

Forum: Historical Security Council

Issue: The Iraqi Republican Guard invades Kuwait (1990)

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Position: President

Introduction

Attention delegates! The Historical Security Council is set in the past and all Security Council procedures will apply to this committee. This research report and this issue is set in September 2nd 1990 thus it is imperative you take the stance of your delegation in the respective year, not it's current viewpoint.

The Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was succession to one of the most brutal wars that heavily destabilized the political climate and caused catastrophic economic dislocation in the Middle East. Therefore, to fully understand this issue, we must travel further back in time and explore one of the most revolutionary wars that would change the people, power and politics of the countries involved forever: the Iran-Iraq war.

The decision of invading Iran by Iraq was a multifaceted one that proved to be a culmination of reasons. Saddam Hussein, Iraqi President, had felt threatened by Ayatollah Khomeieni's rise to power through the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Khomeini, from his perspective, saw Hussein as a Sunni tyrant that oppressed the majority of their Shia population. During the build up of the Iran-Iraq war towards the end of 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini openly condemned his policies, thus for Saddam Hussein the purpose of the war was to topple the Khomeini regime, before they overthrew him. Therefore, Iraq dissolved the Algiers Agreement (an agreement between Iran and Iraq that settled their border disputes) and declared its intent to fully enforce its sovereignty over both banks of the river Shatt Al Arab which acted as the border between Iran and Iraq.

The war began in 1980 and last eight years until 1988. It was unnecessarily protracted and became marked by three central factors that differentiated it from past wars: the extensive use of ballistic missile attacks, chemical warfare and targeting oil tankers in the countries. To top it all off, the Iran-Iraq war ended in over two million deaths and billions of dollars spent on the eight year war.

Iraq's economic plight after the Iran-Iraq war was immeasurable: more than one million soldiers deceased, they were indebted \$14 billion dollars to Kuwait and severely lacked resources in rebuilding

their nation. Despite Kuwait providing an abundance of financial aid to Iraq during the Gulf War, tensions between the two nations underlyingly developed as a result of political disputes from debt and economic friction between their oil industries. However, accusations were made of Kuwait using slant drilling to take \$2.4 billion of oil on Iraqi land was a pivotal factor riding against their momentum. Kuwait' adamant refusal in forgiving the debt and the failure of the peace talks ultimately led to annexation (forcibly acquiring another territory into a country) of Kuwait by Iraq.

The Iraqi Republican Guard invaded Kuwait in August 1990, first landing in the capital of Kuwait City. Within hours, Kuwaiti military forces were defeated by the Republican Guard while the royal family of Kuwait sought refuge in Saudi Arabia. An Iraqi provisional government was established to enforce their control over the city. As a result of such unexpected violence, tensions between Iraq and the international community are at an all time high -- wide-spread distrust of Iraq is rooted in historical betrayal and their militant actions.

Definition of Key Terms

Chemical Warfare

The usage of chemical substances that are hazardous, containing a high degree of toxic properties as weapons. Despite it being one of the most inhumane weapons to use, Iraq used several nerve agents (a type of chemical weapon) in their attacks against Iran. Nerve agents are fast acting and work by disrupting the essential functions of the central nervous system.

Inelastic Demand

A minimum change in demand in response to a decrease or increase in the price of a product. In this case, oil has a highly inelastic demand therefore the government and its citizens will continue to buy it as it was essential for the economic stability of several countries. The UNSC issued an embargo on Kuwait and Iraq after the invasion and this drove oil prices up, forcing countries to pay more for oil imports and reduce their spending in other industries.

Oil Tanker

A ship designed to bulk transport oil and its products. These were heavily targeted in both wars, destroying Kuwait's reservoir and supply of oil, leading to the loss of potential million dollars thus causing economic loss.



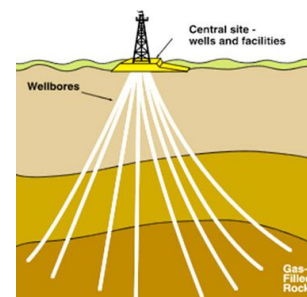
An example of an oil tanker

Quota

Enforcing a limit on the amount a country or business can produce or import; they must not exceed the set limit. Kuwait and the UAE were producing over their OPEC quotas which increased supply on the international market thus reducing prices..

