

## A New World Order

Less than two years after the Berlin Wall fell, the United States found itself involved in another war after Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait. President George H.W. Bush spoke about his vision for this war:

“We stand today at a unique and extraordinary moment. The crisis in the Persian Gulf, as grave as it is, also offers a rare opportunity to move toward a historic period of cooperation. Out of these troubled times . . . a new world order can emerge; a new era—freer from the threat of terror, stronger in the pursuit of justice; and more secure in the quest of peace, an era in which the nations of the world, East and West, North and South, can prosper and live in harmony.”

—George Herbert Walker Bush, Address to Congress, September 11, 1990

▲ President Bush and his wife, Barbara, visiting troops in Saudi Arabia during the Persian Gulf War

# Foreign Policy After the Cold War

## Objectives

- Analyze why George H.W. Bush decided to use force in some foreign disputes and not in others.
- Summarize the Persian Gulf War and its results.

## Terms and People

Manuel Noriega  
Tiananmen Square  
apartheid  
Nelson Mandela

divest  
Saddam Hussein  
Operation Desert Storm

## NoteTaking

**Reading Skill: Summarize** Use a chart like the one below to summarize Bush's major foreign-policy decisions.

Post-Cold War Foreign Policy	
America's new role in the world	Persian Gulf War
•	•
•	•

**Why It Matters** When the Cold War came to an end, many Americans hoped that a new era of peace would dawn. Yet, America's foreign policy during the Bush years demonstrated that the end of the Cold War would not lead to a new era of peace, but instead to a dangerous era of regional conflicts. **Section Focus Question: What actions did the United States take abroad during George H.W. Bush's presidency?**

## A New Role in the World

When the Soviet Union collapsed, the United States became the only unopposed superpower poised to take a leading role in world affairs under the leadership of President George H.W. Bush. Few leaders entered the White House with as much foreign policy experience as Bush. A graduate of Yale and a veteran of World War II, Bush had served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, as director of the CIA, and as Ronald Reagan's Vice President. His experience would be put to the test as America faced a series of difficult international crises during the late 1980s and early 1990s.

**Latin America and the War on Drugs** In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Latin America experienced a wave of democracy. In Central America, a peace plan devised by Costa Rican leader Oscar Arias (ah ree uhs) brought free elections in Nicaragua and the end of a long civil war in El Salvador. In Chile, the notorious military dictator Augusto Pinochet (ah GOO stoh pee noh SHAY) gave up power.

# Foreign Policy Under Bush

President Bush faced several foreign-policy challenges. He adjusted his policy depending on each situation. How did Bush's approach in Somalia differ from his approach in Panama?



## ▲ Promoting Democracy in South Africa

Bush greets South African leader Nelson Mandela soon after Mandela's release from prison in 1990.

Not all developments in Latin America, however, pleased the Bush administration. Since the Nixon administration, the government had been waging a “war on drugs,” or an attempt to stop illegal drug use by going after both sellers and users. Groups of racketeers in Latin America supplied a significant amount of the illegal drugs in the United States. The Bush administration arrested and tried several international drug figures, including Eduardo Martinez Romero, the reputed financier of a Colombian drug cartel. Even more spectacularly, in December 1989, Bush sent more than 12,000 U.S. troops to invade Panama and arrest Panama's dictator **Manuel Noriega**. Brought to the United States for trial, Noriega was convicted of several charges of drug trafficking and sentenced to 40 years in prison.

**China Cracks Down on Critics** Meanwhile, in the spring of 1989, Chinese students captured the world's attention by staging prodemocracy protests in **Tiananmen Square** in the heart of Beijing. Many Americans hoped that these protests might result in the fall of communism in China. Instead, on June 4, Chinese tanks rolled into Beijing, killed hundreds of protesters, crushed the demonstrations, and imprisoned many prodemocracy activists.

The Bush administration condemned this action and suspended arms sales to China. However, Bush did not believe that stiffer penalties would influence Chinese leaders. He made the pragmatic choice to remain engaged with China economically and diplomatically, rather than cut off ties with the country.

