

Middle East Conflicts



Israel

- Jewish state formed by UN and England in 1948.
- Neighboring Arab countries immediately invaded. Israel won.
- No resolution for stateless Palestinians.
- Numerous wars and conflicts since then.



Iran

- Shah of Iran (a monarch) overthrown in 1979. New Islamic Republic formed.
- Shah fled to the U.S.
- Iran Hostage Crisis: Iranians took the US Embassy by force. Took 52 hostages, and held them for 444 days.
- Poor relations with US since then.



“Desert Storm”

- 1990: Iraq invaded Kuwait. Kuwait is a US ally, as is Saudi Arabia (next door).
- 1991: US-lead coalition retook Kuwait. 42 days of aerial bombardment, 38 day ground invasion. Iraq surrendered.





September 11, 2001

- Terrorists (al-Qaeda) hijacked 4 commercial airliners.
- 2 crashed into the Twin Towers, NYC.
- 1 crashed into the Pentagon.
- 1 crashed in a Pennsylvania field.

“War on Terror” Afghanistan

- al-Qaeda (led by Osama bin Laden) was based in Afghanistan.
- October, 2001: US invaded Afghanistan.
- December, 2001: Taliban govt defeated.
- May, 2011: Osama bin Laden killed.
- December, 2014: war ended.



“War on Terror” Iraq

- March, 2003: US invaded Iraq. (Justification disputed)
- April, 2003: Iraq surrendered.
- Dec., 2003: Saddam Hussein captured.
- 2011: US troops withdrew from Iraq.
- Occasional fighting continues.



“War on Terror” Syria

- 2011: Civil war started.
- Numerous groups involved, with conflicting alliances.
- US seeks to end Assad’s rule. Russia supports Assad.
- New terrorist group: ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria).