

YOUMUN 2022 PRESENTS

HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Study Guide

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Letter from the Dais

Greetings esteemed delegates,

Welcome to Youth Online Universal Model United Nations 2, and welcome to the Historical Security Council! As your chairs we are so excited for his conference, and the engaging debate that will no doubt ensue from the topics we have picked. The Historical Security Council holds a unique place in MUN committees, and offers a unique opportunity to learn more about how the UN really resolved issues of significance in the past, and how those solutions impacted our modern world. The two issues we will be debating in the conference, the Suez Crisis of 1956 and the Kosovo War in 1999, each had ramifications on the global geopolitical landscape that can still be felt today. The chance to go back into the past and redetermine how we might have solved them, placing ourselves in the shoes of diplomats and emissaries to truly understand the plethora of pressures and interests that conflict to create turmoil, is a great way to gain a deeper understanding of the forces at play in the modern world.

We strongly encourage you to read this study guide in full - the Historical Security Council can be one of the most fun committees and bear some of the most fruitful debate, but in order for that to happen it also requires strong and deep preparation. Understanding both what has already happened at the time of the issue and what really did happen after the issue, and how much of that is suitable to use in a debate set in the past, is critical in order for everyone in the committee to adequately engage with each other.

If you need anything related to preparation for this committee, please do not hesitate to contact any of us - we will all be more than glad to assist you. We are so excited to have you all in our committee in June, and in the meantime make sure you prepare well!

Sincerely,

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Historical Security Council Chairs

YOUMUN 2022

Committee Description

The Historical Security Council is unique among the standard committees in that its issues are pulled from previous issues that the security council has debated in the past, and the entire committee is set in the past. The committee is in most ways similar to the standard Security Council - in that it has far-reaching authority to declare sanctions, activate peacekeeping missions, create new Un agencies, and more, and in that the P5 states (The US, UK, France, Russia, and China) have veto power on any resolution, but the historical aspect of the committee also enforces some unique restrictions on debate. For each of the two issues we will be debating, a specific date has been chosen. In debate, delegates must act as that is the current date - you may not use any information that you would not have had access to at that time, you may not reference events that have yet to happen, and you may not infer the consequences of actions based on knowledge of their ramifications in the real world. Before the conference, ensure that any facts, figures, or statistics you use to construct your arguments and positions are time-relevant, and familiarize yourself with the political



[The UN Security Council in Debate, 1952](#)

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situation of your nation at the time of the issues, as it is likely quite different from their position today.

Another important aspect to note when in the Historical Security Council is that the two issues we will be debating are separated in time by more than 40 years - thus, when we shift from Issue 1 to Issue 2, important geopolitical changes that occurred in the interim must be taken into account. Most importantly, many of your countries will have changed in name, flag, government, leadership, or any combination of the above. For example, the delegate of the USSR in 1956 will have to shift to the delegate of the Russian Federation by 1999. When you are assigned your country, you will be told the name and status of your country on each date, but ensure before the conference that you familiarize yourself with both states and the differences between them.

Topic 1: Tackling the The Suez Crisis, 1956



[The Suez Canal in 2021](#)

Background Information

History of Egypt and the Canal

The Suez Canal is one of the most important waterways in international commerce. Opened in 1869 and constructed by a company owned by french engineer Ferdinand de Lesseps and funded by the French and Egyptian governments, the canal was a huge boon to trading between Europe, Africa, and Asia. It is often considered the dividing line between Africa and Asia. At its inception, the canal was operated by the privately-owned but Egyptian-chartered Universal Company of the Suez Maritime Canal, also known as the Suez Canal Company. The Egyptian government retained a large share of the company themselves, but in 1875 due to a national debt crisis they were forced to sell their 44% share to the government of the UK for roughly £4,000,000 (equivalent to about £20,000,000 in 1956). The rest of the company was owned predominantly by French private investors at the time, so the sale left operations of the canal entirely out of Egypt's hands.

British Rule in Egypt

In 1881, an Egyptian military officer named Ahmed 'Urabi seized control of the Egyptian military, and rose up against the Egyptian government, which was at the time a Khedivate, a tributary state of the Ottoman empire ruled by the Khedive of Egypt and Sudan, Tewfik Pasha. This uprising caused the British to fear for the safety of their holdings in the region, and thus caused the 1882 Anglo-Egyptian war where Britain bombarded Alexandria and proceeded to invade and occupy the nation. The British victory resulted in British control of the Khedivate and the canal. In 1888, a group of nations including Britain, France, the Ottoman Empire (which still held nominal control over the Khedivate but exercised no real power over it), and a collection of other European nations signed the Convention of Constantinople, ensuring the right of all ships, commercial or military, to pass through the canal in times of peace or war regardless of flag. The Khedivate itself was not invited to the convention, nor did it sign the treaty.

In 1914, at the outbreak of the First World War, the Khedivate found itself divided in stance. The Ottoman Empire, by law the ruling power in the Khedivate, sided with the Central Powers, but Britain, who in fact exercised much more control on the ground, was on the opposite side. The Khedive Abbas II decided to side with the Central Powers, but assured all nations that he would enforce the convention and keep the canal open to all. While he was on a state visit to Vienna, however, the British deposed him, officially ended the Khedivate, and installed his uncle Hussein Kamel as Sultan under a British protectorate. Through this government the British closed the canal to non-Allied shipping and military vessels, proving the strategic importance of the canal in the modern age.

Independence and the Egyptian Monarchy

After the war had come to a close, Egyptian nationalists began to agitate for more independence and self-governance, spurred on by US President Woodrow Wilson's vocal advocacy for international self-determination. In 1918 a group called Al Wafd Al Misri ("The Egyptian Delegation", often known simply as "the Wafd") went before the British High Commissioner asking to be allowed to go to London to plead their case before the British government. They were denied, and subsequently in 1919 the group's leader Saad Zaglul and three other prominent members were arrested and deported to Malta. This sparked a large-scale popular revolution in Egypt, resulting eventually in the release of the Wafd prisoners and the creation of a British mission to determine how best to grant self-governance to Egypt. This mission was unpopular, resulting in more protests and demonstrations, and eventually the deportation of Zaglul to the Seychelles. Finally in 1922, Britain conceded and granted Egypt full independence, with Sultan Ahmed Fuad becoming King Fuad I of the Kingdom of Egypt. By 1923, parliamentary elections had been established and the nation was effectively a constitutional monarchy.

