

Lesson 15: Gulf War

United States and globalization [USII.T5]

Topic: The era of globalization 1991–present [WHII.T6]



Overview:

The Gulf War, which unfolded from 1990 to 1991, was a major military conflict that occurred in the Middle East. It was primarily triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The invasion, led by Saddam Hussein, aimed to annex Kuwait and gain control over its rich oil reserves. This act of aggression sparked international condemnation and prompted swift action from the international community, with the United States leading a coalition of nations in a military response to restore Kuwait's sovereignty and deter further aggression. The Gulf War witnessed a series of military operations, including intense air strikes, ground assaults, and naval engagements, culminating in the liberation of Kuwait and a cease-fire agreement. The war had far-reaching consequences on regional stability, global politics, and U.S. foreign policy, leaving a lasting impact on the geopolitics of the Middle East and shaping future international relations.

The Gulf War had significant ramifications both within and beyond the Middle East. In addition to restoring Kuwait's sovereignty, the conflict highlighted the importance of international alliances and multilateral cooperation in addressing regional threats. The coalition assembled by the United States demonstrated the power and effectiveness of collective security efforts. Moreover, the war revealed the vulnerability of global energy markets, with the disruption of oil supplies impacting oil prices and highlighting the strategic significance of the Middle East's resources. The Gulf War also influenced U.S. foreign policy, leading to a shift towards a more interventionist approach and shaping subsequent military strategies and doctrines. The conflict's legacy continues to shape the dynamics of the Middle East and serves as a reminder of the complexities and challenges inherent in international conflicts and interventions.

Exercise:

Evaluate the effectiveness of the federal government's response to international terrorism in the 21st century, including the 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon near Washington, D.C., the Homeland Security Act, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, and the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars:

Questions:

1. What were the primary causes of the first Gulf War, and how did the international community respond to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990?
2. What were the key military strategies and tactics employed by the United States-led coalition forces in the first Gulf War, and how did these shape the outcome of the conflict?

Materials:

Story Boards

Reader rails

ZSU-23-4M Shilka

MAZ-543 Launcher (Scud Missile)

T-55

2S1 Gvozdika

Procedure:

Warm-up: Direct the students the story board to get a further understanding of the Gulf War and why it was fought. Ask the students to look at the map during the conflict timeline.

**Assignment:**

Break the students up into small groups. Instruct the students they will conduct a mock interview in front of the TV camera regarding information they found on the exhibit's reader boards or story board. They need one interviewer, one interviewee, director/camera "operator" to make sure they interview is in screen and a producer to help the interviewer with scripts/forgotten questions/fact checking etc. They may also interview a museum docent/teacher/chaperone that was around or may have served in the Gulf War.

Have the groups review the reader boards and story boards for the Gulf War exhibit.

Give the students time to prepare topics and questions.

Conduct the interviews with a time limit of approx. 3 to 5 minutes.

Conclusion:

After the interviews ask the students to discuss their reflections on the interviews.

Ask them what they think the impact on the Middle East was and the long-term consequences of the Gulf War.