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THE STATE OF KUWAIT

BY

COLONEL SALEM M. AL-SOROUR
Army of Kuwait

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Kuwait's history has passed through a dramatic period in modern history. Its people, regardless of tribe or nationality, were enjoying the fruit of the peace and prosperity created by careful management of the country's resources associated with its traditions, natural environment, and its remarkable program since the discovery of oil. The Kuwaitis were proud to talk of their growth in education, modern health care facilities, scientific progress, their work in support of the arts, promotion of peace, and international understanding. Its peace was shattered by Iraq which almost destroyed this country that the rest of the world knew and loved. There are few people who really know what took place inside the country. The ordinary citizens who remained during this period will never ever forget the bitter experience which has changed both Kuwait and its people. As a result, today they are more determined to create a peaceful future based upon justice and deterrence. Kuwait's culture was heavily targeted by the Iraqi forces which tried to destroy all symbols of its nationhood. Its oil wells were set on fire by the hundreds. The Iraqis even looted the national museum and burnt down everything inside, including			
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Boom Al-Muhalab, which was build in 1937 and was one of the finest rail trading vessels to work out of Kuwait in this century. The Iraqis also denied health care to Kuwaiti people including immature babies, old people, and handicapped. What remained, signified a grim reminder of Iraq's violent efforts to erase Kuwait from the whole map. However, the people always maintained faith in justice, which eventually came carried to them by free and honest nations. Kuwait will forever remain grateful to them. The Iraqis were defeated and the country was liberated. Finally, the Kuwaitis can be justifiably proud of the courage and strength which many showed in the fight for their freedom. Their story underlined their heartfelt belief that Kuwait's greatest natural resource was and will always be its people. This paper will discuss the country historically and the events of the invasion and the development and result which affected the country from 2 August 1990 to the successful accomplishment of the Desert Storm Operation.

USAWC MILITARY STUDIES PROGRAM PAPER

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THE STATE OF KUWAIT

AN INDIVIDUAL STUDY PROJECT

by

Colonel Salem M. Al-Sorour
Army of Kuwait

Colonel John E. Mirus
Project Adviser

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U.S. Army War College
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania 17013-5050

ABSTRACT

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INTRODUCTION

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990 and the war that followed were dramatic developments from which the entire Gulf region gained various experiences and drew tremendous kinds of lessons. The brutality of the invasion and the sufferings of the Kuwaiti people will be forever etched into the ethos of this nation. In the future, the lessons from this war must inspire the defense and security policies of Kuwait in a manner that deters future invasions or defeats them should they happen.

The rapid liberation of Kuwait by the coalition and the resulting terms of the cease-fire guarantees the security of Kuwait in the short-term. Key to the nation's long-term security is the unequivocal implementation of the United Nations resolutions as they apply to Iraq and Saddam Hussein. If these resolutions are not fulfilled then they will have little deterrent effect on Saddam or any future aggressors in the region. For Kuwait's part, the war exposed problems of a lack of manpower and of the effective application of technologically advanced weapons. If Kuwait is to have an effective deterrent and hence long-term security, it must acquire, field, and effectively employ high-tech weaponry. Despite the dismal defeat early in the invasion and the sufferings and humiliation of the Kuwaiti people that followed, they stand determined to do what is necessary to acquire long-term security for the nation.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A slab of limestone with Greek inscription discovered in the Island of Failaka in the early 1930s hinted at Kuwait's intriguing past. Translated it said: "Soteles, the Athenina, and the soldiers dedicated this to Zeus the survivor, to Poseidon and to Artemis the survivor," leading to much speculation as to its origin.

Failaka, lying in a strategic position in the center of Kuwait's Bay and well supplied with water, seemed a likely choice for settlement in ancient times. Its story was revealed in the 1950s by Danish archaeologists who arrived to explore the region. They found fragments of pottery scattered on the ground with some painted bowls known to be Greek related. Two years of excavation facilitated and supported in every way by the Kuwaitis, exposed the essentially Greek nature of the site on the island. Found were a small temple bearing a remarkable resemblance to the Parthenon, albite with marked oriental influences in a small Greek fortified town, a man's head in shallow relief that bore a remarkable resemblance to Alexander the Great, and a jar handle stamped with the rose which was the trademark of Rhodes, dated to the 3rd century B.C. The foundation of the temple contained markings which clearly identified Failaka as the Island of Ikaros. Ikaros was where Alexander and his fleet came together upon returning from India. The great Macedonian general planned a campaign of conquest against Arabia because it didn't submit to him and in his exploration of the coast, he found that island, and ordered it to be called Ikaros.

Although Alexander succumbed to a fever three days before the conquest of Arabia was due to commence and the whole campaign was aborted, the temple document was to conclusively prove that Failaka was indeed the Ikaros of Alexander's time. Moreover, there was already a shrine there dedicated to a goddess which the Greeks associated with their own Arkemis.¹

The island's history before the arrival of the Greeks is not very clear. However, a French mission on the island discovered at Tell al-Khaznah, that the island had been used as a site for a trade route at the time of Alexander. It was also documented that the Dilmunites, an ancient trading people found at Bahrain, would stop along the trade route at Failaka and make sacrifices to

their god Inzak. The island also had very close contact with the eastern Arabic. The Greek's are thought to have arrived on the island towards the end of the 4th century B.C., just before Alexander's death in 323, and Tell al-Khaznah was the place where the stone block with a dedication in Greek by Soteles to Zeus, Poseidon, and Artemis was found.² An Italian archaeological mission did some work on the site in 1976, but it was Kuwait's Department of Antiquities and Museums, in conjunction with the French mission, which undertook an extensive exploration of the site in 1984 and discovered that it was a site along the trade route.

THE MIDDLE YEARS: 3RD CENTURY AD-16TH CENTURY AD

The commercial activities in the Gulf consisted of cargoes arriving from the orient which were exchanged for the area's products--mainly purple dye and gold. To date, there is no archaeological evidence of any sort of occupation on Kuwait or on Failaka or the neighboring mainland before the 7th century. Islam swept the entire Arabian Peninsula in the 7th century, extending from Spain to India. As a result, the Gulf became a thriving maritime highway in medieval Islamic times, extending the trade as far as China.³ Other significant events of this period was the rise of the Hormuz Empire in the 15th and 16th centuries, such as the arrival of the Portuguese at the beginning of the 16th century, and the Ottoman Turks who had succeeded in reaching the head of the Gulf overland in 1536. Also on 31 December 1600, the British established the English East India Company in the region. The Dutch East India Company was formed in 1602 to eliminate Portuguese commercial activity. Thus, in the 17th century, the Gulf trade was dominated by "merchant adventurers" from England, Holland, and eventually France.

THE EARLY DAYS IN KUWAIT

The town of Kuwait was originally a summer resort of the Shaikhs of the Bani Khalid who controlled Indian and far eastern trade which was channeled through Al-Qatif and Al-Uqir to central Arabia and along the desert route by camel caravan to Mesopotamia. A small fishing village was located around a kut or fortress at that summer resort. The name Kuwait was a derivative of the Arabic Kut, but the town was also known to European travellers of the 18th century as "Grane," a derivative of garn or small hill.

