

**INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2021**



# **GROUP OF 8**

**STUDY GUIDE**

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### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Group of 8 of the International Youth Conference. Due to the threat of the Covid-19 pandemic, everybody has been stuck at home and we at IYC believe that this is a golden opportunity for delegates to sharpen and improve their debate, communication and social skills in addition to increasing global awareness.

In these two days, you will be taken back in time and discuss one of the most tense conflicts at that time, the 1991 Gulf War. This incident has shaped modern-day bilateral relations and brought about various inspection techniques and procedures passed by the UN. This war has proven the new poles of power and the change in the dynamics of the Middle east.

This background guide will introduce you to the major agenda and topics that will be discussed in this committee; however, it does not replace thorough individual research. We also strongly encourage you to explore the policies of your state in addition to having well-annotated sources for better and more fruitful debate in committee. Lastly, remember that we are in a different year in this committee so to make sure and not use the time travel button and make future references in committee. We wish you the best for your preparation and look forward to seeing you in committee.

Regards,

Ishan Chaudhuri- Chair,

Aadrit Ghosh- Vice-Chair,

Agastya Desai- Moderator,

Deepshikha Mondal- Rapporteur,

Krishna Valia- R&D Head.

## **BACKGROUND**

*It is the 14th of January, 1991.* After suffering massive losses and incurring countless debts due to losing the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq became increasingly reliant on its oil (the country's primary source of revenue) to compensate for its losses. As a result, they planned to raise oil prices to pay off their obligations. However, the cost of an oil barrel plummeted from \$18 to \$12 instead. Iraq blamed Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for the price decline, stating that they had exceeded their limit set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Iraq was vehement in its condemnation of Kuwait for the drop. Iraq also accused Kuwait of constructing military and oil installations on Iraqi soil while Iraq focused on the Iran-Iraq conflict. Kuwait claimed this accusation to be false and did not oblige when Iraq demanded that Kuwait write off their debt obligations. This increased tensions between Iraq and Kuwait drastically, affecting numerous other nations leading to the Gulf War.



## **CAUSES FOR THE GULF WAR**

### **IRAQ'S FALSE CLAIM OVER KUWAITI LAND**

One of the primary reasons for the Gulf War was the false fact that Iraq claimed Kuwait to be a part of Iraqi territory. The leader of Kuwait was Abd Allah II from 1866 to 1892, and he began to strengthen Kuwait-Ottoman ties, although he never placed Kuwait under Ottoman administration. However, when Mubarak the Great killed his brother and usurped power, everything changed. The Ottoman Empire made several threats to conquer Kuwait, but none succeeded due to the Anglo-Kuwaiti Agreement of 1899, which allowed Britain to gain control of Kuwait's foreign affairs. Even though the Ottoman Empire never ruled over Kuwait, Iraq exploited that misleading assertion to demonstrate that Kuwait is part of Iraq stating- 'they were both ruled by the Ottoman Empire as provinces of Basra.'

After gaining control of Kuwait's foreign affairs for 23 years, the United Kingdom created a border between Kuwait and Iraq, thus cutting Iraq off from the rest of the world. This border enraged Iraq even more, and it sought to take control of Kuwaiti territory on several occasions. As a result, Kuwait rejected all Iraqi attempts to secure additional provinces on Kuwaiti territory.

### **IRAQ'S ACCUSATION OF KUWAIT'S EXCESS OIL PRODUCTION**

Iraq sustained substantial losses during and after the Iran-Iraq war and relied heavily on rising oil prices to pay off its obligations. Moreover, Iraq viewed this as economic warfare, which it alleged was exacerbated by Kuwait's slant drilling across the border and into Iraq's oil field. Iraq also bought Casus Belli in preparation for military operations against Kuwait.

**THE IRAQI INVASION OF KUWAIT IN 1990**

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a two-day operation that began on the 2nd of August, 1990, ending in a seven-month Iraqi military occupation of the nation. The invasion began on the 2nd of August, 1990, and most of Kuwait's troops were either overrun by the Iraqi Republican Guard or went back to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain within two days. Iraq put up a puppet government known as the "Republic of Kuwait" to rule over Kuwait immediately after the invasion, annexing it ultimately when Saddam Hussein declared it the 19th province of Iraq a few days later.



