



## Gulf War (1980-1991): Causality and Chronological Study Incident

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### **Abstract**

War and armed conflict from time to time are everyday things for human civilization. The primary opponent of Iran's hegemony in the region is Iraq. There are several causes of dispute between the two countries, such as rights to the Shat Al-Arab waterway, Iranian aid to Kurdish rebels and Iraqi assistance to Arab rebels in Kuhzestan, and the offshore demarcation line. The destination writing article analyzes connection causality in incident war bays 1 and 2. The approach to the problem is a historical approach with a relationship orientation causality to events. Source of data used in the form of books, magazines, and other supporting sources viz information. Collecting data by conducting literature studies. The analyst is data wear descriptive analysis, i.e., analyze the problem for obtaining the answer. The background of the 1980 Iran-Iraq War (Gulf War I) was influenced by various things, in this case concerning the bilateral relations between the two countries, one of which was regarding the very strategic territorial boundaries and political interests described above. The solution to the conflict was the 1975 Algerian Agreement. Iraq under Saddam Husein's government immediately reacted when Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates sold oil in one of Iraq's territories. The Second Gulf War also resulted in Saddam Hussein and the State of Iraq being increasingly cornered and isolated from the international world.

**Keywords:** *War Gulf; Iraq; Iran; America*

### **Introduction**

Efforts to realize world peace have often been carried out by various parties. However, of all the efforts made, war or armed conflict is still one of the characteristics of the culture of human civilization. Using weapons is an alternative to resolving disputes or differences of opinion arising from social life between countries. Wars and armed conflicts from time to time have become standard for human civilization because as long as there are differences between humans, these wars and armed confrontations will still exist. We can trace this from the history that has occurred since ancient Greece.

So, war is one event that will always color human life in the history of human life and civilization, and war is complex to avoid and eliminate. Armed conflict or war is an activity that has a vast impact. Because it does not only affect countries that do it and other countries that have exceptional attention to the effects of war. There is nothing favorable or advantageous to be gained from war but only

huge losses and enormous suffering for humankind, such as indiscriminate killings, destruction of public and private facilities and infrastructure, and confiscation of property.

Along with the development of the times and human technology, they are trying to create and develop killer tools, from wood and stone to using firearms. Humans are also trying to develop weapons that can kill en masse, for example, making *trebuchets* or better known as ancient medieval artillery, which was used to hit the cities of warring countries. Even the Turkish state during the crusade was able to make flamethrower weapons. On the other hand, using these weapons also lowers the morale of the enemy soldiers. It continues to grow until now, when arms races are used to lower enemy morale.

We can see this in the Allied invasion of Iraq in 2003 with the code for Operation Iraqi Freedom (*Operation Iraqi Freedom*), an allied strike led by the United States (US) to seek and destroy Iraq, which was accused of possessing weapons of mass destruction. This invasion officially began on March 19, 2003. The official goal set by the United States in this attack was to disarm Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, end Saddam Hussein's support for terrorism, and liberate the Iraqi people from Saddam's authoritarian rule (Cheng, et.al., 2020).

The definition of an invasion itself is a military action in which the armed forces of a country enter an area controlled by another country to control the location or change the ruling government. An invasion can be a cause of war, it can be used as a strategy to end a war, or it can be the essence of the war itself (Zundel, et.al., 2019).

The United States led the invasion of Iraq with the support of various countries, including Britain. The United States provided the majority of troops for the invasion, with the backing of a coalition force of more than 20 nations and Kurds in northern Iraq. The 2003 invasion of Iraq is an alliance of several elements, where each has its interests in cooperation. Such an alliance may be temporary or based on benefits. Combat troops assisted US troops in attacking Iraq from Britain and Australia, involving land, sea, and air units, as well as administrative teams from Spain and Poland, with the central combat units. When Iraq fell into the hands of the Coalition, it continued. The rebels waged war against the United States coalition troops until 2011.

The invasion of Iraq by the United States and its coalition was due to untrue accusations. Because after the war was over, there was no evidence of these accusations, and the United States and its merger wanted oil politics there. By accusing Saddam Husein of possessing weapons of mass destruction which, if not prevented, could threaten the lives of all people on this earth, the United States launched a massive attack on Iraq. In addition to these accusations, the United States also accused Iraq of violating UN resolutions, policies that oppressed people in Iraq, and the attempted assassination of George H. Bush (Michalovicz, et.al., 2020).

Like history, in 2003, the Allies intervened in Iraqi political affairs, namely the dictatorship of Saddam Husein. In these incidents, there were also not a few casualties that fell from civilians. Several international journalists were killed and disappeared. In other words, the invasion of the United States and its coalition aimed to overthrow Saddam Husein's power and drag him to an international court. Finally, through fierce fighting, Saddam's regime was overthrown. Iraqis welcomed the fall of Sadaam's authoritarian rule with joy. However, after the fall of the dictator in Iraq, it turned out that there were still many civil wars between groups fighting for strength and power to hold the government. Everywhere there were terror and suicide bombings. It all happened by whim and the allied scenario to take control of Iraq and turn it into a puppet of the United States (Dickey, Madhu, & Shetty, 2021).

The Allies finally wanted to control the oil and nuclear uranium that belonged to the Iraqi nation. This attack aims to own oil but under the pretext of freeing the Iraqi people from a dictatorial leader. In this case, the opinion of *Karl Van Clausewitz* states "that war is not merely a political act but is a political instrument for achieving certain goals." <sup>7</sup> As with political interests, we can see particular intentions and

agendas in the invasion of the United States on March 20, 2003, where there were hidden agendas in the war. Where without the mandate of the United Nations (UN), America invaded Iraq, which was a violation of the Nuremberg charter under the pretext of developing weapons of mass destruction (*Weapon of Mass destruction (WMD)*) that the US cannot prove. It is ironic what the US has done to its close ally in the Middle East, namely Israel, which has proven to have hundreds or even thousands of weapons that are dangerous to humanity and the environment (Alshelh, et.al., 2020).

As we know, the legacy of the cold war is the emergence of new weapons that are more lethal and very dangerous for the survival of human life where the manufacture of these weapons is made without strict supervision by the United Nations such as gas, bacteriological and nuclear bombs and other conventional weapons which cause prolonged suffering. Even though there are regulations regarding the use of these weapons as stated in existing conventions and treaties (Mawson, & Croft, 2019).

The US aggression against Iraq immediately violated the rules and regulations of international law and tarnished the credibility of the United Nations because the war was not in self-defense; war or aggression that violates international treaties and sparks a transnational crime, and involves individuals who instigated the war as stated in *Briand Kellog Pact* or the Paris Pact in 1928. Moreover, even worse, the US, in its invasion of Iraq, deployed all of its war fleets from land, sea, and air to make Iraq a test site for its sophisticated weapons. Unmitigated, the total cost of billions of dollars was devoted to holding " *Operation Iraqi Freedom*," which is a *memorandum of bane* only to kill the US after Vietnam.

### **Research Methods**

The discussion in this paper is from a historical perspective of events, so the approach to the problem is a historical approach with a relationship orientation causality to events. Approach historical give consequences in discussion with plot chronological. Source of data used in the form; of books, magazines, newspapers, other readings, and other supporting sources viz information from certain institutions that contain information relating to this issue. Data collection was carried out by conducting literature studies and taking inventory of materials from data sources. Then from the results of this collection, data processing was carried out by taking the contents. After that, a historical discussion was carried out chronologically. The selected analysis is descriptive. Existing problems researchers analyze to obtain some conclusions and answers.

### **Result and Discussion**

#### **Gulf War 1: Background to the Iran-Iraq War (Gulf War I) 1980-1988**

Some different and, to some extent, overlapping tensions mark the situation in the Persian Gulf. Initially, Iran sought to gain a position of dominance in the region to secure vital oil transport routes. According to Iran, these routes were threatened by countries and forces hostile to it, most likely under the coordination of the Soviet Union. Iran's suspicions of a Soviet "encirclement" were reinforced by Soviet friendship agreements with Iraq and India, Soviet aid to the rebels in Dhofar, and increased Soviet naval power in the Indian Ocean. The primary opponent of Iran's hegemony in the region is Iraq. There are several causes of dispute between the two countries, such as rights to the Shat Al-Arab waterway, Iranian aid to Kurdish rebels and Iraqi assistance to Arab rebels in Kuhzestan, and the offshore demarcation line. In addition, Iran wanted a more prominent role in regional politics. It tried to balance Iran's military power (Hiro, 1991: 60). The problems faced by Iraq and Iraq led to a war between the two countries, namely:

## 1. Dispute Over Shatt Al-Arab and Khuzestan

Shatt Al-Arab is a 200 km long river formed from the confluence of the Euphrates and the Tigris rivers in the city of Al-Qumhah, southern Iraq, where the final section of the river that leads to the Persian Gulf lies on the border of Iraq and Iran. The river is significant for Iraq because it is the country's main outlet to the sea (Khaduri, 1988: 59). Due to its border location and strategic position overlooking the Persian Gulf, the river is disputed between Iraq and Iran. Before the war between the two countries, since 1975, the river belonged to the two countries where the limit was at the lowest point of the river based on the Algier Agreement (*Algier Accord*) (Khaduri, 1988: 59). Another area in dispute between the two countries is the oil-rich province of Khuzestan. This area has always been a territory of Iran. Still, since 1969 Iraq had claimed that Khuzestan was on Iraqi soil and that the region was handed over to Iraq when Iraq was colonized by the British. Furthermore, Iraqi-owned TV stations even included Khuzestan as Iraqi territory and called on the Arabs to revolt against Iran (Khaduri, 1988: 59).

