TIMELINE 24.1

Blair's wars

1998 US/UK airstrikes against Iraq after Saddam Hussein withdrew co-operation with UN weapons inspectors.

1999 US/UK bombing of Serbia secures withdrawal of Serbian forces from Kosovo and eventually the fall of Serb leader Milosevic and his trial for war crimes and genocide.

2000 UK troops sent to Sierra Leone initially to release UN hostages and evacuate expatriates caught up in civil war, and then assist the elected government to defeat rebellion.

2001 UK joined US-led attack on Afghanistan following 9/11. After an apparently easy defeat of the Taliban, the latter launched increasingly effective guerrilla war against the occupiers.

2003 US and UK forces invaded Iraq and overthrew Saddam Hussein's regime, but faced a long and bloody insurgency.

(See Kampfner, 2004.)