



**HWC**

## **Background Guide**

**Agenda: The Gulf War, Feb 1st 1991**

**PWWS MUN**

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# Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is an honor for us to be chairing the Historic War Cabinet (HWC) at the Pathways MUN 2020.

The issue for discussion is of grave importance and hence comes under the mandate of discussion of the HWC.

As part of the Historic War Cabinet, it is important for committee members to weigh ethical, political, and economic implications before putting forth recommendations. The committee should discuss policy reforms to combat the critical issue of the Gulf War.

Since it is a historic committee, the delegates must keep in mind the freeze date of the committee which is 1st February 1991. All developments and important events prior to the freeze date will be discussed in the committee.

On the other hand, none of the delegates can cite any event or development post the freeze date and must consider any such important information as null and void!

The HWC must promote peace and security in the member countries, while working to resolve the Gulf War.

We hope that this committee will be able to do justice to the topic. We wish all delegates the very best and look forward to meeting you at the PWSMUN2020!

All the best!

Regards,  
Executive Board,  
HWC,  
Pathways MUN 2020

# Historic War Cabinet (HWC)

A War Cabinet is a committee that is formed, usually by a government, in a time of War. In this simulation, the War Cabinet will be formed by multiple governments from the members countries of the Coalition in the Gulf War. This committee will comprise of relevant government officials, senior military officers, country leaders and prominent politicians as members. Some of the members of this War Cabinet, set in 1991, are US President George H.W. Bush, UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs Colin Powell, Commander of the United States Central Command in Iraq Norman Schwarzkopf Jr, Saudi General Khalid bin Sultan Al Saud, and French President François Mitterrand.

## Background of the Persian Gulf War

The long running Iran-Iraq War had ended in 1988 by the United Nations brokered ceasefire. But the states had not yet started negotiating a permanent peace treaty. When the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq met in Geneva, the prospects for peace seemed bright. It appeared that the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was prepared to resolve that conflict and return the territory that his forces had occupied. Later, Hussein delivered a speech in which he accused neighboring nation Kuwait of transferring crude oil from Ar-Rumaylah oil fields located along their common border.

Hussein insisted that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait cancel out \$30 billion of Iraq's foreign debt, and further also accused them of conspiring to keep oil prices low in an effort to appease the Western oil-buying nations.

In addition to Hussein's provocative speech, Iraq had begun gathering their troops on the borders of Kuwait. The President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt was alarmed by these activities and initiated negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait to avoid intervention by the United States or other powerful states.

Hussein broke the negotiations on August 2, 1990 and ordered the invasion of Kuwait. Hussein assumed that other Arab states would support him in the invasion of Kuwait, and not call outsiders to stop it but he was proved wrong. Most members of the Arab League criticized Iraq's act of aggression. Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Kuwait's government-in-exile asked for support from the United States and other members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

# **Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait and Allied Response**

The US, Britain, and Soviet Union governments condemned the invasion of Kuwait. On August 3 1990, the United Nations Security Council asked Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Few days later, King Fahd met Dick Cheney, the Secretary of Defense of the United States to request for military assistance. On August 8, the Iraqi government officially annexed Kuwait and Hussein called it Iraq's "19th province".

The U.S. Air Force fighter planes arrived in Saudi Arabia as part of a military buildup. The planes were accompanied by troops sent by NATO allies, Egypt and several other Arab nations. The military build-up was designed to guard against a possible attack from Iraq on Saudi Arabia. On 6 August, Resolution 661 placed economic sanctions on Iraq. Resolution 66 followed soon after, which authorized a naval blockade to enforce the sanctions. A coalition of forces opposing Iraq's aggression was formed, consisting of forces from 34 countries: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the US itself. It was the largest coalition since World War II. US Army General Norman Schwarzkopf, Jr. was designated to be the commander of the coalition forces in the Persian Gulf area. The Soviet Union also supported United States intervention.

Iraq increased its forces to about 300,000 troops in Kuwait. In order to get support from the Muslim states, Hussein declared a jihad (holy war) against the coalition. Further, he also attempted to support the Palestinian cause by offering to evacuate Kuwait if the Israeli withdrew from the occupied territories. When all his efforts went in vain, Hussein concluded a quick peace with Iran so that he could bring his army up to full strength. Kuwaitis founded a local armed resistance movement following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Most of the Kuwaitis who were arrested, tortured, and executed during the occupation were civilians. The Kuwaiti resistance's casualty rate far exceeded that of the coalition military forces and Western hostages. The resistance predominantly consisted of ordinary citizens who lacked any form of training and supervision.

