Strategic/Operational:

1) Iraq’s Doomed Strategy

Sadat’s strategy for talking and winning Kuwait was doomed from the start. With his large army, he knew he could take Kuwait; that was the easy part, that would be the hard part. It is this where his critical assumptions failed. He assumed the US would still fight, would be encouraged along Cold War lines to present one clear international unity of effort. He assumed his Arab “brothers” would not unite against him. He further assumed that he could divide the Coalition by using the Israeli/Palestinian issue. And perhaps most importantly, he assumed that the US would have the will to go through with major military operations. He even told the US Ambassador prior to the invasion of Kuwait, “there is a country that cannot accept 100,000 dead in one battle.” The US was in critical assumptions, on which his strategy was based; proved false. Bush’s strategic doctrine, based on the lack of understanding of his enemy and reason to end the Cold War led to the assumption that the aim of strategy – to achieve victory – had failed. Saddam’s strategy to use the Kuwaiti base on his attack on Israel, the international unity was strong enough to hold. Despite the inherent challenges of Muslims fighting Muslims, and Saddam’s clever understanding of the enemy and modern war. It rested on the assumption that the attrition-style of warfare that had given him the final edge in his war against Iran, would also work against the Americans. America and its Coalition partners had other ideas.

2) Unity of Effort – Desert Storm succeeded, in large part, due to extraordinary international unity of effort. President George Bush in April sent a strong military help to the US allies; acting as a build-up to a strong international Coalition, including numerous Arab States. Through this unified political effort, the regional military, diplomatic, economic, and informational elements of power were able to align strategy efforts to accomplish a very challenging mission. Despite the colossal challenges of Middle-Fighting Middle East, and Saddam’s clever effort to split the Coalition with his attacks on Israel, the international unity was strong enough to hold. Saddam Hussein practiced a system of strict command and control. Everything above the level of corps commander was highly centralized, to the point of personal control. This failure to delegate significant decision-making authority to lower field commanders, especially when it came to the Republican Guard Corps. Further compounding this problem, Saddam was known to have harshly penalized failure in the past, going so far as executing commanders for known errors, then re-instituting them. Over-centralized control, combined with a fear of subordinates to take risks, destroyed any desire for subordinate commanders to execute independent actions. This signaled the Iraqi Army was unable to fight in modern warfare, especially when Iraqi communication links were severed. This was evidenced by the lack of effective communications among forward elements, and the lack of coordination by the Coalition, where subordinate commanders were given wide discretion to exploit opportunities, while operating within their commands’ control.

3) Air Power and Technological Superiority

Air power, once again, proved its indisputable worth in modern warfare, inflicting significant destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. Additionally, new technologies, from the stealthy destruction prior to the ground assault. 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Desert Storm was a wake-up call to the world – a new world. Saddam Hussein foresaw from his southern neighbor’s behavior. In less than 100 hours of joint air and ground combat, the US and its allies would not rotate one of the most geopolitically significant military theaters in history but also demonstrated to the world the superiority of a new breed of warfare. Desert Storm renews a new modern example of how a large irregular force can be defeated by one of the largest and most sophisticated military forces in the world.