1.1 SIGNIFICANCE OF OIL

Energy plays a crucial role in the world economy today, and oil provides more than half of world energy consumption. It is no doubt one of civilization’s most important natural resources. It provides fuels for heat and lighting, lubricant for machinery and raw material for a number of manufacturing industries. The wheels of machinery cannot turn; ships cannot move across the seas, our industrial age would come to a complete standstill, without oil. The significance of oil to modern industrial society grew rapidly with the proliferation of automobile in the early 1900’s. In comparison to other fuels such as coal, oil has several advantages. It occurs in great abundance, it is easily available, it can be easily distributed, and above all it has the widest range of domestic as well as industrial uses. It is often, therefore, refered to as ‘Black gold’. Despite repeated predictions of its rapid depletion, world petroleum production increases every year. With the help of modern techniques Scientists, and Geophysicists are discovering more and more new oil fields and are greatly widening the world’s known reserves of oil. West Asia and North Africa (WANA) region dominates in world’s energy exports today and will almost certainly do so for decades to come. This is true even if one assumes steady progress in conservation, major improvement in the supply of renewable energy resource, and major increases in energy supplies from gas, coal, Nuclear power and renewable. WANA is the most important among all the regions of the world in terms of the magnitude of its fields, reserves and production. It, however, retains massive surplus capacity relative to domestic demand, and this explain why it share of world exports is much higher than its share of total production or production capacity.

The WANA region as a whole may have more than 65% of the world proven oil reserves and 35% of its gas reserves, but over 95% of
these oil reserves in the Gulf. West Asian oil occupies a critical and central position in the world energy supply. In 2008, West Asian proven oil reserves exceeded 752,258 million barrels or over 60% of the world total. In terms of oil production West Asia dominates and reached a peak of 23 million barrels per day or 33% of the total world production. The absolute consumption of energy is continuously growing due to geometric economic growth in China, India and elsewhere. Although many countries have adopted strict consumption measures, demand of oil is continuously increasing. World oil demand is expected to reach 103 million barrels per day in 2015, up from 72 million barrels per day in 2008. The combination of large pools of reserves, substantial production rates and world dependence on West Asian exports of oil catapulted the region into the centre of the world events, as powers completed either to control oil-wells of West Asia directly or to bring to West Asian nations into their sphere of influence. Lord Curzon’s famous statements, “The allies floated to victory on sea of oil”, highlights the strategic value of oil in the world balance of power. It comes as no surprise that competing world powers have had an overwhelming interest in West Asia. Since the discovery of oil in the region in early 20th century, hardly any world power has directed a policy towards West Asia that has not incorporated an oil concern interest. The possession and management of international oil industry became a great source of economic and political power. Whether the war or for peace, economic development or income distribution, domestic use or international trade, the role of oil resources became an essential part of the national policies of the industrially advanced countries. Thus, it is vital interest to the West that no single country be permitted to dominate oil supplies, and the ultimate guarantor of the security of supply of this strategic mineral. As the advance industrialised countries have become more heavily dependent on imported fuel and shortage of supply appear more frequently, oil has come to view not only a foreign policy issue but a national security matter.
The figures for consumption and import of oil of major oil consuming countries present the real picture. Let us first note the consumption pattern then the imports pattern. North America consumes 24 million barrels daily, Europe 14 million barrels and Asia-Pacific region 20 million barrels. As for import, the United States (US), the European Union (EU) and Japan import 60, 75 and 80 percent respectively of their oil consumption. The import of oil from West Asia accounts for a high percentage of the total imports of oil by these countries or their formation, for example US 22%, the EU 36%, Japan 80%, China 44% and Asia-Pacific countries 73%. The past and projected trends in oil exports follow in a different pattern from increases in oil production because many producer consume most or large portion of their domestic production. In the WANA region oil reserves and production capacity is much higher than the other regions of the world. Proponents of geopolitical argument points to the fact that the American military being used more and more as a global oil protection service, for the protection of overseas oil fields and the supply routes that are also needed to keep oil flowing. The WANA region, however, retains massive surplus capacity relative to domestic demand, and this explains why in the WANA region oil reserves and production capacity is much higher than the other regions of the world. Both WANA energy exporters and global energy consumers need a smooth flow or energy exports that must be delivered reliably on a day by day basis and expanded over time to meet global demand. Oil moves in many different ways. Most of the WANA oil and gas directly move by sea passing through Strait of Hormuz and Bab-el- Mandeb. Only comparatively small amounts of oil are exported by pipelines. It is easy to focus on security of oil and gas fields, energy facilities and pipelines in WANA area. The flow of oil export can be attacked at any point during a tanker voyaged. However, there are several key maritime nodal points that could have a critical impact on the flow of oil in West Asia. The fourteen million barrels per day or so of oil that transit the Strait of Hormuz go all over the world,
eastward to Asia—especially China, Japan and India—and westward to Europe and United States. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that over three million barrels per day of Gulf oil exports currently transit the Suez Canal or Sumed pipeline complex. Any closer of the Suez Canal or Sumed pipeline both divert tankers around the Cape of Good Hope sharply increasing transit time, transport cost and required tanker capacity. Nodal points like Strait of Hormuz remain critical area of risks where US power projection analyses with friendly nations are critical to energy security. At the same time the proliferation of long range of Naval strike Aircraft, Anti-ship missile, smart mines, sub-marine; guided missile ships are extending the range at which threats can strike at the movement of energy exports.

