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Desert Shield and Desert Storm

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Abstract

This paper is to inform the reader about Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as well as to point out the aftermath of Operation Desert Storm to the region. This paper will guide the reader through a series of events that evolved from a war between Iran and Iraq through Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, to the United States invasion of Iraq in March of 2003. This paper's goal is to show how the events following Desert Storm led to the United States invasion of Iraq and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm

Just as the Iraq – Iran war led to the severe economic conditions, which precipitated the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, the aftermath of Desert Storm set the tone for the region's problems today. The Iraq-Iran war caused economic strains within the US as well, due to shortages of and the uncertainty of the flow of oil from the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. The combination of economic hardships within Iraq and the United States, loyalties established and maintained between the United States and Saudi Arabia, as well as the United States standing as the sole superpower led to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and the subsequent deployment of US troops to the region, Desert Shield, and ultimately to the war with Iraq, known as Desert Storm. Many of the root motives leading up to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait were resultants from Iraq's economic devastation and other demeaning consequences from the Iran – Iraq war that lasted from 1980-1988. These devastations took the form of a depressed economy, a loss of oil revenue and reserves as well as a hit to the national pride.

The Iran-Iraq war coincided with the militant Islamic fundamentalist take over of Iran from the US backed Shah. Saddam Hussein wanted to stop an Iranian power surge in the region and to project himself as a regional power and stabilizer. (Brzezinski 1998) Saddam Hussein also saw the oil fields in Iran as a key to providing wealth and power to his regime and to a lesser extent his country. An indication that Saddam had more than oil on his mind and perhaps was motivated more by his ego was that he named the then pending hostilities after the infamous battle of Qadisiyyah (circa 636) where Arab Armies turned the tide against the Persian soldiers which in turn started the destruction of the Persian empire. (Encarta, 2007) However, to his credit, Saddam Hussein was able to gain support from some of his fellow Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, for his war efforts against Iran. Kuwait paid Saddam Hussein to

protect them from an Iranian attack. After eight years of fighting, many of the countries that supported Iraq during the war, turned away from Saddam Hussein. Upon the end of the war, the outcome showed Iran repelling and defeating Iraq; though little land was lost to either side, Saddam Hussein, the aggressor who wanted Iranian oil fields, was seen as the loser. With that loss, and Iraq's accumulation of huge debts, many Arab nations feared that Saddam Hussein would next turn on them for an easier victory to regain some of his lost prestige. In 1990, Iraq's debts were estimated to be about 80 billion dollars (Encarta, 2007); in 2004, they were estimated to be about 120 billion dollars. (Schoenberger, 2004, P1).

Another ongoing issue leading up to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was an issue dealing with the border between the two countries. Saddam Hussein claimed that Kuwait used to be part of Iraq, which before the 17th century was true. This long-standing issue between Iraq and Kuwait calmed down after the Arab league replaced British troops in Kuwait for protection against an Iraqi invasion in the early 1960's. The Arab League officially recognized Kuwait as a sovereign state in 1961, and Iraq recognized Kuwait and its borders in 1963. During the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq paid little attention to the border issue. However, upon completion of the Iran-Iraq war, strapped with huge debts and a loss of face – which to an Arab is the worst thing imaginable, Saddam Hussein made a two-fold plan to reduce his debts and regain some respect with both his own people and the people of the Arab world. First, Saddam Hussein asked Kuwait to forgive Iraq's financial obligations Iraq incurred during the war and second, Saddam Hussein revisited the border issue to gain a larger area of ground of previously occupied Iraqi territory inside of Kuwait. Kuwait did not feel that Iraq was justified in their request to cancel Iraq's debt; however, Kuwait realized that they could not defend themselves against Iraq. There was more than meets the eye with regard to the border between Iraq and Kuwait. The areas along

the border held another contentious issue besides the sand on top of the ground; under the ever-shifting sands were large fields of oil. Saddam Hussein wanted to ensure his ability to tap into those fields as a way to offset the war debt. He charged Kuwait with slant drilling along the border region. That coupled with Kuwait's flooding the market with oil and artificially deflating the price caused undue damage to the Iraqi economy. Slant drilling is a form of drilling for oil and in this case it was where Kuwait started drilling on the Kuwaiti side of the border and drilled at an angle under the border into an oil reserve refuted to be on the Iraqi side of the border. (Zepezauer, 2007)

