



HUDA MUN'25

H-UNSC: Gulf War

Study Guide

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Letter from the Secretary-General
- 1.2 Letter from Co-Under Secretary-Generals
- 1.3 Overview of the Committee

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Origins of the Gulf War
- 2.2 The Invasion of Kuwait
- 2.3 International Reactions and UN Involvement

3. Key Actors

- 3.1 Republic of Iraq
- 3.2 State of Kuwait
- 3.3 United States and Coalition Forces
- 3.4 United Nations Security Council Members

4. Major Events Timeline

- 4.1 Pre-invasion Tensions
- 4.2 Invasion and Occupation of Kuwait
- 4.3 UN Resolutions Passed
- 4.4 Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm

5. Previous UN Actions and Resolutions

- 5.1 Key Resolutions (e.g., 660, 661, 678)
- 5.2 Effectiveness of Sanctions and Diplomacy

6. Current Situation (at Committee Start)

- 6.1 Status of Iraq and Kuwait
- 6.2 State of International Relations

7. Key Issues to Debate

- 7.1 Immediate Response to Iraqi Occupation
- 7.2 Military vs. Diplomatic Solutions
- 7.3 Humanitarian Considerations
- 7.4 Post-conflict Stability and Reconstruction

8. Bloc Positions

- 8.1 Western Powers
- 8.2 Arab States
- 8.3 Non-Aligned Movement

9. Possible Solutions

- 9.1 Military Interventions
- 9.2 Diplomatic Negotiations
- 9.3 Sanctions and Economic Measures

10. Questions to Consider

11. Appendix

- 11.1 Map of the Region

1. Introduction

1.2 Letter from Co-Under Secretary-Generals

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great excitement and honor that we welcome you to the Historical United Nations Security Council, where you will be challenged to navigate one of the most pivotal moments in modern diplomatic history: the Gulf War.

As we open our session in August 1990, Iraq's invasion of Kuwait has not only disrupted the balance of power in the Middle East but also posed a grave test to the authority and unity of the United Nations. The decisions you take in this room will shape the future of regional stability, global cooperation, and the integrity of international law.

This committee offers more than a reenactment of historical events—it offers you the platform to rewrite history, engage with real-world consequences, and represent national interests with insight and nuance. Whether you advocate for diplomatic resolution or support decisive action, your choices must be informed, strategic, and reflective of your nation's stance.

As your Co-Under-Secretary-Generals, we are committed to providing you with the tools, resources, and guidance necessary to make this experience intellectually rich and politically immersive. We look forward to witnessing your engagement, your debates, and the solutions you will bring to the table.

History remembers the bold. The Council is in session. Let diplomacy begin.

With utmost respect,

Menna Eraslan & Abdulmalik Mahmoud

Co-Under-Secretary-Generals

1.3 Overview of the Committee

The Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC) is a crisis-driven simulation of the world's most powerful decision-making body, set during a specific historical moment. In this committee, delegates step into the roles of real countries and are challenged to navigate urgent international crises, guided by the geopolitical realities, alliances, and constraints of the time.

For this session, the H-UNSC is set in August 1990, immediately following Iraq's shocking invasion of Kuwait. The world is still adjusting to the aftermath of the Cold War, and the balance of global power is in flux. The Council must respond swiftly to this act of aggression, debating whether to rely on sanctions, negotiate diplomatically, or authorize the use of force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Unlike typical General Assembly simulations, this committee grants delegates the power to pass binding resolutions, authorize military action, and implement economic sanctions. Delegates will also face live crisis updates, requiring real-time decision-making and coordination. Critical thinking, alliance-building, and a strong understanding of your assigned country's historical stance are essential to success.

