



AtidMUN 2022



HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Topic A: The Gulf War

Topic B: Yugoslavia Crisis

AtidMUN 2022



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AtidMUN 2022



CHAIR LETTERS

Welcome to the Historical Committee at AtidMUN 2022!

I am an 12th grader at Atid Lod High School for Excellence and Scientific Leadership in the Community, majoring in physics and computer science. I also participate in the activities of Atid Lod MUN Club as a mentor, a chair and a delegate. My first experience with MUN was four years ago in “DarcaMUN 2018” when I represented The Netherlands in the UNHRC. Since then, I have participated in 22 more conferences, and chaired three committees. I like to play basketball and I'm very talented when it comes to laser tag.

If you have any questions, just let me know I would be happy to answer them.

I look forward to meeting you and hope to see you soon!

Sincerely Yours,

Amit Ram

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Phone number-0533380378





ZIV HAGAG FORT

Dear delegates,

My name is Ziv Hagag Fort (yeah I know a long name just call me Ziv) I am a 12th grader in Hadassim.

I am very excited to chair this committee because the topics are really intriguing to me (Especially Topic B) and because it is set in the peculiar period of time which is the end of the Cold War, in addition, it is the first advanced committee I'll chair so I hope it will be an enjoyable experience for all of us!

I have attended around 12 conferences as a delegate (it's more if you count being an admin or a chair (honestly I just lost count at some point so I'm estimating)), most of which were pre-pandemic but I did partake in several conferences last year which were all great experiences, one of which I chair in (HadassiMUN) as well as being in the Crisis committee at last year's AtidMUN.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference if you need any help contact me: 0587488665 or zivhfort@gmail.com

I hope we will have an enjoyable and fruitful committee!

Sincerely,

Ziv.





TOPIC A: THE GULF WAR

OVERVIEW

Please note: Chronologically, the discussion on this topic starts on January 15, 1991.

On August 2, 1990, Iraq, led by Saddam Hussein, marched its army into Kuwait and captured it entirely only two days later. After Hussein claimed Kuwait's oil fields by force, the concern towards Saudi Arabia and the global oil market heightened.

The international community was furious, condemning Iraq's aggression towards Kuwait. The UN imposed economic sanctions and trade embargoes on Iraq, deploying a naval blockade to enforce the sanctions drawn out in Resolution 661 by force. Iraq was unwilling to back down, claiming Kuwait was unlawfully drilling over the border into Iraq's Rumaila oil field and taking Iraqi oil. Any attempt to de-escalate the situation was shut down by Hussein.

On November 29, 1990, the UN announced an ultimatum on Iraq: The United Nations Security Council enacted Resolution 678 by a vote of 12 to 2, authorizing the use of force if the Iraqis did not leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991. If Iraq did not leave Kuwait by the deadline, the international community would use whatever means necessary to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

It is now January 15, 1991, Iraq did not leave Kuwait. Now it is up to you, members of the Security Council, to decide what to do next.

BACKGROUND

After the Iran-Iraq War, Iraq was heavily indebted to Kuwait for the assistance it gave them during the war, which included 14 billion USD. However, Iraq suffered significant losses during the war, including the destruction of its oil facilities, dams, petrochemical plants, and oil refineries. It included Mosul Airbase, Baghdad, the Kirkuk oil refinery, and port facilities which cut off Iraq's main trade outlet - these losses rendered Iraq unable to pay off the debt. The situation worsened when Kuwait refused to forgive Iraq of its debt, despite the protection it received from Iraq during the war. And so, Iraq was left with no choice but to drive up the price of oil through OPEC production regulations. In response, Kuwait increased oil production and export, which decreased the price of crude oil - making it much harder for Iraq to pay off its debt.



Until then, Kuwait and Iraq had positive diplomatic relations, as Kuwait backed Iraq financially during the Iran-Iraq war. And yet, recent events have turned the Iraqi public's opinion against Kuwait. Due to the damages, Iraq's only way to repay the debt was to lead the oil sector, and Kuwait was actively stopping them from doing that. To the Iraqi government, this was an indirect malicious attack on their economy.

