

Remembering Suez – a Middle East crisis with modern parallels

A conflict involving the invasion of a Middle East country by an alliance of Western powers, where imperialist interests are defied by Arab nationalism. A description of the Suez Crisis – sparked 50 years ago by Egypt's nationalisation of the Suez Canal – bears a striking resemblance to the current Iraq war



Gamal Abdel Nasser

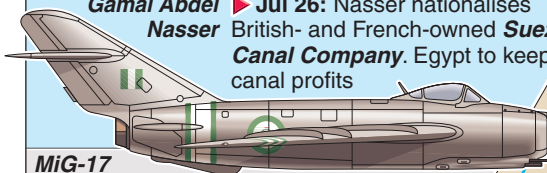
► **1952:** Coup led by Egyptian army officer **Gamal Abdel Nasser** overthrows **King Farouk**

► **1954, Apr:** Egypt proclaimed a republic, with Nasser as prime minister

► **Oct:** Bowing to Egyptian pressure, Britain agrees to give up Suez Canal within two years and withdraw its troops

► **1956, Jun:** Last British troops leave canal. Nasser elected president

► **Jul 26:** Nasser nationalises British- and French-owned **Suez Canal Company**. Egypt to keep canal profits



MiG-17

Egypt's acquisition of modern, Soviet-built fighter jets alarms Western powers

► **Aug-Oct:** After crisis talks collapse, Britain, France and Israel agree in secret to retake canal by force

► **Oct 29:** Israel invades Sinai

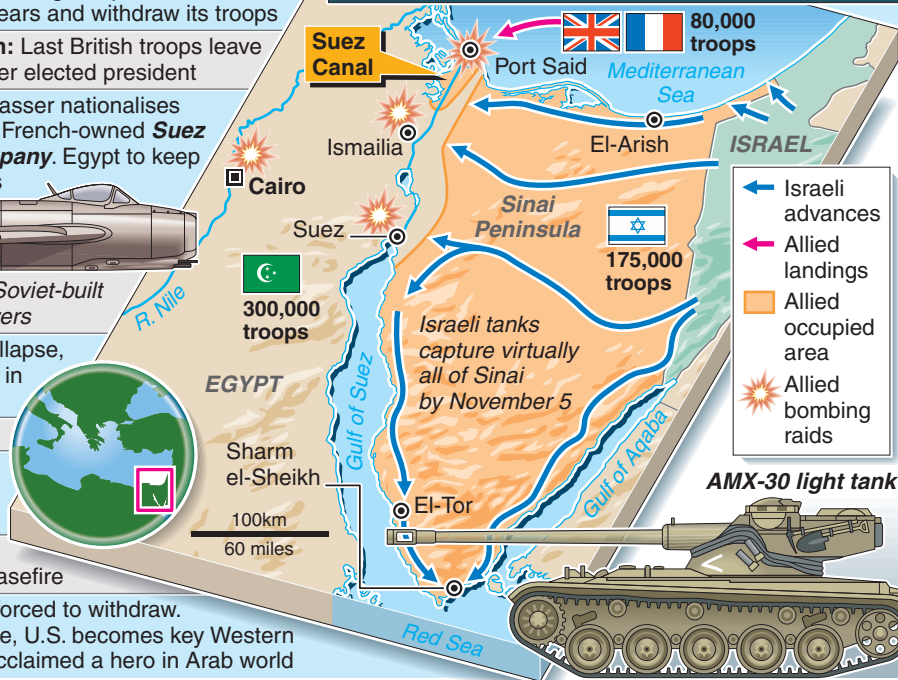
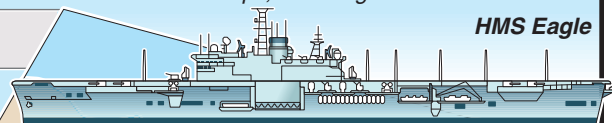
► **Nov 5-6:** British and French airborne and amphibious operation captures Port Said

► **Nov 7:** U.S. pressure forces Britain and France to accept ceasefire

► **Aftermath:** Invading armies forced to withdraw. Britain and France lose influence, U.S. becomes key Western player in Middle East, Nasser acclaimed a hero in Arab world

Britain and France assemble fleet of more than 100 ships, including seven aircraft carriers

HMS Eagle



AMX-30 light tank

