

Background Guide

15th Annual AUSMUN



Historic United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC)

Welcome Letter from the Director of Research



Greetings fellow delegates,

It's a pleasure to see you attending the American University of Sharjah's 2022 Model United Nations Convention (AUSMUN 2022). As the age-old adage goes, "with great power comes great responsibility," as delegates of nations at the world's largest international forum, you have a heightened degree of power and responsibility. Not only do you have a say in shaping solutions for the world, and bringing glory to your country, but also the pressure of ensuring that those solutions are pragmatic, feasible, and effective in solving the issues you have set to resolve. Not only do you have a space at the international platform, but also the responsibility to ensure that you set an apt example of your nation for the world to see.

With that being said, I wish you all the best for your preparations and I am really excited to see what your wonderful minds and enthusiastic selves come up with in the committee rooms. Finally, also remember that your responsibilities include having fun and making the best of your time at AUSMUN 2022!

Best Regards,
Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui
Director of Research - AUSMUN 2022



Welcome Letter from the Dais

Dear delegates,

It is our honor to welcome you to the Historic Security Council (HSC) committee in AUSMUN 2022. We hope that you will enjoy attending the conference. Even though AUSMUN is considered a competition by many, our goal for the conference is to learn diplomacy and international policy, debate, socialize, and have an enjoyable time.

We hope that the topics chosen for the committee are interesting and exciting enough to spark up intense debates and competition during the three days of the conference. We are aware that many of you may have not attended the HSC committee before as it is an unconventional committee, so we will be trying our best to guide you through the committee rules and ensure your comfort and familiarity.

The background guide is crucial for your preparation for the conference. We strongly encourage you to read through it so that you become familiar with the proceedings of HSC as well as the topics. Should you have questions or inquiries regarding the committee proceedings, AUSMUN rules, or the topics, you can contact us at: historicunscasumun2022@gmail.com

Best Regards

Mohamed Ahmed and Lana Husban, Chairs

Noor Al Ain Imran and Mishal Faraz, Research Assistants

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Overview of the Committee

Freeze date

27th February 1951

Please note that this committee will be operating as of this date. In your research, be careful about the sources you use with respect to the time we are operating in. Pretend as if you know nothing about what happens after the freeze date.

History and Formation of the Security Council

The Security Council was established on October 24th, 1945. Similar to the United Nations as a whole, it was founded after the end of World War II to address the failure of the League of Nations in maintaining world peace. The creators of the UN Charter decided that France, China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the United Kingdom, and the United States would have permanent seats in the Security Council due to the key roles that they played in establishing the UN. The P5 members possess the right to veto which will be elaborated upon in the voting section of the background guide. Furthermore, there are 6 elected non-permanent member states. These are the 2 Latin American seats, the Commonwealth seat, the Eastern European & Asian seat, the Middle Eastern seat, and the Western European seat (United Nations Security Council, n.d.-a).

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Overview of the Committee

Structure and Functions

There are 5 permanent member states - France, China, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, and the United States - and 6 other non-permanent member states included in the Security Council that are elected by the General Assembly every two years. Due to AUSMUN's educational setting, we will still be following a committee size of 15 members although that is not the case for the UNSC in 1951.

Functions of the Council include the appointment of judges for the International Court of Justice, the appointment of the Secretary General, and establishing systems to regulate armaments. Furthermore, the Council is tasked with the most urgent issues in the world and is an important factor to the maintenance of peace and security between nations, the investigation, and resolve of disputes, the identification of threats to peace, and the identification of acts of aggression. When the Council receives complaints about a dispute, its first action is to use the following means:

- Requesting the Secretary General to achieve a pacific settlement of a dispute.
- Appointing special envoys.
- Undertaking mediation and investigations.
- Implementing principles for an agreement
- When the dispute leads to hostilities, it is recommended that the Council:
- Issues a ceasefire in an attempt to de-escalate the situation.
- Dispatch a peacekeeping force to aid in the reduction of tension and the separation of opposing forces.