Slant Drilling

Slant or directional drilling is the process of drilling non-vertical wells at varying different angles. This process can reach more underground areas thus increasing oil extracted. It was claimed Kuwait was slant drilling in the border region of Rumaila in Iraq, allegedly extracting billion dollars worth of oil.



A visual display of slant drilling

State of Emergency

A state of emergency can be declared under extreme situations like an imminent threat, natural disaster or widespread damage. This official proclamation allows nations to undergo actions that aren't normally allowed in order to diminish a crisis and return things to normal. It also allows governments to take extra measures to protect the public and seek aid (if it is warranted) for a response to the disaster

Sovereignty

Refers to the autonomy of a nation and their right to govern themselves or another state. In this case, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, their puppet government momentarily had sovereignty over Kuwait.

Background Information

Iraqi and Kuwaiti relations had a history of being territorial and dominating in nature. The Gulf War wasn't the first time Iraq tried to invade Kuwait, but it was their first time succeeding. In June of 1961, Great Britain revoked its control over Kuwait and granted autonomy and sovereignty to the Middle Eastern nation. At the time, arab nationalism was rising throughout the region so naturally other nations would be in concordance. Within six days of their independence, former president of Iraq, Abd Al Karim Qassem had declared that Kuwait was an integral part of Iraq before British imperialism and announced Iraq was going to annex the country. Several nations were left in shock and caught off guard by Iraq's unexpected hostility; however, Britain underwent Operation Vantage - a military operation to support Kuwait against the claims of Iraq. Eventually the Arab League prevented the invasion and replaced the British troops with Arab League forces. Iraq later recognised Kuwaiti independence in 1963.

Iran-Iraq War

The Iran-Iraq war began in 1980 and was unnecessarily protracted as Iraq wanted to stop the war. Iran did not and rejected the ceasefire offer by Hussein in 1982 thus leading to further bloodshed. It extended up to 1988, lasting a stunning eight years. Both Iran and Iraq had invested billions of dollars into the war and faced the reconstruction of their countries with extreme difficulty. The crux of this issue falls in the amount Iraq was indebted to Kuwait. The amount totalled to \$14 billion. Considering the colossal amount spent in the war against Iran and the several million lives lost, Iraq was in no shape to readily repay this number. Moreover, Iraq faced several humanitarian issues. Iraq asked Kuwait to forgive their debt, however Kuwait refused leaving Iraq with a financial crisis.

The Gulf War

The Gulf War began on August 2nd 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait and was succession to the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). The invasion of Kuwait began for numerous reasons: Iraq's fourteen billion dollars debt to Kuwait; Kuwait's production above its oil quotas, in turn reduced Iraq's ability to earn higher profits; the discovery of stolen oil from Iraqi land; the failure to come to a consensus during the peace talks and Saddam Hussein's personal views on how Kuwait always belonged to Iraq. Saddam also wanted to utilise Kuwaiti oil resources to pay off Iraq's heavy debts. The following sections elaborate on the events in the run up to the Gulf War.

Economic Warfare for Oil

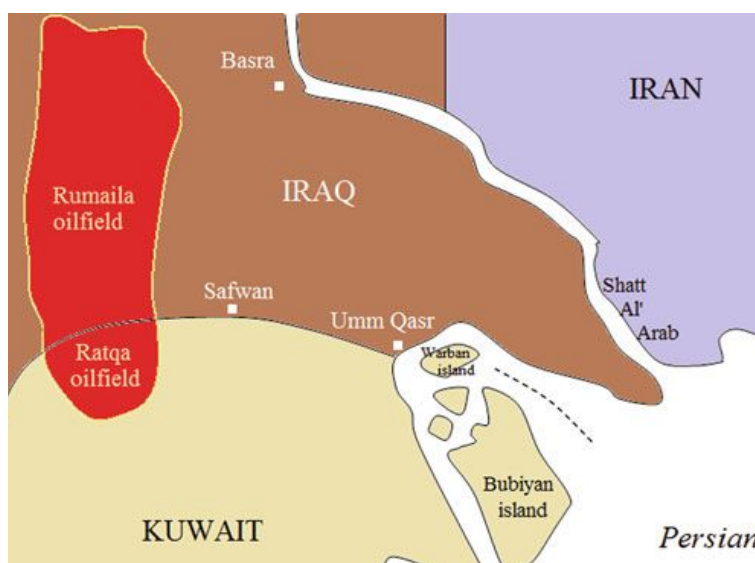
After the Iran-Iraq war, Iraq was sustained in financial debt and an economic crisis - they lacked the resources to rebuild their nation or pay back for their war financing. A pivotal export for Iraq was oil as it brought them the most money - especially since oil has inelastic demand, revenues will always remain high. Oil was constantly in high demand on the global market. The oil minister of Iraq recommended they increased their prices of oil to pay back their loan. However, the economic warfare of the oil industry began in March of 1990, when Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates began producing more oil than their set quotas by Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) thus this abundance of oil in the global market restrained Iraq from raising prices.

