



# **TAFS MUN 2016**

**Rerum. Reform. Rebuild.**

**The Air Force School,  
Subroto Park**

**Dates: 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

**Venue: The Air Force School, Subroto Park**

**JCC: Historic Security Council -  
Background Guide**

# **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to the Historic Security Council at TAFSMUN 2016.

Since it is a Historic simulation, it not only gives you the benefit of hindsight to figure out what went wrong but also the opportunity to do things differently.

The possibilities are restricted only by your ability to draft logical arguments and policies.

As your executive board, we only see ourselves in power to moderate the dialogues and debates. The rest of power lies with the delegates and it is upon the committee's wishes as to how and where they see fit.

We look forward to an enticing committee with good arguments, good debate and the delegates having an equally good time.

*Executive Board*

# RESEARCH

Since it is a constant crisis committee, the developments that would occur in the committee itself are hard to foresee, since they would ultimately depend on the dynamics within the committee.

Therefore, to be well equipped for such, immaculate research and above that, a good understanding and analysis of the issue will reign supreme.

The executive board believes you guys need to be well versed with two things:

- a) Your foreign Policy
- b) Timeline of events

Make sure that you have a thorough understanding of the events that led to the commencement of this particular session which is on 5 June 1967.

The issue isn't simply one with nations at odds with each other; many other factors come into play such as the subcontinent's internal tensions with each other, the USSR versus US component and which lent arms to whom, the stability and political developments of the region then and needless to say the religious debate surrounding the issue.

To substantiate a good argument, the history of the Israeli and Arab tensions have to be understood, followed by the build ups in international politics that sparked the June War and finally the issues at ground that played out.

Attaining information but analyzing and evaluating it to one's advantage to forward their views in the committee is quite another.

As the Security Council, the delegates are advised to be in line with their foreign policy while also looking at the bigger picture. The Security Council was looked up to by the rest of the world, during this time, as the neutral arbiter and one whose views wouldn't be biased.

As a committee aiming at *conflict resolution*, the mentioned can only happen if

the interests or issues of both the parties are understood in depth.

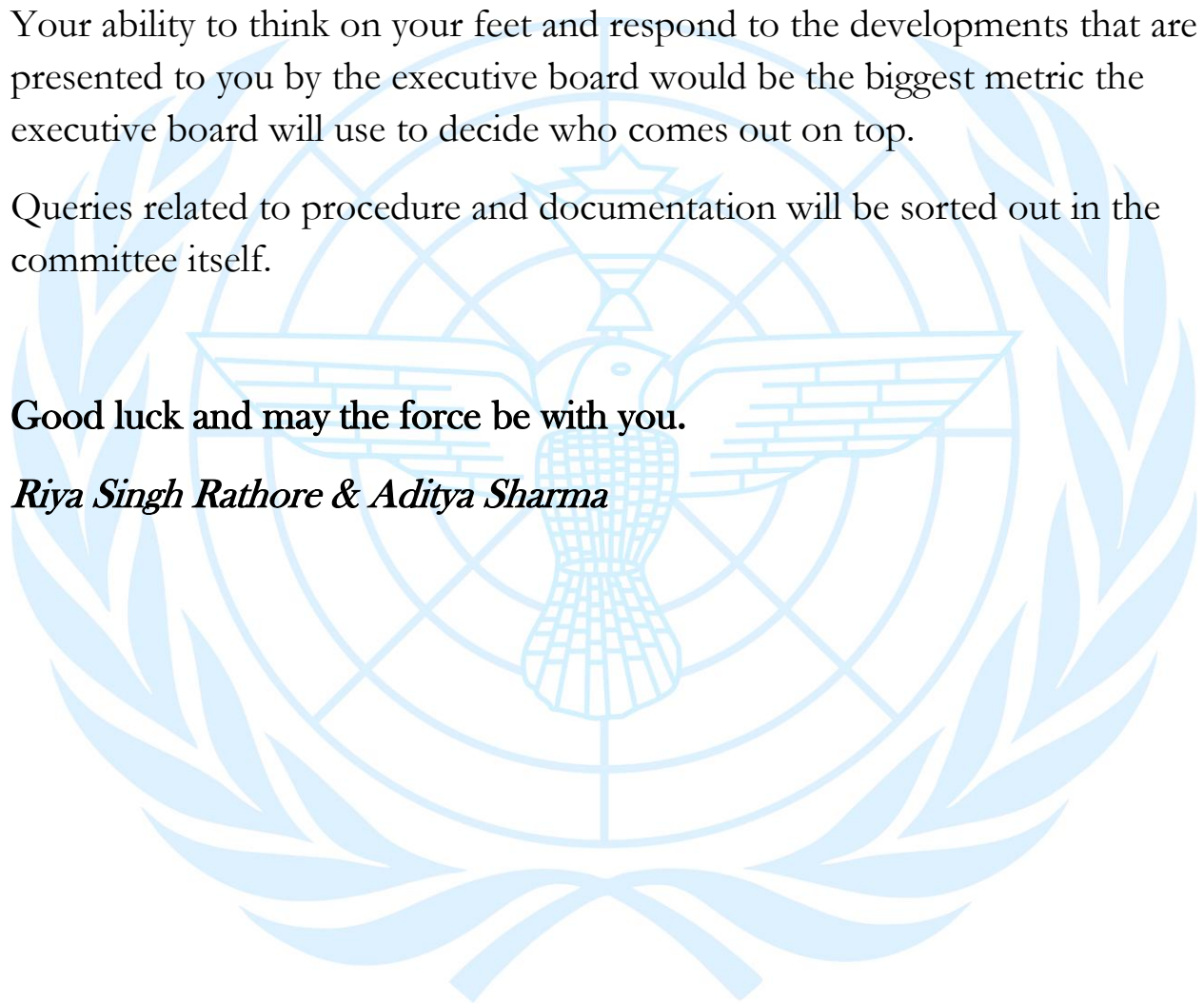
We recommend you to consult Wikipedia only for the timeline, as it provides you with a somewhat accurate and detailed account of how the war actually panned out; but expect much more widespread research and in-depth knowledge on the event.

