



# UNHSC





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#### 1. President's Letter

"The people who get on in this world are the people who get up and look for the circumstances they want, and, if they can't find them, make them." - George Bernard Shaw

# Dear delegates

It's a pleasure for us, Mariana Monsalve and Alejandro Gutierrez, to give you a warm welcome to the XIII version of CCBMUN and to the Historical Security Council (HSC). It's an immense privilege being the ones that are able to preside over this committee, and to evaluate the different topics treated in the Security Council in the past, analyzing and developing them to a new and better outcome for the history of the world. We hope this experience of symbolizing influential nations in one of the six main organs of the United Nations will not only boost you with abundant knowledge, but will help you improve your speech and conflict-solving abilities. We aspire for this Model Of United Nations to grant a better understanding of the different issues treated in the past in this committee, and hopefully spark a wave of curiosity on how to be the ones that create substantial changes in past historical events.

As many other generations have said before us, our main goal with the event is to inspire these few days that we will be together to "*Do more than just watch*." We, with all and the best of our abilities, will strive to provide you with the greatest assistance and guidance needed to bring to life the space where you will be able to debate, discuss, inspect and negotiate. However you, the delegates, are the central core of this activity. We expect all of you to do your best of what you got and to prepare the best you can, engage with the material we give you and the one you will look for, and faithfully represent your honorable delegation. We hope to give you all the tools you need all the time in commission, but ultimately it is our duty to build and shape the best experience possible during your time in CCBMUN.

Keeping this in mind, we invite you to embrace completely your role in the commission. On this occasion you will have the opportunity to participate in one of the most influential and powerful organs on the international landscape, with you being an important nation, capable of making strong decisions and restructuring prior issues. Therefore, the main goal of re-developing diplomatic solutions and creating a different outcome from the past to keep international security and peace, is achievable, and on this occasion, you are the ones with the chance to do so.

Sincerely,

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#### 2. Introduction to the Committee.

#### 2.1 History

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the international community decided to create the United Nations (UN), an international organization with the main goal of maintaining international peace and security, and taking effective collective measures to prevent and remove threats to peace. The UN Charter is the UN's governing document, drafted by 50 states in the San Francisco Conference, from April 25 to June 26, 1945, and later signed by 51 nations. The document established the six main organs of the organization, the Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Trusteeship Council. The UN Charter came into force on October 24, 1945, after being ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. The first session of the Security Council was held on January 17, 1946, at Church House, Westminster, London. Since then, the Council's permanent residence was relocated to the United Nations<sup>"</sup> Headquarters in New York City.

The Security Council not only has the primary purpose of preserving international peace and security, but it also contributes to the development of friendly relations between member states, and it creates a place to effectively cooperate in solving conflicts among nations. The Council, as stated in article 39 of the UN Charter: *"shall determine* 

the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression<sup>1</sup> and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security." Such decisions are agreed to be accepted and be carried out by the member states in accordance with the Charter<sup>2</sup>. This means that the Security Council has the authority to bind all members of the organization, and the members are obliged to follow the measures agreed upon in the Council's resolutions.

The Council consists of fifteen members, five permanent and ten non-permanent members. All members are granted one vote. Originally the 5 permanent states were the United States, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the French Republic, and the Republic of China. Later the Republic of China would be replaced at the UN by the People's Republic of China on October 25, 1971, and the Soviet Union would be replaced by the Russian Federation on December 24, 1991. These five nations have veto power over any Council's resolution. The ten non-permanent members are elected for a two-year period, with no consecutive re-election, and are also chosen considering geographical distribution. There are 3 representatives from African countries, two from Latin America, two from Asia, two from Western Europe, and one from Eastern Europe.

All decisions on procedural or non-substantial matters need a minimum of nine affirmative votes to pass. The veto power is not applicable in these cases. However, in decisions regarding substantial matters (resolutions), nine affirmative votes are required, including the concurring votes<sup>3</sup> of the five permanent members. Any member of the United Nations who is not a member of the Security Council can be invited to participate in discussions about a situation brought to the Council that especially affects that

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Threat to peace: originally perceived exclusively to inter-state conflicts, but the idea has expanded to include internal situations, violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, terrorism, climate change and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction among others.

Breach of peace: less expansive term referring to specific acts that pose a significant threat to international peace and security.

Act of aggression: the term must be understood by the definition established in resolution 3314 of the General Assembly of 1974. *See* <u>A/RES/29/3314 - Definition of Aggression - UN Documents: Gathering a body of global agreements (un-documents.net)</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Article 25: The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Abstention, non-participation, absence, or a vote in favor are considered as concurring.

delegation, although it will not have the possibility to vote. If a member is a party to the dispute in an issue being discussed in the Council, it shall abstain from voting (Article 27 [3]). Finally, if the Security Council is unable to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security because of the exercise of the veto power of the permanent members in a decision of vital importance, members of the council may request, applying the General Assembly resolution 377(V) (United for peace), for the referral of the issue to the General Assembly so it can make the necessary recommendations.<sup>4</sup>

#### 2.2 Powers

Despite having the particularity of being a historical committee, the HSC has the same powers and responsibilities of the UNSC currently. The UNSC has three sets of powers according to the Charter:

- Adjustment or settlement powers (Chapter VI)
- Enforcement powers (Chapter VII); and
- Regional arrangement powers (Chapter VIII)

# 2.2.1 Adjustment or settlement powers:

The Council, to peacefully resolve international disputes or situations that in principle do not pose a threat to peace yet, can take a number of non-coercive measures to settle the dispute. The SC can call upon the parties to a dispute to settle their dispute through *"negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means of their own choice"* (Article 33 [2]). Also, the Council may investigate any dispute that might endanger international peace and security, and it can establish fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry to fulfill such purposes. If the efforts mentioned in Article 33 fail to settle the conflict, the SC shall intervene recommending appropriate procedures, methods or terms of settlement, or referring the dispute to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), if necessary.