Iraq was forced to lower its prices in order to stay competitive in the international oil market. As a consequence, Iraq's economy remained plateaued and they lacked the ability to reconstruct themselves. This was deemed as an act of aggression by Iraq as it accused that the two nations flooded the market to purposely undermine Iraq's economic prosperity and security.

In July of 1990, Iraq's foreign minister accused Kuwait of allegedly setting up military posts and drilling oil wells on Iraqi land between the borders of the two nations since 1980. It is centered around the Rumaila/Ratqa oil fields. These two oil fields are located in a single geographical location that went over

the borders. Iraq possess much more of the land and thus more potential oil than Kuwait.

The allegations stated how Kuwait has developed a new method of slant drilling to exploit Iraqi petroleum from the bordering fields of Rumaila/Ratqa, therefore extracting 2.4 million dollars worth of oil. Kuwait dismissed these claims were a smokescreen to guise Iraq's more dangerous intentions which were using military action against Kuwait. This was



Map of the Persian Gulf region

crucial because the area was believed to hold 14% of the world's oil reserves. From then on, this moment had been a defining pivotal moment that caused the invasion of Kuwait - Iraq warned the use of military action. However, a few days before the 2nd August 1990, the day of the invasion, OPEC officials announced that the UAE and Kuwait had agreed to limit their output to 1.5 million barrels a day. Despite this settlement, Iraqi troops were already stationed around the Kuwait-Iraq border and little intent on both sides was shown to diffuse the extreme tension.

Jeddah Conference

In the city of Jeddah, on 31st July and 1st August, Saudi Arabia hosted crisis talks between Iraq and Kuwait for them to reach a consensus to prevent further escalation of Iraq's military threats. Roughly 100,000 Iraqi troops were already stationed at the border, tensions were at its peak and thus the world was focused on this pivotal conference. The talks were led between Iraq's prime minister and Kuwait's prime minister to come to a consensus. These demands were issued by Iraq:

- 1) Reduction in Kuwaiti oil production
- 2) Forgiveness of Iraq's \$14 million debt to Kuwait due to the Iran-Iraq war
- 3) Compensation of \$2.4 billion oil extracted on Iraqi territory
- 4) Control over the Bubiyan and Warbah islands for direct access of the oil exports from the trade in the Persian Gulf

The collapse of the Jeddah talks arose when Kuwait rejected these demands, as they perceived them too extreme. Kuwait had already denied allegations that they were drilling on Iraqi territory. After the meeting, quoted from Iraq's deputy prime minister: *"No agreement has been achieved on anything because we did not feel from the Kuwaitis any seriousness in dealing with the severe damage inflicted on Iraq as a result of their recent behaviour and stands against Iraq's basic interests"*.

While the Kuwaiti prime minister issued the following statement: *“I look forward to the resumption of direct meetings and negotiations in both brotherly nations to reach a solution to all issues under the Arab League charter and in a fashion that will ensure our joint and legitimate interests.”*

This proves Kuwait were still willing to negotiate with Iraq to come to a consensus; while Iraq was agitated with Kuwait's refusal to comply with their interests and thus the next day, 2nd August, initiated their troops to attack the capital, Kuwait City.