It is important to note that the global energy demand will be associated with the reserves and production capacities of WANA region particularly the Gulf. The WANA region has been and will continued to be a critical factor in meeting global demands and its providing oil exports.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The Iraqi military action, occupation and annexation of Kuwait during the first half of the August, 1990 created an unprecedented situation in the Gulf. The crises caused far reaching convulsions at the international level. The crises evoked distinct responses affected the UN system and power equilibrium. The crises also influenced existing social and economic structures in the region and beyond. It posed fresh challenges and prospect pertaining to the South Asia and Indian subcontinent. The US response was not unpredictable as oil supply has been always critical to vital American interest. The post-Second World War assessment by the state department established the primacy of the Gulf oil resources, and since then oil has been central to the US policy in the region. The various security pact
and policies initiated by the US within the region such as Baghdad pacts, Central Treaty Organization, Eisenhower Doctrine, Cater Doctrine, Nixon Doctrine and Strategic conscious of President Ronald Regan, centered on oil. The energy policy of the US has been based on setting up client state or local surrogates in West Asia to ensure long term supply of oil.

With the loss of Raza Shah, the US no longer could rely on surrogates to police the Gulf. Hence in 1980 President Jimmy Carter announced Washington intention and willingness to interfere directly in area under new Cater doctrine. The US formed its new rapid deployment force with a mission to guard the smooth flow of oil and to watch the developments in the Gulf region against its interest. President Cater declared: “Any attempt by any outside force to gain control the Persian Gulf will be regarded as an assault on the vital interest of the US”. Iraq-Kuwait crisis in 1990 provided the US perfect opportunity to intervene directly into the Gulf region.

Iraq-Kuwait crisis was the culmination of long standing supposed Iraqi claim over Kuwait and not just a border dispute. The claim rather chequered in the history of modern state of Iraq, the earliest one was made – during 1936-1940. The ground given then as well was that Kuwait was a part of Iraq during the Ottoman rule. Iraq on the eve of Kuwait’s independence in June 1991 reiterated its claim over Kuwait and brought to fore the question of Kuwait’s political and legal status in international affairs. Iraq raked up its claim again in 1976. The 1990 Iraq-Kuwait crisis initiated a new debate about the Iraq’s claim over Kuwait.