The historical data on Kuwait town was generally assumed to have come into existence sometime before the 18th century, the date of the arrival of the Utub, a federation of Arab families, who eventually gained control in Kuwait. The Utub were part of a subdivision of the Anaza, an Adnani Arab Confederation which inhabited the area before spreading eastward.

Eighteenth Century

Having attained maritime skills in Qatar and Al-Hasa the Utub families scattered into the various ports of the Gulf littoral before settling in Kuwait. Although the Utub were officially in control of the area, the authority of the Al-Sabah was quickly established among the local communities. The Al-Sabah Chief, Sabah Bin Jabir, became the Skiekh of Kuwait in the 1750s.

As early as 1758, Sabah's authority was well established in Kuwait and the surrounding area including the islands of Qurain, Umm al-Naml, Failaka, Mascan, Qubar, Garouh, Umm al-Maradim, Bobian, and Warbah.⁴ The security provided by Sabah's rule, coupled with its unique geographical position ensured that Kuwait became a thriving commercial success and an important port of call for desert caravans carrying goods from southern and eastern Arabia to Aleppo in Syria. Kuwaiti merchants also benefited enormously from the

handling of exotic goods imported from India by Kuwaiti vessels. The Dutch factory at Kharg Island, in operation from 1753 to 1765, routed most of its merchandise through Kuwait because of the difficulties they encountered with the Basha of Basra. This fact established Kuwait's independent control from the Ottomani Regime in Basra.

Although much of the trade through Kuwait was in transit, some of the goods were carried for local consumption. According to the Danish explorer Carsten Niebur, Kuwait in 1764, had a local population in the region of 10,000. He listed fishing and pearls as providing wealth for the prosperous Kuwaitis. He also stated that over 800 small boats sailed south to annually exploit the rich pearly beds of Qatar and Bahrain.

Kuwait continued to flourish, eventually attracting the unwelcome attention of rival powers in the Gulf. The Persians had neither the sea power nor the internal peace to control even their own coast of the Gulf, and the Ottoman Turks were more or less in the same position in occupied Iraq. As far as the European powers were concerned the English East India Company was now coming to the fore in the intense competition for trade between the English, Dutch, and French. When Persia captured Basra in 1776, all Indian trade was channeled through Kuwait between the years of 1775-1779. Official British contact with Kuwait was initiated during the years 1775-1778 when British desert mail from the Gulf to Aleppo was dispatched from Kuwait instead of Zubara. From 1793 to 1795, the British factory originally based at Basra was temporarily translocated to Kuwait because of difficulties experienced with Turkish officials at Basra. This again brings out the fact that sovereignty of Kuwait was not under any kind of influence at that time despite Iraqi claims to the country.

The Period from 1800-1871

Shaikh Abdullah died in 1812 and the powerful and independent Sabah line continued with the succession of his son Jabir-Bin-Abdullah. In the year of 1820 a General Treaty of Peace was signed by Britain and the Shaikhs of the region. Kuwait was dependent for its water supply from outside sources. Instead of getting water from Iraq, it drew upon the Island of Failaka for this resource. The population of Kuwait at this time contained an armed population of 5,000 to 7,000 men. The changing nature of the British presence in the Gulf was uneasy with the Ottoman influence. Ever since the conquest of Iraq by the Turks, Kuwait because of its geographical position, had been in danger of absorption by that regional power. However, the Sabah leadership succeeded in maintaining their independence. On account of difficulties with the Turkish authorities the British residency at Basra was transferred for a short time, 1821-1822, to an island off Kuwait, probably Failaka, indicating that Kuwait was not at that time under the authority of the Ottoman Turks. Moreover, around 1836, Shaikh Jabir of Kuwait assisted the Turks in reducing the rebellious town of Zubair to submission.⁵ Shaikh Jabir died in about 1859 and was succeeded by his son Shaikh Sabah II.

Last Decades of the 19th Century

Shaikh Mubarak Bin Sabah, a proud, austere and independent desert leader, who later became known as Mubarak the Great, steered an autonomous Kuwaiti on a clear and decisive path into the 20th century. During that period, the Turks began to make threats against Kuwait's independence.

In February of 1897, the Turks sent an official to Kuwait to obtain influence. He was rejected by Shaikh Mubarak who requested an interview with the British president or his agent, ostensibly to ask for British cooperation in dispelling any Turkish threats. A meeting took place in September 1897 at

Kuwait in which Mubarak stated that he and his people, in order to prevent the annexation of Kuwait by the Turks, wished to establish a treaty relationship with the British government. In support of this request, he pledged that if this were done, he would assist the British, with all of the force at his command, in maintaining order in his part of the Gulf. The British were forced to reassess the situation in 1879. At this time they had reason to believe that the Russian government wished to establish a coaling station at Kuwait for the construction of a railway from the Mediterranean to the Gulf. This scheme, in the absence of any security arrangement between the British government and Shaikh Mubarak, might end in the creation of Russian territorial rights at Kuwait. Additionally, rumors were also circulating that the Turkish forces from Basra were soon to be dispatched by sea to subdue Kuwait.

Turn of the Century: 1899-1900

An agreement was signed on 23 January 1899 by Shaikh Mubarak and the British. In this agreement the British attempted to achieve their objective of thwarting Russian, Turkish, and French designs on Kuwait's strategic position at the head of the Gulf while at the same time avoiding any real commitment towards Kuwait. Under that agreement, Mubarak undertook on behalf of himself and his heirs

not to receive the agent or representative of any foreign power or government at Kuwait, or at any other place within the limit of his territory without the previous sanction of the British government and not to cede, sell, lease mortgage or give for occupation or for any other purpose any portion of his territory to the government or subjects of any other power without the previous consent of the British government.⁶

The Turks knew about the agreement in the following months, and on 2 September they sent a Turkish harbor master to take charge of the Port of Kuwait, but Shaikh Mubarak declined to receive him. Next, the Turks intended to establish a custom house at Kuwait, and were contemplating military action against Kuwait. However, this aggressive policy resulted in a warning in September 1899 which was conveyed by the British Ambassador at Constantinople with the instructions that the British government had friendly relations with Shaikh Mubarak and that any attempt at establishing any kind of authority over Kuwait would result in severe problems between Turkey and Great Britain. The Turkish minister for foreign affairs in reply gave assurances that there would be no Ottoman custom house, or military expeditions against Kuwait. The British took the advantage of their situation to make detailed surveys of Kuwaiti territory on both land and sea from 1904 to 1907. During this time the country was ruled in an orderly and efficient manner by Shaikh Mubarak, as it was recorded in 1914 that the population was estimated at about 35,000. There were also at this time three schools and the town's wealth was derived from its trade, shipping, shipbuilding, fishing, pearling, and camel and horse breeding. Some 500 boats with crews of about 50 men were engaged in pearling and 30 to 40 large vessels regularly sailed to India and Africa on trading voyages. Shipbuilding provided a livelihood for about 300 skilled carpenters with most of the timber being imported from India. Shaikh Mubarak died in 1915 having skillfully steered his country with a firm and patient hand through a difficult political period in its history.