Invasion of Kuwait and International Response

Prior to the invasion, Iraq had threatened Kuwait and issued hostile statements; they began a military build up around the Iraq-Kuwait border on July 22nd 1990. Kuwaiti military officials informed their political leaders and asked them to declare a state of emergency. However the Kuwaiti leadership did not take Iraqi actions seriously. They believed that Iraq was trying to exert pressure on Kuwait but would not invade the entire country and thus they did not issue a state of emergency. This limited their capability to respond to the situation at hand.

On 2nd August 1990, the Republican Guard invaded their oil rich neighbour Kuwait. Iraq launched an attack utilising five of their elite Republican Guard divisions. The Iraqi Republican Guard were one of the strongest armies, thus Kuwait was easily overpowered. More than 100,000 soldiers, aerial strikes and around 70 tanks were taken into Kuwait. The disregard against Iraq's threats inevitably made Kuwait severely vulnerable as their military was not prepared for all five divisions of the Iraqi Republican Guard. The attacks were purposely centralised around Dasman Palace, the royal palace. Within the same day the Emir, the royal family and government officials fled to Saudi Arabia to seek refuge without an alternative leadership party to run the country. Therefore, there was a lack of direction for the military, which caused them to weaken and later on submit to Iraqi rule. Later on, the desertion of Kuwaiti leaders was criticised by the civilian Kuwaiti resistance as their slogan claimed “shame on whoever deserts their home”.

As a result of the occupation, Iraq now had control over twenty percent of the world's global supply of oil. Within several hours, the capital Kuwait City had been taken over. All communication within Kuwait had been cut thus making it increasingly difficult to reach citizens within the capital. Unfortunately, several of the aerial and land attacks caused deaths to citizens and destroyed infrastructure.

The international response was almost instantaneous. On the same day as the invasion, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously condemned Iraq's actions and demanded Iraq to withdraw its troops. Iraq refused. Two days later, on August 4th, Iraq set up a provisional government in Kuwait, which alluded to the dethronement of the Emir and they dissolved the Kuwaiti National Council. On August 6th, the UNSC deems the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait a breach of international peace and

security. The UNSC imposed a global embargo on Iraq after their territorial actions and to exacerbate their economic dislocation. A few days later, on August 8th, Saddam Hussein announces the annexation of Kuwait and terms it as the 19th state of Iraq. Saudi Arabia asked for military aid as it feared Iraq would not stop just at Kuwait. August 9th, the UNSC deems the occupation of Kuwait as void under international law and thus has no legal validity. August 12th, a naval blockade is enforced upon Iraq and all oil export shipments are blocked. In urgency of an international response, Saudi Arabia requested the US to send troops to Saudi Arabia as it was afraid Iraq would attack its' borders. Fear and insecurity was widespread among Kuwaiti citizens due to the Iraqi occupation, hundreds of thousands followed their monarchy and fled to Saudi Arabia for refuge.

Oil Price Shock

Despite Kuwait and Iraq being two of the world's major suppliers of oil, the embargo had heavily impacted the international market for highly demanded oil. Nations were forbidden from importing any oil from Iraq or Kuwait, the aggregate supply reduced by seven percent and thus prices for oil drastically shot up. It rose from \$17 per barrel in June to roughly \$35 in September 1990. As a consequence, several nations would have to purchase more expensive oil therefore further deteriorated international economic conditions. Unfortunately, OPEC did little to curb this overproduction of oil. This escalated the tension and urgency for this international crisis to come to an end.

The Kuwaiti Resistance

Several civilians were caught in the cross-fire and several thousand died and thousands were left injured. Throughout August, a civilian Kuwaiti resistance movement was slowly built up. Men, women, children and elderly all worked together in an attempt to diminish the military forces of Saddam Hussein. The resistance had no key leader or formal organizational structure, it primarily is a grassroots movement (the people in a given region are the basis for a political movement). Civil disobedience was a form of protest and disapproval of Iraqi actions. The resistance was incredibly important as Iraq could not claim Kuwait had fully become integrated as the 19th province of Iraq.

On the other hand, the civilian military resistance had a major impact during the first few weeks. They would murder Iraqi armed forces and concentrated on high value targets like high ranked army officials. Iraq curtailed all forms of communication within and outside the country, however satellite phones were managed to be smuggled through the Saudi Arabian border and thus the resistance established a line of communication with the provisional Kuwaiti government in Saudi Arabia. These satellite telephones could send voice transmissions, photographs and enabled the leaders to keep in direct contact with the resistance movement.