<sup>4</sup> See https://ask.un.org/faq/177134 and A/RES/377%20(V) - E - A/RES/377%20(V) -Desktop (undocs.org)

#### 2.2.2 Enforcement powers:

When measures taken under Chapter VI result unsuccessful, the Security Council can take more assertive action under Article 39 by making non-binding recommendations or binding provisional decisions<sup>5</sup> on which process to follow, like issuing ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict, or dispatching military observers - or a peacekeeping force - to help reduce tensions. In addition, the Council may decide for enforcement measures not involving the use of force, like complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations. On the contrary, it may authorize the use of force by air, sea, or land.

# 2.2.3 Regional arrangement powers:

Chapter VIII allows regional arrangements or agencies to deal with matters related to the maintenance of international peace and security. If the arrangements and their activities comply with the Purposes and Principles of the UN, the matter addressed is deemed local and adequate for regional action. For an arrangement to be done, the SC needs to give authorization before undertaking any action and is kept fully informed of their activities.

The Security Council has the possibility of establishing subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions. They include Ad Hoc committees on sanctions, counterterrorism, and nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia, Military Staff Committee and Peacekeeping Operations and Political Missions<sup>6</sup>.

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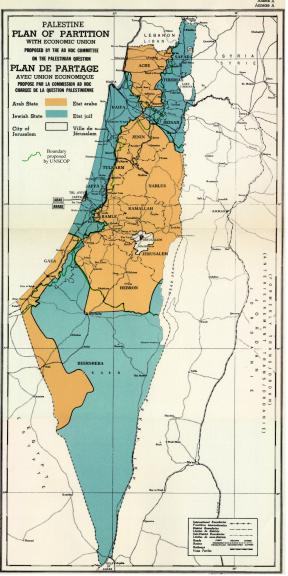
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> To understand when Security Council's decisions are binding the ICJ said, in Legal Consequences for States of the Continued Presence of South Africa in Namibia case (1971), that "the language of a resolution of the Security Council should be carefully analyzed before a conclusion can be made as to its binding effect... the question whether they have in fact been exercised (powers of Article 25) is to be determined in each case, having regard to the terms of the resolution to be interpreted, the discussions leading to it, the Charter provisions invoked".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> For more information on subsidiary bodies, see Subsidiary Organs Branch | United Nations Security Council

#### **3.** Topic I: The Palestine Partition Plan of 1947

#### 3.1 Introduction

On November 29, 1947, Resolution 181 was passed by the brand new United Nations General Assembly. The United Kingdom had decided to relinquish its mandate over Palestine and had requested the UN determine the fate of the territory and its people. Thus, Resolution 181 was a recommendation for the partition of the Palestinian territory into two different states, one Jewish and one Arab. However, leaving the long disputed city of Jerusalem and the city of Bethlehem within an international buffer zone with no individual state jurisdiction.



7 The term "Zionism" will be explained later.

The partition would have established a Jewish state with approximately 14,100 square kilometers, which consisted of 56.47% of all the land; at a time when Jews accounted for about 30% of the population and owned less than 7% of the land. Consequently, it was fiercely rejected by both the Arab-Palestinian population of the country and most of the remaining Arab world. Almost immediately after the resolution's passage armed conflict sparked between Arabs and Jews, leading up to decades of wars, disputes and weak agreements. It thus represents the most definitive moments in modern Palestinian history, since it effectively granted international legitimacy to the Zionist<sup>7</sup> takeover of the territory, and laid out the borders that have been critical subsequent to negotiations.

Many wrongly believe that the Palestinian-Arab

Israeli conflict arose due to ancient religious disputes. Nonetheless, Muslim and Jewish

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populations have a history of peacefully co-existing in Middle Eastern territory and freely practicing their faith respectively. The cultural and political differences that characterize the modern strife are regarding conflicting nationalisms and are secular in origin.

They first appeared around the last decades of the 1800s, as a response of the growing Jewish nationalist movement that wanted a permanent Jewish presence in Palestine and whose ultimate goal was to establish a State. Primarily, as a result of consistent and systematic Jewish persecution (mainly in European countries) around the world. Palestinians and other Arabs Christians rejected the movement not because they opposed Jewish immigration and integration to Palestinian society, but because the creation of an internationally recognized Jewish State would potentially undermine Palestinian Arabs political rights and sovereignty over the territory.

The palestinian land, particularly Jerusalem, is sacred to the three most important monotheistic religions: Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Both Arabs and Jews claim to have historical ground over Palestine, citing extensive periods of occupation of the territory as proof of the right to administrate. From a Jewish perspective, Israel or "Eretz Israel" is the promised land lost nearly 2,000 years prior that will finally allow the dream of a Jewish State. As stated by Charles D. Smith: "The Western Wall in Jerusalem, a remnant of the Temple of the Herodian era (first century BCE) recalls the Jewish presence and intermittent independence in the area over a millennium and buttresses the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism." (Smith, 2016, 52)

On the other hand, Christians view Palestine as the region where their religion emerged, and Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre as the site of Jesus'crucifixion. For Muslims Jerusalem is the third holiest city in Islam after Mecca and Medina. Place where the Prophet Muhammad was said to have ascended from the Temple Mount to be in God's presence. Charles D. Smith presents again: "(t)hus the Jewish Temple mount is for Muslims the *al-Haram al-Sharif*, Noble Sanctuary, whose area commemorates Muhammad's visit, and Israel represents land that was ruled by Muslim dynasties for thirteen centuries before Israeli independence in 1948." (Smith, 2016, 53)

Therefore, Palestine holds immense cultural and religious significance for Muslims and Jewish alike, and such historical ties are a fundamental element of national identity, regardless of which State we are referring to. Sovereignty over the land not only ensures access to historical and religious sites, but enables land ownership, rights to explore, exploit and manage resources, and political rights and legitimacy. It is crucial then to understand when and how these two contesting nationalisms –Arab and Jewish– appeared, and the role the UN Partition Plan played in solidifying and aggravating the conflict between them.

#### 3.2 Historical Background

The 19th century is the particular time when populations around the world started to identify themselves as nations and demand national rights, especially the right to self determination<sup>8</sup> and sovereignty, much like other territories in Europe during previous decades. It is at this time that Jews and Arab-Palestinians both began to develop a national consciousness, and organized to achieve national political goals.

