

THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE, 1945



Review and finalization of
Chapter 5,6,7
of the proposed **UN charter**

DIPLOMACY

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DELIBERATION

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DISCUSSION

The San Francisco conference was the birthplace of the organization that has had a lasting impact for better or for worse in the post-World War 2 scenario. Welcome delegates to the first-of-its-kind simulation of the San Francisco Conference.

The Security Council is the core of the United Nations. Its powers and roles defined in chapters 5-7 of the charter have been a matter of conversation since its creation. Here, your agenda shapes how the UN will mould the world.

This document is only to introduce you to the agenda. The EB would like to emphasize that all delegates must start their research from this document and not end it with it.

Godspeed.

Context - The situation post WW2

First, let us understand the world as it stood to post the largest war that the earth has ever seen.

At the end of World War II, vast swaths of Europe and Asia had been reduced to ruins. Borders were redrawn, and homecomings, expulsions, and burials were underway. But the massive efforts to rebuild had just begun. When the war started in the late 1930s, the world's population was approximately 2 billion. In less than a decade, the conflict between the Axis the Allied powers had resulted in 80 million deaths -- killing off about 4 percent of the whole world.

Allied forces now became occupiers, taking control of Germany, Japan, and much of their formerly ruled territory. Efforts were made to permanently dismantle the war-making abilities of those nations, as factories were destroyed and former leadership was removed or prosecuted. War crimes trials took place in Europe and Asia, leading to many executions and prison sentences.

Millions of Germans and Japanese were forcibly expelled from territories they called home. Allied occupations and United Nations decisions led to many long-lasting problems in the future, including the tensions that created East and West Germany and divergent plans on the Korean Peninsula that led to the creation of North and South Korea and -- the Korean War in 1950.

The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine paved the way for Israel to declare its independence in 1948 and marked the start of the continuing Arab-Israeli conflict. The growing tensions between Western powers and the Soviet Eastern Bloc developed into the Cold War.

If the common ground could not be found, the development and proliferation of nuclear weapons raised the real specter of an unimaginable World War III. World War II was the biggest story of the 20th Century, and its aftermath continues to affect the world profoundly more than 65 years later.

Key Milestones That Paved The Way For The San Francisco Conference To Occur:

These documents served as a bedrock for the eventual formation of what we know as the San Francisco Conference.

1941-The Declaration of St. James Palace:

In June 1941, London was the home of nine exiled governments. The significant British capital had already seen 22 months of the war, and in the bomb-marked city, air-raid sirens wailed all too frequently. Practically all Europe had fallen to the Axis, and ships on the Atlantic, carrying vital supplies, sank with grim regularity. But in London itself and among the Allied governments and peoples, faith in ultimate victory remained unshaken. And, even more, people were looking beyond military victory to the postwar future. On 12 June 1941, the representatives of Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Union of South Africa and the exiled governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Yugoslavia, and of General de Gaulle of France, met at the ancient St. James' Palace and signed a declaration which stated, in part:

"That the only true basis of enduring peace is the willing cooperation of free peoples in a world in which, relieved of the menace of aggression, all may enjoy economic and social security; and that it is their intention to work together, and with other free peoples, both in war and peace to this end."

1941: The Atlantic Charter

The origin of the Charter of the United Nations can be traced back to the Atlantic Charter, signed on 14 August 1941, by which Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, and Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, made known "certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world".

In its eighth paragraph, this document incidentally referred to the future "establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security".

1942: The Declaration by United Nations

On 1 January 1942, twenty-six States at war with the Axis Powers, including the United States, the United Kingdom, China and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), subscribed to the joint programme of purposes and principles embodied in the Atlantic Charter in a document, which became known as the 'Declaration by United Nations'.

Twenty-one other states adhered to that Declaration at a later date.

The Declaration by United Nations contained the first official use of the term 'United Nations. United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt coined the name 'United Nations'.

1943: Moscow and Teheran Conferences

From 18 October to 1 November 1943, a Conference was held in Moscow, with the participation of the United States, the United Kingdom, the USSR and China. After the conference, the participating Governments adopted a Joint Four-Nation Declaration in which, among other things, they

"recognize[d] the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States, and open to membership by all such States, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security".

For the first time, the idea of establishing an international organization to keep the peace after the end of World War II was thus expressly mentioned in an official document. Following this Declaration, the four States concerned appointed national committees of experts that separately worked on the drafting of a charter for the future organization (there were, however, earlier efforts in this direction in the United States, with the work of the Advisory Committee on Problems of Foreign Relations established on 27 December 1939, which was officially pursued by the State Department from 1942 until the Conference of Dumbarton Oaks, in 1944).

From 28 November to 1 December 1943, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and the Premier of the USSR, Joseph Stalin, met at a conference in Tehran, where they again confirmed their standard policy, notably expressing their determination that their nations "shall work together in war and in the peace that will follow", recognizing "the supreme responsibility resting upon us and all the United Nations to make a peace which will command the goodwill of the overwhelming mass of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations".