Essential services and support such as food, health and money were provided through collaboration of the resistance. Local cooperative societies that provided most groceries in Kuwait, ran with difficulty throughout the occupation. Some local markets were burned amidst Iraq's initial attacks on Kuwait. Iraqi officials were initially posted at supermarkets to maintain order; however, after a few weeks they began harassing store managers but the shops were still left open to run.

Money was another major factor in the resistance. Before Iraq sealed the Kuwaiti-Saudi Arabian border, money was discreetly smuggled through the borders to fund the Kuwaiti resistance activities and buy necessities. However the biggest use of money was to free captured Kuwaitis by Iraqi military officials through bribery, these ransoms could range from one to ten thousand Iraqi dinar.

Key Players

Saddam Hussein

Saddam Hussein rose to power through the Ba'ath party, which is an Arab socialist party that viewed individual Arab states as part of a larger Arab nation and became president in 1979. Saddam's Ba'athist regime was renowned for its relentless brutality throughout its rule. Infamously known for having developed Iraq's first chemical weapon program and using chemical attacks against its own Kurdish population in the 1980's. Aside from economic factors, Saddam Hussein claimed that Kuwait was historically part of Iraq and thus it should rightfully return to Iraq. The occupation of Kuwait clearly demonstrated Saddam Hussein's intentions as he appointed his uncle, Ali Hassan Al-Majid, to be in charge of the new Iraqi government in Kuwait. He was the very same man who oversaw chemical warfare against the Kurds in 1980. Thus the failure to appoint an experienced military general suggested Saddam's willingness to subdue the Kuwaiti population with violence and other extreme measures.

Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah

Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah was the Emir of Kuwait at the time of the invasion. Despite the Sabah family living in Saudi Arabia, they set up a provisional Kuwaiti government in Saudi Arabia to be in constant communication with their ministers in Kuwait.

Ali Hassan Al-Majid

Ali Hassan was the governor of the new Iraqi government emplaced in Kuwait. He was nicknamed "Chemical Ali" for his heavy involvement in using chemical weapons such as sarin, mustard gas and tabun against the Kurdish population in 1988. He became the governor of the new Iraqi government established in Kuwait. Under his rule, he authorised military and security personnel to

control the Kuwaiti population. Methods and punishments against military or civilian resistant groups were incredibly harsh, for example executing people in front of their homes and arresting them for minor treason. Such barbaric violence was rooted in the Ba'athist regime and was shown in their actions against previous political.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Iraq

Iraq was ruled under the dictatorship of Saddam Hussein and followed the ideologies of the Ba'ath party. Iraq suffered immensely from the Iran-Iraq war and thus relied on their main export - oil - to restore their economic prosperity. Several complications arose: Kuwait and the UAE lowering their oil prices, producing more than their quotas and the discovery of Kuwait extracting oil from the Rumaylah border. The combination of these factors and Saddam Hussein's belief that Kuwaiti oil reserves would help restore Iraq's security led to the invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi government setup in Kuwait forcefully asserted Iraqi identity among the population and majorly diminished anything that hinted to Kuwaiti independence. To further instill this, the Kuwaiti dinar became disallowed and was replaced with the Iraqi dinar. Additionally, Saddam banned the word "Kuwait" in all Iraqi communications to create the impression that they were returning to their homeland than occupying a foreign country.

Not only did the invasion threaten the physical safety of Kuwaiti citizens but they also ransacked their property. High technological equipment and machinery were all taken back to Iraq. On the first few days, Iraqi soldiers took control of the Central Bank of Kuwait but it took them a month to break into the vault; the new Iraqi government authorised this and they stole roughly \$180 million which was used to fund the occupation. The sheer fact this could be entertained displays how much authority Iraq was and is still able to exercise over Kuwait.