Shaikh Mubarak was succeeded by his eldest son, Jabir, who unfortunately died in 1917 and his second son Salem assumed the leadership. During his tenure, on the morning of 10 October 1920, the famous battle of Al-Jahra ended in favor of Kuwait. This battle is commemorated to this day with the old fort

"Al-Qasr Al-Ahmar" standing as a monument to the courage and steadfastness of the country's defenders. Shaikh Salem died in 1921 and was succeeded by his nephew, Shaikh Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah, the eldest son of Shaikh Jabir Al-Mubarak.

The Uqair Conference of 1922, orchestrated by the British, was of major significance both for Kuwait and the whole Arabian Peninsula as attempts were made at this conference to set internationally recognized boundaries. Kuwait was deprived of two-thirds of its declared territory. Oil had previously been discovered in Persia and a New Zealander by the name of Major Frank Holmes, a mining engineer and ex-Royal marine, made known to the conference that he thought Kuwait also had great oil producing potential. The Kuwait Oil Company was formed in 1934 by the British and registered in London. On 30 June 1946, Shaikh Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah ceremonially inaugurated Kuwait's oil terminal and sent its first crude oil export on its way to the world.⁷ Shaikh Ahmad died in January of 1950 having guided the country through one of the most formative periods of its history.

Shaikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah was chosen as the ruler of Kuwait having played a leading role in the domestic political affairs. During his tenure, oil production proceeded efficiently and profitably with a domestic oil refinery capability that could meet local needs. Fresh water supplies improved considerably with the installation of a distillation plant. An electricity supply system was set up, housing, schools, and hospitals (supplementing the facilities of the first hospital founded by American missionaries) were built to accommodate and provide service to a steadily increasing population (150,000 by 1950). Almost overnight Kuwait was changed from an old-style nation into a modern one, experiencing a higher standard of living. Communication systems connected the state with the world, new traffic

systems were established, education and health policies were developed with new vigor, but old Arab cultural traditions firmly rooted in the deeply-held Islamic faith, remained as a stabilizing and moderating influence. Under his guidance Kuwait became a fully sovereign democratic state with freedom to play an independent role in both regional and world affairs. These developments were facilitated in 1961 by the Treaty of Independence which replaced the 1899 agreement with Britain with one based on contractual military support. The constitution of Kuwait was drawn up and ratified by him on 11 November 1962. On 29 January 1963, the first National Assembly of Kuwait convened following a general election in which Kuwaiti males over 21 participated.

When Shaikh Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah died in 1965, the country was a modern, industrial, democratic state with a major part to play on the world stage. In July 1961, it became a member of the Arab League confirming its independence and sovereignty with full international status accorded by membership of the United Nations in 1963. Shaikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah took over in 1965. In March of 1975, the government acquired full ownership of Kuwait Oil Company. Shaikh Sabah died on 31 December 1977 and H. H. Shaikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir Al-Sabah was proclaimed Amir of the State of Kuwait, the 13th Amir from Al-Sabah Royal Family. Under his careful guidance progress continued despite a drop in oil prices and the deleterious effects of the Iraq-Iran war. On 25 May 1981 Kuwait signed the articles of association on the Gulf Cooperation Council.

TRADITIONS

Arab culture and traditions anchored by Islam were the secure foundations upon which the modern state of Kuwait has been built, even though the process of modernization has made various inroads into many traditional aspects of

life, such as housing, occupation, and handicrafts. The basic structure of society is centered on Islam, the family, mutual help, and hospitality among all the country's groups. From the traditional culture of Kuwait, there is boat building, pearling, falconry, camel and horse breeding, as well as racing, fishing, and commercial trade.

Gulf War Perspectives

Prior to the invasion, the Iraqis, in fact, knew every place in Kuwait. Therefore, they conducted their invasion on 2 August 1970 by land, air, and sea with no doubt of failure or anticipation of resistance. They fully intended to terrorize the peaceful people as a means of control. However, they didn't consider in their mind that the world would oppose their crime. They truly believed their military power would stand against any power in the world.

Brief Historical Background of the Crises

The Iraqi regime tried multiple reasons to justify their invasion at the beginning, including the mass killing, executions, and all sort of violations against humanity. First, they said they wanted to save the Kuwaiti people and to support their victory in their revolution. Secondly, they announced the establishment of a Kuwaiti Free Government; then thirdly, they announced the establishment of the Republic of Kuwait. When they saw that the whole world would not accept their barbarian actions, they announced their last claim, which was that Kuwait was separated from Iraq by Britain in this century and it had to be returned. It seemed that Iraq would resort to aggression to satisfy its nature, particularly after their war with Iran from which it emerged not victorious but heavy with debts. It planned the idea of invading Kuwait for several reasons. First, to be able to pay its debts; second, to keep the Iraqi people from looking inside to revive their country after such a

war; third, to gain some moral ethics by being victorious in occupying its small neighbor Kuwait, which might save the regime's status after losing the war with Iran; fourth, to keep the army away from threatening the regime by coupe; and fifth, to satisfy the dictator's will for expansion and Arab leadership.

There are many facts from history that contest all the Iraqi claims on Kuwait. These facts are as follows:

- o On 26 September 1990 Saddam, the dictator, said that Kuwait's rulers were brought in from foreign nations by the British. To the contrary, Kuwait was known as Kuwait when the first ruler Shaikh Sabah I took over in 1756 (more than 230 years ago). He was chosen freely by Kuwaiti citizens to be the first ruler of the country. That was before Iraq was even known as a nation. That was two centuries before Iraq was declared a nation in 1921.⁸

- o Saddam also said that Kuwait was the southern part of Iraq which Britain had split off in 1913 in World War I. This is false.

- o In Kuwait, the historian missions found mixed Arabian and Greek ruins, while Iraq was cut into Sumer, Ashor, and Bibilone. Furthermore, Kuwait was in the (Hera Arabian Kingdom), while Iraq was at one time under the Persian influence. Kuwait is more Arabic than the country of the rivers (Alrafidien) and Kuwait is mostly Arabic tribes, while Iraq consists of Kurds, Armenian, Asharian, Turkish, and Arabian.⁹

In the Islamic era, Iraq was known as three regions: Kofa, Basra, and Al-Jazeeza. The three regions were governed by the Islamic state and not known as Iraq, while Kuwait through that period was never a part of Iraq. This means that Iraq borders never included Kuwait and if we apply the real historical rights and basis in international relations between nations, Iran, Turkey, and Syria have a claim to Iraq. In recent history all historical

events prove that Kuwait, unlike Iraq, was not at any time under the influence of the Othmani Empire. Kuwait used its influence in an independent way, unlike Iraq which was under the influence of the Othmani Empire. Furthermore, no Ottoman governor was appointed to Kuwait as was the case for Iraq. Also the contacts of the Amir of Kuwait at that time with the Othmani Empire were direct without any mediators from any source.

