



THE PERSIAN GULF WAR

The [Persian Gulf War](#) (2 August 1990 – 28 February 1991), codenamed Operation Desert Shield (2 August 1990 – 17 January 1991) for operations leading to the buildup of troops and defense of Saudi Arabia and Operation Desert Storm (17 January 1991 – 28 February 1991) in its offensive combat phase, was waged by coalition forces from 35 nations led by the United States against Iraq in response to Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait arising from oil pricing and production disputes. Operation Desert Storm, the offensive to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait, began with a five-week aerial and naval bombardment on 17 January 1991. This was followed by a ground assault on 24 February which lasted just 100 hours. Desert Storm was a decisive victory for the coalition forces, who liberated Kuwait and advanced into Iraqi territory. Aerial and ground combat was confined to Iraq, Kuwait, and areas on Saudi Arabia's border. Iraq launched [Scud missiles](#) against coalition military targets in Saudi Arabia and against Israel.