

UN

SECURITY COUNCIL



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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Pacific Model United Nations 2019 and the United Nations Security Council. My name is Thomas Trepanier and I am a senior at Interlake High School, and I am delighted to be serving as the director for this committee. Joining me on the dias is Arthur Lu, who is also a senior at Interlake High School as Chair and Jess Topper who is a sophomore at Inglemoor High School as Assistant Director. When applying for director, I chose UNSC for the same reason why many of you may be interested - a small committee of highly capable MUN delegates is the perfect setting for a great weekend of fast-paced and interesting debate. The UNSC is a unique committee in that the individual delegates of each country have a large amount of power in their decision for debate and resolution, but as one of entertainment's most famous uncles once said, great power comes with great responsibility. A product of this is that delegates will have to become experts on the topics given to them in order to fully understand and be able to participate constructively in debate throughout the weekend.

The two topics that the UNSC has the opportunity to debate about over the conference weekend are (1) Organized Militant Groups in Sub-Saharan Africa and (2) the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict - two topics that at first glance may seem standard and boring UNSC topics but are far from so. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a long-standing and continuing engagement that has yet to see resolution after more than a century of skirmish. As it is highly controversial within international but even local politics due to its relation with religion, I will ask that delegates remain respectful throughout the debate towards the parties involved. The second topic - Organized militant groups in Sub-Saharan Africa - is a fascinating one, even for individuals who are often uninterested in the political chaos created in the years following decolonization. In it, delegates will be challenged to create a deeper understanding of what is causing large-scale disruption in such a large and populous part of the



world, and ultimately to comprehend how each country has a role to play in the de-escalation of these conflicts.

The following background guide will give you an initial understanding of the topics, but I hope that your further research will give you a comprehensive one. We hope to delve straight into debate, which requires concise and informed delegates. If you have any questions, feel free to email us. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you in committee!

Best,

Thomas Trepanier

Director | United Nations Security Council

Pacific Model United Nations 2019

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Although they are currently active in multiple countries across the world with more than 100,000 participants; the UN peacekeeping forces - run by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - amount for less than 0.5% of global military spending, and yet prevent so much harm, war, and death to those in the areas in which they are stationed.¹ This is a monumental amount of power countered by an immense responsibility to carry for one of the original committees of the UN - the UNSC. The UNSC, or as stated earlier the United States Security Council, is a collective group of five permanent and ten non-permanent members who attempt to secure the peace and prosperity of the international community, while maintaining an overall neutral stance to the politics that shade the eyes and minds of most powerful politicians. It serves both militarily and politically and is also a platform for large international players to discuss matters of importance within the UN such as the position of secretary-general or elect judges to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

¹ <https://unfoundation.org/blog/post/10-things-may-not-know-un/>



In order to be successful in debate, delegates are expected to show leadership, and communication skills, and to always stay present to the current positions in debate in order to creatively and intelligently work towards a solution to the topics. Due to the power the UNSC holds internationally, delegates are expected to maintain a professional demeanor throughout the conference. This committee is mostly recommended to advanced delegates with at least a few delegate experiences behind them, as it is often difficult to derive solutions to problems as complex as those to which we will be debating.

In preparation for debate, delegates are also expected to research on the topics presented in depth and write a position paper about each to be eligible for awards. Each position paper must be about one page in length and include a short introduction of your country and its history in relation to the topic and committee, how previous United Nations and UNSC policy related to the topic as well as your country's policy, how the issue impacts your country specifically, and finally a stance on what your country believes it should do to solve the issue.

TOPIC A

Addressing Organized Militant Groups in Sub-Saharan Africa

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In recent years, Sub-Saharan Africa has been plagued by the activity of domestic and transnational militant groups. Although militant groups often do not describe themselves as “militants”, they routinely use forms of extreme violence to progress their agenda. The phrase “militant groups” can be used interchangeably with terrorism, which there are many cases of in sub-Saharan Africa. While the United Nations (UN) has not endorsed a definitive definition of terrorism, a widely accepted meaning of the word is the use and/or threat of use of violence against civilians for the purposes of achieving political, ideological, economic, and/or social



goals. *The League of Nations Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of Terrorism* in 1937 stated that, “acts of terrorism means criminal acts directed against a State and intended or calculated to create a state of terror in the minds of particular persons, or a group of persons or the general public.” The Security Council has also recognized violent extremism (the belief in extreme ideologies, advocating for violence, and lack of tolerance) as a factor leading to terrorism. Today, terrorism is classified by the UNSC as one of the most significant threats to international peace and security.

Arguably, terrorist attacks that usually make the headlines are those which hit the Western world. This is true in light of the publicity given to the November 2015 attacks in Paris that killed 130 people, the Brussels terrorist attacks in March 2016 that killed at least thirty people and wounded 230 others, and the London attacks that killed four people in March 2017. The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks.

Concurrently, thousands of terrorist attacks have happened in countries such as Afghanistan, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and Syria. On November 20, 2015, a hotel attack was staged in Bamako, Mali. On November 24, 2015, there was a bus attack in Tunis. Similarly, a group of militants linked to Al-Shabaab killed at least fifteen people and left others injured after a suicide bomber detonated a bomb at the gate of a hotel in Mogadishu on February 26, 2016. The challenges posed by terrorism and extremist groups in Sub-Saharan Africa are significant yet receive little attention on global news networks. This often makes it appear as though the devastating effects of terrorism are relatively minimal in Africa, while the very opposite is true; thus, tackling the issue of terrorism in Africa is twofold - both finding a solution to effectively deal with violent extremism as well as bringing to attention to the rest of the world the consequences of the dangerous militant activity in Africa.



HISTORY

Primarily in the last half a century, transnational and domestic militant groups have emerged as a major issue in Sub-Saharan Africa. Drawing support from impoverished, uneducated societies, these groups oppose Western education; the rise of terrorism in Africa is often at least partially attributed to the insurgence of Islamist extremism. Today, two of the most significant are Al-Shabaab which operates primarily in Somalia and Boko Haram which rose from Nigeria, but they are far from the full picture.

Al-Shabaab

Sub-Saharan Africa is a region fraught with chaotic violence and the nations within the region are each affected by several organized militant groups. One continuing case of rising terrorist and violent extremist activity is in Somalia. Al-Shabaab, a radical Islamic terrorist group active since 2006, is the largest and most lethal terrorist organization in the region. With areas of operation in Somalia and northern Kenya, Al-Shabaab engages in open attacks against civilians, youth radicalization, and encouragement of extremist ideology. Al-Shabaab controls large swathes of Somalia, enabling it to launch attacks in Kenya and Ethiopia, resulting in the spread of terrorism and regional insecurity. Piracy, economic stagnation, and vast human rights violations have led to Somalia being labeled as a failed state.

