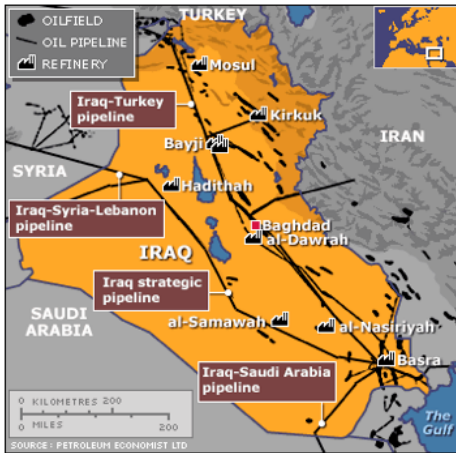


**DBQ: Was the first Persian Gulf War a defense of freedom or an extension of Western imperialism?**

**Document 1.** Examine the map and answer the questions. Source: [http://www.japanfocus.org/data/iraq\\_oil\\_map355.gif](http://www.japanfocus.org/data/iraq_oil_map355.gif)



**Questions**

1. According to map, what are Iraq's major natural resources?
2. In your opinion, why would Western nations be interested in controlling Iraq?

**Document 2. BBC News Coverage (8/2/90).** Source: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/august/2/newsid\\_2526000/2526937.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/august/2/newsid_2526000/2526937.stm)

"More than 100,000 Iraqi soldiers backed up by 700 tanks invaded the Gulf state of Kuwait in the early hours of this morning. Iraqi forces have established a provisional government and their leader Saddam Hussein has threatened to turn Kuwait city into a "graveyard" if any other country dares to challenge the "take-over by force" . . . Initial reports suggest up to 200 people have been killed in heavy gunfire around the city . . . All communication has been cut with Kuwait and many people, including thousands of foreign nationals, are trapped in the city . . . In recent weeks Iraq had accused Kuwait of flooding the world market with oil and has demanded compensation for oil produced from a disputed oil field on the border of the two countries . . . Kuwait has appealed for international aid but there is no suggestion of any military action from the West at this stage."

**Questions**

1. Why would the government of Kuwait appeal for help from other nations?
2. How did the Iraqi government justify its actions in Kuwait?

...Less than a week ago, in the early morning hours of August 2d [1990], Iraqi Armed Forces, without provocation or warning, invaded a peaceful Kuwait. Facing negligible resistance from its much smaller neighbor, Iraq's tanks stormed in blitzkrieg fashion through Kuwait in a few short hours. With more than 100,000 troops, along with tanks, artillery, and surface-to-surface missiles, Iraq now occupies Kuwait. This aggression came just hours after Saddam Hussein specifically assured numerous countries in the area that there would be no invasion. There is no justification whatsoever for this outrageous and brutal act of aggression.

A puppet regime imposed from the outside is unacceptable. The acquisition of territory by force is unacceptable. No one, friend or foe, should doubt our desire for peace; and no one should underestimate our determination to confront aggression.

Four simple principles guide our policy. First, we seek the immediate, unconditional, and complete withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Second, Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored to replace the puppet regime. And third, my administration, as has been the case with every President from President [Franklin D.] Roosevelt to President [Ronald] Reagan, is committed to the security and stability of the Persian Gulf. And fourth, I am determined to protect the lives of American citizens abroad....

President George H.W. Bush gives a press conference regarding Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, August 8, 1990.  
Source: George Bush Presidential Library and Museum

Source: President George H. W. Bush, Address to the Nation, August 8, 1990

**Document 3.**

**Questions**

1. What happened on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1990?
2. Identify one (1) of President Bush's "simple principles" regarding the Persian Gulf.
3. Why do you think the president is giving this press conference?

