



ÇAPAMUN'23



GA4: SPECPOL **Study Guide**

1. Letter from SG

On behalf of our organization team, it is my utmost pleasure and honor to invite you to our inaugural Model United Nations conference. We have worked tirelessly to put together an entertaining and instructive program, and we are delighted to have you join us as we explore some of the most pressing issues confronting the globe.

Our Academic Team has chosen committee topics that piqued their interest and curiosity, resulting in a wide range of diverse committees. Delegates will undoubtedly find a committee that matches their interests and skills, ranging from thought-provoking General Assembly committees to dynamic crisis committees. We are excited to give a remarkable experience for the delegates in attendance, with committees targeted to provide you the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of many issues ranging from sovereignty disputes to the protection of migrant workers' rights.

We seek to establish a welcoming and educationally inclusive environment for participants of all levels of experience, as we value the insights and perspectives that each delegate will bring to the conference. Meanwhile, we also strive to give you unforgettable memories apart from the committees. All of our participants will be provided with an environment in which they can connect, participate in activities, and build social skills as well as friendships.

Our secretariat has been and will continue to work relentlessly to provide you with the finest experience possible this year, and I hope to see you all in March. We hope that our conference will ignite your interest in international issues and provide you with the necessary skills to take home with you and use confidently for years to come. Thank you for your participation once more. I am looking forward to meeting you at Çapa Model United Nations Conference 2023.

Sincerely

Ayşe Şule Ercantürk
Secretary General

2. Letter from Academic Assistant

Dear participants of the first session of ÇAPAMUN,

It's my utmost pleasure to be a part of this wonderful event, a long awaited beginning of our school's journey towards being another step of the international programme focused on using consultation to possibly solve some of the greater issues of our planet.

As a Muslim of Palestinian descent, I lived enough to see how it feels to see one's own land, a beloved part of them, in the state of war, or governed by another power and how it feels to think that it's impossible to change its fate. However there is always hope, a hope that consultation and dedication will resolve what is going on. That's why victims of different conflicts all over the world rely on diplomacy as the best tool for solution.

I feel honored to present the study guide for ÇAPAMUN's first SPECPOL, which will emphasize two of the world's issues: Falkland Islands Sovereignty and the conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo, hoping to give enough information about their history and their status. I yearn to see the bright sunlight on the other side of both of the tunnels of disagreement, violence and captivity, and wish you all a nice experience.

Omar Y: Antar

Academic assistant of Special Political and Decolonization Committee

3. Introduction to Committee

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is the fourth committee of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). SPECPOL is a dynamic and multifaceted committee that deals with a wide range of issues, including decolonization, peacekeeping, human rights, and outer space. This committee provides an excellent opportunity for delegates to engage in meaningful discussions and develop comprehensive solutions to some of the world's most pressing political and social challenges.

Another responsibility of SPECPOL is its duty on human rights is to ensure that the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are respected and implemented in all countries, regardless of their political, economic, or cultural backgrounds. Through fostering dialogue and cooperation among member states, SPECPOL works to protect the rights and dignity of all individuals, particularly those who are most vulnerable and marginalized. By addressing and resolving conflicts, promoting self-determination, and supporting peacekeeping missions, Specpol

strives to create a world where every person can live free from fear, oppression, and injustice.

4. Key Terms and Definitions / Key Terminology

International Law: Set of rules, norms, and principles that govern relations between nations and other global actors. It is derived from treaties, agreements, customs, and general principles recognized by the international community. The primary purpose of international law is to promote cooperation, maintain peace, and protect human rights. It is enforced through diplomacy, international courts, and the collective actions of nations.

Sovereignty Dispute: A disagreement or conflict between two or more parties over the ownership, control, or authority over a particular territory or area. This can occur when two or more countries claim the same land, or when a group within a country seeks to establish its own independent state. Sovereignty disputes often involve historical, political, cultural, or economic factors, and can lead to diplomatic tensions or even armed conflicts.

Malvinas Islands: The Malvinas Islands, also known as the Falkland Islands, are an archipelago located in the South Atlantic Ocean, about 300 miles east of the coast of Argentina. They consist of two main islands, East Falkland and West Falkland, as well as several hundred smaller islands. The islands have been a point of contention between Argentina and the United Kingdom for many years, with both countries claiming sovereignty over the territory. The United Kingdom has administered the islands since 1833, while Argentina maintains that the islands are part of its national territory. While the islands are called Falkland by Britain, it is called Malvinas by Argentinians.