**Change Comes to South Africa** While China resisted changes, long overdue ones were taking place in South Africa. For years, the South African government, controlled by whites, had maintained an oppressive system of rigid segregation known as **apartheid**. The leader of the antiapartheid movement, **Nelson Mandela** (man DEHL uh), had been imprisoned since 1962. In the late 1980s, protests against apartheid within South Africa and around the globe grew. In the United States, many private firms **divested**, or withdrew investments, from South Africa. Congress imposed economic sanctions instead of fully divesting, not wanting to destabilize the struggling nation. President Bush met with Mandela after his release from jail in 1990 and endorsed the drive to bring democracy to South Africa. Soon after, apartheid began to be dismantled, and South Africans elected Mandela as their leader in 1994 in their first free elections.



▲ **Fighting Drug Trafficking in Panama** The U.S. Justice Department takes a mug shot of Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega after his removal from Panama.



▲ **Providing Aid in Somalia**  
An American soldier receives a warm welcome from a Somali child.



▲ **Being Careful With China**  
Bush reacted cautiously when the Chinese government suppressed prodemocracy protests in Tiananmen Square.

**Peacekeeping and Police Actions** With the fall of communism in 1991, the nation of Yugoslavia disintegrated into a bloody civil war. Bush chose not to send troops because he feared that the tangled conflict could embroil the United States in another Vietnam. Not until 1992, however, did he back a modest UN plan to restore peace in Bosnia, one of the new republics carved out of Yugoslavia. By then, more than 150,000 civilians had died.

The Bush administration acted more swiftly to protect human rights in Somalia. As part of “Operation Restore Hope,” United States Marines landed in this East African nation in December 1992 to help establish a cease-fire between rival warlords and to deliver food to hundreds of thousands of starving people. The American humanitarian mission reinforced UN efforts at peacekeeping and relief. Even some of Bush’s most persistent critics applauded his decision to intervene in Somalia.

✓ **Checkpoint** What domestic problems caused President Bush to order the invasion of Panama?

## The Persian Gulf War

The most important foreign-policy challenge faced by the Bush administration took place in the Persian Gulf. On August 2, 1990, Iraq invaded its tiny neighbor Kuwait. Nearly 150,000 Iraqi troops quickly overran Kuwaiti forces.

**Causes of the War** **Saddam Hussein**, Iraq’s ruthless dictator, had run the Middle Eastern nation with an iron fist since 1979. By invading Kuwait, Hussein sought to take over Kuwait’s rich oil deposits. With Kuwait in his power, Hussein would control nearly 20 percent of the oil produced around the world. The United States feared how Hussein would use the influence that controlling such a large amount of oil would give him. In addition, nearby Saudi Arabia possessed even more massive oil reserves. The United States did not want Hussein to seek to gain control of those reserves next. President Bush made it clear that he would not tolerate Iraq’s aggression against its neighbor. He worked to build an international coalition and backed a UN resolution demanding that Iraqi troops withdraw.

**Vocabulary Builder**  
tolerate—(TAHL er ayt) *v.* to put up with



# The Persian Gulf War, 1991

Geography Interactive  
For: Interactive map  
Web Code: nep-1906



## Major Gulf War Coalition Members, 1991

Country*	Flag	Country*	Flag
Bahrain		Pakistan	
Canada		Qatar	
Egypt		Saudi Arabia	
France		Syria	
Germany		Turkey	
Japan		United Arab Emirates	
Kuwait		United Kingdom	
Netherlands		United States	
Oman			

### \*Other coalition members who made smaller contributions:

Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Greece, Italy, Morocco, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, South Korea, Spain

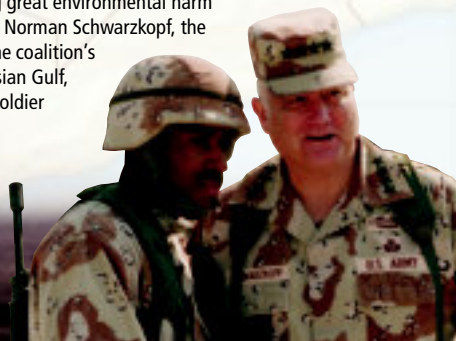
**Map Skills** The Persian Gulf War consisted mainly of aerial bombardment, with only a brief ground war.