## 2. The Rise of the Islamic Revolution in Iran

1979 was an important year in the history of Iran modern to become like Iran now. In that year, there was a government revolution in which the Pahlavi royal regime, considered a US puppet regime, collapsed and replaced an Islamic republic system. After the course, there were fears among Arab nationalists and Sunni Muslims that the course would spread to the surrounding Arab countries. The biggest concern especially comes from Iraq, whose territory is adjacent to Iran and has many Shia adherents in its territory. Come on, Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran, did have a dream to spread the influence of his wheel to other Arab countries (AArjomand, 1988: 34).

In the mid-1980s, Khomeini declared that Iraq's secular government was the government of a "Puppet of Satan" and that the Muslim community in Iraq should unite to bring about an Islamic revolution like in Iran. Khomeini's statement was at the same time a response to Saddam's statement after the Iranian Islamic revolution, which stated that the Persians (Iran) would fail in taking revenge on the Arabs since the battle of Al-Qadisiyyah, a struggle in the 7th century which was won by the Arabs as well as overthrowing the Persian Empire ancient.

Iraq, under the control of Saddam Hussein and the Baath Party, has ambitions to become the dominant power in the Arab region under the banner of Pan-Arabism since the death of Egyptian President Gamal A. Nasser. The Islamic revolution in Iran was considered a hindrance because it contradicted the principles of secular Arab nationalism. In addition to preventing the spread of the Islamic revolution, Iraq also tried to take advantage of Iran's unstable internal conditions after the Islamic revolution to seize areas that were subject to dispute with Iraq and increase Iraq's oil resources (Baram, 1991: 78).

## 3. Assassination Attempts Against Iraqi Officials

Mid-1980, there was an assassination attempt on the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz. Iraq then arrested some people suspected of being involved in the assassination attempt. It deported Iranian-blooded Shiite citizens out of Iraq. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein blamed Iran, saying that Iranian agents were involved in the incident. This incident further heated the relations between the two countries until, in September 1980, Iraq launched its attack on Iran.

## Process of the Iraq-Iran War

There are two Iraqi objects in its attack on Iran: control strategic and oil-rich areas in Iran and prevent the spread of the Islamic revolution in the region. In its attack, Iraq wanted a quick victory over Iran by taking advantage of Iran's internal situation, which was still unstable after the Islamic revolution. Iraq also hopes the people in Iran will blame the new Iranian government. Then some of them, especially

Sunni Arabs, will fight against Iraq. On September 22, 1980, Iraqi fighter jets attacked ten air bases in Iran to destroy the warplanes on the ground, a tactic learned from the Israeli victory over the Arabs in the six-day war. The strikes by the Iraqi air force destroyed the ammunition depots and ground transportation routes. Still, most Iranian planes remained intact because they were sheltered in specially protected hangars. Iraq's failure to destroy Iranian warplanes in the surprise attack allowed Iran to launch retaliatory air strikes against Iraq (Khadduri, 1988: 59).

A day later, Iraq launched a ground attack on Iranian territory from three fronts at once. The essence of the offensive was to capture Khuzestan and Shatt Al-Arab, where four of the six divisions of the Iraqi troops in the raid were sent to control the area. The rest was split in two to maintain the northern front (Qasr -e Shirin) and the central front (Mehran) to handle any possible counterattack by Iran. As a result, after the sudden attack, Iraq succeeded in controlling 1,000 square kilometers of Iranian territory (Khadduri, 1988: 59).

In November 1980, Iraqi forces launched attacks on two strategically important cities in southern Iran, Shabadan, and Khorramshahr. In that raid, the Iraqi troops received fierce resistance from the points of Iran's Pasadena (Revolutionary Guards). Iraq finally controlled the two cities on November 10, 1980. It was recorded that tens of thousands of troops from the two strongholds were killed in the fighting in the town. Iran's success in controlling the two cities was, at the same time, Iraq's last success in hitting the Major and Iranian areas (Hiro, 1991: 60).