#### 3.2.1 Ottoman Rule and Arab Nationalism

In the 1880s neither Israel nor Palestine existed as a political unit in the currently disputed territory. The land of Palestine consisted of parts of two administrative districts of the Ottoman or Turkish Empire: the Sanjak of Jerusalem and the Vilayet of Beirut. Ottoman records of 1878 indicated that there were "462,465 subject inhabitants of the Jerusalem, Nablus and Acre districts: 403,795 Muslims, 43,659 Christians and 15,011 Jews. In addition, there were perhaps 10,000 Jews with foreign citizenship (recent immigrants to the country), and several thousand Muslim Arab nomads (bedouin) who were not counted as Ottoman subjects." (Beinin, 2014)



<sup>8</sup> Self-determination denotes the legal right of people to decide their own destiny in the international order. Self-determination is a core principle of international law. Possibility to self-rule.

The vast majority of Arabs –Muslim and Christian– lived in hundreds of rural villages. There were towns and cities such as Jerusalem and Nablus in the interior, and Acre, Jaffa and Gaza on the coast, that were extremely economically significant, despite the fact that the predominant way of life in the territory was agricultural (64% of the population were dependent on farming). (Fraser, 2004, 17)

Since 1517, Egypt and Arab territories of the eastern Mediterranean were under Ottoman rule. Therefore, as any other land within a large empire, they had to accommodate citizens from multiple cultural and religious backgrounds, hosting diverse communities and minorities for decades (Jews and various forms of Christians included). Such connivance, which was mostly harmonious, allowed for stability and cohesion in the region.

Nonetheless, Ottoman power and influence were consistently receding since the 17 th century. The Ottomans had to face prolonged armed conflicts with the Habsburg monarchy of the Holy Roman Empire, stirring nationalities of the Balkans, and finally by the late 19th century the expansionism of the British Empire and France. For the most part of the 1800s, the newly European spirit of nationalism was not notably present in Arab society, apart from small groups of interested, educated Arabs in Beirut and Damascus. However, after the Turkish revolution of 1908 –when the "Young Turks" seized power and established a Turkish-center government that diminished Arab and other regional autonomies–, Arab citizens began striving for increased self-determination.

A longing for the past glory of the Arab region before Turkish conquest, was the biggest sentiment fueling Arab nationalism. Strong cultural and religious connections predominantly informed by Islam teachings, shared language and a history of scientific innovation, art and politics permitted the construction of a solid and interlinked national identity.

### 3.2.2 Zionism and Jewish Nationalism

Up until the turn of the 20th century, the majority of Jews in Palestine lived in four cities: Tiberias, Jerusalem, Hebron, and Safad. Most of them carried out traditional and orthodox religious practices like studying sacred text and had a religious attachment to the territory rather than a national one. Subsequently, when the Jewish nationalist movement

-which originated in Europe- reached Palestine through continued immigration, this previous longstanding population was not a participant or supporter of it.

Historically, Jews have developed primarily in Europe, like Christians, out of the ruins of the Roman Empire. Nevertheless, unlike Christians who grew to be the majority and dominant population, Jews were a discriminated minority in medieval Europe. They were pushed to the margins of European life, shunted into unpopular occupations and banned from certain areas. After the flow of extended ideas of tolerance and liberty, consequence of the French Revolution, treatment of Jewish citizens seemed to improve. They were allowed to access a wider range of occupations and opportunities that enabled economic progress and raised their standard of life. However, by the late nineteenth-century new doctrines of nationalism and racialism were rising once again , promoting Jewish discrimination and threatening the livelihoods of those who were about to become second-class citizens.

Furthermore, Jews also encounter restricted access to education, professions and land<sup>9</sup> in the Russian Empire, where the largest number of Jews could be found. Later, national legislation would formalize discrimination by expelling Jewish populations from areas where they had settled legally before.<sup>10</sup> Jewish persecution persisted down to 1914 and apart from leading to mass migration, it gave rise to the nationalist idea of the "need" for a state for Jews, where they could be shielded from violence: a state hopefully established in the *promised land*.

This is best known as Zionism, or Jewish nationalism. It promotes the belief that all Jews constitute a nation and that the only way to protect Jewish people from anti-Semitism is to gather all Jews to create a Jewish State in Palestine. Theodor Herzl founded the World Zionist Organization in 1897, and said that Zionism's goal was to create "a national home for the Jewish people secured by public law." Therefore, as Zionism gathered support progressively, it incited new Jewish migration to Palestine. By the outbreak of World War I

<sup>9</sup> Jews were confined to 'Pale Settlement', which is a district separated from the surrounding country by defined boundaries or distinguished by a different administrative and legal system.

<sup>10</sup> In May 1882, a series of laws, known as the May Laws, were passed which further restricted Jews to living in the Pale of Settlement and prohibited Jews from living outside of larger cities and towns, owning or managing real estate, leasing land, and operating their businesses on Sundays or other Christian holidays.

(1914), the Jewish population in the Arab territory had risen to about 60,000 (approximately 33,000 were recent settlers), while Arabs-Palestinians were 683,000.

#### 3.2.3 First World War and the Hallow Promises

The Ottoman Empire's official entry in World War I<sup>11</sup> secured foreign interest in the possibility of getting a grip of the region and seeded the conditions for the subsequent fall and distribution of the land by external and internal powers. The British needed to divert Turkish troops and undermine Ottoman security in order to ensure military advantage over the Central Powers. Strategically taking advantage of the recent Arab nationalist sentiment boiling, the British High Commissioner in Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon, maintained secret correspondence<sup>12</sup> with Husayn ibn'Ali, the Sharif (governor) of Mecca and Medina<sup>13</sup>. From July 1915 to January 1916 McMahon negotiated the establishment of a potential independent state under Hashemite rule in the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire, if Britain were to defeat the Turks. This in exchange for Arab support in the war against the Ottomans, which came in the form of a violent Arab Revolt. The letters, nonetheless, clearly stated limitations on the territory that was to be granted for Arab control:

"The two districts of Mersina and Alexandretta and portions of Syria lying to the west of the districts of Damascus, Homs, Hama and Aleppo cannot be said to be purely Arab, and should be excluded from the limits demanded."

