

Ryan International School, India

INDIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2019



Background Guide – Historic Security Council

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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates!

Welcome to this new edition of the Indian Model United Nations. In which we shall be stimulating the Security Council with the overreaching agenda of- The Persian Gulf War with the freeze date set at 2nd August, 1990.

I, Raghuv Nagpal shall be serving in the capacity of your President and shall be assisted by Ekpreet Chawla. For thorough clearance on the procedure, we have highlighted the official link that shall direct you to a guide on Rules of Procedure which all delegates are to strictly abide by during the committee proceedings.

The Security Council due to its historic nature shall be dealing with the agenda as if we were in 1990. To be clear with the theme, i.e., The Persian Gulf War, We strongly suggest you to be thorough with the timeline of events that took place with regard to the war. A lot of times it has been noted that delegates make the mistake of citing laws, agreements, treaties, etc which have not yet come to existence as per the freeze date of the Council.

Please take note that every single country has its own foreign policy, and areas of interest with regards to the Agenda where they cannot and will not compromise.

As delegates, you will be expected to be thorough with your research and base your analysis and conclusions on the same during debate. Please remember, a Council is only as strong as its individual delegates, and that the Executive Board is here merely to guide debate, not to take part in it. On that note, We leave you to go through the guide and understand the situation well. We wish you the very best of luck for your preparation!

Note: 1. This background guide is only for the purpose of Assistance with regards to better study of the procedure and the agenda. Nothing stated in the background Guide can be used as evidence in the council or as citation.

Note: 2. The information in this guide will also contain events that occurred after the 2nd of August 1990. However, these are only mentioned in order to supplement your knowledge. On the Days of the conference, the delegates may only refer to information up until 2nd of August 1990.

Evidence/Proof in the Council

Evidence or proof is acceptable from sources:

1. News Sources:

a. REUTERS – Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council. (<http://www.reuters.com/>)

b. State operated News Agencies – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are,

i. RIA Novosti (Russia)

ii. IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>

iii. BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

iv. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

2. Government Reports:

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are,

a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America <http://www.state.gov/index.htm> or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation <http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India(<http://www.mea.gov.in/>), People's

Republic of China(<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>),

France(<http://www.diplomatie.-gouv.fr/en/>),

Russian Federation(http://www.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/main_eng)

c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/> (Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative.

d. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc.

3. UN Reports:

All UN Reports are considered are credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the General Assembly.

a. UN Bodies: Like the SC(<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>), GA(<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>),

HRC(<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>) etc.

b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee of the Red Cross(<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.

c. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.icc-cpi.int/Menus/ICC>)

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org/>) or newspapers like the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>), Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>), etc. be accepted.

About the Committee

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Council has 15 members: five permanent — China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States — and 10 members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms.

Each member has one vote. Decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of at least 9 of the

15 members. Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes and the absence of a negative vote by any of the five permanent members.

All five permanent members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast its veto, it may choose to abstain — thus allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine votes in favour.

Under Article 25 of the Charter, all members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, the Council alone has the power to take decisions which member states are obligated under the Charter to implement.

Marking Criteria

With regards to the marking scheme, we shall have a subjective system of judging all participants.

Certain criteria which will be pivotal in deciding the awardees from this council have been enunciated below:

- Presentation of Research
- Application of Logic and Reasoning
- Understanding of the Timeline
- Preparation of Documents i.e. Draft Resolutions, Press Release etc.
- Giving Direction to Debate
- Lobby skills
- Diplomatic Skills

Kindly note that these are only a few parameters on the basis of which judgement shall be made. These are not in any type of hierarchical structure as well.

Key Terms

Sovereignty

Sovereignty is the ultimate power, authority and/or jurisdiction over a people and a territory. No other person, group, tribe or state can tell a sovereign entity external influence (within the limitations of international law).

Article 2(1) of the UN Charter states that “the Organization is based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members”, recognising sovereignty of States as a

fundamental principle of international law. Oppenheim's definition of sovereignty of 1948 regards it as a "supreme authority, an authority which is independent of any other earthly authority. Sovereignty in the strict and narrowest sense of the term implies, therefore, independence all around, within and without the borders of the country".

Deeply connected with the principle of State sovereignty is the principle of territorial integrity, defined by Shaw as "a reflex of the need for stability and finality and boundary questions, one of the core principles of the international system".

Unilateralism

Unilateralism is any doctrine or agenda that supports one-sided action. Such action may be in disregard for other parties, or as an expression of a commitment toward a direction which other parties may find agreeable. Unilateralism is an antonym for multilateralism, which is the doctrine that asserts the benefits of participation from as many parties as possible.