This H-UNSC will demand both historical awareness and creative diplomacy. Delegates will not only be reacting to history—they will be rewriting it

2. Background Information

2.1 Origins of the Gulf War

The Gulf War emerged from a complex web of post-colonial disputes, economic grievance, and shifting power dynamics in the Middle East. Iraq, under President Saddam Hussein's rule, had just concluded the devastating Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), which left its economy shattered, military overextended, and regime politically insecure. The war, which Iraq initiated and fought mainly with Gulf Arab and Western financial support, cost Iraq an estimated \$80–100 billion, much of which was borrowed from Gulf states, particularly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

By the late 1980s, Iraq's economy was in a state of crisis. Oil prices had plummeted, and Saddam accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of overproducing oil, thereby driving down prices and sabotaging Iraq's recovery. These accusations were rooted in a broader frustration with OPEC dynamics and Iraq's belief that its former allies were economically strangling it.

Tensions were further inflamed by a territorial dispute. Iraq had long claimed that Kuwait was historically part of Basra Province, and that British imperialism had unjustly separated it from Iraq after World War I. Iraq also accused Kuwait of engaging in slant drilling into the Rumaila oil field, which straddled the Iraq–Kuwait border, a claim Kuwait firmly denied.

In the months leading up to the invasion, Saddam Hussein increasingly framed Kuwait not as a neighbor but as an aggressor threatening Iraq's economic survival and sovereignty. At the same time, regional diplomacy faltered. The Arab League failed to resolve the crisis, and despite high-level mediation efforts, no agreement was reached.

2.2 The Invasion of Kuwait

On August 2, 1990, Iraq launched a surprise military invasion of Kuwait, deploying over 100,000 troops and 300 tanks. The operation, dubbed “Operation Saddam’s Victory,” overwhelmed Kuwaiti forces within two days. By August 4, Iraq had seized control of key infrastructure, deposed the ruling Al-Sabah family, and effectively annexed Kuwait, proclaiming it as Iraq’s 19th province.

Saddam Hussein’s regime justified the invasion by invoking pan-Arab and anti-imperialist rhetoric, claiming that Iraq was liberating Kuwait from Western-backed elites and restoring historical unity. In reality, the occupation was marked by severe human rights violations, including mass arrests, torture, the looting of Kuwaiti cultural heritage, the execution of dissenters, and the displacement of thousands.

Kuwait’s government fled into exile and began lobbying the international community, particularly through the United Nations, to demand swift action.

2.3 International Reactions and UN Involvement

The global response was immediate and nearly unanimous in its condemnation. Within 24 hours of the invasion, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 660, demanding Iraq’s immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait. This was followed by Resolution 661, which imposed a comprehensive trade embargo on Iraq, including military equipment, oil, and financial transactions.

Despite early hopes that sanctions would pressure Saddam into withdrawal, Iraq remained entrenched. Over the next four months, the Security Council passed multiple resolutions, building both legal and moral legitimacy for a more forceful response. The pivotal moment came with Resolution 678 (29 November 1990), which authorized UN member states to use “all necessary means” to remove Iraq from Kuwait if it did not comply by 15 January 1991.

Meanwhile, the United States, under President George H. W. Bush, began assembling a large multinational coalition, ultimately including 35 countries, ranging from NATO members to Arab states like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. This coalition would serve as the backbone of Operation Desert Shield, the deployment of troops to defend Saudi Arabia, and later, Operation Desert Storm, the offensive campaign to liberate Kuwait.

The United Nations, for the first time since the Korean War, played a central, enforceable role in a military crisis, marking a rare moment of post-Cold War consensus, as even the Soviet Union, traditionally an Iraqi ally, supported key resolutions. China, while more cautious, abstained rather than vetoing.

The stage was set for a historic confrontation, not only between Iraq and the coalition but also between differing visions of international order, sovereignty, and collective security in a rapidly changing geopolitical landscape.

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3. Key Actors

3.1 Republic of Iraq

Under the leadership of President Saddam Hussein, Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, 1990, citing accusations of economic warfare and territorial disputes. Following a costly war with Iran (1980–1988), Iraq was heavily indebted, particularly to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and claimed Kuwait was overproducing oil and lowering global prices to weaken Iraq's recovery. Iraq also alleged historical sovereignty over Kuwaiti territory, framing the invasion as a reunification. Some of the key motivations were:

- Economic survival and debt relief
- Control over Kuwait's oil reserves
- Strategic access to the Persian Gulf
- Political leverage in the Arab world

Iraq's International Status: Widely condemned by the global community, facing potential sanctions, isolation, or military intervention.

