

HUNSC

The First Gulf War: 1990-1992

Background Guide Draft

Co-Chair Letters

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to the First Gulf War UNSC Committee. My name is Thomas Johnston and I am looking forward to being one of your chairs. I am currently a junior at La Jolla Country Day School and this is my second year in Torrey MUN. My favorite part about MUN is traveling and meeting new people and so I'm excited to travel with the team to Portugal in a few months for IberianMUN (IMUN).

Aside from MUN, I also like skiing in Norway (where I lived for a year) and the Sierras, playing flute in the band, and watching hockey. I chose this committee because I feel like the Gulf War is an often overlooked conflict in American history- especially today- and I think it and its effects deserve greater attention. It was a pivotal moment in American and Middle Eastern history and one of the first conflicts followed by modern mass media.

I am eager to hear your thoughts and ideas and to see how you will change history. I hope you'll enjoy being in this committee as much as I've enjoyed preparing it. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Brady.

See you soon,
Thomas Johnston

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Co-Chair Letters

Hi delegates!!!!

My name is Brady Chaplin and I'm so excited to be your co-chair for the First Gulf War UNSC Committee! I'm a senior at Country Day and have had a great experience in this program. I have gotten to meet so many new people, and travel to so many new places that I would not have otherwise, and those are just some of the reasons I love Model UN.

When I'm not in Model UN, I love playing on the varsity tennis team as well as helping design and run the play and musical every year at Country Day. I'm so excited to see how this committee will go and what ideas all of you will come up with. If you or any other delegate has any questions, feel free to contact me, my co-chair, or any other member of the Secretariat.

So excited for the committee,
Brady Chaplin

UNSC First Gulf War Co-chair

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Position Paper Guidelines

GA Committees (including HUNSC):

- Length: 1 single-spaced page, not counting sources
- Format:
 - Background,
 - UN action,
 - country position/experience with this issue,
 - proposed solutions
- Style requirements: 12-pt font, Times New Roman, 1-inch margins, no headers or section breaks, no images
- Header:
 - Committee
 - Country/NGO

Link for submission on the website

History and Powers of UNSC:

The United Nations Security Council or UNSC is one of the principal decision making bodies of the United Nations and the only one with the authority to issue binding resolutions for all other member states. The main goal of the UNSC is to target and identify emerging threats to peace and security and find solutions to settle the dispute. The UNSC has 15 members, including the five permanent representatives of the United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia. Ten rotating members switch out every two years, ensuring that the larger body of nations in the UN have access to the UNSC's decision-making powers. Each of the permanent members also has a veto that they can use to block any resolution that comes across the floor although they cannot use it to block debate.

The UNSC was created along with the rest of the United Nations in the wake of World War 2 to build off of the failings of the League of Nations and ensure a safer world for all. By 1943 and '44, the major nations of World War 2 were already planning on how they would ensure their hegemony in the coming age. Conferences like Dunbar Oaks and Yalta laid the groundwork for what would eventually become the Security Council as well as the larger United Nations organization and charter. In 1945, the San Francisco Conference officially established the UN with the Security Council as its main organ. The first meeting of the UN took place in Westminster Central Hall, in the Westminster borough of London, England, and the Security Council's first meeting took place a week afterwards in Westminster Church House.

Background on UNSC Action in the 20th century:

In the UNSC's early years, it was paralysed by the intense competition and animosity of the Cold War. Either the United States or Soviet Union regularly vetoed resolutions. Notably

though, in 1950, with the Soviet Union boycotting, the UNSC was able to pass Resolution 83, authorizing a UN coalition to move into southern Korea and repel a North Korean invasion.

Between the 1950s and 1990s, the UN intervened in many third world conflicts. These military actions provided the experience and expertise necessary for defeating Iraq in the First Gulf War. For example, in 1956, due to the restriction and subsequent nationalization of the Suez Canal, a coalition of France, the United Kingdom and Israel invaded Egypt. This effort aimed to win back control of the canal and depose Egyptian president Gamel Abdel Nasser. Due to overwhelming international and UN opposition, within less than a fortnight, a ceasefire was called. To keep the peace in a newly volatile and dangerous region, the UNSC organized its first ever peacekeeping force to ensure security in the Middle East. In 1967, Egypt ordered the withdrawal of UN forces, anticipating an Israeli attack. Before all the UN troops had even finished evacuating, Israel launched a massive wave of air strikes across the Egyptian-controlled Sinai Peninsula. This set of events helped to demonstrate the potential of peacekeeping forces to prevent conflict but it also showed that nations determined to fight could bypass UN oversight and UN action.