King Fuad's son King Farouk took the throne in 1936, amidst whirling political turmoil from the nationalist Wafd Party (descended from the Wafd of the revolution), the British interests in the canal, and various other factions like the Communist Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. Under pressure from nationalists who viewed the kingdom as a puppet state of the UK despite the abolition of the protectorate, King Farouk signed the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty in 1936, which

among other things required the withdrawal of all British troops from Egypt, except for in the Suez Canal Zone, which was agreed to be free of British military by 1949. Farouk was not a popular king, with his own people or with the British, and the Abdeen Palace Incident, where the British surrounded his palace and forced him to appoint a pro-British prime minister in 1942, solidified the Egyptian people's contempt for his rule and for the British.

The Egyptian Revolution

The internal tension in Egypt came to a head in 1951 when, after refusing to leave the country, British troops were barricaded within the Suez Canal zone with no food or water. The British valued the canal for its newfound role in transporting huge amounts of oil from the middle-east to Europe, so they responded by surrounding an Egyptian police station with tanks and infantry and, when the police refused to surrender, leveling it and killing everyone inside. The Egyptian people, already stoked into anti-British sentiment due to Britain's hand in creating the State of Israel, responded in a huge riot known as "Black Saturday", which destroyed much of downtown Cairo. In 1952 the Free Officers Movement, a group of nationalist officers in the Egyptian and Sudanese militaries, instigated another revolution by toppling King Farouk's rule. Farouk abdicated to his infant son King Fuad II, but any real power the monarchy had was abolished and power was consolidated in the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), led by Muhammad Naguib, a war hero and figurehead leader of the movement, and Gamel Abdel Nasser, the principal organizer behind the revolution itself. In 1953 the monarchy was formally abolished, Naguib was proclaimed first President of the Republic of Egypt, and all political parties were abolished and the RCC proclaimed that it would rule for 3 years during the transition to democracy.

In 1954, Naguib was forced to resign by Nasser, who assumed the office of the Presidency himself. There was turmoil at this time within the RCC, as some wished to return to constitutional democracy while others believed that the RCC should continue governing the nation. One thing they remained thoroughly united on, however, was their opposition to British control of the Suez Canal. At debates in the UN General Assembly, Egypt was backed by both the US and USSR in its urgings for the British to peacefully transfer control of the canal to the

Egyptian government. The British continued to refuse, and the Egyptian military continued to fund attacks on the base by various guerrilla groups. In early 1956, the RCC presented a new constitution to the public for approval. It and Nasser's presidency won a significant majority of approval from the public, and parliamentary elections were set for next year.

Egyptian International Relations

Meanwhile, the US and USSR have been attempting to establish footholds in the middle-east. For both sides, Egypt is a tempting prospective ally due to its position, prestige, and influence in the region, but the new government under Naguib and then Nasser was taking a strong neutralist stance in the Cold War. Nasser was friendly with several CIA agents in Cairo at the time, and American ambassador Jefferson Caffery spoke very highly of the possibility of alliances with Nasser all the way up until 1955, when he left the post. However, the Egyptian government was much more focused on the threat of Israel than the threat of communism, and was adamant that any alliance with the west would mean complete and total withdrawal of all British influence from the region, something the US was unable to provide. The US did agree to fund Nasser's Aswan High Dam project, a huge infrastructure project hoping to provide economic development to Egypt, but that could not buy Nasser's loyalty. In the end, the US ended up forming the Baghdad Pact, an alliance including the United Kingdom, Iraq, and several other middle-eastern states. The inclusion of Iraq in the western-backed alliance essentially ended good relations with Nasser, as he despised Iraqi leader Nuri al-Said and had been competing with him for dominance of the Arab world.

With this end to positive Egypt-America relations, Nasser turned to the Soviet bloc. The Americans had been unwilling to sell him weapons for fear that he would use them against Israel, but the Soviets had no such hesitations. In 1955, after numerous talks with Nikita Khrushchev, Nasser finally bought a huge quantity of heavy arms from communist Czechoslovakia. This move deeply angered the west, as did his subsequent recognition in 1956 of the People's Republic of China as the true government of China. Following these moves, the US pulled all funding from the Aswan High Dam project.

Nationalization of the Canal

On the 26th of July, 1956, after Nasser's feud with Britain and its Prime Minister Antony Eden over control of the middle-east had reached its peak, Nasser declared in a speech to the Egyptian public in Alexandria that he was nationalizing the Suez Canal, and forcibly removing the British occupiers. The ownership of the Suez Canal Company would officially pass fully to the Egyptian government, and all shareholders would be bought out at the fair price of the stock. The Egyptian military closed the Canal, as well as the Straits of Tiran, to all Israeli shipping on the same day. Prime minister Eden, at the time attending a dinner with King Faisal II and Prime minister al-Said of Iraq, was furious, and the British government in general was united in their anger. French prime minister Guy Mollet and the French people were likewise enraged, and determined to strike back. Both were disappointed by the lack of support they received from the US, and the French soon turned to Israel for a potential military alliance against Egypt.

Between the 16th and 23rd of August, at the urging of US President Eisenhower, a conference of 24 major nations who had involvement in or made use of the Suez Canal was held in London. All invited nations except Egypt and Greece accepted the invitation and attended the conference. Two competing proposals - the British-French proposal of international administration under Egyptian supervision and the Nasser-approved Indian proposal of Egyptian administration and international observation - were debated. The group ended up agreeing to send a delegation led by Australian Prime Minister Robert Menzies to negotiate with Nasser in Cairo. On the 7th of September, Menzies presented Nasser with the official proposition, which he viewed as "a derogation of Egyptian Sovereignty" and promptly rejected. Britain and France at this stage were on the edge of using military force, but Eisenhower and much of the international community urged them to restrain themselves.

