Kuwait in Crisis

Trace why the United States acted and what followed.

9-12.US2.40 "Explain the causes and consequences of the American response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons the United States responded, circle two actions it took, and number one immediate result and one continuing consequence. Use your marks to trace causes and effects.

The Response to Iraq's Invasion

1 On August 2, 1990, Iraqi troops crossed into Kuwait and seized the country. Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, had accused Kuwait of producing too much oil, which pushed down oil prices and hurt Iraq's income. Iraq also owed Kuwait money from its long war with Iran. For the United States, the invasion threatened more than one small nation. Iraq now controlled Kuwait's oil reserves and stood near Saudi Arabia, another major oil producer and a U.S. partner. President George H. W. Bush argued that allowing a country to conquer its neighbor would undermine international rules against aggression.

2 Bush first sent American forces to Saudi Arabia to help defend it, an operation called Desert Shield. The United States worked with other countries to demand that Iraq leave Kuwait. The United Nations Security Council imposed economic sanctions and later authorized force if Iraq failed to withdraw by January 15, 1991. Sanctions alone had not secured an Iraqi withdrawal by that deadline. Congress also voted to authorize the use of force. In January, a U.S.-led coalition began air attacks on Iraqi forces and military targets. In February, coalition troops launched a ground offensive that drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in about four days.

3 The coalition achieved its immediate goal: Kuwait regained its independence. The war also showed that the United States could assemble a broad military coalition after the Cold War. Yet the outcome left difficult problems. Coalition leaders did not make removing Saddam Hussein their war goal, and his government remained in power. Iraqi forces set Kuwaiti oil wells on fire while retreating, causing severe pollution and economic damage. After the war, sanctions remained in place to pressure Iraq, while U.S. troops stayed in the region to help protect allies. The continued U.S. presence and disputes with Iraq contributed to years of tension.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Iraq's seizure of Kuwait's oil reserves and its position near Saudi Arabia help cause the American response?

2. Why did Bush oppose allowing Iraq to keep Kuwait, and how did the United States act with other countries on that concern?

3. Why did the response shift from sanctions to military attacks, and what was the immediate result of the ground offensive?

4. Why did Kuwait's liberation not end all the consequences of the American response?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word briefing to a newly elected senator in 1991 assessing whether the American response solved the crisis. Connect two reasons the United States acted to its choices, describe one success and one unresolved consequence, and end with your judgment.

ANSWER KEY

Kuwait in Crisis

HIGH SCHOOL · 9-12.US2.40

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons the United States responded, circle two actions it took, and number one immediate result and one continuing consequence. Use your marks to trace causes and effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Iraq's seizure of Kuwait's oil reserves and its position near Saudi Arabia help cause the American response?	**The invasion gave Iraq control of Kuwait's oil reserves and placed its forces near Saudi Arabia, a major oil producer and U.S. partner. The United States acted in part to protect its interests and Saudi Arabia.**
2	Why did Bush oppose allowing Iraq to keep Kuwait, and how did the United States act with other countries on that concern?	**Bush believed conquest would undermine rules against aggression. The United States worked with other countries to demand Iraq's withdrawal, and the United Nations Security Council imposed sanctions and later authorized force.**
3	Why did the response shift from sanctions to military attacks, and what was the immediate result of the ground offensive?	**Sanctions had not secured Iraq's withdrawal by the deadline. The coalition then attacked, and its ground offensive drove Iraqi forces from Kuwait in about four days.**
4	Why did Kuwait's liberation not end all the consequences of the American response?	**Saddam Hussein remained in power. Sanctions and U.S. troops also remained in the region, and disputes with Iraq contributed to years of tension.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Senator, the United States acted because Iraq's conquest threatened Kuwait's independence and put Saudi Arabia, a U.S. partner, at risk. Sending troops to defend Saudi Arabia addressed one danger, while joining a coalition to force Iraq out addressed the other. The campaign succeeded in restoring Kuwait's independence, but Saddam Hussein remained in power. Sanctions and American troops stayed in the region, contributing to continuing tension. I judge the response a success in its immediate mission, not a complete solution to the region's problems.

Accept other passage-supported reasons and consequences when students explain the connection between them. For Part 3, look for a judgment that distinguishes Kuwait's liberation from unresolved problems.