After Congolese independence in 1960, that country quickly fell into chaos, necessitating an intervention by the outside world. The United Nations Operation in the Congo, or ONUC, was established by the Security Council in July of that year. Even today, it is still one of the largest and most complex UN peacekeeping forces ever developed. ONUC quelled the insurrection and reunited the country by 1964. This was also one of the first times that UN forces engaged in offensive operations and not just peacekeeping, creating a foundation for future offensive conflicts like the First Gulf War.

This committee starts immediately after Iraq invades Kuwait- shortly after midnight on August 2, 1990. This is also before Resolution 660¹ was passed by the UNSC as we don't want to make any decisions for you after the war starts. Delegates should work together to find a solution to this conflict as soon as possible while upholding the ideals and beliefs of their country.

History of Gulf War:

Iraq had been part of the Ottoman Empire for centuries going into the First World War but as the “Sick Man of Europe” began to crumble, things began to change fast. After the end of the Great War, a new kingdom of Iraq rose from three previous Ottoman provinces². The British imposed a monarchy led by their choice of Iraqi leader. Although there was some resistance to British rule, the government stayed intact long enough to achieve independence from the UK in 1932 and join the League of Nations as the Hashemite Kingdom of Iraq. Even with their newfound freedom, the situation in Iraq arguably got worse as violence erupted from heated political divisions. Tribal uprisings and protests against the new government led to tragedies like the Simele massacre and the suppression of the Shi’a rebellions. Leading into 1945, the Army launched multiple coups and popular support for genuine change was growing.

World War Two and the global struggle embracing liberalism emboldened the still-new country’s leaders to further embrace democracy and a parliamentary system. A second British occupation during the war also increased public distrust toward the West and the monarchy installed by it. In 1948, the loss of the Arab-Israeli war not only contributed to a growing feeling of discontent in Iraq, but also further destabilized the monarchy. The Portsmouth Treaty of 1948,

¹ Wikipedia contributors. 2025a. “United Nations Security Council Resolution 660.” Wikipedia. January 22, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_660.

² McKenzie, Mark. “The Birth of Modern Iraq: A Historical Odyssey.” *History Guild*, 23 Oct. 2024, historyguild.org/the-birth-of-modern-iraq-a-historical-odyssey/?srsltid=AfmBOoon9f96lcbDBDClsSEzNp-FNaN4eg9P6sJhG4NNsSgvx_cvDFW-.

building a military partnership between Britain and the Iraqi regime, sparked protests and riots eventually leading to the Al- Wathbah uprising in Baghdad. Through all of this, the Hashemite monarch had technically been King Faisal II. Assuming the throne at the age of three, Faisal required an adult to manage his kingdom. His uncle managed the task but in 1953, Faisal took the throne, inheriting a country on the brink of revolution.

All of the unrest up to this point would have been bad enough for the King, but the Egyptian revolution of 1952 and the creation of the United Arab Republic, joining Egypt, Egyptian Gaza, and Syria into one state, brought tensions to a breaking point. A wave of Pan Arab and nationalist sentiment across the Middle East fatally weakened Faisal's authority. The King had many plans for a modernization of Baghdad and the surrounding area, but these were interpreted by some as a westernization of Iraq and used as justification for resistance to him. The country suffered from an older generation of leaders with dated ideas about the monarchy and political system. They clashed with a new younger generation that was furious about the leaders' continued ties with Britain. Anger over the Baghdad Pact- allying Iraq with countries like Turkey and the UK- was especially severe and uprisings erupted in 1956 in the cities of Najaf and Hayy. By this time secret cells calling themselves the Free Officers had started forming in the military. Led by 'Abd al-Karīm Qāsim, one of the highest ranking military officers in the Iraqi army, these groups plotted the end of the monarchy. The fateful day came in July of 1958, when King Hussein of Jordan asked for military aid against perceived threats from Israel. One of Qāsim's collaborators- Colonel Abdul Salam Arif- led a brigade through the capital of Baghdad and captured the city. The King and all but one of his family were executed and Qāsim assumed control of the country and proclaimed a republic.