The Iran-Iraq war was a costly war for not only Iraq, Iran and the other Middle Eastern countries; the effects of the eight-year war were also felt across the ocean in the United States. The price of oil had and still has huge affects on multiple sectors of the United States economy. The United States was going through a period of rolling recessions. According to an interview of Edward Yardeni by Barons magazine (Welling, 1990, P8), rolling recessions are recessions that hit different economic and industrial sectors at different times. The defense industry had taken a huge hit with the fall of the wall and the end of the cold war. The United States, in an attempt to keep peace within the Middle East, was backing both Iraq and Iran during the Iran-Iraq war in order to keep a constant flow of oil from the region and to keep the cost of oil at a reasonable rate in order to help mitigate some of those rolling recessions. Backing both sides of the war was costly to the United States.

With the end of the Cold War, which coincided with the end of the Iran-Iraq War, came the realization that there remained only one superpower in the world and the United States was that superpower. The United States had to take on rolls that typically had been assumed by the

other superpower, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; these roles had economic consequences as well for the United States.

In July of 1990, Saddam Hussein started to amass troops along the Iraqi border with Kuwait. This raised tensions within the Middle East to a new high. With the mounting tensions within the Middle East, the economic situation within Iraq deteriorating, the rolling recessions in the United States continuing and failed diplomatic meetings between Iraq and Kuwait, the United States Ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie, met with Saddam Hussein, to try to determine the level of escalation and calm the situation. A few days after the meeting, Iraq moved approximately 200,000 troops toward Kuwait. They also positioned several hundred Iraqi tanks pointed towards the Kuwaiti refineries and rigs. At 2:00 am, Aug 2, 1990, the Armed Forces of Iraq crossed the border into Kuwait and started an invasion.

The Kuwaiti Armed Forces did fight but were no match for their enemy. Soon after, Iraqi tanks were raging down a six-lane highway towards Kuwait City. They began taking the city street by street. Special Operation troops from Iraq attacked broadcasting centers and microwave facilities. By noon of 2 August 1990, Saddam Hussein had control of a fifth of the world's oil reserve. President Bush ordered immediate export and import embargos with Iraq and asked other nations to join. With the fear of Iraq devouring Saudi Arabia, American had to make some fast decisions. On the order of President Bush, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney flew to Jeddah to talk with King Fahd to determine if help was needed from the US. Upon conformation from the king, President George W. Bush made the decision to deploy American forces on a magnitude never before attempted. American troops had four goals: (1) repel further Iraqi aggression; (2) remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait; (3) bring restoration to the government of Kuwait; (4) and secure the life of Americans citizens in that region.

On August 7, 1990, the United States coalition force launched Operation Desert Shield in an attempt to protect Saudi Arabia and force Iraqi troops to withdraw from Kuwait. The United States deployed branches of the military and encouraged other allied countries to join the fight.

The initial step of deployment started with Green Ramp on Pope Air Force Base North Carolina. On August 7, 2007, the 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers anxiously awaited the opportunity to board a C-130 Hercules for deployment to the Middle East and engage in combat operations. Unlike Vietnam, this was a new breed of soldiers with a different way of thinking and fighting. Their new ways of thinking and fighting were soon tested in a war against a determined enemy. Uncertain of their foes' tactics, paratroopers checked and rechecked their equipment as often as possible in preparation of the unknown. After approaching the drop zone, their ride got bumpy, stomachs turned, and tensions grew. Hesitant of the enemy waiting below, the paratroopers began thinking of their arrival to the ground and exit. As they hit the ground, paratroopers formed a defense at the principal air base in Saudi Arabia.

The first burden fell on the Air Force to protect the soldiers on the ground. The responsibility was placed on General Michael J. Dugan, Military Airlift Commander, General Hansford T. Johnson, and Strategic Air Command General John T. Chain. These men were known as the pentagon "key players." Once deployment began, the United States was landing a plane every seven minutes.