Despite such urgings, however, plans were being made in secret. France and Israel had begun making plans in mid-September, and by early October Britain was brought on board. In late October, talks were held in the French city of Sevres in order to finalize the war plan, and by the

26th the Protocol of Sevres had been agreed to by all three nations. Britain still maintained valuable connections to several Arab nations through the Baghdad Pact, and thus didn't want to be seen as fighting alongside Israel, so the plan was for Israel to invade Sinai and then for British and French troops to arrive under the guise of peacekeepers and secure the canal.

The first military action came on the 28th, when an Israeli missile struck an Egyptian jet returning from Syria, believed to contain the commanders of the Egyptian military. This was in fact false, and the jet instead contained several lower-ranking officers, 2 journalists, and 2 crewmen, all of whom were killed. The next day, Israel began its invasion in full force, air-striking numerous Egyptian positions and moving troops into the Sinai peninsula. Israel also militarized its borders with Jordan, for fear that they would become involved, which resulted in Israeli border police killing 48 Arab Israeli citizens in the town of Kafr Qasim for violating a curfew of which they were unaware. On the 30th, The French and British sent their joint ultimatum to the Israelis and Egyptians to immediately cease hostilities and leave the canal zone. When both sides ignored the ultimatum, they began their campaign with a bombing run on the 31st. By late on the 1st of November, Egypt's air force had been almost completely destroyed. On the 5th of November, British paratroopers landed in Egypt and took an air base, followed soon after by the rest of their battalion on helicopter. They proceeded to take most of Port Said, the major city on the west side of the canal's north mouth. At the same time, French forces landed at the city of el-Raswa, and took the city of Port Fuad, a major port on the east side of the canal's northern mouth, soon thereafter.

Current Situation

As of today, the 6th of November 1956, British and French paratroopers have landed at various points in the region and seized several air bases and cities, including the key cities of Port Faud and Port Said at the north mouth of the canal. Their bombing runs and air campaigns have been viciously effective at crippling Egyptian military infrastructure, and Israeli forces occupy almost the entire Sinai peninsula. The Egyptians continue to fight back, and have inflicted significant losses on their opponents. They have also sunk all of the ships in the canal at the time of the nationalization, making passage impossible. Nasser decries the attacks as illegal imperialist invasions of a sovereign state, while the French and British assert that the running of the canal is a matter of international significance that must be brought into international hands.

Although the numerous international negotiations and peace talks have all failed to bring about a peaceful agreement between the two sides, the international community is not unprecedentedly united against the Franco-British invasion. The US, USSR, and almost all other nations have condemned the invasion of Egypt as a colonial relic that should be halted immediately. Therefore, while the British, French and Israelis may be in a strong position militarily, they are weak and friendless politically. The UN security council has convened to determine the best course of action moving forward.

Bloc Positions

France and Britain

France and Britain view the canal as an important piece of international infrastructure, and one built, funded, and operated for years by their government. Thus, they assert that Egypt nationalizing it was both a threat to the international order and an affront to their legal rights to the canal, and thus when peaceful negotiations failed military intervention was necessary.

Israel

Israel has long been in conflict with the Arab states, as what they view as a return to their ancestral homeland is viewed by the Arabs as a brutal and oppressive western colonization. Therefore, in order to protect itself and its interests in the region, Israel has made many moves to undermine the governments of various Arab states. They were eager to use the opportunity of the Suez Crisis to strike back at Egypt in revenge for Egypt's support of palestinian militia in the Gaza Strip.

Iraq

The Iraqi prime minister Nuri al-Said and Iraq's monarch King Faisal were both fierce enemies of Nasser, and rivals for leadership of the Arab world. Both the Prime Minister and the King were in London with Eden when the canal was seized, and both urged him to act quickly and strongly. Iraq is also a member of the Baghdad Pact, the UK-backed anti-soviet military alliance in the middle east that Nasser considers an arm of modern colonialism.

Egypt

Nasser detests any and all British influence in the middle east, and believes that the Arab states should be united (preferably, behind him) in their struggle to rid the region of western imperialism. In Egypt's view, Britain had violated requests and treaties to leave the canal numerous times before, and as sovereign Egyptian territory they had every right to take it by force under international law.

The Communist Bloc

The communist bloc had long been attempting to establish a foothold in the middle-east, and from their perspective Egypt was a prime candidate, especially after Nasser's falling out with the west. Supporting Egypt, for them, was both helping to establish their sphere of influence in the region and indirectly striking back at the western powers. Czechoslovakia has made a large arms sale to the Egyptian government recently, after the US refused to, and Premier Khrushchev had reversed the stalinist policy that all non-communist nations were automatically enemies, paving the way for friendship.

US, Canada, Germany, China

The non-imperial democratic states have long been advocating for their allies to release their colonies to independence, and the US has spoken out against the USSR's intervention in the Hungarian civil war. In addition, the US saw the Suez crisis as an opportunity to show the middle east that it was not biased towards Israel, part of a policy called Even-Handedness. Therefore, most western democracies are advocating strongly for peace in the region, and for Britain, France, and Israel to immediately withdraw their troops and leave canal governance to Nasser. Elongating the conflict in the region will also do nothing but harm these nations' capitalist economies, so a quick and peaceful resolution is preferred.