South Atlantic Conflict: The South Atlantic Conflict refers to the 1982 war between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the disputed Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands. Argentina claimed sovereignty over these islands, which were under British control at the time. The conflict began when Argentine forces invaded and occupied the islands, leading to a British military response. The war lasted for 74 days and resulted in the deaths of more than 900 people. The British ultimately regained control of the islands, and the conflict remains an ongoing sovereignty dispute between the two countries.

Self-determination: Self-determination is the principle that people have the right to freely determine their own political, economic, social, and cultural destiny. It is a key concept in international law and is enshrined in various international treaties and declarations, including the United Nations Charter. Self-determination can be exercised through various means, such as democratic elections, referendums, or the formation of new states. The concept is often invoked by groups seeking independence, autonomy, or greater political representation within an existing state.

Territorial integrity: Territorial integrity refers to the principle that the borders and territory of a country should be respected and protected from invasion, occupation, or annexation by other countries. This concept is a fundamental aspect of international law and is enshrined in the United Nations Charter, which states that all member nations should respect the territorial integrity and political independence of other states. Territorial integrity is closely linked to the idea of sovereignty, which is the right of a country to govern itself without interference from outside forces.

Garrison: A group of soldiers stationed at a specific location, usually a fort or a military base, to defend and maintain security. It can also refer to the place where these soldiers are stationed.

Decree: An official order or decision made by a person or group with authority, such as a government, ruler, or court. It is a legally binding command or judgment that must be followed by the people under that authority.

Independent arbitration: A process in which a neutral third party, called an arbitrator, is appointed to resolve a dispute between two or more parties. The arbitrator listens to both sides, reviews the evidence, and makes a decision that is usually legally binding on all parties involved.

Non-autonomous territories: Non-autonomous territories are regions or areas that do not have complete self-governance or political independence. These territories may be under the control or administration of another country, and their residents may have limited rights and powers in terms of making decisions about their own governance.

British Overseas Territory: Region under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the United Kingdom but not part of the UK itself. These territories are remnants of the British Empire and have a varying degree of self-government, while the UK remains responsible for their defense and foreign relations.

Decolonization process: Reference to the transition of a colony or territory from being under the control of a colonial power to becoming an independent nation. This process often involves political, economic, and social changes, and can be achieved through negotiations, referendums, or armed conflicts.

Treaty of Utrecht: The Treaty of Utrecht, signed in 1713, was a series of peace agreements that ended the War of the Spanish Succession. It marked the end of French expansionist policies in Europe and established a balance of power among European nations. The treaty led to the transfer of various territories, including ceding Gibraltar and Minorca to Britain and recognizing British sovereignty over Newfoundland and the Hudson Bay region in North America.

Nootka Sound Convention: Signed in 1790, was an agreement between Britain and Spain that resolved a dispute over the Pacific Northwest coast of North America. The dispute arose when Spain seized British ships engaged in the fur trade in the

region. The convention recognized the rights of both nations to navigate and trade in the area, establishing a basis for peaceful relations and avoiding a potential war between the two powers.

Anglo-Argentine Treaty: Signed in 1825, was an agreement between Britain and Argentina that recognized Argentina as an independent nation and established diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries. The treaty marked an important step in Argentina's path to international recognition following its struggle for independence from Spain.

1982 Falklands War: a conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the disputed Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands. Argentina claimed and invaded these British Overseas Territories in April 1982, leading to a military response from the UK. The war ended in June 1982 with a British victory, and the islands remained under British control.

De facto control: A situation in which an entity exercises actual power and authority over a territory or organization, even though it may not have a legal or official right to do so. This control is based on practical circumstances and actions, rather than on formal or legal recognition.

De jure sovereignty: The legitimate and recognized authority of a government or institution to exercise power and control over a territory or people, based on established laws, agreements, or international norms. This sovereignty is derived from legal rights and formal recognition, rather than from actual control or practical circumstances.

Economic exclusion zone: Exclusion Zone (EEZ): A maritime area extending 200 nautical miles from a country's coast, within which the country has special rights to explore and exploit natural resources, both living and non-living, in the water column and on and under the seabed.

Territorial waters: A maritime zone extending 12 nautical miles from a country's coast, within which the country has sovereignty and jurisdiction over the waters, air space, and any resources found within.