The United States decided to build an air bridge in Saudi Arabia. The weight of this bridge came from the Lockheed C-141B Starlifter. The lizard-green C-141B's from the 47th Military Airlift Wing at Charleston, South Carolina deployed to the region. Although these aircraft were unsung heroes of the skies, it was growing old. These aircraft flew approximately 45,000 hours. They had already passed 38,000 hours when Desert Shield began. The other

heavyweight airlift wing was the Lockheed C-5. It is the largest aircraft in the U.S. service. The galaxy is able to carry four M551 Sheridan tanks, a HUMVEE battlefield vehicle and seventy-two soldiers.

The F-15C Eagles were the first attack aircraft to deploy to the region. The C-5B was championed by the 436th Military Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, commander by Colonel M Michael G. Moffitt. On August 25, 1990, a Galaxy crashed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. Despite the crash, Galaxy pilots continued to take off and landed over the wreckage keeping personnel and equipment moving to the region. Airlift operations continued while additional American Forces and Allies came into the Combat Theater. Civilian charters like the Lockheed L-1011 flew along with military C-5s and C141Bs. These charters deployed troops from Fort Drum and the 336th Tactical Fighter Squadron from the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing Squadron at Seymour Johnson AFB. They were the first units with a dual role in Desert Shield. Their role included both air and ground combat operations. In addition, the F-15 Strike Eagle deployed along with this unit. Later on, the 363rd Tactical Fighter Wing from Shaw AFB equipped with F-16/D Fighting Falcon jet fighters joined the deployment for combat action. In addition, Boeing E-3 Sentry AWACS was deployed to detect enemy activity and guide warplanes over the battlefield. These aircraft were no stranger to the area; they had routine operations in Saudi Arabia.

The desert conditions gave these aircraft some difficulties due to fog over Saudi Arabia. Quite a few flights were delayed from landing and taking off. The airlift of personnel and equipment staged throughout air bases in Europe where delay continued due to the adverse weather conditions.

Unfortunately, for the American Armed Forces, the Pentagon began to downsize. The U.S. troops faced a reduction in personnel, equipment, and support. This did not stop the 24th Infantry Division from arriving and setting up quarters in Saudi Arabia warehouses. They laid platforms for their tents in degrees of up to 130 degrees Fahrenheit. This area would later be called tent city. One of the principle land battle weapons was the HUMVEE with its .50 caliber machine gun. Although it was flexible and suitable for the desert, it had to be used properly. Soldiers quickly realized that they had to reduce air in the tires. After several tires exploded, they figured it out. Another principle land vehicle was the M1 Abrams tank with a 105-millimeter gun used by the Army. The 82nd Airborne unit sported the M551 Sheridan tank. The Marines were equipped with the older M60A1 tanks. The "Big Daddy" of them all was the US Army's M270 launcher Multiple Launch Rocket System. It is a self-propelled unit firing a free flight artillery rocket designed to fill a void in the conventional artillery support. The Multiple Launch Rocket System is designed to suppress enemy air defense missiles and guns and to bring counter fire to bear on enemy ground positions. With knowledge that Saddam Hussein had chemical weapons and had used them, Americans received chemical warfare masks and equipment and carried the equipment while wearing the mask often. In fear of what Saddam Hussein would do, the protective mask became the weapon of choice in the mind of most soldiers.

The aircraft carrier was the capital ship of all volunteer US forces on the eve of Desert Shield. It was led by USS Eisenhower to take up position in the Eastern Mediterranean while the USS Independence moved from the Indian Ocean to a position close to the Strait of Hormuz, at the southern tip of the Persian Gulf. An eight-ship battle fleet was already deployed. The General's concern was if Mr. Hussein attack, would our forces be set. Far less glamorous was

the job of providing sea transport. Sealift vessels had to be brought up to readiness. Ninety-five percent of the armor, heavy equipment, ammunition and fuel for American troops had to go by means of sealift. The US began to fear that Saddam Hussein would strike knowing that they did not have enough equipment and personnel on ground to withstand an attack. These vessels would have to travel through the narrow Suez Canal and could become a possible target for Saddam's Army.

