

# International Conflict Advisory Committee

## Dealing with international conflict and incidents

**Benchmark:** SS.7.C.4.3 Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

### Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will identify specific examples of international conflicts in which the United States has been involved.
- Students will identify the reasons for the United States becoming involved in past international conflicts.
- Students will analyze primary source documents pertaining to international incidents to determine the course of action taken by the United States.
- Students will identify the different methods used by the United States to deal with international conflicts.

**Content focus:** Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Gulf Wars I and II, Iran Hostage Crisis, Korean War, terrorism, Vietnam War, World War I, and World War II

**Time:** Two class periods

### Materials:

- PowerPoint
- Handout A: Advisory Panel Recommendation Form
- Conflict Packets 1-9
- Access to computers/tablets (9 stations)
- Headphones for each student (optional)

### Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.
- Place 9 computers/laptops around the room or designate 9 computers in the computer lab. Set up each computer station with one of the links provided below pulled up on each computer. Also provide the corresponding Conflict Summary and Primary Source page.

### Video files to be open at each station:

**WWI Station:** <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history/videos/the-us-in-world-war-i>

**WWII Station:** <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history/videos/america-enters-world-war-ii>

**Korean War Station:** <http://www.military.com/video/operations-and-strategy/korean-war/korean-war-begins/658181834001>

**Bay of Pigs Station:** <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/bay-of-pigs-invasion/videos/bay-of-pigs-cias-perfect-failure>

**Cuban Missile Crisis Station:** <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/cuban-missile-crisis/videos/cuban-missile-crisis>

**Vietnam War Station:** <http://www.history.com/topics/vietnam-war/vietnam-war-history/videos/the-road-to-war>

**Iran Hostage Crisis Station:** <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/bonus-video/presidents-crisis-carter/>

**Gulf War I:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2TQ8a4LK3A>

**Gulf War II:**

## **Lesson Overview**

**Begin with the International Conflict Advisory Committee PowerPoint.** Discuss the different types of aid that the U.S. provides when an international conflict/incident arises (ex: humanitarian efforts, peacekeeping efforts, conflict resolution, military action, etc.). Explain to students that it is not always one course of action: some conflicts/incidents require multiple types of aid. For example: in World War II, the U.S. not only declared war on the Axis powers, but also provided humanitarian aid throughout the war.

**Explain the activity to the students:** Explain to the students that over the next two class periods they will be learning about different international conflicts in which the United States has become involved in some way. After learning about each conflict and reviewing the provided documents, they will need to serve as an international conflict advisory committee: answer the questions on their handout, provide advice on how they would have handled the conflict (including the conflict resolution method(s) they would have used), and a brief summary of the strategies the United States actually used during the conflict.

**Divide students into 9 groups.** Distribute Handout B: Advisory Panel Recommendation Form and dismiss groups of students to one of the stations. Allow groups 10-15 minutes per station to view the video, review the documents, and complete their handout.

**Debrief the activity.** Briefly discuss the recommendations the groups would have made for each conflict and the course of action the U.S. actually took. Link the primary source document to the conflict resolution selected by the U.S. government.

**Check for Understanding** The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask students to explain how they made their decision.

**Alternate Lesson Format/Extension Project:** Have students specialize in one of the conflicts by studying the materials and developing a presentation (poster project, PowerPoint, etc.) Once completed, jigsaw students from the expert groups to teach about their international conflict and the U.S. reaction to the conflict.

### International Advisory Committee Form

<b>Conflict</b> Write in other possible names below conflict	<b>About</b>	<b>Primary Source Description</b>	<b>What would you advise?</b> <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<b>What action did the U.S. take?</b> <i>Check all that apply.</i>
<b>World War I</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>World War II</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Korean War</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Bay of Pigs</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

<b>Conflict</b> Write in other possible names below conflict	<b>About</b>	<b>Primary Source Description</b>	<b>What would you advise?</b> <i>Check all that apply.</i>	<b>What action did the U.S. take?</b> <i>Check all that apply.</i>
<b>Cuban Missile Crisis</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Vietnam War</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Iran Hostage Crisis</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>First Gulf War</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<b>Second Gulf War</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Peacekeeping efforts <input type="checkbox"/> Humanitarian aid <input type="checkbox"/> Diplomacy <input type="checkbox"/> Military Action <input type="checkbox"/> Other:

# World War I Summary

As hostilities broke out between several nations of Europe in 1914, almost immediately, President Wilson declared America's intent to stay neutral and called on all Americans to remain impartial in thought as well as deed. However, Wilson and the United States found it increasingly difficult to remain neutral. The series of events between 1915 and 1917 led Wilson to finally deliver his war message to Congress on April 2, 1917. German submarine warfare had resulted in the sinking of several ships and the loss of American lives. Most remarkable was the attack against the Lusitania, on May 7, 1915, when 128 Americans died. While that ship flew the American flag of neutrality, it also carried several thousand cases of ammunition and shrapnel headed to Britain.

On the heels of the German announcement to renew unrestricted submarine warfare on February 1, 1917, the British, on February 24, revealed the Zimmerman Telegram. British cryptographers deciphered a telegram from German Foreign Minister Arthur Zimmermann to the German Minister to Mexico, von Eckhardt, offering United States territory to Mexico in return for joining the German cause. When Wilson released the message to the press on March 1, Americans were shocked and angered. With the support of his entire cabinet, Wilson, who had been reelected in 1916 on the slogan "He kept us out of war," concluded that war was inevitable.

In his speech before a special session of Congress, Wilson declared that not only had America's rights as a neutral been violated but that "The world must be made safe for democracy." Americans must fight "for the rights and liberties of small nations" and to "bring peace and safety to make the world itself at last free." On April 6, 1917, the U.S. joined its allies--Britain, France, and Russia--to fight in World War I.

# World War I Primary Document

## I want you for U.S. Army: nearest recruiting station

*War poster with the famous phrase "I want you for U. S. Army" shows Uncle Sam pointing his finger at the viewer in order to recruit soldiers for the American Army during World War I. The printed phrase "Nearest recruiting station" has a blank space below to add the address for enlisting.*



Source: Flagg, James Montgomery, Artist. I want you for U.S. Army: nearest recruiting station / James Montgomery Flagg. ca. 1917. Image. Retrieved from the Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/96507165/>.

# World War II Summary

The instability created in Europe by the First World War (1914-18) set the stage for another international conflict—World War II—which broke out two decades later and would prove even more devastating. Rising to power in an economically and politically unstable Germany, Adolf Hitler and his National Socialist (Nazi) Party rearmed the nation and signed strategic treaties with Italy and Japan to further his ambitions of world domination. Hitler's invasion of Poland in September 1939 drove Great Britain and France to declare war on Germany, and World War II had begun.

Japan and the United States had been edging toward war for decades. The United States was particularly unhappy with Japan's increasingly belligerent attitude toward China. The Japanese government believed that the only way to solve its economic and demographic problems was to expand into its neighbor's territory and take over its import market; to this end, Japan had declared war on China in 1937. American officials responded to this aggression with economic sanctions and trade embargoes (bans on trade). They reasoned that without access to money and goods, and especially essential supplies like oil, Japan would have to rein in its expansionism. Instead, the sanctions made the Japanese more determined to stand their ground. During months of negotiations between Tokyo and Washington, D.C., neither side would budge.

On December 7, 1941, 360 Japanese aircrafts attacked the major U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, taking the Americans completely by surprise and claiming the lives of more than 2,300 troops. The attack on Pearl Harbor served to unify American public opinion in favor of entering World War II, and on December 8 Congress declared war on Japan with only one dissenting vote. Germany and the other Axis Powers promptly declared war on the United States.

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor>

<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history/print>

<http://www.nationalww2museum.org/learn/education/for-students/ww2-history/overview.html>

# World War II Primary Document

## Transcript of Joint Address to Congress Leading to a Declaration of War Against Japan (1941) – President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Mr. Vice President, and Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan...

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our Nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

But always will our whole Nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces—with the unbounding determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

[http://www.ourdocuments.gov/print\\_friendly.php?flash=true&page=transcript&doc=73&title=Transcript+of+Joint+Address+to+Congress+Leading+to+a+Declaration+of+War+Against+Japan+%281941%29](http://www.ourdocuments.gov/print_friendly.php?flash=true&page=transcript&doc=73&title=Transcript+of+Joint+Address+to+Congress+Leading+to+a+Declaration+of+War+Against+Japan+%281941%29)

# Korean War Summary

Since the beginning of the 20th century, Korea had been a part of the Japanese empire, and after World War II it fell to the Americans and the Soviets to decide what should be done with their enemy's imperial possessions. In August 1945, two young aides at the State Department divided the Korean peninsula in half along the 38th parallel. The Russians occupied the area north of the line and the United States occupied the area to its south.