The new Iraqi nation struggled with stability from the very start. Its efforts to establish power showed in the quick imprisonment of Arif after he fell out with the new regime. Regional changes also challenged Iraqi republican rule. For example, the country of Kuwait also became independent in 1961 and was immediately a target for Iraqi expansion. However, before anything could be done, the United Kingdom stationed troops and drove off the threat to Kuwait. The multi-ethnic population of Iraq also posed serious problems for the new nation, as Kurds, Turkmen, Yazidis, and Armenians all sought various forms of independent action.

The end of the Iraqi republic came after the Six Day War with Israel in 1967, when the government was weakened enough for the Arab socialist Ba'ath party to take over. The first assignment of Secretary General of the party Saddam Hussein was to find a solution to a Kurdish rebellion, giving a political jumpstart to the young revolutionary. Again, Kuwait attracted aggressive Iraqi attention, this time over a harbor that Iraq wanted to build that Kuwait refused to allow. This, along with the British influence already in Kuwait, spurred increased resentment toward the West and a feeling that most foreign powers were against Iraq no matter what. Kuwait became, for Iraqis - especially Hussein - the face of western interference in the region. Despite all of this, the 70s were a golden age for Iraq with capable leaders and a growing economy. Things took a dangerous turn, though, when President Ahmed al-Bakr resigned and Saddam Hussein took over as leader of both the party and country, ushering in a new age for Iraq.

Before the destructive events that would come to define his presidency, Saddam Hussein began with modernizing efforts, similar to his predecessor, and he looked like the new, ambitious leadership his country needed to finally prosper. However, his eagerness soon started to go too far. In 1980, a tense relationship with Iran finally slid into a territorial dispute and war broke out. It dragged on for eight years, impoverishing Iraq, killing hundreds of thousands of Iraqi soldiers and

civilians, and destroying much of the progress Iraq had made in the decade before the conflict began. Iraq ended up claiming a pyrrhic victory - no territorial gains and the country plunged into deep debt. The use of chemical weapons on civilian populations in the Halabja massacre showed the world a cruel and inhumane Iraqi regime under Hussein. Iraq ended the war with the largest military in the region and a hunger to establish its control over the Persian Gulf. Most other countries' aid to Iraq mostly dried up after the war and the destruction of the first nuclear reactor in the country by Israel contributed to a perception that the whole world was against Iraq. Increasingly, Saddam Hussein believed himself to be the most powerful, most charismatic, most important man in the Middle East. His growing megalomania contributed to a bizarre string of monuments, abuse of civilians by Hussein and his family, and the accumulation of incredible wealth by the regime. If Iraq (Hussein) wanted to do something to expand its (his) influence and demonstrate its (his) power they would have to do it on their own.

In 1990, all of these feelings finally came to a head in one of Iraq's most destructive conflicts to date. Iraq used a territorial dispute to invade Kuwait in 1990 but there were a lot of underlying causes³. First Iraq was still reeling from the war with Iran just two years prior and suffocated by war debt. Kuwait's profitable oil fields could relieve Iraq's debt. Not only was there a sentiment in Iraq that they deserved to have dominion over much of the Persian Gulf, there was also a specific claim that Kuwait should be part of Iraq because the ruler of Kuwait was appointed by an Iraqi governor of the Ottoman Empire. Iraqi leaders also believed that it should be compensated for its war against Iran. From Iraq's perspective, its war helped check the power of a dangerous, radical nation. Iraq acted not just for Iraqi interests but on behalf of the international community, including neighbors like Kuwait and the UAE.

³ James Wharton. "What Caused the Gulf War?" *Forces News*, 23 June 2023, www.forcesnews.com/heritage/history/what-caused-gulf-war.