Kuwait

Kuwait was a small oil rich country that became independent in 1961, but Iraq did not recognise Kuwait's independence until 1963. At the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war, Kuwait was a neutral bystander until the fear of attack by Iranian troops as they were nearing the Kuwaiti borders forced Kuwait to take sides. They heavily financed Iraq's military actions and aided Iraq in shipping oil to maintain its economic development. However Iraq viewed their support as brotherly Arab nationalist duty and therefore didn't expect Kuwait to demand they pay back the funds. This initially caused tension between the two nations and the fight for oil further plummeted their relationship.

During the invasion, the Kuwaiti Emir and other governmental officials had set up a provisional Kuwaiti government in Saudi Arabia to provide aid to citizens in Kuwait. They kept in direct contact through satellite telephones and helped coordinate armed resistance attacks. The United States froze Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets in their country and several other nations like France followed suit. This prevented Iraq from gaining any revenues from these assets into Iraq and Kuwait. Therefore, it was immensely difficult for Iraq to finance the invasion of Kuwait and cater to its nations' needs on an extremely limited budget.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabian involvement was pivotal to the direction the United States of America took as they were key trading partners. Saudi Arabia holds massive influence over the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and pertains a leading role in the stability of the region. It called for US and foreign troops as backup for defense in the emergency of Iraq attacking. The negotiation talks between Kuwait and Iraq were held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

United States of America

President Bush had very strong views regarding this matter, on the day of the invasion, he heavily condemned Iraqi actions and wanted them out of Kuwait immediately. The US sent military troops, as requested by Saudi Arabia, and was allowed to utilise resources there. This was in response to the uncertainty whether Iraq would attack the Saudi borders. Additionally, if Iraq did come to control Saudi Arabia's oil reserves then it would have controlled one third of the world's oil reserves - this would be massively dangerous to the US as they imported a lot of their oil. Roughly 25,000 troops were stationed in Saudi with additional military resources.

After disputes about the Rumaylah field arose, President Bush sent his ambassador to see if the dispute could be settled peacefully. The ambassador met with Saddam Hussein and it was reported he showed no inclination of taking military action towards Kuwait. The US State Department followed up with a message stating that they have no special defense or security commitments to Kuwait. Saddam might have interpreted this as US intervention will be minimal if he attacked Kuwait. Furthermore, the US foreign policy leadership were too occupied with other events such as the Berlin Wall coming down and revolts in Eastern Europe thus the invasion of Kuwait caught the US by surprise.

Organisation of the Petroleum Existing Countries (OPEC)

OPEC was established in 14th September 1960 and currently is an intergovernmental organisation consisting of 14 of the world's major oil supporters. In this context, OPEC had set quotas for the UAE and Kuwait to follow but they went above these quotas. Iraq complained that the overproduction of these oil prices flooded the international market, which led to depressed oil prices and revenues for all

OPEC members. This issue arose in mid March 1990, OPEC made little effort to curb the overproduction of oil. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia also refused to reduce their production. It was not until the beginning of July 1990, where several OPEC members came together, met in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and agreed to reduce their output until the original price (before overproduction) was restored.

The Arab League

Formed in 1940, The Arab League was created to promote the independence, sovereignty and interests of its 22 Arab-speaking members. On July 15th, Iraqi Foreign Minister sent a memorandum to the Secretary General of the Arab League outlining several accusations against Kuwait. It stated how Kuwait had set up military establishments and oil installments on Iraqi territory and the \$2.4 billion dollars it stole from the Rumaylah region. He concluded the memorandum that all Gulf states should dissolve their debts Iraq and help create an Iraq reconstruction plan to restore economic prosperity. A few days later, on July 18th, the Kuwaiti Foreign minister sent a memorandum to the Arab League claiming that allegations made by Iraq held no factual basis. The memorandum also stated the claims that Kuwait were on Iraqi territory were falsifications of reality because it was Iraq who had a history of violations over Kuwaiti territory.