**IRAQI RELATIONS WITH KUWAIT DURING THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR**

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and other neighbouring countries publicly financed Iraq. As a result, Iraq anticipated these nations' help when it came time to compensate for the losses it had inflicted. However, instead of assisting Iraq in repaying its debts, they decreased oil prices by overproducing oil. Iraq expected help from its neighbours, just as they did during the Iran-Iraq war, but instead received something different

## **TIMELINE LEADING TO THE WAR**

### **THE COALITION**

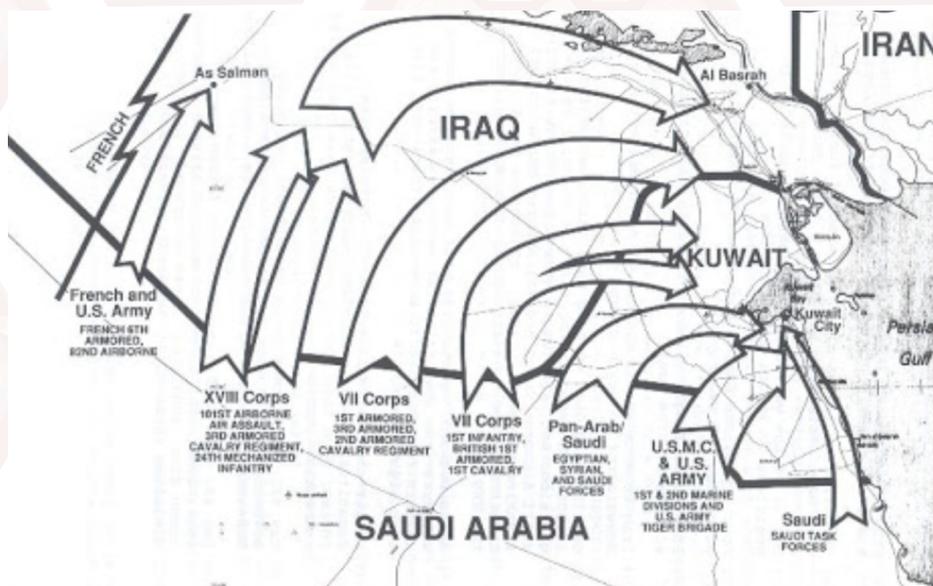
The Gulf War began when Iraq invaded Kuwait, claiming it as one of the country's provinces. Following the annexation, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) urged Iraq to withdraw and threatened military action if they did not do so by the 15th of January, 1991. Despite the UN's warnings, Hussein had no intention of retreating. As a result, 30 countries banded together to establish a coalition led by the United States. These countries amassed a force of 7 lakh men and prepared to invade Iraq. The coalition had no choice but to invade after the deadline had gone.

### **OPERATION DESERT STORM**

President George H.W. Bush declared the launch of Operation Desert Storm on the 16th of January, 1991. The coalition soldiers assembling in Saudi Arabia would lead this operation. From the air and sea, the forces started a five-week bombardment against Iraqi command and control facilities. They were able to damage oil refineries, air defences, and other significant infrastructures during this operation. Operation Desert Shield, a covert operation involving roughly 20,000 troops, was launched after that.

