



THE HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL OF 1948

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The 2012 American Model United Nations Historical Security Council (HSC) of 1948 will simulate the events of the world beginning on 1 January 1948. Historically, the key international security concerns at this time revolve around the situations in the Middle East and Asia as the end of World War II put a strain on the ability of colonial powers to administer their territories. The conflict in the Middle East is of significant concern, especially with the increased violence between the Arab and Jewish populations in Palestine after the General Assembly passed the Partition Resolution in November 1947. The up-tick in aggression between Pakistan and India over the area of Jammu and Kashmir has also seen increased attention at the United Nations.

From time-to-time, other countries will be involved in the deliberations of the HSC. Some of the delegations which may be called before the HSC-1948: Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Greece, India and Pakistan.

The following are brief synopses of the main international situations facing the Security Council on 1 January 1948. The prominent events of 1947 are discussed, as well as some questions which will face the Security Council at the turn of the year. This research is intended merely as a focal point for Representative's continued exploration of the topics. Any issue on the world scene in 1948 will be fair game for discussion in the Historical Security Council. Representatives should have broad historical knowledge of the world situation as it stood through 31 December 1947.

THE SITUATION IN PALESTINE

At the end of the First World War, Great Britain became the Mandated Power under the League of Nations in 1922. The Jewish people in Palestine expected the British to follow the path of the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which called for a national home for the Jewish People in Palestine. The Arab nations believed the British had betrayed them and Jewish-Arab violence broke out in Palestine, becoming most intense during the Arab Revolt of 1936-1939. This led to the Peel Commission report in 1937, which recommended partition of Palestine into a Jewish state, an Arab state and a third section, including Jerusalem and Bethlehem, to be retained by the British. However, World War II intervened before the partition could be implemented.

Violence in Palestine slowed with the onset of World War II. The British released a Whitehall Paper in 1939 that curtailed Jewish immigration and promised Palestine's inhabitants statehood and independence within ten years. After the war and with the formation of the United Nations, the Arab and Jewish people began arguing their cause to the

British. The British formed the Anglo-American Committee to get the United States to help with the situation.

However, after differing views of the situation and pressure from the Jewish lobbies, the United States left the discussions, which led the British to announce their decision to turn the Palestine issue over to the United Nations on 18 February 1947.

On 28 April 1947, the British asked the UN to convene a Special Session of the General Assembly to discuss the Palestine issue. The General Assembly passed Resolution 106 (S-1) on 15 May 1947, forming the United Nations Special Commission on Palestine (UNSCOP). UNSCOP went to Palestine to assess the situation and delivered their report to the General Assembly on 3 September 1947. The report determined that Palestine should be partitioned into a Jewish state and an Arab state with an economic union between them. UNSCOP also reported that an international trusteeship be formed to administer Jerusalem and Bethlehem, which were not to be part of either state. On 26 September 1947, the British announced their determination to withdraw from Palestine, regardless of any UN resolution, and declared that all troops would be out of Palestine by 1 August 1948.

The General Assembly passed Resolution 181 on 29 November 1947, adopting the Partition Plan as put forth by UNSCOP. The Jewish community accepted the resolution, but the Arab nations rejected it. The Arab countries called for a three day labor strike to start on 2 December. Violence increased and the Arab population began inciting mobs and riots, leading to Jewish retaliation. Throughout December 1947, the Security Council discussed the issue, hearing from both Jews and Arabs as violence increased. With the renewed violence, the British Cabinet decided on 4 December 1947 that they would end the mandate on 15 May 1948, almost three months earlier than the 1 August 1948 agreed up withdrawal date outlined in the Partition Plan.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include the following:

- What actions can be taken to ensure the successful implementation of the Partition Plan?
- What can the United Nations do to help ensure lasting peace in Palestine?
- What was the impact, if any, of the British pulling out before the implementation of the Partition Plan?

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A/RES/181-Partition Plan

THE SITUATION IN KASHMIR

After World War I, the British government introduced the Government of India Act, which provided Princely States with a major regional role while the British were responsible for central administration. These Princely States were allies of the British Crown and helped temper any nationalist tendencies. However, nationalism increased in the colony, and the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League were formed as voices for the people and for future independence in the interim between the two world wars. With the conclusion of the Second World War, the United Kingdom was in a financial state of distress. Burgeoning debt and a need to rebuild their home economy led to the decision to decolonize the Indian subcontinent, but keep India in the Commonwealth.

