

Option A: 19th Century topic**WAS THE INDIAN MUTINY REALLY ABOUT GREASED CARTRIDGES?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

On 10 May 1857 some sepoy (Indian soldiers) of the East India Company's army mutinied. The revolt spread and was joined by Indians of all classes – princes, landowners and peasants.

The causes of the Mutiny have been long debated. At the time many British soldiers and officials pointed to the seemingly isolated cause of the grease used on the cartridges for the soldiers' new Enfield rifles. It came from beef and pork, making it offensive to Hindus and Muslims. This explanation had the attraction of diverting attention away from weaknesses in British rule and general resentment amongst Indians towards the British.

Some historians, however, have looked for deeper causes such as the failings of the East India Company which governed India, and have focused on the anti-British aspect of the events, seeing them not as a mutiny but as a war of independence against British rule. Observers in Britain saw a non-Christian, backward-looking and superstitious India desperately defending its religions and traditions.

How far were the greased cartridges the cause of the Indian Mutiny?

SOURCE A

The most important cause of popular discontent was the British policy of economically exploiting India. This hurt all sections of society. The peasants suffered due to high tax demands. Artisans and craftsmen were ruined by the large-scale influx of cheap British manufactured goods into India which, in turn, made their hand-made goods uneconomical to produce. A corrupt and unresponsive administration added to the miseries of the people. The British policy of territorial annexations led to the displacement of a large number of rulers and chiefs. Indian aristocrats became bitter enemies of the British and led the revolt in their respective territories.

The social reforms introduced by the British were regarded with suspicion by the conservative sections of Indian society. Reforms such as the abolition of 'sati', legalisation of widow remarriage and extension of western education to women were seen as examples of interference in the social customs of the country.

A major cause of the outbreak of the revolt was the fear among the people that the British government was determined to destroy their religion and convert Indians to Christianity. The increasing activities of the Christian missionaries were proof of this fear. Discontent and resentment against British rule had been growing among the Indians for a long time. By 1857, the stage was set for a massive revolt. Only a spark was needed to set the country ablaze. That spark was provided by as small a thing as a rifle cartridge.

The Indian sepoy were looked upon as inferior beings and treated with contempt by their British officers. They were paid much less than the British soldiers. All avenues of promotion were closed to them. The first soldier to protest against using the greased cartridges was in Barrackpore. He refused to use the cartridges and was subsequently hanged. On 24 April 1857, some soldiers stationed at Meerut also refused to use the cartridges. On 9 May 1857, they were severely punished for this. This incident sparked off a general mutiny among the sepoy. On 10 May 1857, these rebel soldiers killed their British officers and set off for Delhi which they seized and then declared the Mughal Emperor as the Emperor of India.

From a recent article about events in India in 1857.

SOURCE B

The immediate cause of the Indian Revolt of 1857 was a seemingly minor change in the weapons used by the British East India Company's troops. The East India Company upgraded to the new Pattern 1853 Enfield rifle, which used greased paper cartridges. In order to open the cartridges and load the rifles, sepoy had to bite into the paper and tear it with their teeth. Rumours began in 1856 that the grease on the cartridges was made of a mixture of beef tallow and pork lard. Thus, in this one small change, the British had managed to seriously offend both Hindu and Muslim troops. The trouble started in Meerut, which was the first area to receive the new weapons. The British manufacturers soon changed the cartridges in an attempt to calm the spreading anger among the sepoys, but it was too late.

Of course, as the Indian Revolt spread, it took on additional causes of discontent among both sepoy troops and civilians of all castes. Princely families joined the uprising due to British changes to the inheritance law, making adopted children ineligible for their thrones. Considerable areas, such as the Oudh and the Punjab, had recently been taken over by the British. Large land-holders in northern India also rose up, since the British East India Company had confiscated land and redistributed it to the peasantry. Peasants were none too happy, and they joined the revolt to protest against heavy land taxes imposed by the British.

Religion also prompted some Indians to join the mutiny. The East India Company forbade certain religious practices and traditions, including widow-burning, to the outrage of many Hindus. The Company also tried to undermine the caste system which seemed to the British inherently unfair. In addition, British officers and missionaries began to preach Christianity to the Hindu and Muslim sepoys. The Indians believed, quite reasonably, that their religions were under attack. However, it was the greased cartridges that were crucial. Without them, there would have been no revolt.