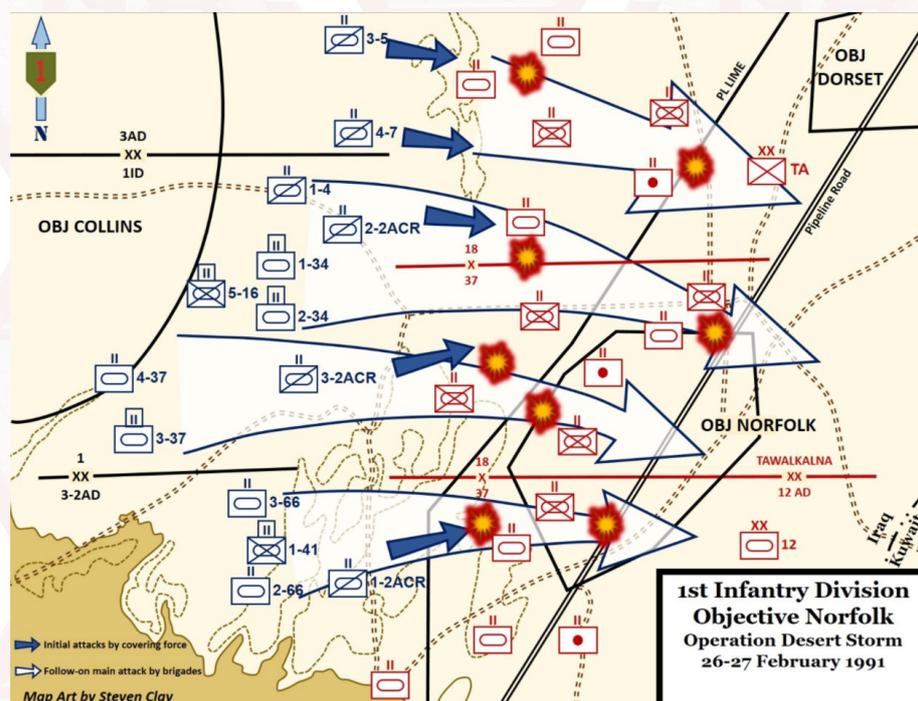
### **OPERATION DESERT SABRE: SUB OPERATION OF DESERT STORM**

When the final deadline was passed on the 24th of February, the UN ground offence began immediately. The ground offence was known as Operation desert sabre which was launched into Kuwait. In just three days, the coalition forces had managed to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. However, some US forces also continued and entered Iraqi land destroying Iraq's elite republican guard units by the 27th of February. US president, George Bush, declared a ceasefire on the 28th of February.



### **THE BATTLE OF NORFOLK**

The battle of Norfolk was on the 27th of February 1991. It was regarded as one of them biggest tank battles fought in the first gulf war. US and UK forces joined hands to fight the Republican guard in a Southern province of Iraq. Around 12 divisions took part in this fierce battle along with numerous brigades. A few American and British soldiers were also reportedly killed, along with several Iraqi ones. The battle of Norfolk was the final battle of the first Gulf war before the US president announced a ceasefire.



## **COUNTRY STANCES**

### **AGAINST IRAQ'S ACTIONS(USA COALITION):**

#### **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

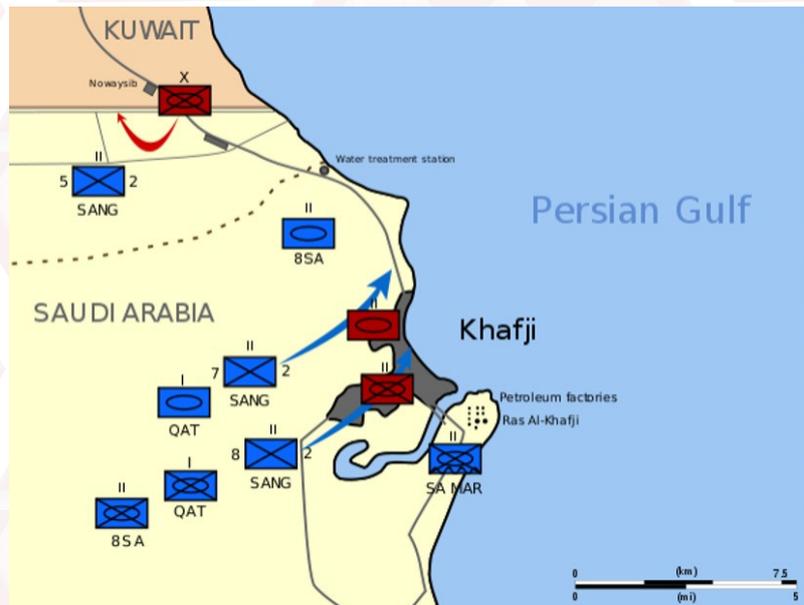
Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, seeking greater control over the Middle East's valuable oil supply. The US and the UN Security Council ordered that Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in retaliation, but Hussein refused. A US-led coalition started an aggressive bombing campaign on critical Iraqi targets in January and February 1991, culminating in Operation Desert Storm, a four-day land battle against Iraqi troops. Finally, Hussein agreed to a ceasefire and freed Kuwait at the end of February

#### **UNITED KINGDOM**

The Gulf war, which lasted from 1990 to 1991, witnessed the most significant single deployment of British soldiers since WWII (1939-45). A large number of British servicemen and women, together with several vehicles, engaged in the war against Iraq. For defensive precaution numerous British troops were deployed.

#### **SAUDI ARABIA**

King Fahd condemned the Iraqi invaders as the Kuwaiti government withdrew to Saudi Arabia. Fearing that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might attack Saudi Arabia next, the Saudis requested the US and other nations to send soldiers to safeguard the country, breaking with tradition. On January 16-17, 1991, the coalition invaded Iraq by air with countless soldiers after receiving early authorization from Saudi Arabia. Saudi pilots flew about a large number of flights and were active in the fights near Ras al-Khafji, Saudi Arabia. On the 24th of February, a four-day ground conflict began. Saudi forces, notably the National Guard, assisted in defeating the Iraqis and their expulsion from Kuwait. Despite the decisive military triumph, the war's full consequences for Saudi Arabia were not immediately apparent.