By the end of the decade, two new states had formed on the peninsula. In the south, the anti-communist dictator Syngman Rhee (1875-1965) enjoyed the reluctant support of the American government; in the north, the communist dictator Kim Il Sung (1912-1994) enjoyed the slightly more enthusiastic support of the Soviets. Neither dictator was content to remain on his side of the 38th parallel, however, and border skirmishes were common. Nearly 10,000 North and South Korean soldiers were killed in battle before the war even began.

On June 25, 1950, the Korean War began when some 75,000 soldiers from the North Korean People's Army poured across the 38th parallel, the boundary between the Soviet-backed Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north and the pro-Western Republic of Korea to the south. This invasion was the first military action of the Cold War. By July, American troops had entered the war on South Korea's behalf. As far as American officials were concerned, it was a war against the forces of international communism itself. After some early back-and-forth across the 38th parallel, the fighting stalled and casualties mounted with nothing to show for them. Meanwhile, American officials worked anxiously to fashion some sort of armistice with the North Koreans. The alternative, they feared, would be a wider war with Russia and China—or even, as some warned, World War III.

In July 1951, President Truman and his new military commanders started peace talks at Panmunjom. Still, the fighting continued along the 38th parallel as negotiations stalled. Both sides were willing to accept a ceasefire that maintained the 38th parallel boundary, but they could not agree on whether prisoners of war should be forcibly "repatriated." (The Chinese and the North Koreans said yes; the United States said no.) Finally, after more than two years of negotiations, the adversaries signed an armistice on July 27, 1953. The agreement allowed the POWs to stay where they liked; drew a new boundary near the 38th parallel that gave South Korea an extra 1,500 square miles of territory; and created a 2-mile-wide "demilitarized zone" that still exists today.

# Korean War Primary Document

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 30, 1950

At a meeting with Congressional leaders at the White House this morning, the President, together with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, reviewed with them the latest developments of the situation in Korea. The Congressional leaders were given a full review of the intensified military activities.

In keeping with the United Nations Security Council's request for support to the Republic of Korea in repelling the North Korean invaders and restoring peace in Korea, the President announced that

- ① he had authorized the United States Air Force to conduct missions on specific military targets in Northern Korea wherever militarily necessary, and
- ② had ordered a Naval blockade of the entire Korean coast.
- ③ General MacArthur has been authorized to use certain supporting ground units.



- ① authorized by JCS message of Thursday evening
- ② not actually authorized by JCS message until Saturday, 1 July
- ③ a) Air units, + combat units in Pusan area authorized Thurs evening;  
b) 1 Regt to Combat area authorized in early Friday telecon;  
c) 2 Divs to Japan authorized by JCS message of 1:22 pm EDT  
30 June.

# Bay of Pigs Summary

On January 1, 1959, a young Cuban nationalist named Fidel Castro (1926-) drove his guerilla army into Havana and overthrew General Fulgencio Batista (1901-1973), the nation's American-backed president. For the next two years, officials at the U.S. State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) attempted to push Castro from power. Finally, in April 1961, the CIA launched what its leaders believed would be the definitive strike: a full-scale invasion of Cuba by 1,400 American-trained Cubans who had fled their homes when Castro took over. President John F. Kennedy had inherited Eisenhower's CIA campaign to train and equip a guerilla army of Cuban exiles, but he had some doubts about the wisdom of the plan. The last thing he wanted, he said, was "direct, overt" intervention by the American military in Cuba: The Soviets would likely see this as an act of war and might retaliate. However, CIA officers told him they could keep U.S. involvement in the invasion a secret and, if all went according to plan, the campaign would spark an anti-Castro uprising on the island.

However, the invasion did not go well. On April 17, the Cuban exile brigade began its invasion at an isolated spot on the island's southern shore known as the Bay of Pigs. Almost immediately, the invasion was a disaster. The CIA had wanted to keep it a secret for as long as possible, but a radio station on the beach (which the agency's reconnaissance team had failed to spot) broadcasted every detail of the operation to listeners across Cuba. Unexpected coral reefs sank some of the exiles' ships as they pulled into shore. Backup paratroopers landed in the wrong place. Before long, Castro's troops had pinned the invaders on the beach, and the exiles surrendered after less than a day of fighting; 114 were killed and over 1,100 were taken prisoner.

