

## Activity: Persian Gulf War

Warm Up: What do you already know about the Persian Gulf War? Who was involved? When did it occur?

# “DESERT STORM”

PERSIAN GULF WAR (1990-91)



WHAT ABOUT  
KUWAIT'S  
GEOGRAPHICAL  
LOCATION WOULD  
APPEAL TO IRAQ?

ITS STRATEGIC  
LOCATION ON THE  
PERSIAN GULF  
WHICH IS THE OIL  
"HIGHWAY" OF THE  
MIDDLE EAST



THE MIDDLE EAST

# BACKGROUND TO CONFLICT

- **IRAQ NEARLY BANKRUPT:**
  - **IN DEBT TO KUWAIT WHO FINANCED WAR AGAINST IRAN**
- **IRAQ CONSIDERED KUWAIT AN IRAQI PROVINCE**
- **ACCUSED KUWAIT OF “SLANT-DRILLING” INTO IRAQI OIL FIELDS**



# U.S. RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAQ

- **GENERALLY STABLE, BUT U.S. HAD SEVERAL CONCERNS:**
  - **IRAQ WAS AN ALLY OF THE USSR**
  - **IRAQ WAS CRITICAL OF ISRAEL**
  - **IRAQ SUPPORTED SEVERAL ISLAMIC TERRORIST GROUPS**
- **U.S. PREFERRED THAT IRAQ WIN THE WAR AGAINST IRAN**
- **SADDAM BELIEVED THE U.S., SAUDI ARABIA, & KUWAIT WERE CONSPIRING AGAINST IRAQ' S ECONOMY**

# THE INVASION

- **AUGUST 2, 1990 – IRAQ ATTACKS & OCCUPIES KUWAIT**
- **IRAQI MILITARY COMMITS ABUSES**
- **IRAQ ANNEXES KUWAIT**
- **IRAQI FORCES MOVE TOWARD THE BORDER OF SAUDI ARABIA, A U.S. ALLY**



# **“GUESTS” OR “HUMAN SHIELDS”?**

- **SADDAM REFUSED TO ALLOW SOME WESTERNERS TO LEAVE IRAQ**
- **HE CLAIMED THEY WERE “GUESTS . . . MOST OF THE WORLD VIEWED THEM AS “HUMAN SHIELDS” FOR IRAQ**



# ENTER THE UNITED NATIONS

- **U.N. CONDEMNNS THE INVASION:**
  - **DEMANDS IRAQ WITHDRAW BY 1-15-91**
  - **PLACES ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON IRAQ**
  - **AUTHORIZES THE USE OF FORCE**





# OPERATION “DESERT SHIELD”



- FEAR THAT IRAQ WOULD INVADE SAUDI ARABIA
- U.S. TROOPS MOVE INTO SAUDI ARABIA 8-7-90 TO PREVENT AN INVASION
- CALLED OPERATION DESERT SHIELD

# BUILDING A COALITION



- U.S. ASSEMBLES A COALITION (TEMPORARY ALLIANCE) OF **OVER 30 NATIONS TO OPPOSE IRAQ:**
  - **SOME CONTRIBUTE MILITARY FORCE OTHERS GIVE \$**
  - **INCLUDES SOME ARAB COUNTRIES**

# REASONS FOR U.N. & U.S. INTERVENTION

- **VIOLATION OF KUWAITI SOVEREIGNTY**
- **SUPPORT FOR SAUDI ARABIA (U.S. ALLY & KEY SUPPLIER OF OIL\*\*)**
- **HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES**
- **IRAQ HAD:**
  - **BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS**
  - **A NUCLEAR WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

# U.S. LEADERS



**PRESIDENT BUSH**



**SEC. OF DEF. CHENEY**



**CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT  
CHIEFS COLIN POWELL**



**GENERAL "STORMIN' "  
NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF**

# THE COALITION STRIKES BACK

- **IRAQ DOES NOT WITHDRAW BY THE ULTIMATUM DATE OF 1-15-91**
- **ON 1-17-91 THE COALITION BEGAN MASSIVE OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAQ:**
  - **CODE NAMED *OPERATION DESERT STORM***