The emergence of Baath party government, under Hasan-al-Bakr and Saddam Hussein, in July 1968 opened a new chapter in Iraq history. The British decision to withdraw from the Gulf region in 1971 created power vacuum in the region. Iraq wanted Kuwait to quit Warbah and Bubiyan Islands for the defence of Umm-al-Qasr Seaport. The Kuwaiti government
refused to change the status quo. In 1979 August Saddam Hussein became
President of Iraq and in September 1980 he invaded Iran to contain the so
called Islamic Revolution from Iran. During the war with Iran, GCC states
particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait supported Iraq to contain Iran. With
US backing Iran lost the war and Iranian threat was contained. The eight
years long war plunged Iraq into financial crisis and before the start of
Iraq- Kuwait crisis its debt was stood at $ 80-100 billion. Before the
invasion, Iraq accused Kuwait and the UAE of exceeding the oil
production limit set by the OPEC and bringing down the price of crude.
Saddam Hussein stated that the move cost Iraq 14 hundred million
dollars in lost oil revenue and he threaten to use force to halt over
production. Saddam Hussein demanded financial compensation to the tune
of 12 billion dollar. Kuwait reluctantly agree to pay 1 billion dollar
compensation but refused to write-off the war times loans. However,
reconciliatory move which started between Iraq and Kuwait in Jeddah
on 31st July in 1990 collapsed. And this led to invasion of Kuwait by Iraq
on 2nd August, 1990. The crisis and US led attack on Iraq in 1991 to liberate
Kuwait shattered Iraq’s economy. The uprising in the south by the Shia and
by the Kurds in north and subsequent No-Fly zone to protect Shia and Kurd
further curtailed Saddam Hussein power. The post war development in Iraq
and continuing United Nations (UN) sanction further deteriorated situation.
The present study highlights the roots and causes of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis
and the liberation of Kuwait through collective security mechanism. The
study then discusses the geopolitics of oil in the appearance of international
unity against Iraq’s action in Kuwait.
1.3 LITERATURE REVIEW

Oil in the Iraq has drawn the attention of researchers of various backgrounds. A voluminous literature is available on the importance of Iraq’s oil to the industrialized Western nations. The bulk of these studies were published in the aftermath of one of the several most recent Iraq crises. However few studies have been focused upon the issue of Geopolitics of oil.

American foreign policy is operating on the underlying premise that the Iraq is the pivot not only for American’s position in the world, but also rest of the world. In other words it is a strategic point of importance not only to the U.S. but also to Europe, South America, Asia and Africa because of the large production of oil. Moreover, one of the distinguishing characteristics of a super power is that its perspective, policy and impact are global rather than merely regional. Before moving on to the expected utility model and simulation development, it is important to examine the literature that has been complied on the basic components of this study, the linking of geography (and resources that go with it) and politics is termed as geopolitics. Through a better understanding of geopolitics, it allows us to evaluate the new great game’s importance and the players involved in the game more effectively. Now we examine geopolitics.

It is the one of the most heavily studies terms of the 20th century. According to Sloan and Gray, one of the biggest proponents of this term was Henry Kissinger, who explained, “By geopolitical I mean an approach that pays attention to the requirements of equilibrium”. Geopolitics is a balance between power politics (also known as Realpolitik) and geography, which relies on the realization of technological advance in weapons and resource development. Sloan and Gray also assert that geography is relevant in all levels of conflict; however, leadership can have differing decisions which promote different consequences. According to Gray, there is “geography of space, distance, time, terrain and weather- and there is the
geography of imagination.” According to Gray, strategy is influenced by geography and geography shapes tactics, logistics and military cultures. **Carl von Clausewitz** believed in ‘five elements of strategy’: moral, physical, mathematical, geographical and statistical, while **Michael Howard** has four: operational, dimensional, and social and technological. Geography is seen within these elements of strategy. Geography and strategy play a major role in today’s political arena.

According to **Sumida**, there were four geopolitical concepts that Mahan focused on in regards to international politics: (1) Unbroken ocean and connecting seas; (2) The Russian Empire and its transcontinental expanse; (3) Maritime states of Europe and borderlands of the southern and eastern Asia; and (4) States disconnected from mainland Asia (U.S, Britain, and Japan). One of Mohan’s biggest influences, **Jomini**, was in disagreement with the assertion of sea power as the most important aspect of geo-strategy. Jomini believed that one’s army was the key to strategic superiority. Jomini wrote in *précis de l’art de la guerre* (The Art of war), that “the offensive army by selecting objective points of manoeuvre; it will then assure, as the objects of its subsequent undertakings, geographical points of more or less importance”. This geostrategic belief in armies controlling the geopolitical environment obviously differed from Mahan’s geostrategic belief that natives controlled the geopolitical environment.