Your ability to think on your feet and respond to the developments that are presented to you by the executive board would be the biggest metric the executive board will use to decide who comes out on top.

Queries related to procedure and documentation will be sorted out in the committee itself.

**Good luck and may the force be with you.**

***Riya Singh Rathore & Aditya Sharma***





# THE TIMELINE

- **1955** - 241 Israelis killed by Palestinian terrorists originating from Egyptian territory and 37 Israelis killed by terrorists originating from Jordanian territory.
- **Oct 29, 1956** - The infamous Suez Crisis: Israeli leadership grows increasingly weary of aggression from the Egyptian-controlled Gaza Strip as well as Egypt's attempts to block Israeli shipping in the Suez Canal. Egyptian President Nasser nationalizes the Suez Canal on July 26, 1956. Britain, which owns nearly half of the Suez Canal Company, seeks to prevent the nationalization by joining with France and Israel. Israel attacks the Sinai Peninsula, which in turn allowed Britain and France to condemn the fighting and demand that both sides withdraw from the region. The United States calls for a cease-fire in November 1956. A UN peacekeeping force occupies the area in March 1957 and reopens the canal on April 24, 1957.
- **Nov 18, 1959** - Israel begins work on the National Water Carrier Project, taking its share of Jordanian water in accordance with American President Johnson's plan.
- **Jan 13-17 1964** - Arab (Egypt, Syria, Jordan) heads of state meet in Cairo to counter Israel's national water carrier project. Arabs declare their intentions of stopping the Israeli diversion scheme, and a Unified Arab force under Egyptian command is created.
- **May 1964** - PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) founded with the aim of destroying Israel. The Palestinian National Charter (1968) officially called for the destruction and liquidation of Israel.
- **June 5, 1964** - Israel begins pumping water from the Sea of Galilee. Israel vehemently declares to take only its share of water allotted under the Johnston plan, with the implicit agreement of Jordan.
- **Sept 13, 1964** - Second Arab Summit decides on diversion of the headwaters of the Jordan as well as the strengthening of regional Arab armies. Arabs declare the aim of destroying Israel. Israel responds by addressing two notes to the UNSC, declaring their anxiety.