Somalia's domestic politics since the Ogaden War were dominated by swelling opposition to President Siad Barre, and by Barre's efforts to shore up his government. Opposition was expressed in three main forms: an attempted coup, defection of government officials and military officers, and the mushrooming of political organizations. The climax of the conflict was the rise of extremism which finally birthed Al-Shabaab. Al-Shabaab seeks to drive out AU peacekeepers, fulfill the dream of the creation of a Greater Somalia, flush out foreign influence, topple the central government, and impose its own harsh interpretation of Sharia (Islamic law) in Somalia. To sum up their intentions, their goals lie in deposing the government and assuming control. Somalia has not had an effective central government since



the fall of former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991. Since then, the country has been dominated by clan-based violence and heavily armed warlords that have plunged it into chaos and intense poverty. The lack of a substantive or coherent central government allowed a variety of insurgent, tribal, and terrorist groups to flourish in the absence of government control. There emerged the Islamic Union after the fall of President Barre. Its stated goal was the establishment of an Islamic state in Greater Somalia, the lands of the Horn of Africa inhabited by ethnic Somalis. At the beginning of the year 2000, pressure from Ethiopia, strategic miscalculations, and internal dissent led to the Islamic Union losing much of its influence, and the subsequent splinter into several groups. The most influential among them was the Islamic Court Union (ICU), a loose coalition of clerics and militia that soon managed to control large sections of Somalia. The Ethiopian army moved into Somalia on July 20, 2006, at the request of the United Nations-backed the Transitional Federal Government and seized control of Baidoa. After months of skirmishes with the ICU and other militia groups, the Ethiopian army decided to invade the rest of the country in December, dispersing the ICU and installing the TFG in Mogadishu. The invasion by Ethiopia, Somalia's historical enemy, was seen as an embarrassment from both a nationalist and Islamist perspective. Many Somalis perceived Ethiopia as acting on behalf of the US and America's involvement was itself widely seen as a desire to retaliate the 1993 'Black Hawk' incident or as part of a larger plan to attack Muslim countries.

Since the collapse of ICU, Al-Shabaab became the main Islamist armed group operating in Somalia, carrying out guerrilla attacks against Ethiopian and AU troops and rival Somali factions and exercising some form of control over large swaths of the country. Repeated attempts to create a national government finally led to the creation of the current, internationally recognized, Federal Government of Somalia in 2012. Al-Shabaab is opposed to the Federal Government and the African Union Mission in Somalia. The fighting between Somalia's Federal Government and Al-Shabaab militias displaced and continues to displace thousands of Somalis who then flee to Kenya, Djibouti, Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia.

Boko Haram



In Nigeria, Boko Haram, another militant group, has been active since 2002. It is another Islamist terrorist group located in northern Nigeria. The phrase “Boko Haram” can be translated to “Western education is forbidden”; the anti western education sentiment dates back to 1903 when Nigeria fell under British rule but it was not until 2002 that Boko Haram was officially created by Muhamad Yusef. With the goal of establishing an Islamic State, Boko Haram regards the Nigerian state as being run by nonbelievers, regardless of whether a muslim is in power.

In 2009, Boko Haram carried out a series of attacks in Maiduguri. In the violence that followed, Nigerian security forces were able to regain control, killing Yusef, and declaring Boko Haram as over. But despite these claims, the organization persisted under new leader Abubakbar Shekau following Yusef’s death.

Shekau declared Jihad against the US and the Nigerian government in 2010. Many argue that the insurgency of the organization is a direct result from the poor governance of Nigeria’s federal and state governments and the political marginalization of north-eastern Nigeria. Boko Haram’s grievances are situated in a wider political and social discourse that polarizes the north and south of Nigeria, the Christians and the Muslims, distribution of wealth and beneficiaries and victims of corrupt activities. In 2014, Nigeria saw the largest increase in terrorism related deaths ever recorded, growing by over 300% and over 7000 deaths that year.

By 2014, Boko Haram had begun holding onto gained territory, with Shekau declaring a caliphate over the areas it controlled and claiming complete independence and separation from Nigeria. In the same year, Shekau pledged his allegiance to the Islamic State (IS).

At the same time, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger began joining forces to oppose Boko Haram, forming a regional coalition that would move the majority of Boko Haram controlled cities out of their hands by the beginning of 2015. Since then, Boko Haram has retreated and splintered, but thousands of children reportedly remain captive.

It has also spread into neighboring nations where the impoverished state and lack of adequate education are helping it recruit fighters and carry out attacks. So once again, although officials claim Boko Haram has been technically defeated,



significant barriers between the current situation and peace and stability in Nigeria still exist.

The Lord's Resistance Army

Al-Shabbab and Boko Haram are currently the most significant militant groups in Africa, but many other groups exist as well. In Uganda, the Lord's Resistance Army has been active since the late 1900s. Unlike Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram, the LRA is a heterodox Christian rebel group. When the British colonial enterprise in Uganda began in the late 1800s, it was met with considerable resistance from indigenous groups such as Acholi in the North. From the beginning, the Acholi were perceived as more warlike and primitive when the British were unable to civilize them to Western standards. This difference would eventually manifest itself into a strident socioeconomic divide as the South quickly became more industrialized. This divide would persist as Uganda achieved independence. The 1970s saw the rise of military dictator Idi Amin who would be overthrown in a rout of extreme violence at the end of the decade. Following his removal from power, two prominent political parties emerged - the National Resistance Movement (based in the South) and the Uganda People's Democratic Army (based in the North).

Then in 1986, Alice Lakwana founded the Holy Spirit Movement, drawing support from the Acholi by claiming her messages through God could aid them in overthrowing the Uganda government. Although this movement was quickly shut down by the government, subsistence farmer Joseph Kony revived the movement several years later in 1988, forming what eventually became known as the Lord's Resistance Army. The LRA adopted standard military tactics and maintained the mission that messages received from God would help overthrow the Ugandan government.

Through the next several decades, the LRA worked to promote mass terror throughout Uganda with the intent of rendering it ungovernable. In the process, it became notorious for its reliance on child soldiers. Since 2005, the organization has had multiple encounters with the International Criminal Court. Despite this, the organization persisted, shifting into the Democratic Republic of the Congo and what



is now South Sudan. Although today the leadership core of the LRA is weakening, LRA fighters remain a danger.

Ansar al-Dine

Ansar al-Dine is a Malian militant group founded in 2011. Translated roughly to “Defenders of the faith”, it is an Islamist extremist group with the aim to establish Sharia law and oppose western peacekeepers and civilians. It has garnered much comparison to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, although was never formally recognized as an affiliate.

Its first attack occurred in 2012 when it took advantage of the instability following a military coup in March and took control of Northern Mali. It would remain in power until the intervention of the French in the following year.