Another founding father of geopolitics would be **Sir Halford J. Mackinder**. His most notable contribution to the study of geopolitics is that of the heartland theory, which he adapted three times, over a period of approximately 40 years. His first discussion of the theory was seen in his paper written in 1904, *The Geographical Pivot of History*. This geographical pivot referred to the power of a land based state which would have control over Eurasia. During Mackinder’s second discussion of the theory, *Democratic Ideals and Reality* in 1919, he made a very important addition to his heartland theory. In 1919, Mackinder named the theory the
“Heartland theory” for the first time expanded it to mean that it was the region where sea power could be denied and he discussed the advancement in transport and weapons technology. From this version, also came Mackinder’s famous line “Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; Who rules the Heartland commands the World Island; Who rules the World Island commands the World”. Mackinder’s third version, written in 1943, was asserted by the author himself, as being more relevant then it was 20 to 40 years prior. This final expansion moved somewhat away from his land-based power and toward an amphibious power. During World War II “there were a total of 600 amphibious landings, or an average of one every 3½ days”. With a larger appreciation of this sea power, it was necessary for Mackinder to move away from his land based assertion of power. This being the case, he moved his fulcrum of power to the West to include North America, in what he called the ‘Midland Ocean’. This progression through each version first from Russia, then Europe and finally to include North America shows the flexibility necessary in understanding geopolitics.

To understand geopolitics and internationals, it is necessary to view situations through a scope that is relevant to the topic at hand. Two major scope or paradigms that have historically been used in international relations are those of liberalism and realism of the two, realism has historically been used the most frequently in relation to understanding conflict and diplomatic relation between states. While there are many different theories that have come out of realism, the most relevant to this study and the most relevant to the continuing relation between major powers is that of the balance of power. Realism and balance of power help us understand regional and international geopolitics through coalitions.

Carlson expands the concept of geopolitics to include its ramification in four fields, “geography, history, political science and international relations”. While scholars have viewed geopolitics under
different conceptual headings, they are agreed on the importance of geopolitics in the power struggle among international actors.

In 1899, Rudolf Kjellen, a Swedish political scientist, introduced the term “geopolitics” to signify a general concern with geography and politics and relationship between the two. Because the term geopolitics is frequently associated with imperialism and the efforts of Nazi Germany to expand the territorial space of the German state, the term has come into disfavour among political theorists, who prefer expressing such interstate relationships and associated political matters in less pejorative constructs, such as international relations and foreign policy.

On the other hand Iraq crisis or the Iraq-Kuwait crisis in this process of developing this study various sources of secondary and primary information were used. Indeed much of historical background of Iraq-Kuwait Crisis was developed using books, journals and articles. Arthur Goldsctimidt’s A Concise History of the Middle East (1996), Albert Hourani’s A History of Arab peoples (1997), and Geoffrey Kemp and Robert Harkavy’s A strategic Geography and changing Middle East (1997) were helpful in shedding light on the economic, political and social structures of Gulf region.

Goldschmidt’s book A concise History of the Middle East (1996) deals with the lasting impact of both the Ottoman Empire and Western imperialism on the Gulf region. He discusses the development and impact of Arab rationalism within the Ottoman Empire. In Addition, he details the attempts by such colonial power as Great Britain and France to stir up Arab nationalism in order to weaken the Ottoman Empire in order to advance their own interests.

Albert Hourani’s book A History of the Arab peoples (1997) covers the history of Iraq and rest of the Gulf region. Moreover, he discusses the impact of both Arab nationalism and Western colonialism on Arab Society.
Geoffrey Kemp and Robert Harkavy, in *strategic Geography and the changing Middle East* (1997) detail the impact of geography on the politics of the Middle East. In their view, the geopolitical struggles of the Middle East are not new, and extend back to ancient and medieval times. Many conflicts in the Middle East were the results of European attempts to control the Middle East because of its strategic value in transporting spices and good from Asia to Europe. Then the struggle of the Middle East shifted from land routes to control of ports and straits in order to protect routes to the Indian Subcontinent. Finally, the discovery of oil made the West more determined to control the region. In more recent times, the geopolitics of the Middle East has been impacted by the technology and oil.

