

D&I WORDS OF VISIONARIES

Module: Thrilling Operations Feb 19, 2021



Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

January 2021 is hallmarked at D&I with the module: **Thrilling Missions**. This module focuses on the epic missions carried out by the forces of nations of global significance. In the fourth session, on the **Operation Red Dawn**, we took the opportunity to study the many wars that damned Iraq and the Middle East, and we came to recognise many key global figures of the time including Saddam Hussein...



OIL: BOON OR BANE FOR MID-EASTERN WORLD

By Rohina Mehra

In the year 2003 a military operation named 'Operation Red Dawn' led by the superpower, the USA, captured the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussain. A further peek into history reveals that Middle East has been a hot bed of intense action since the latter half of the twentieth century. Also, a series of wars precede the said operation and is followed by intense unrest in the region resulting in the world's largest IDPs and refugees today. These conflicts have been fueled and further intensified by the interest of the developed world. Twentieth century also marks the prominence of middle eastern nations for their fair share of oil reserves (66%). Oil, until recently, has been the most valuable fossil fuel for the thriving economies of the world and is referred to as liquid gold. Apparently, wealth clearly has been more of a bane than boon here!



THE REFUGEE CRISIS

By Keith Gomes

One of the key foci of all great innovators of this era is alleviating the stress put upon human life. The refugee crisis is evidence of one of the most trying stresses put upon all alike, no matter age, class or culture.

But, where do refugees come from? A cursory glance of a statistics-highlighting map shows a large proportion being contributed by the Middle East. Refugees are not born, but made: they flee when their life is threatened whether it be execution by majorities, or the tirade of a dictator.

The key to global betterment starts with effective solutions to the refugee crisis.



SADDAM HUSSEIN: TROUBLE MAKER

by Aneesha Narain, 13yrs

Saddam Hussein was the 5th president of Iraq from 16 July 1979 until 9 April 2003. Saddam created security forces through which he tightly controlled conflicts between the government and the armed forces. In the early 1970s, Saddam nationalized oil and foreign banks leaving the system eventually insolvent mostly due to the Iran–Iraq War, the Gulf War, and UN sanctions. Saddam formally rose to power in 1979, although he had already been the de facto head of Iraq for several years.

He suppressed several movements, particularly Shi'a and Kurdish movements which sought to overthrow the government or gain independence, respectively. In 2003, a coalition led by the United States invaded Iraq to depose Saddam. Following his capture on 13 December 2003, the trial of Saddam took place under the Iraqi Interim Government.



A CURSE HIDDEN IN A BOON

by Anvita, 13yrs

The history of the discovery and production of oil in the Middle East exemplifies the "resource curse": countries with an abundance of natural resources like oil, tend to have less democracy, and worse development outcomes. Prior to the discovery of oil, the Middle East was a poor region with very limited agricultural economies. However, once the oil was discovered and it started to be extracted as well as utilized in the first half of the 20th century, the situation changed dramatically.

The term "petro-aggression" has been used to describe the tendency of oil-rich states to instigate international conflicts. The struggle over energy resources has been a conspicuous factor in many recent conflicts, including the Iran-Iraq War of 1980-1988, the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and resultant Gulf War of 1990-1991.



A CRISIS IN LEADERSHIP

by Gurvir Vohra, 13 yrs

Saddam Hussein was the president of Iraq who led to the downfall of his own country. He was the member of the Ba'th Party. He misused his power and, in his regime, there were mass murders, genocides, rapes, ethnic cleansings, assassinations etc. With his wisdom, he could have thought through about the things he was going to do and might not have done the same. But, to my mind there is only one suitable phrase here: Madness for Power.

I think his behavior might be inspired from year 1959 when he was wounded in an attempt of assassinating the then PM Abd al-Karim Qasim by the Ba'th party members. This may have put a fight-back effect in his mind to take over his own country thus making it a gruesome revenge story for all to learn from.



TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

by Anya Mehra, 15 yrs

The Middle East is a region bordered by Asia towards the East, Europe to the Northwest and Africa to the Southwest, giving it an advantage of location in the world forming the connecting link between the regions. It is also culturally rich since it is home to three major religions- Christianity, Islam and Judaism. Economically too it is known for great oil reserves. However, its religious belief complexities and greater economic demands of other nations have led to numerous tensions within.

Oil, a valuable resource, is required for everything and has been in great demand ever since the industrial revolution enveloped the world. The refugee crisis of the Middle East threatens with long term damage to the region. An estimated 40% of the 68 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) around the world are from the Middle East. In the recent past, the tensions have only risen taking a toll on the whole world.