**1. Locate:** (a) Kuwait, (b) Saudi Arabia, (c) Baghdad

**2. Location** Why was Saudi Arabia a strategic ally?

**3. Synthesize Information** From what points did the Allied forces launch air attacks?


As they retreated, Iraqi troops set fire to Kuwait's oil wells, causing great environmental harm (below). General Norman Schwarzkopf, the commander of the coalition's forces in the Persian Gulf, consults with a soldier (right).



**Operation Desert Storm** By late fall, about 700,000 troops had assembled in Saudi Arabia, including nearly 500,000 American forces. Britain, France, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia, among others, also sent troops. Other nations, for example Japan, agreed to help pay for the costs of the operation. Initially, Bush hoped that the presence of these troops, along with the economic sanctions against Iraq, would convince Hussein to withdraw his soldiers. At the same time, the President asked for and received from Congress the authority to use force, if necessary, to back up the UN's resolution that Iraq leave Kuwait.

**Operation Desert Storm**, the name given to the American-led attack on Iraqi forces, began on January 16, 1991. General Colin Powell, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and General Norman Schwarzkopf devised and executed a strategy that began with five weeks of devastating aerial bombardment on Iraqi forces. Iraq countered by launching Scud missiles on both coalition forces and Israel. Although, these missiles did little serious damage, they struck terror in the hearts of many who feared they were armed with chemical warheads.

On February 23, coalition troops stormed into Kuwait. Easily overmatched, Iraqi troops surrendered or fled, setting fire to Kuwaiti oil rigs along the way. Less than five days after the ground war began, Iraq agreed to a UN cease-fire. It had lost an estimated 25,000 soldiers. American deaths totaled 148. "We've kicked the Vietnam syndrome once and for all," proclaimed Bush. He then chose to limit American actions to enforcing the UN resolution. The coalition's forces would compel Iraq to leave Kuwait but would not continue on to Baghdad, Iraq's capital, to topple Saddam Hussein. As a result, Hussein and his regime survived the war. Bush's public approval rating skyrocketed.

 **Checkpoint** What strategic political and economic interests caused the United States to become involved in the Persian Gulf War?

## HISTORY MAKERS

### Colin Powell (born 1937)

The son of Jamaican immigrants, Colin Powell joined the army after college and served two tours of duty in Vietnam. He held several jobs in the army and in the government during the 1970s and 1980s. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush named General Powell Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. From that post, he guided the American victories in Panama and the Persian Gulf War. Powell later served as Secretary of State under President George W. Bush.



## SECTION

# 4 Assessment

## Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-test with vocabulary practice

Web Code: nea-1907

### Comprehension

**1. Terms and People** For each item below, write a sentence explaining how the term or person demonstrated the new role of the United States after the end of the Cold War.

- Manuel Noriega
- Tiananmen Square
- apartheid
- Nelson Mandela
- divest
- Saddam Hussein
- Operation Desert Storm

### 2. NoteTaking Reading Skill:

**Summarize** Use your chart to answer the Section Focus Question: What actions did the United States take abroad during George H.W. Bush's presidency?

### Writing About History

#### 3. Quick Write: Create a Timeline

Plan, draft, and create a multimedia timeline featuring American foreign policy after the Cold War. Consider using a slideshow computer application to present your timeline.

### Critical Thinking

**4. Draw Inferences** Why did President Bush respond differently to the crisis in Somalia than he did to the crisis in China?

**5. Compare** How was the Persian Gulf War fought differently from the Vietnam War?

**6. Draw Conclusions** Why did the U.S.-led coalition decide not to invade Baghdad or try to oust Hussein after driving Iraq out of Kuwait?