

History €

TWENTIETH CENTURY CONFLICT: THE COLD WAR AND CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS

Analyze connections between World War II, the Cold War, and contemporary conflicts.

World War II: Consequences

World War II had a dramatic impact on the postwar world. As the most destructive war in the history of the world, it has affected people and political policies from 1945 to the present day. The war cost the world one trillion dollars. At least 50 million people died due to the war, and over half of the dead were civilians. Russia lost approximately 20 million people. China lost about 10 million people. Approximately 11 million people were killed in concentration and work camps. About 418,000 Americans died due to the war.

Like World War I, World War II was a total war. Cities were bombed. Many lay in ruins. Factories, farms, and transportation systems were destroyed. Poverty was widespread. Approximately 50 million people in Asia and Europe had to leave their homes and become refugees. These refugees were orphans, prisoners of war, survivors of concentration and work camps, civilians running from invading armies, and homeless people whose neighborhoods had been destroyed. To provide food, shelter, and medicine for those in need, the International Red Cross and other organizations set up refugee camps. Some refugees eventually returned to their communities and others emigrated to other countries, such as the United States and Canada.

As the Allied forces freed Europe from Nazi control, they liberated concentration camps. Soldiers were stunned by horrible sights, such as piles of dead bodies and survivors that looked like living skeletons. The Nazis used these camps for

slave labor and for extermination of those groups the Nazis considered “inferior.” They murdered approximately six million Jews, two-thirds of the Jews living in Europe at that time. Many men, women, and children died in gas chambers. Then their bodies were burned or buried in mass graves. The Nazis called their plan for the total destruction of the Jewish people the “Final Solution to the Jewish Question.” Today that state-sponsored genocide is called The Holocaust.



Soldiers found bodies piled against a building, waiting burial, at the concentration camp at Buchenwald, Germany.

Although the Jewish people were the Nazis’ main target, they also systematically murdered Gypsies, Slavs, Jehovah’s Witnesses, homosexuals, the mentally and physically handicapped, political opponents, and others. Historians estimate that 11 million people were murdered by the Nazis. After the war the Allies brought some Nazi leaders to trial for those deaths and for other war crimes. There were 13 trials held in Nuremberg (Nürnberg), Germany between 1945 and 1949 known as the Nuremberg Trials. Between 1946 and 1948, Japanese war crimes trials were held in Tokyo, Japan.

Even during World War II, the Allies were thinking about peace. Allied leaders discussed their vision of a postwar world at several conferences. In April 1945, representatives of the Allied nations met in San Francisco to draft a plan for the United Nations, an organization to promote peace and help prevent future wars. Fifty nations signed the Charter of the United Nations in June 1945. UN headquarters were located in New York City. Today, there are over 190 member nations.

One of the earliest threats to peace after World War II was the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. The horror of the Holocaust led to strong demands for the creation of a Jewish state, a safe place in the world for Jewish people to call home. In 1947 the United

Nations approved the creation of an Arab state and a Jewish state in Palestine, located in the Middle East. Arabs rejected the plan, but the Jews accepted it. Fighting between Jews and Palestinians began immediately.

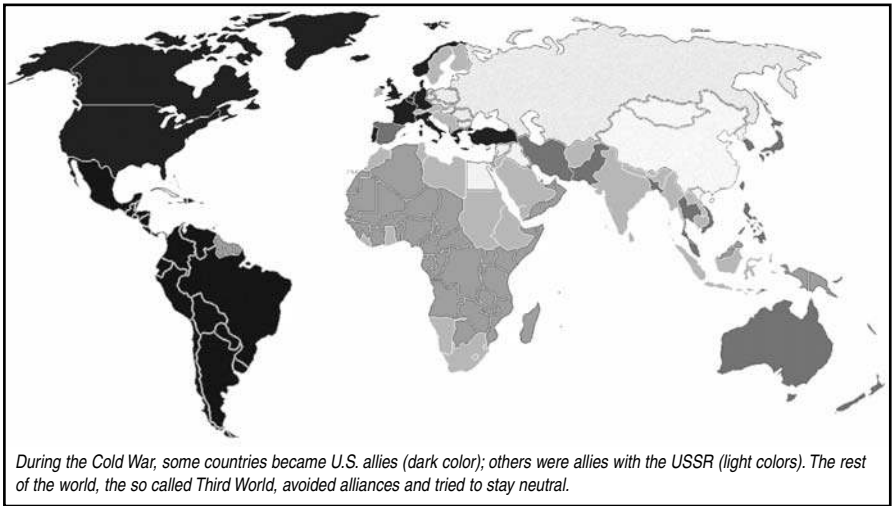
Israel declared itself a state in May 1948. Arab states refused to recognize the right of Israel to exist. The armies of five Arab states invaded Israel. By 1949 Israel had defeated those Arab states and increased the amount of land under their control. Palestinian Arabs were forced to live under Israeli control or become refugees in Arab states. The Arab-Israeli conflict continues today.