The escalation did not stop there, as Saddam Hussein, the president of Iraq, asserted that Kuwait was unlawfully drilling over the border into Iraq's Rumaila oil field and taking Iraqi oil. Hussein started deploying soldiers to the Kuwaiti border while maintaining that Kuwait was a made-up nation that belonged to Iraq. Despite other nations' attempts to de-escalate the situation and push for negotiations out of fear of international involvement - on August 2, 1990, Saddam Hussein gave the order to invade Kuwait.

Led by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait's now-exiled government, most Arab League members denounced the invasion and urged the US and other NATO members to intervene. Soon the UN placed economic penalties and sanctions on Iraq, demanding an immediate and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait's territory and claiming that Iraq was endangering peace and security in the Middle East.

Iraq did not have any intention of backing down: With Hussein's quick victory over Kuwait, his next target was Saudi Arabia: He started publicly criticizing the Saudi Arabian monarchy, deeming Saudi Arabia, which receives backing from the US, as an invalid and unworthy steward of Mecca and Medina. He mixed the rhetoric Iran had long used to criticize the Saudis with the vocabulary of the Islamist forces that had lately battled in Afghanistan. Not only that, but he moved his troops near Saudi Arabia's most lucrative oil fields; as they drew near, Iraq became a clear threat to the Saudi Arabian economy and to the oil market as a whole.

The grave threat Iraq posed to Saudi Arabia, and the global oil market was one of the biggest concerns in the Western World. If Hussein invaded Saudi territory and claimed Saudi Arabian oil fields, Iraq would have a stranglehold on most of the world's oil reserves, resulting in a monopoly on one of the world's most precious resources.

Out of concern about an Iraqi invasion of Saudi Arabia, US President George H. W. Bush declared the beginning of Operation Desert Shield, a "wholly defensive" operation to defend Saudi Arabia.



On August 7, 1990, the US sent troops to Saudi Arabia at the request of King Fahd. At the point at which Iraq designated Kuwait as its 19th province (on August 8).

On November 29, the UN announced that if Hussein did not withdraw his forces from Kuwait by January 15, it would allow the international community to use whatever means necessary to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Until then, the United States was barred from interfering with the conflict in Kuwait.

THE SIDES

The coalition against Iraq comprised the most number of countries since World War II. Coalition members included Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Japan and Germany, while not actively sending troops onto the battlefield, Japan and Germany contributed great financial assistance of \$10 billion and \$6.6 billion, respectively, through military arms and goods.

The Soviet Union, while denouncing Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, also opposed any foreign intervention in the conflict and American intervention in particular. Additionally, a growing concern among many countries in the coalition was that the US would have more significant influence over the Middle East, as out of the 956,600 soldiers that participated in the war, 33% were American. Many others believed that this conflict was an Arab matter in which the international community should not get involved.

There was also a divide inside of the Arab League itself regarding the conflict: While 12 Arab League members supported Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, and the Palestine Liberation Organization supported Iraq.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

As stated before, the invasion was quickly met with an international outcry: On August 6, the UN passed Resolution 661, placing economic sanctions on Iraq - a full-on trade embargo - and urged UN members to safeguard the property of Kuwait's legitimate government.. Soon after, in



Resolution 665, the UN authorized a naval blockade to enforce the sanctions drawn out in Resolution 661 by force. The Soviet Union, initially wary in its reaction to the invasion, announced its support for the American military presence in the Gulf on September 3. Yet, it still did not support an invasion of Iraq.

The Arab world did not stay silent either: Hosni Mubarak, president of Egypt, invited the leaders of the Arab world to Cairo for an urgent summit. On August 10, 12 of the 21 Arab League members supported a resolution that endorsed the UN resolution and denounced the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Aside from Saudi Arabia and the Arab Gulf states, Egypt and Syria were Kuwait's main allies. On the flip side: Jordan, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, Algeria, and the Palestine Liberation Organization were Arab League members that supported Iraq.

In response to the Arab League's decision, Saddam Hussein took the opportunity to repair diplomatic relationships with Iran, seeing as now they have a common enemy. On August 15th, he reached a peace agreement with Iran, announcing that Iraq was prepared to fulfill Iranian demands to end the Iran-Iraq War. It was also ready to include the departure of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory they had captured, a settlement of the Sha Al-Arab waterway dispute, and an exchange of prisoners of war.