Timeline of Pertinent Events

DATE	EVENT
1869	The Suez Canal is first opened
1875	Khedive Isma'il Pasha sells his 44% share of the canal to the British government
1882	The Anglo-Egyptian war results in British conquest and administration of Egypt and the canal
1888	The Convention of Constantinople is signed, permitting free use of the canal for all
1914	The Khedive Abbas II is deposed by the British for siding with the Central Powers in WWI. They install a Sultan under a British protectorate
1922	Britain grants Egypt full independence, and Sultan Ahmed Fuad declares himself King Fuad I
1936	King Farouk takes the throne and signs the Anglo-Egyptian treaty, promising full British withdrawal from the canal zone by 1949
1952	The Free Officers Movement overthrows the King due to their perception that the kingdom was a puppet state of Britain.
1953	Mohammed Maguib is proclaimed first President of the Republic of Egypt
1954	Gamel Abdel Nasser forces Maguib to resign and takes the presidency for himself
24th Feb 1955	The Baghdad Pact is formed, including the UK and Iraq, two of Nasser's biggest enemies

Sep 1955	Nasser buys a large quantity of arms from Czechoslovakia
Jan 1956	American president Dwight Eisenhower sends his friend Robert Anderson to Egypt to attempt to negotiate lasting peace between Egypt and Israel. He is not successful
16th Jan 1956	Nasser unveils the new Egyptian constitution
1st Mar 1956	Nasser succeeds in getting King Hussein of Jordan to dismiss the British commander of the Jordanian army, causing British Prime Minister Antony Eden to call him "our Enemy No. 1 in the Middle East"
16th May 1956	Nasser recognizes the People's Republic of China as the legitimate government of China
23rd June 1956	Nasser is officially elected President of the Republic by the Egyptian public
18th July 1956	The United States withdraws funding from the Aswan High Dam in response to Nasser's continuous shift towards the communist bloc
26th July 1956	Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal, and closes it and the straits of Tiran to all Israeli shipping
29th July 1956	The French government decides to take military action in conjunction with Israel, and invites Britain to join
1st August 1956	A tripartite meeting between the US, UK, and France is held in London, which ended with Britain and France allied and US calls for diplomatic solutions falling on deaf ears
16th August 1956	An international maritime conference of the 24 nations that used the canal the most is opened in London

7th Sep 1956	Robert Menzies's delegation's proposal for international administration of the Canal is presented to Nasser, and almost immediately rejected.
9th Sep 1956	Eden makes a speech to the British parliament suggesting that Britain may use military force to take back the canal. US ambassador Dulles urges him to continue searching for diplomatic solutions
30th Sep 1956	The Franco-Israeli alliance, which had been being secretly discussed for the past month, begins official war planning in Paris
5th Oct 1956	Britain is informed of the Franco-Israeli war plan
24th Oct 1956	The Protocol of Sevres, a joint British-French-Israeli war plan, is finalized in Sevres, France.
28th Oct 1956	An Israeli missile strikes and destroys an Egyptian jet thought to contain military commanders. The actual occupants - crew, journalists, and low-ranking officers - are all killed.
29th Oct 1956	The Israeli invasion of Sinai begins, starting with airstrikes on numerous Egyptian positions on the peninsula. Israeli border police commit the Kafr Qasim Massacre, killing many Arab civilians in Israel.
30th Oct 1956	Britain and France issue ultimatums to Egypt and Israel to withdraw from the canal zone immediately.
31st Oct 1956	British and French planes begin their operations with a bombing campaign.
5th Nov 1956	British paratroopers capture El Gamil airfield and fly in more ground forces via helicopter, subsequently capturing Port Said. French paratroopers capture el-Raswa, and from there take the city of Port Fuad.
6th Nov 1956	Start of Committee Session I

Definition of Key Terms

- ❖ **Gamel Abdel Nasser:** The President of Egypt, a key instigator of the Free Officers Movement, and a fierce proponent of Arab Nationalism.
- ❖ **Antony Eden:** The Prime Minister of the UK and a fierce hater of Nasser. played a key role in instigating the military conflict.
- ❖ **Guy Mollet:** The French Prime Minister, who like Eden was deeply opposed to the canal seizure. Also a proponent of Imperialism, and France's right to their colonies.
- ❖ **Dwight Eisenhower:** The president of the US and a veteran of WWII. He is a staunch anti-communist, and believed nations should not be fighting amongst themselves but rather uniting against the Soviet Union.
- ❖ **Nikita Khrushchev:** Premier of the USSR and a tentative supporter of Nasser because of how his actions destabilized the west.
- ❖ **Nuri al-Said:** Prime Minister of Iraq, and Nasser's main opponent in the struggle for leadership of the Arab world.
- ❖ **David Ben-Gurion:** Prime Minister of Israel since its inception, and a strong Zionist. He and Nasser had several small-scale conflicts leading up to the crisis.
- ❖ **David Menzies:** The prime minister of Australia and a leader of the delegation sent to negotiate with Nasser.
- ❖ **Nationalism:** The ideology wherein proponents believe in the superiority of their nation over all others, and support its advancement to the detriment of all others.
- ❖ **Imperialism:** The political philosophy and practice of forcefully taking control of land not inherently tied to the people of one's nation and integrating it into the "empire" of said nation, often to the detriment of the independence and rights of the native peoples.

- ❖ **Zionism:** The belief in the Jewish ethnicity as distinct from the religion, and deserving of a state of its own, namely the state of Israel, apparently located on ancestral Jewish land.

- ❖ **Communism:** The political ideology espouses complete economic equality for all participants, including the abolition of private property and business and the state funding of free public services like education and healthcare.

- ❖ **Cold War:** A non-confrontational conflict between the US and its allies and the USSR and the communist bloc over ideology. Both were strong nuclear powers, so all out war was avoided, but they competed avidly for influence, allies, and strategic military advantages.

- ❖ **Baghdad Pact:** A mutual defense and cooperation agreement between Britain, Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan, and Iran.

- ❖ **Suez Canal:** The man-made waterway cutting between Europe and Africa, and connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Suez.

- ❖ **Sinai Peninsula:** A peninsula in Asia, part of Egypt, separated from the rest by the Suez Canal. located in between the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba.

- ❖ **Straits of Tiran:** The narrow waterway between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea.

