

## US History

### The Conservative Revolution

#### Learning Target:

*I can analyze the presidency of George H.W. Bush and the reasons for Operation Desert Storm.*

#### 4. The George H.W. Bush Presidency and Life in the 1980s

##### Foreign Policy

###### *The End of the Cold War –*

- Bush benefited from the emergence of Gorbachev in the Soviet Union
- Gorbachev's reforms had led to the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union
- Nov. 9, 1989 the Berlin Wall fell and the Soviet Union fell in Dec. 1989

###### *The Persian Gulf War –*

- August 1990 – Saddam Hussein of Iraq invaded neighboring Kuwait for their oil fields
- Bush viewed the protection of these oil fields as a matter of national security
- He also defended Kuwait's right to be a free and sovereign nation
- UN set a January 15, 1991 deadline for Iraq to leave Kuwait and enacted economic sanctions

###### *The War Starts –*

- Deadline passed and troops from the US, Britain, France, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia went to war
- Operation Desert Storm started with an air assault against Iraq
- Ground troops followed in Kuwait on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Iraq was driven out of Kuwait in days with only 150 American deaths
- Bush assumed opponents of Hussein would drive him out of power, they did not

###### *Technology and the Gulf War –*

- Uniquely Operation Desert Storm was won with high-tech weapons
- New technology: tomahawk cruise missiles and stealth bombers using laser guided bombs
- GPS was used extensively for the first time in the deserts of Kuwait
- Extensive media coverage of the bombing campaign was new also
- Women played a major role for the first time allowing them to eventually fly in combat

##### Life in the 1980s

###### *Television & Technology –*

- Cable became widely adopted in many American households
- MTV changed the recording industry and the image of rock stars
- The popularity of the Apple II led to the PC (personal computer) from IBM
- Silicon Valley in California became the symbol of the technological economy

###### *1980s & Greed –*

- Many middle class Americans looked to invest in the stock market
- Wealth became admired – Yuppies (Young Urban Professionals) replaced the hippies
- Designer labels became important like Polo and Ray Ban sunglasses

###### *Drugs and Sex –*

- Many drugs were being revealed to be addictive and dangerous from the 1970s
- First Lady Nancy Reagan led her campaign to Just Say No to Drugs
- The sexual revolution was changed by the development of AIDS