

Add a title for each paragraph



Highlight the key info in the text below... keep it brief!

Add 2 – 3 bullet points to show the key info from each paragraph



### US Involvement in Iran, Iraq and the Gulf War

The USA's relationship with Iran had been relative stable / positive in the 1960s and 70s. This was to change from 1979. There was a revolution in Iran as many conservatives disagreed with how the Shah of Iran (Mohammed Reza Pahlavi) was modernising the country and allowing the emancipation of women. The Shah was forced to resign in Jan 1979 and went to the US for medical treatment. Iran was now controlled by a fundamentalist religious leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini – he denounced the USA as 'Great Satan' and announced that Iran would be an Islamic republic with the intention of destroying all western influences.

In November 1979, the US Embassy in Tehran (capital of Iran) was taken over by militant Iranian students. Sixty-six Americans were taken hostage. In return for their release, Ayatollah Khomeini demanded that the former Shah of Iran be extradited (forced to return) to Iran. President Carter refused to hand over the Shah and suspended Iranian oil imports. He threatened Iran with military action. The Ayotallah refused to budge and threatened to put some hostages on trial on a charge of spying on Iran for the USA.

The crisis continued across 1980. In April, a rescue mission by US forces went horribly wrong – a helicopter and a refuelling aircraft collided and 8 servicemen were killed. The rescue attempt was called off. President Carter became even more unpopular due to his failure to secure the release of the hostages. In July 1980, the former Shah of Iran died – this allowed negotiations to resume. In January 1981, Reagan was sworn in a President – just 20 minutes after this, 52 hostages were released having spent 444 days in custody.

US relations with Iraq were significantly worsened during the Gulf War, 1990/91. In August 1990, Saddam Hussein (leader of Iraq) invaded Kuwait – within 1 day the whole country was under Iraqi control. Saddam did not expect the US to react against this, as the US had previously supported Iraq in their war against Iran. However, President Bush Snr took the lead in pressing for action to remove Iraq from Kuwait – he wanted to protect a smaller country from the aggression of a larger one, but also wanted to protect US oil interests in the area.

The response to Iraq included the UN imposing tough sanctions on Iraq, while the USA, Britain and other nations sent troops to the areas. Operation Desert Shield (1990) involved sending troops to Saudi Arabia to protect it from potential Iraqi attack, as well as push Iraq out of Kuwait. Operation Desert Storm was an air offensive against Iraq, launched in January 1991. Across a month of attacks, Iraq's military infrastructure was destroyed. Operation Desert Saber was a ground offensive to liberate Kuwait. This started on 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb 1991 and by 27<sup>th</sup> Feb Kuwait City had been taken by coalition forces and the UN ordered a ceasefire on the next day.

Saddam was allowed to retreat from Kuwait with much of his army intact. Bush did not attack the Iraqis further as he worried that further slaughter would mean the US lost support in the region, and many assumed that Saddam would lose power in Iraq due to his defeat. President Bush Snr was popular in the US for a time, but was later criticised for allowing Saddam Hussein to remain in power. Saddam had survived with enough troops, tanks and aircraft to brutally suppress rebellions within Iraq.

US foreign policy had changed significantly since 1979. Détente had given way to the Second Cold War, but then Gorbachev's reforms and the collapse of the USSR led to the end of the Cold War by 1991. The US became more involved in the Middle East from the 1980s, as Islamic Fundamentalism grew which increased anti-US feelings in the area.