### **CANADA**

The Gulf war was a significant event in the military history of Canada. In 1990-1991, considerable numbers of Canadians served in the Persian Gulf region as part of a coalition of countries. Their goal was to force the Iraqi invasion troops out of Kuwait. Following the conflict, Canadians helped with peacekeeping and embargo enforcement activities in the region. This was the first battle in which Canadian women participated actively in combat.

### **KUWAIT**

Kuwait was the perennial one that had prompted previous Iraqi administrations to pursue the same result: control of Kuwait's oil and riches, a military advantage of frontage on the Persian Gulf, Pan-Arabism under Iraqi leadership, and a method to create popular support in the aftermath of the Iran-Iraq War loss. In mid-January 1991, a coalition of nations led by the United States and Saudi Arabia launched air attacks against Iraqi forces under the auspices of the United Nations, and five weeks later launched a land invasion into Kuwait and Iraq. Kuwait was freed from Iraqi authority by late February. Hundreds of thousands of Kuwaitis came home after fleeing to other countries.

### **FRANCE**

Coalition naval troops were operating in the Persian Gulf before initiating air operations in January 1991 to enforce sanctions against Iraq. French warships and those from other countries undertook boarding operations against ships accused of violating Iraqi restrictions.

### **ARGENTINA**

Argentine Navy ships and Air Force transport planes fought in the Gulf War in 1991. Argentina was the coalition's lone Latin American member, and it led Operativo Alfil as an addition to the coalition forces. The operation even consisted of warships and helicopters.

### **ITALY**

In the Persian Gulf, the Italian government dispatched eight multirole fighter bombers, Tornado IDS (plus two spares), to the Al Dhafra Air Base in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The Italian Air Force's contribution to the Gulf War was code-named "Operation Locusta." Italian fighters flew several missions for a total of over 500 flying hours throughout the 42-day battle. From October 1990 until March 1991, General Mario Arpino was the leader of the Air Coordination Unit during the conflict in Saudi Arabia.

## **NATIONS THAT SUPPORTED IRAQ'S ACTIONS:**

### **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

China gave Iraq and Iran more than umpteen weaponry, some used by Iraqi forces during the Gulf War, although with little impact.

**IRAQ**

- The Persian Gulf War, often known as the Gulf War, was an international war that began on the 2nd of August, 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Saddam Hussein, Iraq's leader, ordered the invasion and occupation of Kuwait with the stated goal of seizing Kuwait's vast oil reserves, repaying a massive debt Iraq owes Kuwait, and extending Iraq's regional dominance.
- The military attack against Iraq by the allied coalition began on January 16–17, 1991, with a vast US-led air campaign that lasted throughout the conflict. Over the next three weeks, Operation Desert Storm, a prolonged aircraft assault, decimated Iraq's air defences before hitting its communications networks, government buildings, weapons plants, oil refineries, and bridges and roads.
- The Battle of Khafji was a significant battle fought by Iraq to rule the Saudi town of al-Khafji. The battle started on the 29th of January and thus was considered one of the first ground battles of Operation Desert storm. Even though Iraq was being destroyed by the coalition, they put up a strong front in Saudi. This attack came as a surprise to everyone. Regardless of the heavy security in Saudi Arabia, there were many casualties.

**NEUTRAL NATIONS:  
SOVIET UNION**

Baghdad had long counted the Soviet Union as a close ally. It had a friendship and cooperation pact with Saddam Hussein's dictatorship and had trained and supplied the Iraqi military with billions of dollars' worth of weaponry and equipment for two decades. So when the chips were down, Moscow might have backed Iraq against the US-led alliance, although at the risk of resuming a deadly Cold War. Instead, in January 1991, the Soviet Union, economically depleted and politically unstable, acted as a mediator in this conflict, denouncing Baghdad's actions against Kuwait while working frantically to prevent coalition military action against Iraq.

Note: These are just of the core nations who had some involvement however the country matrix is larger and hence adds more players to all the sides of the war. Also country stances are subjective and can be changed through committee if it doesn't match your foreign policy and beliefs as per crisis.