### **Iraq's Turning Point and Retreat (1982)**

In their lightning attacks, Iraqi troops managed to take advantage of weak momentum due to the coordination of Iranian troops and the problem of Iran's defense equipment. Hence, observers believe the war will end with an Iraqi victory within a few weeks. Iraq succeeded in controlling Iran's strategic area in the attack. However, Iran did not give up so easily in its development that it managed to beat back Iraq. The problem for Iran in the war, in terms of defense equipment or weapons, was that they were inferior to Iraq, which at that time was indeed one of the countries with the best military strength in West Asia besides Israel. To anticipate it since the war broke out, Iran has recruited hundreds of thousands of volunteer militias called the Basij (People's Army). The Basij did not have sufficient military experience and weapons. Still, they had very high faith in their religious ideology. They did not hesitate to do daredevils, such as breaking through minefields or areas under enemy artillery fire when ordered (Bakhash, 1986: 47).

The turning point for Iran occurred in March 1982 in its military operation codenamed "Operation Undeniable Victory" (Operation Undeniable *Victory*). *Undeniable victory*). During this military operation, Iran's Pasadena-Basij joint forces managed to penetrate the Iraqi front lines, which were previously considered impenetrable, and split Iraqi troops in North and South Khuzestan so that Iraqi troops were forced to retreat. In May 1982, Iran managed to recapture the Khorramshahr area. In fighting in the region, Iraq lost 7000 soldiers, while Iran 10,000, making the battle one of the bloodiest battles in Iran's counter-attack initiative. Since that victory, Iran has turned into a party that suppresses Iraq. In June, it regained all of its territory previously controlled by Iraq (AArjomand, 1988: 34).

### **Iran Invasion**

In July 1982, Iran launched its attack on Basra, Iraq, under the code "Operation Ramadan." During the attack, tens of thousands of Basij and Pasadena members sacrificed themselves by running through minefields to make way for the tanks behind them. Besides facing the danger of mines, they were also bombarded by Iraqi artillery fire. Iraq managed to prevent Iran from advancing further thanks to the toughness of its weapons in the defense line. Still, Iraq also lost a small amount of territory because Iran controlled it. Iran's success beat back Iraq and turning it into an invader country was a particular concern for the US, who decided to help Iraq in 1982. US President Ronald Reagan stated that the US would try in

any way possible to prevent Iraq from losing. US assistance and its allied countries to Iraq are known to include technology, defense equipment, and intelligence assistance. Support for Iraq was also from the Soviet Union and the Arab League. On the other hand, during the war, Iran only received open support from Syria and Libya.

Due to the blatant US alignment with Iraq, it was pretty surprising when the US was also known to be helping Iran by selling weapons to Iran secretly (known as the Iran- Contra Scandal). Henry Kissinger, one of the crucial figures in the White House, stated that the US felt that Iraq and Iran could not lose to prevent the domination of the winning side in the region. Israel is also reportedly selling weapons to Iran secretly, even though the two countries no longer have diplomatic relations after the Islamic revolution in Iran. Still, Iran itself has always denied this news.

### **Tanker War (1984-1988)**

In 1984, the new Iraq received the help of fighter planes. Super Entetard conducted military operations at sea from the mouth of the Shatt Al-Arab to the Iranian port of Bushehr. The army operation targets all non-Iraqi-flagged ships in the military operation area, both Iranian-flagged ships and neutral ships going to or from Tehran. The goal is to block Iran's oil exports and influence its economy so that Iran is willing to negotiate with Iraq. The Iraqi military policy started a new chapter known as the "tanker war."

If traced, the tanker war started in 1981. Iraqi naval forces targeted Iran's most important points at sea, such as ports and oil refineries. In its military opposition at sea, Iraq used more of its air force to carry out attacks. "phase tanker war I" lasted for two years after both Iraq and Iran lacked a fleet of ships to continue military operations at sea as well as starting a new round of "phase II tanker war" (Karsh, Rautsi, 1991: 96)

Phase II of the tanker war began when Iraq attacked Greek-flagged ships south of the Khark Islands in March 1984. Iran retaliated by attacking Kuwait-flagged ships near Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in Saudi waters. The attack was also a warning from Iran that it would be taking if Iraq continued the tanker war. Ships belonging to the Gulf countries will survive. A threat whose impact is not light because it has the potential to paralyze crude oil transportation activities in the region.

Iraq's efforts to block Iran's oil transportation routes failed to paralyze Iran's economy because when Iraq blockaded the Gulf region, Iran only moved its port to the Larak Islands near the Strait of Hormuz so that its oil export activities were relatively undisturbed. On the other hand, Iraq, whose economy was threatened after Iran-allied Syria at that time, blockaded Iraqi oil pipelines to the Mediterranean in 1982. As a precaution, Iraq also diverted its oil export activities. New oil pipelines were built through the Red Sea and Turkey.