Those nations did forgive some loans, but not enough in Saddam's eyes. Saddam also accused Kuwait of exceeding its OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) quotas for oil and dropping the price per barrel. Lower oil prices tanked the Iraqi economy. There was also Kuwait's refusal to lend the islands of Būbiyān and Warbah to Iraq for its port at Umm Qaşr. Hussein saw this as a slight. The straw that broke the camel's back was when allegations surfaced that Kuwait was using slanted drilling to access oil on the Iraqi side of the border. Hussein was ready for war. Saddam first went to the US to voice his concerns, but was met with apparent disregard by US ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie. She said that the US had no position on Arab conflicts. This statement made it seem like the United States would not intervene if Iraq invaded Kuwait. In the past, the USA often intervened when one or another party claimed that communist forces threatened capitalism or democracy. But with the crumbling of the Soviet Union, the chances of Cold War-style American intervention decreased. Emergency talks were convened in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, but by the second day it was too late. On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait and started the First Gulf War.

Kuwait

Although inhabited since antiquity, Kuwait began to appear in western written sources as a Portuguese merchant colony in the late 16th century. In 1752, the Sabah family were installed as kings- a position they still hold today. For the next two centuries Kuwait established itself as an important trading partner in the Indian Ocean, gaining respect among many of the countries in the Persian Gulf Region. In 1899, afraid of growing Ottoman influence, Kuwait agreed to become a British protectorate, which it remained until 1961⁴.

⁴ Crystal, Jill Ann, Anthony, John Duke, Ochsenwald, and William L. 2023. "History of Kuwait | Country, City, Flag, & Iraq War." Encyclopedia Britannica. June 30, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Kuwait>.

The first export of oil from Kuwait, in 1946, started a new golden age for the country with the growth of a liberal culture and rapidly increasing standard of living for Kuwaitis. By the time that the British Protectorate ended in 1961, Kuwait was the largest oil exporter in the Gulf and one of the most prosperous. However, there were still problems for the fledgling country in that their larger and much more powerful neighbor Iraq did not recognize Kuwaiti independence and threatened to invade. In 1961, the UK launched Operation Vantage to station troops in Kuwait and prevent any Iraqi attacks. The situation mostly resolved itself in 1963 when Iraqi Prime Minister Qāsim was killed in a coup. Kuwait held parliamentary elections in 1963 and it was deemed safe enough for the British to leave in 1971. In 1973 there was a small border skirmish with Iraq where the Iraqis took over a part of Kuwait, but overall in the 60s and 70s Kuwait was the best in the Middle East at basically any metric. It had robust freedom of the press and speech laws, was regarded as a safe haven for artists and academics, and its theatre industry was revered in the region. Kuwait University became a major center of learning and helped spur a flowering of Western-inspired ideals and culture. However, this sense of security and achievement was shattered by both the Souk Al-Manakh stock market crash in 1982, and the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980⁵.

Kuwait's once golden economy fell into crisis not only from the stock market crash but also from Iran-sponsored terror attacks from 1983 to '88. Kuwait vehemently supported Iraq in the war, which attracted Iranian ire. An assassination plot against the King and the Kuwait City Bombing of 1985, both also show the dire situation that the country was in. Partly because of these many new crises, Kuwait did not forgive Iraq's debt after the war ended. Instead, Kuwait increased oil production to make up for its economic losses. This helped the country get back on track but also started a rivalry with Iraq and Saddam Hussein. By 1988 and '89 though, the two

⁵ Permanent Mission of Kuwait–Geneva | الوفد الدائم لدولة الكويت- جنيف. www.kuwaitmission.ch/KUHistory.aspx.

countries' relationship seemed to be healing. Several agreements formed between the two.

However, a proposed UN mission to Palestine that the US vetoed and Kuwaiti slant drilling into Iraqi oil fields pushed Saddam's animosity towards the US and US-sponsored countries such as Kuwait to a breaking point.

Arab countries

Many other countries in the Arab world played roles of varying importance in determining the future of this conflict. Along with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia had also been a main financier of Iraq's war in Iran. Also afraid of the new expansionist regime after the Iranian revolution, Saudi Arabia supported Iraq to take down what it perceived as a larger threat. The Saudis also hosted last minute peace talks between Iraq and Kuwait up until the day of the invasion. Unlike Kuwait, however, Saudi-Iraqi relations post war were not as volatile and there was not as much of a reason for worry there as in Kuwait. Egypt also suffered from tension with Iraq. The distance between Egypt and Iraq, though, and the complexity of Egyptian/Iraqi interactions tended to keep Hussein focused elsewhere.