3.2 State of Kuwait

Kuwait, a small but oil-rich Gulf state, was occupied in a matter of hours on the 2nd of August 1990. The Kuwaiti government fled into exile, calling for international support. With little military capacity to resist Iraq, Kuwait has appealed to the UN, Arab League, and Western powers for diplomatic and military assistance. Some of their key motivations were:

- Survival and restoration of sovereignty
- Rallying global support through diplomacy
- Reinforcing alliances with regional and Western powers

Kuwait's International Status: Victim of aggression, enjoys widespread global sympathy and legal backing under international law.

3.3 United States and Coalition Forces

By August 2, 1990, the United States had positioned itself as the principal force against Iraqi aggression. President George H.W. Bush quickly condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and initiated diplomatic and military preparations to form a multinational coalition. This coalition would later come to include dozens of nations contributing troops, logistical support, or financial backing.

As the leader of the Western bloc and a dominant power in the post-Cold War world, the U.S. viewed Iraq's move as a threat to the global energy market, regional balance, and the credibility of international law. Some of their initial responses (August 2) were:

- Rapid condemnation of Iraq
- Immediate push for UNSC resolutions
- Diplomatic efforts to unify Western allies and Arab partners
- Strategic discussions with Saudi Arabia to deploy troops (Operation Desert Shield was launched later in August)

Coalition Forces:

While not yet deployed as of August 2, the groundwork for a coalition was being laid. Nations like the United Kingdom, Egypt, France, and Saudi Arabia were expressing support for coordinated action. The coalition would eventually include NATO allies, Gulf states, and other global powers, representing a united front under the umbrella of the UN Charter.

United States Key Interests:

- Maintaining global oil flow and economic stability
- Protecting allies in the region (particularly Saudi Arabia)
- Preventing further aggression by Saddam Hussein
- Reinforcing international norms against territorial conquest

3.4 United Nations Security Council Members

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the primary international body responsible for maintaining peace and security. As of August 1990, the UNSC was urgently convening to respond to Iraq's invasion. The body has already passed Resolution 660 on August 2, condemning the invasion and demanding immediate withdrawal.

The UNSC plays a critical role in legitimizing or restraining military responses, authorizing sanctions, and shaping international legal responses to the crisis.

UNSC's Role Moving Forward:

- Monitoring Iraq's actions and compliance with Resolution 660
- Considering sanctions, embargoes, or force authorization
- Mediating between military escalation and diplomatic solutions
- Representing the international community's collective voice

4. Major Events Timeline

4.1 Pre-invasion Tensions (1988 - July 1990)

Following the Iran–Iraq War, Saddam Hussein's regime was left economically devastated and politically insecure. Iraq owed over \$80 billion, much of it to Gulf states like Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, who had funded Saddam under the assumption that Iraq was defending the Arab world from Iranian revolutionary expansion. However, post-war, Iraq's former allies were reluctant to forgive these debts.

At the same time, oil prices had dropped drastically due to Kuwait and the UAE exceeding OPEC quotas, which Saddam perceived as deliberate sabotage of Iraq's economy. Baghdad accused Kuwait of "economic warfare" and of using slant drilling to siphon oil from the Rumaila oil field, which lay along the Iraq–Kuwait border. Diplomatic attempts to resolve these disputes, through the Arab League and bilateral meetings, failed repeatedly.

On July 15, 1990, Iraq publicly threatened Kuwait, and on July 22, it began deploying troops to the southern border under the pretense of "training exercises." The Arab League

convened emergency meetings, but failed to produce a consensus. Western intelligence services began detecting signs of imminent military action.

4.2 Invasion and Occupation of Kuwait

In the early hours of August 2, 1990, over 100,000 Iraqi troops and 300 tanks launched a surprise invasion of Kuwait. Within 48 hours, Iraqi forces had captured Kuwait City, seized government buildings, and occupied strategic oil installations and infrastructure. The Al-Sabah royal family fled, and a puppet regime was briefly declared before Iraq formally annexed Kuwait on August 8, calling it the “19th province of Iraq.”