The Iraqis said that Kuwait was within the region of Basra Othmani state, and the ruler was given the label of Basha by the Othmani Empire. The following facts disapprove those claims:

- o Kuwait wasn't the only Arab country which had relations with the Othmani Empire at that time--Egypt, Al-Hejaz, Al-Sham (Syria, Lebanon, Jordan), Basra, Baghdad, and Al-Mosel were also part of the Othmani Empire, either direct or by name. Most of them after the division of the empire did not ask the right in the lands of their neighbors except Iraq;

- o The relations between Kuwait and the Othmani Empire was friendly. Its independence was approved by the Othmani rulers themselves. Medhat Basha was the governor of Baghdad in 1866. In his notes and letters to the prime minister of the empires stated:

Kuwait is independent, its inhabitants insist in keeping their independence and refuse any connection with the empire, their trades are active, and they don't accept employee or soldiers, and they believe that the Sultan of the Empire is the leader of the Islamic nations.¹⁰

Kuwait never at any time asked any kind of help from the Othmani Empire. It was described by British historian M.R. Bridgs in 1794, when he was an employee in the East Indian Company that anybody who escapes from the Othmani Empire lives in Kuwait. Furthermore, all refugees arriving in Kuwait were refused to be given back to the Othmani authority. There was also the incident of transferring the agency of the East Indian Company to Kuwait from

the Othmani Basra after the conflict of the company's representative with the Othmani authority. This would never had happened if Kuwait was following the Othmani Empire. Also one of the documents published by the under-secretary of ministry of foreign affairs in India in 1835 stated that when the Turks attacked Al-Zubair near Al-Basra and robbed it, the people came to Kuwait under the protection of Shaikh Jabir Al-Sabah, who resisted the Turks. Another fact worth mentioning is that no money was received by Kuwait from one Othmani Empire. Also Shaikh Mubarak during his tenure refused the German offer for the train line, Berlin-Baghdad-Kazma (Kuwait) in spite of the Othmani acceptance because Kuwait had rules different from Iraq, Jordan, Syria who applied the Othmani rules and regulations. The last and most fundamental fact is that all the academic, history, and geography books in the educational system in Iraq, consider Kuwait as an independent Arabic state.

In 1963, an agreement between Kuwait and Iraq was signed both by Shaikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, prime minister of Kuwait at that time, and Ahmad Hassan Al-Bakar, prime minister of Iraq, which stated that the Iraqi republic admitted the independence of the state of Kuwait and its influence within its boundaries. This agreement is shown in the letter of the Iraqi prime minister on 21 July 1932, which was also approved by Kuwait ruler at that time on 1 August 1932.¹¹ The regime of the dictator Saddam would never submit to the international laws and norms, so it is not so strange that he denied official agreements. With such an unpredictable dictator, the world faced a perilous journey in international relations.

The Invasion on 2 August 1990

The invasion was mounted by three republican favored divisions (two armored, the Madina and Hamorabi, and one mechanized, the Tawakalna. One raced down the coast road to Kuwait City, another was assigned to seize the inland

oil fields, and the third was assigned to secure the Saudi border. The invasion force was estimated to be more than 150,000 troops supported by air and sea attacks.¹²

Many army units, despite the difficulty of the situation fought a small war. The Kuwaiti chieftain tanks fought until they exhausted their ammunition. Some units were able to conduct organized resistance for up to a week. Other army units stayed behind to organize the Kuwaiti resistance movements. The air force managed to save some fighters sent to Bahrain and Saudi Arabia and some fast boats managed to escape to safety. The whole Kuwaiti government managed to move to Saudi Arabia in one day. This made it impossible for the Iraqi dictator to substitute any puppet regime of his own to legitimize his invasion. While in Saudi Arabia, the Kuwaiti government called publicly on the world to reverse the Iraqi aggression. Meanwhile, a resistance organization was built inside the country. Also because of the obvious legitimacy of the Kuwaiti government in exile, it was able to draw on the large bank accounts transferred electronically out of the country. At the same time the Iraqi dictator and his troops enthusiastically looted the country to the point of eating most of the animals in the Kuwaiti Zoo.

Kuwait's Military Response

Before 2 August 1990, there was very high political activity in the region. The military forces of Kuwait became alerted on Wednesday night, 1 August. At two o'clock on Thursday morning the orders were issued to the armed forces to face the Iraqi invading forces. At that time the 6th Brigade tried to move, but soon it was overwhelmed by the enemy. The 35th Armored Brigade, although most of its units were assigned to several duties around the country, managed to be in a reasonable kind of readiness and received the mission of securing Ali Al-Salem Air Base, and Al-Jahra City. That mission

meant to strike the enemy at any cost, which eventually led to the famous Al-Jusoor Battle between the 35th Armored Brigade and the massive advancing Iraqi forces. The 35th Armored Brigade was the only unit from the ground forces which fought a major battle against the enemy in the open, causing him tremendous heavy losses and holding his advance toward Kuwait City. It really fought very bravely. The air force with the ground air defences also fought very bravely. They managed to put 53 enemy helicopters out of action. The 15th Armored Brigade managed to push one battalion out to support the headquarters, while the reserve Mechanized 80 Brigade fought a short battle before it was surrounded by the Iraqis. Inside Kuwait City, the people used personal weapons against the invaders trying to defend their dignity. They formed resistance groups in collaboration with the army and national guard police personnel. Women, in particular, joined the resistance from the start and stood bravely to the brutality and savageness of the Iraqis. Most of those resistance groups were captured, savagely tortured and executed in front of their families. Nevertheless, they were absolutely determined to liberate their country under any cost.

THE WAR PERSPECTIVES IN LIBERATING KUWAIT

Building a National Consensus

President George Bush at that time without any doubt was the central figure in the Gulf war. As a leader of a great nation, as well as the only superpower in the globe, he went on the offensive against Iraq's invasion of one of the United Nations members, emphasizing also the same political

principle since World War II which was the sovereignty of a nation. He stated that in a speech to the world America's political objectives as follows:

Our goals have not changed since I first outlined them to the American people last August. First, the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Second, the restoration of Kuwait's legitimate government. Third, security and stability for the Gulf, an important national interest of United States since the time of Harry Truman. Fourth, the protection of American citizens abroad.¹³

Also he made absolutely clear that the war would not be another Vietnam. The President made a courageous decision that led to the mobilization and deployment of units of the army and air national guard and the army, air force, navy, marine corps and coast guard reserves. By involving communities across the nation in the war effort he built a bridge between the military and the people and, as a result, developed strong public support. It also encouraged other great powers and other nations to follow.¹⁴

Coalition building among the Arab nations and among U.S. allies around the world also developed public support as did the administration's decision to seek formal approval at the United Nations for U.S. actions. And although President Bush did not ask Congress for a formal declaration of war, on 7 January 1991 he did finally ask Congress to authorize the use of all necessary means to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait.¹⁵ After an intensive debate, a war resolution was forthcoming on 12 January 1991, just five days before the outbreak of the war. Immediately after the Iraqi invasion, the President ordered an embargo of all trade with Iraq and together with many other nations, announced sanctions. The Soviet Union and China ended all arms sales to Iraq and on Monday, 6 August 1990, the United Nations Security Council approved for the first time in 23 years mandatory sanctions, i.e., Resolution 6613 under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

The Coalition's Strategic Goals

Forces from outside the Gulf region began deployment to Saudi Arabia soon after the invasion. Egyptian and Syrian special forces were among the first Arab forces to arrive augmenting Saudi and the GCC forces already present. The U.S. naval combatants were present in the Gulf of Oman at that time. The U.S. forces began deploying on 7 August and elements of the 82nd Airborne Division arrived the next day. The U.S. air force air superiority fighters, airborne warning and control system aircraft and air refueling tanks arrived on 8 August, bomber aircraft began deploying on 11 August and four days later 20 were in place.

