Subject: "The polls stayed open one hour later... because of such high turnout."
Posted by Hydra on Thu, 15 Dec 2005 19:06:44 GMT
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Isn't it just great to read a report like this?

"Up to 15 million Iraqis — including large numbers of Sunnis, who boycotted the January elections — voted in historic parliamentary elections Thursday to establish a permanent democratic government amid only scattered violence."
"Policemen guarding a polling place in eastern Baghdad's Zayouna neighborhood fired shots in the air to celebrate the end of voting there"
"[V]iolence in Iraq was much lighter than expected; the smattering of attacks didn't appear to discourage Iraqis, some of whom turned out wrapped in their country's flag on a sunny day and afterward displayed a purple ink-stained index finger — a mark to guard against multiple voting."

I'd be reposting the entire article if I pulled out any more.

http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,178770,00.html
A few years ago, people were forced, many at gunpoint, to turn out to the polls to cast their vote for Saddam. That's how he got 100% support from his electorate--people were forced to vote for him, or they and their families would be imprisoned and/or executed.

Now, a percentage of the electorate almost as high has turned out to vote on its own accord. No one was forced out of his home and told to vote for a particular candidate. For the first time in their history, the Iraqi people were allowed to vote for a permanent, free government.

None of it would have been possible without the sacrifices of thousands of American and Iraqi soldiers alike. None of their sacrifices have been in vain, and they have the undying gratitude of millions of now free Iraqi citizens.

God, I love freedom.

Raises glass Here's to a prosperous future for the world's newest free nation. Congratulations, Iraq!