The Security Council is the only United Nations organ whose resolutions are binding, so it is important to consider this when formulating resolution clauses. Member states are required to abide by the resolutions that are passed by the Security Council. In case they do not abide by the resolutions, the Council must first attempt to enforce its decision through peaceful means such as sanctions and embargoes.

Otherwise, Articles 33, 41, and 42 of the UN Charter state that the Council is allowed to use force through a blockade, demonstrations, and forceful operations

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Overview of the Committee

Substantive Voting

For resolutions to pass, there must be a positive vote from at least 9 member states. If any of the P5 members choose to cast a negative vote, then the resolution is rejected. This is known as the Right to Veto that the P5 members have the right to exercise. According to Article 27 of the UN Charter, nations that are directly involved in a dispute must abstain from voting provided that the resolution being proposed only invokes the chapter on UN's pacific settlement of disputes..

Funding

The Council receives its funding from the Trust Fund for Updating the Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. Associate Experts provide necessary funding for the Council to continue its practices and maintain the required level of personnel and coverage of disputes. Contributions are voluntary, and more than 20 members of the UN have made their contributions such as Albania, Pakistan, South Korea, Portugal, and many more.

Topic I: The Question of Jammu and Kashmir

Summary and History of the Issue

The end of British control and the partition of the Indian subcontinent resulted in a predominantly Hindu India and a Muslim-majority Pakistan. Although the Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir - Hari Singh - wanted the state to maintain its status as an independent kingdom, this caused a Pakistani tribal force onslaught, and he signed an accession pact with India. As a result, India and Pakistan declared war on one another over the region. India raised the issue of Kashmir in the United Nations Security Council, where Resolution 47 demanded for a referendum* on the territory's status. Pakistan was also urged to remove its soldiers, while India was urged to reduce its military presence to the bare minimum. Although a truce was declared, Pakistan refused to remove its forces. For all intents and purposes, Kashmir was divided. Elections in the Indian-controlled state of Jammu and Kashmir support India's admission. According to India, this eliminates the need for a referendum; however, according to the United Nations and Pakistan, a referendum must take into consideration the views of people across the erstwhile princely state (BBC News, 2019).

Since the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, violence in and around the Jammu and Kashmir areas has occurred. India and Pakistan fought in a major war in 1947 over the region's borders, and both countries continue to maintain their territorial claims. Tensions and unsolved grievances stemming from these issues are fueling regional instability and sabotaging demilitarization attempts (BBC News, 2019).

Pakistan dispatched armed tribesmen into the region to compel a decision and lay claim to the land, prompting Hari Singh to request military support from India. The ensuing conflict would become the Indo-Pakistan war, which lasted from 1947 to 1948. India attempted UN mediation to end the dispute, which resulted in a temporary cease-fire and a direct vote by the people. Pakistan maintained its onslaught until 1949, when a truce was agreed upon and the de facto boundary (known as the Line of Control) was formed, with India controlling 65 percent of the country (Snow, 2016).

The origins of the war may be traced back to the countries' common colonial history. Britain dominated much of the Indian subcontinent from the 17th to the 20th centuries, first indirectly through the British East India Company, then directly from 1858 under the British crown. Britain's control over its colony eroded over time, and a growing nationalist movement threatened the crown's rule (Blakemore, 2019).

States still controlled by princes had the choice of which side to support as India and Pakistan split up. Hari Singh ruled over a mostly Muslim populace and, as a result, chose to remain neutral, unable to choose between India and Pakistan (Blakemore, 2019).

