

UNIT III ARAB - ISRAELI WARS, 1967& 1973

1. Causes ,Main Events
2. Role of Air power
3. Lessons learnt

UNIT IV IRAN- IRAQ WAR

1. Causes
2. Highlights of the war
3. Result and lessons learnt

UNIT V GULF WAR I & II

1. Causes
2. Highlights of the war
3. Role of the UN

UNIT - IV

IRAN - IRAQ WAR.

The Iran-Iraq war was a war between the armed forces of Iraq and Iran lasting from September 1980 to August 1988. It was commonly known as the Persian Gulf until Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. The Iraq-Kuwait war which the United States entered, later was called the Persian Gulf war or the Gulf war.

The war began when Iraq invaded Iran on 22 September 1980, after a long history of border disputes and demands for the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime. Iraqi forces did well as the beginning of the war taking Iranian Khuzestan, but before long they were stopped and forced out of Iran. The war continued for years, and neither side gained much ground in the resulting trench warfare. About a million soldiers died and a similar number of civilians. Both sides used blockade, which other countries opposed. Despite several calls for an end to the fighting by the

United Nations Security Council. The two countries fought until 20 August 1988. The last prisoners of war were exchanged in 2003. The war changed politics in the Middle East and worldwide.

The Iran-Iraq war is also noted for Iraq's use of chemical weapons and biological weapons against Iranian troops and civilians. The role of the United States and Soviet Union was very important. Dating back to the Cold War in 1953, the US encouraged a coup-d-etat against Mohammed Mosaddegh, who was the prime minister of Iran. Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi returned to power. Supporting his military and his government. The United States sold many weapons to the Shah's government. Meanwhile, revolutionaries of the Arab Socialist Baath Party overthrew the King of Iraq and with the help of the Soviet Union built up their army. Starting with the United Arab Republic, they sought to unite all the Arabs into one state, including the Arab minority in Iran.

After the war started between 1983 to 1988, the US sold weapons to the Iraq's. This move was largely due to America's interest in containing the revolutionary Ayatollah Khomeini. Thus, both the Soviet Union and the United States supplied Iraq with weapons to use against Iran. The United States had sold many weapons to Iran before the war. It was believed the Soviet Union was selling weapons to both sides during the war.

The Opening offensive, stalemate and the flanker war:

In September 1980, the Iraqi war carefully advanced along a broad front into Khuzestan, taking Iran by surprise. Iraqi troops captured the city of Khorramshahr but failed to take the important oil refining center of Arab and by December 1980 the Iraqi offensive had bogged down about 50-75 miles (80-120km) inside Iran after meeting unexpectedly strong Iranian resistance. Iranian counterattacking using the revolutionary militia to bolster its regulars armed forces began to compare the Iraqis to give ground in 1981.

The Iranians first pushed the Iraqis back across Iran's Kawn river and then recaptured Khorramshahr in 1982. Later that year Iraq voluntarily withdrew its forces from all captured Iranian territory and began seeking a peace agreement with Iran.

But under the leadership of Ruhollah Khomeini, who bore a strong personal animosity toward Saddam, Iran remained intransigent and continued the war in an effort to overthrow the Iraqi leader. Iraq's defences solidified once its troops were defending their own soil, and the war settled down into a stalemate with a static, entrenched front running just inside and along Iraq's border. Iran repeatedly launched fruitless infantry attacks, using human assault waves composed partly of untrained and unarmed conscripts which were repelled by the ~~my~~ superior firepower and air power to the Iraqis.

Both nations engaged in sporadic air and missile attack against each other cities and military and oil installations, they also attacked each others oil tankers shipping in the Persian Gulf, Iran's attacks on Kuwait and other Gulf states prompted the United States and several Western European nations to station warships in the Persian Gulf to ensure the flow of oil to the rest of the world. The oil exporting capacity of both nations was severely reduced at various times owing to air strikes and to pipeline shut offs and the consequent reduction in their income and foreign currency earnings brought the countries economic development programs to a near standstill. Iraq's war effort was openly financed by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other neighbouring Arab states and war tactically supported by the US and the Soviet Union while Iran's only major allies were Syria and Libya. Iraq continued to sue for peace in the mid, 1980's but its international reputation was damaged by reports that it had made use of lethal chemical weapons against Iranian troops as well as

against Iraqi Kurdish civilians. Whom the Iraqi government thought to be sympathetic to Iran (one such attack in and around the Kurdish village of Halabjah in March 1988, killed as many as 5,000 civilians). In the mid 1980's the military statements continued, but in August 1988 Iran's deteriorating economy and recent Iraq gains on the battlefield compelled Iran to accept a United Nations mediated cease fire that it had previously resisted.

Casualties:

The total number of combatans on both sides is unclear, but both countries were fully mobilized and ~~had~~ most men of military age were under arms. The numbers of casualties was enormous but equally uncertain. Estimate of total casualties range from, 100,000 to twice that number. The number killed on both sides was perhaps 500,000 with Iran suffering the greatest losses.

It is estimated that between 50,000 and 1,00,000 killed were killed by Iraqi forces during the series of campaigns code named anfal that took place in 1988.

In August 1990, while Iraq was preoccupied with its invasion of Kuwait, Iraq and Iran restored diplomatic relations and Iraq agreed to Iranian terms for the settlement of the war. The withdrawal of Iraqi troops from occupied Iranian territory, division of sovereignty over the Arab waterway and a prisoner of war exchange were the final terms. The final war was not completed until March, 2003.

The Islamic Republic:

Iraq's ruler Saddam Hussein, forced Khomeini to leave Iraq on October 6, 1978. Khomeini then settled in Neauphle, a suburb of Paris. From there he relayed his tape-recorded messages to his supporters, which aroused Iranian popular and massive demonstrations, strikes and civil unrest in late 1978, forcing the departure of the Shah from Iran on Jan 6, 1979. Khomeini arrived in Tehran in triumph on February 1, 1979 and was acclaimed as the religious leader of Iran's revolution. He announced the formation of a new government four days later and on February 11 the army declared its neutrality.

Khomeini returned to aim as the clerical class worked to establish their power. A national referendum in April showed overwhelming support for the institution of an Islamic republic, and the constitution of the Islamic republic was approved in a referendum in December. Khomeini was named rahbar, Iran's political and religious leader for life.

Iran's course of economic development foundered under Khomeini's rule, and his pursuit of victory in the Iran-Iraq war was ultimately proved their futile. Khomeini however was able to retain his charismatic hold over the shah in Iran and he remained the supreme political and religious auditor in the country until his death.