

# THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

Iraq & Kuwait (Middle East, Arabian Peninsula) August 1990 - February 1991

## IRAQ INVADES KUWAIT



### February 1990: Iraqi forces are poised to invade

Iraq invades its tiny neighbor, Kuwait, after talks break down over oil production and debt repayment. Iraqi president Saddam Hussein later annexes Kuwait and declares it a 19th province of Iraq (**Aug. 2**). President Bush believes that Iraq intends to invade Saudi Arabia and take control of the region's oil supplies. He begins organizing a multinational coalition to

seek Kuwait's freedom and restoration of its legitimate government. The UN Security Council authorizes economic sanctions against Iraq. Bush orders U.S. troops to protect Saudi Arabia at the Saudis' request and "Operation Desert Shield" begins (**Aug. 6**). 230,000 American troops arrive in Saudi Arabia to take defensive action, but when Iraq continues a huge military buildup in Kuwait, the President orders an additional 200,000 troops deployed to prepare for a possible offensive action by the U.S.-led coalition forces. He subsequently obtains a UN Security Council resolution setting a **Jan. 15, 1991** deadline for Iraq to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait (**Nov. 8**).

Bush wins congressional approval for his position with the most devastating air assault in history against military targets in Iraq and Kuwait (**Jan. 16**). He rejects a Soviet-Iraq peace plan for a gradual withdrawal that does not comply with all the UN resolutions and gives Iraq an ultimatum to withdraw from Kuwait by noon **Feb. 23 (Feb. 22)**. The president orders the ground war to begin (**Feb. 24**). In a brilliant and lightning-fast campaign, U.S. and coalition forces smash through Iraq's defenses and defeat Saddam Hussein's troops in only four days of combat. Allies enter Kuwait City (**Feb. 26**). Iraqi army sets fire to over 500 of Kuwait's oil wells as final act of destruction to Kuwait's infrastructure. Bush orders a unilateral cease-fire 100 hours after the ground offensive started (**Feb. 27**). Allied and Iraqi military leaders meet on battlefield to discuss terms for a formal cease-fire to end the Gulf War. Iraq agrees to abide by all of the UN resolutions (**Mar. 3**). The first Allied prisoners of war are released (**Mar. 4**). Official cease-fire accepted and signed (**April 6**). 532,000 U.S. forces served in Operation Desert Storm. There were a total of 147 U.S. battle deaths during the Gulf War, 145 nonbattle deaths, and 467 wounded in action.



### WHO/WHERE

Kuwait, Iraq, United States  
In Kuwait & Iraq

### WHAT

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and international response = The Persian Gulf War

### WHEN

August 2, 1990-  
February 28, 1991

### WHY

Iraq attempted to reclaim Kuwait, and the international community responded in defense (they wanted to protect their oil interests)

### INTERESTING FACTS

- There have been 11 video games made based on the Persian Gulf War.
- Dick Cheney was the Secretary of Defense during the 1990 Persian Gulf War AND the Vice President during the 2003 Iraq War.

## INTERNATIONAL REACTION & RESOLUTION



Saddam Hussein, leader of Iraq, invaded Kuwait for their oil fields and resulting revenue.



U.S. President George H. W. Bush deployed American forces to Saudi Arabia, and urged other countries to send their own forces to the scene. Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and Egypt proved the largest supporters, sending both financial and military aid to Kuwait.

Besides defending a nation under duress, maintaining peace and stability in the Middle East was a main priority of the anti-Iraq coalition.



## Coalition forces:



[Kuwait](#)



[United States](#)



[United Kingdom](#)



[Arab League](#)



[Saudi Arabia](#)



[Egypt](#)



[Syria](#)



[Morocco](#)



[Qatar](#)



[Oman](#)



[United Arab Emirates](#)



[France](#)



[Denmark<sup>\[2\]</sup>](#)



[Belgium](#)



[Pakistan](#)



[Canada](#)



[Australia](#)



[New Zealand](#)



[Argentina](#)



[Spain](#)



[Italy](#)



[Bangladesh](#)



[Niger](#)



[Poland](#)



[Czechoslovakia](#)



[Greece](#)



[South Korea](#)



[Hungary](#)



[Soviet Union<sup>\[3\]</sup>](#)

[and others](#)



The military advancements during the Persian Gulf War were phenomenal and fast-paced. Above are just *some* examples of Coalition weaponry.



The aftermath of the conflict left much physical and economic destruction throughout Kuwait and southern Iraq. To the left, you see a burning oil field. It was an Iraqi strategy to set fire to the land they were forced to retreat from.

Peace talks, including many of the regional and non-regional Coalition members resulted from the conflict. Fear over instable dictatorships and overbearing economic threats left Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Arab League members on edge. Despite the distance from home, the West was equally financially invested.



## Recent Conflicts in the Persian Gulf

1993 Cruise missile strikes

Iraqi Kurdish Civil War

2003 Iraq War

2011 Bahraini protests

**For more, check out the WEB:**

- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/gulf/war/>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/2011/01/do-you-remember-the-gulf-war.html>