Following the invasion of Kuwait, more than 600,000 citizens and about 7,000 foreigners (mostly Westerners) became trapped in Kuwait as authorities forbade them from leaving. The Iraqi government gathered up hundreds of Westerners, using them as "human shields" at important military and industrial facilities in case of an attack. Over the following year, Hussein's policy towards the trapped residents would become more lenient: On August 28, he announced that women and children would be allowed to leave Kuwait, and on December 6, he announced that Iraq would liberate every last hostage. Although Hussein complied with UNSC's Resolution 674, which demanded that Iraqi authorities immediately cease taking third State national hostages, the issue of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait remained.

In no time at all, Iraq started advancing its military toward the Saudi Arabian border. Seeing the dangers ahead, King Fahd urged the coalition to deploy their forces in Saudi Arabia and prepare for the battle to bolster the Saudi defense forces. A portion of the American Rapid Deployment Force was sent out, which included two squadrons of U.S. Air Force F-15s, the U.S. Marine Corps First Expeditionary Force, the 82nd Airborne Division's "ready brigade," and Two U.S. battle



groups of Navy carriers. This initial American deployment prevented Hussein from striking Saudi Arabia and starting a conflict with the coalition.

From that point onward, the military strength residing in Saudi Arabia only got bigger: By mid-November, the United States had more than 240,000 troops in the Gulf and another 200,000 on their way, while the United Kingdom had contributed more than 25,000 troops, Egypt had sent 20,000, and France had sent 5,500. Some 25 other nations, including Canada, Syria, Bangladesh, and Morocco, had contributed soldiers, weaponry, and funding to the Operation Desert Shield military buildup.

On November 29, The United Nations Security Council enacted Resolution 678 by a vote of 12 to 2, authorizing the use of force if the Iraqis did not leave Kuwait by January 15, 1991. Only Cuba and Yemen opposed the resolution, while China abstained.

A day before the deadline, on 14 January 1991, France proposed that the UNSC would call for a "rapid and massive withdrawal (of Iraqi forces)" from Kuwait, as well as a statement to Iraq that Council members would make an "active contribution" to resolving the region's other problems, "particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and, in particular, the Palestinian problem" by convening an international conference to ensure "the security, stability, and development of the region." While Belgium, Germany, Spain, Italy, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, and several non-aligned governments all supported the French idea, it was rejected by the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. US Ambassador to the United Nations Thomas Pickering claimed the French proposal was inappropriate since it exceeded previous Council resolutions on the Iraqi invasion. Eventually, the idea was rejected after discovering "no tangible sign of interest" from Saddam Hussein. While the Soviet Union did support military presence on the Iraq-Saudi Arabia border, it did not support the invasion of Iraq and actively tried to avert it.



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TOPIC B: YUGOSLAVIA

BACKGROUND TO THE TOPIC

INTRODUCTION

Yugoslavia is a former country situated in Central and Southeast Europe. After the end of WWII, the country was reformed as the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia: A one-party socialist state that was made up of six republics: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia. (Allcock, 2020)

Since its establishment in 1918, the country has gone through many changes, conflicts, and reformations – up until the complete Breakup of Yugoslavia in 1992.

Please note: Chronologically, the discussion on this topic starts on the evening of June 26, 1991.

FIRST YUGOSLAVIA – KINGDOM OF YUGOSLAVIA

Formation

The country was initially formed in 1918, immediately after WWI, as the "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes", which consisted of Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. From day one, managing the state posed a significant challenge: While the Serbs favored a unitary state that would unite the scattered population under one ethnicity and ruler, the Croats preferred a federal structure that would respect the diversity and uniqueness of traditions. Eventually, the Serbian approach prevailed: The 1921 constitution established a highly-centralized state under the Serbian Karadjordjević dynasty, in which legislative power was exercised jointly by the monarchy and the National Assembly. The king appointed a "Council of Ministers" and retained significant foreign policy privileges. The assembly only considered legislation that had already been drafted, and the local government acted as the transmission belt for decisions made in Belgrade.