## **THE END OF THE FIRST GULF WAR**

The gulf war ended on the 28th of February 1991 when US president George Bush called for a ceasefire. On the 2nd of March, the UN set forth conditions for the ceasefire, which Iraq was obligated to accept. These conditions included but were not limited to sanctions and reparations for war damage. Moreover, Iraq had to return all the stolen property to Kuwait. Nevertheless, the United States continued to pressure Iraq through the UN who eventually passed security council resolution 687. This resolution allowed the UN to inspect Iraq's suspected chemical and biological weaponry. The USA also made sure the trade embargo on Iraq previously remained in place and stripped Iraq of its chemical weapons, nuclear research and missiles.

### **TIMELINE OF EVENTS:**

August 2, 1990 - Iraq invades Kuwait. Reportedly, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein decided to invade the small, oil-rich nation in order to pay off debts incurred during Iraq's eight-year war with Iran.

August 2, 1990 - The UNSC passes a resolution denouncing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. August 6, 1990 - The UNSC has passed a series of economic sanctions on Iraq.

August 7, 1990 – U.SA President George Bush orders the start of Operation Desert Shield. August 8, 1990 - Iraq announces its formal annexation of Kuwait. The following day, the UNSC unanimously adopts resolution 662 which declares the annexation illegal and null and void.

November 29, 1990 - The UNSC authorizes use of force after January 15, 1991.

January 16-17, 1991 - The air campaign of Operation Desert Storm begins.

February 23-24, 1991 - The allied ground assault begins.

February 27, 1991 - Baghdad radio announces that Iraq will comply with UN resolutions. February 27, 1991 - Kuwait is liberated.

February 28, 1991 - Coalition attacks against Iraq end.

March 14, 1991 - Kuwait's emir returns home after more than seven months in exile. April 6, 1991 - Iraq accepts the terms of a ceasefire agreement.

April 11, 1991 - Ceasefire takes effect

Note: All these information explain the course of war in reality, however in committee delegates should understand the causes, motives and reasons for such actions and be able to simulate and pave their way into an alternative way the war can take place. This note is to ensure exciting and fruitful debate and avoid repetition of history.

## **GUIDE TO FURTHER RESEARCH**

Delegates, it's essential for you all to understand that this study guide is far from sufficient research for this committee. It's only a tip of the iceberg of the thorough research you must conduct on the agenda and your individual country perspectives. Investigate old archives, political research papers, and even newspaper articles. This would all help you to understand how important and tense the agenda was at that time. The Gulf war has been one of the biggest wars after the Cold War and its causes and conflicts stem from geopolitical and economic factors rather than just ideology.

Each country in this war based its supporters on factors of hard and soft power exhibited by each bloc and have a strong say irrespective of the nations might or involvement in the war. As this committee doesn't have to go according to the textbook each and every country in committee is of importance and can change the course of historical events. Hence considering these points, as the EB we are looking for fruitful debate and hence to develop on this, these are some important skills and questions, you as a delegate should consider.

### **1. CONTENT:**

- What was your country's stance or belief on the issue?
- Are there any internal conflicts within your country?
- Has your country undertaken any action which directly breaches the UN Charter?
- What was your country's foreign policy (AT THAT TIME)?
- With which countries does your country hold diplomatic or informal alliances with?
- Did your country have any explicit interests with respect to territories, arms, etc in mind?
- What were your countries motives, interests?

### **2. SPEAKING SKILLS:**

- What are the time constraints on the speech?
- Are you using appropriate conduct of speaking as mandated by MUN conferences?
- Are you repeating the points you said, if not what extra can you say, possible solutions or initiatives the country might like to take?
- Is the speech well researched and with proper facts?

### **3. LOBBYING SKILLS:**

- Who are your allies in the committee?
- What ideas do you have to benefit your bloc?
- What ways can you project your points and make them heard in unmoderated caucuses?
- How can you persuade neutral countries into supporting your bloc, or if you are one, what question should you ask the blocs to get a clear picture of their view.

### **WAYS TO ANALYZE YOUR RESOURCES**

It is important to make sure that the data being used is accurate and useful. There is a lot of data available all over the internet for you to use and research from, but it is important to check the credibility and reliability of the research before using it. There are several ways to analyse your data, some of which are listed below:

#### **1. Descriptive data analysis:**

This kind of analysis is usually the first analysis done on a text or piece of information. As the name suggests, the analysis describes the data in quantity. This analysis is done on large chunks of data.