### **United States Intervention (1987-1988)**

The tanker war situation is getting worse due to participating US. Targeting tankers from neutral countries led Kuwait to seek international assistance in 1986. The Soviet Union was the first country to respond by sending warships to escort Kuwaiti tankers. We followed the Soviet Union's policy in 1987, which had been approached by Kuwait first. The US meddling in the Iraq-Iran war was caused by its warship, the USS Stark, being shot down by an Iraqi warplane, so 13 crew members died. Iraq apologizes to the US, saying it was an accident. However, the US instead blamed Iran because it was Iran that caused the war to flare up, and it was followed by US action to send a fleet to escort Kuwaiti tankers flying the US flag.

The main goal of the US in deploying its fleet around the Gulf is to isolate Iran and keep ships free to sail there. The US recently launched a direct attack on Iran by destroying an Iranian oil refinery at

the Rostam oil field after Iranian troops sank the US-flagged Kuwaiti tanker, Sea Isle City. A year later, in April 1988, to be precise, the US again attacked Iranian oil refineries and warships after the war. USS Samuel B. Roberts sank due to Iranian sea mines.

On July 3, 1988, the USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian civilian airliner, killing all aboard and crew. The US argued that its forces mistook the civilian plane for an Iranian fighter because it did not identify itself to the warship as a civilian plane. However, the US claim was refuted by Iran and other independent sources, such as the Dubai airport, which stated that the helicopter had identified itself to the US ship as a civilian aircraft by radio (AArjomand, 1988: 34).

### **The End of the Iraq-Iran War**

Iraq War ended after the two countries agreed to accept UNSC resolution No. 598, which contained a ceasefire, and officially ended the war that had been going on for eight years on August 20, 1988. Both then realized the truce by exchanging prisoners of war and resuming diplomatic relations. The end of the Iran-Iraq war brought significant losses to both sides regarding material, economic, and political. In terms of materials for each country, it is estimated at US\$ 500 million. As a result, economic development has been hampered, oil production has decreased drastically, and this has impacted the world economy, especially industries in the Western world and Japan. Besides that, since the peace agreement with Israel, Egypt has been ostracized by Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, and they are starting to be approached again. More enormous losses had to be borne by Iraq because, during the war, Iraq was actively looking for loans to add to its defense equipment.

In addition, Iraq's conditions and capabilities after the Gulf War were far below the state before the Gulf War. The oil fields of the two countries were damaged, for Iraq in the Kirkuk, Basra, and Fao areas, while for Iran, it was destroyed in the Kharg and Abadan islands. In the Iran-Iraq war, the death toll reached more than 200,000 people, while the Iranian death toll reached more than 1 million. Iran has claimed more lives because the Iranian military has sacrificed many of its soldiers to deal directly with enemy weapons. This number has not been mentioned, including victims of severe injuries and the disease " Gulf War Syndrome. " After the war ended, there were no significant changes to the post-war. The areas that were the subject of the dispute returned to their pre-war status and reduction of the two countries. For example, the territorial waters of Shat Al-Arab were still divided into the property of the two countries. After the war, the two countries improved bilateral relations (AArjomand, 1988: 34).

### **Background to the Second Gulf War**

Under the government of Saddam Husein, Iraq immediately reacted when Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates sold oil in one of Iraq's territories, costing their country 2.4 billion US dollars. Previously Iraq also disappointed its neighboring countries when Arab countries rejected requests for loans to Iraq after the Iraq-Iran war, so Iraq felt that these countries were carrying out an economic war (Mussalam, 1996: 82). A conference was held in Jeddah between Iraq and Kuwait to discuss the oil issue but ended in a stalemate. The failure of the Conference became the starting point for Iraq's decisive action to defend its territorial sovereignty by invading Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Several factors from the Second Gulf War were as follows (Mussalam, 1996: 82).

As a result of the Iran-Iraq war, Baghdad suffered enormous losses of around 450 billion US dollars. It was entangled in foreign debts of about 80 billion US dollars. Even though the highest income obtained by Baghdad is estimated at only 12 billion US dollars per year, that is, to rebuild his country, Saddam needed at least 40 years. For Saddam, the invasion of Kuwait was indeed a shortcut to solving his country's economic problems (Khadduri, 1997: 36).

Saddam Hussein then accused Kuwait of stealing Iraq's oil fields. It is just that the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait is worth 2.4 billion US dollars. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have hit

the flood of world oil, causing losses on the Iraqi side worth 14 billion US dollars. As a result of the violation of the OPEC quota by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, oil prices have fallen to around US\$15 per barrel. Iraq, which relies on oil as its main commodity, was hit hard by the drop in oil prices on the international market. Moreover, Iraq's oil sector's income is needed to reconstruct the damage caused by the war with Iran during the first Gulf War (Albert o, 1998: 27).