The impact of the Gulf War was provided in Lawrence Freedman and Efraim Karsh’s book *The Gulf conflict 1990-1991: Diplomacy and war in the New World Order* (1993). Freedman and Karsh bring to light events leading to Iraq’s fateful decision to invade Kuwait. Iraq was a nation on the brink of financial collapse after a decade of fighting war with Iran to protect Arab Monarchies and Western interests from radical Islamic movement that was sparked by Ayatollah Khomeini. In part, Iraq’s financial difficulties were the result of years of massive expenditures on Arms, including weapons of mass destruction, which were procured from the Soviet Union and such Western Countries as France, the United Kingdom, and United State of America. Finally, the authors discuss in detail attempts at building an international coalition against Iraq.

Sarah Graham Brown, in her book *Sanctioning Saddam: The Politics of Intervention in Iraq* (1999), sheds light on the key motives surrounding both the economic sanctions and the weapons inspections regime imposed on Iraq. Unable to a military option, both the United States (US) and United Kingdom (UK) decided to use economic sanctions on Iraq during the 1990’s.
This study used various journals for the better understanding of Iraq-Kuwait crisis. In an article written by Japanese diplomat Tsumoto Kono, entitled “Road to Invasion” and printed in Arab-American Affairs magazine (1990), Kono detailed Iraq’s decision to invade Kuwait was stealing Iraq oil and cheating on quotas set by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The study also used some primary sources to support its positions. This primary sources used in the study were the proceeding and minutes of the discussions within the Security Council. In Resolution 660 the discussion focused on the international reaction to Iraq’s sudden invasion of Kuwait. Resolutions 661 and 666 contained discussions regarding the imposition of economic sanctions and the United Nations Security Council’s attempts to deal with humanitarian concerns. Resolution 678 and 686 dealt with the United Nations Security Council’s decision to endorse military means to remove Iraq from Kuwait. Resolution 686 recorded the United Nations Security Council’s attempts to bring the conflict to an end. Discussions surrounding Resolution 687 proved important to study because the resolution outlined the way in which Iraq would be treated by the United Nations Security Council.

1.4 HYPOTHESIS

The strategic geographical location of West Asia, situated at the cross roads to Asia, Africa and Europe, has made the region from ancient times the centre stage of conflict among Nations and Empires as they vied for control over the trade routes to the east. The modern history of the region is not different, with imperial conflict fuelled by the added attraction of the rich oil deposits discovered in the early part of the 20th century. Oil has changed the political and economic structures and policies of West Asia, and dramatically influenced political alignments, both within the region and between the region and the world’s great powers. Gradually
and slowly oil became important source of energy, used in various sectors of economy. Currently it plays a pivotal role in world economy and has become primary fuel of the industrialised countries.

The First World War proved the superiority of fuel oil over coal for firing boilers on naval vessels and commercial streamer. The role of oil in the First World War and victory of allied power against central powers quickly established oil as a strategic mineral. The demand for oil spiralled upward and has never ceased. After the war, vast oil reserves were discovered in West Asia and its control was regarded essential for imperial designs. Security of supply dependent either on the direct control of the territory or indirect control through the establishment of clients, usually friendly authoritarian governments. The British mandate over Iraq and trans-Jordan insured its hegemony in the oil fields. Control over the region oil fields was implemented through series of concession by which local authorities granted for companies long term rights to explore, drill, extract and market local oil in return for small conditional cash payments. The World War-II consolidated the US oil interest in West Asia. Corporate oil giants led by American firm extracted unbelievable profits from their investment after World War-II. By 1973 seven of the world’s twelve largest companies were oil corporations known as the seven sisters and have dominated world oil industry ever since.

Today, the Gulf states possess 65% of the world’s oil reserves and average daily output totalled 23 billion barrels per day. In the Gulf region Iraq, Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have more proven oil reserves under their soil than rest of the world combined. A quick glance at the oil deposits reveal that Iraq, after Saudi Arabia is the most important emerging country from oil reserves and production point of view.