Diplomatic recognition: The formal acknowledgment by one country of the existence and legitimacy of another country or government, usually through the establishment of diplomatic relations and exchange of ambassadors.

5. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute is a long-standing disagreement between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the ownership and control of the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands. Located in the South Atlantic, these territories have been under British administration since the early 19th century, but Argentina has consistently claimed them as part of its national territory. The roots of the dispute can be traced back to the 16th century when European powers began exploring and claiming territories in the South Atlantic. Spain, France, and Britain all established settlements on the islands at various points in history. In 1820, Argentina, which had recently gained independence from Spain, declared its sovereignty over the islands.

However, in 1833, Britain reasserted control over the Falklands, expelling the Argentine garrison and establishing a British administration. Throughout the 20th century, Argentina continued to assert its claim over the islands, leading to several diplomatic incidents and strained relations between the two countries. The dispute reached its peak in 1982 when Argentina, under the military dictatorship of General Leopoldo Galtieri, invaded the Falkland Islands, triggering the Falklands War. The conflict lasted for 74 days and resulted in the deaths of 649 Argentine military personnel, 255 British military personnel, and three Falkland Islanders. The war ended with the Argentine forces surrendering, and the islands remaining under British control.

Since the end of the Falklands War in 1982, Argentina and The United Kingdom have restored diplomatic relations despite the continuation of Argentina asserting its claim to the Islands, South Georgia, and South Sandwich Islands, including in its constitution. Successive Argentine governments have pursued diplomatic efforts to assert their sovereignty claim.

The United Kingdom began granting licenses for oil exploration around the area, which led to tensions with Argentina that claimed sovereignty over the islands and their surrounding waters. Similarly, the Falkland Islands government has established a 150 mile fishing zone around the islands. Argentina also objected to this, claiming it violates their sovereignty. Because of the continuing claims, a referendum was held in the Islands, in which 99.8% of voters chose to remain a British Overseas Territory. Argentina dismissed the referendum as irrelevant. The UK has also maintained a military presence in the Falkland Islands since the end of the war, with a garrison at Mound Pleasant which has been the point of contention between UK and Argentina.

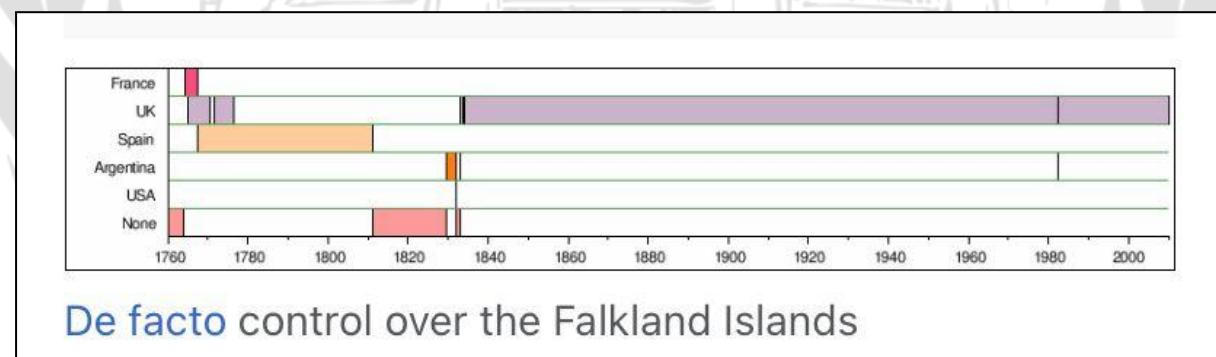
In September 2016, Argentina and the United Kingdom issued a joint statement agreeing to work towards removing restrictive measures around the Falkland Islands, including lifting restrictions on the oil, gas, shipping, and fishing industries,

as well as improving communications and cooperation between the islands and Argentina.

6. General Overview

The Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute is a political conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands in the South Atlantic. Argentina claims sovereignty over the islands, which it calls the Malvinas, while the United Kingdom maintains its claim to the islands.

Throughout history, the Falkland Islands have been occupied by various European nations, including France, Spain, and Britain. In 1764, France founded a permanent settlement on East Falkland and named the islands Malouines. However, in 1766, France left the islands to Spain but insisted that Spain maintain the colony in Port-Saint-Louis to prevent Britain from claiming the title to the Islands, which Spain agreed to. The British settled West Falkland in 1765 but were driven off in 1770 by the Spanish, who had bought out the French settlement. Spain took de facto control of the Islands but came close to war with Britain over the issue. In 1771, the British returned to Port Egmont after a treaty was concluded, but withdrew from the islands in 1774 for reasons of economy, leaving behind a flag and plaque representing their claim to ownership. Spain maintained a settlement on East Falkland until 1811.