They further announced their intention to "seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and mind are dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance" within a "world family of Democratic Nations" (Declaration of the Three Powers, Tehran, 1 December 1943).

1945: Dumbarton Oaks and Yalta

From 21 August to 7 October 1944, representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom met separately with representatives of the USSR (21 August-28 September) and of China (29 September-7 October), at Dumbarton Oaks in the context of the "Washington Conversations on International Peace and Security Organization" (or Dumbarton Oaks Conference). The reports prepared at the national level by each Government following the Moscow Conference were exchanged.

A steering committee was entrusted with agreeing on the main substantive issues. A Joint Formulation Group drafted a text resulting from such negotiations in the form of a treaty. The final document prepared at the conference, issued on 9 October 1944, became known as the "Proposals for the Establishment of a General International Organization", which constituted the initial working document at the San Francisco Conference in 1945.

Negotiations on the future international organization continued at the Yalta Conference, attended by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin, from 4 to 11 February 1945. The Protocol of Proceedings of this Conference included a section devoted to the "World Organization", which contained, among other things, the decision of summoning a "United Nations conference on the proposed world organization" in the United States on 25 April 1945. This document specified the nations to be invited to the conference and the text of the invitation to be issued.

Further support to the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals was expressed at the Conference of the American Republics, held in Mexico City from 2 February to 8 March 1945.

A critical gap in the Dumbarton Oaks proposals had yet to be filled: the voting procedure in the Security Council. This was done at Yalta in the Crimea, where Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin met in conference with their foreign ministers and chiefs of staff. On 11 February 1945, the conference summoned the San Francisco Conference.

"We are resolved," the three leaders declared, "upon the earliest possible establishment with our Allies of a general international organization to maintain peace and security... "We have agreed that a Conference of United Nations should be called to meet at San Francisco in the United States on the 25 April 1945, to prepare the charter of such an organization, along the lines proposed in the formal conversations of Dumbarton Oaks."

The San Francisco Conference

Forty-six nations, including the four sponsors, were initially invited to the San Francisco Conference. These were the nations that had declared war on Germany and Japan and had subscribed to the United Nations Declaration.

One of these nations - Poland - did not send a representative because the composition of its new Government was not announced until too late for the conference. Therefore, a space was left for the signature of Poland, one of the original signatories of the United Nations Declaration. At the meeting, there was no generally recognized Polish Government. Still, on 28 June, such a government was announced, and on 15 October 1945, Poland signed the Charter, thus becoming one of the original 51 Members.

The conference invited four other states - the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, newly-liberated Denmark and Argentina. Thus, delegates of fifty nations gathered at the San Francisco Conference in April 1945.

The work of the San Francisco Conference was organized as follows. The highest body was the Conference in Plenary Session, which was in charge of the final voting and adoption of the text. Below the plenary, four committees were established:

- the Steering Committee, composed of the chairmen of all delegations, which considered significant questions of policy and procedure;
- the Executive Committee, composed of the chairmen of 14 delegations (those of the four sponsoring Governments and ten co-elected members), serving the Steering Committee by preparing recommendations for its consideration;
- the Coordination Committee, composed of technical members of the same 14 delegations, which assisted the Executive Committee and was itself assisted by an Advisory Committee of Jurists;
- The Credentials Committee, formed by representatives from six delegations, verifying the credentials of delegates.

Below this level, the study of the most critical issues to be settled was divided among four general commissions, which coordinated the work of twelve technical committees charged with preparing drafting proposals; when needed, the technical committees could designate sub-committees. The result was organized as follows:

- Commission I (General Provisions) coordinated the work of Technical Committee 1 (Preamble, Purposes and Principles) and Technical Committee 2 (Membership, Amendment and Secretariat);
- Commission II (General Assembly) coordinated the work of Technical Committee 1 (Structure and Procedures), Technical Committee 2 (Political and Security Functions), Technical Committee 3 (Economic and Social Cooperation) and Technical Committee 4 (Trusteeship System);
- Commission III (Security Council) coordinated the work of Technical Committee 1 (Structure and Procedures), Technical Committee 2 (Peaceful Settlement), Technical Committee 3 (Enforcement Arrangements) and Technical Committee 4 (Regional Arrangements);
- Commission IV (Judicial Organization) coordinated the work of Technical Committee 1 (International Court of Justice) and Technical Committee 2 (Legal Problems).

What do the Delegates need to do!?

Here's where you come in. This conference will stimulate the steering committee that finalizes on Chapters 5,6 & 7 of the UN Charter. We will present a draft version before the meeting, following this document to work off as a base build-up.

Your job, quite literally, would be to modify the Security Council and its powers as you see fit.

We will provide more details with the follow-up document.
Godspeed.

Sources

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un/san-francisco-conference>

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un/preparatory-years>

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2011/10/world-war-ii-after-the-war/100180/>

**Good Luck And
May The Force Be With You!**