Parts of the naval mobilization were the deployment of the battle groups of the USS Eisenhower and USS Independence, which were in place on 8 August. Forty-eight F-15C/D Eagle air superiority fighters from the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, landed in Saudi Arabia and began round the clock air patrol in attempt to prevent further Iraqi advances. The U.S. also sent the battleship USS Missouri and USS Wisconsin to the region. The military buildup continued until they numbered approximately 500,000 troops in theater. With the troops in place, the military had many problems with equipment. Among the many items of equipment accused of vulnerability in the harsh desert conditions, night-vision goggles were the most controversial. The military use of NVGs to fly scout and tank killing helicopters under cover of darkness gave the US force a big edge over Iraq's huge army and tank arsenal. These NVGs did not work properly and were the cause of five crashes, none with fatalities. The helicopter, aircraft, and vehicles showed themselves highly vulnerable to heat and sand. One model of field radio could not be used in the desert because its metal handle became too hot to grasp. Despite the problems, American soldiers struggled and coped with these equipment problems and triumphed over them in time for the pending hostilities.

On 17 January 1991, at 2:38 A.M. local time Baghdad, Desert Shield became Desert Storm. The Desert Storm conflict started with the purpose of evicting the military forces of Iraq

from the country of Kuwait. The main focus of the Coalition's mission was two-fold. First, they were to remove Iraqi ground forces from the country and secondly, they were going to not allow the Iraqi military to be in a position where they could still be combat effective. The Coalition extended this mission outside the country of Kuwait in order to accomplish their goals. In order to accomplish their objectives, the Coalition concentrated on two main areas during the operation. The first phase of Desert Storm was to weaken and significantly degrade Iraq's air and ground forces so they could not pose a serious threat once the Coalition decided to move in. All branches of the U.S. military were involved in this phase. Once the Coalition Commander felt he had weakened them enough, he recommended to the U.S. President that the Coalition was ready to move into the next phase of Desert Storm, or the ground war.

The Air War began early on the morning of the 17th of January 2007 with several AH-64 Apaches from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). A group of 4 MH-53 Pave Low III Special Operations helicopters led two flights of Apaches into western Iraq. Their target was two key Iraqi early warning installations. The Apaches made it in and destroyed both sites in less than five minutes. Once these installations were destroyed, Coalition jets had a 20 mile-wide clear path to move into the Baghdad area to attack more targets there. (Dollar, 2005) The "push" that followed the opening of this safe corridor was amazing. The first big strike against Baghdad followed immediately following this attack. Approximately 14 USAF F-15E Eagle Attack Fighters, an EF-111 Raven radar buster and 4 Navy F-14 Tomcats headed in behind this attack to strike key command and control centers in Baghdad. (Hutchinson, 1995) The attacks were a huge success and paved the way for the Coalition to continue virtually unimpeded with the rest of their plans during the Air War.

To understand completely the victory this first day of attacks in Baghdad gave the

Coalition, one must understand the nature of Baghdad's air defense network. Prior to hostilities with the Coalition, Iraq had purchased the majority of its military equipment from Russia. Iraq had fielded what was considered to be an almost top of the line air defense network defending itself. The network, however, was concentrated around Baghdad and consisted of over 550 SAM launchers within 60 miles of the capital. The types of weapons that made up this network were ex-Soviet SA-2's, SA-3's and SA-6's. The Iraqi's were trained how to employ these systems, mainly designed with their neighbors in mind as the enemy, but they were not prepared to handle the sheer volume of sorties that the Coalition send against them. That was their biggest weakness. (Arkin, 2003) With the Iraqi command and control network for their air defenses destroyed, any type of air defense was basically contained to the local weapon's area and could not be integrated in order to be more effective. The Coalition in effect ruled the skies on the first day of Desert Storm, but they didn't claim it until the seventh day.

While most of the Coalition's air power came from the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Navy played a key role with their air operations during Desert Storm. Naval air operations were made possible by the deployment of six U.S. aircraft carrier battle groups; four in the Persian Gulf and two in the Red Sea. The total naval aircraft commitment to Desert Storm was over 1,000 aircraft. The U.S. Marines also added two large amphibious assault ships that carried their jets and helicopters into battle. The U.S. flew over 94,000 air missions during the war and the Navy / Marines accounted for almost a third of those at 30,000. (U.S. Navy in Desert Shield / Desert Storm, 1997). The naval contribution to the air war also included several hundred Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs), of which over 100 were launched on the first hours of the conflict. The Navy and their air operations greatly contributed to the overall success of the Coalition's goal of air superiority during Desert Storm.