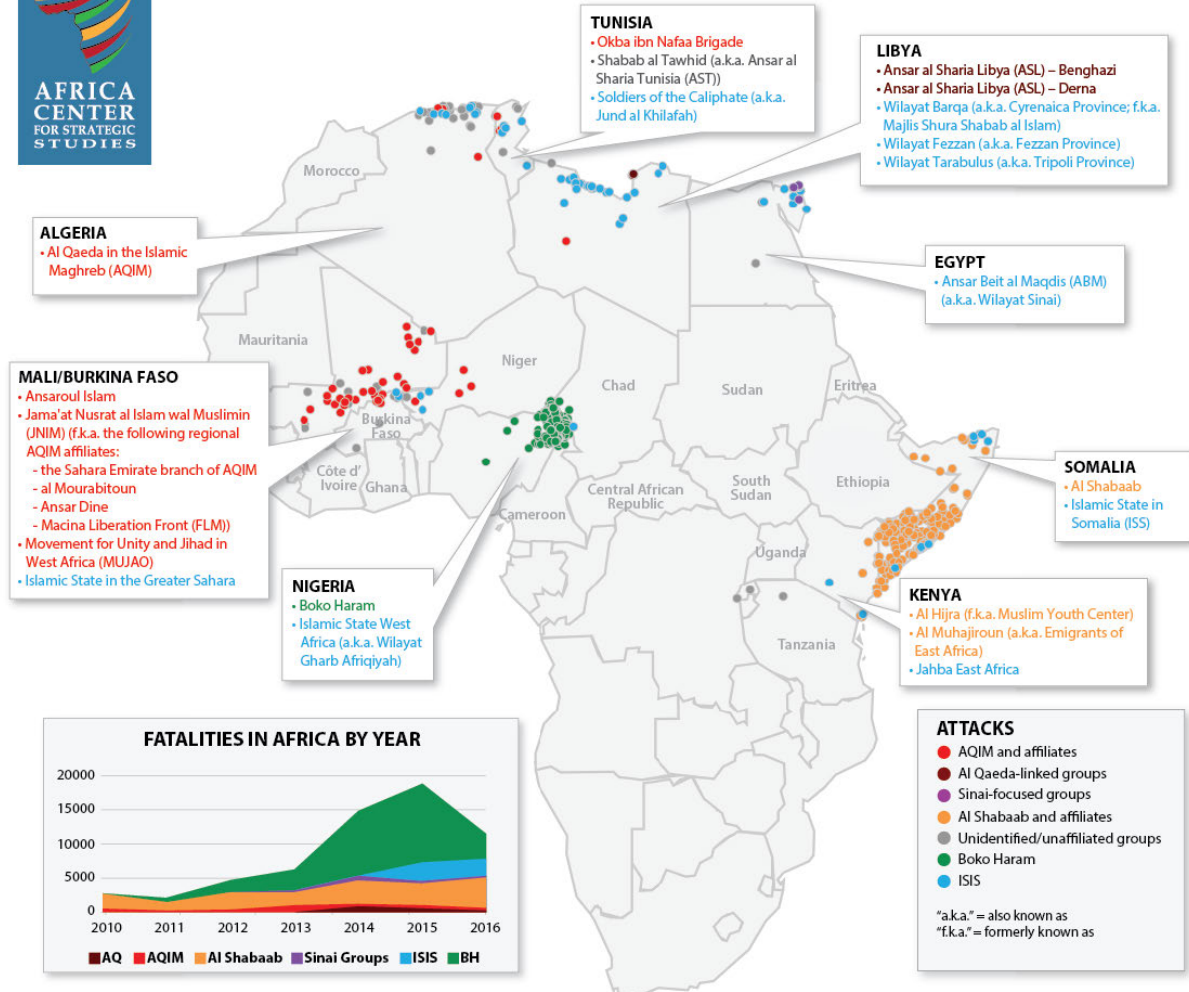
Most recently, in 2018, Ansar Al-Dine claimed responsibility of a suicide bombing of the Malian headquarters of the antiterror task force G5 Sahel.

Other groups

Many other groups of varying levels of influence and power persist in Sub-Saharan Africa. Refer to the following map as a starting point to learn more about militant groups:



AFRICA'S ACTIVE MILITANT ISLAMIST GROUPS



Updated: April 2017 rev.

Note: Compiled by the Africa Center, this graphic shows violent events involving the listed groups over the 12-month period ending March 31, 2017. Data on attacks or fatalities does not attempt to distinguish the perpetrators of the events. Group listings are intended for informational purposes only and should not be considered official designations. Due to the fluid nature of many groups, the listed affiliations may change.

Source: Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED); Daniel Byman, Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Centre; Thomas Joscelyn, SITE Intelligence Group; The Soufan Group; Stanford University's Mapping Militants Project; Stratfor; Terrorism Research & Analysis Consortium (TRAC); and Aaron Y. Zelin.



PAST UN ACTION

The first time an extremist militant group in Sub Saharan Africa caught the attention of the international media was during the Rwandan Crisis in the mid-1990s. It took place after a power-vacuum left the national government vulnerable and political extremism within the Hutu elite was strife against the Tutsi people. The Interahamwe and Impuzamugambi militias were the militant groups mostly attributed to the genocide, of which the scale was astonishing and terrifying for the non-Western parts of the international community. With the genocide's similarities to the Holocaust, it was clear there would be UN intervention, as the creation of the UN was to uphold human rights that had been taken away during World War I and II. This was not the case, however, and the UNSC knowingly sent a peacekeeping force much smaller than the conflict required. Although an extreme case, this demonstrates the type of intentional ignorance that should never be seen again in an organization meant to maintain security and peace worldwide.

In the First Ivorian Civil War, there were extremist militant groups on both sides of the conflict. The government contracted a militia of young nationalists called the "Young Patriots" to counteract the militant rebel groups who were backed by Liberia in the north. Both sides used excessive force and the UN was pushed to get involved after their failures in Rwanda. The UNSC would then convene and agree to send over 8,000 personnel by November of 2006 along with the forces France would send independently. This succeeded in that by 2007 a ceasefire was signed, and the country was split in two with the UN peacekeeping force making a demilitarized zone between. The UNSC also signed an arms embargo to attempt to stifle any chance of the war resurging. It failed, however, to maintain peace between the two halves of the country, as less than half a decade later the two sides began the Second Ivorian Civil War. The UN did not take into consideration not only what would help militarily, but what caused the initial tensions and how to solve the problems at their base.

Currently, the UN is deeply involved in the conflicts taking place in Mali and Burkina Faso, and have created a peacekeeping task force named MINUSMA, or The



United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to attempt to deal with the issue. The UNSC has pledged a 12,600-member peacekeeping force to stifle the rapid spread of extremism and rising popularity of militant groups such as ISIL and Al-Qaeda. This has worked with some success but will require continued innovation in how to deal with the growing problem due to the lack of serious progress being made, and a growing extremist population in the region.

CURRENT SITUATION

Terrorism often finds foothold in weak, impoverished states. Today, organizations such as AL-Shabaab and Boko Haram draw support from the uneducated in states unable to defend themselves adequately. Thus, when observing the status of these organizations, it is important to keep in mind that it is often the lack of effective governance that exposes young people to the risk of recruitment and radicalization.

Somalia

For the first time in many years, there is hope among the people of Somalia and the international community that stability may be in the near future for the war-torn country. The formation of the Federal Government of Somalia in 2012 marked the first time that the U.S. recognized the Somali in 20 years, and by 2017 the threat of al-Shabaab had been quashed enough such that the country was able to go through the first peaceful transition of power in its new government.

In February of 2017, the presidency of Somalia was won through election by former Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo, who is popularly expected to put aside clan politics to clean up corruption and encourage democratic participation. Part of the reason that so much hope resides with Farmajo is the fact that he spent most of the last thirty years in the United States, earning degrees in history and political science and working as a political activist and civil servant. After returning to Somalia to serve as the prime minister under then-president Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed in 2010, Farmajo focused on fighting al-Shabaab and



corruption. After being dismissed from the government and returning to America in 2011, despite his increasing popularity, Farmajo began campaigning amongst diaspora populations and returned to Somalia in 2010 to win the election for president with 50% of the popular vote. As a diaspora politician, Farmajo brings in an experience with democracy and politics from the US not often found in Somalia, and accordingly hopes to be riding high with the U.S. and other international observers. There were some claims of an unfair election bringing Farmajo to power, as some sources spoke of stuffed ballots and votes bought to gain clan loyalties. However, Farmajo has also been the first modern leader of Somalia to speak freely about the rampant corruption plaguing the Somali government, and he pledged to root it out. For many Somalis as well as international observers, there is hope that Farmajo's peaceful rise to the presidency marks a new era for stability in Somalia, as conditions have slowly improved over the last year and a half.