On 8 August, maritime prepositioning ships sailed from Diego Garcia and U.S. marines prepared to join them at Al-Jubayl. United Kingdom jaguar air-to-ground fighters and Tornado strike fighters were in the region by the end of August.¹⁶ The arrival of substantial numbers of ground attack aircrafts from the United States during August combined with the carrier based air already in the Gulf of Oman to produce a formidable force. In addition, many nations contributed light forces that could be deployed quickly. These early commitments signalled global resolve and served as a deterrent to the Iraqi aggression.

Heavier forces began arriving by September. The 3rd Egyptian Mechanized Division began deployment on 21 September and was completed on 6 October. By early in October there were enough ground forces available to defend against further invasion. The 7th United Kingdom Armored Brigade began deploying 15 October and was completed on 20 November. Deployment of the 9th Syrian Armored Division began on 1 November and was completed on 18 December.

The 4th Egyptian Armored Division deployed initially on 19 December and was completed by 7 January. The deployment of air-delivered munitions built up steadily to support land based forces, and, by the middle of September, there was enough capability to conduct an offensive air campaign as well as defensive air operations against the full range of Iraq targets. Naval forces that participated in the maritime operations of Desert Shield and Desert Storm included those of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Turkey, U.A.E., U.K., and U.S.A.¹⁷

The combined operations war plan was designed to achieve national and strategic goals of the coalition partners and specified the following campaign objectives:

- o Gain and maintain air supremacy;
- o Destroy Iraq's military capability to wage war;
- o Destroy Iraq's chemical, biological, and nuclear capability;
- o Destroy Republican Guard forces; and
- o Liberate Kuwait with Arab forces.

The plan called for battlefield preparation through early deception operations, air operations, and counter-reconnaissance operations which would fix Republican Guard forces in the Kuwait Theater of Operations (KTO) and cause Iraq to focus efforts in the eastern areas of Iraq and Kuwait. The concept of the operations also directed forces to continue to defend Saudi Arabia while preparing for offensive operations. The air attack was to focus on Iraq's centers of gravity--its C2, NBC capabilities and the Republican Guard. The plan called for progressively moving into the KTO to isolate it and reduce the Iraqi defenses effectiveness. A multi-axis ground naval and air attack would create the perception of a main attack in the east, however,

the main effort would be in the west. The combined operations plan directed Joint Forces Command East to conduct a supporting attack to penetrate Iraqi defenses and protect the marine component, central command right flank, and when directed to secure Kuwait City. The Joint Forces Command North directed to conduct a supporting attack to penetrate Iraq defenses and protect the right flank of VII Corps as far north as Al-Abrag. When these objectives were achieved, the forces would continue the attack to block Iraqi lines of communications north of Kuwait City and help secure and clear it. All commands were directed to secure crucial rear area facilities and lines of communications. A separate combined theater rear operations plan was promulgated as an annex to the Desert Storm Operations Plan.¹⁸

Unity of Command

Execution of Draft 1002-90, one of the events which affected the U.S. response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, was the decision to execute Draft Operations Plan 1002-90. The decision illuminates several points about the level of U.S. commitment to the region and demonstrates the value of the peace time planning process.¹⁹ The Operations Plan 1002-90 contained options for both deterrence of aggression and protection of U.S. interests in the region. It was planned against a threat that included the array presented on the Kuwait border and it was current. The final coordinating draft had been distributed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) and service components for staffing a month earlier. Additionally, the operational concept had been examined within analytical models at CENTCOM Headquarters and was gamed in a command post exercise completed only days before at the joint warfare center. In short Operations Plan 1002-90 met all the requirements for an immediate and

measured response to the range of contingency situations that might develop. It demanded a number of complex decisions that required sufficient lead time to enact. The decisions were interactive and set a myriad of parallel actions in motion with forces to be deployed over a period of time. A host of forces and support mechanisms throughout the world had to be alerted by the JCS to marshal the transportation resources to deploy the complete forces. The joint operational planning system, its replacement joint operational planning and execution system and the supporting joint deployment system worked tremendously to cope with forces demands and the Time-Phased Force and Deployment List (TPFDL).²⁰

In the meantime, Iraqi forces were consolidating their position in Kuwait. General Schwarzkopf determined that the key military action to support U.S. policy and strategy in the region was to place ground forces to show resolve and deter further aggression. The 82nd Airborne Division's divisional ready brigade had the rapid reaction mission. It was one of the only forces capable of being strategically deployed to the region, furthermore, because it was light, the CENTCOM staff determined that the majority of its support requirements could be met by the host nation, and the decision to deploy maximum combat power at the expense of deploying logistics support set the priorities for the first 30 days of deployment.²¹

Coalition command and control depended heavily on the major key tenet at the strategic and operational levels of war which is unity of effort. General Schwarzkopf, in conjunction with Lieutenant General Khalid bin Sultan, developed a dual command structure for the coalition that would provide the requisite unity of effort within the political, manpower, and time constraints of the situation.²² Within the command structure, U.S. forces would be commanded by General Schwarzkopf and British forces would be placed under his

operational control, while remaining under the command of the commander, British forces Middle East Lieutenant General Sir Peter de Bellier in Riyadh, and the British joint force commander, General Paddy Hines at Hywycombe in the United Kingdom.²³

Initially, French forces would be under the command of Lieutenant General Rogriejoffre, commander French forces Middle East, and would be under the operational control of Lieutenant General Khalid. Prior to operation Desert Storm this relationship would shift and French forces would operate under the operational control of USCINCCENT, General Schwarzkopf.²⁴

Lieutenant General Khalid bin Sultan commanded the joint force/theatre of operations command, which consisted of the Saudi Arabia armed forces, national guard, the Arab Islamic Corps consisting of two Egyptian and one Syrian division and all other Arab and Islamic forces from the Gulf and regional neighbors. These forces were organized into three commands. The Egyptian and Syrian divisions operated as an Arab Islamic Corps. The remaining forces were organized geographically into the Northern Area Command and the Eastern Area Command. Though these commands served primarily for the command and control and sustainment operations, each area command fielded an operational element designated as the Joint Forces Command North, and Joint Forces Command East. They operated within their own area of operations. During execution of all plans, communication and coordination was established through an organization known as the C3 IC coalition communication, coordination, and information center. Initially designed to coordinate the reception and deployment of coalition ground forces, it grew into a unique form for coordinating all coalition forces. Coalition cohesion provided the basis for unity of effort which made everything possible in order to challenge that regional problem which demanded the assistance of several major powers, all with individual

agendas. One key coalition solidarity and unified effort was the relationships between the United States and its NATO allies that participated in operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Moreover, the operational unity that was developed through the year of NATO exercises was employed within a political context that placed significant demands on coalition military leadership. Organizing the ground forces for combat and weighing the main effort were examples of the tensions with which General Schwarzkopf and his staff contended. Planners were provided with a general idea of how those forces should be allocated against the various tasks that had to be performed to execute that concept.²⁵