In October 1990, Iraqi officials cracked down on the resistance by executing hundreds of people it suspected were involved in the movement as well as conducting raids and searches of individual households. After the crackdown, the resistance began to target Iraqi military bases in order to reduce retaliation against Kuwaiti civilians. In October 1990, the Iraqi government opened the borders of Kuwait and allowed anyone to exit. This resulted in an exodus of both Kuwaitis and foreigners, which weakened the resistance movement.

## **Concerns of the West**

One of the West's main concerns was the significant threat Iraq posed to Saudi Arabia. Following Kuwait's conquest, the Iraqi Army was within easy striking distance of Saudi Oil Fields. Control of these fields, along with Kuwaiti and Iraqi reserves, would have given Saddam control over the majority of the world's oil reserves. Iraq also had a number of grievances with Saudi Arabia. The Saudis had lent Iraq some 26 billion dollars during its war with Iran. The Saudis had backed Iraq in that war, as they feared the influence of Shia Iran's Islamic Revolution on its own Shia minority. After the war, Saddam felt he should not have to repay the loans due to the help he had given the Saudis by fighting Iran. US President George H. W. Bush quickly announced that the US would launch a "wholly defensive" mission to prevent Iraq from invading Saudi Arabia, under the codename Operation Desert Shield.

## **Beginning of the Gulf War**

The United Nations Security Council authorized the use of all necessary means of force against Iraq on November 29, 1990, if they did not withdraw from Kuwait by January 15, 1991. Till then the coalition forces prepared to fight against Iraq. About 750,000 troops including 540,000 United States personnel and smaller troops from Germany, Britain, France, Soviet Union, Egypt, Japan, and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq had support from Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Yemen, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). On January 17, 1991, the coalition forces directed a massive air offensive on the air defenses of Iraq. further they targeted the communications networks, oil refineries, weapons plants, and other areas.

The coalition effort, called the Operation Desert Storm, had the latest military technology, including Cruise missiles, Stealth bombers, "Smart" bombs with laser-guidance systems and infrared night-bombing equipment. The objective of the air fight was to win the war in the air and reduce the combat on the ground.

# War on the Ground and Consequences

By February, the coalition forces' air attacks shifted their focus on the ground forces of Iraq in Kuwait and southern Iraq. Soon, the coalition forces defeated the Iraqis and liberated Kuwait. At the same time, United States forces attacked Iraq's armored reserves from the rear. The Iraqi Republican Guard attempted to defend but most were defeated by February 27. The Iraqi resistance collapsed, and Bush declared a ceasefire on February 28 1991, that marked the end of the Persian Gulf War.

According to the peace terms, Hussein accepted that Iraq would recognize and respect Kuwait's sovereignty and also get rid of all the weapons of mass destruction. About 8,000 to 10,000 Iraqi forces and 300 coalition troops were killed during the war.

## **CONSEQUENCES:**

The Persian Gulf War began when Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990. It was also called 'Operation Desert Shield' from August 2, 1990 - January 17, 1991, and now its called 'Operation Desert Storm' from January 17, 1991 — (ongoing), which is the combat phase.

When we talk of the Persian Gulf War, both Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, and the United States' elimination of the Iraqi presence in Kuwait are included in it. This war, just like any other war, has had huge repercussions on the environment, economies of the countries involved as well as on the people.

## **Environment**

During the war, approximately 11 million barrels of oil was released into the Arabian gulf. It is estimated that as many as 80 ships carrying oil and weapons were sunk into the Arabian gulf. This disturbed the entire ecosystem, destroying marine life to a large extent. Migratory birds were killed and many marine turtles lost their lives or developed lesions. The land where the war took place, became infertile, as the desert vegetation was trampled upon by heavy artillery. Due to the accumulation of solid wastes, groundwater contamination took place on a large scale.

The atmosphere was the worst affected. There was huge air pollution caused by the fire and smoke, produced by explosives and weapons. Moreover, the Iraqis while retreating from Kuwait, set fire to approximately 600 oil wells. The pollution caused due to this barbarous act has left a huge impact on the environment and weather of the entire planet.