Iraqi troops committed widespread human rights abuses, including looting, mass arrests, executions, and the forced displacement of civilians. Thousands of foreign nationals—many of them Westerners—were taken hostage or detained and, in some cases, used as human shields.

Kuwait’s government-in-exile began lobbying through the UN, Arab League, and major capitals to garner international support for its liberation.

4.3 Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm (August 1990 – February 1991)

As diplomatic efforts continued and sanctions tightened, the United States spearheaded the formation of a broad international military coalition, ultimately comprising 35 countries, including Arab states, NATO allies, and non-aligned nations.

- Operation Desert Shield (August 7, 1990 – January 16, 1991):

This phase involved the massive deployment of coalition troops—primarily to Saudi Arabia—to defend against potential Iraqi attacks and prepare for a possible offensive. By January, over 600,000 coalition troops, including 500,000 Americans, were stationed in the Gulf.

- Operation Desert Storm (January 17 - February 28, 1991):

When the January 15 deadline passed without Iraqi withdrawal, the coalition launched a massive aerial bombing campaign against Iraqi military infrastructure, command centers, and air defenses. This air war lasted over five weeks, devastating Iraq’s military capability.

On February 24, 1991, the ground offensive began, swiftly liberating Kuwait in just 100 hours. Iraqi forces were driven out by February 28, though the retreating army set hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells on fire, creating an environmental and humanitarian catastrophe. Despite some calls to advance on Baghdad and topple Saddam, coalition forces halted at the Kuwaiti border, in line with their UN mandate.

5. Previous UN Actions and Resolutions

5.1 Key Resolutions (e.g., 660, 661, 678)

UNSC Resolution 660 (August 2, 1990)

- Date Passed: Same day as the invasion
- Purpose: Immediate condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait
- Key Elements:
 - Declares the invasion a breach of international peace and security
 - Demands Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal
 - Urges Iraq and Kuwait to begin negotiations
- Impact: Set the legal and moral tone of international disapproval, but had no enforcement mechanisms.

UNSC Resolution 662 (August 9, 1990)

- Rejects Iraq's annexation of Kuwait
- Key Elements:
 - Declares annexation null and void
 - Calls on all states not to recognize Iraqi claims to Kuwait
- Impact: Strengthened the legal standing of Kuwait and clarified global consensus against Iraq's actions.

UNSC Resolution 665 (August 25, 1990)

- Purpose: Enforcement of the sanctions regime
- Key Elements:
 - Authorizes Member States to use naval force to intercept Iraqi-bound shipments
 - Strengthens Resolution 661 by adding enforcement mechanisms
- Impact: A shift from pure diplomacy to low-level coercion; introduced limited military enforcement.

UNSC Resolution 678 (November 29, 1990)

- Purpose: Final warning to Iraq
- Key Elements:
 - Set a deadline (January 15, 1991)

- Authorizes “all necessary means” to restore peace if Iraq does not comply
- Impact: Opened the door for Operation Desert Storm, which symbolized the UN’s willingness to act militarily under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

5.2 Effectiveness of Sanctions and Diplomacy

While the UN acted with unusual speed following the invasion, its early responses raised questions about the effectiveness of non-military tools in countering aggression.

Sanctions:

- Widely adopted and comprehensive, but slow to impact Iraq’s military posture.
- Iraq remained economically active via smuggling and illicit networks.
- The humanitarian impact on Iraqi civilians became a long-term controversy.

Diplomatic Pressure:

- Arab League attempts at mediation faltered due to internal division.
- The U.S. and UK led efforts to frame the conflict as global, not just regional.
- Iraq’s leadership remained defiant, interpreting UN diplomacy as hesitant and lacking enforcement.

Shift Toward Force:

- As sanctions and dialogue failed to yield a withdrawal, the Security Council’s actions escalated toward military resolution.
- The pace and tone of UN resolutions reflect growing frustration with Iraq’s non-compliance and Saddam’s provocation.