On the other hand, countries like Jordan and Palestine had always had a close relationship with Iraq and Hussein. They supported Hussein's beliefs that he was a leader of Arab nationalism and a figure of resistance to the West. Hussein operated in an environment where clear resistance to his actions by neighboring nations rarely appeared and alliances were often up in the air. This contributed to a feeling that an invasion of Kuwait would go unpunished- at least among Hussein's neighbors- and even overlooked by the rest of the world.

Your task, in this committee, lies in responding to these events. Balancing regional tensions and the competition among neighboring nations, you must find a way forward, acting within the bounds of the UN charter and fostering greater cooperation, diplomacy, and peace. You

must also keep in mind the key strategic concerns of UN Member Nations - economic, political, social, military, and demographic stability. What solutions will you find? What actions will you take?

Important Questions:

1. Are there any measures the international community can take to save Kuwait before it falls?
2. How should the UN address Iraq's claims to Kuwait and grievances related to Kuwaiti actions?
3. What role should regional organizations (Arab League, OPEC etc.) play in ending this conflict and preventing future ones?
4. What precedent should the UN set in this case to be used in future similar ones?
5. What are the consequences of a delayed response to the invasion by the international community?
6. Is there anything that smaller states can do to provide meaningful help to the problem without as much political, economic, and military power?
7. What humanitarian burdens lie on the UN in this case?

Past International Actions/ UN:

- Iraq is admitted into the United Nations in 1945.
- Kuwait is admitted into the United Nations in 1963.
- The UNSC passes Resolution 479 calling for an immediate ceasefire between Iran and Iraq immediately after the war started in 1980.
- The UNSC passes Resolution 514 again calling for a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq and also for UN observers to be sent in to make sure a fair and equitable peace is actually being maintained in 1982.
- The UNSC passes Resolution 552 asking Iran to stop attacking up shipping going to Gulf states in 1984.
- The UNSC passes Resolution 598- the largest resolution related to the Iran Iraq war yet. It not only called for a ceasefire and UN observers to be sent in, but also POWs to be returned to each side and no other countries trying to get involved or doing anything to inflame the situation. Furthermore it requested investigations into responsibility for the war and what reconstruction efforts should be taken and by whom in 1987.
- The policy of the United Nations during this period of revolutions and colonies becoming independent was generally on the side of all groups of people having the right to self determination and to have their borders respected.
- This is shown in Resolution 242 and the General Assembly's decision on the invasion of East Timor during this period. In 1967 Israel was invaded by basically all of its neighbors during the Six Day War and was able to successfully repulse all of them and win. Resolution 242 affirmed that no territory should be taken by war and respected the borders of the neighboring countries by

giving their land back. In 1975 East Timor declared independence, but was invaded by Indonesia a week later. The General Assembly voted to denounce the invasion and uphold East Timor's territorial integrity.

Timeline:

1932- Hashemite Kingdom of Iraq established

1945- Iraq joins UN

1946- Kuwait first oil exported

1948- Arab- Israeli war lost

1952- Egyptian Revolution

1958- Republic of Iraq established

1961- Kuwait gains independence

1961- Operation Vantage led by the UK to ensure Kuwait's independence

1963- Iraq recognizes Kuwait as independent

1967- Six Day War

1968- Iraqi Republic established (Ba'athist government)

1973- Small border skirmish between Iraq and Kuwait

1979- Saddam Hussein becomes leader of Iraq

1979- Islamic Republic of Iran established from Iranian Revolution

1980- Iran Iraq war begins

1982- Kuwait stock market crash

1985- Kuwait City bombing

1988- Iran Iraq war ends

July 15 1990- Saddam Hussein accuses Kuwait of stealing from Rumaila oil field

July 22 1990- Iraq begins deploying troops to the Kuwait border

July 25 1990- Saddam Hussein meets with US ambassador April Glaspie

July 31- August 1 1990- Iraq- Kuwait talks in Jeddah

August 2 1990- Iraq invades Kuwait

Characters by Bloc:

China- Neutral

Despite the unwavering communism espoused by Mao, China in 1990 under Deng Xiaoping and Jiang Zemin was liberalizing fast, but still cautious of foreign entanglements. China still distrusted the United States and the West, but also had worsening relations with the USSR after the Sino-Soviet split leading it to seek to go its own path without outside interference. China was not afraid of intervening as shown in selling missiles to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war, but it would certainly distrust other countries and organizations trying to get involved. China would oppose the war and push for a resolution, but stress peaceful approaches and measured responses.