# STRIKE FROM THE SKY!

- **COALITION LAUNCHED MASSIVE AIR CAMPAIGN AGAINST IRAQ:**
  - DESTROYED IRAQI RADAR & AIRFIELDS
  - BOMBED IRAQI CAPITAL OF BAGHDAD
  - DESTROYED DAMS AND ELECTRICAL PLANTS
  - MANY CIVILIAN CASUALTIES



# U.S. NAVY JOINED THE AIR ATTACKS



- **RADAR GUIDED CRUISE MISSILES**



**CARRIER AIR STRIKES**

# STEALTH ATTACKS

**STEALTH TECHNOLOGY  
AIRCRAFT  
WERE USED FOR THE  
FIRST TIME IN COMBAT**



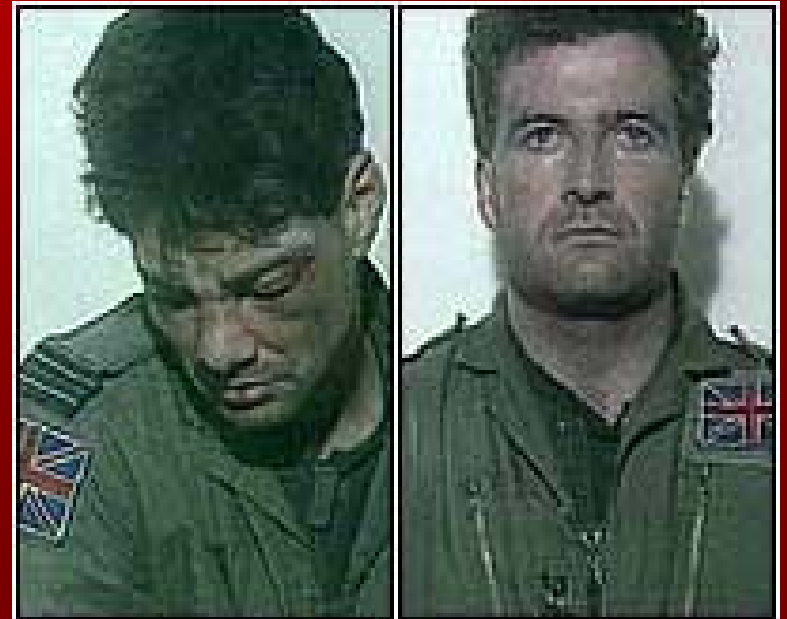
**BAGHDAD UNDER NIGHT  
STEALTH ATTACK**





# POWs

- IRAQIS SHOT DOWN MANY COALITION AIRCRAFT
- POWs WERE OFTEN MISTREATED
- SOME WERE SHOWN ON IRAQI TELEVISION & FORCED TO READ STATEMENTS CRITICAL OF THE WAR





# WHAT ABOUT ISRAEL?



- **IRAQ ATTEMPTED TO DESTROY THE COALITION BY GOADING ISRAEL TO JOIN THE CONFLICT AND ALIENATING SOME ARAB COUNTRIES**
- **IRAQ LAUNCHED MISSILES AGAINST ISRAEL**
- **U.S. PERSUADED ISRAEL TO STAY OUT OF THE CONFLICT AND SENT MISSILES TO HELP ISRAEL'S AIR DEFENSES**