In 1820, the Buenos Aires government proclaimed its sovereignty over the Falklands, which lie 300 miles (480 km) east of its coast, since the early 19th century, but Britain seized the islands in 1833, expelling the few remaining Argentine occupants, and since then consistently rejected Argentina's claims. After World War II, the issue of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands shifted to the United Nations, which debated the islands' status in 1964. Argentina based its claim on various historical reasons, while Britain based its claim on its "open, continuous, effective possession, occupation, and administration" of the islands since 1833 and the principle of self-determination recognized in the United Nations Charter.

In 1965, the UN General Assembly approved a resolution inviting Britain and Argentina to hold discussions to find a peaceful solution to the dispute. However, on April 2, 1982, Argentina's military government invaded the Falklands, which led to

the Falkland Islands War. The war ended 10 weeks later with the surrender of the Argentine forces at Stanley, the capital of the islands, to British troops who had forcibly reoccupied the islands. In the early 21st century, Britain continued to maintain some 2,000 troops on the islands. In January 2009, a new constitution came into effect that strengthened the Falklands' local democratic government and reserved for the islanders their right to determine the territory's political status. In a referendum held in March 2013, islanders voted nearly unanimously to remain a British overseas territory. The Falkland Islands have never had any native inhabitants or displaced indigenous people, and were entirely unoccupied until 1765 when they were first claimed by the British who established a garrison at Port Egmont.

The Falkland Islands have never had any native inhabitants and no indigenous people have ever been displaced, instead the Islands were entirely unoccupied until 1765, when they were first claimed by the British who established a garrison at Port Egmont. But now, the Falkland Islands are home to a population of around 3,400 people, who are overwhelmingly of British descent and have expressed their desire to remain a British overseas territory. The islands are also important for their fishing and oil resources, which have been the subject of dispute between the two countries.

The Falkland War had several implications for international law, particularly in relation to the use of force and the principle of self-determination. The conflict raised questions about the legality of military intervention in territorial disputes. Argentina's invasion of the Falkland Islands was not authorized by the United Nations, and the UK's subsequent military response was also not explicitly sanctioned by the UN. This raised debates about the circumstances under which military force could be used in response to territorial disputes, and whether the principle of self-defense could be invoked in such cases. Moreover, the conflict highlighted the importance of the principle of self-determination in international law. The Falkland Islands had been a British overseas territory for over a century, and the islanders had consistently expressed their desire to remain a British territory. The war brought attention to the issue of self-determination and the rights of small territories to determine their own political status.

Another aspect is that the conflict had implications for the law of the sea. The Falkland Islands are located in an area with potentially valuable oil and gas reserves, and the conflict drew attention to the issue of maritime boundaries and sovereignty over offshore resources.

7. Timeline

- 1764: France establishes a permanent settlement in the Falkland Islands and names them Malovines.
- 1767: Spain takes control of Port Saint Louis (established by France) and renames it Puerto Soledad.
- 1770: Spain drives off the British colony at Port Egmont, leading to a diplomatic crisis that is resolved with the signing of a treaty in 1771.
- 1820: Buenos Aires government proclaims sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.
- 1964: The United Nations committee on decolonization debates the islands' status.
- 1965: The UN General Assembly approves a resolution inviting Britain and Argentina to hold discussions to find a peaceful solution to the dispute.
- 1982: Argentina's military government invades the Falkland Islands, leading to the Falklands War.
- 1990: Britain and Argentina reestablish full diplomatic relations, but the issue of sovereignty remains a point of contention.
- 2013: In a referendum held in March, the islanders vote nearly unanimously to remain a British overseas territory.

8. Countries' Policies

Spain does not have a direct stake in the Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute, as the conflict is primarily between Argentina and the United Kingdom. However, Spain has historically supported Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands, also known as the Malvinas in Spanish. Spain's support for Argentina's position can be traced back to the historical ties between the two countries. Spain, as a former colonial power, had control over the Falkland Islands before the British took control in the 19th century.