The world entered the Atomic Age in 1945 when the United States dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. That one bomb killed or severely wounded 160,000 civilians and completely destroyed an area of 4.7 square miles. Dropping of the atomic bomb led to the ending of World War II. Only the United States had the technology to build and use this terrible and powerful weapon. This made the United States the most powerful military nation in the world. The United States was a superpower. Then, in 1949, the Soviet Union exploded an atomic bomb. Suddenly there were two superpowers. In 1952 the U.S. exploded the first hydrogen bomb, which was many times more powerful than the atomic bomb. In 1955 the Soviet Union exploded a hydrogen bomb. The United States and the Soviet Union were locked in an arms race, with each country trying to make bigger and more destructive weapons.

The Cold War: Conflicting Ideologies

After World War II, there were two major powers, the United States and the Soviet Union. Each had a different ideology and a different worldview. The United States was a democracy with a capitalist economic system. Except for the attack on Pearl Harbor, World War II was not fought on U.S. soil. American goals were to spread democracy and free trade to ensure future prosperity and security. The Soviet Union was a communist dictatorship. Both World War I and World War II were fought on Soviet soil, with enormous human and economic costs. Soviet goals were to spread communism, especially in neighboring

countries, to ensure future prosperity and security. These conflicting ideologies and different worldviews led these two large countries to fear and mistrust each other, which spread to the rest of the world.



Both the United States and the Soviet Union claimed that the other side wanted to rule the world. Neither, however, wanted to fight another direct war, especially one that might cause nuclear destruction. They began an intense global competition known as the Cold War. Cold War competition included an arms race, a space race, propaganda campaigns, and spying missions. Each superpower supported opposing sides in other countries' civil wars and conflicts, such as Korea and Vietnam. The Cold War lasted until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Cold War Conflicts

The first major conflict was over Soviet-occupied Eastern Europe, just after World War II. At the 1945 Yalta Conference, Soviet dictator, Stalin, promised free elections in Eastern Europe. The Soviets held elections, but made sure local Communists were put into positions of power in all Eastern European countries. Only then did Stalin withdraw his troops. The Communist countries of Eastern Europe followed Soviet policies, becoming Soviet satellites.

In 1946 Stalin declared communism and capitalism could not exist together, and that there would be war. Stalin ended most communication and trade between Eastern and Western Europe. British prime minister Winston Churchill warned that the Soviet Union's influence in Eastern European nations had created an "iron curtain" across the continent of Europe. Once again, the world was dividing into two armed, dangerous camps: the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the United States and Western Europe.

The next major conflict was over Germany. At the 1945 Yalta Conference, the Allies agreed to divide Germany into four occupation zones, each to be controlled by one of the Allies. They also divided Berlin, the capital city. In 1948 the United Kingdom, France, and the United States began to withdraw from their occupation zones. They pressured the Soviet Union to permit Germany to reunify. The Soviet Union responded by blocking all rail and road routes to Berlin, which was in the Soviet zone. Western Allies decided not to use force. Instead, they sponsored a massive airlift of supplies to the isolated people of Berlin. The airlift lasted almost a year. In 1949 the Soviet Union ended the Berlin blockade, but Germany and Berlin remained divided East and West.

Also in 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed. The United States, Canada, and ten Western European nations formed a military alliance for collective security. They promised that an attack on any one member was an attack on all. The Soviet Union responded by forming its own military alliance with seven Eastern European nations in 1955 called the Warsaw Pact. Europe was formally divided into two opposing camps, an eastern communist bloc and a western non-communist bloc.

When World War II ended in 1945, the civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists of China started again. The Communists, led by Mao Zedong, won the civil war in 1949 and set up the People's Republic of China, the world's second communist nation. (The Soviet Union was the first.) The People's Republic of China, or Red China, established a one-party communist dictatorship. The Nationalist forces, who were

not Communists, retreated from the mainland to the small island of Taiwan, which they called Nationalist China. The world now had two Chinas. The Soviet Union supported the People's Republic of China, and the United States supported Nationalist China. Communism was spreading.