# ISRAEL UNDER ATTACK



# PATRIOT AIR DEFENSE MISSILES

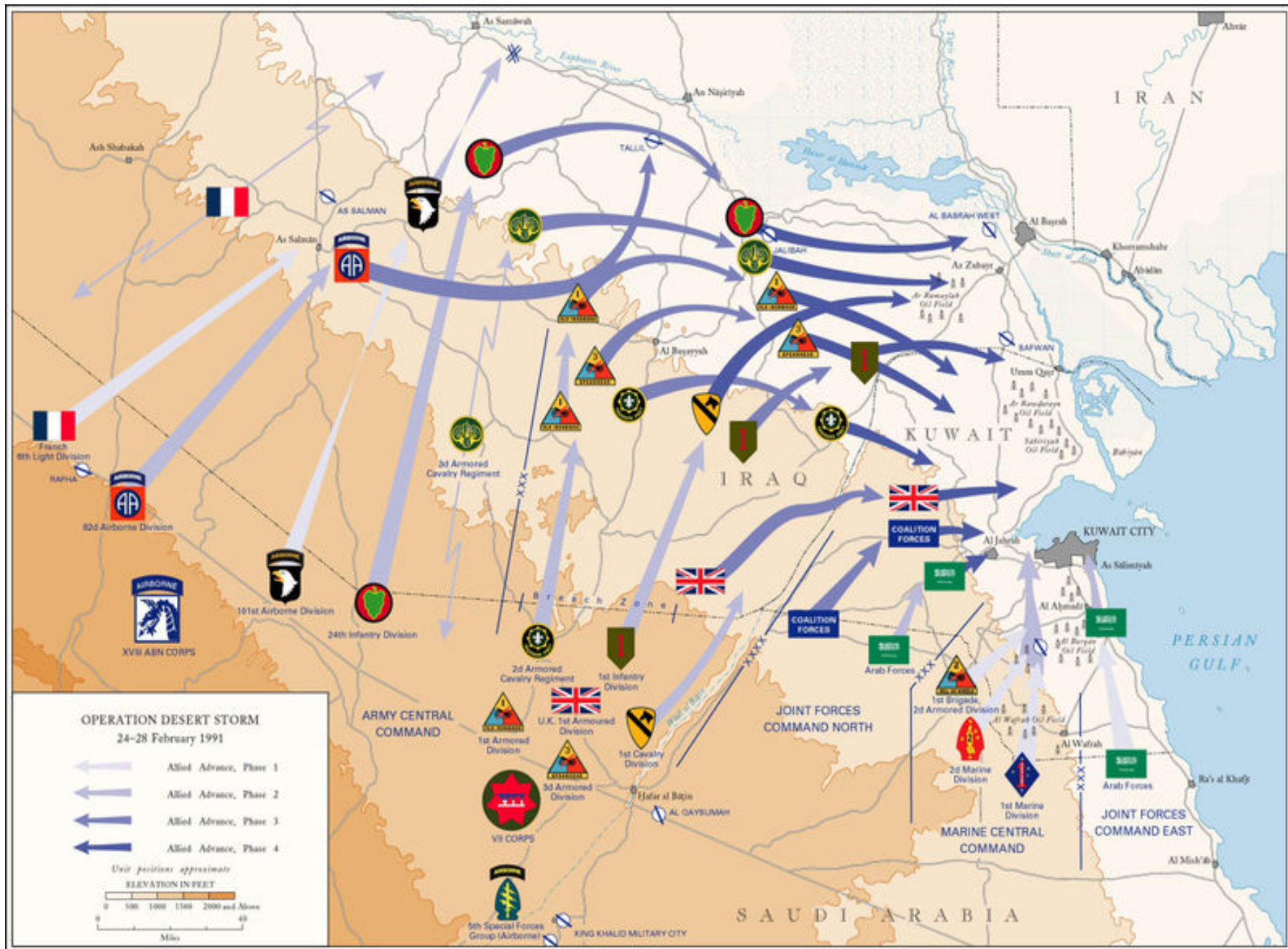


# GROUND ASSAULT!

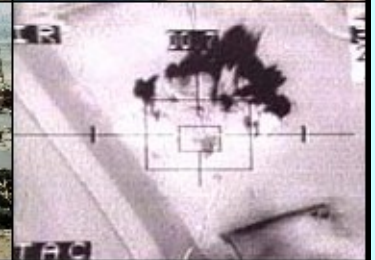
- **COALITION LAUNCHES MASSIVE ATTACK INTO IRAQ ON 2-24-91**
- **IRAQI TANKS & TROOPS NO MATCH FOR COALITION**
- **IRAQIS SUFFER HUGE LOSSES**
- **COALITION FORCES MOVE TO SURROUND IRAQI FORCES IN KUWAIT**