6. Current Situation (at Committee Start)

6.1 Status of Iraq and Kuwait

As of mid-August 1990, the situation in the Persian Gulf is escalating rapidly. Iraqi forces continue to occupy Kuwait, having seized the country in a swift military campaign that began on August 2, 1990. Saddam Hussein's regime has formally annexed Kuwait, declaring it Iraq's 19th province, and dissolved the ruling Al-Sabah family's authority. The Kuwaiti government is now operating in exile from Saudi Arabia and actively lobbying for international support.

Inside Kuwait, reports from foreign embassies, fleeing civilians, and humanitarian organizations point to grave human rights violations. Iraqi soldiers have looted state institutions, suppressed dissent with violence, and detained both Kuwaiti citizens and foreign nationals. Thousands of Western and Asian expatriates remain stranded, with several allegedly used as human shields at military and industrial sites.

Meanwhile, Iraq has concentrated additional troops near its southern border with Saudi Arabia, raising fears of a wider regional conflict. The Iraqi military appears confident and defiant, despite mounting international condemnation and growing economic pressure.

6.2 State of International Relations

The global community is in a state of high alert. The UN Security Council has already passed multiple resolutions, most notably Resolution 660, which demands Iraq's immediate withdrawal, and Resolution 661, which imposes a comprehensive economic embargo on Baghdad.

There is a rare moment of temporary alignment among the five permanent members of the Security Council. The United States, the United Kingdom, and France are strongly advocating for a robust, coordinated international response, including potential military action. The Soviet Union, while traditionally an ally of Iraq, has condemned the invasion and supported the initial resolutions. China has remained cautious but has not used its veto.

The United States and its allies have begun deploying troops to Saudi Arabia under what is being called Operation Desert Shield to defend the kingdom from possible Iraqi aggression and prepare for possible offensive operations if Iraq refuses to comply with UN demands. Over 100,000 troops are expected to be in place by early September.

At the same time, the Arab League is divided. While countries like Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria condemn the invasion, others, such as Jordan, Yemen, and the PLO, have expressed varying degrees of support or neutrality toward Iraq, often due to domestic pressures or economic ties.

Sanctions are beginning to bite, but Saddam Hussein shows no sign of yielding. Iraq has cut off diplomatic access for many Western countries and is threatening retaliation against any states cooperating with U.S. forces. The prospect of full-scale war looms large.

The UN Security Council is now at a crossroads: Will it find a way to pressure Iraq through diplomatic channels and sanctions alone, or will it be forced to authorize force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter? What is decided in the coming days may shape not only the fate of Kuwait but also the credibility of the United Nations in preserving global peace and security.

7. Key Issues to Debate

7.1 Immediate Response to Iraqi Occupation

The immediate aftermath of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, presents a critical challenge in determining the appropriate course of action under the principles of international law and collective security. Debate surrounding this issue centers on several interlinked directions:

- **Legal Foundations of Response:** The occupation constitutes a clear violation of the United Nations charter, particularly Article 2(4), which prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. The question arises: what legal precedents and frameworks should shape the Council's initial reaction?
- **Nature and Scope Response:** The spectrum of possible responses includes diplomatic condemnation, economic sanctions, and the threat or use of force. Discussions often revolve around which method is both effective and proportional to the crisis.
- **Timing and Urgency:** A core issue is the pace at which the international community should act. Some argue for immediate and assertive action to force Iraqi withdrawal, while others emphasize the necessity of exhausting diplomatic avenues before escalation.
- **Conditions of Withdrawal:** There is debate over whether to demand Iraq's unconditional withdrawal or offer specific incentives or guarantees in exchange for de-escalation. This raises further questions about precedent-setting and legitimacy.
- **Impact on Regional Stability:** An early response may have cascading effects on neighboring states, regional alliances, and broader geopolitical balances. Consideration must be given to the position of actors such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and other regional stakeholders.