Arabs understood by the straightforward description of the land, that the excluded territory referred on to sections of what is currently Syria and Lebanon. However, the British would claim that it included Palestine, even when neither 'Palestine' nor 'Jerusalem' were referenced in any texts.

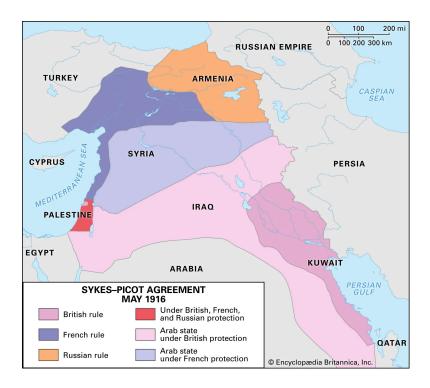
https://www1.udel.edu/History-old/figal/Hist104/assets/pdf/readings/13mcmahonhussein.pdf

13 Husayn ibn'Ali was the patriarch of the Hashemite family.

<sup>11</sup> The First World War was an international conflict from 1914 to 1918. The war pitted the Central Powers—mainly Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey—against the Allies—mainly France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Japan, and, from 1917, the United States.

<sup>12</sup> Read the complete correspondence here:

Yet, the British Empire had made another agreement on the distribution of Ottoman territory that contradicted what was convened with Husayn ibn'Ali. Britain was concerned to a greater extent by possibly conflicting interests of major allies –especifically France and the Russian Empire– in the region. Each nation had expressed their intention of administering multiple territories under Turkish control that served individual political and economic objectives. If a mutually agreed division of the land was not decided, the global powers would risk multilateral conflict and possible forceful clashes. Hence, in May 1916 a secret convention between Great Britain and France, with the assent of imperial Russia was held, resulting in the Sykes-Picot Agreement<sup>14</sup>. The agreement distributed the territories of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine into various French- and British-administered areas.



It is remarkable, however, that the British government had promised a third and final party rights over Palestinian land. During mid 1917, the Zionist movement appeared as a potential ally for the war efforts, chiefly in aiding the Russian front or eliciting any involvement from the United States –taking into account the increased Jewish presence in both nations. Although Jewish influence was in reality much less than sufficient, Britain was desperate. This gave the opportunity to several skilled Zionist diplomats to negotiate British

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Read here: <u>https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\_century/sykes.asp</u>

support for the nationalist plan; and by November 1917 the British Foreign Minister, Lord Arthur Balfour, issued a declaration (known as the Balfour Declaration)<sup>15</sup> which assured the British Zionist Federation the following:

His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

A little more than a month later, the British army had arrived in Jerusalem.

# 3.2.4 The British Mandate

After the Allies victory of WWI, the newly-established League of Nations granted France and Britain control over former Ottoman territories. Much like what had been previously agreed upon in 1916, France was to establish a mandate over Syria and Lebanon and Britain in areas that now comprise Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and Jordan. Still, there were the international responsibilities with Jewish and Arab populations that the British government had to comply with, in addition to the commitments the empire had set during the war. These were even explicitly included in the terms of the Mandate, which were approved by the League of Nations in July 1922:

"(Britain is) responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative, and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home, as laid down in the preamble, and the development of self-governing institutions, and also for safeguarding the civil and religious rights of all the inhabitants of Palestine, irrespective of race and religion.<sup>16</sup>"

16 Read complete League of Nations declaration on the Palestinian Mandate here: <u>https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\_century/palmanda.asp</u>



<sup>15</sup> Read text here: https://www1.udel.edu/History-old/figal/Hist104/assets/pdf/readings/14balfour.pdf



a. The Beginning of Arab Opposition

By 1921 the territory of the Mandate was divided into: the Emirate of Transjordan, to the east of the Jordan River, and Palestine to the west. It was the first instance in modern history that Palestine existed as a unified political entity. Nonetheless, the Arab population would not wait much before voicing their opposition to the policy, principally due to the failure of Britain to fulfill its promise of establishing an independent Arab nation. This was directly threatened by the supposed British commitment to *"secure the establishment of the Jewish national home"*, which would inevitably alienate Arab communities from their land and diminish their aim for self-determination. For example in 1920 and 1921, violent encounters sparked between Arabs and Jews in which roughly equal numbers of both groups were killed. The Jewish National Fund managed to purchase large parcels of land from missing Arab landowners and displaced the Arabs who were residing in these areas. These evictions caused tensions between Jewish settlers and Arab peasant tenants to rise, leading to further clashes.

The British attempted to reassure the Arab population through a memorandum written by Winston Churchill, the Colonial Secretary, in 1922. They sought to place limitations on the term "national home," which was changed to "a center in which the Jewish people as a whole may take, on grounds of religion and race, an interest and a pride" (Cmd., 1700;

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Fraser, 1980; Fromkin, 1989). Still, Jewish populations continued to expand: "in 1922 Jews accounted for 83,790 of a total population of 752,048; by 1929 they were 156,481 in a population of 992,559 (Anon., 1939)." (Beinin, 2014) More notably there was an increase in the number of Jewish institutions, in particular the Jewish Agency for Palestine<sup>17</sup> that quickly became the 'government' for the Jews of Palestine, purchasing land and constructing hospitals and schools. Arab institutions on the other hand were not as effective or powerful.

Between 1922 and 1928 there weren't any major disturbances between Arabs and Jews. It was until difference on communal religious rights at the Wailing Wall<sup>18</sup> that violence resumed in 1928. Revisionist Zionists demonstrated and flew the Zionist flag over the Wailing Wall on August 15, 1929. As a result of their concern for the safety of the Noble Sanctuary, Arabs began to persecute Jews across the nation. In Hebron, sixty-four Jews died as a result of the fighting. When the last of the Jews in Hebron fled for Jerusalem, the Jewish community was no longer there. A week of racial violence resulted in the deaths of 133 Jews and 115 Arabs, as well as numerous wounded.

