## The Gulf War Conspiracy

The voice on the other end of the phone was oddly familiar. There was something about the speech pattern and syntax that made me realize this wasn't some crack-pot wanting to plant a story.

My name is Geoffrey Wines. I'm an investigative journalist with the Washington Post.

The caller said he had a remarkable story "to re-tell."

That's odd I thought. "Re-tell?"

"Yes, you know all of the characters. You know the event. In fact, you know everything about the story, except the real reasons of why and how it happened in the first place."

"Please continue. May I take notes?"

"Oh yes! You will want to do more than just take notes. You'll want to sniff out these clues yourself. And report them!" he said emphasizing the last sentence.

"Let me begin. Do you remember the 1990-1991 Gulf War? Desert Storm? Do you remember how and why Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait?"

"Yes, I believe so. Saddam invaded Kuwait to take over their oil wells."

"And . . . "

"A coalition was formed under a UN banner to counter the invasion. A massive arsenal of American weapons destroyed the Iraqi military and recaptured Kuwait in less than 100 hours. It was called 'Shock and Awe.'"

"Exactly. And Saddam Hussein? What happened to him?" the caller prodded.

"He remained in power." I said slowly, realizing how unusual that was.

"And did Iraq pay for the rebuilding of the Kuwait oil fields?"

"I don't think so."

"So the narrative of the Gulf War was that Saddam Hussein and the world's fifth largest military attacks lowly Kuwait. Saddam and the world then pause while the Americans assemble the most sophisticated military hardware ever developed. On cue, using the open desert stage and broadcast live on CNN, the U.S. invades using the most incredible military might ever witnessed by man.

"And then, when we defeat the Iraq military, we naively leave the country with its leadership in tack. We even leave equipment so Saddam can defeat his internal enemies."

"Seems fishy when put this simply." I offered.

"Now how do you think I, I mean, the U.S. pulled this off so perfectly? What were we really trying to accomplish?" With this question, he ended the call.

I knew the caller was the former president. But why would he want to re-tell the story of his greatest achievement in global leadership. Unless, he wanted to *tell the story of an even greater achievement*. What could that be?

I pulled up archives from the Gulf War.

There was the reported misunderstanding between our Ambassador and Iraq. Hussein was under the firm impression the U.S. supported the invasion. *Interesting*.

Iraq was also poised, well equipped and ready to cross the border into Saudi Arabia, but never took the step, though most experts thought it would have been a cakewalk. *Out of character for Saddam*.

And last, the coalition left Iraq and allowed Saddam to stay in power. *Unprecedented*.

If the objective of the Gulf War was not to save Kuwait or defeat Saddam Hussein, then what was the reason for the shock and awe of the Gulf War? Who were we really wanting to defeat? What was the bigger prize? What was the other major event in the man's presidency?

And why, after all of these years, would the caller want to re-tell the story now?

My investigation revealed this unnerving truth.

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Desert Storm Ended the Cold War

By Geoffrey Wines

As the United States prepares for a new war with Iraq, there are new facts emerging on the first Gulf War.

Working from a high-level tip, the Washington Post has corroborated indisputable evidence that Saddam Hussein's August 2 1991 invasion of Kuwait that led to the first Gulf War was actually conceived and paid for by the United States in order to

show the Soviet Union the vast superiority of U.S. weapon systems.

The demonstration was designed to convince Soviet leadership that any military victory against the West was impossible.

The gambit paid \$1 Billion into Saddam Hussein's personal account and guaranteed him international immunity for his role.

The plan succeeded. Kremlin sources reported Desert Storm deflated the Russian military which led to Mikhail Gorbachev's dissolving the Soviet Union, thus ending 44 years of conflict with the United States. The fall of the Berlin Wall on Christmas Day 1991 became a symbol of the Cold War's end.

Pentagon sources say these new facts will not impact current Iraq war plans.