Scenario Analysis

The following information pertains to the scenario in the Persian Gulf region particularly the parties involved in the Gulf War. The known data/information on Iraq and Kuwait up until 12 AM, 2nd of August, 1990 has been given below. Please make sure to only present information valid under the freeze date in the Council. This information has been given to supplement your understanding. Kindly find the Crisis situation update given below, after going through the supplementary information.

Situation in Iraq (till August 1990)

Great Britain gained control of Iraq, previously known as Mesopotamia, after the First World War. In 1917, Iraq became a British protectorate. Four years later, the British colonial government helped set up the Hashemite monarchy in Iraq. During the same year, Britain embarked on defining the territorial boundaries of their newly acquired colony. The British colonial government created boundaries without taking into consideration the tribal and ethnic settlements present in this region. In order to prevent Iraq's access to the Persian Gulf, the British colonial government created Kuwait by carving it out of the Southern part of Iraq. Britain influenced the composition of the Iraqi parliament and also the drafting of the Iraqi constitution. In 1932, Iraq became an independent nation. In the same year, it also joined the League of Nations. Iraq maintained close ties with Britain even after attaining independence.

Britain not only had interests in Iraqi oil resources, but also considered Iraq's strategic location in the Middle East important to its defense. The British occupation of Iraq did more harm than good for the Iraqi people. The British policies in Iraq excluded the Iraqis from participating in the political process of their own country. The British also did little to resolve internal conflicts that arose in Iraq. At times British forces even supported one ethnic group at war with another. Britain's occupation of Iraq, therefore, left Iraq deeply divided and did very little to help unite the people of Iraq. The political institutions that Britain left behind had neither the capacity nor the power to transform Iraq into a stable nation with a prosperous economy – leaving Iraq susceptible to dictatorial rule.

In 1958, a revolution led by Abdal- Kassem Quassim deposed the monarchy imposed on the Iraqi people by the British. Saddam Hussein emerged as one of the leaders of this left wing coup. The regime that took over chose not to cooperate with the West. This regime nationalised the Iraqi oil industry and removed the ban in place on the Iraqi Communist Party. In 1963, the CIA helped to overthrow this new, "unfriendly" regime. However, in 1968, the radical socialist Ba'ath party, led by General Ahmed Hassan Bakr, took control of the country. In 1979, Saddam Hussein overthrew General Bakr. One year later, Saddam Hussein received backing from the United States under the Carter Doctrine to invade Iran. The Carter Doctrine stated that the "U.S. will intervene militarily to protect U.S. access to oil". The war between Iran and Iraq lasted until 1988, when both parties signed a ceasefire agreement. President Reagan's administration resumed diplomatic ties with Iraq in 1984, while at the same time it sold weapons to the Iranian government. Iraq borrowed heavily in order to wage the war against Iran. After the war, Iraq's economy was in very bad shape. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait after accusing Kuwait of conspiring to ruin its economy. A U.S. led coalition expelled Saddam's troops from Kuwait in 1991. The Rise of Saddam Hussein After years of working his way up the Ba'ath party ladder, Saddam Hussein took the role of president from Ahmed Hassan Al Bakr on July 17, 1979.

In order to establish his position as a great Arab leader, Saddam chose to invade his Persian neighbour, Iran, in September of 1980. The basis of Saddam's invasion was an historical land dispute between the two nations over the Shatt-al-Arab waterway. Saddam felt the time was right to invade Iran because of their recent In 1958, a revolution led by Abdal- Kassem Quassim deposed the monarchy imposed on the Iraqi people by the British. Saddam Hussein emerged as one of the leaders of this left wing

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One particularly brutal event during the war occurred in March of 1988, when the Iraqi Air Force bombed the Kurdish Iraqi town of Halabja, using both conventional and chemical weapons. Within hours, there were over 5,000 casualties. The Geneva Convention of 1925 outlawed the use of chemical weapons and Saddam was only the second world leader to ignore this provision – Mussolini used chemical weapons during his reign also. The Iran-Iraq war lasted for eight years and resulted in no significant transfer of land. The death of over one million people and the destruction of property on both sides proved the only result of the eight-year war. The Iran-Iraq war created a military imbalance in the Persian Gulf region because though Iraq could not achieve its military objectives, it did severely cripple the Iranian army, while at the same time strengthening its own military forces greatly. The weakened Iranian military posed little threat to Saddam as he prepared to invade his other neighbour, Kuwait. Iraq had incurred huge debts to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during its eight year battle with Iran. The struggling Iraqi economy made it seem unlikely that Iraq could properly service these debts. The oil wealth of Kuwait appealed to Saddam’s need to erase his debts with other Arab nations. Saddam viewed an invasion of Kuwait as a means to raise world oil prices, thereby increasing Iraq’s own revenue.