General Schwarzkopf determined that the main effort would be conducted by the heavy maneuver forces of the two U.S. corps with the main attack on the Republican Guard conducted by the U.S. VII Corps, which consisted of four heavy divisions, an armored cavalry regiment and reinforced corps troops.²⁶ The XVII Airborne Corps would secure the western flank of the main attack, cut Iraqi lines of support, block any Iraqi withdrawal through the Euphrates Valley, and participate in the final attack on remnants of the Republican Guard in the pursuit and exploitation portion of the main attack. Supporting efforts would be conducted along the coast towards Kuwait City by Saudi forces of Joint Forces Command East, and marine forces of USMACENT, reinforced by the United Kingdom's 1st Armored Division. An Arab/Islamic Corps of Egyptian and Syrian forces would conduct a supporting attack along the Wadi Al-Batin designed to encircle Kuwait City. Joint Forces Command North consisting of Saudi, Kuwaiti, and other Arab/Islamic forces from the Gulf states and regional friends would attack between USMACENT and the Arab/Islamic forces to complete the encirclement of Kuwait City and permit Kuwaiti and Saudi forces to liberate it. To comply with complex deception plans, key preparation and

movement could not begin until after the beginning of air operations and would be given a very short time to complete. The coalition served to coalesce an international force, instead of a purely U.S. force, that would enter Iraqi territory and strike at the heart of the power behind its regime--the Republican Guard. Most significantly it solidified the precedent for future cooperation of NATO allies employed in contingency operation outside of the NATO treaty area. The far reaching impact of that precedent will be felt throughout the world and demonstrates another key ingredient of President Bush's declaration of a new world order and his international communities obligations within that order.²⁷

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

As far as Kuwait is concerned the destruction and upheaval following the Iraqi invasion necessitated a reconstruction of its entire defense establishment, both in terms of infrastructure and armed forces personnel. During 1991, it was obvious that Kuwait was to rely on two principal methods of building its armed forces and enhancing its security. The first involved the acquisition of advanced military technology and equipment, which accord more closely with Kuwait's own capabilities and substitute for the lack of manpower issue, as well as that effective operation of technology will require considerable preliminary investment in training and would have serious implications for Kuwait's work force. The second was the negotiation of military cooperation agreements with western powers, particularly the United States, Britain, and France, which advanced military technology was most likely to come from and more important, the United States is the only country able to mobilize on a scale sufficient to deter future aggression against Kuwait. The agreement with United States in September 1991 declared the maintenance of the country's security, safety, and stability and the insurance

of the borders safety against the Iraqi regime, the defense cooperation agreement for ten years provides for the upgrading of Kuwait's air and port facilities, the storage of weapons and military equipment, and the organization of joint maneuvers between the two countries' land, sea, and air forces. Similar agreements were discussed with Britain and France, which came to fruition with Britain on 11 February 1992, but with no provision for the storage or prepositioning of military equipments.²⁸ Kuwait together with most other members of the UN and the GCC have endorsed the dismantling of Iraq's mass destruction weapons, missile capability, and nuclear research, but the region's states must always be prepared for the unexpected from Iraq. Kuwait also has to take visible measures against those shown to be insufficiently trustworthy, and who might be used by Iraq. Specifically, those countries that supported Iraq during the war might be willing to act on behalf of Iraq to contest the UN committee on border adjudication which has ruled that the border be shifted 600 meters in favor of Kuwait, for a distance of 200 kilometers.

In fact for the future, Kuwait must take advantage of the war, to build a strategy that should be taught throughout all the country, based on how the country is going to deal with such a threat if it occurs again, and to practice continuously the security measures on all levels. There should be a domestic plan associated with the military plan for mutual coordination in the case of aggression. The next time Iraq might not use military forces, but it could activate its clients to conduct terrorism activities or other measures of disturbance in the area. What happened to the country should be remembered for all generations to come. Because Iraq still has long-term designs on Kuwait, Kuwait in return should have a strategy that considers Iraq as a major threat for the long-term.

There is much talk today on possible methods for bringing down or overthrowing the Baath regime in Iraq. The talk is based on two essential possibilities. The first one views as a necessity bringing down the Iraqi regime and considers that a strategic necessity for the security and stability in the region. The second possibility sees Kuwait and the nations condemning Saddam directing their full efforts towards his downfall.

For those two possibilities there are four logical theories which fit in that direction:

- o The first theory is based on the event of a successful military coup that eliminates the Baath regime and restores a new one, administered by the political and public powers in Iraq;

- o The second theory is based on the possibility of foreign armed forces entering into Iraq to deal with the regime as war criminals, the issue which might have been successful during the Gulf war;

- o The third theory is based on the peaceful change in Iraq by means of compelling the Baath regime to hold an election in the country, or the regime should leave power for the opposing communities, but this theory remains unacceptable by that regime; and

- o The fourth theory might be the most effective one, which depends entirely on public revolution from inside and outside Iraq as a whole, so it could gain international support in exposing the regime's nature worldwide. This theory also assumes that the public crowds should capture the regime, and takeover the power in the country, and this theory looks much more ideal since the public crowds have managed to bring down the regime's power in 16 out of 18 Iraqi provinces in March 1991 after the bitter defeat for the regime's army.

There might be many opposing opinions for the two possibilities and the last theory, but the Iraqi Baath regime has proved to the world before the war started that peaceful, political, or diplomatic approaches are impossible. The Iraqi Baath regime only appreciates raw power in every situation in the region. It simply will not support any peaceful issue. The result of this attitude led to the initiation of the non-flying zones in North and South Iraq, and eventually to the bombing of Iraq in February 1993.

Kuwait's future security depends entirely on the stability in the Gulf region. In order to deter any further aggression, these recommendations might achieve some improvements:

- o Drawing a regional defensive and offensive strategy based on the events of the Gulf crises;
- o Establishing unity of effort and command attached with long-term alliance with the super and great powers in the world;
- o Building a well-balanced force equipped with the recent advanced military technology systems associated with long-term exercising plans with the friendly allies;
- o Accepting security assistance from outside sources to include prepositioning equipment and joint military exercises;
- o Obtaining systems of advanced military technology or agreements with major superpowers to deter any aggression;
- o Obtaining official relations with Iran as a counterbalance to Iraq;
- o Maintaining trust and unity of effort, concerns, and priorities with the Gulf states;
- o The formation of a common independent GCC force to maintain a regional peace and stability; and

o The GCC remains as a functioning establishment, willing to consider the United States participation in the economic and security affairs of the region.

CONCLUSION

The Gulf war which ended with the bitter defeat of the Iraqi forces and the liberation of Kuwait on 17 February 1991. This was a tremendous achievement, professionally conducted and replete with significant successes. It showed how well the United States, as a superpower, could quickly respond to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and take the lead of the great powers and other free nations in the largest coalition formed since World War II to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait and achieve the strategic objectives. It showed also how the unity of command if managed correctly and decisively can overcome the difficulties facing all command levels of the coalition. It also presented many crucial lessons in terms of politics, strategy, tactics, logistics, culture, warfare obligations, and human rights.

