

# Operation Desert Storm

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## Abstract

The US President introduced a new policy towards Iraq on November 1, 1990, The US President rejected a face to face meeting with Saddam Hussein and emphasized on a military option.. The Iraqi F M, Tariq Aziz, denied the charge strongly objecting the language communicated by a Head of a state to his counterpart. President Bush on January 5 declared the Kuwaiti problem as a challenge to America and the future of the world The US asked the world leaders to support the US without any hesitation, Czechoslovakia consented to send a small unit to the Gulf in support of the US. The Slovak leaders expressed gratitude to the US for assuming the global responsibility. Australia extended full support to the US decision to get passed a UN resolution on the use of force against Iraq. South Korea came forward to back the USA. The British Prime Minister, John Major, informed the Parliament on 7 December that any failure of a peaceful solution to the Gulf problem, would lead to use force against Iraq. Though the last French effort for a peaceful solution to the Iraq-Kuwaiti crisis but With the US-UK opposition in the UNSC against the French plan, the war in the Gulf against Iraq became inevitable

**Keyword:** Saddam Hussein, Tariq Aziz, Gulf problem, UNSC, French plan

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## I. INTRODUCTION:

England and the USA decided to start military action in the Gulf *earlier rather than later* just after the failure of the talk between Mr. Javier Perez De Culler, the UNSG and President Saddam Hussein. The US bombing began at 2:40 A.M Baghdad time. The US war for *liberation of Kuwait*, the Operation Desert Storm, started at 7 P.M. EST. Following this, President Saddam Hussein declared in Baghdad the beginning of *Mother of all Battle* against the US-led coalition. The Iraqi President asked his people to oppose the *evil*. Saddam tagged King Fahd a *traitor* and termed President Bush as *Satan* in the White House. President Gorbachev asserted following the offensive against Iraq by the US and its partners on January 18 that the damages caused were immense and extremely serious to the targeted Gulf country, Iraq. The damages turned the country into a *different Iraq*.

## II. METHODOLOGY:

The study is descriptive in nature and it was based on various secondary sources like Books, Magazines, Journals and internet.

## III. DISCUSSION

**US Desperation for the War:** The USA was not in a position for the cessation of hostilities against Iraq. The USA, therefore, denied any kind of negotiation with Iraq. The US President issued his order on January 15 to restore Kuwait and its monarchy by destroying Iraq's command, control and communications capacity. The US President asked the Ministry of Defense to put the reserved forces in duty as the war began in the Gulf. The US President on January 21 declared the adjacent water areas of the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea between north of 10°N latitude and West of 68°E longitude, the Gulf of Aden and the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the UAE as a Combat Zone. The US objective in the Gulf was to win the war at any cost. The US was ready to use all kinds of weapons in the Gulf as per demand of the time. Washington DC was ready to use *nuclear weapon* against Iraq. The information was made public by Mr. Don Quayle, the US Vice President on February 4; 1991. Japan lodged a strong protestation to the US objective.

**War-time Peace Plan:** The war began in the Gulf with aerial bombardments over Iraq by the US forces on 17 January, 1990. Many nations made efforts to resolve the crisis peacefully. Many plans for re-establishment of peace, therefore, came to the forefront.

**Vatican Plan:** Pope John Paul-II had been always against a war in the Gulf since the beginning of the turmoil. The Pope urged the US President on 15 January, through a letter, to avoid the path of an armed conflict in the Persian Gulf region and to make last minute effort to restore the sovereignty of Kuwait and international order

for co-existence.<sup>230</sup> The Pope on January 21 expressed his deep concern for the warring situation in the Gulf region. He urged the warring nations to undertake ways to stop blood-shed and to solve the problems peacefully<sup>231</sup>

**NAM Initiative:** On observation of heavy bombardments in Iraq, the Indian FM, Vidya Charan Sukla, reached Brussels to revitalise the NAM initiative for peaceful and diplomatic settlement to the on-going crisis in the Gulf region. Iran hailed the Indian initiative and urged for Indo-Iranian collaboration to gear up the NAM to ascertain peace in the warring area. The Libyan President, Col. Muammer Gaddafi, urged all Member-states belonged to the NAM to be united to convene a summit in Tehran within a very short period. But the NAM initiation failed to succeed.

**Soviet Initiative during the War:** With the beginning of the war in the Gulf, Mr.Gorbachev, the President of the USSR, on January 20 asserted on the US and the USSR co-operation in the UNSC for a *new security structures* in the Middle East.<sup>220</sup> On February 20, Mr.Gorbachev placed a formula to end the war in the Gulf region. The US paid a very little heed to this formula.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

On February 26, 1991, President Saddam ordered for a speedy withdrawal beginning with 1.35 Iraqi times (5.30 Eastern Time). The US wanted a full compliance of all the 12 UNSC resolutions. The Soviet's Iraqi plan for a *truce* to be formally declared by the UNSC was opposed by the US and the UK. There could be, therefore, no formal ceasefire resolution though Kuwait was liberated. The strength of US-led forces in the Operation Desert Storm (OPD) began in January, 1991, reached a total of 956,000 soldiers drawn from different countries. The 29 countries other than Kuwait contributed soldiers to the US-led coalition against Iraq.

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