Much of this progress can be contributed to the presence of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to fight al-Shabaab and keep them from undermining democracy in Somalia; however, many in the international community fear that when AMISOM withdraws, Somalia will lapse back into chaos. As discussed at the 2017 "AMISOM Lessons Learned Conference" in Nairobi, although AMISOM was broadly successful in regaining territory from al-Shabaab and protecting the Somali government, it was unable to properly define its mission and had trouble managing and allocating its limited resources, partly due to a lack of coordination with its primary beneficiary, the UN Security Council. Furthermore, the mandate of AMISOM was scheduled to end in 2018, and thousands of AU troops have begun to be withdrawn; since AMISOM suspected a "minimal prospect of a UN peacekeeping operation taking over," the focus has been on training the Somali army to fill the new gap in military personnel. However, AMISOM is underequipped to train the Somali army within such a short period of time, and clan dynamics are still a factor in preventing the creation of a cohesive national army (Rajan). Although AMISOM was to begin full withdrawal by October 2018, in July the UNSC resolved to push this deadline to May of 2019 so that "Somali security institutions [take] the lead by December 2021," with no set plans for further military operations ("UN Delays"). Both Somali and Ethiopian leaders have come together at a conference in June of 2018 to



note how imperative it is to prevent losing the progress made by AMISOM and Ethiopian soldiers in stabilizing the country, and to urge the UN to provide help in supporting “African solutions for African problems”. Whether AMISOM is continued or another solution is proposed, there is a recurring desire amongst all those in tune with the region’s politics to secure the progress made against the threats still present in the region.

Nigeria

The area affected by Boko Haram is home to an estimated 30 million people. The violence has caused a humanitarian emergency around Lake Chad. An estimated 5.6 million people in the region are in need of emergency food aid. Most of the displaced have sought shelter with host communities and do not live in camps. Nearly 1.6 million displaced Nigerians have fled to the Borno state capital of Maiduguri, which continues to be subject to bombings despite the expanded presence of the Nigerian army. It is estimated that more than 15,000 people have been killed by the group since 2009 - including more than 6,500 in 2015 alone. The crisis has spilled over into neighboring countries as well. There is an estimated 206,000 Nigerians displaced in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger as of 2017. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) requested 179,5 million USD of funding to help the Nigeria situation, but only 52 Million USD has been funded.

The group’s use of children has also caused great outcry: To sustain an insurgency for nearly eight years, Boko Haram has compensated for its logistical deficiency by deliberately exploiting children to fill in the gaps and meet the basic needs of their fighting forces. Some boys as young as 13 years old are used as combatants and there are numerous cases of girls at the same age being pregnant by their captors, and some of these children are also being used for suicide bombings. Boko Haram has been leading a systematic campaign of abduction that has forced thousands of girls and boys into their ranks. However, the blatant disregard for children’s rights is found on both sides: Local militias which have played a key role in culling the threat of Boko Haram are also using children in their operations. It is not easier for the children once they have escaped captivity.



Local authorities are faced with a serious dilemma as they take these children into custody: It is necessary to question them and determine their degree of indoctrination and loyalty to their captors' cause. The children's connection and the authorities' inability to discern their level of radicalism due to being with the group has created concern in their surrounding society. This creates barriers to reintegration and reconciliation. Children, due to their being used as suicide bombers are now perceived with paranoia by the society.

There is a bigger level of discrimination for the captive girls than for the boys once they return to society. Militants kidnap and rape young girls, teenagers and women, handing them out as so-called brides who are sometimes passed from fighter to fighter with at least 7,000 women and girls have endured Boko Haram's sexual violence. The girls who return with their children who were born as a result of sexual violence often times face marginalization, discrimination and rejection by their family and community members due to social and cultural norms related to acts of sexual violence. The children of the girls will be ostracized even further than their mothers. This creates a danger of children returning to their captors, for both girls and boys, as they are ostracized from society. There have also been reports that Nigerian security forces raping girls that have been freed from Boko Haram. Cases of rape, sexual violence and exploitation were reported in seven camps in Borno.

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 1: MALI

After gaining independence from France in 1960, over the next few decades, the country of Mali was victim to droughts, rebellions, a coup, and 23 years of military dictatorship until the first democratic elections in 1992. One of the poorest countries in the world, Mali faces significant challenges in development like widespread poverty, environmental factors, food insecurity, and poor infrastructure in addition to a rising militancy threat that can be traced to the 2011-2013 crisis. This humanitarian, political, and social crisis devastated Mali's already weak military and governmental institutions, creating a breeding ground for violent insurgency and chaos. In 2011,



separatist members of the Tuareg minority launched a rebellion in northern Mali, militarily and financially supported by several terrorist networks and groups, many of them with Islamic jihadist ties. Forming the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA), the rebels quickly took control of several cities and began to gain a strong foothold in northern Mali. Malian soldiers dissatisfied and frustrated with the government's handling of the Tuareg rebellion then ousted the elected president in a coup the following year. Amid the ensuing military collapse and chaos, the MNLA launched a rapid offensive and upon capturing the last major government-controlled city in the region, declared an independent state of "Azawad" in the north.

In the following months, clashes began to escalate in the north between the MNLA and Ansar Dine, a militant Islamist group that had initially backed the MNLA in northern Mali. The two groups struggled to reconcile their differences and the MNLA continued to fight with Ansar Dine and several other Islamist groups, many of which were offshoots of Al-Qaeda. In 2013, following requests from the government of Mali for foreign intervention, the UNSC approved a French resolution for military intervention, citing a jihadist presence in the north. After months of violence, a ceasefire between the government and separatist rebels was agreed to, opening up an opportunity for peace talks. The 2015 Algerian-mediated peace accord was signed by both the government and rival northern armed groups, committing the government to greater political decentralization while the northern groups agreed to begin the process of demilitarization and to rule out territorial separation. However, this agreement was clearly flawed in several aspects; the militant groups have yet to demobilize and structural reform, development, and integration in the north has been practically nonexistent. These failures can be attributed to the government's weakened capacity and unwillingness to take action on the parts of both sides. The parties involved were asked to make concessions that were highly unpopular with their respective constituents and the 2015 peace process was arguably a key factor in Mali's current state of destabilization.

In the aftermath of the 2013 conflict and 2015 accords, Islamic armed groups have adapted to the evolving violence and regrouped, rapidly expanding beyond northern Mali into central Mali and other nearby regions. Islamist violence has continued to expand, compounded by intercommunal conflict that has fueled



recruitment into jihadist groups. The 2015 agreement applied specifically to the north and largely ignored the central region, but extremist violence in the area is becoming increasingly alarming, as groups capitalize on the government's lack of legitimacy and authority. The two groups of greatest concern, the Group for the Support of Islam and Muslims (known as JNIM) and Ansarul Islam have exploited ethnic grievances and local concerns to attract members in the absence of protection from the Malian government and law enforcement bodies. The limited presence of Malian security and jihadist violence has also led to the formation of ethnically aligned self-defense groups. Human rights violations are rampant, and a lack of accountability has emboldened those groups to commit further abuses. Urgent international action to intervene in ethnic violence and counter terrorist activity is necessary in conjunction with government responsibility in order to stabilize the country.

CASE STUDY 2: NIGERIA

Although one of the economic powerhouses in Africa and a key regional player accounting for nearly half of West Africa's population, Nigeria has been threatened to split down religious and ethnic lines, a reality exacerbated by a rising militant presence. In particular, the rise of Boko Haram beginning in 2009 has been startling in how rapidly they've become a feature in Nigerian politics and policy. Boko Haram is an Islamist militant group based in northeastern Nigeria and has operated there since 2002-2003. However, it wasn't until 2009 that the group began to demonstrate their capability for major operations and transitioned towards the use of suicide attacks. This violence only continued to escalate, with 10,849 deaths in 2014 and now dubbed the world's deadliest terrorist group in terms of the number of deaths it is responsible for. The emergence of Boko Haram can largely be traced to the North-South divide in Nigeria, Muslim dominated in the North and Christian dominated in the South. The country's past struggles with corruption and inequality have also fueled the group's rise; despite being Africa's most powerful economy,



Nigeria has one of the continent's poorest populations, and has suffered from waves of political coups, rebellions, and instability since gaining independence.

Nigerian government forces have made significant strides in regaining territory with aid from neighboring states as well as international actors but troops have been accused of numerous human rights abuses since launching a major offensive in 2013. Meanwhile, the scale and severity of the attacks continued to increase and in 2014, the group claimed a bombing of a bus station that killed nearly 100 people the same day it abducted over two hundred schoolgirls from the town of Chibok. These events sparked widespread criticism of the Jonathan administration for an inadequate response. With the election of the current president, Muhammadu Buhari, the government has taken a more proactive approach under his leadership by conducting more strategically focused operations and addressing security-sector corruption. Since his election in 2015, the African Union has authorized a multinational military force made up of troops contributed by Chad, Cameroon, and Niger that has been credited with reducing Boko Haram related violence and retaking territory. International aid, especially from the US, has been limited as many nations hesitate to provide support given the Nigerian government's alleged human rights abuses. Today, after beginning a violent campaign to establish an Islamic caliphate in northern Nigeria 10 years ago, Boko Haram has killed an estimated 35,000 civilians, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and at least 22,000 people are missing. Nearly 60 percent of those missing were children and despite gains made by the government, recovering the missing has proven to be difficult to execute under a notoriously lax administration. The UN has also called for urgent action regarding this crisis from Nigeria, regional players, and international actors.

BLOC POSITIONS

The members of the UNSC unanimously agree to strive for a peaceful conclusion to the horrors of war and terror that have plagued the Sub-Saharan



African region for decades. The method of obtaining this 'golden goal' of reduced militant groups in this region, however, is disputed among international players. Here are some of those blocs and their common beliefs.

Bloc 1: United Kingdom, United States of America

"Lack of strong governments, lack of government services, lack of opportunities" were the words used by US Major General Christopher Craig to describe the state of Sub-Saharan Africa and the reasons why radicalization of the proletariat has been occurring at a rapid pace. He continued by stating "Europe, Africa, and the Middle East now so connected. Not just because of modern media devices, but because of travel.". These are some of the reasons why France, the United Kingdom, and the United States have congregated and agreed to aid one another in the fight against political and religious extremism in countries such as Burkina Faso and Nigeria. The group strongly believes that a common military force will be able to suppress extremist militant groups for enough time that local governments will be able to grow their individual economies, lower unemployment, and increase services for the public. The group also believes that a military force formidable enough will be enough to veer individuals away from joining and fighting for these extremist groups.

Bloc 2: China, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia

No matter how common the enemy and the cause, politics have always had the possibility of getting between those who must pledge some economic or human cost - as the risks for the individual countries become greater. This is exemplified in the separation of blocs of Bloc 1 and Bloc 2. In ideology, the two blocs are nearly identical. Bloc 2, which is composed of China, the Russian Federation, and Saudi Arabia also believe in a military force that would be formidable enough for the local governments to reap the benefits. The reason the bloc split is due to an assertion made by the national security advisor for the United States, John Bolton, who claimed, quote, "Great-power competitors, namely China and Russia, are rapidly



expanding their financial and political influence across Africa... They are deliberately and aggressively targeting their investments in the region to gain a competitive advantage over the United States.”. This alienated the two groups and pushed for further competition of attempting to gain political capital with developing countries.

Bloc 3: Belgium, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, and South Africa.

The African Union has convened multiple times to discuss possible solutions to this problem, and although there continues to be contention between some member states, the Union as a whole has claimed to have found the source of the problem - and even has suggested a solution of their own. Bineta Diop, an official of the African Union recently stated “The extremists are inside the community – they provide public services where the state has failed... They bring water, sanitation, education. They provide opportunities to young people they don’t otherwise have. There is a need to address the basics elements of human security and not leave it to extremists.” Many members who are part of the EU outside of the coalition made by Bloc 1 also believe in this solution. Finally, some countries who are part of the UNSC believe in this solution due to their own experience with radicalization and the solution to these issues. These states include Belgium, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, and South Africa.

Bloc 4: Côte d’Ivoire, Mali

The fourth and final bloc is composed of a wide range of Sub Saharan African countries who are directly affected by the growing number and popularity of militant groups. Within the UNSC, this includes the Côte d’Ivoire and Mali. This group of states are often approving of the use of military power to quell the destruction and radicalization that is taking place in their respective countries, although are also advocates for the solution suggested by the African Union. Politically, they are in a unique position of choosing who to work with to combat the problem with, and what solution they believe would be best for their respective countries.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What role do international players have in solving this issue? To what extent should they be involved in issues dealing with national government infrastructure or systematic corruption?
2. What aspects of the issue are most important for the UN to deal with?
3. How can citizens and refugees be protected in the midst of combating militant activity?
4. In what ways can local, national or international governments get involved?
5. How should regional coordination and cooperation be best facilitated to ensure militant activity remains as contained as possible?
6. Consider ethnic or historical divides that militant groups exploit; how can the national government adopt a policy that takes into consideration these divides without further exacerbating conflict?

FURTHER RESEARCH

[HTTPS://AFRICACENTER.ORG/SPOTLIGHT/ACTIVITY-FEWER-FATALITIES-LINKED-AFRICAN-MILITANT-ISLAMIST-GROUPS-2017/](https://africacenter.org/spotlight/activity-fewer-fatalities-linked-african-militant-islamist-groups-2017/)

This source provided a comprehensive map of the various militant groups and where they are located in Africa.



[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=U2GVHA4CIPY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2GVHA4CIPY)

A chronology of how militant groups are gaining power and strength across Sub-Saharan Africa.

[HTTPS://WORLDVIEW.STRATFOR.COM/ARTICLE/TERRORISTS-SETTLE-SAHEL-WEST-AFRICA-PREPARES-BATTLE](https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/terrorists-settle-sahel-west-africa-prepares-battle)

Discusses the shift from terrorism in the Middle East to the precarious and unstable region in Africa.

[HTTPS://WWW.BORGENMAGAZINE.COM/RISE-TERRORIST-GROUPS-SUB-SAHARAN-AFRICA/](https://www.borgenmagazine.com/raise-terrorist-groups-sub-saharan-africa/)

Lists various terrorist groups involved in the region.

[HTTPS://WWW.OXFORDHANDBOOKS.COM/VIEW/10.1093/OXFORDHB/9780199687114.001.0001/OXFORDHB-9780199687114-E-16](https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199687114.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199687114-e-16)

Detailed review of the causes and consequences impacting stability in the Sub-Saharan Africa region.

[HTTP://WWW.TERRORISMANALYSTS.COM/PT/INDEX.PHP/POT/ARTICLE/VIEW/152/HTML](http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/152/html)

Provides transnational and international perspective on the terrorist situation in Sub-Saharan Africa.

TOPIC B

Israeli Palestinian Conflict

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is an ongoing and often violent dispute between the nation of Israel and Palestinian peoples for land, political power and resources in the region. Palestinians are descendants of people from Palestine and are largely comprised of people who culturally identify as Arabs. Primarily influenced



by imperialism, this issue has been a focus of world politics since the early 1900s and has had long lasting repercussions on all of those involved. In the past few decades, tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have been rising and have resulted in thousands killed or injured in the crossfire. The Israeli information center for human rights reported that from 2000-2014 over 8,000 deaths occurred due to this conflict. Of this number approximately 87% were Palestinian deaths and 13% were Israelis. Recent accounts of violence between the two sides include stabbings, suicide bombings and air strikes. While accounts of stabbings have killed many small groups of people, suicide bombings and military airstrikes, that occur in public places, kill larger groups of people and can instill widespread fear. The violent actions by both sides have also taken a negative toll on their economies, as these attacks ruin large parts of cities and can dramatically change people's lives. The conflict has caused Israel to need more defense forces which costs about 15% of its GDP. Economic boycotts cause other issues as Palestine imports 90% of their goods from Israel, therefore they are both dependent on this trade. This conflict has become a global issue as many countries have taken sides. It is imperative that the UN steps in to prevent this issue from as it is a delicate situation that is deep rooted and highly emotional for all sides. Solving this issue is quite difficult as there are so many international factors and what has been done in the past hasn't been efficient. If the conflict is not resolved, tensions will continue to escalate, potentially leading to thousands of additional lives that will be lost and the international community moving further away from a peaceful resolution.