Not to be outdone, U.S. Army air power contributed greatly to the fight during Desert Storm. While the Army's contribution consisted almost entirely of rotary-wing aircraft, they did have about 10 fixed-wing aircraft deployed that served in observation and intelligence-gathering roles. Add to that over 2,600 rotary-wing aircraft and you can see that the U.S. Army had a major contribution to the Desert Storm air war. (Friedman, 1991) The main missions that U.S. Army Aviation took on during the war were to provide close-air support for ground missions and strike missions against predetermined targets as well as targets of opportunity that popped up during the fighting. Without the close-in support that Army aviation provided, Desert Storm would have turned out much different than what we remember today.

The Coalition had decided that 38 days of continuing to soften up and degrade Iraq's defenses were enough. The time was right to begin the ground push to drive Iraq from Kuwait. On 24 February 1991, at about 0400 in the morning local time, Coalition forces crossed the Iraqi-Kuwait border and began operations to remove Iraqi troops from that country. The initial crossing consisted of a massive force of two complete Corps on the U.S. side plus many smaller units, not to mention the coalition forces. The Coalition's aim was to encircle Iraqi forces in Kuwait and the southern sections of Iraq to deny Iraqi forces the ability to wage further war and hold Kuwait. The prize of the entire ground campaign, the liberation of Kuwait City, was left to the Arab forces of the Coalition. This was due to mainly religious concerns in the attempt to have the West not influence the outcome of the aftermath in the region too much. Kuwait is pretty tame by Arab standards but the Arab members of the Coalition didn't want them any more "Western" than they were. In just under 100 hours, the Coalition accomplished all of their wartime goals and missions that they set out to achieve. The Iraqi war machine had run out of gas.

The United States had its own goals along with those shared jointly with the Coalition. The United States had supported all of its responsibilities in regards to its Coalition duties and it had a few of its own. While the “accepted” goal was to remove Iraqi forces from Kuwait, the United States wanted to see the Iraqi military decimated to the point where they would not be a threat to their neighbors for some time to come. They would have liked to see Saddam removed from power but they did not have the authorization from the United Nations for that. If they happened to get lucky with some good intelligence and had the chance to target him, then they would have gone for it. When we think of the “Ground War” we think of it as beginning on the 23rd of February 1991. This was not the reality though. The Coalition actually sent its first troops into Iraq during the 1st week of February. (Dunnigan, 1992) The U.S. wanted to take the lead in the initial ground campaign and began a series of probing actions into Iraq and Kuwait with elements of the First Cavalry Division. The 1st Cav punched through the Iraqi defensive sand berms during the beginning of February to reconnoiter Iraqi defenses for the upcoming invasion. The U.S. took the lead and they wanted the Iraqis to know it. Iraq suffered many casualties before the “official” start of the ground war though. The main goal here was to make the Iraqi forces think the U.S. Forces would come straight through to the north and enter Kuwait that way. The tactic worked and the Iraqis were not prepared for the end-around the U.S. forces did when they actually invaded from the west. U.S. forces air assaulted into southern Iraq, both north and west of Kuwait in an attempt to stop the reinforcement and resupply of Iraqi forces in and around Kuwait. They were extremely successful in all of their goals which helped bring around a quick end to the conflict. President Bush, upon seeing how the Iraqi forces were getting so overwhelmingly routed, decided to call a unilateral cease-fire after just 100 hours into the official conflict. It was a great victory for the U.S. forces and the coalition.