## Economy

As for the economic effects, Iraq was the major sufferer. It not only suffered losses in military equipment, but also its infrastructure as well, which may take years and billions of dollars to rebuild. Similarly, both Kuwait and Saudi Arabia suffered some infrastructural losses, running into billions of dollars. The major economic impact of the Gulf War was perhaps on cleaning up the oil slicks, which cost a whopping \$700 million to clean up. However, due to the rising oil prices and growth of the oil industry post the Persian Gulf War, Kuwait was able to make up for many of its economic losses. As it can be seen, the Gulf War adversely affected people, environment, and economies of all the nations involved.

## Timeline of Important Events

The **timeline of the Gulf War** details the dates of the major events of the 1990–1991 war. It began with the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990.

### 1990

- 28–30 May: Iraqi president Saddam Hussein says that oil overproduction by Kuwait and United Arab Emirates was an "economic warfare" against Iraq.
- 28 May: President of Iraq Saddam Hussein and Emir of Kuwait Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meet at the Arab League Summit in Baghdad.
- 15 July: Iraq accuses Kuwait of stealing oil from the Rumaila oil field, an Iraqi oil field near the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, and threatens military action in response.
- 22 July: Iraq begins deploying troops to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border, creating a massive military buildup.
- 24 July: President of Egypt Hosni Mubarak travels to Baghdad to meet with Saddam Hussein and discuss the dispute between Kuwait and Iraq.
- 2 August: About 100,000 Iraqi troops invade Kuwait.
- 2 August: Battle of Dasman Palace. Emir Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah flees to Saudi Arabia with his family and ministers.
- 2 August: United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 660 condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Yemen is the only Arab country that does not take part in the vote in the UNSC.
- 3 August: President of the United States George H.W. Bush announces that U.S. Navy ships have been deployed to the Persian Gulf.
- 4 August: Alaa Hussein Ali is appointed Prime Minister of the Provisional Government of Free Kuwait and Ali Hassan al-Majid is appointed Governor of the Kuwait Governorate, which is declared the 19th Governorate of Iraq.
- 5 August: Emir Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah forms the Government in exile in Ta'if, Saudi Arabia.
- 6 August: United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 implements international sanctions on Iraq. Yemen doesn't take part in the vote in the UNSC.

- 6 August: United States Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney meets King of Saudi Arabia Fahd in Riyadh to discuss sending U.S. military troops to defend Saudi Arabia in case of an Iraqi invasion.
- 7 August: 15,000 U.S. troops, 32 destroyers and 100 helicopters and fighter planes arrive in Saudi Arabia.
- 8 August: Operation Desert Shield is launched by the United States.
- 9 August: United Nations Security Council Resolution 662 condemns the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
- 10 August: Arab League Emergency summit takes place in Cairo. The majority of Arab countries condemn the invasion and call on Iraq to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and reinstate Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Emir of Kuwait. Only Libya and the Palestine Liberation Organization support the Iraqi invasion.
- 10 August: Arab League Cairo summit votes, by a very small margin, to send Egyptian, Syrian and Moroccan military troops to the Gulf region to support Kuwait.
- 12 August: Naval blockade of Iraq begins.
- 13 August: Indian Government starts to airlift Indian nationals from Kuwait via Amman to Mumbai. About 175,000 Indian nationals are evacuated from Kuwait through 20 October.
- 15 August: Iran and Iraq re-establish diplomatic relations for the first time since the Iran-Iraq War.
- 16 August: Secretary Dick Cheney orders U.S. naval ships to stop all cargo and tankers leaving and entering Iraq and Kuwait.
- 18 August: United Nations Security Council Resolution 664 condemns Iraq and demands it leaves Kuwait.
- 19 August: United Arab Emirates allows foreign troops to enter its territory.
- 20 August: Hundred of thousands of Pakistani, Egyptian, Palestinian, and Filipino guest workers flee Kuwait to Jordan.
- 20 August: 82 British nationals are taken hostage in Kuwait.
- 25 August: United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 implements international sanctions on Iraq.
- 26 August: Iraq sieges foreign embassies in Kuwait City.
- 28 August: Kuwait formally annexed by Iraq.
- 29 August: United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar travels to Baghdad to meet Foreign Minister of Iraq Tariq Aziz.
- 1 September: Iraq allows 700 Westerners, held hostage since the invasion, to leave Iraq.
- 2 September: Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar returns from Baghdad without any agreement with the Government of Iraq.
- 9 September: President of the United States George H.W. Bush and President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev meet in Helsinki to discuss the Iraqi invasion. In a press conference, the presidents demand Iraq leave Kuwait under the UNSC Resolutions of 660, 661, 662, 664 and 665.

