**Summary of [Video 62] – Taiwan and Kuwait: Historical Background and Initial Claims**

* **Kuwait’s Early History:**
Kuwait emerged as an **independent trading port** in the early 1700s.
In response to **Ottoman pressure**, Kuwait entered into a treaty with **Britain in 1899**, giving Britain control over foreign affairs, and later became a **British protectorate** during WWI.
* **Iraq’s Claim:**
Starting in **1938**, Iraq began asserting a **historical claim** to Kuwait, claiming it had always been part of Iraq—even though neither **Iraq nor the Ottomans had ruled it**.
Iraq treated the matter as one of **“internal affairs”**, similar to how the **PRC describes Taiwan**.
This culminated in **Iraq’s military invasion of Kuwait in August 1990**.

**Summary of [Video 63] – Taiwan and Kuwait: Annexation, Occupation, and Liberation**

* **Motivations Behind Iraq’s Annexation of Kuwait:**
Iraq’s motives included:
	+ Seizing **valuable natural resources** (oil, metals, chemicals),
	+ Gaining **strategic coastline**,
	+ Advancing **Pan-Arab leadership ambitions**,
	+ Boosting **domestic support** after the Iran–Iraq War.
* **International Response:**
A **UN-authorized multinational coalition** led by the **USA and Saudi Arabia** launched **air and ground assaults** in early 1991.
By **late February 1991**, Kuwait was **liberated from Iraqi occupation**.
* **Legal Analysis:**
Iraq claimed that annexing Kuwait was a restoration of historical sovereignty.
However, these claims lacked **recognition under international law**.
**International humanitarian law** defined Iraq’s control over Kuwait as nothing more than a **military occupation**.

**Underlying Comparison to Taiwan (Implied Message)**

Though Taiwan is not explicitly mentioned in these two parts, the structure and content imply the following comparison:

* Just as **Iraq’s historical and cultural claims** over Kuwait did not justify sovereignty or annexation, the **PRC’s similar claims over Taiwan** do not establish legal title.
* Both cases involve:
	+ **Occupation or attempted annexation based on contested historical narratives**,
	+ The use of **"internal affairs"** rhetoric to suppress international involvement,
	+ A lack of **legal justification** under modern international law, particularly the **laws of war and occupation**.

**Concluding Historical Comparison: Kuwait and Taiwan**

The case of Kuwait’s invasion and temporary annexation by Iraq in 1990–1991 offers a compelling legal and historical parallel to the People’s Republic of China’s (PRC) claim over Taiwan. In both cases, a powerful neighbor invoked vague historical or cultural connections to assert that a smaller, self-governing territory was part of its "internal affairs." Yet in the case of Kuwait, the international community firmly rejected Iraq’s claims, recognizing the occupation for what it was: a violation of international law, unsupported by treaty, and constituting military aggression. Similarly, the PRC’s assertions of sovereignty over Taiwan lack any legal basis under modern international law. Taiwan was ceded to Japan in 1895, never retroceded by treaty to China, and remains under unresolved status following Japan’s renunciation of sovereignty in the San Francisco Peace Treaty. As with Kuwait, the rhetorical framing of Taiwan as an "internal matter" cannot override the requirement for legal title, self-determination, and respect for established treaty processes. The Kuwait precedent thus reinforces the principle that **territorial sovereignty cannot be acquired or restored by force, nor legitimated by historical narrative alone**.

Geographical Size Comparison

Taiwan

Area: Approximately 13,976 square miles (or 36,191 square kilometers).

Kuwait

Area: Approximately 6,880 square miles (or 17,818 square kilometers).

Comparison

Taiwan is significantly larger than Kuwait.

Specifically, Taiwan is about 2.03 times larger than Kuwait.

Video Links

Video 62

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| [Youtube]  |
| <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdwD6UFkOek&list=PLzR0vkh0OvKdFKRgFP8GGpX5TGSX---Jt&index=62>" target="\_blank" |
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Video 63

[Youtube]

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|  | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVrUO508pRg&list=PLzR0vkh0OvKdFKRgFP8GGpX5TGSX---Jt&index=63>" target="\_blank" |