Iraq's goals during the conflict were less clear. Before they invaded Kuwait in August of 1990, they never believed that the United States would make an issue about it. Iraq considered an invasion of Kuwait as an internal matter because they believed that Kuwait was their 19th province of Iraq. A lofty claim to be sure to claim another country as belonging to them, but that was their mindset at the time. The U.S. Ambassador to Iraq at the time, one April C. Glaspie, did not help matters at all. In July of 1990, Saddam had threatened military action against Kuwait for what it considered over-production of OPEC oil quotas. Over-production meant oil was cheaper and Iraq would lose money. Saddam summoned the U.S. Ambassador on 25 July 1990 to confer as to how the U.S. would react to the ongoing Iraq-Kuwait dispute. The U.S., at the time, wanted to be friends with Iraq, mainly to counter Iran's posturing with the rise of Islam. Mrs. Glaspie noted that the United States valued the friendship of Iraq and would consider the ongoing dispute with Kuwait as an internal matter and would not interfere. (Friedman, 1991) Saddam thought that this gave him free reign to do what he wanted and we know what happened a week later; the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Once the air war began, Iraq knew that they were not going to win this fight. Their main goal was to try and hold out long enough to earn something good at the bargaining table. They were so outmatched on the battlefield that even this option was quickly going away. What Iraq would not do though, was admit defeat. This would cause them to lose face, which in their region of the world would be a disaster for them. They tried to hold out for as long as they could but the Coalition was too much. Even as the remnants of their forces were rapidly leaving Kuwait, they still claimed victory. To admit defeat was something not in Saddam's vocabulary.

After just 100 hours of the official ground war, the U.S. President ordered a unilateral cease-fire. He did this because he saw how the Iraqi forces were getting decimated on all fronts

and they appeared to be in full retreat. The President did not want to be seen as the “slaughterer” of retreating forces so he called a cease-fire and let them return to Iraq. The Coalition had accomplished their goal of driving Iraqi forces from Kuwait and liberating the country. Iraq lost but they were going to make Kuwait pay though. Fleeing Iraqi forces set fire to over 800 of Kuwait’s oil wells. To make matters worse, they mined the areas around most of the wells in order to hamper extinguishing efforts. They might have lost the war, but Kuwait was going to pay a heavy price. At the time of the cease-fire, Iraq had virtually no effective military force in the region. Any more killing by the Coalition would have been inhumane. A cease-fire agreement was all that was left to work out. After long negotiations, the Iraqis were to advance their forces no closer than pre-war locations. Iraq was also allowed to maintain the use of armed helicopters, which they claim was to transport officers but in realities they used them to crush Shiite and Kurdish rebellions in the north and south of the country following Saddam’s defeat. U.S. and Coalition forces pulled of Iraq into Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in order to defend those borders and stabilize the region. Coalition forces remain in Kuwait to this day in order to show their support to the region.

Iraq was indeed driven out of the country of Kuwait in just one hundred hours. The Coalition’s victory over Iraq was so lop-sided that the U.S. President decided for humanitarian purposes to end the war and offer the defeated enemy a humane way out without trying to cause additional casualties. Iraq’s motives for the war were misguided by bad signals from the U.S. government. Perhaps a clearer message from the U.S. Ambassador at the time could have prevented the war, but would that have left the region in any better condition than the US left it?

The aftermath of Desert Storm hit many areas in the region and affected many countries in the Middle East. The only other conflicts in the region were the Israeli-Arab conflict, which

has started in 1948, and the Iran-Iraq War from 1980-1988. The Israeli-Arab conflict is still going on, unofficially, and yet Desert Storm made the Arabs come to their senses and sit together with the Israelis on the table to negotiate peace. Some key impacts as a result of the aftermath of Desert Storm were forced peace negotiations within the Arab world, humanitarian issues, retaliation of the Kurds and Shi'a by Saddam Hussein, and the environmental tribulations.

Several of the Arab countries in the region, such as Jordan and the people of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), went to Madrid, Spain to negotiate a peace treaty and try to settle land disputes. The Palestinians were actually part of the Jordanian Delegation because Israel did not want to negotiate with the Palestinians on equal terms. This conference was made possible by the cooperation that the numerous countries of the Coalition showed during Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This conference, which was known as the Madrid Peace Conference, was supervised by the United Nations, the United States of America, and Russia. When the final treaty was signed, the Palestinians were allowed to sign as their own separate entity, thus shocking the Arab world because this was not expected. Jordan took a total of four years to sign and ratify the treaty, mainly because of land and water negotiations. They finally signed the treaty in 1995. These peace treaties along with the expulsion of Iraq from Kuwait are the only positive events that came out of the Desert Storm conflict.