In August 1946, Muslims launched the Direct Action campaign after failing to secure half of the seats in the new interim government, triggering riots across northern India. On 13 February 1947, the British cabinet announced its decision to leave India by June 1948. It was also decided that power was to be transferred to two separate states: India and Pakistan. On 14/15 August 1947, the British turned over control to Pakistan and India. As part of the partition, each state would be granted the freedom to decide if they would remain part of the Commonwealth. Additionally, each Princely State would be given the choice of whether to accede to India or Pakistan, unless they had large enough numbers to be separated completely.

In the Princely State of Punjab, the British tried to help demarcate lines in an attempt to settle a boundary between the two emergent states. After the demarcation was announced, thousands of Hindus and Muslims began migrating toward their respective sides. This mass migration caused rioting, massacres and sustained fighting, killing hundreds of thousands. Thousands escaped to Jammu and Kashmir. Because of this, the Maharajah of Kashmir delayed joining either nation. On 17 September 1947, Pakistan stated its intention to take the issue of violence in the region to the United Nations General Assembly, which did not happen.

During the delay, many tribal Muslims in the area began to fear that the Maharajah would accede to India. This led to tribal incursions from neighboring areas, resulting in riots in the streets. To keep control, the Maharajah asked India for help. The Indian government agreed, on the condition that the Maharajah sign the Instrument of Accession, which would make Kashmir part of India. Desperate to help stem the riots and massacres in Kashmir, the Maharajah signed the Instrument on 26 October 1947. On 29 October 1947, Pakistan rejected the accession of Kashmir to India believing it to have been inflicted on the people of Kashmir by force. With violence increasing, India deployed troops to secure the area, but insisted that Pakistan had sent in troops first. The Pakistani Defense Minister denied these charges on 12 November.

On 2 November 1947, India announced that it would turn the Kashmir issue over to the United Nations for a Kashmiri referendum once law and order were restored. Pakistan retorted that the maintenance of law and order would allow India to kill or drive out more Muslims and guarantee that Kashmir would join India as a result of the referendum. Fighting continued through November and into December as Pakistani military men on leave began to join the fighting in Kashmir. On 8 December 1947, India and Pakistan met to determine a way to resolve the Kashmir dispute; the meeting ended when the two sides could not agree. Pakistan wanted the entire issue, including the stemming of the violence and the referendum, turned over to the United Nations, but India would only turn it over for a referendum after the violence had been stemmed. By 20 December 1947, India was organizing to send in troops to remove the raiders from their bases.

Questions to consider from your government’s perspective on this issue include:

- Does the British government have any remaining responsibility in maintaining peace in the region?
- Did the Maharajah of Kashmir have the authority to enter into the Instrument of Accession, and if so, what impact does this have on Pakistan’s claims to the region?
- What options are available to the Security Council to diffuse tensions in the region?

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ADDITIONAL WEB RESOURCES

www.kmsnews.org/content/1947 – Kashmir Media Service
www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/sasia.htm – Documents Related to Jammu and Kashmir

THE SITUATION IN GREECE

Since gaining independence in 1923, Greece was a politically divided state where multiple factions vied for control. In February 1944, various Greek political parties and resistance groups signed the Plaka Agreement, which called for guerilla armies to cease fighting. The Italian and German occupation of Greece ended in October 1944 leaving a power vacuum and, despite the agreement, clashes between the groups began again in December 1944.

In March 1946, the fighting, which had been sporadic, increased. Yugoslavia and Albania supported some of the communist groups, which had camps inside of Yugoslavia. By early 1947, a communist army, known as the Democratic Army, had gained control of over 100 villages, and was engaged in battles against the Royalist government in the mountains of northern Greece. By the end of 1947, communists controlled the majority of the Greek countryside and approximately twenty-five percent of Greece. Meanwhile, as British financial support declined due to economic strains and rising tensions in India, the United States announced support the Greek Royalist government against communist influence, providing military advisors and economic aid. The Soviet Union supported the Greek communists politically, but gave little direct support to the communist campaigns.

On 19 December 1946, the Security Council passed resolution 15 sending a Commission of Investigation, consisting of representatives from members of the Security Council, to investigate alleged border violations between Greece on one side and Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia on the other. On 15 September 1947, the Security Council passed resolution 34 which took the Greek question off of the Security Council's agenda and requested that the General Assembly address the issue.