**Document 4. George H.W. Bush, "Address to the Nation on Invasion of Iraq," January 16, 1991**

Source: <http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/ghwbushiraqinvasion.htm>

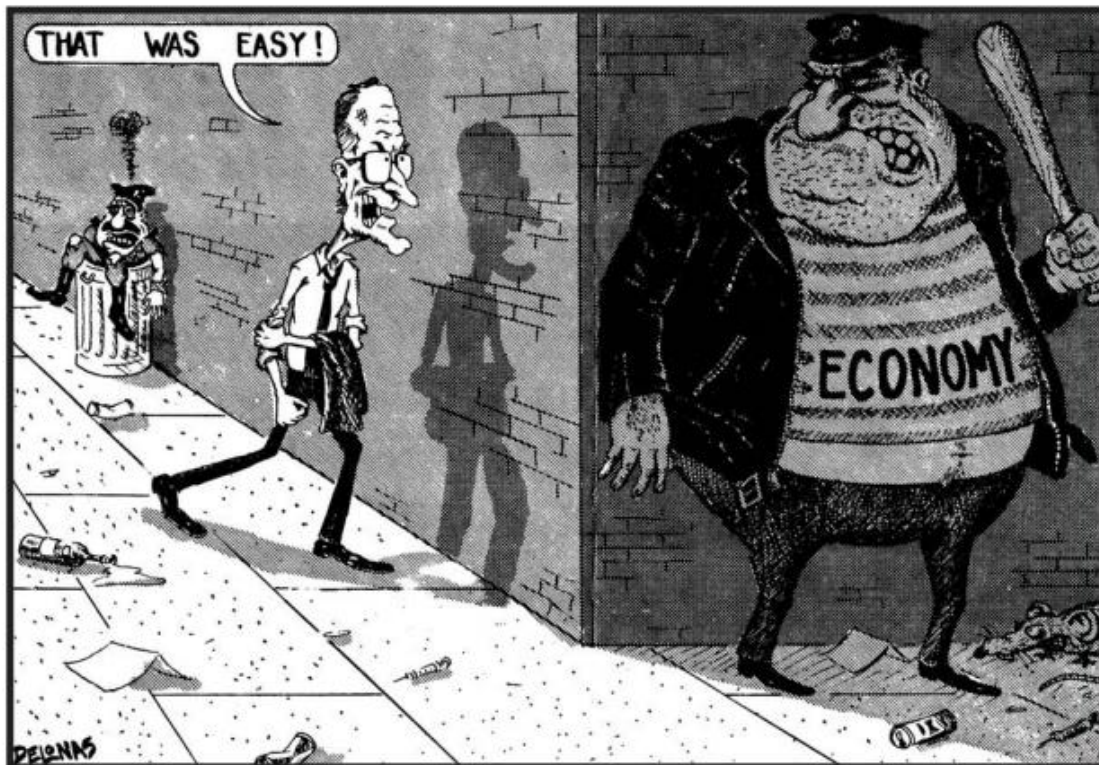
"Just two hours ago, allied air forces began an attack on military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. These attacks continue as I speak. This conflict started August 2nd when the dictator of Iraq invaded a small and helpless neighbor. Kuwait -- a member of the Arab League and a member of the United Nations -- was crushed; its people, brutalized. Five months ago, Saddam Hussein started this cruel war against Kuwait. Tonight, the battle has been joined. This military action . . . follows months of constant and virtually endless diplomatic -- diplomatic activity on the part of the United Nations, the United States, and many, many other countries. Arab leaders sought what became known as an Arab solution, only to conclude that Saddam Hussein was unwilling to leave Kuwait . . . Our objectives are clear: Saddam Hussein's forces will leave Kuwait. The legitimate government of Kuwait will be restored to its rightful place, and Kuwait will once again be free. Iraq will eventually comply with all relevant United Nations resolutions, and then, when peace is restored, it is our hope that Iraq will live as a peaceful and cooperative member of the family of nations, thus enhancing the security and stability of the Gulf. Some may ask: Why act now? Why not wait? The answer is clear: The world could wait no longer. Sanctions, though having some effect, showed no signs of accomplishing their objective. Sanctions were tried for well over five months, and we and our allies concluded that sanctions alone would not force Saddam from Kuwait.

**Questions**

1. What reasons does George H.W. Bush give for the U.S. led invasion of Iraq?
2. According to this speech, what were U.S. objectives in Iraq?

**Document 5.**

Saddam  
Hussein →



Source: Sean Delonas, *New York Post*, 1991

**Question**

1. What "was easy?"
2. What is the message of this cartoon?

**Summary Question**

Why do you think the United States got involved in the Persian Gulf?