# U.S. FORCES IN ACTION







# HIGHWAY OF DEATH



**IRAQI FORCES TRYING TO ESCAPE FROM KUWAIT  
WERE SLAUGHTERED BY COALITION AIRPOWER**





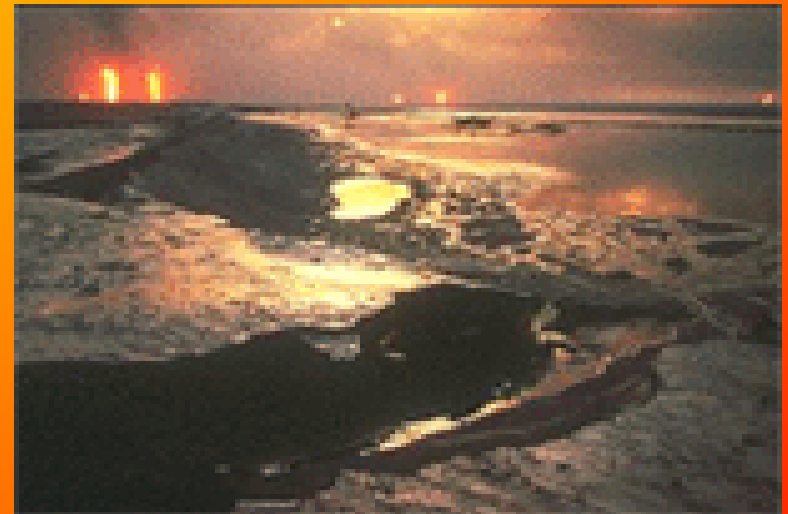
"EVEN IN VIETNAM I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING LIKE THIS. IT'S PATHETIC."

— **MAJOR BOB NUGENT**  
ARMY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER



# IRAQI VENGEANCE

- **RETREATING IRAQIS LEFT BEHIND AN ENVIRONMENTAL NIGHTMARE:**
  - **SET OIL WELLS ON FIRE**
  - **DUMPED OIL INTO THE PERSIAN GULF**