7.2 Military vs. Diplomatic Solutions

The central dilemma facing the international community in the Gulf Crisis lies in choosing between military intervention and continued reliance on diplomatic means. This debate encompasses legal, ethical, strategic, and political considerations:

- **Use of Force Under the UN Charter:** Military action under Chapter VII of the UN Charter must be justified as a last resort after all peaceful means have failed. The legitimacy of authorizing the use of force, especially in response to Iraq's non-compliance with earlier resolutions, becomes a focal point of legal and procedural debate.
- **Effectiveness of Sanctions and Diplomacy:** With economic sanctions already under consideration or in place, there is debate over whether they are likely to compel Iraq to withdraw or whether they may simply prolong the occupation while increasing civilian suffering. The capacity of diplomatic negotiations, third-party mediation, or regional summits to resolve the crisis remains under scrutiny.
- **Precedent and Global Order:** Military intervention risks setting a precedent for force-based conflict resolution, while inaction may undermine the credibility of the UN as an enforcer of peace and sovereignty. This debate reflects broader tensions in the post-Cold War world over when and how multilateral forces should be used.
- **Strategic and Human Costs:** Military action carries the potential for high civilian casualties, regional destabilization, retaliatory attacks on neighboring states, and a prolonged occupation. Conversely, diplomatic delay may allow Iraq to strengthen its hold over Kuwait or threaten other regional actors.
- **Coalition vs. UN-Led Action:** An additional layer of debate concerns whether intervention, if pursued, should be carried out through a formal UN force, an authorized multinational coalition, or unilateral action with post hoc UN support. Each option carries implications for international legitimacy and command structure.
- **Time Sensitivity:** Prolonged diplomatic efforts may be viewed as a window of opportunity or a dangerous delay. The question of when diplomatic solutions become exhausted remains subjective and contentious.

This issue forces the Security Council to confront the limits of diplomacy and the weight of military power in maintaining peace, shaping not only the outcome of the Gulf Crisis but the future of collective security.

7.3 Humanitarian Considerations

The Gulf Crisis presents a series of urgent humanitarian concerns that intersect with the political and military dimensions of the conflict. These issues are central to Security Council discussions and must be weighed alongside strategic and legal debates:

- **Impact on Civilians in Kuwait and Iraq:** The invasion and occupation of Kuwait have led to widespread displacement, civilian casualties, and disruption of basic services. At the same time, the prospect of broad sanctions or military action raises concerns about the suffering of Iraqi civilians under an increasingly isolated regime.
- **Treatment of Foreign Nationals and Hostages:** As of early August 1990, thousands of foreign nationals, including diplomats, workers, and tourists that remained stranded in Kuwait and Iraq. Iraq's use of foreign nationals as human shields has been raised as a violation of international humanitarian law, prompting discussions about protective measures and accountability.
- **Access to Humanitarian Aid:** The imposition of sanctions complicates the delivery of humanitarian assistance. There is debate over whether exceptions or humanitarian corridors should be established, and how to ensure aid reaches those in need without strengthening Iraq's regime.
- **Role of International Organizations:** Agencies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the UNHCR may be called upon to monitor or deliver aid, but their access depends on cooperation from parties to the conflict. The Council may consider mechanisms for oversight or joint coordination.
- **Civilian Protection During Military Operations:** If military force is authorized, the potential for civilian casualties and the destruction of infrastructure must be addressed. Discussion may include rules of engagement, proportionality, and post-conflict responsibility for reconstruction and care of affected populations.

- **Refugee Flows and Regional Burden:** The threat of mass displacement ,particularly into neighboring Jordan, Iran, and Saudi Arabia poses a significant burden on regional stability and resources. Planning for refugee protection and support becomes a transnational concern.

Humanitarian considerations cut across all major decisions made by the Council, challenging members to uphold principles of human rights and international humanitarian law while navigating complex geopolitical objectives.

7.4 Post-conflict Stability and Reconstruction

While immediate focus is on Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, long-term peace will depend on the ability of the international community to address what follows, whether through negotiated settlement or military intervention. This aspect of debate emphasizes the importance of preparing for post-conflict governance, regional security, and sustainable recovery.