On 21 October 1947, the General Assembly passed resolution 109 calling on Albania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia on one side and Greece on the other to establish diplomatic relationships to reach a peaceful settlement of border disputes. It also established the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans with the purpose to observe compliance and assist in implementation of recommendations. The Special Committee consisted of the eleven members of the Security Council and Poland. The Special Committee investigated allegations

that Greek guerrillas received military supplies from the Yugoslav side and crossed into Greece while the Greek Army conducted military operations on 21 April 1947.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What actions can the Security Council take that will increase the stability of the region?
- How can the Security Council act upon the reports of the United Nations Special Committee on the Balkans?

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S/RES/19 (10 Feb. 1947)

A/RES/9 (21 Oct. 1947)

THE SITUATION IN BERLIN

After the end of World War II, the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union signed the Potsdam Agreement regarding the fate of postwar Europe, which divided defeated Germany into four temporary occupation zones that would function as one economic unit. These zones were located roughly around the current locations of their armies, and split Germany among the Eastern and Western blocs. Berlin was to be divided into four sectors: French, British, American and Soviet. Located 100 miles into the Soviet Sector, Berlin became the seat of the Allied Control Council (“ACC”), which would govern Germany until the conclusion of a peace settlement. The ACC consisted of a commander for each sector, who exercised supreme control in their respective sectors, but matters concerning Germany as a whole could only be decided by agreement of all four members.

The denazification of Germany was an early agenda item that all four members agreed upon. The ACC also agreed to severely restrict civilian industries that could have military potential, dramatically curbing all industries. In January 1946, the ACC capped German steel production to approximately 25% of pre-war production. However, by 1947, the United States began to pull back from the idea of such dramatic demilitarization, recognizing that resuming operation of Germany's industry was necessary for the growth of the European economy, and for establishing strength against pressure from the Soviet Union.



Berlin quickly became the focal point of both US and Soviet efforts to re-align Europe to their respective visions. The Soviets expected to gain control over Berlin and establish a Communist domain by controlling the access of the Allies to the city. The Soviets also began a massive industrial dismantling campaign that was larger than that in the Allied sectors. Virtually all German industrial and natural resources were diverted to the USSR as war reparations. The French envisioned a prostrate German state, intent that Germany would never have the strength to threaten France again. Although not a party to the Potsdam Agreement, as a member of the ACC, the French emphatically supported industrial disarmament. The French plan included gaining economic and political control over the Rhineland, Ruhr and Saar areas and their large coal and mineral deposits, leaving Germany an agrarian economy. Like the US, the UK believed that a strong Germany was needed so that both their economy and that of Europe could prosper and that democracy could flourish.

The ACC meeting in the spring of 1947 concluded with little progress on the major economic and political issues because the Council could not function without the agreement of all four members. In November 1947, the ACC reconvened in London and struggled again to reach an agreement on the structure of the German state that their treaty would create.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What role should the Security Council take in reorganizing post-war Germany?
- What is your country's perspective regarding the political reorganization of Germany?
- What will happen if an agreement establishing a unified Germany cannot be reached?

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THE SITUATION IN INDONESIA

Japanese forces invaded the Dutch East Indies in December 1941, coveting the economic resources of the islands. On 7 September 1944, the Japanese Prime Minister told the Japanese Parliament that progress would be made toward Indonesian independence. Continuing to be

occupied by war, it was not until May 1945 that the Japanese authorized a constitutional congress to discuss statutes for future independence. With the Japanese surrender in August 1945, the Dutch planned to take over colonial possession of Indonesia once again. But, on 17 August 1945, a proclamation of Indonesian independence was announced by Indonesian nationalists.

In September 1945, British forces came to Indonesia to disarm and repatriate the surrendering Japanese forces and to liberate and protect Allied prisoners of war. The British had no intention of being caught in the internal political struggle on Indonesian independence. Yet, when Dutch troops did return to Indonesia, they were very provocative toward the local population, causing the British to step in to negotiate peace. The Linggadjati Agreement was initialed on 15 November 1946, recognizing de facto authority of Indonesia over some islands and calling on both parties to cooperate in the formation of the Republic of Indonesia. With the agreement signed, the last British forces left Indonesia on 30 November 1946. On 25 March 1947, the Linggadjati Agreement was signed by both sides.