The Arab League alongside the rest of the world denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and call for Iraq to withdraw its troops. In response to the invasion, an emergency Arab League summit was held in Cairo on 10th August 1990. In this summit, resolutions were passed by a small margin to dispatch armed forces to help Kuwait. Only Egypt, Morocco and Syria sent military troops to Saudi Arabia as it was exposed to the direct threat of Iraq.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1961	Britain revoked its control over Kuwait and allowed it sovereignty.
September 22 nd 1980	Iraq begins the Gulf War by attacking an area of Iran.
August 20 th 1988	The eight year Gulf War comes to an end by a ceasefire and Iraq ends up being indebted 14 million dollars to Kuwait. Resulting in
May 28 th , 1990	Saddam Hussein considers Kuwait and the UAE's overproduction of oil above their OPEC quotas as economic warfare against Iraq.
July 15 th , 1990	Iraq accused Kuwait of stealing Iraqi oil from the Rumaylah region in the Iraq-Kuwait border and threatens military action
July 18 th , 1990	Kuwait denies claims of supposedly stealing Iraqi oil.
July 22 nd , 1990	Iraqi military action is built up against the Iraq-Kuwaiti border

August 2 nd , 1990	Without warning, the four divisions of the Iraqi Republican Guard attacked the capital Kuwait City in order to gain control of Kuwait. In the same day, the Security Council condemns Iraq's militant actions and orders their withdrawal
August 6 th , 1990	UNSC imposes an embargo of oil onto Iraq, preventing any nations to trade with it, further inhibiting their economic development
August 8 th , 1990	Kuwait is claimed as the 19th province of Iraq.
August 9 th , 1990	US military forces arrive in Saudi Arabia for backup
August 10 th , 1990	Arab League passes a resolution that sent armed forces to Saudi Arabia
August 28 th , 1990	Kuwait is claimed as the 19th province of Iraq by Saddam Hussein

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Condemning the Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, 2 August 1990 (**S/RES/660**)
- Trade embargo on Iraq, 6 August 1990 (**S/RES/661**)
- UNSC deems the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as illegal and void, 9 August 1990 (**S/RES/662**)
- Demanding Iraq leaves Kuwait, 18 August 1990 (**S/RES/664**)
- Further sanctions on Iraq, 26 August 1990 (**S/RES/665**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

International Embargo on Iraq

The UNSC has issued an international trade embargo on Iraq and Kuwait to invalidate Saddam Hussein's main focal point for invading Kuwait - to control a larger quantity of oil. In Resolution 661, it clearly specifies that states are prevented from importing any goods or commodities originating from Iraq or Kuwait. Humanitarian aid, medical necessities and food were permitted. However Iraq's revenue from exports had exorbitantly dropped and thus deteriorating the humanitarian scene in Iraq. Despite the provision of humanitarian aid and food, it is in question whether it would suffice for the Iraqi population. Moreover, if the government fails to earn sufficient revenues (this is likely to happen as Iraq's trade and revenue from trading has been outlawed), thousands of workers in nationalized industries will not be paid and eventually Iraq will see the rise of poverty and deterioration of living conditions.

Consequently, this trade embargo acted as a double edged sword since the global supply of oil dropped, it drastically rose the prices of oil on the international markets. This would inhibit governments' abilities to spend and invest in essential industries like healthcare and education as they had to pay for these increased oil prices. Additionally, this increase in price would have a knock on effect on consumers

as they would have to pay for these higher prices in their local markets, reducing their ability to buy other goods.

Sanctions Committee

A sanctions committee was also created from Resolution 661 - this was a subsidiary body of the Security Council which monitored sanctions imposed on Iraq and decided what could be traded. Economic sanctions and embargoes are mainly to weaken a country's economy so it would come to terms with an agreement. However in this case Iraq's economy has perpetually been suffering from the Iran-Iraq war in 1985 till current day in 1990, thus we must question the effectiveness of sanctions on an already diminishing economy.

Peace talks in Jeddah

Saudi Arabia mediated peace talks, during the 31st of July and 1st of August, with both Kuwait and Iraq in the city of Jeddah to open up direct dialogue between the two nations. This was a good proposition to prevent further escalation of tension between the two countries. Iraq proposed four demands and made their intentions clear, whereas Kuwait denied their proposals but were still looking to continue the talks. These talks were ineffective because Kuwait insisted on removing the debt in exchange for altering the boundaries of the Kuwait-Iraq borders, suggesting their intention to continue drilling in the Rumaylah field. With conflicting interests from both sides and the lack of willingness to come to common ground, all issues were faced with disagreements the peace talks came to an end. As a result, Iraq came to invade Kuwait the following day on 2nd August 1990.