France- Pro Kuwait

Out of the Pro Kuwait bloc France would probably be the most nuanced owing to its long commercial history with Iraq, but also its conflicting duties as a UNSC permanent member. France had been a long term economic partner with Iraq in oil and arms, even sending fighter jets during the Iran Iraq war and building them a nuclear reactor. France would use its power as a permanent member to push for a measured response, but would ultimately be under pressure to help lead a UN effort to push back against Iraq.

Soviet Union- Neutral

Once one of the regime's biggest supporters, by the end of 1980s the Soviet Union was swinging fast back towards neutral. Due to their similar ideologies and goals, the USSR and Iraq had been close allies and economic partners in weapons and industry for decades, but Hussein's regime's unpredictability and unrest at home led to waning Soviet interest in the region. The USSR would want to emphasize peace and diplomacy in the region and cooperate cautiously with the West to restore normalcy.

United Kingdom- Pro Kuwait

The British Government still has strong influence in the region and is willing to use all of it to support Kuwait. Kuwait had been a British protectorate until 1961 and the UK still retained political, economic, and military ties. When Iraq threatened to annex Kuwait in 1961, the UK had launched Operation Vantage to deal with the threat and stopped the invasion. Britain continued to sell arms to the Gulf states and continued its military presence leading into the invasion. The UK would support all actions possible to defend Kuwait even including mounting a military defense with the help of the UN.

United States- Pro Kuwait

The United States was Kuwait's largest security partner at the time of the invasion and was invested in maintaining the status quo in the Gulf. American interests were to keep the steady flow of oil coming and protect both the industry and shipping in the area. America had been a part of all major UN operations in the region as well as providing economic and military aid to many countries, including even Iraq during the Iran Iraq war. National Security Directive 26 in 1989 and April Glaspie's ambiguous

comments in July 1990 show American interest in a stable Middle East and the strong response that would come if it was broken. The United States would support any actions necessary to restore Kuwait's sovereignty if it were to fall, including sanctions and a military intervention.

Canada- Pro Kuwait

Canada is a strong ally of the United States and would likely support it in any action it would take. Canada also would also try to reinforce and hold up international and UN law as shown in previous operations it has participated in in the Middle East such as UNEF and UNIFIL. Canada was also one of the nations that imposed economic sanctions on apartheid South Africa due to its racist policies showing a willingness to fight against those that did not adhere to UN principles. Canada would probably encourage a UN focus on the upholding of UN principles through strength if necessary.

Colombia- Pro Kuwait

Colombia is another ally of the US, but with less of a stake in maintaining the status quo in the Middle East and Persian Gulf. Colombia was also part of both UNEF and UNIFIL, helping the international community and UN. Colombia would support all actions necessary to stop Iraq and uphold Kuwait's sovereignty.

Ivory Coast- Pro Kuwait

Although it had recently gained independence from Western countries, the Ivory Coast still very much voted with them and would continue doing so even though it was not directly involved in the Persian Gulf. It imposed sanctions on South Africa as punishment for Apartheid and was one of the most pro Western countries in West Africa. The Ivory Coast would support condemning Iraq and taking immediate action to stop the war.

Cuba- Pro Iraq

Due to Cuba's fraught history with the United States and their vastly different ideologies, Cuba would try to oppose American influence and ideas. Both governments were communist and they both were trying to limit or stop Western infiltration in their immediate areas. Cuba had also been a vocal supporter of the Palestinian cause, which was also a top priority for Iraq. Cuba would try a more diplomatic end to the war and one that was more favorable to Iraq.