*A type of vote in which all the people of a country or area decide on a political or social issue (Cambridge Dictionary, 2020)

Topic I: The Question of Jammu and Kashmir



Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
August 15th, 1947	End of British rule and partition of the Indian subcontinent into India and Pakistan.	Mass casualties, riots, and migrations. Majority of Muslims headed towards Pakistan while Hindus and Sikhs headed towards India.
October 27th, 1947	Maharaja Hari Singh signs the Instrument of Accession for Kashmir and Jammu to the Indian Union.	War breaks out between Pakistan and India over the region.
January 1st, 1948	India brings up the Kashmir issue to the Security Council	Adoption of Resolution 47 on 21st of April 1948.
March 5th, 1948	Formation of an interim administration with the appointment of Sheikh Abdullah as Prime Minister	Approval of Article 370
April 21st, 1948	Adoption of Resolution 47	Pakistan is urged to remove its soldiers and India is urged to reduce its military presence in the region.
January 1st, 1949	Both states agree to the proposals brought forth by the UN. The Karachi Agreement takes place.	Ceasefire takes place.
October 17, July 1949	Approval of Article 370 and its inclusion in the Indian Constitution	Jammu and Kashmir receive a certain amount of autonomy. The region could make its own rules regarding permanent residency, property ownership, freedom to make laws, and its own constitution.
January 26th, 1950	The Constitution of India comes into force.	The Jammu and Kashmir region is defined as a state of India.

Topic I: The Question of Jammu and Kashmir



Key Issues

Both India and Pakistan Claim the Land

Since the division of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, the region, which covers 85,800 square miles (222,200 square kilometers), has been a source of contention between India and Pakistan. Pakistan administers the northern and western regions, which are divided into three areas: Azad Kashmir, Gilgit, and Baltistan, with the latter two forming a unified administrative unit known as Gilgit-Baltistan (formerly Northern Areas). The southern and southeastern parts, as well as Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, are administered by India (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2021).

The flaws in the territory's structure and in its peripheries were not of major importance as long as the territory's survival was guaranteed by the United Kingdom, but they became obvious after the British withdrawal from South Asia in 1947. The rulers of princely states were given the option of joining either Pakistan or India, or remaining independent with certain restrictions, under the terms agreed to by India and Pakistan for the partition of the Indian subcontinent (Lange et al., 2006).

Hari Singh thought that delaying his decision would allow him to keep Kashmir's independence, however, he was caught up in a chain of events that included; a revolution among his Muslim subjects along the state's western borders, the intervention of Pashtun tribesmen, and in October of 1947, he signed an Instrument of Accession to the Indian union. This served as a signal for both Pakistan, which saw the state as a natural extension of Pakistan, and India, which wanted to validate the act of accession (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2021).

Localized conflict persisted throughout 1948, ending in a cease-fire in January of 1949, due to the United Nations' intervention. In July of that year, India and Pakistan established a cease-fire line in the Karachi Agreement along which the governance of the area was split (United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan, 1949).

Topic I: The Question of Jammu and Kashmir

The Lack of Consultation with Kashmiris About Which Side They Fall on

Regardless of India and Pakistan's claims to Kashmir, and even though Kashmir's population is majority Muslim, Kashmiri citizens' views remain absent (Singh, 2019).

India and Pakistan were both under British imperial rule of the Indian subcontinent, a period known as the British Raj that ended in 1947. It was not, however, as simple as transferring control from the British to the Indians. The British had provided support to several princely nations controlled by local kings who, in turn, pledged loyalty to them. The destiny of these states was jeopardized when the British chose to depart. Both India and Pakistan desired to include these rogue republics into their own domains. Most princely states' inhabitants favored joining either India or Pakistan. There were three possibilities available to the rulers. They have the option of joining either India or Pakistan, or declaring independence (Singh, 2019).

The princes were infamous for their debauchery, misrule, and wealth. Furthermore, many people viewed them as traitors who had been rewarded for betraying their nation to the British. As a result, in the post-independence climate, these princely kingdoms had little prospect of keeping their independence. They would not have been able to subsist without the British Empire's help. One of these princely states was Jammu & Kashmir. The Dogra Rajput generals of Jammu captured numerous tiny Himalayan provinces in the waning days of the short-lived Sikh Empire, including Kashmir Valley, Gilgit, Baltistan, and Ladakh. They even attempted to capture Tibet but were unsuccessful. After defeating the Sikhs, the British handed Jammu and Kashmir to Gulab Singh Jamwal, a rival Dogra commander. Jamwal left his Sikh gurus and joined the burgeoning British East India Company. As a result, he and his successors were able to administer the Indian subcontinent's second-largest princely kingdom (Singh, 2019).