HISTORY

The history of the conflict between Israel and Palestine is incredibly complicated and dates back thousands of years. Each country has strong historical and religious ties to the region, as Judaism and Muslim share some commonalities from 4,000 years ago. For instance, Abraham was considered the father of both of these religions and said that this region, where present day Israel is located, is the holy land. Naturally, both groups of people feel an entitlement to that land and believe it to be "theirs". There is a lack of agreement between Muslims and Jews and



Christians for who settled first. In the next several thousand years, other groups such as Egyptians and Ottomans came to the land that is modern Israel and settled there as well. During this transitional time, Jews were forced to disperse to other parts of Europe and the East. The land was then referred to as Palestine.

Decades later in Europe, Jews faced issues of oppression and persecution reflecting early forms of antisemitism in the years before and during World War I. 75,000 Jews migrated back to their old home, then a province of the Ottoman Empire. After the Allies secured the downfall of the Ottoman Empire in 1916, Great Britain and France joined forces to make a secret accord that would divide up Arab states in the former Ottoman Empire, which collapsed in 1922, into territories under British and French control. This accord was named the Sykes-Picot agreement and was drawn up with little to no input from the people living in the region, resulting in territories that overlooked historical, regional, and ethnic differences. Under this agreement, Palestine would be governed and administrated under the British mandate. This agreement changed just a few months later when a new document, The Balfour Declaration, was written that explicitly stated British support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”. This declaration was supported by the Allied powers in WWI; the League of Nations later approved the declaration in 1922. This document was seen as a betrayal by the Palestinian Arabs who believed it to be a denial of their right to self-determination and feared it would lead to their economic and political subjection to the Jews. Tensions between the Jews and Palestinians further escalated as incidents of violence and widespread rioting became increasingly common.

Only two decades later, WWII began, and Adolf Hitler established policies that ultimately resulted in the slaughter of nearly 20 million people across Europe including 6 million European Jews. Following the war, the newly formed UN advocated for the division of the land into a Jewish state of Israel and an Arab state of Palestine after the war so that both groups could have a place to call home, start communities and be protected. Resolution 181 was passed in 1947, calling for the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states; this resolution would continue to be seen by the Jewish community as the legal basis for the establishment of the state of Israel but was rejected immediately by the Palestinian Arabs who viewed it



as unfair. There was some violence and protest, but the plans went through and Israel was established as an independent state in 1948.

Again, the Arabs were unhappy with the way they were treated, and refused to accept the UN Resolution, almost immediately attacking Israel. Palestinians collaborated with Israel's neighboring countries such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia to attack Israel so that Palestinians could remain in their homeland and not immigrate to these Arab countries. Countries such as Egypt allied with Palestine to carry out the plan of attacking Israel. Israel and the Palestinians were at war for about 9 months until Israel had a surprising victory. The Palestinians plan to revolt and take back their land failed, and 700,000 people were forced to flee. This was known as both the Hebrew war of Independence and the Arab war of Catastrophe.

For the next 30 years, tension and conflict between Israel and the Palestinians continued on and off. During this time both sides grew stronger individually. In 1964 the PLO, formally known as the Palestinian Liberation Organization, was formed. It's goal was to unite Palestinians and spread ideas throughout the Middle East to gain power and eventually fight back. Also, during this time, Israel gained stability and political control globally. 1967 marked the year Israel began to move its people into the Arab land of the Gaza Strip. Israelis occupied 40% of the Gaza Strip while the 650,000 impoverished Palestinians were forced to be contained to the other 60%.

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinians was rekindled in 1987 with the First Intifada, which means "shaking off" in Arabic, which was a Palestinian uprising against Israel to protest recent violent events. This uprising was triggered by an event in which an Israeli truck crashed into a wagon carrying Palestinian refugees. The Palestinians saw this as a deliberate attack on them and decided to protest and attack in Gaza. Further riots broke out on the West Bank in the upcoming days. The main groups involved in the riots were 4 sub-sections of the PLO that formed the United National Leadership of the Uprising, otherwise known as the UNLU. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians practiced civil disobedience at the beginning of the First Intifada. These acts included boycotts against Israeli products, refusing to pay taxes and establishing underground schools. As time went on, the protests turned more and more violent with the rising prevalence of attacks like throwing rocks and suicide bombings. Israeli army commanders were instructed



to use force to stop seemingly dangerous Palestinians. Thousands of Palestinians were killed and many UNLU leaders were arrested so the Intifada had no cohesive power or direction and burned out by 1990.

Both sides attempted to make peace during the early to mid 1990's. The Israeli Prime Minister at the time, Yitzhak Rabin, and the PLO Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas signed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, more commonly known as the Oslo Accords, made up of many smaller declarations. These arrangements, including the Camp David Accords, facilitated by US President Jimmy Carter in 1978 were considered a "timetable for peace". At first, they were kept in secret to prevent controversy and further violence and terrorism. In the Camp David Accords, both sides agreed that the best thing would be to coexist in peace. It addressed the issue of giving Palestinians a state and resulted in a conclusion that Gaza and the West Bank of the Jordan River would be considered a Palestinian state. The Camp David Accord was merely the start and framework for future negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. 15 years after it was made, Oslo I, Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, was created. This accord, signed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas, established the Palestinian Authority and gave it governing responsibilities of Gaza and the West Bank for the coming 5 years. The original intention was to gradually remove Israeli forces from the area and make Palestine stable and independent. More specifics would be re-evaluated after the 5 years in the Oslo II accord. Oslo II discussed the future of the city of Jerusalem, considered to be the capital of both, and other issues like security, borders and trade. The accord stated that Israel would be able to access parts of the West Bank, that Israel could tax Palestinians that work in Israel, and that Israel conducted trade in Gaza and the West Bank. The accord also stated that the two sides were forbidden from causing conflict and violence with one another.

This conflict is not over yet, and tensions further rose at the turn of the century as a direct result of the effort to try to find a solution to some of the pressing issues facing the Israelis and Palestinians. Jerusalem's status, partly discussed in the Oslo II accord, was brought up to debate again. Should Jerusalem be part of Israel or Palestine? Again, conflict occurred on the debate of refugee rights, as to where they



were allowed to live and work. One cause of more tension between the two sides was the fact that Israelis made settlements in the West Bank that was considered to be Palestine.

Conflict hit a new peak when Ariel Sharon, the Israeli opposition leader at the time, fled into Al-Aqsa Mosque with Israeli army men trying to outrage Palestinians. This act caused riots and broke out into immediate dispute. From 2000 to 2005, attacks and bombings from both sides occurred. This long-lasting war was named the Second Intifada which resulted in the death of about 5,000 Palestinians and 1,400 Israelis. The Second Intifada was even more violent and destructive than the first. Many believe conditions worsened as a result of this war. Just as before, Israelis continued settling in Gaza and Palestinians felt they had no rights in regard to the movement of their goods and people.