# THE FIGHTING ENDS

- 100 HOURS AFTER THE GROUND ATTACK BEGAN PRESIDENT BUSH DECLARED A CEASE-FIRE
- LESS THAN 300 AMERICANS KILLED



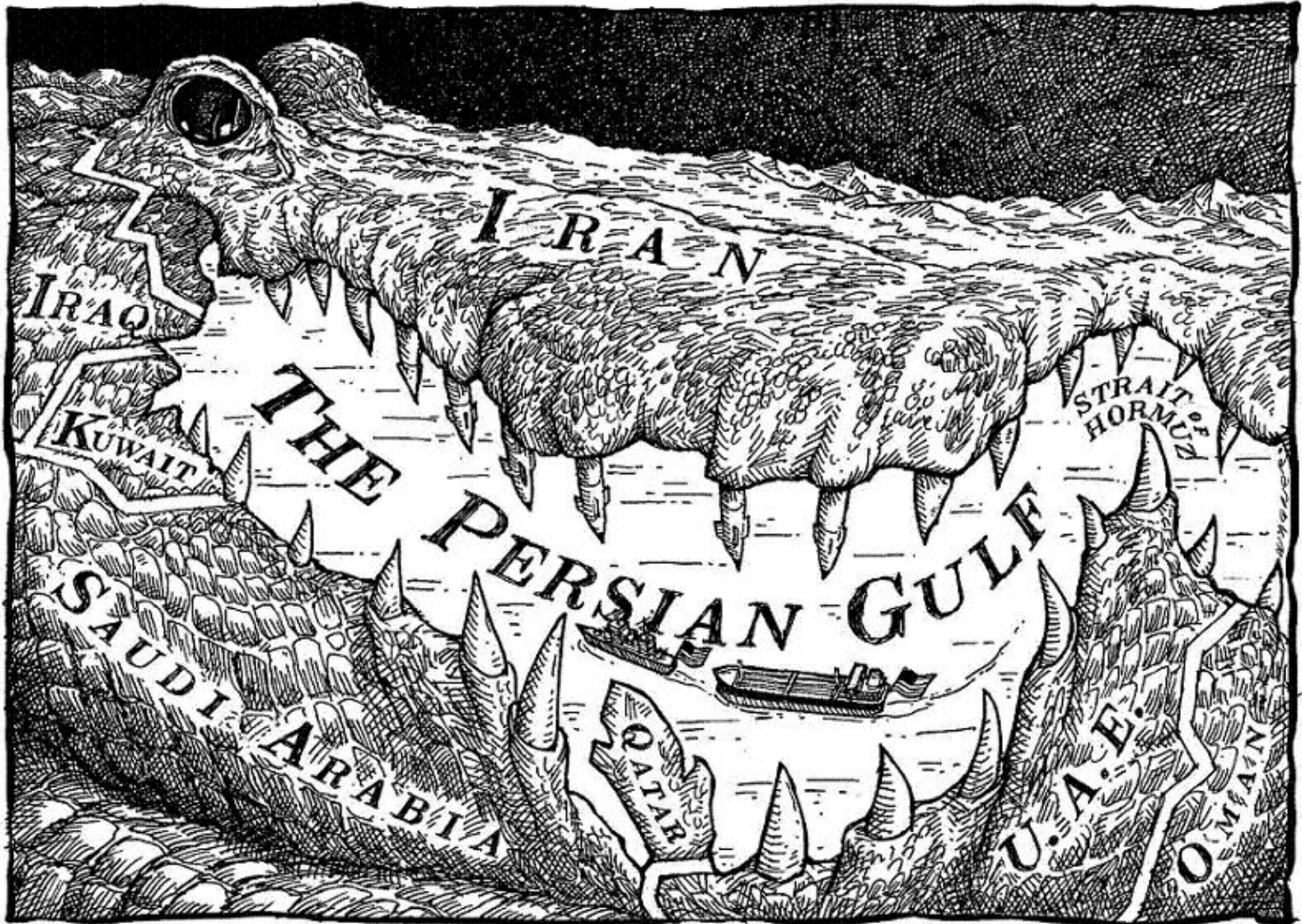
# GULF WAR CONTROVERSIES

- **“HIGHWAY OF DEATH” ATTACKS TOO HARSH?**
- **ERROR TO ALLOW SADDAM TO REMAIN IN POWER?**
  - BEYOND SCOPE OF U.N. MANDATE
  - COALITION WOULD HAVE LOST MEMBERS
  - WOULD HAVE REQUIRED LONG-TERM OCCUPATION OF IRAQ
- **FAILURE OF COALITION TO PROTECT IRAQ’ S KURDISH POPULATION FROM SADDAM’ S REVENGE AFTER THE WAR**
- **RETURNING COALITION SOLDIERS REPORTED ILLNESSES AFTER THE WAR:**
  - CALLED **GULF WAR SYNDROME**

# RESULTS

- **KUWAIT LIBERATED**
- **RETURNING SOLDIERS GREETED POSITIVELY (UNLIKE VIETNAM)**
- **“FEEL GOOD” WAR FOR AMERICANS:**
  - TO SOME EXTENT ERASED THE GHOSTS OF VIETNAM
  - AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY WORKED (MOSTLY)
  - WAS QUICK AND COST FEW U.S. LIVES
- **CONSEQUENCES FOR IRAQ:**
  - **IRAQI NO-FLY ZONES ESTABLISHED**
  - **GREAT PHYSICAL DAMAGE**
  - **ECONOMIC SANCTIONS IMPOSED**
  - U.N. SPONSERED **WEAPONS INSPECTIONS**
- **INCREASED ISLAMIC EXTREMISM:**
  - ESPECIALLY AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA (VIEWED AS BEING ON SAME SIDE AS ISRAEL AND TOO CLOSE TO U.S.)

# WHAT IS THE IDEA OF THIS CARTOON?





# GULF WAR CARTOON

WHAT IS THE IDEA OF THIS CARTOON?



# CONNECTION TO THE PRESENT

- HOW DOES THIS CARTOON CONNECT THE FIRST GULF WAR WITH THE CURRENT CONFLICT IN IRAQ?