Additionally, Argentina, as a former Spanish colony, inherited Spain's territorial claims in the region. In recent years, Spain has continued to express support for Argentina's position on the Falkland Islands. In 2012, during a meeting of the Ibero-American Summit, Spain's then-Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy stated that Spain supported Argentina's claim to the Falkland Islands and called for dialogue between Argentina and the United Kingdom to resolve the dispute. Spain has also supported Argentina's position in international forums. In 2013, Spain co-sponsored

a resolution in SPECPOL, which called for a negotiated settlement to the Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute.

In conclusion, while Spain does not have a direct role in the Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute, it has historically supported Argentina's claim to the territory and has advocated for a negotiated settlement between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

Russia's position on such territorial disputes is generally based on the principles of international law, non-interference in the internal affairs of states, and peaceful resolution of conflicts through negotiations and dialogue.

In the past, Russia has abstained from voting on resolutions related to the Falkland Islands dispute at the United Nations. For example, in 2013, Russia abstained from voting on a UN resolution calling for negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom to resolve the dispute. It is worth noting that Russia has its own territorial disputes, such as with Japan over the Kuril Islands, which might influence its stance on similar disputes involving other countries. In these cases, Russia has emphasized the importance of respecting the will of the local population and historical factors in determining the sovereignty of disputed territories.

In conclusion, while Russia does not have a direct role in the Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute, its position is likely to be based on the principles of international law, non-interference, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The United States has historically maintained a neutral stance on the issue of Falkland Islands sovereignty. The U.S. recognizes the long-standing administration of the islands by the United Kingdom and supports the rights of the Falkland Islanders to determine their own political future. At the same time, the U.S. encourages dialogue between the United Kingdom and Argentina to resolve their differences peacefully and in accordance with international law.

In recent years, the U.S. has continued to emphasize its support for a peaceful resolution to the dispute and has not taken a definitive position on the issue of sovereignty. The U.S. has also urged both parties to cooperate on practical matters that affect the Falkland Islanders and the region, such as fisheries conservation and hydrocarbon exploration.

Until recently, as a general principle, **China** supported the peaceful resolution of territorial disputes through dialogue and negotiation. In the context of the Falkland Islands, this would mean encouraging both Argentina and the UK to engage in diplomatic discussions to resolve their differences. However, over the western

support towards Taiwan, and financial possibilities, China stated they back the Argentinian claim.

France has not taken an explicit stance on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. However, as a member of the European Union, France had generally supported the United Kingdom, its former fellow EU member, on this issue.

In April 1982, when Argentina invaded the Falkland Islands, France supported the United Kingdom's military response and provided assistance in the form of intelligence and military equipment, worth noting there is a debate on France also having assisted Argentina by selling military equipment before the war. France also adhered to the European Economic Community's decision to impose economic sanctions on Argentina during the conflict.

Since the end of the Falklands War, France has maintained a neutral position on the issue of Falkland Islands sovereignty, calling for a peaceful resolution of the dispute through dialogue and negotiations between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

Brazil has historically supported Argentina's claim to the islands. In regional forums like the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Brazil has endorsed resolutions supporting Argentina's position on the Falkland Islands. Brazil, along with other South American countries, has also imposed restrictions on ships flying the Falkland Islands flag from docking in their ports. Although Brazil supports Argentina's claim, it has also called for a peaceful resolution to the dispute through negotiations between Argentina and the United Kingdom.

9. Possible Solutions

Respecting Self Determination: Respecting the right to self-determination of the Falkland Islanders, as recognized under international law even though this would mean acknowledging the outcome of the 2013 referendum for Argentina, in which the overwhelming majority of Falkland Islanders voted to remain a British Overseas Territory. A referendum similar to the older referendum could be organized to allow the inhabitants of the Falkland Islands to express their preference regarding the sovereignty of their territory once more.

Joint Sovereignty: Argentina and the United Kingdom could consider establishing a joint sovereignty agreement, whereby both nations share administrative and political responsibilities over the Falkland Islands. This approach could involve a power-sharing arrangement and joint management of resources, ultimately benefiting both countries and the islanders.

Economic Cooperation: Argentina and the United Kingdom could explore opportunities for economic cooperation in the Falkland Islands, such as joint development of natural resources and tourism, to foster a collaborative relationship between both nations. This could create a mutually beneficial environment and help in resolving the sovereignty dispute.

Forming a Bridge: Promoting confidence-building measures between Latin America and the Falkland Islands, such as fostering economic, cultural, and educational exchanges, to build trust and understanding between the two communities, focusing on regional cooperation and integration within Latin America and the South Atlantic, which could help create a more favorable environment for addressing the Falkland Islands sovereignty dispute.

