What Coalition?

The US and Britain cannot find "the willing" to lead

Washington says that in the war on Iraq they lead a coalition of 45 nations. This is a transparent sham:

- **15** of the 45 are **too ashamed** to be named.
- **24** of the rest are sending **NO troops**. This includes Spain!
- **4** are sending token numbers (**less than 300** at most).

That leaves Australia (2,000 troops), the UK (45,000) and the US (315,000). It's not a coalition, it's a gang.

Among the 15 not willing to be named are presumably Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Djibouti where US forces are based. **None of them will sign on in public**. Egypt might be another. And Israel is not on the list either.

Also conspicuous by their absence are NATO allies Canada, Belgium, and Norway (not just France and Germany) as well as the larger Central and South American countries Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Mexico.

The full list, annotated:

Country	Troops	Comment
Afghanistan		We promised them rebuilding money but the Bush administration forgot to request any in the latest budget.[1]
Albania	70	For noncombatant roles only.
Australia	2,000	76% of the people oppose joining a US-led attack that does not have UN approval.[2]
Azerbaijan		Squeezed between Iran, Armenia, Georgia and Russia, and positioning itself for resolution of South Caucasus conflicts.
Bulgaria		"seeking US financial or military support"[3]
Colombia		major US-financed drug war in progress
Czech Rep.	few	"a chemical-biological warfare support unit"[3]
Denmark		79% of the people against action without UN approval; 57% against even with it.[4]
El Salvador		On which side is their bread buttered?
Eritrea		seeking US support in a boundary dispute with Ethiopia (q.v.)[3]
Estonia		"seeking US financial or military support"[3]
Ethiopia		seeking US support in a boundary dispute with Eritrea (q.v.)[3]
Georgia		"already involved in the war on terrorism"[3]
Hungary		wants UK & US support for entry to the EU
Italy		"Only 34% [of the people] view the US positively, compared to 70% in 2002."[3]
Japan		"restricting its support to post-Saddam reconstruction"[5]
Korea		a little busy with the North
Latvia		"seeking US financial or military support"[3]
Lithuania		"seeking US financial or military support"[3]
Macedonia		wants US support in the Balkans
Netherlands		89% of the people against action without UN approval; 72% against even with it[6]
Nicaragua		wouldn't want their harbor mined again
Philippines		"already involved in the war on terrorism"[3]
Poland	200	"Support for the US has dropped from 80% to 50%."[3]
Romania	278	"non-combat experts in demining and in chemical and biological decontamination, and military police"[5]
Slovakia		75% against war without UN backing[7]
Spain		"Spain will not participate in any attack or offensive missions," said Prime Minister Aznar.[8] Presumably because "only 14% have a favourable image" of the US.[3]
Turkey		The Parliament turned down a huge (up to $26 billion) bribe to let US troops in but the government will allow overflights.
UK	45,000	Blurred vision
US	315,000	130,000 in Kuwait, 95,000 in Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, etc, and 90,000 on their way
Uzbekistan		"a major beneficiary of U.S. assistance during and after the war in Afghanistan"[9]

[1]*BBC* 2/13/03 [2]*The Australian* 2/4/03 [3]*BBC* 03/18/03 [4]*AFP* 1/25/03 [5]*Guardian* 3/19/03 [6]*AFP* 1/27/03 [7]*Sydney Morning Herald* 1/30/03 [8]*AP* 3/18/03 [9]*Washington Post* 12/04/02

STOP THIS WAR