

Gulf War Fast Facts

By CNN Library

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(CNN) -- Here's a look at what you need to know about the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War. In response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the U.S. and other countries launched a military operation known as Operation Desert Storm.

Facts:

The Allied coalition was made up of 39 countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and the United States

The coalition consisted of 670,000 troops from 28 countries. About 425,000 of the troops were from the U.S.

The U.S. Department of Defense has estimated the cost of the Gulf War at \$61 billion.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States covered \$36 billion.

Germany and Japan covered \$16 billion.

More than 100,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed.

The United States had 383 fatalities.

Timeline:

August 2, 1990 - Iraq invades Kuwait. Reportedly, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein decided to invade the small, oil-rich nation in order to pay off debts incurred during Iraq's eight year war with Iran.

August 2, 1990 - The U.N. passes a resolution denouncing Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

August 6, 1990 - The U.N. imposes sanctions on Iraq.

August 7, 1990 - U.S. President George H.W. Bush order the start of Operation Desert Shield.

August 8, 1990 - Iraq formally annexes Kuwait.

August 25, 1990 - The U.N. passes a resolution to allow enforcement of the embargo by military means.

November 29, 1990 - The U.N. authorizes use of force after January 15, 1991.

January 16-17, 1991 - Operation Desert Storm begins.

February 24, 1991 - The allied ground assault begins.

February 27, 1991 - Baghdad radio announces that Iraq will comply with United Nation resolutions.

February 27, 1991 - Kuwait is liberated.

February 28, 1991 - Coalition attacks against Iraq end.

March 14, 1991 - Kuwait's Emir returns home.

April 6, 1991 - Iraq accepts the terms of a cease-fire agreement.

April 11, 1991 - The U.N. declares an end to the war.



Map of Kuwait

State of Kuwait

Emir: Sheik Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah (2006)

Prime Minister: Sheikh Jabir al-

Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah (2011)

Total area: 6,880 sq mi (17,819 sq km)

Population (2012 est.): 2,646,314

Growth rate: 1.883%; birth rate: 2.96/1000; infant mortality rate: 7.87/1000; life expectancy: 77.28

Capital (2009 est.): Kuwait, 2.23 million

Monetary unit: Kuwaiti dinar (KD)

National name: Dawlat al-Kuwayt

Current government officials

Languages: Arabic (official), English

Ethnicity/race: Kuwaiti 45%, other Arab 35%, South Asian 9%, Iranian 4%, other 7%

Religions: Islam 85% (Sunni 70%, Shiite 30%); Christian, Hindu, Parsi, and other 15%

National Holiday: National Day, February 25

Literacy rate: 93.3% (2005 census)

Economic summary: GDP/PPP

Kuwait



Geography

Kuwait is situated northeast of Saudi Arabia at the northern end of the Persian Gulf, south of Iraq. It is slightly larger than Hawaii. The low-lying desert land is mainly sandy and barren.

Government

Kuwait is a constitutional monarchy, governed by the al-Sabah family.

History

Kuwait is believed to have been part of an early civilization in the 3rd millennium B.C. and to have traded with Mesopotamian cities. Archeological and historical traces disappeared around the first millennium B.C. At the beginning of the 18th century, the 'Anizah tribe of central Arabia founded Kuwait City, which became an autonomous sheikdom by 1756. Abd Rahim of the al-Sabah became the first sheik, and his descendants continue to rule Kuwait today. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the sheikdom belonged to the fringes of the Ottoman Empire. Kuwait obtained British protection in 1897 when the sheik feared that the Turks would expand their hold over the area. In 1961, Britain ended the protectorate, giving Kuwait independence, but agreed to give military aid on request. Iraq immediately threatened to occupy the area, and the British sent troops to defend Kuwait. Soon afterward, the Arab League sent in troops, replacing the British. Iraq's claim was dropped when the Arab League recognized Kuwait's independence on July 20, 1961. Historically, Kuwait followed a neutral and mediatory policy among Arab states.

Citizenry Benefits from Oil Wealth

Oil was discovered in Kuwait in the 1930s, and proved to have 20% of the world's known oil resources. Since 1946 it has been the world's second-largest oil exporter. The sheik, who receive half of the profits, devotes most of them to the education, welfare, and modernization of his kingdom. In 1966, Sheik Sabah designated a relative, Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, as his successor. By 1968, the sheikdom had established a model welfare state, and it sought to establish dominance among the sheikdoms and emirates of the Persian Gulf.

Iraq Invades Kuwait

In July 1990, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein blamed Kuwait for falling oil prices. After a failed Arab mediation attempt to solve the dispute peacefully, Iraq invaded Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990, set up a pro-Iraqi provisional government, and drained Kuwait of its economic resources. A coalition c

\$42,200. **Real growth rate:** 8.2%.

Inflation: 5.6%. **Unemployment:** 2.2% (2004 est.). **Arable land:** 0.84%.