Saddam's disappointment with *the GCC state,e* which he had protected from the threat of Iran's Islamic revolution. During the 1st Gulf war, Saddam's position and GCC are like “the bouncers and their bosses.” However, when the 8-year war with Iran battered Iraq, the GCC countries, especially Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, instead tried to “stab in the back” by violating OPEC's production quota, which resulted in a drop in oil prices on the international market, which of course would exacerbate Baghdad's economic conditions. As a result of the violation of the OPEC quota by Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, oil prices have fallen to around US\$15 per barrel. Iraq, which relies on oil as its main commodity, was hit hard by the drop in oil prices on the international market. Moreover, Iraq's oil sector's income is needed to reconstruct the damage caused by the war with Iran during the Gulf War (Mussalam, 1996: 82).

### **Historical-Political Factors**

Historical-Political Factors. Historically, Kuwait has been Iraqi territory (formerly Mesopotamia), so until 1990, Iraq did not constitutionally recognize the State of Kuwait. When Kuwait proclaimed itself in 1961, Iraq did not follow suit. Thus, the position of Kuwait remains Iraqi territory, or there is an unclear border between Kuwait and Iraq, so Iraq often claims that it is its territory (Khadduri, 1997: 36). The outbreak of the Gulf War also indicated how weak the UN's role was in overcoming global problems. It is not only evident from the ineffectiveness of economic sanctions and UN Security Council resolutions. However, it can also be seen from the UN's inability to cope with the pressures of big powers, especially the US. That is, the outbreak of the Second Gulf War once again proves that the United Nations, in essence, does more to serve the interests of the big powers than to show the fate of weak nations. (Mussalam, 1996: 82).

### **Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait and Foreign Interference**

The diplomatic path between Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia failed, so Iraq deployed its troops on the Iraqi-Kuwait Border. On August 2, 1990, at 04.30 local time, about 300,000 Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait with the support of tanks and military equipment. This success was due to the combat experience of the Iraqi forces during the First Gulf War and the striking balance of forces between Iraq and Kuwait (Khadduri, 1997: 36). Saddam Husein emphasized that Kuwait, occupied since August 2, 1990, was the 19th province of the Iraqi state. Any party cannot change this status. Not even Iraq will retreat an inch from its territory. Saddam Husein appointed Ali Hassan Al-Majid as the Governor of Kuwait, who gathered volunteers to fight against Kuwait (Khadduri, 1997: 36).

On January 16, 1991, Baghdad time, the operation to liberate Kuwait named “*Operation Desert Storm*” (Operation Desert Storm) began with air strikes launched by F-15 fighter planes and multinational joint forces aircraft. The attack was also supported by Tomahawk missile fire from Multinational ships in the Gulf. In the first attack, t international force launched its attack on its target,s a factory thought to be producing nerve and mustard gas located about 40 km southwest of Samara City. This factory is the largest chemical factory in Iraq (Khadduri, 1997: 36).

In the first attack, Iraq did not retaliate. Only on January 18, 1991, Iraq released 8 *Scud missiles* to Israel and Saudi Arabia. Iraq's counterattack on Israel was intended to expand the Gulf War 2 by involving Israel. It was hoped that the US-led Multinational Forces coalition would break up and Arab countries would help Iraq. However, because of the US lobbying against Israel, Israel did not respond to the Iraqi attack (Mussalam, 1996: 82).



On January 19, 1991, multinational forces again carried out air strikes against Baghdad City. The attack was intended to destroy *Scud's* missile launch belongings to Iraq. Scud missile attacks on Tel Aviv and Dhran killed four civilians and injured several Israelis. At the same time, the multinational force also carried out 10,000 airstrikes (Alberto, 1998: 27).

During the Second Gulf War, the US-led multinational force relied more on air than ground attacks. It is based on the bitter experience of the US during the Vietnam War. The airstrikes were meant to destroy Iraq's vital industries and the economic military link between Iraq and Kuwait. Thus, it is hoped that the Iraqi troops will come out of the bunkers of protection, and the mentality of the Iraqi forces will decline so that they will surrender and be depressed. The destruction of Iraq's infrastructure is also hoped to lead to an uprising within Iraq (Alberto, 1998: 27).

On January 29, 1991, unexpectedly, Iraqi tanks managed to enter the city of Khafji in Saudi Arabia and occupied it for two days. The attack resulted in the multinational forces being increasingly aggressive in responding to attacks from Iraqi troops. On February 13, 1991, the US-led global force issued an injunction against Iraq, namely that if Iraqi troops were not immediately withdrawn from Kuwait, a ground war would break out. Instead, Iraq responded to the request by declaring its troops ready to battle. On February 24, 1991, the ground war broke out. The following day, the multinational force fought off 20,000 Iraqi troops and destroyed hundreds of tanks. On February 27, the army chief of the global power, General Norman Schwarzkopf, said at least 29 Iraqi revisions and more than 300,000 Iraqi troops had been neutralized. At 0500 GMT on 28 February, George Bush ordered a halt to the offensive marking the end of the Second Gulf War (Khadduri, 1997: 36).

