

## Lesson Plan: An Attack on Syria- What would you do?

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons\\_plans/lesson-plan-attack-syria](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons_plans/lesson-plan-attack-syria)



### Kosovo 1999

NATO launched an air campaign, Operation Allied Force, in March 1999 to halt the humanitarian catastrophe that was then unfolding in Kosovo. The decision to intervene followed more than a year of fighting within the province and the failure of international efforts to resolve the conflict by diplomatic means.

By the end of 1998 more than 300,000 Kosovars had already fled their homes, the various cease-fire agreements were systematically being flouted and negotiations were stalled.

Two rounds of internationally brokered talks in Rambouillet, France, in February and in Paris in March 1999 failed to break the deadlock and exhausted diplomatic avenues. At the time, autonomy for Kosovo within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, guaranteed by the presence of a NATO-led force, could have been assured. Accepted by the Albanian delegation, the proposal was rejected by Belgrade.

NATO announced the suspension of the air campaign on 10 June, once it had concluded a Military Technical Agreement with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The same day, UNSCR 1244 welcomed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia's acceptance of the principles for a political solution, including an immediate end to violence and a rapid withdrawal of its military, police and paramilitary forces and the deployment of an effective international civil and security presence, with substantial NATO participation.

- NATO website ([http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_49602.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49602.htm))



### Iraq 1993

In 1993, President Bill Clinton ordered U.S. warships stationed in the Persian Gulf and in the Red Sea to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles against the headquarters of the Iraqi Intelligence Service in downtown Baghdad.

In all, 23 Tomahawk missiles were fired from the USS Peterson in the Red Sea and from the cruiser USS Chancellorsville in the Persian Gulf, destroying the building and, according to Iraqi accounts, killing at least eight civilians.

The Sunday morning American missile attack was meant to retaliate for an Iraqi plot to assassinate George H.W. Bush during the former president's visit to Kuwait, where he was to be honored for his role in leading the coalition that drove Iraqi invaders from that country during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

On April 13, the day before Bush was scheduled to arrive for a three-day visit, Kuwaiti authorities foiled a plan to assassinate him. They arrested 16 alleged perpetrators. The plot's ringleaders, they said, were two Iraqi nationals. On the following day, they found a powerful car bomb hidden in a Toyota Land Cruiser, which had been driven across the Iraqi border into Kuwait City on the prior evening.

In ordering the missile strike, Clinton cited "compelling evidence" of direct involvement by Iraqi intelligence operatives in the thwarted assassination attempt. Two days later, Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told the U.N. Security Council that the attack "was designed to damage the terrorist infrastructure of the Iraqi regime, reduce its ability to promote terrorism, and deter further acts of aggression against the United States. ..."

- Politico (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0609/24213.html>)

## **Iraq 2003**

The war in Iraq has been the focus of global attention since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003.

The invasion and stabilization of Iraq was cast as part of the broader war against terrorism by the Bush administration. In the build-up to the war, President Bush, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and other top officials made the case that Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein, was linked to international terrorism and had the capability to deploy weapons of mass destruction. Liberating Iraqis from tyranny and building democratic institutions were the dominant themes in the administration's justification for the war and its direction.

Critics to the Iraq invasion pointed out that the link between Iraq and international terrorism, particularly the Islamic fundamentalist terrorist group al-Qaeda, had not been substantiated, and that the United Nations-backed weapons inspections required more time. Moreover, they argued that the invasion had not been authorized by international law because it was not sanctioned by a vote of the U.N. Security Council. As post-invasion inspections and intelligence has revealed no weapons of mass destruction, acceptance of the Bush administration's rationale for the invasion has declined. Some have suggested that the war was undertaken for the hidden motive of gaining control of Iraq's oil resources.

- EbscoHost (<http://connection.ebscohost.com/history/iraq-war/overview-war-iraq>)