The humanitarian aspect covers items such as war losses and casualties as well as the toll on the civilian populations of the surrounding areas. The human toll from the war was great. Both sides lost Soldiers during the conflict, but the Iraqi losses were by far the worst. Coalition and United Nations estimates put the Iraq losses at 100,000 Soldiers dead and over 300,000 wounded. In addition, over 2,300 Iraqi civilians were believed to have perished during the conflict. The exact number will probably never be known though. Coalition losses were not as

severe as the Iraqi. Losses on the United States side were 472 Soldiers killed. Saudi Arabia lost 18 Soldiers, Egypt lost 10, the United Arab Emirates lost 3, France lost 2, and Syria and Kuwait lost one each. All of these losses were as a result of combat actions. These numbers do not include another part of the humanitarian impact of the war, which was the number of forced refugees in the region. Hundred of thousands of Egyptians were kicked out of Iraq as a result of Egypt participation in the war and more than 93% of the Palestinians who were working in Kuwait were kicked out from Kuwait as a result of Palestinian support to Saddam Hussein.

After the coalition forces won the 100 hundred hour by liberating Kuwait and defeating Saddam's army, the Kurds, of the northern part of Iraq, had visions of autonomous rule. The Kurds, thinking that Saddam's recently defeated regime was weak, rose against him in an effort to fulfill their dreams of having there own independent state. Masoud Barazani, head of the KDP, and Jalal Talbani, leader of PUK, would lead this state. These men made an alliance before the end of the war, and ordered their two militias to spread the revolution to nearby towns in order to revenge Saddam's regime by killing the Ba'ath Party officials and any police officers they could catch. These actions allowed them to gain control of a town called Rania near the Iranian borders and also Iraq's oil center, the town of Kirkuk.

Saddam's forces moved to the north after the Kurds fail to gain support from the Allied forces and withdrew. The Iraqi artillery bombed the newly found Kurdish towns, which forced the Kurds back to the mountains to seek shelter. The Iraqi army didn't stop there, they used helicopters to bomb the Kurdish shelters. They even threw flour on them to remind them of the Anfal campaign when Saddam Hussein's cousin, Chemical Ali, used chemical bombs and killed nearly five thousand Kurds.

In the south of Iraq the Shi'a also felt that Saddam's regime was weak and that it was time to rebel against him. They used the same style of revolution as the Kurds, killing the Ba'ath Party officials and police officers. This revolution spread to many Shi'a towns and cities. The Shi'a ambitions were much more than the Kurds, however as they wanted to move to Baghdad. Once again their dreams would not come true as they rested on the support of the Allied forces that never came. One of the reasons behind the lack of commitment of the allied forces to the Shi'a uprising was due to their fear that the Shi'a had or would have obtained an alliance with the Islamic regime in Iran.

Saddam's response for this uprising was much crueler than his response towards the Kurds; he ordered his Republican Guard Forces, who were considered the top of the Iraqi Armed forces, to terminate the Shi'a uprising. The numbers of dead as well as the way they died was unimaginable. This was one of Saddam's worst humanitarian atrocities. One week after the Shi'a uprising, Saddam regained control of the southern part of Iraq through massive executions and random arrests.

Another important issue arising from the aftermath of Desert Storm is the environmental impact of the war. The Iraqi forces, before eviction from Kuwait at the hands of the coalition, burned 737 Kuwaiti oil wells. These fires last for nearly 9 months after the war. The fumes from those fires are considered one of the most complicated and largest environmental pollutants in modern history. The smoke clouds affected the climate in the region. The fires created acid rains that affected the wildlife and agriculture of the region for many years after the war. As a result of the oil spills, which happened during the extinguishing of the oil well fires, the soil became more solid. This more solid state of the soil made it unsuitable for agriculture purposes due to the prevention of air circulation within the soil. Another issue raised by the oil fires was

an increase of lung cancer and other breathing illness. Another environmental concern stemming from Desert Storm was the amount of depleted uranium and other heavy metals such as lead and tungsten left in both Kuwait and Iraq. Their use during the first gulf war has been cited by many as a contributing factor in a number of instances of health issues in both veterans of the conflict as well as the surrounding civilian populations.