Seeds of Conflict

The country was initially formed in 1918, immediately after WWI, as the "Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes", which consisted of Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia, Croatia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina. From day one, managing the state posed a significant challenge: While the Serbs favored a unitary state that would unite the scattered population under one ethnicity and ruler, the



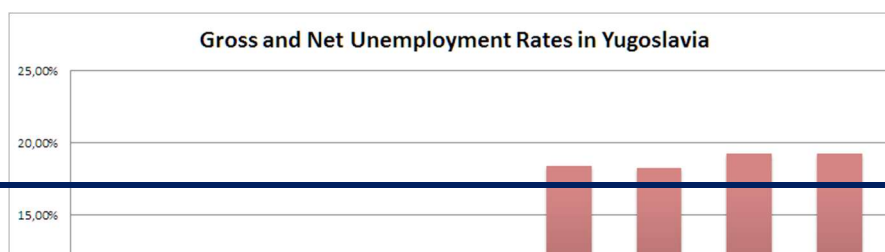
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SECOND YUGOSLAVIA

Reformation Under Tito

The system worked wonderfully throughout the '50s and '60s, bringing about remarkable economic and social growth within Yugoslavia. Though, with time, development began to slow down and deteriorate. A phenomenon called among economists a Tragedy of the Commons occurred, and the market failed: In the absence of real stimulus to efficiency, workers' unions ended up raising wages without increasing production and revenue. As more unions did the same thing, they began paying their workers out of thin air, which increased inflation drastically. People's savings were nullified in a matter of months, and the country was in the middle of economic collapse. With President Tito's death in 1980 and now the intense financial struggles, political conflicts began to increase in number and intensity. After the IMF's demand for extensive financial restructuring as a precondition for further economic support, the toxicity of the Yugoslavian political sphere was exacerbated as the conflict resurrected old animosities between different regions in Yugoslavia. The conflict between the wealthier northern and western regions and the poorer southern and eastern regions grew as time passed. (Payne, 1991)

Between 1979 and 1985, the Yugoslav dinar plunged from 15 to 1,370 to the U.S. dollar, half of the income from exports was used to service the debt, while actual net personal income declined by 19.5%. Unemployment rose to 1.3 million job-seekers, with the internal debt s estimated at \$40 billion. Yugoslavia took on several International Monetary Fund (IMF) loans and fell into heavy debt. By 1981, it had incurred \$18.9 billion in foreign debt. In 1989 alone, 248 firms were declared bankrupt or liquidated, and 89,400 workers were laid off. During the first nine months of 1990, directly following the adoption of the IMF program, another 889 enterprises with a combined workforce of 525,000 workers suffered the same fate. (Wikiwand, n.d.)





CURRENT SITUATION

THE DEATH OF A LEADER AND THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM

Instability often comes with the death of a ruler; yet, when a country is in its internal conflicts and tribulations, the issue is exacerbated. Following Tito's death in 1980, provisions of the 1974 constitution stripped away all real power away from the federal government and instead placed it in the hands of regional republics and autonomous provinces. This left Serbia significantly weakened, seeing as two of the independent regions in Yugoslavia originated in Serbia. (Department of State, n.d.)

Serbian Communist leader Slobodan Milošević sought to abolish the 1974 constitution and restore pre-1974 Serbian sovereignty and influence over Yugoslavia. Through a series of moves known as the "anti-bureaucratic revolution", he reduced the autonomy of Vojvodina and Kosovo, and by proxy, increased Serbian influence. Now, Serbia could count on four votes at minimum. (Allcock, 2020)

But, Yugoslavia's diplomatic struggles did not end there: The unification of Germany, the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe in 1989, and the inevitable collapse of the Soviet Union all contributed to the increasing weakening of Yugoslavia – both politically and economically. As Eastern European states moved away from communism and toward free markets and democracy, the West's attention focused away on Yugoslavia, and reduced financial support. Yugoslavia, as mentioned before, was already in a very dire economic situation. This recent development did not help.