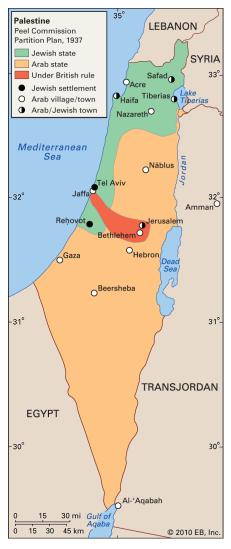
#### b. Nazi Persecution and the Arab Revolt

The next turning point in the Arab-Jewish conflict was the increasing oppression and systematic exclusion Jews started facing with Adolf Hitlers regime in Germany from 1933. Anti-semitism later spread to Poland and Romania, obliging Jews to leave Europe in large numbers as refugees. The somewhat recent American restrictions on Jewish immigration left Palestine as the only 'plausible' option. By 1936, there were 370,483 in a total Palestinian population of 1,336,518.

<sup>17</sup> The Jewish Agency, was the international body representing the World Zionist Organization, created in 1929 by Chaim Weizmann, with headquarters in Jerusalem. Its purpose is to assist and encourage Jews worldwide to help develop and settle Israel.

<sup>18</sup> The Wailing Wall is a place of prayer and pilgrimage sacred to the Jewish people. It is the only remains of the retaining wall surrounding the Temple Mount, the site of the First and Second Temples of Jerusalem, held to be holy to the ancient Jews, The Wall also held significant importance for Islam.

It was inevitable that the Palestinian-Arabs would rebel against what they perceived as an unwanted alteration of their nation. On April 15, 1936 the so-called "Arab Revolt" began. The armed insurrection mainly aimed to pursue national independence and secure the country from foreign control. Due to the size of the rebellion, British forces were widely deployed. Britain also succeeded to suppress the revolt with help of neighboring Arab regimes and by officially supporting the Jewish Agency's clandestine defense force, the Haganah.



Moreover, the British government created the Palestine Royal Commission (also known as Peel Commission) to investigate the underlying causes of Arab and Jewish grievances. The Commission came to the conclusion that the Mandate was no longer feasible, since there were two clear opposing civilizations in Palestine. They suggested the partition of the territory into a small Jewish state, a mandated zone, and an Arab state linked to Transjordan.

The Commission proposed a land and people transfer that would include moving approximately 225,000 Arabs who were living in the new Jewish state and 1,250 Jews who were living in an Arab state. Given the imbalance in the proposed population exchange and the transfer of one-third of Palestine, including the majority of its best agricultural land, to new immigrants, the Palestinian Arab leadership opposed partition as untenable.

# c. The White Paper

In 1937, the British administration already attempted to backtrack their previous support for partition, as the tensions in Europe heightened and Arab troops and oil were crucial to maintain regional power. Therefore, The British Woodhead Commission was set up

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to assess the practicality of partition. The Partition plan was swiftly rejected and by 1938 the British government had issued a policy statement declaring that "the political, administrative and financial difficulties involved in the proposal to create independent Arab and Jewish States inside Palestine are so great that this solution of the problem is impracticable."<sup>19</sup>

Furthermore, Colonial Secretary Malcolm MacDonald, issued a statement of a policy (White Paper) that aimed to secure order and de-escalate opposition in 1939. The White Paper declared that a unified Palestine would get independence in ten years. It capped Jewish immigration to 75,000 and restricted sales of Arab land to Jews. Finally, it stated that it was "not part of [the British government's] policy that Palestine should become a Jewish State." For Zionists the policy in its entirety was a violation of the Balfour Declaration and a reprehensible conduct given the threat of extermination Jews faced in Europe. The League of Nations commission, on the other hand, advanced that the White Paper violated the previously stated provisions of the Mandate.

#### d. Second World War and British relinquishment of the Mandate

After World War II, escalating hostilities between Jews and Arabs, as well as between Zionist militias and the British army, forced Britain to renounce its mandate over the region. 1,269,000 Arabs and 608,000 Jews called Palestine Mandate home as of the end of 1946. Jews had purchased 6 to 8 percent of Palestine's total land area, or around 20 percent of the fertile land.

#### 3.3 Current Situation

The Committee unanimously decided in April 1946 to extend U.N. Trusteeship, admit 100,000 Jewish refugees from Europe into Palestine immediately, and revoke the white paper's prohibitions on selling land to Jews and on the nation being neither Arab nor Jewish. Regarding restrictions on Jewish immigration and land purchases, the U.S. accepted the Commission's recommendations, while the British made their consent to implement contingent on U.S. support in the event of another Arab uprising. The British effectively kept

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Read full report here: <u>https://ecf.org.il/media\_items/290</u>

Read a summary of the report here: https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/text-of-the-peel-commission-report

up their White Paper policy. The suggestions led to violent protests in the Arab world and calls for a Jihad and the extermination of all European Jews in Palestine.

The resolution's attachment, the Partition Plan, was a four-part document that outlined the boundaries of the two States and Jerusalem as well as the ending of the Mandate and the gradual removal of British military personnel. The Mandate would be ended as soon as feasible, and the United Kingdom would leave no later than August 1st, 1948, according to Part I of the Plan. The new states would be created no later than 1 October 1948, or two months after the departure.

The Plan aimed to address the competing nationalist ideologies of Jewish nationalism, or Zionism, and Palestinian nationalism. Additionally, the plan advocated for the protection of minority and religious rights as well as economic union amongst the planned governments. During the discussions, Jewish organizations worked with UNSCOP, but the Palestinian Arab leadership abstained. By allocating 62% of the land to the Jewish state despite the Palestinian Arab population being twice as large as the Jewish population, the proposed plan is viewed by its critics as being pro-Zionist.

