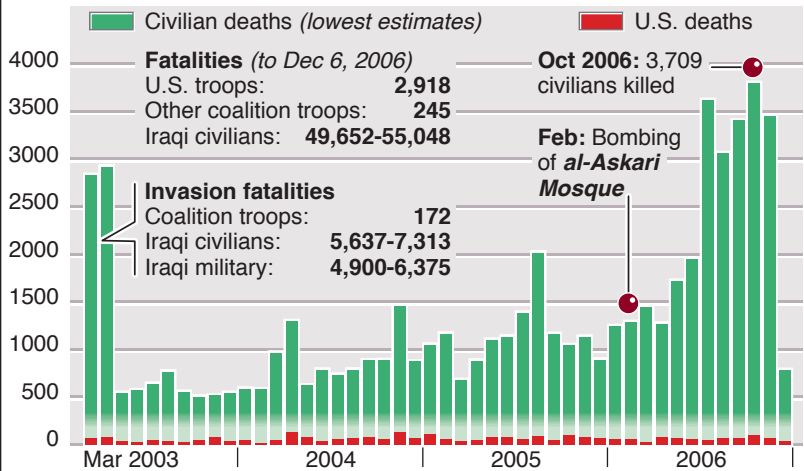


# Sectarian carnage tears Iraq apart

Escalating sectarian violence, triggered by the bombing of the al-Askari Mosque in February, has claimed at least 25,214 Iraqi civilian lives, half of all those killed since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003. In the first week of December alone, 754 civilians and 32 U.S. soldiers have lost their lives



Sources: Department of Defense, Iraq Body Count.net

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