



WCDMUN 2023 Briefing Papers

Historical





Topic 1: TQO the Yugoslav Wars (22nd April 1991)

The Yugoslav Wars were a series of ethnic conflicts, mainly occurring between 1991 and 1995, resulting from the breakup of Yugoslavia. Triggered by the declaration of independence by several Yugoslav republics, these wars were complex and multifaceted, driven by historical, ethnic, and political tensions.

After World War II, Yugoslavia was reconstituted as a federal socialist state under the leadership of Josip Broz Tito. Tito's regime pursued a unique form of socialism, independent of Soviet influence, known as "self-management socialism." Tito played a key role in the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement, a group of nations that chose not to align with either the Western or Eastern bloc during the Cold War. By the 1970s and 1980s, economic troubles and rising nationalism began to strain the unity of Yugoslavia. The country faced significant economic challenges, including high inflation and a growing foreign debt. Nationalist sentiments and demands for greater autonomy grew among the various republics and autonomous regions within Yugoslavia. Tensions increased between the six constituent republics: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia. All the while the Serbian leadership attempted to keep a hold of their non-serbian republics. Tito's death in 1980 further exacerbated ethnic and nationalist tensions.

The economic downturn worsened, leading to increased discontent. The Yugoslavian political system began to fall apart as regions far from the Serbian central regions began to slowly claim more and more autonomy. The spread of nationalism and the separation of the various ethnic groups in Yugoslavia from each other would ultimately lead to independence movements. Slovenia and Croatia declared independence in June 1991, leading to armed conflicts and the beginning of the Yugoslav Wars. In April 1991, tensions escalated, and violence erupted in parts of Yugoslavia, particularly in Croatia. The situation continued to deteriorate, leading to a series of conflicts and ultimately the breakup of Yugoslavia. The history of Yugoslavia before April 1991 reflects a complex interplay of historical, cultural, and political factors, which are quickly spiraling out of control as more independence hungry groups are poised to seize their opportunity what will the UN do to ensure peace will prevail and the right to self determination will be afforded to all people.



TQO Mitigating the Effects of Chernobyl (6th May 1986)

Our committee convenes to delve into the profound impact of the Chernobyl disaster, a catastrophic event that transpired at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. This incident, occurring on April 26th, 1986, holds immense historical significance, shaping global perceptions of nuclear energy and prompting critical reflections on safety protocols.

Before the disaster, the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, situated in Ukraine, was a symbol of technological advancement within the Soviet Union's energy infrastructure. The town of Pripyat, housing plant workers and their families, flourished as a model Soviet city. However, concerns regarding safety protocols and operational standards persisted. The pursuit of production targets often overshadowed safety considerations, leading to a climate where apprehensions about potential risks were not adequately addressed.

Following the catastrophic explosion at Reactor No. 4, the immediate aftermath witnessed a flurry of response efforts. Firefighters, plant personnel, and military units engaged in hazardous endeavors to contain the fires and mitigate further radioactive release. Simultaneously, evacuations of nearby residents commenced, albeit with limited information about the extent of the danger they faced. Internationally, the incident raised alarms as abnormal radiation levels were detected in various countries. However, information dissemination from the Soviet Union was scant, contributing to a lack of comprehensive global collaboration in addressing the crisis. During the initial days after the explosion, an estimated 30 people lost their lives due to acute radiation sickness. However, the long-term impact on health and the environment is difficult to quantify accurately. Various sources indicate a broad spectrum of affected individuals, ranging from thousands to potentially millions, who suffered health consequences due to radiation exposure. Radiation levels in the immediate vicinity of the plant were reported to be tens of thousands of times higher than normal. The evacuation zone extended to around 30 kilometers, displacing approximately 115,000 people from their homes.

As delegates, your roles in this committee hold immense significance in understanding the complexities of managing nuclear disasters. The decisions formulated here will echo through history, potentially reshaping international approaches to nuclear safety and crisis management. The international community must now brace to assist the affected people and cooperate scientifically to reduce the impacts of this tragic accident.



Topic 3: TQO the Establishment of the UN Security Council (23rd October 1946)

The proposed plan of establishing a United Nations Security Council emerged mainly due to the failures of The League of Nations in maintaining world order and crucially a total absence of enforcement mechanisms to punish those who breach the peace. In 1941, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued the Atlantic Charter, outlining principles for a post-war world, including self-determination, no territorial aggrandizement, and the establishment of a system of general security.

Representatives from the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, and China met at Dumbarton Oaks in 1944 to draft proposals for the establishment of a new international organization. Discussions at Dumbarton Oaks laid the groundwork for the structure of the United Nations, including the Security Council. Allied leaders met at Yalta and Potsdam to plan the post-war order and discuss the establishment of the United Nations. The structure of the Security Council, with its five permanent members and veto power, was agreed upon during these conferences.

Delegates from 50 nations met in San Francisco from April to June 1945 to draft the United Nations Charter. It was here where many of the key decisions on the structure of the UN and its key institutions were finalised. These decisions were made with the intention of creating a lasting peace following World War Two. Delegates of the 5 most powerful nations at the time came to the conference wishing to cement their place at the helm of this enduring peace. The concept of a Security Council was not a new one in 1945. The idea was based on cooperation between the great powers of the time and providing a way of enforcing peace and punishing those who disrupt the peace. This mechanism would be a key element of the UN but many nations disagree on who should be on this council, if certain nations should have special powers and what powers this proposed council should have. The Historical committee must now deliberate these key questions and decide what course of action the UN will follow.