# Bay of Pigs Primary Document

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1961

~~TOP SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR

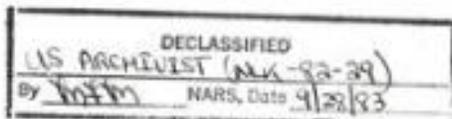
THE PRESIDENT

When you have your meeting this afternoon on Cuba, I think you will find that there is a divergence of view between State on the one hand and CIA and Defense on the other. Defense and CIA now feel quite enthusiastic about the invasion from Guatemala -- at the worst they think the invaders would get into the mountains, and at the best they think they might get a full-fledged civil war in which we could then back the anti-Castro forces openly. State Department takes a much cooler view, primarily because of its belief that the political consequences would be very grave both in the United Nations and in Latin America. I think they will urge careful and extended diplomatic discussions with other American states, looking toward an increasing diplomatic isolation of Cuba and the Dominican Republic before any drastic action is taken. This divergence of view has not been openly and plainly considered in recent task force discussions, as I understand it. Therefore, you are quite likely to hear it in quite fresh form this afternoon.

Dick Goodwin has been in on most of the Cuban discussions, and he and I join in believing that there should certainly not be an invasion adventure without careful diplomatic soundings. We also think it almost certain that such soundings would confirm the judgment you are likely to hear from State.

McG. B.

~~TOP SECRET~~



# Cuban Missile Crisis Summary

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, leaders of the U.S. and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense, 13-day political and military standoff in October 1962 over the installation of nuclear-armed Soviet missiles on Cuba, just 90 miles from U.S. shores. In a television broadcast on October 22, 1962, the president notified Americans about the presence of the missiles, explained his decision to enact the blockade and made it clear that the U.S. was prepared to use military force if necessary to neutralize this perceived threat to national security. Following this public declaration, people around the globe nervously waited for the Soviet response. Some Americans, fearing their country was on the brink of nuclear war, hoarded food and gas. Many people feared the world was on the brink of nuclear war.

Despite the enormous tension, Soviet and American leaders found a way to avoid disaster. During the crisis, the Americans and Soviets had exchanged letters and other communications, and on October 26, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's (1894-1971) sent a message to Kennedy in which he offered to remove the Cuban missiles in exchange for a promise by U.S. leaders not to invade Cuba. The following day, the Soviet leader sent a letter proposing that the USSR would dismantle its missiles in Cuba if the Americans removed their missile installations in Turkey.

Officially, the Kennedy administration decided to accept the terms of the first message and ignore the second Khrushchev letter entirely. Privately, however, American officials also agreed to withdraw their nation's missiles from Turkey. U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy (1925-68) personally delivered the message to the Soviet ambassador in Washington, and on October 28, the crisis drew to a close.

# Cuban Missile Crisis Primary Document

The Feather

Take... Every copy with this about 24 copies...  
Printed in the United States and other countries.  
Published by The Washington Post Company, 2500 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037.  
Member: Associated Press

# The Washington Post **FINAL**

Times Herald

Washington Post, No. 222, Price 10¢, 1-1274, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1962, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037, TEN CENTS

## Kennedy Orders Blockade of Cuba As Reds Build Nuclear Bases There; U. S. Will Sink Defiant Arms Ships

### Navy to Stop And Search Cargo Craft

American Patrol Boats Everywhere But On Increased Alert

By John G. White  
WASHINGTON (AP)—American warships, now duplicating Soviet Cuba, stand ready to sink any ship which attempts to slip past the blockade. Patrol boats will be ordered to search the blockade zone for Soviet submarines and other vessels. The Atlantic Department will lead the effort.

A blockade of Russian shipping will be set up off the coast of Cuba. The Navy will be alerted to search for Soviet submarines and other vessels.

The Navy will be alerted to search for Soviet submarines and other vessels. The Atlantic Department will lead the effort.



