

Why did Saddam invade Kuwait?

- **When?** August 2, 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. Known as, The Gulf War (2 August 1990 – 28 February 1991)
- **Why did it happen?** Saddam accused Kuwait of slant drilling, he was angered that Kuwait refused to cancel its \$14 billion debt to Kuwait (for the war with Iran), Iraq had total debts of c \$80 billion, oil prices were lower (so revenue was down), Iraq 'claimed' Kuwait as its 19th Province. Saddam did not think the US would intervene, Iraq had the 4th largest army in the world and Kuwait was militarily weak (army of 20,000) - so he might get his 'whirlwind victory' this time, Saddam's reputation post the Iran war was damaged - there had been attempts to oust him from power (a quick successful war might improve his standing in Iraq - especially as Iraq would have 20% of the Middle East's oil)
- **What happened?** Diplomatic talks failed - Iraq's army of 100,000 quickly overran Kuwait, taking the capital in 4 days. A puppet government was

Why did Saddam think he could invade Kuwait?

- Diplomatic talks had been going on between Kuwait and Iraq about the debt and land issues. Saddam believed Kuwait should wipe it clean as Iraq had been fighting for the cause of Arab Nationalism against Iran. These talks got nowhere, and the US ambassador, April Glaspie said the US had no interest in the matter. Saddam may have taken this to mean they would not get involved! So Saddam may have thought the US were saying they would not risk US lives over Kuwait and that he would be able to reach a deal with the US afterwards. So he thought he had a 'green light'.

What was the 'UN's' response to the invasion?

UN Security Council met and voted 14-0 for resolution **660**: Called the invasion a 'breach of international peace' The council condemned the invasion and demanded Iraq withdraw immediately and unconditionally to positions as they were on 1 August 1990, instructing them to reopen negotiations.

When Iraq ignored it the UN followed up with Resolution **661** - trade embargo + refusal to recognise the new leadership in Kuwait.

The UN finally Issued Resolution **678** - (November) giving Iraq until January 16, 1991 to withdraw + if not met the UN empowered states to use "all necessary means" to force Iraq out of Kuwait.



The 'War'

PHASE 1:

Operation Desert Shield

- 2 August 1990 - January 17, 1991.
- The build up of UN forces in Saudi Arabia to defend her from a potential invasion by Iraq.

PHASE 2:

- Operation Desert Storm - combat phase
- 17 January to 28 February, 1991
- Air attacks destroy big Iraqi air defences
- Massive bombing by B52s
- Iraqi forces demoralised
- Ground war lasted 100 hours

How did Saddam try to get other Arab states on his side?

He launched SCUD MISSILES on Israel hoping they would retaliate so he could unite the Arab countries in a war against Israel. His plan was foiled by the US installing Patriot missile systems which shot Saddam's SCUDS down.

What was the aftermath of the War?

- Kuwait liberated
- Saddam withdrew to Iraq
- UN weapons inspections in Iraq
- Economic sanctions
- Restricted sale of oil
- US maintained a military presence in Saudi Arabia + imposed a no fly zone in Iraq
- Iraqi people 'suffered'