The Cold War and U.S. Foreign Policy

The Cold War dominated United States foreign policy for over forty years. The fear of communism and nuclear war influenced the way American citizens viewed the world and the decisions their politicians made about U.S. foreign policy. Communists were the new enemy. Neither Democrats nor Republicans wanted to be accused of being a “Red,” a “commie,” or “soft on communism.” U.S. foreign policy would no longer be isolationist. Cold War foreign policy, called containment, focused on preventing the spread of communism to other countries. Containment policy meant the United States would be involved in international affairs. It meant providing economic aid and using military strength around the globe to stop communism.

The United States began practicing a containment policy in 1946 when President Truman asked Congress for \$400 billion for Greece and Turkey to help them resist communist pressure from rebels and neighboring countries. Truman said that the United States must be the leader in supporting the free peoples of the world, an idea known as the Truman Doctrine. Then, in 1947 Secretary of State George Marshall suggested that the United States provide money to help to rebuild war-torn Europe so that it could resist communism. Between 1948 and 1952, the Marshall Plan sent about \$17 billion of assistance, with an additional \$80 billion over the next fifteen years.

United States foreign policy continued to focus on containment. The goal of the Berlin airlift in 1948 was to keep West Berlin from becoming communist controlled. In 1953 the United States supported a coup in Iran that helped put a dictator, the Shah, in power because he would be our ally. For similar reasons, in 1954 the United States equipped and trained Guatemalan rebels for a successful coup in their country. In 1961 the United States failed to properly support the Bay of Pigs

invasion in Cuba to overthrow Cuban communist dictator Fidel Castro.

Containment policy led the United States into limited warfare and the threat of nuclear war several times. The first time was in 1950, during the Korean War.

Communist North Korea invaded non-communist South Korea. The United States asked the United Nations to

help South Korea. Although 41 nations sent some type of aid, the United States provided about 90 percent of the troops and military aid. China fought on the side of North Korea, and the Soviet Union provided North Korea with military equipment and supplies. The United States and China faced the possibility of war. Both sides chose not to expand the war outside of Korea. In 1953 North Korea and South Korea signed an armistice. They never signed a peace treaty, so Korea remains divided at the 38th parallel.

A nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union almost happened in October 1962 because of an event known as the Cuban Missile Crisis. Photographs taken by satellites showed Soviet missiles installed in Cuba, only 90 miles from Florida. President Kennedy organized a naval blockade of Cuba. He demanded that Soviet premier Khrushchev remove the missiles. Khrushchev demanded that Kennedy remove U.S. missiles from Turkey and promise not to invade Cuba. The world watched and waited. After a week, both sides agreed to each other's demands. Later that year a hot line was set up directly connecting the president of the United States and the premier of the Soviet Union. Its purpose was to reduce the possibility of an accidental war.



United Nations forces withdraw from Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, after Chinese enter the war in 1950. The 38th Parallel is still the dividing line between North and South Korea.

The next major threat to turn the Cold War into a hot war was the Vietnam War. As in the Korean War, the United States supported South Vietnam, and the Soviet Union and China supported communist North Vietnam. As in Korea, the United States feared a victory for North Vietnam would lead to the spread of communism into surrounding Asian countries. At first, the United States sent military advisors, then some troops. Gradually the United States sent more and more troops.

The war became hotter in 1965 when the United States started bombing North Vietnam. Soon bombing spread to neighboring Cambodia and Laos. In 1968, with 500,000 U.S. troops in Vietnam and no end of the war in sight, the two sides began peace talks. The United States withdrew its troops and turned the war over to South Vietnam. North Vietnam defeated South Vietnam in 1975 and in 1976 formed the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Social, Economic, and Political Struggles: Asia and Africa

After World War II, Africa and Asia experienced social, economic, and political struggles, as a result of colonialism and imperialism. More and more colonized people demanded the right of self-government. Growing nationalism led to independence movements. The first colony to become independent was the Philippines. It was granted independence without a struggle by the United States in 1946. Other colonies experienced bitter conflict and war. For example, Nationalists in Indonesia declared independence from the Dutch after World War II. The Dutch resisted. There were four years of fighting before Indonesia gained independence in 1949. Some former colonies, such as the Philippines, became democracies. Others, such as Indonesia, became dictatorships. By 1965 most colonies in Africa and Asia were independent countries. The European colonial empires were gone.