#### **United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP)**

Each of these mandatory territories was supposed to become an independent state upon expiration of its mission under the terms of League of Nations A-class mandates. All of these mandates—aside from Palestine—had been fulfilled by the end of World War II, but the League of Nations itself expired in 1946, creating a legal complication. Britain declared its intention to end the Mandate for Palestine in February 1947 and sent the question of Palestine's destiny to the UN. It was hoped that a binational state would develop, which would result in an undivided Palestine. Harry S. Truman, sensitive to Zionist electoral pressures in the United States, disagreed with Ernest Bevin's approach since it was based on the assumption that an Arab majority would win.

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was established by the UN in May, with the mission of developing recommendations for Palestine. The Jewish Agency pushed for Jewish presence on the Committee and the exclusion of both Britain and Arab nations, requested visits to camps housing Holocaust survivors in Europe as part of UNSCOP's mandate, and in May secured representation on the Political Committee. The Arab states wanted to take the matter before an international court because they believed statehood had been undermined and that the transfer of power from the League of Nations to the UN was illegal. They also refused to work with UNSCOP, which had extended an invitation for liaison to the Arab Higher Committee. After three months of hearings and a general assessment of the Palestinian situation, the committee's majority report proposed that the area be divided into an Arab state and a Jewish state, which should maintain an economic union, in August. For Jerusalem, a global order was envisioned.

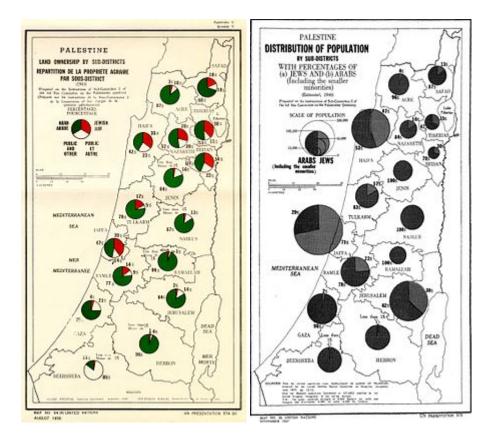
#### **UNSCOP** Report

The Committee reported to the General Assembly on September 3, 1947. The eleven proposed recommendations (I–XI) in Section A of Chapter V: Proposed Recommendations were unanimously accepted. The Jewish situation in general was the subject of one proposed recommendation that was accepted by a sizable majority in Section B (XI). A Plan of Partition with the Economic Union was included in Chapter VI: Proposed Recommendations (II), and seven members of the Committee (Canada, Czechoslovakia, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, and Uruguay) indicated support for it. Three members (India, Iran, and Yugoslavia) voted in favor of and backed the complete plan for a Federal State of Palestine in CHAPTER VII RECOMMENDATIONS (III). Australia didn't vote. Several Committee members made a number of objections and observations in CHAPTER VIII.

### **Proposed Partition**

The majority of the Committee's findings (CHAPTER VI) proposed dividing Palestine into an Arab State, a Jewish State, and the City of Jerusalem, which would be connected by extraterritorial intersections. The central and western Galilee, including the town of Acre, the hill country of Samaria and Judea, an enclave at Jaffa, and the southern coast, which stretches from north of Isdud (currently Ashdod) and encompasses what is now the Gaza Strip, would be included in the proposed Arab State. There would also be a section of desert along the Egyptian border. The fertile Eastern Galilee, the Coastal Plain, which stretches from Haifa to Rehovot, and the majority of the Negev desert, including the southern outpost of Umm Rashrash (now Eilat), would all be included in the planned Jewish State.

N XIII)



The Committee's main goals were to divide the two parties politically and economically. The Plan made every effort to let as many Jews as possible to live in the Jewish State. This often meant including Arab majority districts in the Jewish state that also contained sizable Jewish minorities. As a result, there would be a sizable Arab minority in the Jewish State.

To make room for immigration, the Jewish state also encompassed sparsely populated regions (such as the Negev desert). The plan stipulated that Jews and Arabs residing in the Jewish state would be granted citizenship there, and Jews and Arabs residing in the Arab state would be granted citizenship there.

In accordance with Chapter 3, Arabs and Jews who lived in Palestine outside of the City of Jerusalem but did not hold Palestinian citizenship would, upon the recognition of independence, become citizens of the State in which they were residing and would have full civil and political rights.

XIII

Territory	Arab and other population	% Arab and other	Jewish population	% Jewish	Total population
Arab State	725,000	99%	10,000	1%	735,000
Jewish State	407,000	45%	498,000	55%	905,000
International	105,000	51%	100,000	49%	205,000
Total	1,237,000	67%	608,000	33%	1,845,000
Data from the Report of UNSCOP: 3 September 1947: CHAPTER 4: A COMMENTARY ON PARTITION					

The plan would be based on these demographics. (1945)

In order to accommodate the growing number of Jews who would relocate there, the Jewish State that was allotted to the Jews—who made up approximately 7% of the population and owned roughly a third of the land—was to acquire 56% of Mandatory Palestine. Three productive lowland plains comprised the Jewish State: the upper Jordan Valley, the Jezreel Valley, and the Sharon on the seashore. However, the majority of the projected Jewish State's area was made up of the Negev Desert, which at the time was neither suited for cultivation nor for urban growth. The Jewish State would also be granted exclusive access to the Red Sea, which is significant commercially, and the Sea of Galilee, which is essential for its water supply.

# **Ad Hoc Committee**

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestinian Question was constituted by the General Assembly on September 23, 1947, in order to review the UNSCOP report. Jewish Agency and Arab Higher Committee representatives were invited and present.

The committee's proposals for the termination of the mandate, independence, and Jewish immigration were accepted by the British government during its deliberations. But the British insisted that any agreement "not feel able to implement" until it was accepted by both the Arabs and the Jews, and they requested that the General Assembly create an alternate implementing authority if that turned out to be the case.

The majority of the UNSCOP proposals were endorsed by the Jewish Agency, which also stressed the "intense urge" of the vast majority of Jewish displaced individuals to travel to Palestine. The Jewish Agency disagreed with the suggested borders, claiming that the Jewish state should extend into the Western Galilee and Western Jerusalem (outside of the old city). They did, though, agree to go along with the idea if "it would make possible the immediate re-establishment of the Jewish State with sovereign control of its own immigration."