### **War and Its Implications for the West Asian Region**

The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has caused the political temperature in western Asia more increase. The political temperature can be heated by the Israeli massacre of 22 Palestinians in East Jerusalem on October 8, 1990. The Jerusalem tragedy is closely related to the situation in the Persian Gulf region. In the Second Gulf War, Saddam Hussein succeeded in appearing as the motor of the radical camp against the moderate camp, namely the regimes in power in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and other Gulf monarchies. The Palestinian people who have been disappointed with the political behavior of these regimes seem to have found an idol in Saddam Husein. In the subsequent Gulf War II, Palestine saw that Iraq was facing not only Kuwait but the multinational forces led by the United States, which always favored Israel, the enemy of Palestine (Mussalam, 1996: 82).

The support of the Palestinian people for Saddam Hussein is inseparable from some factors, namely: (1) around 170,000 Palestinians living in Iraq, (2) the failure of the peace process through diplomacy, (3) the cruel treatment of the former rulers of Kuwait (4) the pressure of Palestinian public opinion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to support Saddam. During the Second Gulf War, Saddam also used the momentum to demand the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Palestine as a prerequisite for withdrawing the Iraqi military from Kuwait. The spirit of the Palestinian intifada movement in the occupied areas, which before the outbreak of the Second Gulf Crisis appeared to be weakening, is back on fire. The Second Gulf War was the right momentum for the Palestinian people to rise again and fight against Israel (Mussalam, 1996: 82).

On October 12, 1990, there was also the assassination of the leader of the militia, General Michel Aoun, in Lebanon. In Egypt, the Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, Rifa'at Mahghoubdan, and three of his bodyguards were shot dead by unknown persons. The Egyptian government suspects that the mysterious murder was masterminded by elements of Saddam Hussein's supporters, which could consist of Saddam's agents or Palestinian extremists. If the allegations are proven, then the killing of Mahghoub can be considered as one of the "bitter sap" that Egypt must feel as a result of the Second Gulf War. The impact of the Second Gulf War on Egypt was also felt in the economic field. The Second Gulf War increased the number of unemployed due to the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Egyptian workers

from Iraq and Kuwait. The Egyptian government accuses Saddam Hussein's regime of robbing more than US\$12 billion in the property of Egyptian workers from Iraq and Kuwait. The return of more than a million Egyptian workers from Iraq and Kuwait has not only resulted in a lack of revenue for the Egyptian Government. Still, it has also created more severe socio-economic problems, especially those related to the employment, housing, and education sectors. The Second Gulf War also resulted in a decline in Egypt's income from the tourism sector. Before the Gulf War II, the tourism sector had contributed about 10% of total foreign revenue. As a result of the Second Gulf War, revenue from the tourism sector decreased by US\$ 400 million to US\$ 1 billion because many tourists canceled plans to visit Egypt (Alnasrawi, 1994: 47).

### **Iraq Losses Economically**

The Second Gulf War had a tremendous impact on Iraq in the economic field. It can be said that Iraq is the worst country and suffered in the financial sector due to the Second Gulf War. Roughly speaking, Iraq's losses in the economic field due to the Second Gulf War are estimated at around 500 trillion. Besides that, Iraq had to pay 14 billion US dollars in war losses. Nevertheless, Kuwait also had to accept that 300 of its 500 oil wells were destroyed by the Iraqi forces' scorched earth action. (Alnasrawi, 1994: 47).

The Second Gulf War also resulted in Saddam Hussein and the State of Iraq being increasingly cornered and isolated from the international world. In the field of sports, Iraq has no right to participate in it. Iraq was removed from the 1990 Asian Games or the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing and the National Football Federation (FIFA) (Alberto, 1998: 27). On November 30, 1990, the UN Security Council, at the urging of the United States and its allies, passed Resolution No. 678, which provided legitimacy for the unsanitary force to attack Iraqi forces. As a result of the Second Gulf War, Iraq was isolated from almost all sectors of international life, whether political, economic, military, or socio-cultural. Apart from being ostracized in international relations, Iraq's internal conditions are also quite concerning, especially in the political field. As a result of the Second Gulf War, Saddam Hussein had to face various political groups trying to overthrow his rule.

On the other hand, the United States and Western countries are increasingly gripping Iraq by controlling the southern part of Iran under the pretext of maintaining the *balance of power* in the region and protecting the Shiites w. Saddam Husein had oppressed Husein. The ban on Iraq from flying over Southern Iraq, which incidentally is still part of Iraqi territory, is a painful slap to the sovereignty of the Iraqi State. (Cordesman, 1999: 52).