Ethiopia- Neutral

During the 1990s, Ethiopia's government was undergoing a coup making it hard for the country to respond to any outside conflicts meaningfully. The Marxist government called the Derg was facing multiple threats from leftist groups within and the capital was being threatened. Although a communist government would likely side with Iraq during more peaceful times, Ethiopia would probably support non interventionism until the rebels are defeated or the government is overthrown.

Finland- Neutral

Although more of a Western aligned country, Finland, due to its proximity to the USSR was forced to walk a much thinner line when it came to foreign policy. The 1948 Finno-Soviet Treaty forced Finland's impact to be much more balanced diplomacy than anything else. Finland was active in both UNEF and UNIFIL, but was limited to peacekeeping in more partisan UN operations. It would usually support a

strictly humanitarian approach, however a crumbling Soviet Union and the Finns' empathy for a state in a similar situation to theirs might compel them to act more earnestly.

Malaysia- Neutral

Malaysia, being an Muslim country, had always had an interest in Arab affairs, but couldn't do much due to its limited size and influence. Malaysia supports Palestinian rights, but has also worked with the West in missions like UNIFIL showing a quiet support for Arab countries and a willingness to cooperate internationally. Malaysia would support peace, preferably through non violent means and try to limit destruction in the region.

Romania- Neutral

Following the collapse of the communist government of Romania led by Nicolae Ceaușescu in 1989 the country started to become a lot more liberal and western leaning as well. The Ceaușescu regime had previously had good economic relations with Iraq, but the new government led by Ion Iliescu wanted to align more closely with western values and institutions so it tried to move away from supporting authoritarian states such as Iraq. Romania would still maybe have some leniency toward Iraq, but would still want a strong UN response.

Yemen- Pro Iraq

Yemen is one of the most vocal supporters of Arab nationalism and of the Hussein regime in Iraq and would support him massively. Especially after the reunification of North and South Yemen just a couple months before the invasion in May 1990, Yemeni and Arab nationalism was at an all time high. Yemen is Iraq's biggest ally on the Security Council and would oppose any military action or even sanctions, instead focusing on Arab led diplomacy.

Zaire- Pro Kuwait

Zaire has been ruled absolutely for the past 25 years by a dictator named Mobutu Sese Seko who, unlike many other African leaders at this time, is receptive to Western and American influence. Mobutu had cordial relations with Belgium and France owing in part to their shared language and much stronger ones with the United States from cooperation with anti communist operations. All three countries are the largest aid donors to Mobutu and Zaire and so he is somewhat in debt to them. Zaire would probably support moderate repercussions to Iraq and assist the efforts of its western allies like the US, France, and Belgium.

Key Terms:

Arab League- A group of 22 middle eastern and North African states. Similar to a smaller more localized UN

Gulf Cooperation Council- Political and economic union containing all the Gulf Arab states except Iraq: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

UNSC- Main UN body ensuring peace and security; authorized to launch military responses

Permanent Five- China, France, USSR, UK, United States; don't leave the council; all have veto power

UNSC Resolutions- formal decisions made by the council; have legal weight

ONUC- UN operation in the Congo; 60-64 peacekeeping missions; precedent for strong action by UN

UNEF- UN operation after Suez Crisis, 56-67; first armed peacekeeping mission by UN

UNIFIL- 1978 UN intervention in Lebanon; establishes long term UN presence in Middle East

Ba'ath Party- Ruling party of Iraq from 68-03; under Saddam Hussein 79- 03

Pan Arabism- Political movement seeking to unify all Arab nations; espoused by Hussein and Nasser

Arab Cold War- Arab rivalry between conservative monarchies (Saudi Arabia, UAE) and revolutionary republics (Iraq, Egypt)

Non Aligned Movement- Group of states that wanted to remain independent from Cold War; many Middle Eastern states joined

OPEC- Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries; Iraq and Kuwait both members

Oil Quotas- Limits set by OPEC setting how much each country can produce; supposed to keep prices stable

Slant Drilling- Drilling at an angle to access oil; Kuwait used it to steal Iraqi oil

April Glaspie meeting- Controversial US- Iraqi ambassador meeting; considered possibly as greenlighting invasion

Gamel Abdel Nasser- President of Egypt 56-70; Big figure in Pan Arabism and Arab Socialism

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