The fourth and final significant conflict between Israel and a coalition of its neighbors took place during this time. The Arab coalition was unable to remove Israel from its position as the region's main military power as the battle came to a standstill.

#### The Vote

The resolution needed to be approved by two-thirds of the UN's then-56 member nations, excluding abstentions and absentee votes. The vote was postponed by three days on November 26, as a result of the Zionist delegation filibustering. According to numerous sources, if the vote had taken place on the originally scheduled date, it would have received a majority but lacked the two-thirds majority. Debatable compromise ideas and variations on a single state, such as federations and cantonal systems (including some previously rejected in committee), were discussed. Zionists in New York used the postponement as leverage to increase the pressure on the states who refused to endorse the resolution.

#### 3.4 QARMAS

¿What was your delegation's vote in the original partition plan?

¿With what countries did your delegation had relationships? and what type?

¿What religion did your delegation support the most in this period of time? How did it affect the conflict?

¿What was your country's political recognition or status in 1947? Was your country a member of the United nations?

¿How was your country's political stability in that year? Were there any internal conflicts, social movements for independence processes going on?

### 3.5 Recommendations from the Chair

Delegates, knowing this is a historical committee, taking place in 1947 before the UN Partition Plan was approved, we suggest you look for your country's political, social and economical context in that year. It is important that you acknowledge how they acted, what actions they took and mainly how your countries voted in the original partition plan. Remember the idea of having this topic is to do the partition plan all from scratch, so with everything you got from what your delegation did, and taking into consideration how were the international relations you can restructure everything for a better outcome for all the countries involved and hoping you can avoid all the future problems this decision brought to the world.

# 3.6 Supporting Links

- Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question.
   <a href="https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/159/un-partition-plan-1947">https://www.palquest.org/en/highlight/159/un-partition-plan-1947</a>
- Framing the Partition Plan for Palestine
   <u>https://www.thecairoreview.com/essays/framing-the-partition-plan-for-palestine/</u>
- The United Nations Partition Plan of 1947
   <u>https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/united-nations-general-assembly-resolutio</u> <u>n-181/</u>
- United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine
   <u>https://www.wikiwand.com/en/United\_Nations\_Partition\_Plan\_for\_Palestine#Background</u>
- France and the Partition Plan: 1947–1948 (2008)
   <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13537120802127747?journalCode=fisa">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13537120802127747?journalCode=fisa</a>
   <a href="https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13537120802127747?journalCode=fisa">https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13537120802127747?journalCode=fisa</a>

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# 4. Topic II: Open Agenda

# 4.1 Potential Topics

The Open Agenda is a mechanism that is meant to challenge the chair, the delegates and the Security Council itself. Said mechanism makes use of official letters from the Heads of Government of different Nations, press releases, communications from different institutions and agencies that might or might not be part of the United Nations, among others in order to keep a Crisis situation ongoing.

Aware of the heightened difficulty of the Open Agenda in a Historical Security Council, the chair has decided to pin down all of the potential Historical Crises to be addressed in the Committee to three. Each of them developed around the same period of time so delegates are able to focus their research on particular decades of their delegation's administration and their country's foreign policy is pretty much the same through topics.

# 4.1.1 Korean War (1950)

The Korean War started on June 25, 1950, after five years of simmering tensions on the Korean peninsula, when the Northern Korean People's Army invaded South Korea in a general attack at several strategically important locations along the 38th parallel, the line separating communist North Korea from the non-communist Republic of Korea in the south. North Korea sought to militarily annex South Korea in order to reunite Korea under its communist rule. President Harry S. Truman pledged United States air, ground, and naval forces to the combined United Nations forces helping the Republic of Korea in its defense out of concern that the Soviet Union and Communist China may have promoted this invasion. General Douglas MacArthur was appointed by President Truman as the UN's Commanding General.

Armies moved forward and backward over the Korean peninsula throughout the first few months of the conflict. United Nations Command forces were forced to form a small perimeter around the port of Pusan at the peninsula's southernmost point by the initial North Korean attack. General MacArthur shocked the North Koreans in September 1950 with an amphibious landing at Inchon behind North Korean lines after the front had stabilized at the Pusan perimeter. This forced the North Koreans to flee behind the 38th parallel.

In an effort to unite the country under a non-communist government, the UN authorized the movement of UN forces into North Korea in October on the United States government's behest. The United Nations forces pushed toward the Yalu River, which serves as North Korea's border with Manchuria, despite warnings from the Chinese government. MacArthur gave the UNC the order to launch an offensive, taking the forces to the Yalu, while downplaying the significance of the initial Chinese attacks in late October. Late in November, the Chinese launched a fierce attack, driving the UNC south of the 38th parallel into chaos and allowing the communists to seize Seoul, the capital of South Korea.

The UNC retook Seoul and advanced back to the 38th parallel after the Chinese attack stalled in the early months of 1951. This was made possible by the 8th U.S. Army, which had been rejuvenated under the command of General Matthew B. Ridgway. The fighting lines were largely steady from July 1951 until the end of hostilities, and the conflict reached a standstill. In order to prevent the conflict from potentially spiraling out of control and into a third world war involving China and the Soviet Union, the Truman Administration abandoned plans to reunite North and South Korea in favor of narrower objectives.

On December 2, 1952, President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower traveled to Korea in fulfillment of a campaign promise. Eisenhower came to the conclusion that "we could not stand forever on a static front and continue to accept casualties without any visible results" after meeting with the troops, their commanders, and South Korean politicians and hearing briefings on the military situation in Korea. This conflict would not end with modest assaults on marginal heights. President Eisenhower used a combination of diplomacy and military showmanship to try and put an end to the Korean War's hostilities. The Korean Peninsula remained split largely as it had since the end of World War II when an armistice was signed on July 27, 1953, seven months after President Eisenhower's inauguration as the 34th President of the United States.