The issue has become one fueled by power and politics. Although the Kashmiris are the ones who ultimately face the consequences of their leadership's actions, no referendum of any sort has taken place yet for the people of Kashmir to decide their fate. Instead, the constant shifting of power and lack of representation of their voices has decided for them.



Topic I: The Question of Jammu and Kashmir

The Internal Conflict Over Religious Matters

Religion is considered to be an integral part of politics, especially in the case of the Indo-Pakistan conflict (James & Özdamar, 2005). Kashmir, India's religious crossroads, has a history of conflicts that have been described as politico-religious and socio-economic by various persons. Furthermore, due to its importance and effect on both religions, religion plays a crucial part in the conflict between Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir (Luka, 2021). Provided the religious conflict that preceded the signing of the Instrument of Ascension, Kashmir joining the Hindu-majority nation of India only exacerbated the divide between the Hindus and Muslims in the princely state.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The Instrument of Ascension

The Maharaja formed an interim administration in the state in March 1948, with Sheikh Abdullah as Prime Minister. Sheikh Abdullah and three other members of the Indian Constituent Assembly participated in July 1949 to negotiate the special status of J&K, which resulted in the approval of Article 370. Sheikh Abdullah was the one who prepared the contentious clause. Except in the areas of defense, foreign affairs, finance, and communications, Parliament needs the consent of the Jammu & Kashmir administration before passing legislation in the state. Inhabitants of Jammu and Kashmir have distinct citizenship, property ownership, and basic rights than residents of the rest of India. Citizens of other states are prohibited from purchasing property in Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370. The Centre does not have the authority to declare a financial emergency in the state under Article 370. It is vital to remember that Article 370 specifically states that Article 1 of the Indian Constitution applies to Kashmir. The states of the Union are listed in Article 1, which indicate that the state of Jammu & Kashmir is bound to the Indian Union under Article 370. Unless new overriding laws are enacted, removing Article 370, which may be done by a Presidential Order, would make the state independent of India.

Article 370 was included in the Indian Constitution. The Centre has already utilized Article 370 to change many articles of the Jammu & Kashmir constitution, even though the President does not have the authority to do so. The Maharaja agreed that Jammu & Kashmir would join the "Dominion of India" with the intention that the "Governor-General of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court, and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion" would be legally authorized to carry out in relation to the state those functions vested in them by or under the Government of India Act, 1935. A decree issued by the Maharaja on March 5, 1948, established an interim state administration soon after the succession (Tripathi, 2019).

The logo for MUN AUS features the letters 'MUN' in a large, serif font. A laurel wreath is positioned behind the letters, with a globe in the center. The letters 'AUS' are written in a smaller font across the globe.

Topic I: The Question of Jammu and Kashmir

Questions a Resolution Should Address

1. Is Article 370 proving successful enough for Kashmir?
2. Is religion the only driving factor in the dispute?
3. Which side do the Kashmiri people fall on?
4. Should the British Empire have interfered on the issue before partition?

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Topic II: The Korean War

Summary and History of the Issue

Towards the end of World War II in 1945, Korea gained independence from Japan after its surrender to the allies. Up until then, Korea had been a unified nation comprising the whole Korean Peninsula. The United States and the Soviet Union jointly accepted the Japanese surrender, and the peninsula was consequently split across the 38th parallel into two states; the Soviet-occupied Northern state of the 'Democratic Republic of North Korea,' and the American-occupied Southern state of the 'Republic of Korea.' Since 1948, the communist North has been ruled by Kim Il-Sung, and the capitalist South has been ruled by Syngman Rhee. The Soviet troops withdrew from D.P.R.K in 1948, shortly followed by the United States' withdrawal from the South in 1949. Kim Il-Sung saw this as an opportunity to easily attack the South and further expand communist rule. After obtaining Joseph Stalin's approval, approximately 75,000 North Korean troops invaded South Korea on June 25th, 1950, marking the beginning of the Korean War. The North Korean army advanced southwards at exceptional speed, capturing the capital city of Seoul within 3 days of the initial attack. Eventually, they had trapped South Korean troops within a small perimeter in the southwestern city of Pusan.

