**The First Gulf War**

* Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in Aug. of 1990
* Kuwait had raised oil production
* This was in violation of an OPEC agreement



* Resulted in a drop in global oil prices
* Iraq was deep in debt from the war with Iran
* Hussein was surprised at the backlash the Kuwaiti invasion caused



* UN enacted a trade embargo on Iraq
* President Bush dispatched troops and planes to Saudi Arabia
* British and Arab forces joined
* *Operation Desert Shield:* mobilization of American reserve forces to stabilize the region



* Peace efforts went nowhere
* Jan. of 1991 Congress authorized armed forces to liberate Kuwait
* 16 other nations committed ground troops to *Operation Desert Storm*



* First allied cruise missile hit Iraq on Jan. 16



* Allied ground assault lasted 4 days
* Iraqi soldiers surrendered by the thousands
* Cease fire called after 6 weeks



* 137 American casualties
* Over 100,000 Iraqi casualties
* The Hussein regime remained intact



* Hussein referred to the conflict as the “mother of all battles”
* Some Arabs were humiliated by the defeat
* This would spiral into a new war on terrorism