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11.Key Terms

- Armed groups: Rebel groups, militias, and criminal networks that operate in the DRC and control territory, engage in illicit activities, and commit human rights abuses.
- Conflict minerals: Minerals, including tin, tungsten, tantalum, and gold, that are mined in the DRC and neighboring countries and are often sold on the international market to finance armed groups.
- Peacekeeping: The deployment of United Nations troops to help maintain peace and stability in conflict-affected areas, including in the DRC where the UN has the largest peacekeeping mission in the world.
- State capture: The process by which private interests exert influence over state institutions and decision-making, often leading to corruption and undermining the rule of law in the DRC.
- Rwandan Genocide: A mass slaughter of Tutsi and moderate Hutu people in Rwanda in 1994, carried out by Hutu extremists resulting in the deaths of an estimated 500,000 to 1 million people.

12. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been plagued by a long-standing conflict that has lasted for more than two decades. The conflict, which began in the late 1990s, has been marked by multiple parties, including armed groups, militias, government forces, and foreign forces, who have been competing for power and control over the country's vast resources. The roots of the conflict lie in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide in 1994, which led to the displacement of over two million Rwandans, many of whom fled to neighboring countries, including the DRC. These refugees, along with the Interahamwe militias responsible for the genocide, used the DRC as a base to launch attacks against the new Rwandan government. The Rwandan government, in turn, supported armed groups in the DRC, which were fighting against the DRC government.

The conflict in the DRC quickly evolved into a regional war, with multiple countries involved in the fighting. In addition to Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia sent troops to support either the government or rebel groups. The war resulted in the deaths of millions of people, mostly due to disease and starvation caused by the displacement of millions of people. Despite numerous attempts to resolve the conflict, including the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping forces, the situation in the DRC remains precarious. The country continues to be

plagued by violence and instability, with armed groups and militias controlling large parts of the country's eastern region. The ongoing conflict has had a devastating impact on the DRC's population, with millions of people displaced and living in precarious conditions.



13. General Overview of the Case

The conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has its roots in a complex history of colonization, political instability, and economic exploitation.

a. Rwandan Genocide

In the early 1990s, a pro-democracy movement emerged in the DRC, leading to protests and calls for political reform. In 1994, the Rwandan genocide led to the mass exodus of Rwandan refugees into neighboring countries, including the DRC. Some of these refugees formed armed groups, including the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), which would later play a significant role in the conflict in the DRC.

The Rwandan genocide was a mass slaughter of Tutsi and moderate Hutu people in Rwanda in 1994. It is estimated that between 500,000 and 1 million people were killed during the genocide. The genocide was carried out by Hutu extremists who had been in power since the country's independence in 1962.

The genocide in Rwanda had a significant impact on the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. After the genocide, many Hutu extremists fled to neighboring countries, including the DRC. These refugees formed armed groups, including the Interahamwe militia, which was responsible for much of the violence during the genocide.

b. The First Congo War

The First Congo War occurred in the early 1990s and was a result of the political instability and economic turmoil that characterized the DRC at the time. Rebel groups, backed by neighboring countries like Uganda and Rwanda, began to challenge the rule of then-President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The rebels were supported by Uganda and Rwanda, who saw an opportunity to gain control of the mineral-rich eastern region of the country. In 1997, the rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila launched an armed campaign against the government, with the support of Rwanda and Uganda. His forces rapidly advanced and captured Kinshasa, the capital, in May 1997. Kabila declared himself president and changed the name of the country to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The First Congo War had significant implications for the conflict in the DRC, as it set the stage for the Second Congo War that would break out just a year later. It also marked a turning point in the country's history, as Kabila's rise to power and subsequent rule was characterized by political instability and conflict, including a rebellion in the mineral-rich eastern part of the country.



c. Rebellion in DRC



In 1996, rebel leader Laurent-Désiré Kabila launched an armed campaign against the government of Mobutu Sese Seko, with the support of Rwanda and Uganda. Kabila's forces rapidly advanced and captured Kinshasa, the capital, in May 1997. Kabila declared himself president and changed the name of the country to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Kabila's rule was marked by political instability and conflict, including a rebellion in the mineral-rich eastern part of the country. In 1998, Rwanda and Uganda, who had supported Kabila's rise to power, turned against him, accusing him of failing to address their security concerns and of supporting armed groups that threatened their interests in the region.

d. The Second Congo War

Rwanda and Uganda, along with Burundi and a number of Congolese rebel groups, formed a coalition against Kabila, leading to the outbreak of the Second Congo War in 1998. The war was characterized by widespread violence and human rights abuses, including the use of child soldiers and the perpetration of sexual violence.