United States President, Harry Truman, considers the rising tensions in the peninsula as a huge threat to democracy around the world. South Korea appealed to the United Nations for support, and the United States pushed for a resolution through the Security Council which ordered North Korea to withdraw its troops. The appeal was ignored, and a multinational military force commanded by General MacArthur was then sent by the United Nations to help South Korea, known as the United Nations Command (UNC). Notably, over 90% of the military personnel were American (United States' Department of Defense, n.d.). General MacArthur launched an assault on September 15th, 1950 at Inchon that pushed North Korean troops back into their nation and South Korea was recaptured by the end of the month. The UNC troops moved into North Korea on October 7th, 1950, capturing the capital Pyongyang within 5 days. China, another communist nation, sent 250,000 troops to retaliate with the North Korean army, and Seoul had been captured once again.

Topic II: The Korean War



Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
August 15th, 1945	Surrender of Japan to the Soviet Union and the USA.	Independence of the Korean peninsula from Japan.
August 17th, 1945	Split of the Korean peninsula into the North and the South.	North Korea (DPRK) was occupied by the Soviet Union and South Korea (ROK) was occupied by the USA.
1948-1949	Withdrawal of Soviet and American troops from the Korean Peninsula.	Kim Il-Sung gets Joseph Stalin's approval to invade the South. The war between the Korean states breaks out.
June 25th, 1950	North Korea crosses the 38th parallel into South Korea.	Beginning of the Korean War. North Korea captures Seoul.
July 7th, 1950	United Nations Command formed and sent to Korea.	Major battles between both sides begin.
September 15th, 1950	Battle of Inchon	North Korean troops were pushed out of South Korea.
October 7th, 1950	UNC invades North Korea in an attempt to reunify Korea under one non-communist state.	Pyongyang is captured. UN troops advance towards the northern border with China.
November 1st, 1950	China counterattacks by sending 250,000 troops.	UNC is pushed back into South Korea.
December 15th, 1950	Stalemate at the 38th parallel.	The war continues.



Topic II: The Korean War

Key Issues

The Cold War

The Cold War is an ongoing period of political tension between the Soviet Union and the United States with their respective allies that developed after World War II. Initially, the Korean War began as a civil war between North and South Korea. However, it has turned into a full-fledged international conflict after the 1950 invasion. This is mainly because President Truman believes that the Soviets were the ones pushing the invasion and decided to respond accordingly. The threat of communism in South Korea was particularly alarming to the 'Free World' due to the domino theory*. Although the United States did not formally declare war on North Korea, they comprise the largest portion of the United Nations Command and are the most involved on the South Korean front. The civil conflict has swiftly turned into a proxy war between two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, clashing over communism and democracy respectively as a result of the Cold War. Many people have begun to refer to the Korean War as 'The Cold War in Korea'.

Changing Goals

Once the UN Command landed in South Korea, their only goal was to drive the North Koreans out of the country and push them back past the 38th parallel. As soon as that was accomplished, though, General MacArthur felt the need to go beyond the initial idea of containment. The new plan was to invade North Korea in an attempt to reunify Korea as a non-communist state. Truman approved, and American allies, along with the United Nations, all agreed to this idea. The UNC then advanced northwards to the Chinese-North Korean border at the Yalu River on October 7th, 1950. Feeling threatened, China deployed its forces on November 1st, 1950 to counter-attack. The 250,000 Chinese soldiers were able to push back the American and South Korean forces by the end of December, and both sides were stalemated at the 38th parallel right where they started, but with heavy losses. At this point, President Truman went back to a policy of containment. This constant change in decisions is exposing the American forces' unpreparedness.