#### **2. Predictive data analysis**

Predictive data analysis, as the name implies, is applying methodologies that evaluate current patterns as well as historical information in order to arrive at a conclusion that provides predictions about future trends of future occurrences. These are just a few ways one can analyse data. These types of analysis helps one to draw conclusions, confirm assumptions, predict etc. it is important to make sure any data being used is relevant and credible before these methods are applied to analyse further.

## **WAYS TO PICK THE OPTIMAL RESOURCES:**

CRAAP Test - *Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose*

**Currency:** Currency refers to how updated your resource is to the time of committee, in this case all information the closer to 14th January 1991 will be the most optimal as these incidents stated in the resources have a greater impact on the agenda discussed above. For example a article of September 1989 published by a news agency will have had more impact than a piece of news from 1940.

**Relevance:** This refers to how relevant the piece of information is to the agenda which will be discussed in committee.

**Authority:** A piece of information if or not comes from a certain space of credibility is nothing but authority. So here the author, publisher of the piece of information must be considered.

**Accuracy:** This talks about to what extent the piece of information is effectively talking about the agenda. It covers all the aspects of evidence, sources of bias or not and also any sort of basic grammatical errors the source may make. Accuracy can be researched more by looking at the past of the publishing party of the piece of information too.

**Purpose:** This is one of the most important tools to pick the most optimal resource. This talks about the intended impact the piece of information wants to convey and factors in all kinds of bias the source may use to further its propaganda.

Any claim made which arouses the suspicion of the Executive Board would be investigated. The delegate would then be asked to provide a credible source of information if the Board fails to trace the source. If the claim was found to be based on an incredible source (eg. Wikipedia, biased news outlets, etc.), it will be refuted and the delegate would be punished.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

These resources can be used for your research too:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Persian-Gulf-War> - Introduction  
<https://www.aviation-report.com/tag/operazione-locusta/> - Country Stance of Italy  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/Persian-Gulf-War#:~:text=Persian%20Gulf%20War%2C%20also%20called,Kuwait%20on%20August%202%2C%201990.&text=Egypt%20and%20several%20other%20Arab,known%20as%20Operation%20Desert%20Shield.-> Timeline leading to war and Kuwait country stance  
<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/wars-and-conflicts/gulf-war/> - Country Stance of Canada  
<https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/persian-gulf-war#:~:text=The%20Gulf%20War%20Begins,-On%20November%2029&text=By%20January%2C%20the%20coalition%20forces,Saudi%20Arabia%2C%20among%20other%20nations.> - Country Stance of U.S.A  
<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3118083/china-us-rivalry-how-gulf-war-sparked-beijings-military> - Country stance of China  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2001/WORLD/europe/01/16/russia.iraq/index.html#:~:text=The%20U.S.S.R.%20had%20long%20been,worth%20of%20weaponry%20and%20equipment.> - Country Stance of U.S.S.R.  
[https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/gulf-war#:~:text=Fought%20in%201990%2D91%2C%20this,War%20\(1939%2D45\).&text=Altogether%2C%20about%2035%2C000%20British%20servicemen,in%20the%20campaign%20against%20Iraq.](https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/gulf-war#:~:text=Fought%20in%201990%2D91%2C%20this,War%20(1939%2D45).&text=Altogether%2C%20about%2035%2C000%20British%20servicemen,in%20the%20campaign%20against%20Iraq.) - Country Stance of Great Britain  
<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/modern-us/1990s-america/a/the-gulf-war> - Timeline leading to War  
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Saudi-Arabia/The-Persian-Gulf-War-and-its-aftermath> - Country stance of Saudi Arabia and End of the first Gulf War  
<https://byjus.com/free-ias-prep/gulf-war/> - Causes of the gulf war  
<https://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/other/bluebook/1991/1991-2-1.htm> - Causes and end of the first gulf war  
<https://www.marketing91.com/types-of-analysis-in-research/> - Types of analysis  
<https://researchguides.ben.edu/source-evaluation> - Source evaluation methods  
<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/15/world/meast/gulf-war-fast-facts/index.html> - Timeline of Events  
[https://en.linkfang.org/wiki/Operativo\\_Alfil](https://en.linkfang.org/wiki/Operativo_Alfil) - Country Stance of Argentina

**MORE RESOURCES:**

- <https://www.cia.gov/>
- <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/>
- <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/search/?q=>
- <https://www.pbs.org/opb/historydetectives/educators/technique-guide/online-resources/>
- [https://www.fordham.edu/info/20760/resources/1629/websites\\_for\\_historians](https://www.fordham.edu/info/20760/resources/1629/websites_for_historians)