India had one of the biggest struggles for independence. In 1935, Great Britain granted India the right to local self-government, but kept control of India's national government. Many Indians continued to call for complete independence during World War II. In 1942 Mahatma Gandhi called for

nonviolent civil disobedience in his Quit India Movement. This led to widespread protests, demonstrations, and strikes. Some turned violent. Great Britain responded with fines and mass arrests of many people, including Gandhi and all the leaders of the Indian National Congress.

Great Britain realized that Indian nationalism could not be contained. Negotiations for independence began immediately at the end of World War II. The Hindu and Muslim political leaders could not agree on what type of government they wanted. Many Muslims living in India wanted their own country. They feared the Hindu majority would ignore Muslim interests. Muslims organized nationwide demonstrations to demand an independent Muslim state, Pakistan. Hindus and Muslims fought and rioted. In Calcutta, a large city in India, over 5,000 people were killed and 15,000 injured.

In 1947 leaders from Great Britain and India agreed to partition (divide) India into two independent nations, a secular India and a Muslim Pakistan. Over 500 Indian princes had to immediately decide which nation they and their people would join. Hindus living in Pakistan and Muslims living in India had to decide whether or not they should move. Over 10 million people became refugees, displaced from one country to the other. Violence erupted. Hindus attacked Muslims moving to Pakistan, and Muslims attacked Hindus and Sikhs moving to India. Hundreds of thousands of people were killed. Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of the independence movement, urged people to use nonviolence and to tolerate all religions. A Hindu who disagreed with Gandhi assassinated him. Violence between Hindus and Muslims continued. From 1947 to 1949, India and Pakistan fought a war over the region of Kashmir, which is on the border of both countries. They fought again in 1965, 1971, and 1999.

There were also struggles for independence in Indochina, a region, which included the present-day Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Before World War II, France controlled Indochina. However, during the war Japan invaded and occupied Indochina. After Japan's defeat, France wanted control again. Cambodia and Laos became self-governing, but remained under French

control. In 1953 Cambodia and Laos became independent nations. Both countries then experienced unstable government and civil war. Today, Laos is a communist state and Cambodia has a constitutional monarchy.

Vietnam's experience was different. Immediately after World War II, the communist leader Ho Chi Minh declared independence for the new Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Talks with France failed, and between 1946 and 1954 France and Vietnam fought a bitter war. Fearing the spread of communism, the United States gave France money to fight the war. China and the Soviet Union supported Ho Chi Minh. In 1954 the French were defeated at Dien Bien Phu. They signed an armistice, the Geneva Accords, which temporarily split Vietnam at the 17th parallel into North and South Vietnam. An election was planned for 1956 to decide who would rule a united Vietnam. Because they feared a Ho Chi Minh victory, South Vietnam never agreed to hold the election. In 1957 communist-supported rebels revolted against the corrupt government of South Vietnam. The United States began giving South Vietnam military aid and assistance. This was the beginning of the War in Vietnam. Today Vietnam is a communist state.

In 1914 there were two independent African countries. By 1945 there were four. After World War II, colonial powers had neither the money, nor the will to keep their colonies in Africa. Africans who had participated in World War II and its fight for freedom demanded freedom in their homelands. In 1951 Libya was the first country in North Africa to win independence. In 1957 the Ivory Coast became the first African country south of the Sahara Desert to win its independence. Today it is called Ghana. Independence spread throughout the African continent. Today there are over 50 independent African countries.

Independence did not bring peace and prosperity to Africa. Colonial powers had taken the raw materials they wanted or needed. They had not developed the African economies. Since the colonists used low-paid, unskilled workers on farms or in mines, there was a very small middle class in most African countries. Many Africans were illiterate because educating workers was not important to colonial bosses. Most countries

used borders drawn by their former colonial rulers. Creating national unity was difficult because African ethnic groups within those borders had different cultures. This led to ethnic conflicts and civil wars. Colonial powers had given Africans little experience in self-government. They were unprepared to build democratic governments. In some countries dictators seized power. These problems continue today in countries such as the Congo, Rwanda, and Sudan.

Fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War: Causes and Consequences

The Cold War was expensive for the United States and the Soviet Union, especially the arms race. It cost a lot of money to keep a large peacetime military force, develop new weapons, and support allies. Despite these costs, the U.S. market economy continued to grow, providing Americans with a wide selection of goods, services, and many new products invented for the space program. However, the Soviet command economy struggled. The government of the Soviet Union decided how many cars to make as well as how many tanks. The government's main concern was military strength, not consumer products. Most citizens waited years to buy a new car. There were even shortages in food and housing. Shortages led to long lines, waiting lists, inflation, a black market, and very unhappy citizens.