In conclusion, one could say that Desert Storm created more problems for the region than it solved. Because of Desert Storm, there are more democracies in the Middle East today, as well as many more nations officially recognizing Israel as a state. The war also forced Israel to recognize the Palestinians as a legitimate people. Although the Coalition Forces evicted the Iraqi Armed Forces from Kuwait, the war opened the door for radicals to rise up to the surface by using the war as an excuse for their agendas. The lack of support for those agenda's by the allied nations turned some would be allies into our some of our current enemies.

Conclusion

The United States emerged from the Cold War as the sole superpower. This levied some heavy burdens on the United States. At the same time, the Iran-Iraq war ended with Saddam Hussein losing. Saddam did not lose land, he lost power, and the much hoped for influence, within the Arab world. The strains of Iran-Iraq war led Iraq to invade Kuwait; the new responsibility as the last remaining superpower led the US to help Kuwait and protect the rest of the Arab world from Saddam Hussein. Some may say that oil was the motivator behind the US involvement and subsequent deployment to the Middle East in 1991, and at the simplest terms they may be correct, however, the United States has a history of helping the oppressed free themselves from dictators in recent conflicts.

Whatever the reason, the United States deployed forces on a scale that had never been done before in an effort to quickly resolve the dispute, to provide Kuwait back to the Kuwaitis, and to keep the flow of oil to the world going and at a reasonable rate. Desert Storm was an overwhelming success because of the support from the coalition forces and a clearly defined end-state. However, Desert Storm did not resolve Saddam Hussein's will to gain influence in the region, nor did it resolve Iraq's economic issues. Some say that leaving Saddam Hussein in power at the end of Desert Storm was a mistake that the US would have to pay for again somewhere down the road. However, others feel that the clearly defined mission and end-state of Desert Storm were the reasons that the US gained the support of so many Arab nations. Whatever the reason, Saddam Hussein was left in power at the end, and he continued to be a thorn in the side of not only the United States but also to the rest of the Arab world. This thorn caused undue pressures on the US, the powers of OPEC and most of the rest of the world.

This thorn placed huge financial and military burdens on the US, their NATO partners and on relations with and amongst Arab nations. Saddam Hussein also placed restraints on the rest of the world for humanitarian assistance. One of the resultants of the end of hostilities without the removal of Saddam was the huge restrictions placed on Iraq. These restrictions cause the Iraqis more harm than they caused Saddam Hussein and his ruling Baath party. These restrictions remained until the US invaded Iraq in March of 2003. Perhaps the United States had a larger plan for Saddam Hussein after Desert Storm but this plan was put on hold due to a change in political power within the United States.

With the re-installation of the Republicans into many of the powerful seats of the government to include the presidential and vice presidential seats in 2001, the Republicans would refresh those old plans and they again would find a way to remove Saddam Hussein.

After the results of the election were announced in December of 2000, at a dinner with some friends, Vice President-elect Cheney was purported to have shared these beliefs about the Republican triumph in 2000. He believed that their victory had opened up new opportunities for foreign policy: “Opportunities to pursue a new vision of the future, and opportunities to settle scores with old enemies. Now was finally the time, Cheney concluded to do something about Saddam Hussein” (Alfonsi, 2006, P. 376). Then came September 11, 2001; did those events provide the catalyst to remove Saddam Hussein?

Whatever the reason, WMD, oil, politics, economics, revenge, or finishing old business, on March 20, 2003, the US invaded Iraq with the end-state of removing Saddam Hussein from power and giving Iraq to the Iraqis to be a democratic country. Saddam Hussein was captured, turned over to the Iraqis who put him on trial, and hanged him for his crimes. Perhaps time will tell if Iraqis want a democratic government, are capable of cleaning up their streets, and are capable of restoring order to Iraq. Only time will tell if the removal of Saddam Hussein, the thorn, from power will enable old wounds to heal and ultimately allow the world to move on in a better, safer way.

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