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ABSTRACT

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Perceptions of War and Justice amongst Greek Mobilisers: The Case of the Second War in Iraq

This paper investigates the perceptions of war and justice amongst Greek mobilisers, focusing on the latest war at Iraq. The data was collected using questionnaires during the demonstrations against the EU Summit meeting, at Thessaloniki, Greece, June 2003. Although similar research is conducted by other research teams in different countries, our dataset is different in two important ways: First, the people interviewed were 'activists' and not the (possibly) one-off demonstrator. Thus, we hope to get an insight into the beliefs of a quite distinctive and rather under-researched social group. Second, at the time of research, the war at Iraq was effectively over, while in other research data was collected prior or during the war. Accordingly, our results offer themselves to comparative assessment; namely, is there a time-effect on war's perceptions and justification? Does (achieved) 'success' justify the 'means'? Thus we try to monitor the echo of Iraq war as juxtaposed to attitudes towards war in general. Finally, and since the mobilizations at Thessaloniki were staged by different groups which had, hitherto, avoided any co-operation, this paper will try to examine to which extent this separation is due to each group's distinctive socio-economic following or rather on resource mobilization issues.