

MASMUN '20 Topic Brief

Forum: Security Council

Topic 1: Question of the Rising Tensions Between the USA and Iran

Topic 2: Tackling the El Salvadoran Civil War of 1980

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Article I: Introduction to the Security Council:

The Security Council is considered the most prestigious forum in the United Nations. The Council has a main responsibility to preserve international peace and security. In Model United Nations, the Security Council is where the best delegates join in high quality debate over top level clauses. The forum is comprised of 15 delegations, five of which are permanent members which are the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, China and France. The other ten members are elected every two years by the General Assembly, the other members this cycle are Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, South Africa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Tunisia and Viet Nam. our delegations however will be the following:

- a. United States of America
- b. United Kingdom
- c. Germany
- d. France
- e. Iran
- f. Russia
- g. China
- h. Vietnam
- i. Tunisia
- j. Indonesia
- k. El Salvador
- l. Nigeria
- m. South Africa
- n. Estonia

The Permanent 5 members of the Security Council (USA, France, UK, China and Russia) have rights to a VETO power, which essentially is the ability to drop any resolution after or before a vote. The VETO cannot be contested by any other delegation, but make sure not to abuse this power, it could lead to war!

War in the Security Council happens differently than in the United Nations: it all depends on debate and the validity of each side's points. For the countries declaring war, they would need to give a war speech to declare that thus far, the opposing nation(s) have infringed upon their sovereignty and denies them the ability to act in local or international relations. After points of information, there will be a speech by the opposing nation(s) to respond whether they will be partaking in this war or not. After each speech, neutral nations will decide whether to participate or not, and will then ask points of information in order to decide which side they should be on, if foreign policy proves neutral to both sides of the war. Your job, as a declarer of war, is to convince as many nations to join your side, in order to win the war. The winner is decided by the

number of seats in the United Nations that each country possesses, so make sure to choose your allies well!

Article II: Topic 1 Brief

II.1: General Background

In current modern politics we see tensions between two rather powerful countries, Donald Trump's United States of America and Hassan Rouhani's Iran. Let's take a step back, to 1979 after the Iranian revolution, where the first sanction against Iran was put into place by the USA. After the 9/11 attacks, Iran harboured suspected terrorists and backed other militias in Afghanistan and Iraq who have killed many thousands of American soldiers. In 2002, President George W Bush declared Iran, Iraq and North Korea the "Axis of Evil", causing outrage in Iran, which sparks a propaganda war between the two nations. The same year, an Iranian opposition group revealed that Iran was developing a nuclear program, including a uranium enrichment plant. The US accuses Iran of developing a nuclear arsenal, which Iran denies.

After this event follows a decade of UN supervision of Iran's nuclear advancements. However several rounds of sanctions are put into place by the USA and the EU against Iran, causing its currency to lose two thirds of its value in 2 years. Tensions with Iran take a smaller role in world news after other events occur at the time, such as the UK's election of a new prime minister, the trials of Slobodan Milosvic, heatwaves in Europe, both in 2003 and 2007, Iraq's legislative elections, the hanging of Saddam Hussein, etc...

II.2: Recent Relations

Between 2013 and 2016, tensions soften between US and Iran between President Barack Obama and Iran's newly elected President Hassan Rouhani engage in contact by phone, the first conversation of its level in 30 years. President Barack Obama's main focus in his Presidential campaigns was to ensure softer tensions with Iran, and he did just that.

Obama created the JCPOA, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, a nuclear deal which denied Iran the ability to develop a nuclear arsenal. Signatories include France, Germany, the USA, China, Russia, the EU, Iran and the USA. This plan was able to make sure that peace was preserved while Iran was not able to develop a nuclear power. It was specifically effective in preventing conflict and eased tensions within Obama's period. However Obama's policies towards Iran were undermined by most recent President of the United States Donald Trump, who caused the water to boil even more after his speech on America's Iran policies, saying "Iran is under the control of a fanatical regime that seized power in 1979 and forced a proud people to submit to its extremist rule...", accusing the Iranian government of being extremist and a terrorist nation, which caused the tensions to rise once more.

II.3: Current State

On the 3rd of January, the United States targeted a military meeting with Iranian government officials, which resulted in the death of 35 Iranian military and government officials, including Qassem Soleimani, Iran's second-in-command and their highest ranking military general. The death of this key figure shows that the United States' presidency changes often, and that policies from one president to another are subject to heavy alterations.