North Korea was prevented from imposing its communist government on South Korea by the U.N. "police action" in Korea. Additionally, American actions in Korea showed that the country was ready to stand up to aggression, strengthened President Eisenhower's position in Europe as he sought to organize European military defense under the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and guaranteed that the country would carry out the military buildup outlined in the infamous cold war document.

#### 4.1.2 Invasion of Cambodia (1970)

The invasion of Cambodia in 1970, also known as the Cambodian campaign or Cambodian incursion was part of the multiple military operations carried out by the United States during the Vietnam War (from 1955 to 1975). By that time, the Vietnam War was a long standing conflict between the communist government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) and the government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam). North Vietnam had allies in South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia known as Viet Cong, and was supported by the USSR and China. Meanwhile ,South Vietnam was mainly aided by the American government. Furthermore, the war was both a manifestation of the ongoing Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States; and part of a regional conflict in the territory of 'Indochina'<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>20</sup>Primarily the Indochina wars. See more here: <u>https://www.britannica.com/event/Indochina-wars</u>

The conflict had been intensifying by the late 1960s. The United States's government, who was directly providing South Vietnam with military support, was increasingly concerned of the sustained presence and passage of North Vietnamese troops and supplies through the borders of Cambodia and Laos –across the Ho Chi Minh Trail–, despite both of the nations official neutrality in the conflict. This unregulated and constant passage of enemy forces constituted a cross-border threat that significantly thwarted South Vietnamese and American military endeavors.

The issue became more urgent after the election of Richard Nixon in 1969, who planned on ending the war. In June, he had announced an exit strategy focused on "Vietnamization," a program to gradually withdraw all U.S troops from the territory leaving all military operations to the South Vietnamese army. Nonetheless, the American military would intensely train, equip and strengthen the Army of the Republic of Vietnam so it could single-handedly stand against North Vietnam aggression.

Then, a coup led by General Lon Nol took place in Cambodia at the beginning of 1970, toppling Prince Norodom Sihanouk and installing a pro-Western administration. This new administration asked for aid from the U.S to cope with the threat. In response, and as part of a larger effort to degrade North Vietnam's capabilities and border danger, President Nixon approved a military operation known as "Operation Menu." In order to obstruct North Vietnamese supply routes and safe havens, U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers invaded Cambodia across the border in April 1970. Between 29 April and 22 July 1970, the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) and American forces each carried out thirteen significant operations.

Protests and opposition were raised against the invasion both domestically and abroad. Many opposed it for violating Cambodia's sovereignty and saw it as an expansion of an already contentious conflict. The North Vietnamese military efforts were temporarily hampered by the invasion of Cambodia, but it also set off a chain of events that further destabilized the region. The invasion of Cambodia and the United States' ongoing engagement in Vietnam widened and prolonged the war.

4.1.3 Yom Kipur War (1973)

Small numbers of Jewish Europeans immigrated to Palestine, an area of the faltering Ottoman Empire, in the late 1800s. This was a component of the Zionist movement, which aimed to create a Jewish homeland in the ancient region that was formerly governed by the Kingdom of Israel. Palestine was annexed by the British after World War One. During the British occupation, a growing number of Jewish Europeans made their way to Palestine to join the pre-existing Jewish population. This happened at the same time that anti-Semitism in Europe was on the rise. Many refugees fled to Palestine when Nazi Germany carried out the Holocaust, a genocide against Jewish Europeans.

As the years went by, tensions between Palestine's majority-Arab Muslim population and the Jewish immigrants from Europe grew worse. Britain intended to leave its empire after World War Two, especially in troubled areas like Palestine. War broke out in 1948 despite efforts by the United Nations to plan an orderly division of the territory between its two communities. The Arab Muslim community and nearby Arab governments supported by the Jewish community helped establish the state of Israel and win a war against them. It was the initial Arab-Israeli conflict.

Israel invaded Egypt in 1956 alongside Britain and France, taking control of the vital Suez Canal. However, Israel and its supporters were compelled to leave Egypt as a result of severe diplomatic pressure from the US and the Soviet Union (the US's communist opponent). The Second Arab-Israeli War was this one.

In 1967, when Egypt blocked a vital shipping route to Israel, tensions between Israel and its neighbors reached a new high. In the meantime, Egypt organized its armed forces and placed them at the border with Israel. Israel responded by striking Egypt's army and air force in a surprise attack. Israel then started an invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, which it quickly conquered. Additionally, Israel seized control of the Golan Heights from Syria and the West Bank from Jordan. This conflict was known as the Third Arab-Israeli War or the Six-Day War. Following a diplomatic gathering, the Arab nations announced they would not recognize Israel, make peace with it, or engage in negotiations with it in the Khartoum Resolution.

With peace not an option, the Arab countries sought to again defeat Israel in 1973, fighting the Fourth Arab-Israeli War.

Egypt and Syria were on one side of the Yom Kippur War in 1973, while Israel was on the other. The US supported Israel, but the Soviet Union backed Egypt and Syria and joined them with troops from other Arab nations.

The fourth and final significant conflict between Israel and a coalition of its neighbors took place during this time. The Arab coalition was unable to remove Israel from its position as the region's main military power as the battle came to a standstill. Following it, diplomatic encounters between Egypt and Israel helped to repair bilateral relations.

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# **5.** Country List

- I. Australia
- II. Republic of Turkey/Democratic Republic of Vietnam \*
- III. Republic of the Philippines/Republic of Vietnam\*
- IV. Hashemite Kingdom of Iraq/Khmer Republic

- V. Kingdom of Egypt/United Arab Republic
- VI. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- VII. French Republic
- VIII. Republic of China
  - IX. Kingdom of Greece//Republic of Korea\*
  - X. Republic of India
  - XI. Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
- XII. Syrian Republic/Syrian Arab Republic
- XIII. United States of America
- XIV. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- XV. Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

\* These delegations will be observers since by the time of the second topic they are not yet full members of the Security Council or United nations, meaning they do not have the right to vote.

**Note:** Some delegations changed their government during the years between the two topics. It is important for the delegates which were assigned to such delegations to be aware of the reforms that were made in their policy.