Although Palestine is not recognized as a country by the United Nations it still has an organized government system. In 2006, the Hamas, a political party founded in 1987 opposing the PLO that has strong Muslim ties, won the Palestinian election and took control of the government. Israelis were distraught about this unsuspecting win as they believed the Hamas were terrorists who had the intention of killing and destroying Israel and all of its people.

Gaza and the West Bank, currently territories of Palestine, have been contested as Palestinians and Israelis remain in conflict over the ownership and rights to the land. Addressing this issue isn't an easy task as there are many factors to be agreed upon between groups who don't want to compromise. These factors include, political control, ownership to the holy land, religious freedom and other human rights.

PAST UN ACTION

Since its creation after World War II, the UN has played a major role in the de-escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, although to little avail. Initially, the UN was one of the first international bodies to recognize both Israel and Palestine as independent states through the General Assembly Resolution 181, pushing for other



Middle Eastern Arabic countries to do the same, although unsuccessfully. Then, throughout the 1950s and 60s, the United Nations Security Council met periodically to discuss the ongoing issue of the conflict of interests between the Israeli people and the Palestinian people. This was especially true during and after the Six-Day war in 1967. In the aftermath of the war, the UNSC put a claim forth that in general, any territories won through the method of war would not be admissible as gained territory, and all UN members would not recognize those gained territories in an attempt to limit war in the Middle East. This would be known as the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

Throughout the 1970s, the Arab League became the main supplier of petroleum to most of the developed world, creating a complicated relationship that would eventually find itself in the middle of the Cold War. This put Palestine in a position where it was backed up by the Soviet Empire, and Israel being backed up by the “Western” world. This put the UNSC in a complicated position, as two of the permanent members in the committee at the time were the United States and the Soviet Union, both with veto power. A stalemate of powers would continue until the UNSC Resolution 425, where the committee agreed that they would demand that Israel stop invading Lebanon and establish a peacekeeping force in the area.

In the 1980s, the committee would pass many resolutions, the main two being Resolutions 476 and 478. The first of which was an attempted solution around the possession of Jerusalem, which at the time was held by Israel, where it states that in exchange for control of the city, any alteration of the city would not be allowed by the Security Council. This passed 14 to none, with only the United States abstaining. The latter of the two resolutions was on a similar topic, simply condemning the Jewish occupation of Jerusalem, and its claim to be the Israeli capital. This one too passed 14 to none, with the United States abstaining.

At the turn of the century, the resolutions became more constant, with two major resolutions being passed in the 1990s and in the first decade of the new century. These two resolutions were Resolution 673 and Resolution 1701. Resolution 673 was in response to the use of force by the Israeli police force in the 1990 Temple Mount crisis - where the UNSC condemned the poorly overseen operation and expressed concern that the deaths of Palestinians were becoming commonplace



even in times outside of war. Resolution 1701 was made in an attempt to create peace between Israel and Lebanon, as they had been in a state of near-perpetual conflict since the original invasion of Lebanon in 1978.

Ultimately, the UN and the UNSC specifically have been some of the largest international players in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, constantly attempting to create peace between the two states that haven't seen peace in thousands of years.

CURRENT SITUATION

Albeit the ceaseless attempts to find peaceful solutions to the thousand-year-old conflict between Israel and Palestine by the UN and other bodies of government, there has been no formal conclusion and the two states are in a perpetual state of discord with no accords present in the near future. Currently, the solution that is in effect is the 'two-state' solution, championed by countries such as the United States, France, and the United Kingdom. This solution has worked with some drawbacks, as there have also been many conflicts since the *de facto* decision was finalized after the Camp David Accords in 2000.

One of these most recent skirmishes was the 2014 Israel-Gaza conflict, also known as the Fifty-Day war, where tensions escalated with the kidnapping of three Israeli teenagers in Gaza, then Israel beginning to arrest Palestinian militant leaders, and finally escalating into a war when Hamas, a Palestinian Sunni-Islamist fundamentalist organization, fired over three-thousand missiles into Israel. The war namely lasted for 7 weeks and ended in the deaths of over 70 Israeli civilians and soldiers, 2300 Hamas soldiers, 2100 UN Peacekeepers, and 2000 Israeli government workers.

Since then, there haven't been any other major conflicts, but a constant state of violence has taken its place, along with the rise of prevalence of small disputes and worries of another war to come before a new solution or new peace talks can take place. Some of these such conflicts include the gathering of Palestinian activists outside of Temple Mount in 2015 in an attempt to block the Jewish population from going there. Later, Israeli police action was taken and there were four Palestinian



deaths that occurred - making the Israeli-Palestinian issue more accessible by international populations through the prevalence of the event on social media applications such as Twitter and Facebook.

Another one of these such skirmishes were the events following the opening of the American embassy in Jerusalem in May of 2018. This created controversy as for many years the American embassy of Israel held its home in Tel Aviv, due to the fact that Jerusalem is claimed as a capital city for both Israel and Palestine. President Donald J. Trump, although a recent advocate for the Single State Solution, decided in December of 2017 that it would be better for the United States to support Israel in their claim of Jerusalem. Conflict arose soon after its opening in Gaza and dozens of soldiers from both the Hamas and IDF were killed.

Although there are conflicts continuing to plague the region, there is potential for a peace accord to be made before any more there is any more human expense or economic damage to either side.

CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDY 1: SIX DAY WAR

Although its name alludes to a period of time shorter than a standard week, the origins of the Six-Day War span years before the event takes place. Just after World War II, the British colonial government liberated their Middle Eastern territories, including that of Palestine. Since Jerusalem, a holy city for many religions, was part of this territory, there was a rush for possession of the area. The UN claimed part of the territory to be Israeli, the other part to be Palestinian, but a clash of religions and cultures led to a civil war, and eventually other countries saw this war to be a weakness in the area and attempted to grab the area themselves. The war ended with the partition of territories to the different parties involved but resulted in an overall gain of territory for Israel and a loss for the Palestinian state. This was the beginning of a long line of tensions between Israel and the rest of the Arab League that would escalate until the Six-Day war. One important piece of territory gained by the Israeli state in this period was the city of Eilat, which connected Israel to an important body of water; the Red Sea, through the Strait of Tiran. This access was



extremely important economically as it connected Israel to the Indian Ocean without the need of using the Suez Canal.

In 1954, Egypt held an important revolution that ended with the placement of Gamal Abdel Nasser in presidency. The president, who at the time held nearly dictator-like power, needed a way to gain popularity within the country, and also throughout the Arab world. Subsequently, he waited two years for planning, then acted by committing two acts. First, he nationalized the Suez Canal and ousted the original owners - The United Kingdom. He then blocked off both the Canal and the Strait of Tiran from Israeli use. This angered these nations and all of their allies and became the conflict that would later be known as the Suez Crisis, or the Second Arab-Israeli War. The war ended the next year, with the British-French-Israeli coalition winning, but eventually all having to withdraw their troops. This gave the Israeli state two important things. First, it gave the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) confidence that if a large conflict were to arise once again with the Arab powers, they would have a strong chance of winning. Second, they made a clear statement that if anyone were to block their access to the Strait of Tiran again, it would call for war.

Skirmishes between Israel and other neighboring countries would continue throughout the 1960s, including events such as the Samu incident in Jordan, or the 1967 cross-border battle with Syria. These events would raise tensions between Israel and the Arab League, like natural gas in a closed room. The UN then metaphorically left flint and steel in the room, as in May of 1967, they removed all of their peacekeeping forces from Egypt, thinking that the Middle Eastern skirmishes were finally over. Egypt, however, was the one curious enough to use the flint and steel, as on May 14, 1967, President Nasser would revoke Israeli rite of passage in the Strait of Tiran and begin placing troops on the Israeli-Egyptian border.

