

Aim: How did the desire for oil cause the Gulf War?

### I. OPEC

1. The Middle East controls two-thirds of the world's oil reserves
2. In 1960, the Middle East united with a few other oil-exporting countries, like Venezuela, to form OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries).
3. OPEC members countries have controlled the price of oil since 1960

### II. The Persian Gulf War

1. Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 under Saddam Hussein
2. Iraq wanted to gain control of a greater percentage of the world's oil reserves
3. The UN and U.S sent forces to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait
4. Kuwait was liberated and Iraq was humiliated
5. Iraq was then subjected to UN monitoring, severe limitations on its military activities and economic sanctions.
6. Hussein still remained in power
7. Hussein held on to his brutal dictatorship for another 10 years
8. 2005 Hussein was captured
9. Hussein was executed in December 2006

### III. Taliban and Al Queda

- The Taliban formed in Afghanistan following the fall of the U.S.S.S
- They are a Islamic fundamentalist group
- The gov't imposed strict Islamic law
- It was also a safe haven for Osama Bin Laden and his terrorist group Al Queda
- Al Queda despises the United States, Saudi Arabia and Israel
- Al Queda wants these countries removed to stop infecting Islamic culture
- On Sept. 11 2001, Al Queda operatives attacked the World Trade Center in NYC
- Al Queda also organized other attacks
- The U.S and UN targeted and removed the Taliban from power
- Al Queda in still a major terrorist threat