The reasoning for this was Trump's suspicion of Iran's development of nuclear plans and its "imminent attack" on the US. The use of the word "imminent" is important here, since international law, as it relates to self-defense, suggests that attacking an enemy first to prevent an attack is only legal when that attack is thought to be "imminent", in other words happening or about to happen; there are also other requirements, such as that the anticipated attack leaves "no choice of means, and no moment of deliberation." The administration's shifting justifications have raised questions about the legality of the strike. Now, the USA and Iran stand at the top of the political world, battling it out with military and non-military means.

Article III: Topic 2 Brief

III.1: Background Information & Internal Affairs

El Salvador is a small country situated in the Northern Triangle of Central America, along with Guatemala and Honduras, which border Mexico and Costa Rica. This topic is a historical topic, so many of the events have already occurred. Your countries will be the same as they have been at the time of the topic (1980 - 1992). Since 1929, El Salvador was governed by a military dictatorship and autocratic government system, led by General Hernandez Martinez, however in 1944, the dictatorship suffered a coup d'état which weakened the constitution of El Salvador. This coup was effective, yet it took another revolution led by Major Oscar Osorio, who took control as President of El Salvador in 1950. Osorio organized the Revolutionary Party of Democratic Unification (Partido Revolucionario de Unificación Democrática; PRUD) and launched reform projects to bring El Salvador back to its feet. Despite the fact that he developed the country with these reforms and introduced better human rights, the reforms served to encourage economic growth and to benefit the middle class.

Osorio's successor, Colonel José María Lemus, continued these programs for 4 years, but there was no improvement in the living standards of workers. When faced with open discontent, Lemus resorted to repressive measures, Salvadorans were imprisoned and executed for complaints and revolution. Eventually, a military coup caused him to abdicate and yield power to a government which dismantled the PRUD and instituted a stronger foreign policy, which lasted a solid 18 more years, which sought to increase trade and create tender relations with other countries in Southern and Central America, however the peace does not last long...

III.2: Foreign Affairs & Civil War

In the 1970 World Cup hosted in Mexico, the El Salvadoran team and Honduran team ran into difficulties keeping a fair sport due to the border conflict between Honduras and El Salvador. The three matches escalated tensions between the two countries and El Salvador was distracted by this conflict, which revealed the mistreatment and violations of human rights against 300,000 El Salvadoran refugees immigrating to Honduras, causing even more fury from the Salvadoran government. Elections continued and all leaders had one thing in common: the people showed discontent no matter the leader, violations of human rights were not attended to by the UN or by the government. The country fell into war in which it drowned for 12 years. The final military dictator of El Salvador, Carlos Romero, was removed after months of brutal oppression and killings. The Salvadoran people had enough when the time came to place another military leader in power, and the people rioted, causing a Civil War. The aristocracy, which was allied with the military of the country versus the workers, peasants and middle class.

In addition, the role of the United States, which previously had shown very little interest in the affairs of El Salvador, changed markedly with Ronald Reagan's inauguration as president in January 1981. During the balance of the decade, the United States supplied El Salvador with financial aid amounting to \$4 billion; assumed responsibility for the organization and training of elite military units; supported the war effort through the provision of sophisticated weaponry, particularly helicopters; and used its influence in a variety of ways to guide the political fortunes of the country.

The United States took a major role in this due to fears of approaching Communist ideologies in El Salvador. Seeing as Cuba had already converted its government to Fidel Castro's Communist Cuba, and threats of the USSR's expansion in Eastern Europe put America on its toes. The classic Cold War Era's Capitalism vs Communism battle was starting off once again, yet the Soviet Union showed no interest in aiding in the war with the United States meaning that a proxy war was avoided.

III.3: Post-Conflict Era

The peace agreement officially ended the civil war and mandated a major reduction of the country's armed forces, the dissolution and disarming of guerrilla units, the creation of a new civilian police force (Policía Nacional Civil; PNC), and the establishment of a commission to investigate human rights abuses of the Salvadoran Armed Forces and the FMLN during the war. The FMLN subsequently became a political party. Also in 1992, a century-old territorial dispute between El Salvador and Honduras was settled by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which awarded Honduras two-thirds of the land in the Gulf of Fonseca and ensured Honduras's free

passage to the Pacific Ocean. El Salvador unsuccessfully appealed this decision before the ICJ in 2002.

Article IV: Contact info

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