Resources for Further Research

- ❖ [Encyclopedia Britannica](#) - A great resource for reliable historical information.
- ❖ [How the Suez Canal Changed The World](#) - A great youtube video outlining the canal's history and its impact on the world.
- ❖ [US State Department Office of the Historian](#) - The US government's official article on the crisis. It is not incredibly in-depth, but it gives valuable insight into the specific outlook and actions taken by the US during the crisis.
- ❖ [BBC History](#) - The British Broadcasting Corporation's article on the Suez crisis, high in detail and presenting the specific British viewpoint of the crisis.
- ❖ [Wikipedia](#)- While it is important to double-check any information from Wikipedia, as unreliability is high, it can be a great starting point and the references section on each page is often full of valuable resources

Guiding Questions

- ❖ What is the significance of sovereignty, and what determines the rights of nations?
- ❖ To what extent does the importance of international order supersede the independence of individual nations?
- ❖ Are nations obliged to protect their own interests even if those interests contradict the rights and powers of other nations?
- ❖ Should international treaties be enforceable? If so, by who and to what extent? If not, then what incentive do nations have to follow them?
- ❖ The UN was conceived in order to arbitrate differences between countries peacefully. If countries have no interest in peaceful resolutions, what powers should an international body have to compel them?
- ❖ If a nation takes an action that they deem legal but others deem illegal, what entity is/should be empowered to arbitrate or decide repercussions?
- ❖ To what extent are previous colonies entitled to reparations from their colonizers?
- ❖ What should the relationships between governments and private companies look like, regarding land ownership?

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Topic 2: Addressing the War in Kosovo, 1999



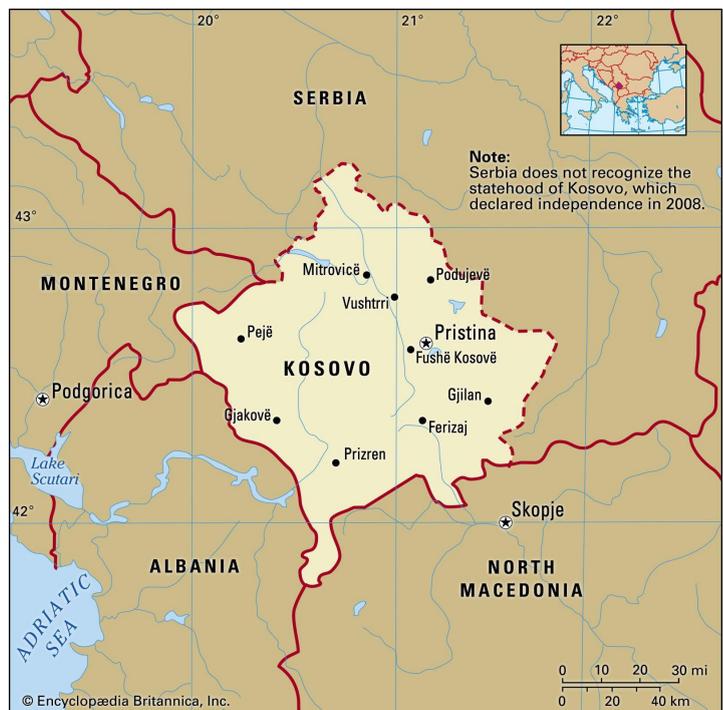
Background Information

History of Kosovo

Kosovo is a small region in the Balkan peninsula inhabited by a population that is almost entirely ethnic albanian. It was under the rule of the Ottoman empire beginning in the early 1400s, but in the early 20th century a rising tide of Albanian nationalism, as well as panslavic nationalism across the region, led to first the Albanian revolts of 1910 and 1912 and the the Balkan Wars from 1912 to 1913.

Albanian in the Balkan war

After the Ottoman defeat in the Balkan Wars, the territories gained were supposed to be split between the four combatants that won, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Greece. However, the London Peace Treaty, which officially ended the First Balkan War, granted the creation of another state under the name of Albania. Despite the fact that they were given a land of their own, Albanian Nationalists believed in a Greater Albania which consisted of territories that were given to Serbs, Greeks and Montenegrins. These territories, which consisted in a great majority of ethnic Albanians, were the main reason for unification by the Albanian nationalists. One of these territories being the Serb territory of Kosovo.



Situation during the World Wars

A great feeling of nationalism increased in Europe during the following years, one of which being the South Slavic Nationalism in Austro-Hungary, which led a young bosnian-serb nationalist, Gavrilo Princip, assassinate the Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, starting the First World War. The countries of Serbia and Montenegro repelled the Austrian army three times, before it collapsed. After the war ended, in 1921 the kingdom of Yugoslavia was created, including the territories of Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro and Slovenia.

During the Second World War Yugoslavia, pressured by the neighboring countries, joined the Axis power. However, in a matter of only two days, a pro british coup d'etat replaced the king in charge and after ten days yugoslavia was invaded splitting the kingdom in the german puppet state of Croatia, the italian puppet state Montenegro and Serbia remaining a german puppet state. After World War II, Kosovo became an autonomous province of Serbia in the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia (S.F.R.Y.). The 1974 Yugoslav constitution gave Kosovo (along with Vojvodina) the status of a socialist autonomous province in Serbia. As such, it had almost equal rights as the six constituent socialist republics of the S.F.R.Y.

Breakup of Yugoslavia

In 1981, riots broke out and were violently suppressed after Kosovo Albanians demonstrated to demand that Kosovo be granted full republican status. In the late 1980s, Slobodan Milosevic – who was a nationalist politician and president of Serbia who joined the Communist Party – pushed for power in Belgrade, exploiting the fears of the Kosovo Serb minority. In 1989, he abolished Kosovo's autonomy and imposed direct rule on Belgrade. Belgrade has ordered the dismissal of most ethnic Albanian state employees, whose jobs were then taken over by Serbs.

On 31 March 1991, the Croatian War of independence started as the people of the Croatian province declared independence from the S.F.R.Y. Only a few weeks later, on June 27 of the same year, the Slovenian War of Independence, or the Ten-Days War, a couple of days after the

Slovenian people declared independence of the Sloven province. Only ten days later, on July 8, the Brioni Agreement was signed and the Slovenian Independent was established. Following the Slovene and Croatian independence movement, on 6 April 1992, Bosnia started their own movement for independence. The Croatian movement lasted until 12 November 1995 with the independence of Croatia under the assistance of the United Nations (UN), with the Erdut Agreement, and the Bosnian until 14 December 1995, after UN and NATO interventions with the Dayton Peace Agreement.

Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA)

In response to Milosevic actions, Albanian leaders in Kosovo began a peaceful resistance movement in the early 1990s, led by Ibrahim Rugova. They established a parallel government funded mainly by the Albanian diaspora. When this movement failed, an armed resistance in the form of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) emerged in 1997. The main goal of the KLA was to ensure Kosovo's independence.

In late 1998, Milosevic launched a brutal police and military campaign against the KLA, which included widespread atrocities against civilians. Milosevic's failure to agree to the Rambouillet Accords, a proposed peace agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and a delegation representing the ethnic Albanian majority population of Kosovo, has launched a NATO military campaign to end violence in Kosovo.

Current Situation

As of today, the 27th of March 1999, Operation Allied Force has begun, and Belgrade is being heavily bombarded by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) has admitted that the terrorist organisation of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) was killing the Kosovo Serbs and therefore the brute force was used to destroy the KLA. The Kosovo leaders accused the FRY leaders of mistreating the people of Kosovo and furthermore accusing them of being the persecutor of the innocent Kosovars. NATO starts bombing the FRY due to their justification of ending the humanitarian crisis involving the large outflow of Kosovar Albanians refugees caused by the FRY forces.

However, Operation Allied Force was implemented with the deeply uncomfortable conditions of European allies due to the operation's legal basis. The United Nations (UN) has yet to come to a conclusion on the situation in FRY. The operation was carried out without the permission of the UN nor the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In contrast, the United States argued that the NATO Treaty provided adequate justification for the Alliance to act wherever its interests were threatened.

Bloc Positions

NATO

NATO has just started showing the world its power when it helped Bosnia and Herzegovina archive their goal of independence using the aerial advantage over the weaker Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Air Force. It wants to continue to contribute to the balkan region and help countries gain independence, by any means necessary.

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) has just started breaking apart, losing the territories of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Macedonia in just a matter of less than five years. It does not want any more of its territory to break apart. It tries its best to keep all the pieces together, Kosovo being one of the most important, if not everyone is happy about it, nationally or internationally.

Kosovo

Kosovo is tired of being oppressed by the Serbs and want their muslim Albanian people to be able to live peacefully in their own country without the leadership of a country that does not defines the. It will do everything possible to break free, using the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) if politically impossible.

Albania

Albania is watching from the side, supporting the Kosovo independence movement but not officially participating in it. Its only official help was the Rambouillet Accords, hoping for the independence of the country with majority Albnians. It does not like the Serbs and sees the KLA mission of a greater Albania as a noble one.

United States

The US wants to destroy Communism after the USSR in 1991. It will do whatever it can do as long as it is not negatively affected in any way and as long as it has no direct conflict with the FRY and uses NATO as a shield for its actions.

Timeline of Pertinent Events

DATE	EVENT
1987	Slobodan Milosevic's power grew with trip to Kosovo. At large public rallies, Serb nationalists embrace him when he dramatically promises to defend their interests in the province.
1989	Milosevic engineers changes in the Serbian constitution that vastly reduce the provincial autonomy Kosovo has enjoyed since 1974.
1991	The bloody break-up of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) begins as Slovenia and Croatia declare their independence.
1992	War breaks out in Bosnia, after it too moves for independence.
May 1992	Kosovar Albanians elected literary scholar and pacifist Ibrahim Rugova president in unofficial elections. Rugova begins creating a shadow government.
Dec 1992	In a secret "Christmas Warning," U.S. President George Bush informs Milosevic that Serbian aggression in Kosovo will bring unilateral US military response.
1993	War in Bosnia continues, as "ethnic cleansing" spreads. NATO threatens airstrikes to defend "safe areas" created to protect Muslims.
1994	NATO carries out first airstrikes in its history -- against Bosnian Serbs.

1995	More NATO airstrikes - along with a successful Croat/Muslim ground offensive - bring Bosnian Serbs to the negotiating table.
21 Nov 1995	The Dayton Accord ends war in Bosnia. Milosevic emerges as the region's power broker and NATO sees a lesson in its use of force.
1996	The Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) appears, and begins sporadic attacks against Serb authorities in Kosovo. Serbs ratchet up repression of student and ethnic movements in Kosovo.
23 Jan 1997	Madeleine Albright named first female US Secretary of State. As UN ambassador, Albright had argued in favor of early military intervention in Bosnia.
Oct 1997	Violence escalates in Kosovo as Serbian security forces clamp down further on resistance and KLA steps up its attacks.
23 Feb 1998	US diplomat Robert Gelbard publicly calls KLA "without any question a terrorist group" -- a comment which some observers say Milosevic interprets as a green light to continue repression.
1 Mar 1998	Rugova's shadow government reportedly urges Kosovar Albanians to defend themselves against the Serbs.
5th to 7th Mar 1998	After KLA attacks on police, Serb security forces massacre over 50 members of the Jashari family in the village of Prekaz. In the following weeks, tens of thousands rally in Pristina to protest the massacre. Serbs respond with counter-demonstrations.
7 Mar. 1998	Madeleine Albright declares "We are not going to stand by and watch the Serbian authorities do in Kosovo what they can no longer get away with doing in Bosnia."
9 Mar. 1998	"Contact Group" countries (US, UK, France, Germany, Italy and Russia) meet in London to discuss Kosovo. In a tense meeting, Gelbard meets with Milosevic in Belgrade.