Possible Solutions

As the Historical Security Council is mimicking the situation that would have occurred in the real Security council in 1990, this council will also be allocated the same powers administered to the Security council of that time. However, delegates must keep in mind that these powers would only be in effect should all of the P5 member nations: France, USSR, USA, UK and China would have to come to a consensus as the use of a veto by any of the permanent members would have resulted in the clause calling for the action to be struck out from the resolution as a whole. To combat this, many of the dealings of the Security Council was made 'behind the seat or before the council came into session, thus allowing minimal vetoes to be passed.

The following solutions are some of the powers the Security Council is able to exercise when drafting resolutions.

Peaceful Means

Mediation is a method where both parties involved in the issue come to meet, these meetings would be supervised by a neutral third-party bystander appointed by the UNSC. Similar methods were adopted to initiate the Jeddah Conference where peace talks were held between Iraq and Kuwait in Saudi Arabia. As we know, this did not help resolve the conflict and Iraq began the invasion the day after this summit.

An **investigation** or inquiries can be issued by the Council into an issue which may rise to a dispute or cause international fiction. Investigations are usually opened up to help establish a credible factual basis for the situation and help the Council adopt resolutions upon this. This is especially effective when is conflicting information from sources and when details are obscure between nations. It could be issued to figure out the humanitarian issue in Iraq.

In the Case of Disputes and Enforcement Measures

Ceasefire directives can be issued where both parties involved in the conflict agree to temporarily suspend military action until further consensus is negotiated upon. This happened in the Iraq-Iran war where the war ended when both Iran and Iraq agreed to a ceasefire after eight years of constant war.

The UNSC can refer to the **International Court of Justice (ICJ)** to utilise its jurisdiction for certain cases. The ICJ is mandated to act as the principal judicial organ of the UN and settles disputes in accordance with international law. An advisory opinion on a legal issue overcomes legal uncertainties and aids the parties involved in moving forward to further solve the issue.

Any type of **trade inhibition** can be passed under the Council, such as embargoes, financial restrictions and sanctions. These restrictions are undertaken as a consequence for nations as a result of actions. For example, an embargo was placed upon Iraq because of their decision to invade Kuwait.

Military intervention can be used to assign a peacekeeping force in a certain area or region. These peacekeeping forces are designated to maintain peace and prevent further hostility from the aggressors in the area. Additionally, they provide defense to humanitarian groups. This could be used to safeguard Kuwaiti citizens from Iraqi officials

Guiding Questions

- Thousands of Kuwaiti citizens have **migrated** to Saudi Arabia, are methods be set in place to provide these refugees with housing, education, other essentials and to protect them from unfair

treatment? Should they be set in place?

- Consider if Iraq is indebted to your country, is your country willing to dissolve Iraq's debt under certain conditions?
- Iraq is unable to trade its oil and many other of its goods, is there a way Iraq can trade their goods in exchange for something else **instead of money**?
- Iraq's intent to invade Kuwait was for several reasons, can these demands be met on a reduced scale so Kuwait can be liberated **without military intervention**?
- Consider the idea of **smart sanctions** (sanctions that focus their impact on the leaders of a nation, whilst reducing their effect on the population, **refer to the appendix for further reading**), what makes these sanctions different? Are they effective in their purpose without compromising humanitarian scene of a nation?

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Appendix

I. <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/46f146610.pdf>

This report deals with evaluating the effects of the sanctions imposed on Iraq, the consequences of these sanctions and alternative solutions.

II. www.meforum.org/238/the-kuwaiti-resistance

The Kuwaiti Resistance is explained in more depth in this website and the implications the resistance brought upon Iraqi governance.

III. <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/4283/>

A university thesis that explores the political climate and diplomatic relations before, during and after the Gulf War

IV. <https://www.piie.com/commentary/speeches-papers/targeted-sanctions-policy-alternative>

This paper explores the idea of smart sanctions and other effective measures

V. www.academia.edu/35223748/_The_Iraqi_Occupation_of_Kuwait_New_Historical_Perspectives_full_text_?auto=download

This academic thesis analyses the conditions of Kuwait during the Iraqi invasion and explores how the country was run by Iraqi officials.