Agriculture: practically no crops; fish. **Labor force:** 2.243 million; note: non-Kuwaitis represent

about 60% of the labor force; agriculture n.a., industry n.a.,

services n.a. **Industries:** petroleum, petrochemicals, cement, shipbuilding

and repair, desalination, food processing, construction materials.

Natural resources: petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas. **Exports:** \$94.47

billion (2011 est.); oil and refined products, fertilizers. **Imports:**

\$22.41billion (2011 est.); food, construction materials, vehicles and

parts, clothing. **Major trading partners:** Japan, India, South Korea,

U.S., Germany, UAE, Saudi Arabia, China (2011).

Communications: Telephones:

main lines in use: 566,300 (2009); mobile cellular: 4.4 million (2009).

Broadcast media: state-owned TV broadcaster operates 4 networks and

a satellite channel; several private TV broadcasters have emerged since

2003; satellite TV is available with pan-Arab TV stations especially

popular; state-owned Radio Kuwait broadcasts on a number of channels

in Arabic and English; first private radio station emerged in 2005;

transmissions of at least 2 international radio broadcasters are

available (2007). **Internet Service Providers (ISPs):** 2,730 (2010).

Internet users: 1.1 million (2009).

Transportation: Railways: 0 km.

Highways: total: 5,749 km; paved: 4,387 km; unpaved: 862 km (2004).

Waterways: none. **Ports and harbors:** Ash Shu'aybah, Ash

Shuwaykh, Az Zawr (Mina' Saud),

mid-March. Martial law, in effect since the end of the Gulf War, ended in late June. The U.S. sent 2,400 troops to the country in Aug. 1992, ostensibly as part of a training exercise, though it was widely interpreted as a show of strength to Saddam Hussein. Iraqi "training" maneuvers near the Kuwaiti border in Oct. 1994 renewed fears of aggression in the country. A Kuwaiti appeal brought the quick deployment of U.S. and British troops and equipment.

Women Win Suffrage in Kuwait

In 1999, the emir gave women the right to vote and run for parliament, but later that year Parliament defeated the ruler's decree. Kuwaiti society has grown increasingly conservative under the influence of Islamic fundamentalists. In 2003, traditionalists won a sweeping victory in parliamentary elections. The emir and crown prince (who served as prime minister) were elderly and ailing; in July 2003, the country's de facto leader, foreign minister Sheik Sabah, replaced the crown prince as prime minister.

In May 2005, Kuwait abandoned its 1999 ban on women's suffrage, and in June a woman was appointed to the cabinet. In April 2006, women voted for the first time.

In Jan. 2006, the emir, Sheik Jabir, died. His cousin, Crown Prince Sheik Saad, briefly became the nation's ruler, but he was forced to abdicate because of extreme ill health. The prime minister Sheik Sabah, was then nominated and unanimously confirmed by Parliament as emir. Sheik Sabah named his brother, Sheik Nawaf, as crown prince, and his nephew, Sheik Nasser, as prime minister.

Prime Minister Sheik Nasser Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah dissolved the opposition-led parliament in March 2008 and called for new elections. In May's parliamentary elections, radical Islamists took more than half of the body's 50 seats. No women were elected to Parliament. Prime Minister Sabah and his cabinet resigned in November in a dispute with Parliament over the visit to Kuwait by a controversial Iranian cleric. The emir reappointed Sabah in December, and he formed a new government in Jan. 2009, composed largely of previous cabinet members.

Women Continue to Make Inroads

In May 2009, three women are elected to parliament, becoming Kuwait's first female MPs. In October, court rulings further expand the rights of women, allowing them to get passports without the approval of their husbands and not requiring women MPs to wear Islamic headscarves.

In March 2011, the cabinet of Prime Minister al-Sabah resigned. Two months later, Emir Sheik Sabah approved a new government, which included six new ministers.

In June 2012, the emir accepted the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Sheik Jabir Mubarak al-Hamad al-Sabah, and on July 5, he reappointed Sheik Jabir as prime minister. Two weeks later, the cabinet was announced; the only change was Nayef al-Hajraf as finance minister.

Opposition Boycotts Parliamentary Elections

Wanting more democracy, the opposition boycotted parliamentary elections on December 1, 2012. The boycott caused voter turnout to be only 39.7 percent. The opposition wanted more democracy in the election. Two days later, Emir Sheik Sabah accepted Prime Minister al-Sabah's resignation. However, by December 5, 2012, Emir Sheik Sabah asked al-Sabah to put together a

International disputes: Kuwait and Saudi Arabia continue negotiating a joint maritime boundary with Iran; no maritime boundary exists with Iraq in the Persian Gulf.

After the elections on December 1, 2012, protesters gathered almost daily to voice their dissatisfaction. Emir Sheik Sabah denounced the protesters as antigovernment factions. In a speech to welcome Prime Minister al-Sabah's new cabinet, Emir Sheik Sabah said, "We will not tolerate attempts from anyone to tear apart the unity of the nation."

See also Encyclopedia: Kuwait

Major sources and definitions U.S. State Dept. Country Notes: Kuwait

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