Nuclear Blackmail

Nuclear blackmail refers to a nuclear strategy in which the threat of nuclear weapons is used in order to scare an opponent or force them into a certain action. By the end of the summer in 1950, the Republic of Korea and UNC forces had retreated to Pusan and it began to seem possible that they could lose the war. At this point, president Truman publicly announced that the use of nuclear weapons against their opponents was under active consideration. However, this was nothing but a mere threat since he had previously rejected the recommendation when it was suggested by General MacArthur.

* A geopolitical Cold War policy that suggests that if one country in a region fell under communist influence, the surrounding countries would quickly follow in a domino effect.

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Topic II: The Korean War

Civilian Casualties

Although the Korean War only officially began seven months ago, it has the potential to be considered among the deadliest wars ever. For instance, in the first 5 days of the war, Rhee ordered the massacre of approximately 300,000 political prisoners who he suspected were communists or communist sympathizers (San-Hun, 2009). This war crime is now known as the Bodo League massacre. Another example would be the 1950 Battle of Chosin Reservoir, which resulted in an estimated 30,000 battle casualties and over 20,000 non-battle casualties. Many civilians and combatants died or were wounded and hundreds of thousands were pronounced missing.

Soviet Boycott of United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Right before the war in January of 1950, the newly communist China was not accepted as a permanent member of the Security Council. Instead, the pro-America Chinese Nationalist government of Taiwan has been given the seat. The USSR certainly did not approve of this as they had recognized the communist People's Republic of China (PRC) as the true Chinese government. Therefore, the USSR representative would continuously storm out of the Security Council meetings and, on one occasion, he vowed that the Soviet Union would not be bound to any Security Council decisions if the Nationalist Chinese representative remained. The Soviet Union then stopped attending the meetings, but the remaining members carried on. However, this decision came to have great consequences when the 1950 North Korean invasion issue was presented before the Security Council. The council voted to impose military action for the first time in the six years since its creation, and the decision could have been blocked through a veto from the Soviet Union, but no Russian delegate was present at the meeting.

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Topic II: The Korean War

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

United Nations Resolutions 83 and 84

The first attempt to resolve the issue is the United Nations Security Council's 83rd resolution of June 27th, 1950. It condemned and called for an immediate end of the North Korean invasion and recommended that UN members assist the Republic of Korea to repel the attack and restore international security in the Korean Peninsula. The resolution was completely ignored by North Korea, and a few days later, the United Nations Command was formed as per resolution 84 of July 7th, 1950. While these unanimous resolutions resulted in tangible actions, not a single clause focused on the well-being of the Korean civilians as the rate of civilian deaths is yet to be seen.

United Nations Resolution 85

Resolution 85 followed on July 31st, 1950. This resolution focused on the limitation of Resolution 83 - the South Korean civilians and the hardships they are dealing with due to this conflict, while placing special emphasis on providing humanitarian assistance and reporting any updates to the United Nations promptly. Although there was a fourth resolution enacted in January of this year, 1951, it comprised of one clause only. The fourth resolution allowed the issue of political and territorial aggressions by North Korea against South Korea to be discussed in United Nations bodies other than the Security Council. After four Security Council resolutions, it seems as though the war will never come to an end. Tensions are rising rather than dropping, and mutual hostilities are becoming even more apparent.

As of today - February 27, 1951 - all resolutions have been completely disregarded by North Korea and China. This is largely due to the fact that capitalism and communism are ideologies that fall on opposite ends of the spectrum. The first step towards creating a comprehensive, feasible solution would be to understand the two nations' requests and include them in the decision-making process to find some sort of middle ground that would satisfy all parties and, ultimately, put an end to the seemingly incessant, bloody war.



Topic II: The Korean War

Questions a Resolution Should Address

1. How can the United Nations Command be more successful in driving out North Korean forces?
2. What actions can be implemented in order to prevent civilian casualties in the war?
3. How can humanitarian assistance be provided in the midst of a destructive conflict?
4. Is it possible for peace to be maintained in the Korean Peninsula? If yes, how so?
5. Has the UNSC 83rd resolution been successful? If not, what changes can be made to it?
6. Is the reunification of North and South Korea a realistic solution? Why or why not?

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