The Second Congo War officially ended in 2003, with the signing of the Sun City Agreement. The agreement established a transitional government and called for the integration of rebel groups into the national army. However, the conflict did not fully end, and fighting continued in some parts of the country.

e. Aftermath

In the years following the end of the Second Congo War, armed groups continued to operate in the DRC, particularly in the east of the country. These groups included both Congolese rebels and foreign armed groups, some of which were linked to neighboring countries such as Rwanda and Uganda. The groups were involved in a range of illicit activities, including the exploitation of natural resources such as minerals, which were used to finance their operations.

The ongoing conflict in the DRC has led to widespread violence, displacement, and human suffering. The United Nations has the largest peacekeeping mission in the world in the DRC, and efforts are ongoing to address the root causes of the conflict and to promote sustainable peace and development in the country.

14. Timeline of the Important Events

1994: The Rwandan genocide leads to the displacement of over two million Rwandans, many of whom flee to neighboring countries, including the DRC. These refugees, along with Interahamwe militias responsible for the genocide, use the DRC as a base to launch attacks against the new Rwandan government.

1996: A rebellion against the Zairian government, led by Laurent-Désiré Kabila, begins in the east of the country with support from Rwanda and Uganda. The rebellion quickly spreads to other parts of the country.

1997: Kabila's forces capture Kinshasa, and he declares himself president of the DRC.

1998: Kabila's government falls out with Rwanda and Uganda, who withdraw their support and begin supporting rebel groups fighting against the DRC government.

1999-2000: Troops from Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia are sent to support the DRC government, while Rwandan and Ugandan troops continue to back rebel groups.

2002: A peace agreement is signed, and a transitional government is established in the DRC.

2004: The Congolese army launches an offensive against the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) in the east of the country. This leads to the creation of a new rebel group, also called the CNDP, led by Laurent Nkunda, a former general in the Congolese army. The CNDP is backed by Rwanda, which sees the group as a way to protect its interests in the region.

2008: A ceasefire is reached between the DRC government and the CNDP, and Nkunda is arrested in Rwanda.

2012: The M23 rebel group is formed in the east of the country and launches a new rebellion against the DRC government. The group is supported by Rwanda and Uganda.

2013: The M23 is defeated by the Congolese army with the support of United Nations peacekeeping forces.

2021: The conflict in the DRC continues, with armed groups and militias vying for power and control over the country's resources, particularly in the east of the country. The situation remains precarious, with ongoing violence and instability.



15. Parties Involved

Democratic Republic of Congo: The DRC government is the main actor representing the state. The government has been accused of corruption, human rights abuses, and failure to provide basic services to its citizens.

Armed groups: There are many armed groups operating in the DRC, including rebel groups, militias, and criminal networks. These groups often control territory, engage in illicit activities, and commit human rights abuses.

- a. Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda ([FDLR](#))
- b. The National Congress for the Defense of the People ([CNDP](#))
- c. [M23](#)

Neighboring countries: The conflict in the DRC has regional dimensions, with neighboring countries playing a role in the fighting. Rwanda and Uganda have been accused of supporting rebel groups in the DRC, while Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia have supported the DRC government.

International actors: The conflict in the DRC has drawn the attention of the international community, including the United Nations, the African Union, and various donor countries. These actors have played a role in supporting peace and stability in the region, providing humanitarian assistance, and promoting good governance and development.

16. Possible Solutions

- The United Nations peacekeeping mission in the DRC, known as [MONUSCO](#), has been active in the country since 1999. The mission has had some success in protecting civilians, supporting political processes, and promoting security sector reform. MONUSCO could continue to play a role in supporting peace and stability in the country, but it will require continued support from the international community.
- There are many armed groups operating in the DRC, including rebel groups, militias, and criminal networks. These groups often control territory, engage in illicit activities, and commit human rights abuses. Some of the key armed groups include the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), the National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP), and the M23.
- The conflict in the DRC has regional dimensions, with neighboring countries playing a role in the fighting. Rwanda and Uganda have been accused of supporting rebel groups in the DRC, while Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia have supported the DRC government.



17. References

See attached links.

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