- 11 September: President George H.W. Bush in an address to a joint session of Congress issues conditions that Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait completely. [6]
- 14 September: United Kingdom and France announce the deployment of troops to Saudi Arabia.
- 25 September: United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 implements civil aviation sanctions on Iraq.
- 17 October: 200,000 American, 15,000 British and 11,000 French troops are stationed in the Gulf region.
- 8 November: U.S sends more troops to the Gulf region. About 100,000 troops arrive to support the existing 220,000 troops in the region.
- 19 November: Iraq sends about 200,000 more troops to Kuwait.
- 29 November: The U.N. Security Council passes Resolution 678, requiring Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait before January 15, 1991, or face military action.
- 29 November: President George H.W. Bush invites Foreign Minister of Iraq Tariq Aziz to meet in Washington D.C..
- 6 December: Iraq releases 3,000 foreign hostages from Kuwait and Iraq.
- 10 December: Iraq releases British hostages.

## 1991

- 9 January: United States Secretary of State James Baker meets Foreign Minister of Iraq Tariq Aziz at the Geneva Conference in Hotel InterContinental. No solution is reached.
- January 12: U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution authorizing the use of military force in Iraq and Kuwait. The votes were 52-47 in the U.S. Senate and 250-183 in the House of Representatives. These were the closest margins in authorizing force by the U.S. Congress since the War of 1812.
- 12 January: United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar meets Saddam Hussein in Baghdad but does not reach an agreement with the Government of Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.
- 12 January: Soviet special envoy Yevgeny Primakov meets with Saddam Hussein in Baghdad to discuss the possible Coalition invasion of Kuwait.
- 15 January: Saddam Hussein announces that Iraq will consider withdrawing its troops from Kuwait under some conditions.
- 15 January: 580,000 Coalition troops are stationed in the Gulf region, opposing 540,000 Iraqi troops.
- 15 January: First U.S. government statement relating to Operation Desert Storm is made.
- 15 January: Iraq ignores all UN resolutions.
- 16 January: Coalition forces led by the U.S. start deploying to Kuwait via the Persian Gulf and the Saudi Arabian border, triggering the first official infantry combat.

- 16 January: President George H.W. Bush addresses the nation from the Oval Office on the beginning of US-Led Coalition forces strikes at the beginning of Operation Desert Storm.[7]
- 17 January: Foreign Minister of Iraq Tariq Aziz meets President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow where they discuss the Soviet peace plan.
- 17 January: Operation Desert Storm is launched and the first air attacks are launched on Iraq and Kuwait.
- 18 January, 01:00 GMT: Iraq fires 12 Scud missiles at the Israeli cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv, slightly injuring 12 people. The United States tells Israel to not retaliate, out of fear that it will escalate the war and trigger the collapse of the Arab Coalition. The U.S. deploys Patriot missiles to Israel and Saudi Arabia.
- 21 January: Foreign Minister of Iraq Tariq Aziz accepts the Soviet peace plan. President Bush refuses the peace plan as unrealistic for the coalition.
- 22 January: Iraq burns Kuwaiti oil fields. About 600 oil fields are on fire.
- 24 January: Iraq continues to burn Kuwaiti oil fields and dumps the oil into the Persian Gulf.
- 24 January: Coalition forces capture the small Kuwaiti island of Qaruh.
- 25 January: Iraqi troops dump millions of gallons of crude oil into the Persian Gulf.
- 29 January: United States and the Soviet Union offer a ceasefire to Iraq if it withdraws all its troops from Kuwait.
- 29 January: Iraqi forces invade the town of Khafji in Saudi Arabia. Iraqi forces are quickly engaged by Saudi Arabian and Qatari troops with help from the U.S. Marines.
- 30 January: Coalition starts its first land operations in Kuwait and Southern Iraq.
- 1 February: Iraqi forces are driven out of Saudi Arabia.
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# Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- Keeping in mind the recent advancements, how can the HWC make sure that Iraq follows the clauses stated in the ceasefire?
- With the Iraqi forces driven out of Saudi Arabia, how will the HWC ensure peace and stability in the regions while maintaining diplomatic relations with the countries involved?
- The ongoing Operation Desert Storm has proved to be effective in establishing control in certain Iraqi regions of strategic importance. However, how does the coalition army plan to go further in this operation?
- Keeping in mind the rising tension between the gulf countries, how can the HWC ensure an effective termination of the Gulf War?
- What measures can be undertaken to maintain the coalition's control in the Gulf countries and establish stability in the region?

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