During the next few months, negotiations were conducted on implementing the Linggadjati Agreement. However, when Indonesia refused some of the Dutch demands, the Dutch believed that military action was necessary. On 21 July 1947, the Dutch launched a 'police action,' causing Indonesian forces to retreat. On 30 July 1947, Australia and India brought the issue before the United Nations Security Council. On 1 August 1947, Resolution 27 passed, calling on both sides to cease hostilities and to settle their disputes by arbitration. Resolution 30, passed on 25 August 1947, congratulated the work that had been done on implementing a cease-fire and called for a Commission of Observers to report on the progress. Resolution 31 allowed Indonesia to select one representative, the Netherlands one representative, with the final representative to be selected by the other two. Indonesia chose Australia, the Netherlands chose Belgium, and the United States was chosen as the third representative forming the Committee of Good Offices.

These resolutions did little to curb the violence in the East Indies and on 26 August 1947, the Security Council passed Resolution 32, reminding the Governments of Indonesia and the Netherlands of Resolution 27 calling upon them to follow the recommendations of the Security Council. The Council passed Resolution 35 on 3 October 1947, calling on the Secretary-General to convene the Committee of Good Offices and have them finish their work quickly. The Committee reported back to the Council that the cease fire was being violated and neither side was working to implement it. The Council adopted Resolution 36, requesting that the Committee of Good Offices assist the Netherlands and Indonesia in reaching an agreement to ensure the observance of Resolution 27 and for both parties to desist in using armed force to extend control over territories not occupied by it on 4 August 1947.

On 8 December 1947, the Netherlands and Indonesia began negotiations on the US ship *Renville*. The Dutch talked of creating a Republic of the United States of Indonesia (RUSI) with or without Indonesia while Indonesia worried about continued police actions and economic turmoil. On 25 December 1947, the US issued a compromise proposal which called for the Netherlands to move back to the areas they controlled prior to the July 1947 police action and Indonesia would resume control of the civilian administrations. Indonesia agreed with all of the proposals, but the Netherlands has yet to respond.



Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What options are available to the Security Council if the Netherlands do not agree to US compromise proposal?
- What options are available to the Security Council to control the violence in the East Indies?
- Where the claims of violations of the Linggajati Agreement legitimate?

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- S/RES/35 (1947)
- S/RES/36 (1947)

THE SITUATION IN ASIA

At the end of World War II, the former Japanese colony of Korea was occupied by military forces from the United States and the Soviet Union, divided along the 38th parallel. Despite the initial plan of a unified Korea, efforts to create an independent Korean nation-state foundered, and the United States turned to the United Nations for assistance. In 1947, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 112 (II), which created the United Nations Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK), whose mandate was to supervise free and open elections, assist in the withdrawal of the occupying forces and guide the new political entity to full independence. However, political factions competed for dominance and, internally, Korea grew into a hotbed of unrest. The People's Army of North Korea began to mobilize in 1947 at the same time the US indicated its intentions to withdraw. The differing internal Korean parties, as well as the presence of other nations, caused increasing instability and volatility.

At the end of World War II, the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) and the Communist Party of China (CCP) each sought control over all

of China and began fighting one another. At the first post-World War II peace negotiations in 1945, the KMT and the CCP both stressed a peaceful reconstruction. However, the conference did not produce a tangible result. Battles between the two sides continued until a truce was reached in January 1946, which temporarily stopped large campaigns and full scale conflicts. The truce fell apart when full scale war between the CCP and KMT broke out on 26 June 1946. Heavy fighting continued into March 1947.

In October 1945, 35,000 French soldiers arrived in Indochina to restore French rule after the Japanese surrender. The Viet Minh immediately began a guerilla campaign in opposition to the restoration of French rule. The Vietnamese people and the Viet Minh sought independence; negotiations between France and the Viet Minh went on for almost a year. The talks produced no compromise and the guerilla attacks continued. The French had an overwhelming superiority in weapons, which they demonstrated by the bombardment of Haiphong Harbor in November 1946. The Viet Minh quickly agreed to a ceasefire, but with no intention of surrendering. In 1947, the Viet Minh command moved to the city of Tan Trao. The French sent military expeditions to attack; the Viet Minh would not meet the French forces head-on in battle, preferring guerilla warfare. The battles continued with the French controlling most of the cities and the Viet Minh controlling most of the rural and remote areas.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective:

- What is the Security Council's role in the decolonization of Asia?
- What is your country's position regarding the formation of new governments of independent nations in Asia?
- How can the United Nations bring stability to the region?

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Additional Web Resources

- www.digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/FRUS.FRUS1943CairoTehran
- www.un.org/en/aboutun/history/1941-1950.shtml

OTHER OPEN ISSUES

Any issue on the world scene in 1948 will be fair game for discussion in the Historical Security Council. Representatives should have broad historical knowledge of the world situation as it stood through 31 December 1947.