According to oil and gas journal Iraq has 115 billion barrels of proven oil reserves; the world 3rd largest. It is generally believed that there
are other significant oil and natural gas prospects in the country. Oil experts agree that except for Kirkuk and Rumaila oil fields, Iraq oil fields are among the least developed in the world and therefore Iraq has the potential to become another Saudi Arabia in terms of future oil productions. There are reports that the western and southern deserts of Iraq have substantial oil reserves. Geologist and Consultant have estimated that these two sub regions may contain and estimated additional 45-100 billion barrels of recoverable oil. According to Government of Iraq, Iraq has around 9 fields that are considered “Super Giants” with over 5 billion barrels reserves as well as 22 known giant fields with over 1 billion barrels reserves. Only 17 of 80 oil fields have been developed. It may possess up to a quarter of total world reserves, and it has the potential in the future to become the world’s largest oil exporter. Former US Defence under Secretary Paul Wolfowitz’s remarks about US action in Iraq further attest this fact. He in response to a question about US’s lukewarm attitudes towards North Korea while it admitted to have weapons of mass destruction, mentioned without hesitation: “Iraq floats on oil”. This view of Former under Defence Secretary about Iraq’s massive reserves shows the vital strategic interests of the West. To achieve this objective the US and its allies tried to install a friendly regime in Iraq. The supporters of the war while refuting oil as a factor in the onset of war, assert that Iraq war had nothing to do with oil but to save the Iraqi people from Saddam Hussein’s authoritative and oppressive rule. The opponents of the first Gulf War considered Iraq’s immense oil resources as a significant contributing factor of Iraq crisis. The growing contribution of oil in energy mix (currently 70%) and the increasing demand of energy have witness a major change in the geopolitics of oil. The Iraq crisis has changed the geopolitical landscape of the region and provided US favourable ground to secure access to global oil resources, particularly in the energy heart of the world - West Asia and Central Asia.
The events of 11 September had given the US with unique opportunity to move from containing the tensions in the Gulf region to resolving them once and for all in its favour. Now the vast source of Iraq’s oil is under US control which gives her leverage over the price of oil and provides useful tool to contain its potential political or economical rivals. The US physical domination in the Gulf placed it as a geopolitically advantageous position vis-à-vis others contending powers for example Japan, European Union, China, Russia etc. However, the present Iraq crisis is the outcome of race for controlling oil by the contending nations. However, it appears that the Iraq crisis has strong link or relationship with the geopolitics of oil. The aim of present study is to examine the role of oil in the invasion of Kuwait. Therefore, we propose to study the Geopolitics of oil and Iraq Crisis. Thus, this research work on the basis of Hypothesis following major questions will be asked:

1) The Relationship between oil and war on Iraq.

2) Iraq’s oil resources both proven and undiscovered would provide US leverage to check the rivals in the region and over the price of oil.

3) Control of Iraq’s oil will also be an economic boom to US oil-giants.

1.5 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Throughout history, geography has influenced the geopolitical orientation of the country in the direction of land power and sea power. The study of world history points to the fact that country located wholly or mostly in the northern hemisphere have had greatest impact on world politics. Until 20th century, world politics dominates by countries located on Eurasia. The countries of the Western and Southern hemisphere have had little say in affairs of the world politics. Countries ability to play a significant role in the world politics depends on population, resources,
technology, military power and character of Government. Of these factors, resources play a vital role in Geopolitics. The objectives of the present research work is to highlight the significant of resources particularly oil in the geopolitics of the regions. The present study aims at investigating into the following aspects of the geopolitics of oil leading to Iraq crisis:

1. To assess the strategic, economic, political and geographical variables in study of Geopolitics of oil and Iraq crisis.

2. To analyse the complex relationship between oil diplomacy and war.

3. To examine US design in Iraq and implications of its success or failure as far as oil is concern.

4. To highlight the politico- strategic and economic dimensions of the oil and Iraq crisis in the changing geopolitical environment of the regions.

The primary objective of the present study is to provide an in depth analyses of Geopolitics of oil and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Such analysis will provide important insights into the causes of conflicts, appearance of collective security mechanism against Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait and state relations in an area of extreme tension.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The increasing use of oil in various sectors of economy has converted it into strategic resource. The continuous supply of this strategic resource has become now a political, an economic, and a strategic imperative. The uninterrupted flow of oil has become essential for the stability of the world economy. The continuous increasing global energy demand and rapid pace of industrialization has further transformed the region into an important economic zone of the world. The huge wealth
of Arab Gulf states gas given them an economic significance in the affairs of West Asia and the rest of the world. Oil is important to the countries of West Asia both as an instrument for economic development and as an instrument of political influence. The cost of production of the Gulf’s oil particularly Iraq is low as compare to other regions of the world, making it much more profitable. Therefore, the Gulf is still the world’s strategic price. The significance of this study lies in its emphasis on the emerging geopolitical importance of the Gulf region. Its central concern is to demonstrate how the geopolitical aspects of oil have been the major factor in Iraq crisis. The world energy consumption has increased by 84% since 1970 and it is expected to grow by another 60% over the next 20 years. The industrially advanced countries have been using the lion’s share of this energy.