23 Mar. 1998	Ibrahim Rugova re-elected "president" of Kosovo with 99% of vote in controversial elections boycotted by increasingly popular Kosovar Albanian hard-liners.
31 Mar. 1998	UN Security Council resolution 1160 condemns Yugoslavia's excessive use of force, imposes economic sanctions, and bans arms sales to Serbia.
21 Apr. 1998	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia closes borders with Albania and Macedonia
23 Apr. 1998	In the national referendum, 95% of Serbs reject foreign mediation to solve the Kosovo crisis.
May 1998	Gelbard meets with KLA officials in Switzerland. Amb. Christopher Hill named US Special Envoy to Kosovo. Dayton Accord negotiator Richard Holbrooke travels to Belgrade. Talks lead to the first-ever meeting between Rugova and Milosevic on May 15, though dialogue quickly breaks down.
May 1998	Gelbard meets with KLA officials in Switzerland. Amb. Christopher Hill named US Special Envoy to Kosovo. Dayton Accord negotiator Richard Holbrooke travels to Belgrade. Talks lead to the first-ever meeting between Rugova and Milosevic on May 15, though dialogue quickly breaks down.
1 Jun. 1998	Rugova meets UN Sec. Gen. Kofi Annan in New York, requesting UN/NATO intervention.
15 Jun. 1998	In the "Balkan Air Show," 85 NATO warplanes fly over Albania and Macedonia in a show of force aimed at Milosevic.
23-24 Jun. 1998	Holbrooke meets with Milosevic. Travels to Kosovo, to talk directly with KLA commanders.

6 Jul. 1998	Kosovo Diplomatic Observer Mission begins monitoring operations in the province.
9 Sept. 1998	Serb police begin to pull bodies of Kosovar Albanians and Serbs from a canal near the village of Glodjane. At least thirty-four bodies are eventually discovered, and suspicion falls on the KLA.
23 Sept. 1998	UN Security Council approves Resolution 1199 demanding cease-fire, Serb withdrawal and refugee return and calling for unspecified "additional measures" if Serbia refuses to comply.
5 Oct. 1998	UN Sec. Gen. Kofi Annan reports FRY violations of *UNSCR 1199.
12 Oct. 1998	NATO approves an "activation order" (ACTORD) authorizing preparations for a limited bombing campaign.
13 Oct. 1998	After more than a week of negotiations, Holbrooke secures the "October Agreement." Agreement calls for Serbian compliance with UN Resolution 1199, a cease-fire, troop withdrawals, elections, substantial autonomy for Kosovo and other confidence-building measures.
16 Oct. 1998	Milosevic agrees to allow unarmed OSCE cease-fire monitors - the Kosovo Verification Mission (KVM) -- into Kosovo. NATO extends *ACTORD deadline until 27 October.
24 Oct. 1998	NATO Supreme Commander Gen. Wesley Clark and Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Gen. Klaus Naumann travel to Belgrade. Milosevic agreed to reduce FRY forces in Kosovo to pre-March 1998 levels.
27 Oct. 1998	In what appears to be a vindication of NATO's strategy, Serbia withdraws thousands of Serb security forces from Kosovo. Thousands of Kosovar Albanians begin to descend from the hills as winter threatens.

Nov 1998	Unarmed international KVM monitors under American Ambassador William Walker begin deploying in Kosovo.
13 Nov 1998	Serbia warns Macedonia against allowing NATO to position troops on its territory.
Dec 1998	Border clashes and skirmishes in Kosovo draw new US condemnations. NATO approves and begins deploying in Macedonia an "extraction force" (XFOR) to defend peacekeepers in Kosovo.
23rd to 27th Dec 1998	FRY security forces battle KLA and near Podujevo.
19 Jan. 1999	In light of the Racak massacre, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger reconvenes the Principals Committee. Albright's push for military ultimatum wins the day. At the same time, NATO SACEUR Wesley Clark and NATO military council chairman Gen. Klaus Naumann met with Milosevic in Serbia in a tense seven-hour meeting. Milosevic claims Racak was staged by the KLA, and calls Clark a war criminal.
27 Jan. 1999	Joint statement on Kosovo by Albright and Russia's Ivanov. Clinton meets with foreign policy team to discuss post-Racak strategy.
1 Feb. 1999	Kosovo Albanians announce they will participate in talks in France; KLA agrees to participate the following day.
6 Feb. 1999	Rambouillet peace talks begin in France, though Milosevic refuses to attend.
11 Feb. 1999	Clinton meets with foreign policy team to discuss "NATO planning, US costs and KFOR exit strategy."

13 Feb. 1999	The day after his impeachment drama ends, Clinton calls Congressional leaders to discuss Rambouillet, possible US role in NATO-led Kosovo force. In a radio address, Clinton notes his intention to send 4,000 U.S. peacekeepers to Kosovo after a cease-fire and a Serb withdrawal have been won.
10 Mar. 1999	Holbrooke and Hill meet with Milosevic to urge him to accept NATO settlement.
12 Mar. 1999	KLA is reportedly ready to sign a peace pact. However Hill reports to Albright, Cohen, Berger, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Hugh Shelton that there is "zero point zero percent" chance of a deal on the Serb side.
16 Mar. 1999	CIA warns of imminent Serbian offensive. FRY asks Interpol to arrest KLA leader Hashim Thaci.
19 Mar. 1999	In light of the failure of peace talks and massing of Serb troops on Kosovo's border, Clinton meets with foreign policy team to review NATO plans & strategy.
24 Mar. 1999 19:00 UTC	NATO started the bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.
25 Mar. 1999	Serbian forces reportedly kill more than 60 Kosovar Albanian men near the village of Bela Crvka. FRY breaks off diplomatic relations with the United States, Germany, Great Britain and France.
27 Mar 1999	Start of Committee Session

Key Term Definitions

- ❖ **NATO:** The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 27 European, one transcontinental, and two North American
- ❖ **Yugoslavia:** A former country of southeast Europe bordering on the Adriatic Sea. It was formed in 1918 as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and was renamed Yugoslavia in 1929.
- ❖ **Communist party:** A communist party is a political party that seeks to realize the socio-economic goals of communism.
- ❖ **S.F.R.Y:** The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, commonly referred to as SFR Yugoslavia or simply Yugoslavia, was a socialist country in Central and Southeast Europe that existed from its foundation in the aftermath of World War II until its dissolution in 1992 amid the Yugoslav Wars.
- ❖ **Ten-Days War:** The Ten-Day War, or the Slovenian War of Independence, was a brief armed conflict that followed Slovenia's declaration of independence from Yugoslavia on 25 June 1991.
- ❖ **Slobodan Milošević:** Slobodan Milošević was a Yugoslav and Serbian politician who served as the president of Serbia within Yugoslavia from 1989 to 1997 and president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1997 to 2000.