- **Jan 2, 1965** - Al Fatah (Palestinian terrorist group) carries out first sabotage in Israel against the Israel water project.
- **1965** - Syrian water diversion project begins as Syrians fire on Israeli demilitarized zones. Israel retaliates and bombards earth-moving equipment of the diversion project.
- **Sept 18, 1965** - Third Arab Summit at Casablanca. Arab League agrees on plan to combat Israel, first building up armed forces in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon over the next 3 years, then proceeding to war.
- **Nov 13, 1965** - After Syria fires on Israeli patrol, the IAF bombs Syrian diversion project in retaliation. Four Israelis killed, 100+ dead Syrians.
- **Feb. 23, 1966** - New Syrian Baathist regime sets destruction of Israel as primary goal.
- **Nov 9, 1966** – Egypt and Syria sign defence treaty, promising that Egypt would attack Israel in the south if Israel attacked Syria.
- **Nov 10, 1966** - Three Israeli soldiers are killed by a land mine on an Israeli patrol road near the border. King Hussein sends an apology via US Ambassador Walworth Barbour, but Barbour fails to deliver the apology.
- **Nov 13, 1966** - Israeli troops take action to prevent further attacks from Palestinians in West Bank and Jordan. The operation called for minimal strikes against Palestinian villages in Samu, but Israeli forces unexpectedly encounter Jordanian soldiers, killing 15. UN Security Council Resolution 228 censures Israel, but Jordan does not respond militarily. Palestinians living in West Bank and Jordan are outraged and clash with Jordanian security forces throughout West Bank.
- **Dec 14, 1966** - Egyptian Marshal Hakim Amer cables Nasser from Pakistan, in recommending the closing the straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping and dismissing the UN Peacekeeping (UNEF) force from Gaza.
- **Jan - March 1967** - Close to 300 “border incidents” occur, increasing tension in the area.
- **April 7, 1967** - Israelis respond to intensive Syrian shelling of demilitarized zones and Israeli villages with IAF attack.

- **May 11, 1967** - Israeli PM Eshkol states, "In view of the 14 incidents in the past month alone it is possible that we will have to adopt measures no less drastic than those of April 7." The incidents included shelling, terror attacks and attempted infiltration of a Syrian agent to blow up locations in Jerusalem.
- **May 14, 1967** - First reports of Egyptian troop movements into Sinai.
- **May 18, 1967** - Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser orders the United Nations Peacekeeping Emergency Force to leave Sinai and surrounding regions.
- **May 23, 1967** - Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser closes the straits of Tiran to Israeli shipments. Egypt moves approximately 130,000 soldiers into Sinai. Negotiations with US to reopen the Straits of Tiran fail.
- **May 27, 1967** - Nasser cancels a planned Egyptian attack on Israel (Operation Fair Dawn), planned for following day, after it became obvious that the Israelis knew about the plan.
- **May 28, 1967** - Israeli Levi Eshkol broadcasts a hesitant, stammering speech, further exacerbating pressure on him to make way for other leaders. Later it is claimed that the stammering was due to problems in reading the manuscript.
- **May 30, 1967** - Jordan signs a defence pact with Egypt, allows Egyptian command of Jordan Legion.
- **May 31, 1967** - President Abdur Rahman Aref of Iraq states "The existence of Israel is an error which must be rectified. This is our opportunity to wipe out the ignominy, which has been with us since 1948. Our goal is clear - to wipe Israel off the map."
- **Jun 2, 1967** - Moshe Dayan joins Israeli cabinet as Minister of Defence. Coalition government formed. Reservists released for furlough before outbreak of the war.



# HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

The roots of the bitter animosity can be traced back to the late 19th century, with the rise of nationalist movements such as Zionism and Arab nationalism. The Jewish population of Europe, in the face of widespread persecution began to discuss the return of the Jewish people to Zion, their homeland.

Thus began the Zionist movement. This movement called for an establishment of a nation state in Palestine for the Jewish people, which would serve as a haven for the Jewish people of the world.

During World War I, Britain captured parts of the Ottoman Empire, including the Palestine region. Based on the context of the Balfour Declaration of 1917, the League of Nations assigned the Mandate for Palestine to Britain, which included all of the land which is now Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, as well as all of the territory East of the Jordan River now known as the Kingdom of Jordan.

The vast land area housed a relatively small population of fewer than 1 million inhabitants. It was in this vast, under populated area that the British proposed in the 1917 Balfour Declaration to “favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, but that nothing should be done to prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.” Open Jewish immigration was encouraged, much to the chagrin of Arabs living in Palestine, who started violent insurrections against the Jews and against British rule in the 1920s and 1930s.

In response, the Zionists living in Palestine established self-defence organizations such as the *Haganah*, which carried out reprisal attacks against the Arabs. This signified the beginning of the decades long modern Arab-Israeli conflict. The decades that followed were marked by perpetual violence against the Jews, both in the Middle East and in Europe. The Arabs



of Palestine launched an endless *jihad* against the Jews, prompting the British to send a royal commission to investigate the situation. From this investigation, Zionists, led by Chaim Weizmann pushed for a partition of the land into two separate entities, “even if the territory assigned to the Jews were the size of a tablecloth”. The Peel Commission’s final report in 1937 proposed exactly that, granting the Zionists a tract of land that was approximately 20% the size of the remaining mandate territory, from Tel-Aviv up to the north of the country.

