

A Conversation with DICK CHENEY

In this wide-ranging conversation, Bill Kristol and Dick Cheney discuss momentous events in Cheney's career, including his service as secretary of defense during the Gulf War, his work as chief of staff for President Ford, his leadership in Congress during the Reagan years, as well as 9/11 and its aftermath.

On his term as secretary of defense, Cheney says: *"It was a time when we had a magnificent force in being because of the Reagan Administration the investments that had been made in our equipment and training and the quality of the people that were involved. Because it was the end of the Cold War. The Soviet Union was going out of business; the Berlin Wall came down. We had major military operation in Desert Storm in the Gulf when Saddam when invaded Kuwait."*

On negotiating with the Saudis in the first Gulf War, Cheney says: *"And then the king turned back to me after a couple of minutes and he said, 'Okay, we'll do it.; But he had two conditions. One that you bring enough force to do it right and to get it done. And secondly, that you'll leave when it's over with. And I committed, gave him my word on that basis. I knew that's what the President wanted to do anyway."*

On enhanced interrogation, Cheney says: *"It prevented another mass casualty attack against the United States...I'm very familiar with the program, I was actively involved in helping get it started and supporting it. And I don't think we have any apologies to make. I think if in a similar situation today, I would do exactly the same thing."*

Chapter Links to DICK CHENEY Conversation

[Secretary of Defense Cheney](#)

[The Gulf War](#)

[From Nixon to Ford](#)

[President Gerald Ford](#)

[The Reagan Years](#)

[Dick Cheney on 9/11](#)

[Threats We Face](#)