### U. S., Russia Now Facing Test of Will

Provocations Taken To Meet Any Kind of Revolutionary Move

By Nancy Mitton

The United States and the Soviet Union are facing a test of will which could have explosive consequences in the event of any further move by the Soviet Union. American officials announced last night that the United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union. The United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union.

The United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union. The United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union.

### A Challenge to Soviet President Heeds History's Lesson

By Charles M. Roberts

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Kennedy's decision to blockade Cuba and to sink any Soviet ship which attempts to slip past the blockade is a challenge to the Soviet Union. The United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union.

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### Hemisphere Held Periled By Missiles

Soviet Like Goal, Says Agency Head

By Robert A. Collins

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union. The United States is prepared to meet any kind of revolutionary move by the Soviet Union.

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# Vietnam War Summary

## **Also known as: Vietnam Conflict**

The Vietnam War was a long, costly armed conflict that pitted the communist regime of North Vietnam and its southern allies, known as the Viet Cong, against South Vietnam and its principal ally, the United States.

The war began in 1954 (though conflict in the region stretched back to the mid-1940s), after the rise to power of Ho Chi Minh and his communist Viet Minh party in North Vietnam, and continued against the backdrop of an intense Cold War between two global superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. More than 3 million people (including 58,000 Americans) were killed in the Vietnam War; more than half were Vietnamese civilians. By 1969, at the peak of U.S. involvement in the war, more than 500,000 U.S. military personnel were involved in the Vietnam conflict.

Growing opposition to the war in the United States led to bitter divisions among Americans, both before and after President Richard Nixon ordered the withdrawal of U.S. forces in 1973. In 1975, communist forces seized control of Saigon, ending the Vietnam War, and the country was unified as the Socialist Republic of Vietnam the following year.

# Vietnam War Primary Document



Source: [https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/timeline/images/\\_cards/1970\\_075\\_card.jpg](https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/haventohome/timeline/images/_cards/1970_075_card.jpg)

# Iran Hostage Crisis Summary

On November 4, 1979, a group of Iranian students stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, taking more than 60 American hostages. The immediate cause of this action was President Jimmy Carter's decision to allow Iran's deposed Shah, a pro-Western autocrat who had been expelled from his country some months before, to come to the United States for cancer treatment. However, the hostage-taking was about more than the Shah's medical care: it was a dramatic way for the student revolutionaries to declare a break with Iran's past and an end to American interference in its affairs. It was also a way to raise the intra- and international profile of the revolution's leader, the anti-American cleric Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

President Jimmy Carter's efforts to bring an end to the hostage crisis soon became one of his foremost priorities. In April 1980, frustrated with the slow pace of diplomacy (and over the objections of several of his advisers), Carter decided to launch a risky military rescue mission known as Operation Eagle Claw. The operation was supposed to send an elite rescue team into the embassy compound. However, a severe desert sandstorm on the day of the mission caused several helicopters to malfunction, including one that veered into a large transport plane during takeoff. Eight American servicemen were killed in the accident, and Operation Eagle Claw was aborted.