### **Normalization of Relations between Iran and Iraq**

Apart from being a disaster, the Gulf War II also had an optimistic impact government on relations between Iraq and Iran, which were tense for eight years during the First Gulf War. One of the exciting factors driving normalization efforts was Saddam's disappointment with Arab countries who, during the First Gulf War, mostly supported him and then surprisingly attacked him back in the First Gulf War. Bay II. In an increasingly squeezed position, there was no other way for Iraq to approach its former enemy in the First Gulf War. Iraq took this position after seeing that Iran was trying to be neutral in the Second Gulf War. Although Iran denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, on the other hand, Iran also strongly opposed the presence of multinational troops and military power to solve the problems of the Second Gulf War. (Hiro, 1992: 34).

In August 1990, Saddam Hussein was surprised when he decided to accept all the conditions put forward by Iran's peace between Iraq and Iran. Among these conditions is the re-enactment of the 1975 Algiers Agreement, which was canceled unilaterally by Saddam, and the observance of all articles of UN Security Council Resolution No. 598 in 1998. In early September 1990, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Azis visited Iran. In mid-November 1990, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Akbar Velaty, in response to Tariq

Azis' visit to Iraq. It is the first exchange of visits between high-ranking officials of the two countries since Iran's Islamic revolution in 1979. Tariq Azis' visit to Iran and Velayati to Iraq marks a new era in relations between the two countries which have been at war for eight years (Alnasrawi, 1994: 47).

In contrast to efforts to normalize Iran-US relations, which are still being challenged by radical mullahs, the normalization of Iraq-Iran relations has received the full support of almost all of Iran's political elite. "*New Day for Iran-Iraq, Old Threat from the US*" is one of the editorial titles of the daily Kayhan International, which reflects the aspirations of the hardline mullahs. Even on September 10, 1990, Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, a member of the Islamic Shura assembly and hardliners, openly urged the formation of an Iraqi-Iranian military alliance to confront Israel, the United States, and Saudi Arabia (Alberto, 1998: 27).

The implication is that what was thought that, however, the form of resolution of the second Gulf crisis would harm the global interests of the Arab nation's struggle is now starting to be proven. The Second Gulf War will almost certainly end in destruction on the part of Iraq, which appears as a "defender" of the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israel. With the collapse of Iraq's military power, Israel can clap its chest even more. On the contrary, the fate of the Palestinian people's struggle is increasingly complex and uncertain (Alnasrawi, 1994: 47).

Saddam had indeed proven his threat by attacking Israel while obsessing over changing the war map from Iraq, the US, and their Allies to a major war between all Arab countries against Israel and the U if Israel was successfully dragged into being involved in the Second Gulf War. The second Gulf war outbreak will increasingly put most "*moderate*" Arab countries under the US umbrella. From an economic, political, and military perspective, this war made them increasingly dependent on the West, especially the US (Cordesman, 1999: 52).

## **Conclusion**

The background of the 1980 Iran-Iraq War (Gulf War I) was influenced by various things, in this case concerning the bilateral relations between the two countries, one of which was regarding the very strategic territorial boundaries and political interests described above. The solution to the conflict was the 1975 Algeria Agreement. Based on this agreement, Iran would stop supporting the Kurdish uprising, and the I. Their border in Shatt Al-Arab would be shifted from the edge to the middle of the waters. Iraq disagreed with the delineation of the frame but could. Still, it couldn't because, at that time, Iran was the dominant power in the region. Iraq faced Kurdish uprisings supported by Tehran (Khadduri, 1988: 59). Some of the continuous attacks by Iraq against neighboring countries were carried out by extreme resistance. Already twice external conflicts have affected the Arab union states. In the case of oil, the level of conflict intensity is very high compared to others because it does affect not only regional countries but also foreign relations.

The Second Gulf War had a tremendous impact on Iraq in the economic field. It can be said that Iraq is the worst country and suffered in the financial sector due to the Second Gulf War. Roughly speaking, Iraq's losses in the economic field due to the Second Gulf War are estimated at around 500 trillion. The Second Gulf War also resulted in Saddam Hussein and the State of Iraq being increasingly cornered and isolated from the international world.

Iraq has not yet been able to open its mind that there are many positive impacts from owning oil but prefers the ending power beyond regional boundaries without seeing its position as one of the strategic fields for foreign countries, including Iran and Kuwait. It triggers extraordinary conflict for Arab countries as countries that can take advantage of potential and foreign companies, especially the US, which can carry out democratic movements with their multinational troops throughout the conflicting Arab countries. Then it triggers a war on a large scale, namely a fight of interests against a superpower.

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