The recent Iraq crisis has created an atmosphere of uncertainty and political instability in the region. It has far reaching implications on the security environment of the Gulf region. The successful US led aggression and regime destruction in Iraq established its control over Iraq’s oil and domination in the region. The presence of US in Iraq provided them an opportunity to weaken Arab regimes to the advantage of Israel and to find a solution of Arab- Israel conflict in term acceptable to Israel. US direct physical engagement in West Asia has been increasing for decades. In the 1980’s the US acted to protect shipping lanes for oil exports. This brought a permanent military presence of the US in the region. The first Gulf War demonstrated the unthinkable a massive US led military operation followed by promotions of more bases and resources permanently stationed in the region. Now they have greatest say in the movement and control of oil prices from this region to various destinations of the world.

The importance of the topic comes from the partisan role of the United Nations (UN) in solving world problems and affairs by implementing and enforcing resolutions such as using force to expel
Iraq from Kuwait. This role comes from the US’s influential role in the UN, especially after the beginning of cooperation with the former Soviet Union and the decline of Soviet power. In addition, the topic is important because it shows how Arab states were divided over the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and diverted their attention from the Arab-Israeli conflict. The crisis highlights the US role in the West Asia, and its hegemonic and aggressive role in today’s World and the UN. The Iraq-Kuwait crisis shed light on the attitude of the masses and governments.

1.7 INFORMATION SOURCES

Data and information for this study were gathered from various sources. In the theoretical foundation of the study, the existing literature in the field of oil geopolitics and Iraq-Kuwait crisis were consulted. The data on oil and the international oil market were collected from existing sources of information on the subject. Following are the main sources of information:

a) Data and statistics issued by the Government and non-Governmental institutions.

b) Studies, resources and reports issued by the different organization such as OPEC, OAPEC, BP Review, EIA, US Department of Energy sources.

c) United Nations (UN) Publications.

d) Information available on the Internet has been utilized.

Both primary and secondary sources have been used in the study. In addition various research works and published reports have also been consulted in completion of the present research work.
1.8 METHODOLOGY

The research approach to this study is a descriptive analysis based on the data selected from variety of sources. The source of materials obtained has been thoroughly checked and crosschecked to eliminate discrepancies wherever existed before embarking on building up the thesis. With regard to adopting analytical approach simple Mathematical techniques have been used to analyse the data and materials. In discussing the geographical environment of Iraq many different books and research articles have been reviewed. Assessment of biodiversity, population dynamics and non- oil natural resources have been done with the help of primary and secondary sources of data. In analyzing the oil resources of Iraq and other Gulf countries, three aspects- Reserves, Production and Exports- have been taken into consideration. The facts have been taken from several books, official records, and Statistical records of OPEC, OAPEC, British Petroleum Reports, Iraq Ministry of oil Reports, Energy Information Administration (EIA), US Department of Energy etc. Information available on the internet and publications of International agencies such as United Nations (UN) publication data have been taken into use. In addition various research work and published report have been consulted in completion of the present research work. Some relevant journals, magazines, articles and news papers have also referred extensively to enrich the data.

1.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Although there is no paucity of literature on the present study, it still faces some limitations in analyzing the events. Iraq practised a combination of political repression and social reform in which programs to promote literacy and education were not accompanied by any provision of freedom for political organization or intellectual and political expressions. The states authority was based on Saddam Hussein, Military and Baath Party. The structure of authority and power within
Iraq, coupled with its under developed infrastructure posed the restriction on the freedom of expression and publications of objective literature. Iraq was a dictatorship, in which there was no free public discussion of foreign policy, and no public input into or constraints on decisions on the making of war and peace. Moreover, state controlled publications further restricted the objective analysis of the problems.