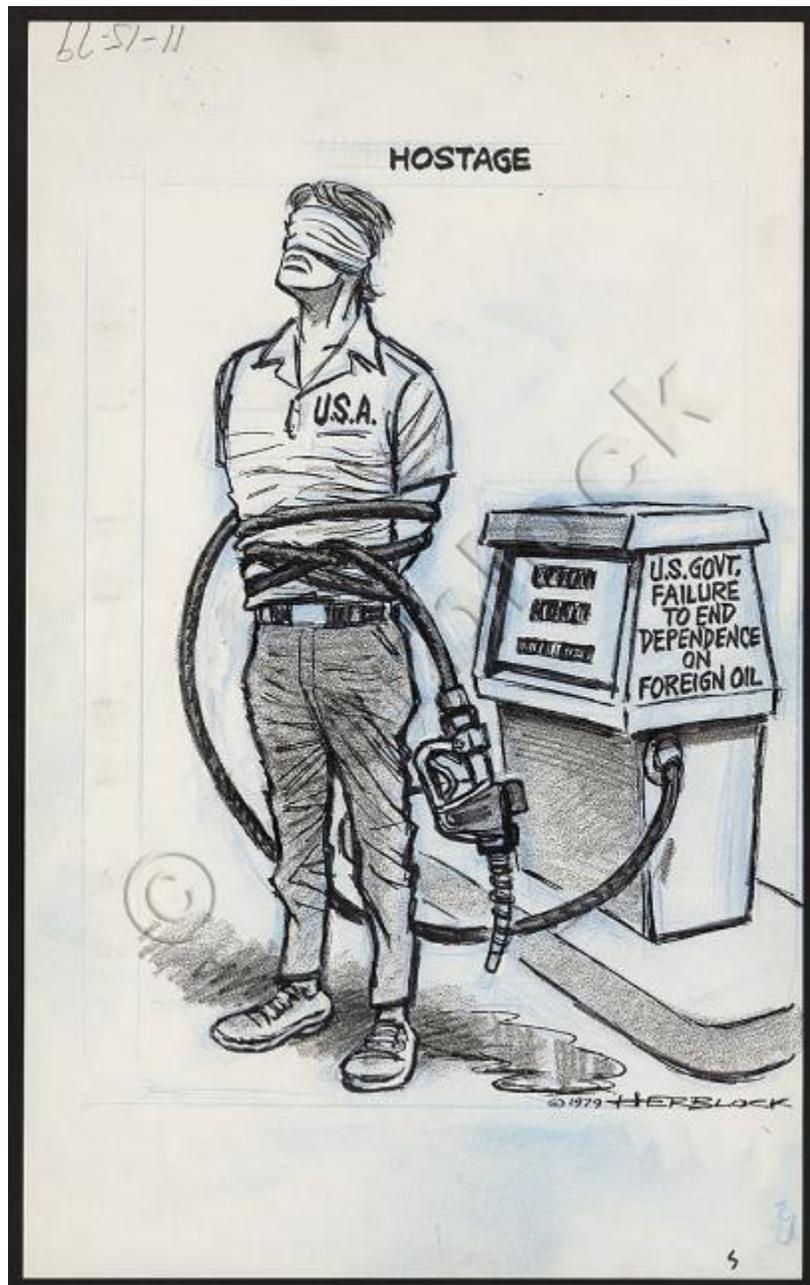
The students set their hostages free on January 21, 1981, 444 days after the crisis began and just hours after President Ronald Reagan delivered his inaugural address. "From the moment the hostages were seized until they were released minutes after Ronald Reagan took the oath of office as president 444 days later," wrote historian Gaddis Smith, "the crisis absorbed more concentrated effort by American officials and had more extensive coverage on television and in the press than any other event since World War II."

Sources:

<http://www.history.com/topics/iran-hostage-crisis>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/general-article/carter-hostage-crisis/>

# Iran Hostage Crisis Primary Document



Source: Hostage, 1979. Graphite, porous point pen, ink, and opaque white over blue pencil underdrawing. Published in the Washington Post, November 15, 1979. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress (54.00.00). LC-DIG-ppmsca-21949

[https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock/ItGetsIntoEverything/Assets/21949v\\_enlarge.jpg](https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/herblock/ItGetsIntoEverything/Assets/21949v_enlarge.jpg)

# First Gulf War Summary

## Also known as: Persian Gulf War

Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion and occupation of neighboring Kuwait in early August 1990 after he accused neighboring nation Kuwait of siphoning crude oil from the Ar-Rumaylah oil fields located along their common border. He insisted that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia cancel out \$30 billion of Iraq's foreign debt, and accused them of conspiring to keep oil prices low in an effort to pander to Western oil-buying nations.

Alarmed by these actions, fellow Arab powers such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt called on the United States and other Western nations to intervene. U.S. President George H.W. Bush immediately condemned the invasion, as did the governments of Britain and the Soviet Union. On November 29, 1990, the U.N. Security Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait by the following January 15. Hussein defied United Nations Security Council demands to withdraw from Kuwait, and the Persian Gulf War began with a massive U.S.-led air offensive known as Operation Desert Storm.

After 42 days of relentless attacks by the allied coalition in the air and on the ground, U.S. President George H.W. Bush declared a cease-fire on February 28; by that time, most Iraqi forces in Kuwait had either surrendered or fled. Though the Persian Gulf War was initially considered an unqualified success for the international coalition, simmering conflict in the troubled region led to a second Gulf War—known as the Iraq War—that began in 2003.