The Israeli army then made the first move on June 3, 1967 by committing to an air assault on the Egyptian air force, nearly wiping it out, giving Israel air supremacy for the rest of the war. They then changed the focus of the war to a ground-based one, marching their 70,000 strong army across the north of the Sinai Peninsula, also catching the Egyptian army by surprise. Although he held initial resistance, after hearing of the fall of Abu-Ageila, President Nasser ordered a retreat of the peninsula,



giving the Israeli army an important win and an asset that they would hold for 15 years after the war was over.

At the time, the Jordanians held the West Bank - a piece of land that held Jerusalem and other important sites to many religions - and were ordered by the Egyptian president to attack Israel first, as there was a belief that Israel was planning to attack the West Bank. This worked poorly, and over the next 3 days, the West Bank was taken over by Israel. On the last two days of the war, the Israeli government was pleased with their progress, but had one last piece of land that they wanted to own - Golan Heights, which at the time was part of Syria. Although met with much resistance, the Israeli army made subtle advances until the ceasefire on June 10.

These events were scrutinized by the public and political governments internationally, with the eventual passing of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, where it was stated that the United Nations would not recognize any territory gained by war any longer. This was followed by the eventual release of Israeli gained land such as the Sinai Peninsula or the Golan Heights over time, and the eventual creation of the Palestinian National Authority in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip being created in 1994.

CASE STUDY 2: RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The peace process between the Israeli Government and the surrounding Arab governments has been an arduous one, and although incomplete, has come a long way. There have been multiple stages of attempts towards peace, each with their own tactic of pushing for a peaceful conclusion, but the modern process towards peace began in 1993 with the Oslo Accords. These accords were an attempt to revisit the human rights that many of the Palestinian people were not receiving in Israel at the time and attempted to introduce the idea of a possible two-state solution. In the process, Yasser Arafat - the leader of the Palestinian National Authority - admitted to Israel's right to exist. The accords also led to the deal that, at the time, seemed to be the solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. In the deal, Israel would cede certain



territories on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip in exchange for peace. The accords were delicate but seemed to be working out and had popular support from both public populations - with rallies taking place in favor of the accords passing. Unfortunately for the parties involved, the accords began to unravel when the assassination of the Israeli leader Yitzhak Rabin took place at one of these rallies by an Ultranationalist Israeli - claiming that the accords were against the wellbeing of Israel. Although the relations between the two governments were weak, meetings continued to take place throughout the 1990s, although to little avail.

It was finally at the turn of the century when President Bill Clinton held a summit to attempt to mend the ties between Israel and Palestine. He was joined by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority Chariman Yasser Arafat in July of 2000. Ultimately, there were attempting to mend ties on a few issues; territory, Jerusalem and Temple Mont, refugees, and Israeli settlements. The Israeli Prime Minister put forth an offer where Palestine would be given 92% of the West Bank along with all of the Gaza Strip, in exchange for control of Temple Mont and nearly all of Jerusalem which was promptly refused by Arafat. Palestinian officials claimed that it did not fulfill all of the wishes of the Palestinian people, but Arafat did not put forth a counteroffer.

The failed summit caused a ripple effect across the Israeli-Arab relations, and within a few months the second Intifada - a Palestinian uprising - took place. Although there were other precursors to the uprising, the summit was the culmination of the disagreements between the two parties, and other summits in the future would do well to learn from the mistakes of these two meetings.

BLOC POSITIONS

The news and reports made by the United Nations have made it very clear that nearly all countries want to find a peaceful solution that Israel and Palestine can both support. There are currently three proposed solutions. Many countries have a clear stance on which solution they believe would be more successful.



Two-State Solution: Belgium, China, Egypt, France, Mali, Germany, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, United Kingdom, United States

Countries that believe in a Two-State solution think that the only way to solve this issue is to ensure that Israel is kept for the Jews and a Palestinian state is established for the Palestinian Arabs. This idea would allow the Jews and Arabs to govern their country as they see fit. Doing this would separate the two completely and would potentially end any conflict. The main issue with satisfying this solution is that coming up with a borderline that both states can support will be tricky. In the past, Israel has stated that they are willing to recognize Palestine as a state as long as the Palestinians don't take over land believed to be for the Jews. This kind of territorial conflict is becoming violent right now in the Gaza strip (which is considered a part of Palestine) as many Israelis are settling there. With a two-state solution, it is imperative that there are specific rules if Israelis can be in Palestine and Arabs in Israel. Palestine's transition to statehood would also come with the burden of deciding if it gets membership into the UN. This is the solution favored by many Israelis and some of their allies. Officially, France, the United States, and the United Kingdom support this idea. Being that this solution is a more conservative approach, countries who tend to lean right would be in support.

Joint One-State Solution: Côte d'Ivoire, Indonesia, Kuwait, The Liberal Parties of many countries

A one-state solution would merge Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza strip into one large country where Jews and Arabs can live safely and equally. This solution is more favored by Palestine and more liberal or left-leaning countries. In recent years, many countries around the world have also shown their support for this idea because it would theoretically be a less complex plan given that boundaries between two states wouldn't be disputed. With this idea, however, executing the merger of the two groups can be challenging and timely because they will likely still consider themselves separate which would cause lots of social tension and further conflict.



Separate One-State Solution: Israeli Nationalists

The third, less supported solution is a different approach to a one-state solution. This solution, supported by some Israelis, would result in one state. The state would be solely Israeli, and Palestinians would be exiled from their territory. Virtually no countries around the world support this idea because to many, this is a human rights violation and leaves the marginalized Palestinians with no home state.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. What kind of a ruling body should be established for the Palestinian people?
How should they be governed?
2. How do the agendas of the other international players have a role in making a resolution?
3. How do we ensure that the individual rights of Palestinians are preserved without infringing on the sovereignty of Israel?
4. How would lines between the two states be drawn? How would highly contested pieces of land such as the Gaza Strip or the West Bank be distributed?
5. How does the religious background of the issue play a role in the development of political solutions?

FURTHER RESEARCH

[HTTPS://WWW.VOX.COM/2018/11/20/18079996/ISRAEL-PALESTINE-CONFLICT-GUIDE-EXPLAINER](https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18079996/israel-palestine-conflict-guide-explainer)



A source that summarizes the answers to pressing questions on the basics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[HTTPS://INTERACTIVE.ALJAZEERA.COM/AJE/PALESTINEREMIX/MAPS_MAIN.HTML](https://interactive.aljazeera.com/aje/palestineremix/maps_main.html)

An interactive map that shows territorial changes of Israel and Palestine in the last century as well as explaining why these changes are happening.

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=1W02TLLMHIW](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1W02TLLMHIW)

A video giving a brief summary of the situation's causes and history.

[HTTPS://MODERNDIPLOMACY.EU/2018/08/14/RUSSIAs-ROLE-IN-THE-ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN-CONFLICT/](https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2018/08/14/russias-role-in-the-israeli-palestinian-conflict/)

This source discusses some of the Middle Eastern countries' viewpoints and opinions on the topic.

[HTTPS://WWW.UN.ORG/SECURITYCOUNCIL/CONTENT/REPertoire/MIDDLE-EAST](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/middle-east)

Lists all UN documents and actions regarding the Middle East, including Israel and Palestine.

[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/INTERNATIONAL_RECOGNITION_OF_THE_STATE_OF_PALESTINE#ISRAELI_POSITION](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_recognition_of_the_state_of_Palestine#Israeli_position)

Notes all countries official positions on how to fix conflict between Israel and Palestine.

CITATIONS



Topic A

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- http://www.ghanagdp.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/GGDP_CIN11_Growing-Terrorism-In-Africa_-Final.pdf
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