- ❖ **Kosovo Liberation Army:** The Kosovo Liberation Army was an ethnic Albanian separatist militia that sought the separation of Kosovo, the vast majority of which is inhabited by Albanians, from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- ❖ **Rambouillet Accords:** The Rambouillet Agreement, formally the Interim Agreement for Peace and Self-Government in Kosovo, was a proposed peace agreement between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and a delegation representing the ethnic Albanian majority population of Kosovo.
- ❖ **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:** The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the world's largest regional security-oriented intergovernmental organization with observer status at the United Nations.
- ❖ **Ibrahim Rugova:** Ibrahim Rugova was a prominent Kosovo Albanian political leader, scholar, and writer, who served as the President of the partially recognised Republic of Kosova, serving from 1992 to 2000 and as President of Kosovo from 2002 until his death in 2006.
- ❖ **George W. Bush:** George Walker Bush is an American politician who served as the 43rd president of the United States from 2001 to 2009.
- ❖ **Dayton Accord:** The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Agreement or the Dayton Accords, is the peace agreement reached at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, United States, on 21 November 1995, and formally signed in Paris, on 14 December 1995.
- ❖ **Ethnic cleansing:** “Ethnic cleansing” has been defined as the attempt to get rid of (through

deportation, displacement or even mass killing) members of an unwanted ethnic group in order to establish an ethnically homogenous geographic area.

- ❖ **Madeleine Albright:** Madeleine Jana Korbel Albright was an American diplomat and political scientist who served as the 64th United States secretary of state from 1997 to 2001. A member of the Democratic Party, Albright was the first woman to hold that post.
- ❖ **Robert Gelbard:** Ambassador Robert S. Gelbard is an international business consultant. He has served as President Clinton's Special Representative to the Balkans.
- ❖ **Prekaz:** The Attack on Prekaz, also known as the Prekaz massacre, was an operation led by the Special Anti-Terrorism Unit of Serbia on 5 March 1998, to capture Kosovo Liberation Army fighters deemed terrorists by Serbia.
- ❖ **Christopher Hill:** Hill was part of the team that negotiated the Bosnia peace settlement. While working on Balkan issues, Hill worked closely with Richard Holbrooke, serving as his deputy at the Dayton Peace Talks in 1995.
- ❖ **Contact Group:** In addition to the UN, OSCE and NATO, the principal group of nations that monitors and supervises international policy in Kosovo is the Contact Group.
- ❖ **Kofi Annan:** Kofi Atta Annan was a Ghanaian diplomat who served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1997 to 2006. Annan and the UN were the co-recipients of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize.
- ❖ **Richard Holbrooke:** During 1998 and 1999, in his capacity as special presidential envoy,

Holbrooke worked to end the conflict between the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), who were fighting for an independent Kosovo in the Kosovo War.

- ❖ **Hugh Shelton:** Henry Hugh Shelton is a former United States Army officer who served as the 14th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1997 to 2001.
- ❖ **Hashim Thaçi:** He is a former Kosovar Albanian student leader who helped to found the underground movement that became the KLA.
- ❖ **Jefferson Clinton:** William Jefferson Clinton is an American politician who served as the 42nd president of the United States from 1993 to 2001.
- ❖ **Bela Crkva:** The Bela Crkva massacre was the mass-killing of Kosovo Albanian villagers from Bellacërkë, Kosovo by Yugoslav armed forces on 24–25 March 1999. Twelve hours after NATO had started bombing strategic Yugoslav targets, Yugoslav armed forces came to the area around Bela Crkva, fired artillery, and set fire to the village.
- ❖ **William Walker:** William Graham Walker is a United States Foreign Service diplomat who served as the US ambassador to El Salvador and as the head of the Kosovo Verification Mission.

Resources for Further Research

- ❖ [Serbian Documentary of Kosovo](#) - Very recommended to watch. Documentary in Serbian language (with subtitles in English) that shows the Serbian perspective of the whole situation.
- ❖ [Politico.eu - Kosovo leaders](#) - More information about KLA and Taçi.
- ❖ [UN Resolution 1160](#) - The UN proposed resolution for fixing the situation in Yugoslavia.
- ❖ [Kosovo 2016](#) - A video that presents what the situation in Kosovo is in the present day, an interesting view of why things should have been different.
- ❖ [Brief History of Kosovo](#) - A video presenting everything that happened so that Kosovo got to where it is. (Recommended to watch until the minute 6:03)
- ❖ [K-FOR official site](#) - A great source of information to see what is happening to Kosovo in the present by the NATO troops.
- ❖ [Kosovo Data](#) - Website that presents a variety of data about Kosovo.
- ❖ [US Archive of Kosovo](#) - Brief written history of Kosovo from an American perspective.
- ❖ [Kosovo History](#) - Turkish perspective of Kosovo history.
- ❖ [Kosovo Documentary \(17 min\)](#) - French perspective of Kosovo.
- ❖ [Growing up in Kosovo](#) - A video presenting a Serb Kosovo girl meets a Albanian Kosovo boy in a time of peace.
- ❖ [KLA Video explanation](#) - Video explaining who the KLA are including a tour with important monuments of the KLA in Kosovo.

Guiding Questions

- ❖ Was the NATO intervention without the UN or OSCE justified?
- ❖ Should the US be charged for all damaged cause at the bombing of Serbia?
- ❖ Should the Kosovo Liberation Army be considered a terrorist group or not?
- ❖ Was the FRY justified into committing mass murder in order to stop the KLA? Was the KLA justified into committing mass murder in order to stop the FRY?
- ❖ To what extent are organizations allowed to perform activities in a country without their permission or any international authorisation?
- ❖ Should the UN help the KLA leader Hashim Thaci or the FRY leader Slobodan Milošević?

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