

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. 23rd
- 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