Cold War tensions grew worse during the late 1970s after the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. In the 1980s President Ronald Reagan referred to the Soviet Union as an “evil empire.” He dramatically increased U.S. military spending. In 1985 when Mikhail Gorbachev became the new leader of the Soviet Union, he wanted to make the Soviet Union stronger without increasing military spending. President Gorbachev signed a treaty with the United States agreeing to destroy some missiles. Gorbachev also withdrew Soviet troops from Afghanistan. His policy of “glasnost,” or openness, gave Russians more freedom of speech and expression. Non-Communists could now run for office. Another policy, “perestroika” or restructuring, was introduced to make the economy stronger.

Gorbachev encouraged political and economic reforms in the nations of Eastern Europe attached to the Soviet Union. These reforms eventually led to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. In 1989 a series of revolutions took place. Most were nonviolent. In Poland members of Solidarity, a labor union, threatened to strike unless elections were held. The government finally agreed to hold free elections. In 1989 the Communist Party lost control of the Polish parliament. Lech Walesa, a founder and leader of Solidarity, was elected president of Poland in 1990.

Other Eastern European countries such as Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Romania held free elections and rejected communism, too. The East German government tried to avoid reforms, but the people demonstrated until free elections were held. The new prime minister permitted free travel between East and West Germany and opened the Berlin Wall. Thousands of East Germans crossed the wall and met West Germans. During the following weeks, the public began destroying sections of the concrete wall. The destruction of the Berlin Wall was the beginning of the end of the Cold War. In 1990 East and West Germany reunited.

Gorbachev's reforms also led to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Soviet Union consisted of 15 republics; the largest was Russia. Some republics such as Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania demanded control over their own territory. Feelings of nationalism spread in other republics such as Ukraine, Belarus, and Georgia. The once all-powerful Communist Party complained that Gorbachev's reforms had gone too far. Others, such as Russian president Boris Yeltsin, complained the reforms had not gone far enough.

In 1991 a small group within the Communist Party kidnapped Gorbachev and attempted a coup. Russian citizens did not support the coup. There were mass demonstrations. Gorbachev was freed, but had little power or influence left. The presidents of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus declared the Soviet Union dissolved. There were now fifteen newly independent nations. Eleven former Soviet republics created a new voluntary association known as the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Suddenly the Soviet Union no longer existed. The Cold War was over. Only five communist nations were left in the world: China, Cuba, Laos, North Korea, and Vietnam.

Regional and Ethnic Conflict

The end of the Cold War did not bring world peace. Regional and ethnic conflicts in Europe, Africa, and Asia became new threats to peace and stability in the world.

African nations struggled with regional and ethnic conflicts. From 1948 until 1993, the white government of South Africa strictly enforced a policy of apartheid, racial segregation. Apartheid laws divided the country into different areas for different races to live and segregated public services, including hospitals, restaurants, schools, and transportation. Although they were the majority of the population, black South Africans were second-class citizens. Most lived in poverty, and none could vote. Years of protest and violence ended in 1993 when South Africa held its first democratic elections. The people elected a multiracial government, including a black president, Nelson Mandela.

Ethnic conflict in Africa during the 1990s led to charges of ethnic cleansing and genocide. In 1994 civil war and ethnic conflict in Rwanda and Burundi between the Hutu and the Tutsi caused the deaths of over one million people and made more than two million homeless. Since 1998, almost four million people have died in ethnic conflicts in the Congo. In the Darfur region of Sudan, over 200,000 Africans have been massacred. Over two million are homeless there, and many have fled to neighboring Chad.

Europe had its share of violent ethnic conflict. In 1991, Yugoslavia began to break apart when Croatia and Slovenia declared independence. When Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia declared independence in 1992, Serbia was against the break up. Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic supported the policy of ethnic cleansing of Muslims and Croats in Serbian-controlled areas. When the province of Kosovo declared independence from Serbia, Milosevic continued his policy of ethnic cleansing of the Albanian Muslims living there.