- **Restoration of Kuwaiti Sovereignty:** A key issue is how Kuwait's government will be reinstated and protected following Iraqi withdrawal. Discussion includes the possible deployment of peacekeeping forces, interim security arrangements, and guarantees against future aggression.
- **Accountability and Justice:** The Council may explore legal mechanisms to hold Iraq accountable for its actions, including war crimes, violations of international law, and the economic damage inflicted on Kuwait. This opens debate on the role of reparations, international tribunals, or future sanctions.
- **Avoiding Power Vacuums:** A sudden or chaotic withdrawal by Iraqi forces may leave a temporary power vacuum in Kuwait or northern Iraq. Delegates may debate the role of international or regional actors in ensuring stability and preventing lawlessness, proxy conflicts, or civil unrest.
- **Reintegration of Iraq into the International Community:** Once the crisis is resolved, the question arises of how Iraq will be treated, isolated further, or eventually reintegrated through negotiation, aid, or normalization of diplomatic ties. There may be disagreements over timelines and conditions for reintegration.

- **Regional Security Frameworks:** The conflict highlights the fragility of the Gulf's security architecture. Some nations may advocate for a long-term multilateral security pact or arms limitation agreements. Others may push for strengthened alliances, deterrents, or new regional initiatives led by the UN or the Arab League.
- **Economic and Infrastructural Reconstruction:** Both Kuwait and, to some extent, Iraq will likely face significant infrastructural damage. Debate may center on whether the UN or international donors should lead reconstruction efforts, and how aid can be distributed equitably without political manipulation.

Post-conflict planning is not secondary to military or diplomatic action, it is essential to ensuring that the Gulf Crisis does not evolve into a prolonged regional instability. The Security Council must balance enforcement with vision, deterrence with reconciliation.

8. Bloc Positions

8.1 Western Powers

The United States, the United Kingdom, and France are at the forefront of the international push to respond to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. These nations are advocating for:

- Full implementation and enforcement of UN sanctions.
- The potential use of military force under Chapter VII if Iraq does not comply.
- Deployment of troops in the Gulf to deter further Iraqi aggression, particularly toward Saudi Arabia.
- Upholding international law and state sovereignty as central UN principles.

These countries argue that appeasement will embolden future violations of territorial integrity and that the UN must prove capable of decisive action in a post-Cold War world.

8.2 Arab States

The Arab League is divided. Key actors include:

- **Saudi Arabia:** Views Iraq as a direct threat and supports strong UN action, including military cooperation with Western powers to protect its territory.

- Egypt: Aligns with the West and seeks to reassert its leadership role in the Arab world by taking a firm stand against Iraq.
- Syria: Surprisingly, man, Syria sides with the anti-Iraq coalition, using the opportunity to strengthen ties with the West and gain regional favor.
- Jordan and Yemen: Express sympathy toward Iraq, motivated by economic ties, pan-Arab sentiment, and domestic political pressure. Jordan, in particular, seeks a peaceful resolution and opposes military intervention.
- Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO): Publicly supports Saddam Hussein, seeing him as a defiant figure against Western hegemony and Zionist influence.

These divisions weaken the Arab League's capacity to act as a unified mediator, making the UN's role even more crucial.

8.3 Non-Aligned Movement

Several influential non-aligned countries take complex, case-by-case positions:

- India and Indonesia emphasize the need for peaceful diplomacy and oppose hasty militarization, though they support the principle of Kuwait's sovereignty.
- Cuba and Libya are openly critical of U.S. influence and question the double standards in UN enforcement.
- Algeria, Tunisia, and Pakistan try to balance regional ties with global expectations, often calling for Arab solutions to Arab problems.

NAM members broadly support international law but are cautious about endorsing any military action that could be interpreted as Western overreach.

9. Questions to Consider

- Is Iraq's invasion of Kuwait a regional crisis or a threat to global peace and security?
- Can sanctions alone compel Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait?
- Should the Security Council authorize military force under Chapter VII?
- How can the UN ensure the safety of civilians and foreign nationals in occupied Kuwait?
- How can the Council balance punishing aggression with preserving regional stability?
- How should the Council address the divisions among Arab and non-aligned states?

- What role should the UN play in Kuwait if Iraq withdraws or is expelled?
- Are the sanctions disproportionately harming Iraqi civilians?
- How can the Security Council remain legitimate when some members are active participants in the conflict?
- What long-term measures can the UN take to prevent future invasions of sovereign states?

11. Map of the region