The Palestinian Arabs were offered 80% of the territory to create their own state. Reluctantly, the Zionists accepted the Commission’s partition plan. However, it was opposed by the Arabs, who pressed on in an armed revolt against the mandate. Under increased Arab pressure, Britain severely limited Jewish immigration to Palestine in 1937 after proposals to divide the area into two states were rejected.

This limitation left Jews fleeing persecution in Nazi occupied countries without a place to flee to. Like many of its fellow Western countries, Great Britain closed its doors to Jewish immigration during and even after the Second World War, due to internal feelings of anti-Semitism.

Increasing protests against this policy and incompatible demands by both the Zionists and the Arabs made the situation untenable for the British. They relinquished control of the mandate territory, returning its control to the successor of the League of Nations, the United Nations.

The UN hoped to resolve the conflict by creating yet another commission (The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine). The Committee recommended another two-state solution which would see the territory divided almost equally between the Jews and Arabs, along with an economic union between the two states.

However, it would soon become clear that this plan would not work due to the mutual antagonism between the two peoples.

After the proposal was adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1947, the conflict escalated.

As a result, the outraged Palestinian Arabs attacked Jewish communities throughout Palestine and instituted a blockade on Jerusalem, prompting Zionists to attack and destroy several Palestinian villages. The Arab League openly declared that it aimed to block the establishment of a Jewish state by force. A day after the declaration of the state of Israel (May 14, 1948) Arab troops from neighbouring countries invaded the area. Initially, the Arab invaders held a distinct advantage, with better weaponry and more troops.

However, their initial momentum faded after the first ceasefire was called, which both sides used to improve their positions in violation of the UN declaration. It was during this time that the newly established IDF was trained with the resolve of fighting off their invaders.

Due to better organization and intelligence, the Zionists ultimately won their War of Independence. Under the terms of an armistice signed by the belligerent parties of the 1948 War, Israel was to control approximately 78% of the mandate area. Jerusalem was now divided with the Old City controlled by Jordan, with a tiny Jewish enclave in the Jordan territory. A majority (the UN estimates about 700,000)<sup>17</sup> of Palestinian Arabs living in the territory now under Israeli control were expelled, and about 900,000 Jews living in Arab countries were also expelled and relocated to Israel, France, and the United States.

While most of these Jewish refugees started new lives in their respective countries, the Arab countries refused to house Palestinian Arab refugees, claiming that Arab refugees had the right to return to Israel. Israel rejected this notion, maintaining that the right to return policy would lead to an Arab majority in Israel. The question of whether or not Arabs do have a “right to return” is the first major obstacle to resolving the conflict.

# POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND CONTROVERSIES

The conflict we have at hand is violent, controversial, and complex. Different plans have been tried and have failed, with no clear end in sight. Now the Middle East finds itself on the verge of yet another war. Now is no longer the time to sit back and spectate. Now it is more important than ever that the international community acts to help both sides come to an agreement that will lead to a lasting peace.

## I. **Historical Solution**

The United Nations called for cease-fires between the warring states multiple times over the course of the Six Day War, only for them to be rejected at several points during the conflict. It was not until after Israel had secured the old city of Jerusalem and the Golan Heights from which Syria was attacking it, that all parties agreed to a ceasefire. In the aftermath, the Security Council met to adopt S/RES/242, with provisions to stabilize the region, provide aid to refugees, and prevent another war from breaking out.

