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Chapter 5: Two calendars (Gregorian & Hijri)

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On the other hand, President Hussein himself also misjudged the situation. He believed that Arab and Western countries would not take harsh countermeasures even if Iraq invaded Kuwait. On August 2, 1990 at 2 a.m., Hussein ordered his troops deploying alongside the border to invade Kuwait. It was the thunderbolt to Sabah ruling family of Kuwait. The royal family, including the Emir who was struck asleep, ran away with nothing but the closes one wears to Saudi Arabia in south of the border. In Kuwait, there was hardly any battle, and within half a day Iraqi troops controlled all of Kuwait. Iraq's occupation of Kuwait had continued about half a year. Foreigners living in Kuwait, including Japanese, were kidnapped by Iraq and encountered the calamity as "a human shield". Finally, the Gulf War took place in January 1991.

Iraq invasion of Kuwait was one miscalculation for the international community. There was another miscalculation for Hussein that international community unanimously united to liberalize Kuwait. Hussein used to insist that Kuwait was originally part of Basra State in southern Iraq. But the international community respected the nation states all over the world after the World War II. The annexation of the land by force could be accepted by no means. In November 1990, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution to use the military actions against Iraq. United States organized the multinational Allied Forces. Saudi Arabia and the Gulf monarchy state and even Syria which was

controlled by the same Bath party as Iraq joined the Allied Forces. Once Iraq made ally of the whole world in Iran-Iraq war during 1980 and 1988. But this time Iraq made enemies of the whole world.

(To be continued ----)

Areha Kazuya
(From an ordinary citizen in the cloud)