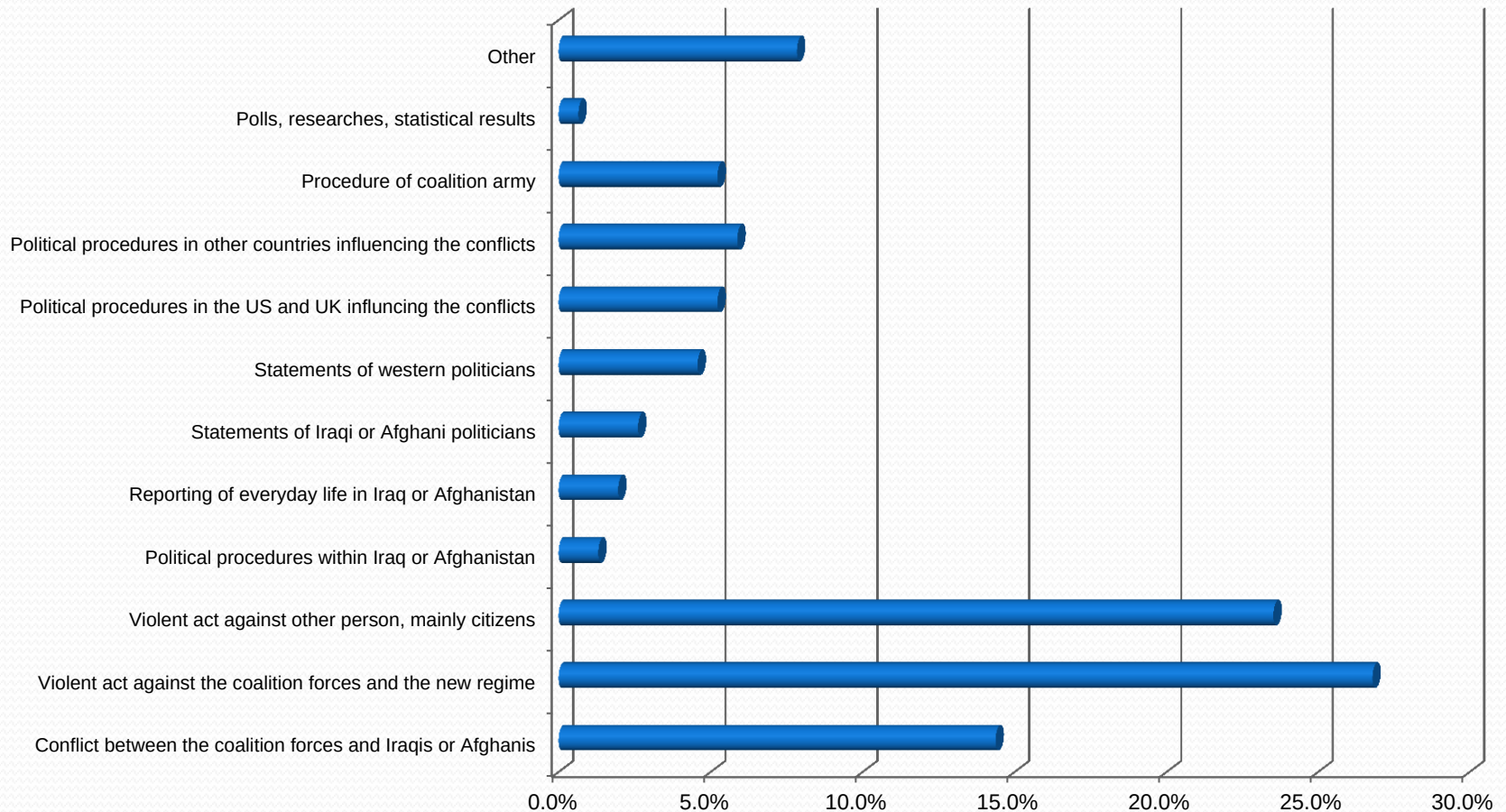
Key Findings-Structure of Articles

**Number of news reports (different facts)
contained in a single article**



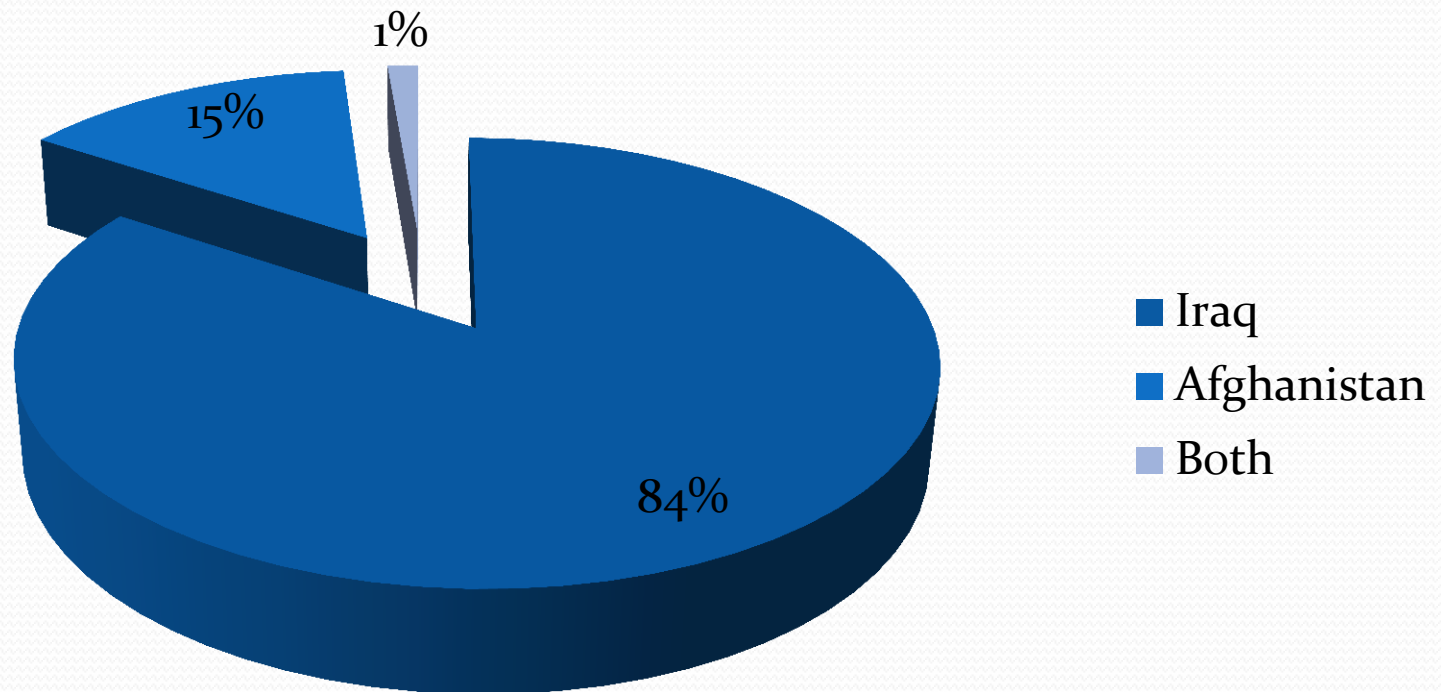
Key Findings-Content of Articles

Thematic category of the reports



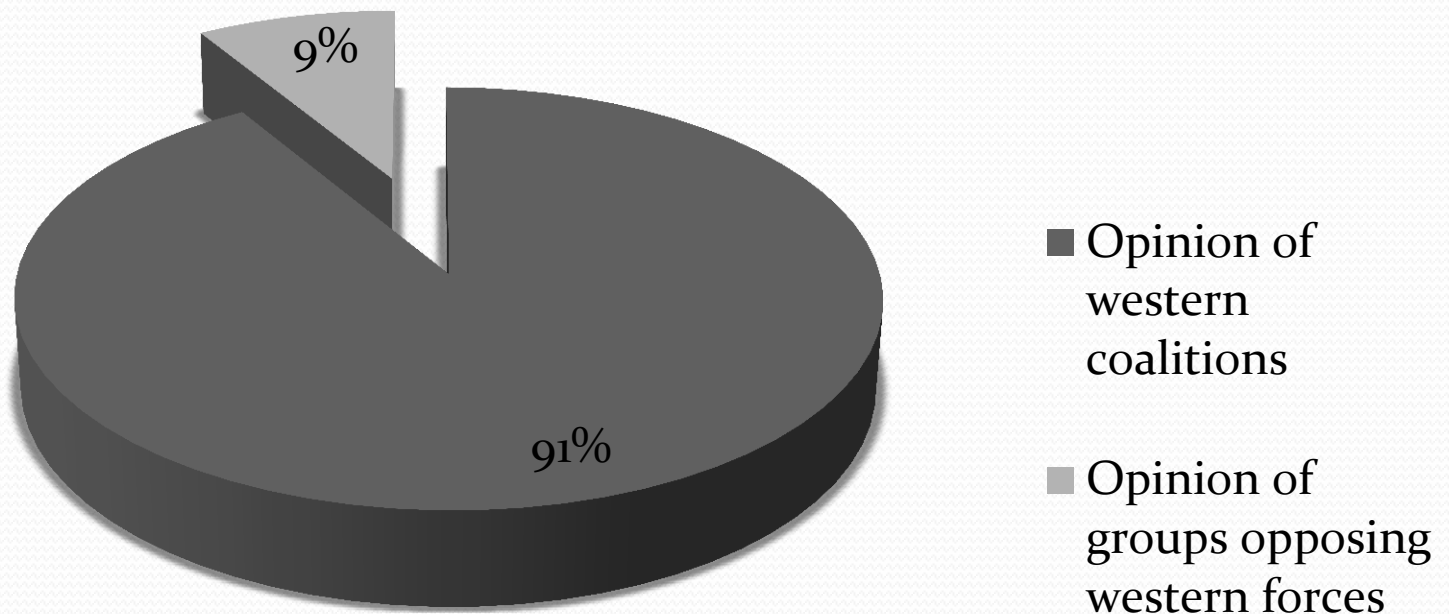
Key Findings-Content of Articles

To which conflict do the reports refer?



Key Findings-Content of Article

Which side's opinion is mostly presented in the reports?



Conclusion

There are propagandistic elements in the coverage of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan:

1. Unilateral journalist sources
2. Coalition army and regimes appear as protogenic sources
3. Visual dramatization (through images, pictures) in favor of the coalition forces
4. Iraq is being far more reported, because it needs to be propagated more to justify its conduct
5. Unilateral presentation of opinions (almost only of western side)