# First Gulf War Primary Document

## Excerpts from Address on Iraq's Invasion of Kuwait (August 8, 1990), George H. W. Bush

In the life of a nation, we're called upon to define who we are and what we believe. Sometimes these choices are not easy. But today as President, I ask for your support in a decision I've made to stand up for what's right and condemn what's wrong, all in the cause of peace.

At my direction, elements of the 82d Airborne Division as well as key units of the United States Air Force are arriving today to take up defensive positions in Saudi Arabia. I took this action to assist the Saudi Arabian Government in the defense of its homeland. No one commits America's Armed Forces to a dangerous mission lightly, but after perhaps unparalleled international consultation and exhausting every alternative, it became necessary to take this action. Let me tell you why.

Less than a week ago, in the early morning hours of August 2d, Iraqi Armed Forces, without provocation or warning, invaded a peaceful Kuwait. Facing negligible resistance from its much smaller neighbor, Iraq's tanks stormed in blitzkrieg fashion through Kuwait in a few short hours. With more than 100,000 troops, along with tanks, artillery, and surface-to-surface missiles, Iraq now occupies Kuwait. This aggression came just hours after Saddam Hussein specifically assured numerous countries in the area that there would be no invasion. There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression...

Immediately after the Iraqi invasion, I ordered an embargo of all trade with Iraq and, together with many other nations, announced sanctions that both freeze all Iraqi assets in this country and protected Kuwait's assets. The stakes are high. Iraq is already a rich and powerful country that possesses the world's second largest reserves of oil and over a million men under arms. It's the fourth largest military in the world. Our country now imports nearly half the oil it consumes and could face a major threat to its economic independence. Much of the world is even more dependent upon imported oil and is even more vulnerable to Iraqi threats...

...We agree that this is not an American problem or a European problem or a Middle East problem: It is the world's problem. And that's why, soon after the Iraqi invasion, the United Nations Security Council, without dissent, condemned Iraq, calling for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of its troops from Kuwait...

Standing up for our principle is an American tradition. As it has so many times before, it may take time and tremendous effort, but most of all, it will take unity of purpose. As I've witnessed throughout my life in both war and peace, America has never wavered when her purpose is driven by principle. And in this August day, at home and abroad, I know she will do no less.

Thank you, and God bless the United States of America.

Source (including audio): <http://millercenter.org/president/bush/speeches/speech-5529>

# Second Gulf War Summary

**Also known as: Iraq War, Second Persian Gulf War, War on Terror**

The Iraq War, also called Second Persian Gulf War, (2003–11), was a conflict in Iraq that consisted of two phases. The first of these was a brief, conventionally fought war in March–April 2003, in which a combined force of troops from the United States and Great Britain (with smaller contingents from several other countries) invaded Iraq and rapidly defeated Iraqi military and paramilitary forces.

In 2002, U.S. President, George W. Bush, argued that the vulnerability of the United States following the September 11 attacks of 2001, combined with Iraq's alleged continued possession and manufacture of weapons of mass destruction (an accusation that was later proved erroneous) and its support for terrorist groups—which, according to the Bush administration, included al-Qaeda, the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks—made disarming Iraq a renewed priority. UN Security Council Resolution 1441, passed on November 8, 2002, demanded that Iraq readmit inspectors and that it comply with all previous resolutions. Iraq appeared to comply with the resolution, but in early 2003, President Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair declared that Iraq was actually continuing to hinder UN inspections and that it still retained proscribed weapons.

On March 17, 2003, seeking no further UN resolutions and deeming further diplomatic efforts by the Security Council pointless, Bush declared an end to diplomacy and issued an ultimatum to Şaddām Hussein, giving the Iraqi president 48 hours to leave Iraq. When Şaddām refused to leave Iraq, U.S. and allied forces launched an attack on the morning of March 20. Şaddām Hussein was captured on December 13, 2003, and was turned over to Iraqi authorities in June 2004 to stand trial for various crimes; he was subsequently convicted of crimes against humanity and was executed on December 30, 2006.

Phase one was followed by a longer second phase in which a U.S.-led occupation of Iraq was opposed by an insurgency. After violence began to decline in 2007, the United States gradually reduced its military presence in Iraq, formally completing its withdrawal in December 2011.

# Second Gulf War Primary Document



U.S. soldiers assisting displaced Iraqi civilians.  
*Mace M. Gratz/U.S. Department of Defense*

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/event/Iraq-War>