From a recent article about events in India in 1857.

SOURCE C

The spark which lit the fuse was undoubtedly the greased cartridges. A change in the shape of a turban had led, in 1806, to the mutiny and massacre of Europeans at Vellore, and there can be no doubt that the danger to their caste, supposed to be hidden in the obnoxious cartridge, was sufficient cause, in the existing mood of the sepoys, to incite a revolt.

Trouble began to blaze in every district and soon the special grievance of the new cartridge was lost in the unmistakable signs of general mutiny. In February, the 19th Regiment refused even the old cartridges which they had used for years.

From a letter by the Commissioner of the Cis-Sutlej states in the Punjab region which had recently been taken over by the British. The letter was sent in February 1858 and describes recent events in Berhampore, West Bengal.

SOURCE D

I will fire when I am told and I know many others will do the same. I have sufficient confidence in government and my officers to know that no improper order will be given to us. To refuse using the cartridges merely because they are of a different form, or made of a different paper, is absurd. There is no question of caste in the matter and he who refuses to obey proper orders on the pretext of religion is guilty of mutinous behaviour.

An account of events in Ambala, March 1857, in the Punjab region. This account was written in 1864, by a British officer of the 34th Regiment to an official in the British government. It describes what was said by an Indian officer when a British officer expressed surprise that the soldiers were still discussing whether to use the Enfield cartridges despite his assurance that they could apply their own grease. One of the earliest signs of rebellion was in the 34th Regiment.

SOURCE E

No regiment in the service of the Government of India nor any Sepoy, Hindu or Muslim, has reason to pretend that the Government has shown a desire to interfere with the religion of its troops. It has been the unvarying rule of the Government of India to treat the religious feelings of all its servants of every creed with careful respect. It has never turned a deaf ear to complaints put forward upon this or any other subject. But the Government of India expects to receive in return for this treatment the loyalty of those who serve it. From its soldiers, of every rank and race, it will at all times enforce obedience. It will never listen to men who prefer complaints with weapons in their hands.

Lord Canning's message to the 19th Regiment of Bengal, March 1857. This regiment rebelled in February 1857. Canning was the Governor-General of India.

SOURCE F

During the extraordinary troubles from which we are now emerging, nothing has so much cheered our own minds as the fact that the disaffection of the native troops has originated in their dread of the growing power of Christianity. They are right in thinking that their religious idols and superstitions are decaying and will be speedily overthrown.

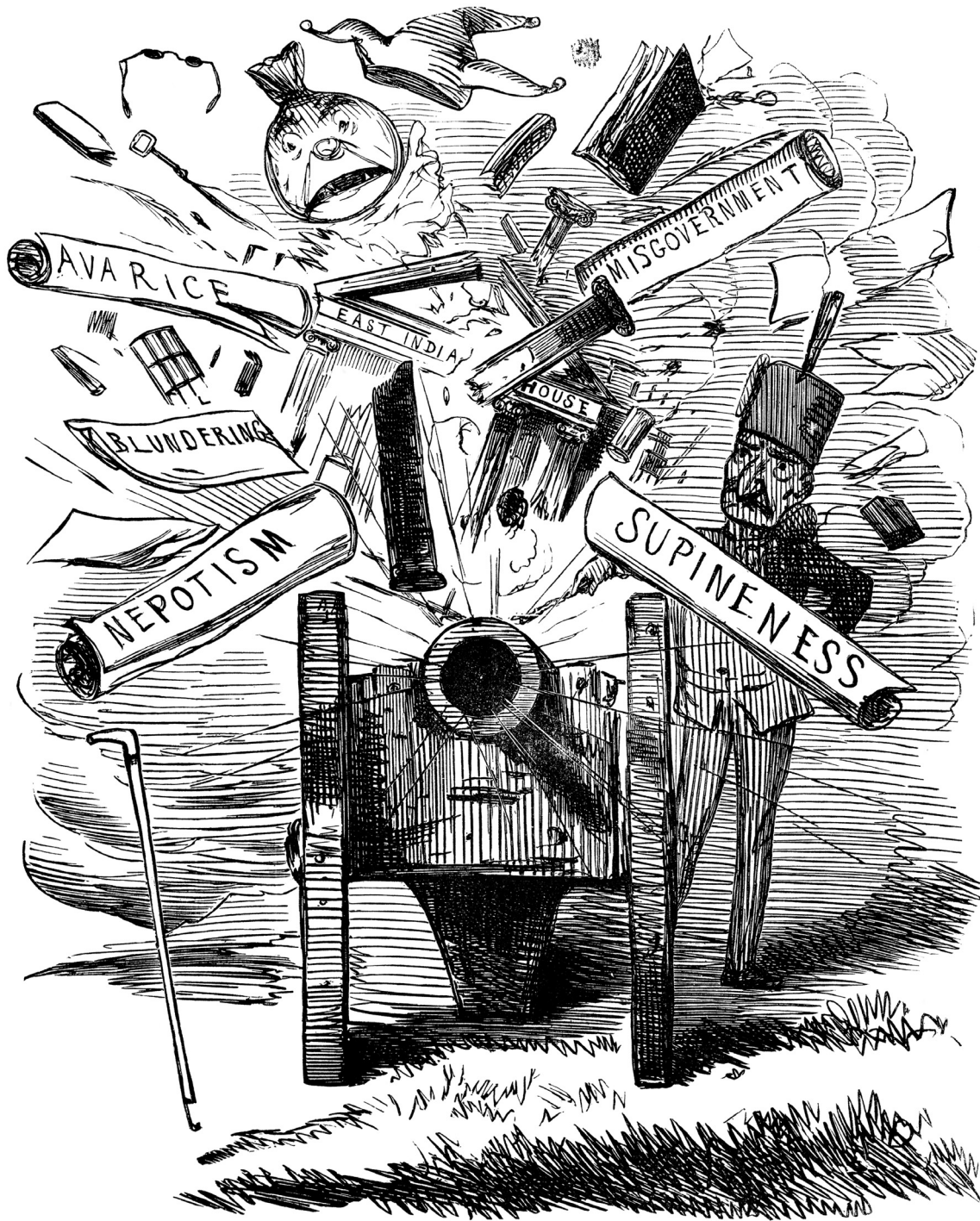
'The Missionary Herald', August 1857. 'The Missionary Herald' was published by an organisation supporting Christian missionaries.

SOURCE G



An illustration about the massacre of British women and children by rebels at Cawnpore in June 1857. It was published in Britain at the time. The book on the floor is a bible.

SOURCE H



EXECUTION OF "JOHN COMPANY ;"

The Blowing up (there ought to be) in Leadenhall Street.

A cartoon published in Britain, August 1857. 'John Company' is the East India Company. Its headquarters were in Leadenhall Street in London. Avarice means greed. Nepotism means giving jobs to relatives. Supineness means idleness.

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Sources A and B.

How different are these two sources? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

2 Study Sources C and D.

Does Source D make Source C surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Sources E and F.

Does Source F prove that Lord Canning was lying in Source E? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Source G.

Why was this source published in Britain in June 1857? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

5 Study Source H.

What is the message of the cartoonist? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that the Indian Mutiny was caused by the greased cartridges? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

Option B: 20th Century topic**HOW FAR WAS SADDAM HUSSEIN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OUTBREAK OF MILITARY HOSTILITIES IN JANUARY 1991?**

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

On 2 August 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. Although Saddam Hussein felt he had good reasons for this invasion it was met with international condemnation. Within days President Bush had announced Operation Desert Shield. This involved sending troops to Saudi Arabia to protect it from an Iraqi attack. Later in the month the UN Security Council announced economic sanctions against Iraq. For the rest of 1990 the USA worked hard to create an international coalition. In November 1990 the UN Security Council issued Resolution 678, which gave Iraq until 15 January 1991 to withdraw from Kuwait and authorised the use of force to make Iraq comply. On 17 January 1991 Operation Desert Storm was launched against Iraq.

Some historians have claimed that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was unjustified and was bound to cause an international military response. Others argue that the USA was keen to destroy Saddam Hussein's power and was wrong not to let sanctions work or try for a diplomatic solution.

Who was responsible for military hostilities breaking out in January 1991?

SOURCE A

The causes of the Gulf War actually started when Iraq was at war with Iran. During this war Iran was not only attacking Iraq but also attacking oil tankers from Kuwait at sea. To support the ending of the war, Kuwait financially aided Iraq by lending it 14 billion US Dollars.

Iraq ended the war with enormous economic problems. It tried to convince Kuwait to cancel the debt but Kuwait refused and this caused a rift between the two countries. The next step was for Iraq to ask OPEC members to reduce oil production so the price of oil would increase. This would increase Iraq's oil revenues, allowing it to pay back its debts. While other countries agreed, Kuwait did the opposite and asked OPEC to increase its production. Next, Iraq alleged that Kuwait was drilling for oil into Iraq's Rumaila oilfield. Saddam Hussein decided that he had no other option but military might and in August 1990 he invaded Kuwait.

It must be said that while Iraq caused military action to be brought against it, there is another cause which can help explain the speed at which the Americans were happy to start military action. Iraq had been an ally with the Soviet Union throughout the Cold War. This had angered the Americans and had an impact on them wishing to speed up the start of the Gulf War.

From a recent article about the causes of the Gulf War.

SOURCE B

Although it is rather obvious that what is at stake is oil, both sides tried to play this down. George Bush says that Saddam Hussein is a dictator whose expansionist ambitions must be stopped in the interests of world peace. Saddam Hussein says that he has struck a blow for Arab Nationalism. Saddam Hussein is a dictator and he has taken over another state, but it is not for these reasons that the West is preparing to go to war. The Western powers tolerate dictators when it suits their interests and even armed Saddam Hussein himself when they needed someone to prevent Iran from dominating the Gulf area and from threatening their oil supplies. What matters to them is that Kuwait is situated right in the middle of the world's largest and lowest-cost oilfield.

Iraq emerged from its war with Iran with a huge financial debt. With oil revenues as its only source of income, Iraq favoured pushing up the price of oil by restricting its supply. Some move in this direction was agreed by OPEC members but Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates exceeded their quotas, so preventing the price of oil from rising.

Iraq regarded this refusal to raise the price of oil as a plot to prevent it from recovering. Combined with their long-standing claim to Kuwait as a means of obtaining a vitally-needed trade route to the sea, this persuaded the Iraqi ruling class to take military action.

The USA and Britain reacted quickly, issuing an ultimatum to Iraq not to move further down the coast and take over the Saudi oilfields, and sending a battle fleet to the Gulf. Iraq had no intention of invading Saudi Arabia, but the USA had every interest in finding an excuse to send troops to protect the Saudi oilfields. As early as 1980, President Carter had announced that the Gulf was 'of great strategic importance because it contains more than two-thirds of the world's exportable oil'. If war breaks out in the Middle East, the issues at stake will be access to the sea and a high price for oil, on the one side, and control of oilfields and a low price of oil, on the other.

From an article on a socialist website, 1990.

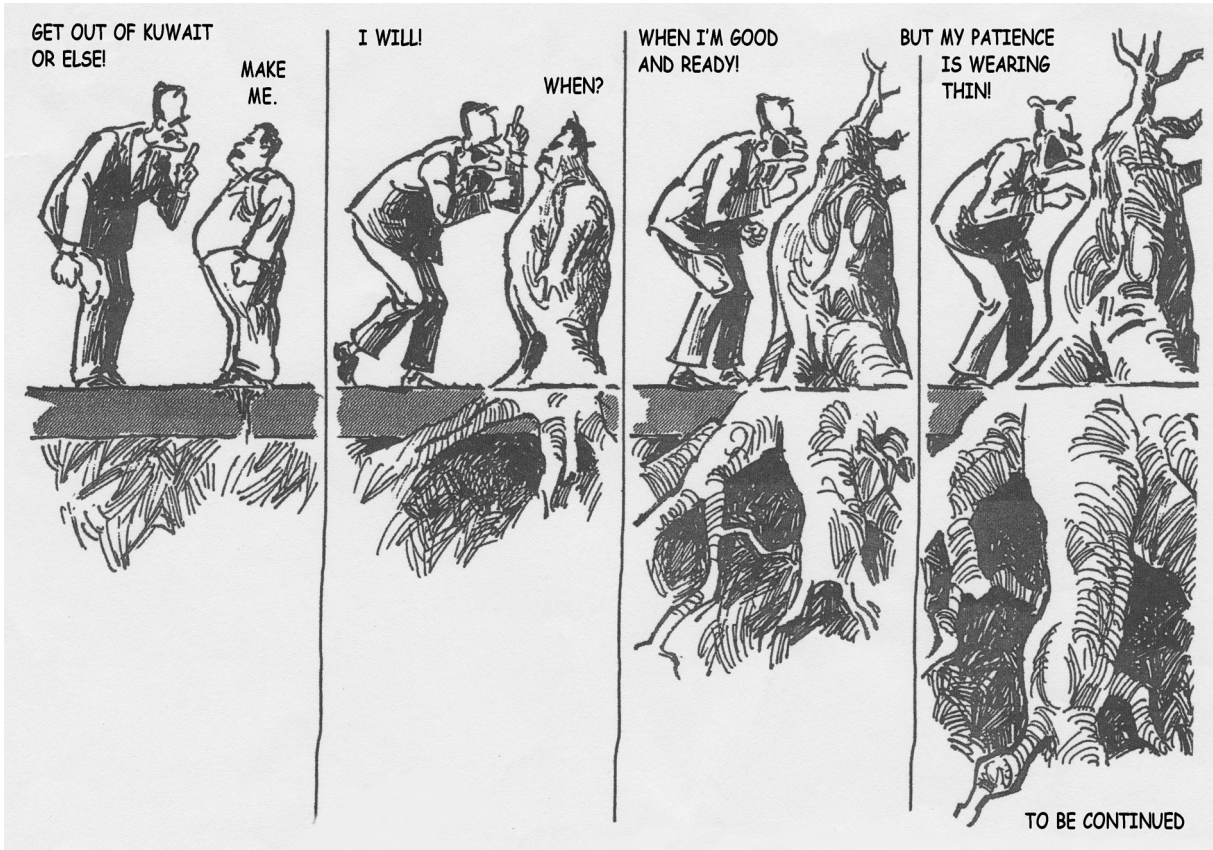
SOURCE C

On 2 August, following promises by Iraq's dictator not to use force, a powerful Iraqi army invaded its much weaker neighbour, Kuwait. Our objectives in the Gulf are clear: Iraq must withdraw from Kuwait completely. Kuwait's legitimate government must be restored. The stability of the Gulf must be assured. And American citizens abroad must be protected. These goals are not ours alone. They have been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council five times. This is not, as Saddam Hussein would have it, the United States against Iraq. It is Iraq against the world.

America and the world must stand up to aggression – and we will. Saddam Hussein is trying to wipe a country off the face of the Earth. Vital economic interests are at risk. Iraq plus Kuwait possesses over 20% of the world's oil reserves. An Iraq permitted to swallow Kuwait would dominate its neighbours. We cannot permit a resource so vital to be controlled by one so ruthless.

President Bush speaking to the American Congress, September 1990.

SOURCE D

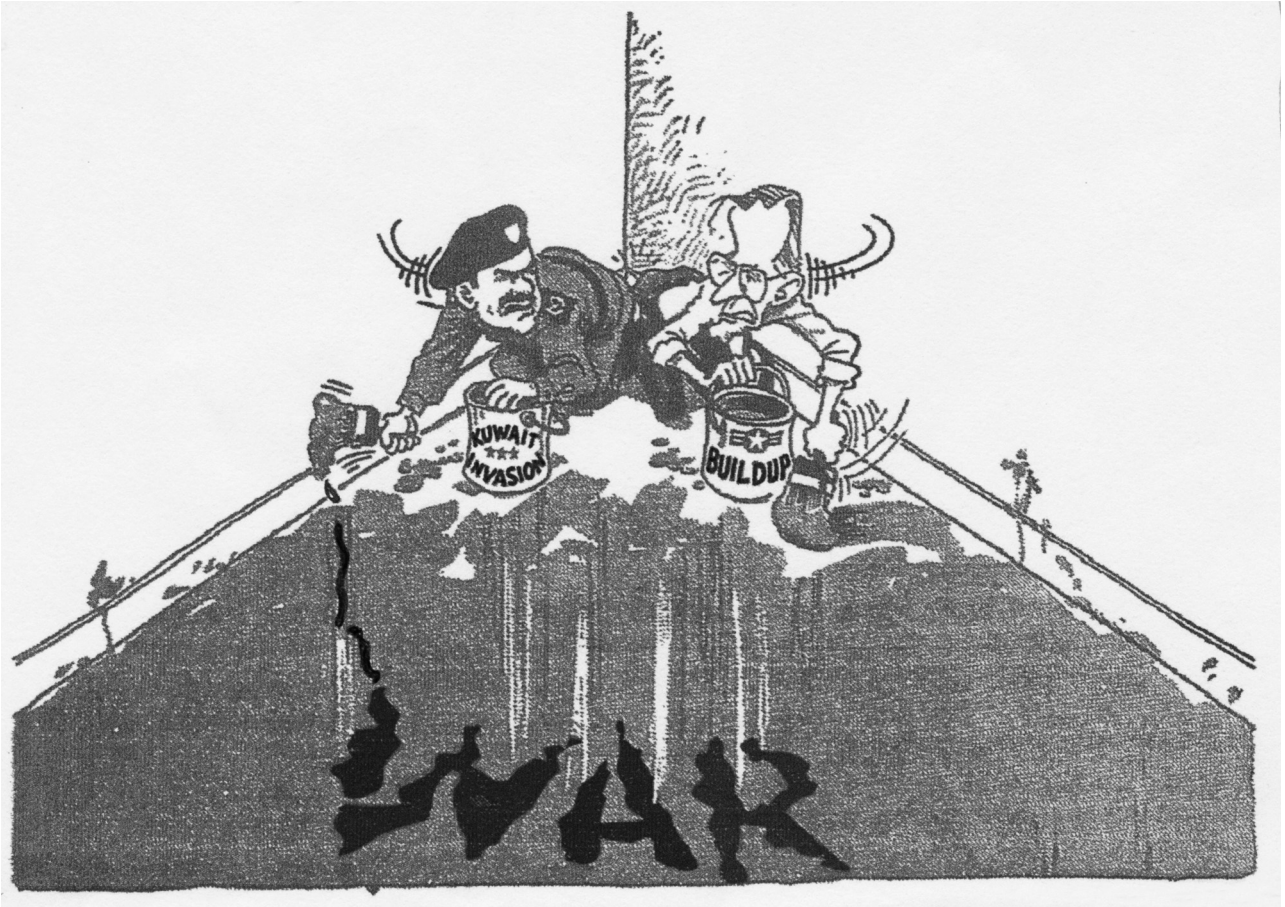


A cartoon published in the USA in late 1990. It shows President Bush talking to Saddam Hussein.

SOURCE E



A cartoon published in the USA in late 1990. The figure on the right is President Bush.

SOURCE F

A cartoon published in the USA at the end of 1990. It shows Saddam Hussein and President Bush.

SOURCE G

Iraq called today for negotiations on ending the Gulf Crisis but did not offer to pull its troops out of Kuwait. The US responded that no talks were possible until Iraq withdrew its forces from Kuwait. Underlying its tough stance is a growing feeling in the American government that the sanctions and the military build-up are beginning to pinch Baghdad and that there is no reason to settle for anything less than an unconditional Iraqi pull-out. President Bush insists that Iraq must not only retreat from Kuwait but it must do so in a manner by which it is not only defeated, but also seen to be defeated by everyone in the Arab world and beyond.

From a US newspaper, 22 August 1990.

SOURCE H

Iraq has offered to withdraw from Kuwait if the US promises not to attack as soldiers are pulled out; if foreign troops leave the region; if there is agreement on the Palestinian problem. Although the President immediately dismissed the proposal as inadequate, other government officials described it as 'interesting' because it drops claims to two Kuwaiti islands and a portion of an oilfield.

From a US newspaper, 3 January 1991.

Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Sources A and B.

How different are these two sources? Explain your answer using details of the sources. [7]

2 Study Source C.

Why did President Bush make this speech in September 1990? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Sources D and E.

How far do these two cartoons agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Source F.

What is the cartoonist's message? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

5 Study Sources G and H.

How far does Source G make Source H surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [7]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that Saddam Hussein was responsible for the outbreak of military hostilities in January 1991? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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