There have been continuing ethnic conflicts between Arabs and Israelis since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. The Arab nations refused to recognize Israel's right to exist. Wars between Israel and surrounding Arab nations broke out in 1948, 1956, 1967, and 1973. In 1977 the world was surprised when Egyptian president Anwar Sadat offered to negotiate a peace with Israel. United States president Jimmy Carter invited President Sadat and Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin to the United States to discuss terms for peace. The result was the Camp David Accords, which traded land for peace. In 1979 Egypt officially recognized the State of Israel, and Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt. Two years later, President Sadat was assassinated by Muslim extremists.

The Camp David Accords made the other Arab nations angry. The agreement did not mention the issue of the Palestinian people. Most Palestinians were either living under Israel's political rule in the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, or they were refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria. Increasingly, Palestinians supported the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which made armed attacks and raids against Israel. Israel struck back with attacks and raids of their own. They also continued building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, driving out the Palestinians.

In 1987 the Palestinians expressed their growing frustrations in a series of boycotts, demonstrations, riots, and strikes. Israel responded with military force, and young Palestinians threw rocks at Israeli soldiers. This uprising was called the "intifada." In 1993 the PLO and Israel tried to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by signing agreements known as the Oslo Accords. The Palestinian Authority was created and given limited government control in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1994. Israel withdrew most of its troops from those areas, and the Palestinians began taking control. In 1996 Palestinians elected a legislature and a president, PLO leader Yasir Arafat.

In 2000 Palestinian self-rule was still not complete. Another intifada began. These armed attacks included suicide bombers and caused the deaths of hundreds of Israelis. Israel struck

back, killing thousands of Palestinians. In 2002 Israel built a huge wall to separate Israel from the West Bank. To reduce tensions and violence, Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon decided to evacuate all Israeli settlers from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Many settlers refused to leave their homes and were forcibly removed by Israeli soldiers.

In 2004 Yasir Arafat died. Hamas, a radical Muslim group involved in terrorist activities, won control of the Palestinian parliament. In 2006 Palestinians still do not have their own nation, and radical Palestinian groups continue to use suicide bombers.

Other areas of the Middle East also saw regional conflicts. During the Lebanese Civil War, started in 1975, Christian groups fought against Muslim groups, including the PLO. Both Syria and Israel were involved. Although the civil war is over, Lebanon remains divided and unstable. In 1980 the Iran-Iraq war began. This eight-year war bankrupted both nations and caused a very high number of casualties for both sides. In 1990 Iraq invaded Kuwait. United States president George H. W. Bush worked through the United Nations and created a coalition of thirty-nine nations. They demanded that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein withdraw his forces from Kuwait. He refused. In January 1991 the Persian Gulf War began. Bombing raids were followed by an invasion of coalition forces. On February 28, 1991 the war ended. A defeated and weakened Saddam Hussein remained in power. Both Iraq and Kuwait suffered large losses of life and property.

Most Muslims were glad that Saddam Hussein's power was limited, but some Muslims were unhappy about U.S. troops stationed in Saudi Arabia. Some saw the West, especially the United States, as the enemy of Islam. Radical Muslim Osama bin Laden and his terrorist group, al-Qaeda, attacked the United States on September 11, 2001. Four commercial jetliners hijacked by 19 terrorists were used as weapons. Two were crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, one into the Pentagon building in Washington D.C., and one crashed in rural Pennsylvania after passengers revolted. Over 3,000 people were killed in these suicide attacks.

United States President George W. Bush declared a “war on terrorism.” The president demanded that Afghanistan’s rulers, the Taliban, turn over bin Laden. When they refused, the United States and allies attacked Afghanistan. The Taliban was overthrown, but Osama bin Laden was not captured. In 2003 President Bush accused Saddam Hussein of protecting terrorists and possessing weapons of mass destruction. Unable to convince the United Nations to take military action to force Iraq to disarm, President Bush formed a coalition of nations and invaded Iraq. The Iraq War lasted two months. The Iraqi people were freed from a cruel dictator, but no weapons of mass destruction were found. In 2006 there is still no peace in the country.

Terrorist attacks around the world have continued. In 2004 terrorists bombed commuter trains in Madrid, Spain, killing 192 people. In July 2005 four Muslim extremists coordinated terrorist bombings in London, England at three subway stops and on one bus, killing 56 people. In October 2005, bombings in Bali, Indonesia by a terrorist group linked to al-Qaeda killed 23 people. In November 2005 al-Qaeda coordinated bombings in three hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing 60 people. In 2006 Muslim extremists continued attacks, suicide bombings, executions, and assassinations in Iraq.