Slobodan Milošević once again took advantage of current events to increase Serbian regional influence: he used Yugoslavia's disastrous economic condition. He brutally deployed the use of Serbian ultra-nationalism to fan the flames of conflict in the other republics and gain legitimacy at home. While attending a party meeting in Kosovo in 1987, Milošević saw Serbians rioting due to mistreatment by the Albanian majority towards them. He took this as legitimacy to quickly up his power in Serbia by controlling the party apparatus and the press. He moved to strip the two autonomous provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina of their constitutionally-guaranteed autonomy within Serbia by using mass rallies to force the local leadership to resign in favor of his own preferred candidates. By mid-1989, Kosovo and Vojvodina had been reintegrated into Serbia, and Milošević allies replaced the Montenegro leadership. Soon, Albanian miners in Kosovo organized the 1989 Kosovo miner's strike. (Allcock, 2020)

EMERGING CONFLICTS IN 1990

In January of 1990, the fatal 14th Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia was convened. In this congress, the Slovenian and Serbian delegations were practically enemies, arguing over the future of the League of Communists and Yugoslavia for the majority of the congress meeting. Serbia, led by Milošević, pushed for a "one person, one vote" policy, empowering a plurality population – the Serbs. Slovenia and Croatia wished to grant more power to individual republics but were quickly voted down. Soon after that, the Slovene and Croatian delegations left Congress, and the all-Yugoslav Communist party was dissolved. (Wikipedia, 2022)

As Milošević worked to establish control in Serbia, the 1990 elections in Croatia and Slovenia gave rise to the power of non-communist parties over state legislatures and governments. Slovenia was the first to declare "sovereignty", issuing a declaration that Slovenian legislation took precedence over Yugoslavian law in the same year. Croatia followed suit in May, and Bosnia-Herzegovina did the same in August. From then on, Slovenia and Croatia began a combined effort to turn Yugoslavia from a federal state to a confederation. Other Yugoslavian republics, especially Serbia, did not take recent developments lightly. They sought ways to reduce Slovenia and Croatia's power and influence and proposed different sanctions against the two. Yet, as the year progressed, other republics' communist parties saw the inevitability of democracy. Relations inside the republic went haywire, as Serbia's parliamentary elections established communist rule in the republic, and Slovenia overwhelmingly voted for independence in December of 1990.



JUNE, 1991

Slovenia and Croatia declared formal independence on June 25, 1991 – a day earlier than stated, because Slovenia expected a martial conflict and hoped to gain an early advantage. Slovenia and

Croatia also sought to increase Serbian instability by backing the Albanian miners and their struggles for formal recognition. In response, Serbia's leadership proceeded to use police force, and later, even the Federal Army was sent to their province (Djokić, 2021).



Yugoslavia and its breakaway states Slovenia (green) and Croatia (red).

On June 26, units of the Yugoslav People's Army's (JNA) 13th Corps left their barracks in Rijeka, Croatia, to move towards Slovenia's borders with Italy. Local Slovenians organized spontaneous barricades and demonstrations against the JNA's actions in response. By this time, the Slovenian government had already implemented its plan to seize control of the republic's border posts and the international airport at Brnik (Library of Congress, 2002). It served a significant practical advantage, as the border crossings were a primary source of revenue. Additionally, by taking control of the borders, the Slovenians could establish defensive positions against a JNA attack, which meant that the JNA would have to shoot first. (Wikipedia, 2022)



The Security Council has been convened to address the situation. Yugoslavia is on the brink of war and must decide: How will the Security Council intervene? Should it? This decision is up to you, delegates.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Does your country look in favor of the democratization of communist states?
- Is your country a part of the Warsaw Pact, the Non-Aligned Movement, or NATO?
- Is your country in favor of recognizing the independence of Croatia and Slovenia?
- What are your country's relations with Yugoslavia?
- Has your country recently had a revolution to end communist rule?
- How involved is your country in European and global affairs?
- How is your country affected by the crisis in Yugoslavia?

FURTHER READING

- More About the War:
 - [Study.com](#)
 - [Local Life](#)
 - [Library of Congress](#)
- [An Overview of Yugoslavian History](#)

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