Situation in Kuwait (till August 1990)

The origins of modern-day Kuwait date back to the 18th century. The Utub, a nomadic Anaiza tribe, migrated from Qatar and founded Kuwait City. They were a federation of Arab families, driven out of Qatar by drought, and after learning seafaring skills, they settled near the port of Kuwait Bay. The settlements became a growing Gulf trading hub during the early 18th century. The Al Sabah family established a sheikhdom in Kuwait City in 1756, and they continue to rule Kuwait. At the end of the 19th century, Ottoman Turkey and various Arab entities attempted to exert more control over Kuwait. Fearful of Turkish rule, Sheikh Mubarak Al Sabah sought protection through relations with Great Britain. He signed over control of foreign policy to Great Britain in 1899 in return for protection and an annual subsidy. Sheikh Mubarak’s two sons succeeded him. Their lineage continues to rule Kuwait. The new oil wealth from Kuwait’s 1938 oil discovery boosted the standard of living and the quality of health care and education. The same year, Iraq attempted to claim Kuwait by arguing that historically Iraq controlled Kuwait territory. This claim contradicted unspoken approval of a 1923 memorandum defining the Iraq-Kuwait border. Kuwait experienced peace and prosperity during the 1960s and 1970s under the rule of Emir Sabah al-Salim Al Sabah. Kuwait developed a welfare state with a free-market economy. Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed an agreement defining a new international boundary and equally dividing the oil resources in the Divided Zone. The 1980 to 1988 Iran-Iraq war threatened Kuwait’s security. Kuwait feared Iran’s growing regional influence and supported Iraq both financially and logistically. Iran targeted a Kuwait refinery in 1981. Kuwait sought the assistance of the United States and the Soviet Union in 1987 when Iran began targeting oil tankers. Though the long-running war between Iran and Iraq had ended in a United Nations brokered ceasefire in August 1988, by mid-1990 the two states had yet to begin negotiating a permanent peace treaty. When their foreign ministers met in Geneva that July, prospects for peace suddenly seemed right, as it appeared that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was prepared to dissolve that conflict and return territory that his forces had long occupied. Two weeks later, however, Hussein delivered a speech in which he accused neighbouring nation Kuwait of siphoning crude oil from the Ar-Rumaylah oil fields located along their common border. He insisted that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia cancel out \$30 billion of Iraq’s foreign debt, and accused them of conspiring to keep oil prices low in an effort to pander to Western oil-buying nations.

In addition to Hussein's incendiary speech, Iraq had begun amassing troops on Kuwait's border. Alarmed by these actions, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt initiated negotiations between Iraq and Kuwait in an effort to avoid intervention by the United States or other powers from outside the Gulf region.

Current Situation Update

The Security Council has been alarmed by the recent developments in the Persian Gulf region and seeks to resolve the crisis in its next meeting. Kindly study the crisis at hand carefully. The crisis has been given below following the timeline of events.

15/07/1990— Mr. Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq, raised numerous allegations against their neighbouring country Kuwait. Mr. Hussein claimed that Kuwait is responsible for stealing oil from Al-Rumaila Oil field which lies on the Iraqi side of the Iraq-Kuwait border. Iraq also threatened military action in response.

24/07/1990— Deployment of Iraqi troops were reported along the Iraq-Kuwait border. Sources claim that by 24th of July, 1990, There was a huge military buildup along the border.

02/08/1990— 100,000 Iraqi troops were ordered to invade into the territory of Kuwait. This war between Iraq and Kuwait was labelled as the Battle of Dasman Palace. Due to the invasion of the Iraqi troops, Emir Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait fled to Saudi Arabia with his family and ministers. A Security Council meeting has been called with the purpose of resolving the dispute and bringing peace to the Persian Gulf region.

Questions to Consider

- Q1. What caused the Iraq invasion of Kuwait?
- Q2. How does the invasion hold up in front of the international community?
- Q3. Is International mediation and foreign involvement in the war required?
- Q4. Is Iraq liable to be sanctioned?
- Q5. What is the possible course of action to resolve the conflict?

Research Links

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=22&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjW492y04fkAhWBo48KHQihAtwQFjAVeg-QIABAB&url=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.history.com%252Ftopics%252Fmiddle-east%252Fpersian-gulf-war&usg=AOvVaw2bDsmVe4V2jfJAX5pz1Dym>

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<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=24&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjW492y04fkAhWBo48KHQihAtwQFjAXegQIBRA-B&url=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.britannica.com%252Fevent%252FPersian-Gulf-War&usg=AOvVaw0kh3vpFpkciQtP05FPWZrq>

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