Your notes

GCSE History: revision notes

Conflict and tension in the Gulf and Afghanistan, 1990–2009

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The Gulf War, 1990–91

- Saddam Hussein's Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, partly over oil and debts. The UN demanded Iraq leave.
- A US-led coalition, including Britain, attacked in **Operation Desert Storm** (January–February 1991) and freed Kuwait. Saddam stayed in power and crushed uprisings; no-fly zones followed.

Afghanistan, the Taliban and 9/11

- The **Taliban** took Kabul in 1996 and gave shelter to **al-Qaeda** and Osama bin Laden. **Al-Qaeda** carried out the 9/11 attacks on the USA (11 September 2001).
- A US-led invasion (October 2001) removed the **Taliban**. NATO's ISAF force tried to rebuild the country under Hamid Karzai. British troops fought in Helmand from 2006.

The Iraq War, 2003–09

- The USA and Britain invaded Iraq in March 2003, claiming Saddam had weapons of mass destruction (none were found). Saddam was captured in December 2003 and executed in 2006.
- An **insurgency** followed, with fighting between groups. British troops based around Basra left Iraq in 2009.

Key terms

Operation Desert Storm	The 1991 US-led attack to free Kuwait.
Taliban	The Islamist group that ruled most of Afghanistan from 1996.
Al-Qaeda	The terrorist group led by Osama bin Laden.

9/11	The attacks on the USA on 11 September 2001.
WMD	Weapons of mass destruction, which Iraq was claimed to have.
Insurgency	Armed rebellion against a government or occupying force.

Quick questions

Cover the answers and test yourself: remembering is what makes it stick.

1. Which country did Iraq invade in August 1990?
2. What was Operation Desert Storm (1991)?
3. Who gave shelter to al-Qaeda in Afghanistan?
4. What led to the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in October 2001?
5. Which Afghan province did British troops fight in from 2006?
6. What reason was given for invading Iraq in 2003?
7. When was Saddam Hussein captured?
8. When did British troops leave Iraq?

Answers

1. Kuwait
2. The US-led attack to free Kuwait
3. The Taliban
4. The 9/11 attacks
5. Helmand
6. Claims that Saddam had weapons of mass destruction
7. December 2003
8. 2009

What to do next

Practise 10 questions on this topic

Try 3 exam questions, with mark schemes

Read the lesson, one step at a time

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