## II. **Palestine Membership**

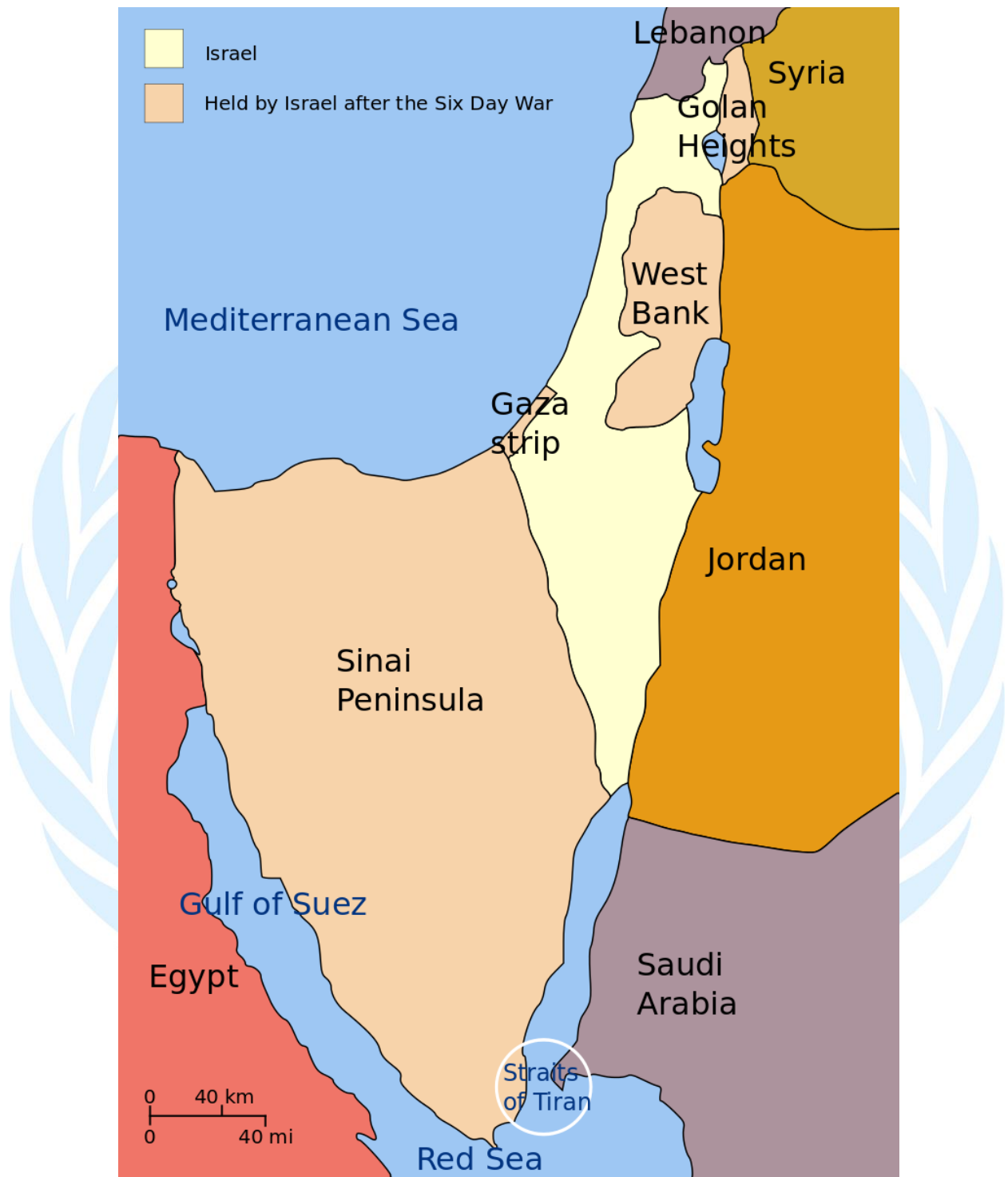
There have been talks of admitting Palestine into the UN as either a non-member observer state, or full membership as a sovereign state, giving it more credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of the international community. The increased diplomatic pressure from the international community would help peace agreements between Palestinian leaders and Israel. However, this proposal is dependent upon a vote in the Security Council, which some permanent members may oppose. With some expert negotiating, the Security Council may be able to come to a compromise that would enable Palestine to become a UN member.



### III. **Security Concerns**

Currently, parts of Palestine are occupied by Israel following the 1948 war. From the Israeli point of view, this is to ensure border security and prevent acts of terrorism. But from the Palestinian perspective, this is seen as a violation of Palestine's sovereignty, and a show of force. At the same time, groups within Palestine do not recognize Israel's right to exist and commit acts of terrorism within its borders. Addressing this issue will be a major step forward in the path to peace.





# FOR FURTHER UNDERSTANDING

- The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history  
<https://youtu.be/iRYZjOuUnlU>
- Israeli settlements, explained  
<https://youtu.be/E0uLbeQlwjw>
- The Six Day War: Causes and Consequences  
<http://www.sixdaywar.org/index.asp>
- The Role of the U.N. in Creating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
<http://www.wrmea.org/2013-august/the-role-of-the-u.n.-in-creating-the-israeli-palestinianconflict.html>
- The Middle East Conflict – A Brief Background  
<http://www.globalissues.org/article/119/the-middle-east-conflict-a-brief-background>