The victory in Kuwait and southern Iraq confirmed that more sophisticated weapons were more reliable and even easier to use if they are combined with proper tactics, techniques, procedures, and above all training. The great lesson is not new but easily forgotten. People well-trained and well-led win wars. Weapons help but they do not decide the issue. The best troops cannot win if they are badly equipped, but good equipment in the hands of poor troops or badly led troops also cannot win. The outcome cannot be predicted merely by comparing weapons on both sides. What counts is often how easily weapons can be maintained and used, not necessarily their maximum performance. In the past, maximum performance has been so difficult to attain that many, even within the military, have tended to concentrate on it rather than on the many other factors. Most of these factors are difficult to quantify, but

inevitably decide the outcome of a war. Iraq's regime and Saddam's inevitable successors will have access to very modern weapons, particularly if the decline of the Cold War makes arms producers even more export conscious.

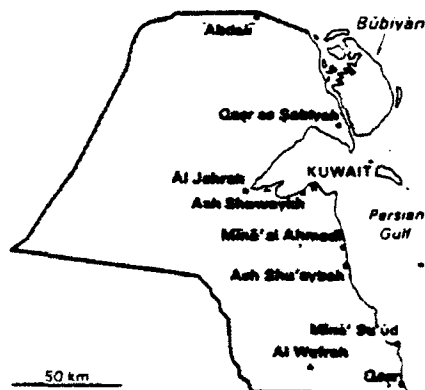
Another lesson is that intelligence should be focused on measurable objective issues, not on subjective ones. I mean intelligence should be used to determine how many weapons Iraq has rather than on the quality and motivation of their crew and their maintenance because that is of little concern to the Iraqi regimes when making a decision to use force. The other fact is people, ours and theirs usually dominate the situation. The flat and largely empty terrain of the Gulf is ideal for air attack. An army literally cannot hide. It can reduce its vulnerability, but the war showed that precision-guided weapons largely negate classical measures like digging in. It showed also that even a primitive army can be quite inventive in camouflaging itself. In general the Gulf area was ideal for all the coalition's mobile units, and a most unusual theater for operation. It is lavishly equipped with air bases. Many of them designed specifically to accept U.S. aircrafts.²⁹ The ports also were the same. Sea power and overseas bases were the most essential contribution in the war. The sea power in the form of carriers and marines was the block that prevented Iraq from immediately pressing on into Saudi Arabia, while air supremacy denied the Iraqis use of its fighters.

Desert Storm was the first war in which space systems had a decisive role. Much of the tactical work normally done by airplanes had to be done by satellites that were redirected specifically for that purpose.³⁰ That was the outgrowth of the Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP), which began in 1970s to use national sensor systems for tactical support. The system also used to detect and locate Saudi launches to provide likely targets

with a few minutes for warning. During the war two Defense Support Program (DSP) satellites could generally locate a scud launch plume within 120 seconds of firing and alert the targets and the Patriot missiles protecting them. The space program also provided GPS the navigational satellites which helped the coalition land forces to make their decisive deep attack, as well as for the stealthy navigation used by the F-117A. That capability was also demonstrated in the war by the navy's SLAM missiles and it will be incorporated in the next version of Tomahawk missiles. The main communications satellites dedicated to Desert Storm operation were two DSCS-2, one DSCS-3, and the fleet Sat-Com net.³¹

In summary, the coalition won the war because of their strong beliefs in national laws, human rights, freedom, sovereignty of nations, and above all, their superior command and control. Unity of effort, superior training, and superior logistics associated with the sense of national, ethnic, and religious pride were of great importance to every nation participating in the coalition.³² Parallel chains of command satisfied these political considerations and placed a premium on cooperation among the leadership of major coalition forces. It was a tribute to the commanders involved that they were able to establish an effective and cooperative relationship.

Kuwait



Geography

Total area: 17,820 km²; land area: 17,820 km²

Comparative area: slightly smaller than New Jersey

Land boundaries: 462 km total: Iraq 240 km, Saudi Arabia 222 km

Coastline: 499 km

Maritime claims:

Continental shelf: not specific;

Territorial sea: 12 nm

Disputes: in April 1991 official Iraqi acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 687, which demands that Iraq accept the inviolability of the boundary set forth in its 1963 agreement with Kuwait, ending earlier claims to Bubiyan and Warbah Islands or to all of Kuwait; a UN Boundary Demarcation Commission is demarcating the Iraq-Kuwait boundary pursuant to Resolution 687, and, on 17 June 1992, the UN Security Council reaffirmed the finality of the Boundary Demarcation Commission's decisions; ownership of Qārth and Umm al Marādīm Islands disputed by Saudi Arabia

Climate: dry desert; intensely hot summers; short, cool winters

Terrain: flat to slightly undulating desert plain

Natural resources: petroleum, fish, shrimp, natural gas

Land use: arable land NEGL%; permanent crops 0%; meadows and pastures 8%; forest and woodland NEGL%; other 92%; includes irrigated NEGL%

Environment: some of world's largest and most sophisticated desalination facilities provide most of water; air and water pollution; desertification

Note: strategic location at head of Persian Gulf

People

Population: 1,378,613 (July 1992), growth rate NA (1992)

Birth rate: 32 births/1,000 population (1992)

Death rate: 2 deaths/1,000 population (1992)

Net migration rate: NA migrants/1,000 population (1992)

Infant mortality rate: 14 deaths/1,000 live births (1992)

Life expectancy at birth: 72 years male, 76 years female (1992)

Total fertility rate: 4.4 children born/woman (1992)

Nationality: noun—Kuwaiti(s); adjective—Kuwaiti

Ethnic divisions: Kuwaiti 50%, other Arab 35%, South Asian 9%, Iranian 4%, other 2%

Religion: Muslim 85% (Shi'a 30%, Sunni 45%, other 10%), Christian, Hindu, Parsi, and other 15%

Language: Arabic (official); English widely spoken

Literacy: 74% (male 78%, female 69%) age 15 and over can read and write (1935)

Labor force: 566,000 (1986); services 45.0%, construction 20.0%, trade 12.0%, manufacturing 8.6%, finance and real estate 2.6%, agriculture 1.9%, power and water 1.7%, mining and quarrying 1.4%; 70% of labor force was non-Kuwaiti

Organized labor: labor unions exist in oil industry and among government personnel

Government

Long-form name: State of Kuwait

Type: nominal constitutional monarchy

Capital: Kuwait

Administrative divisions: 5 governorates (mu'hāfaz'at, singular—mu'hāfaz'ah): Al Ah'madi, Al Jahrah, Al Kuwayt, Hawallī, Farwaniyah

Independence: 19 June 1961 (from UK)

Constitution: 16 November 1962 (some provisions suspended since 29 August 1962)

Legal system: civil law system with Islamic law significant in personal matters; has not accepted compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

National holiday: National Day,

25 February

Executive branch: amir, prime minister, deputy prime minister, Council of Ministers (cabinet)

Legislative branch: National Assembly (Majlis al 'umma) dissolved 3 July 1986; elections for new Assembly scheduled for October 1992

Judicial branch: High Court of Appeal

Leaders:

Chief of State: Amir Shaykh JABIR al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah (since 31 December 1977);

Head of Government: Prime Minister and Crown Prince SA'UD al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah (since 8 February 1978); Deputy Prime Minister SALIM al-Sabah al-Salim al-Sabah

Political parties and leaders: none

Suffrage: adult males who resided in Kuwait before 1920 and their male descendants at age 21; note—out of all citizens, only 10% are eligible to vote and only 5% actually vote

Elections:

National Assembly: dissolved 3 July 1986; new elections are scheduled for October 1992

Other political or pressure groups: 40,000 Palestinian community; small, clandestine leftist and Shi'a fundamentalist groups are active; several groups critical of government policies are active

Member of: ABEDA, AFDB, AFESD, AL, AMF, BDEAC, CAEU, ESCWA, FAO, G-77, GATT, GCC, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, IDA, IDB, IFAD, IFC, ILO, IMF, IMO, INMARSAT, INTELSAT, INTERPOL, IOC, ISO (correspondent), ITU, LORCS, NAM, OAPC, OIC, OPEC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UPU, WFTU, WHO, WMO, WTO

Diplomatic representation: Ambassador Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-SABAH; Chancery at 2940 Tilden Street NW, Washington, DC 20008; telephone (202) 966-0702; US—Ambassador Edward (Skip) GNEHM, Jr.; Embassy at Bneid al-Gar (opposite the Kuwait International Hotel), Kuwait City (mailing address is P.O. Box 77 SAFAT, 13001 SAFAT, Kuwait; APO AE 09880); telephone (965) 242-4151 through 4159; FAX (965) 244-2855

Flag: three equal horizontal bands of green (top), white, and red with a black trapezoid based on the hoist side

Economy

Overview: Up to the invasion by Iraq in August 1990, the oil sector had dominated the economy. Kuwait has the third-largest oil reserves in the world after Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Earnings from hydrocarbons have generated over 90% of both export and government revenues and contributed about 40% to GDP. Most of the nonoil sector has traditionally been dependent upon oil-derived government revenues. Iraq's destruction of Kuwait's oil industry during the Gulf war has devastated the economy. Iraq destroyed or damaged more than 80% of Kuwait's 950 operating oil wells, as well as sabotaged key surface facilities. Firefighters brought all of the roughly 750 oil well fires and blowouts under control by November 1991. By yearend, production had been brought back to 400,000 barrels per day; it could take two to three years to restore Kuwait's oil production to its prewar level of about 2.0 million barrels per day. Meanwhile, population had been greatly reduced

because of the war, from 2.1 million to 1.4 million.

GDP: exchange rate conversion—\$8.75 billion, per capita \$6,200; real growth rate —50% (1991 est.)

Inflation rate (consumer prices): NA

Unemployment rate: NA

Budget: revenues \$7.1 billion; expenditures \$10.5 billion, including capital expenditures of \$3.1 billion (FY88)

Exports: \$11.4 billion (f.o.b., 1989);

commodities—oil 90%;

partners—Japan 19%, Netherlands 9%, US 8%, Pakistan 6%

Imports: \$6.6 billion (f.o.b., 1989);

commodities—food, construction materials, vehicles and parts, clothing;

partners—US 15%, Japan 12%, FRG 8%, UK 7%

External debt: \$7.2 billion (December 1989 est.)

Industrial production: growth rate 3%

(1988); accounts for 52% of GDP

Electricity: 3,100,000 kW available out of 8,290,000 kW capacity due to Persian Gulf war; 7,300 million kWh produced, 3,311 kWh per capita (1991)

Industries: petroleum, petrochemicals, desalination, food processing, building materials, salt, construction

Agriculture: virtually none; dependent on imports for food; about 75% of potable water must be distilled or imported

Economic aid: donor—pledged \$18.3 billion in bilateral aid to less developed countries (1979-89)

Currency: Kuwaiti dinar (plural—dinars);

1 Kuwaiti dinar (KD) = 1,000 fils

Exchange rates: Kuwaiti dinars (KD) per US\$1—0.2950 (March 1992), 0.2843 (1991), 0.2915 (1990), 0.2937 (1989), 0.2790 (1988), 0.2786 (1987)

Fiscal year: 1 July–30 June

Communications

Railroads: 6,456 km total track length (1990); over 700 km double track; government owned

Highways: 3,900 km total; 3,000 km bituminous; 900 km earth, sand, light gravel

Pipelines: crude oil 877 km; petroleum products 40 km; natural gas 165 km

Ports: Ash Shu'aybah, Ash Shuwaykh, Mina' al 'Ahmadi

Merchant marine: 29 ships (1,000 GRT or over), totaling 1,196,435 GRT/1,957,216 DWT; includes 2 cargo, 4 livestock carrier, 18 oil tanker, 4 liquefied gas; note—all Kuwaiti ships greater than 1,000 GRT were outside Kuwaiti waters at the time of the Iraqi invasion; many of these ships transferred to the Liberian flag or to the flags of other Persian Gulf states; only 1 has

returned to Kuwait flag since the liberation of Kuwait

Civil air: 9 major transport aircraft

Airports: 7 total, 4 usable; 4 with permanent-surface runways; none with runways over 3,659 m; 4 with runways 2,440-3,659 m; none with runways 1,220-2,439 m

Telecommunications: civil network suffered extensive damage as a result of Desert Storm; reconstruction is under way with some restored international and domestic capabilities; broadcast stations—3 AM, 0 FM, 3 TV; satellite earth stations—destroyed during Persian Gulf war; temporary mobile satellite ground stations provide international telecommunications; coaxial cable and radio relay to Saudi Arabia; service to Iraq is nonoperational

Defense Forces

Branches: Army, Navy, Air Force, National Police Force, National Guard

Manpower availability: males 15-49, 389,770; 234,609 fit for military service; 12,773 reach military age (18) annually

Defense expenditures: exchange rate conversion—\$9.17 billion, 20.4% of GDP (1992 budget)

ENDNOTES

¹Peter Vine and Paula Casey, Kuwait, A Nation Story, Immel Publishing, 1992, 12.

²Ibid., 30.

³Ibid., 39.

⁴Ibid., 40.

⁵Ibid., 44.

⁶Ibid., 47.

⁷Ibid., 55.

⁸Dr. Abdulla Al-Hammadi, The Big Terrorism of Nation's Destroyers, Documented stories and atrocities during savage Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait, (2 August 1990--26 February 1991), Ibin Sina Hospital--Kuwait, Neurology Department, XVII.

⁹Ibid., VIII.

¹⁰Ibid., XVIII, XIX.

¹¹Ibid., XXI.

¹²Norman Friedman, Desert Victory, The War for Kuwait, (Annapolis, Maryland: Naval Institute Press), 36.

¹³Colonel Harry G. Summers, Jr., (Retired), On Strategy II, A Critical Analysis of the Gulf War, 18.

¹⁴Ibid., 19.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶U.S. Army War College, Selected Readings, AY93 Course 4, Vol. 1, 185.

¹⁷Ibid., 186.

¹⁸Ibid., 195.

¹⁹Graft W. Douglas, SSI, USAWC, An Operational Analysis of the Persian Gulf, 16.

²⁰Ibid., 18.

²¹Ibid., 19.

²²Ibid., 22.

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ibid., 23.

²⁵Ibid., 27.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Ibid., 30.

²⁸Survival, Vol. 34, No. 3 (Autumn 1992), 49.

²⁹Friedman, Desert Victory, the War for Kuwait, The Naval Institute Press, 239.

³⁰Ibid., 241, 242.

³¹Ibid., 243.

³²USAWC, Selected Readings, AY93 Course 4, Vol. 1, 187.

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