



UN General Assembly

CIMUN XV

November 29th - December 2nd



1. Topic 1 - Mediating the Conflict in Asia

1.1. Executive Summary

In the heat of the Vietnam War, other countries across Asia experienced much conflict and violence. Examples of such conflict can be seen specifically in Indo-Pakistani relations and tensions between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China.

1.2. Historical Background

1.2.1. Indo-Pakistani

The roots of the conflict between India and Pakistan began in the 1940s. After many years under British control, India gained independence in 1947 and was divided from Pakistan as a secular and Hindu India, whereas Pakistan was classified as the Muslim country. This division led to extreme unrest and violence.

In 1948, the first Indo-Pakistani war was fought over Kashmir. Then in 1949, the war officially ended after the U.N. arranged for a cease-fire. India controls Kashmir according to the U.N. and Pakistan controls about one-third of the state called Azad Jammu and Kashmir. However, five years later, India gained control of Jammu and Kashmir, which was ratified that the state's constituent assembly. While there was peace, in 1963, the topic came up again when talks occurred between India and Pakistan about the Kashmir conflict. In these talks, India admitted that the control of Kashmir can be negotiated. Then to assist in the discussion, the next year the U.N. took on the Kashmir conflict at the request of Pakistan. With the topic surfacing again, tensions arose and a second war occurred between India and Pakistan. The conflict arose from a clash between border patrols and Pakistanis crossed the ceasefire line.

1.2.2. People's Republic of China v. Republic of China

In East Asia, other tensions grew in China. In 1915, warlords took over Beijing and as a result two main political parties arose: Guomindang (GMD) and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In 1923, the two parties worked to become allies, but with the theme of violence, the two parties

turned against each other. In 1937, the GMD sent the communists off to the northeast, but later on, the two agreed to work together to defeat Japan's military, who was attacking China at the time. Then after 1945 when the U.S. bombed Japan, China faced inward again and the Communist Party obtained weapons, conquered more of China, and eventually occupied Beijing in 1949.



The United States did their best to keep communism out of China through the Marshall Plan and Truman Doctrine, but the CCP was too strong and overpowered the GMD. Then as a final step, the Communist Party unified the mainland in 1950.

1.2.3. Vietnam War

During World War II, Japan took over Vietnam and exerted its power and cultural values. While Japan controlled Vietnam, a Vietnamese leader, Ho Chi Minh, arose from the people and created Viet Minh, or the League for the Independence of Vietnam. This call to action was inspired by Chinese communism. After its defeat in World War II, Japan withdrew from Vietnam, leaving Emperor Bao Dai in control. With a newfound instability in the government, Ho Chi Minh overthrew the government and claimed the northern city, Hanoi as the Democratic Republic of Vietnam with himself as the president.

Emperor Bao Dai, a French-educated Vietnamese man, gained backing from France to take over the city of Saigon and established the state of Vietnam. Both parties longed to unify Vietnam, however each sought full control over unified Vietnam, leading to conflict. Through the

many battles, the Dien Bien Phu battle in May 1954 ended with a victory for the Viet Minh. This victory led them to sign a treaty in 1954 that split Vietnam into North and South.

To add to the violence, the United States dropped a bomb on Japan in 1945, which caused immense destruction, but brought the second World War to a close. After this conflict, it turned into the Cold War between the United States and Russia. During this time the United States of America set its principal goal: to contain the spread of communism across the world. Southern Vietnamese guerrillas, called the Viet Cong, fought from within to take over the south and rejoin communist North Vietnam.

1.3. Current Situation

1.3.1. Vietnam War

As the war carried on, sentiment in America about the war grew sour and many Americans began to protest U.S. involvement, but the soldiers carried on. While the U.S. did not have much to lose if they lost the war, North Vietnam's dedication to the cause was absolute and they were more prepared in spirit, resources, and knowledge of the country.

1.3.2. Indo-Pakistani Relations

Despite all the tension and violence between India and Pakistan, in 1966 both prime ministers agreed to restore economic and diplomatic relations. However, it is easier said than done, and at the moment the tensions are still extremely prevalent. These tensions can be seen through their arms race and external allies. During this tumultuous period India and Pakistan maintained the goal of advancing military power on both sides, similar to the Arms Race between the U.S. and the USSR. This race ultimately came to fruition because each country wanted to show the other that they were more powerful; they wanted to amass the most weapons to assert their dominance.

Matters are always complicated when bringing in third parties, and naturally this conflict was no exception. The countries in support of India are as follows:

USA, Japan, Israel, the UK, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. Those supporting Pakistan include China, Turkey, and other Middle Eastern countries.

1.3.3. People's Republic of China v. Republic of China

While the PRC had taken over mainland China, those once a part of the ROC were sent out of the mainland to the south of China and claimed Taiwan and surrounding islands as their home and sphere of control.

1.4. Bloc Positions

1.4.1. Warsaw Pact

The USSR and its satellite states at the moment are all advocates of the spread of communism, thus they are in support of mainland China being communist, and they are against all anti-communist efforts in Asia, specifically Vietnam because they support Vietnam unifying as a communist country.

1.4.2. NATO

The United States and its allies against communism were in favor, at least at the beginning, of the U.S. efforts to contain and eliminate communism internationally. Though the idea of eliminating communism was appealing, many began to realize that the Vietnam War was not a U.S. battle to fight and that the U.S. had no chance whatsoever.

1.5. Discussion Questions

1. With so many different violent and tumultuous events occurring in Asia around the same period, how does your country view their obligation for involvement? Does your country believe that intervention is ideal or that it is not on your agenda?
2. How does the involvement of Western powers in Asian conflicts impact the conflict? Does the involvement decrease violence? Increase violence? Issue a stalemate?

1.6. Key Terms

- ROC - Republic of China (Democratic)
- PRC - People's Republic of China (Communist)
- Truman Doctrine (U.S. plan to contain communism)
- Marshall Plan (U.S. financial assistance to aid countries trying to fight off communism)

1.7. Resources

- <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/spotlight/kashmirtheforgottenconflict/2011/06/2011615113058224115.html>
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2. Topic 2 - Solving the Refugee Crisis

2.1. Executive Summary

Though we are more than two decades removed from World War II, the lasting effects of past events, the emerging violence in newly independent nations post-decolonization, and the continuation of geopolitical disputes across Asia have made the issue of refugees and displaced

peoples more relevant than ever. Not only do we have a humanitarian crisis at hand, but one that will also prove to be more politically significant than once thought.

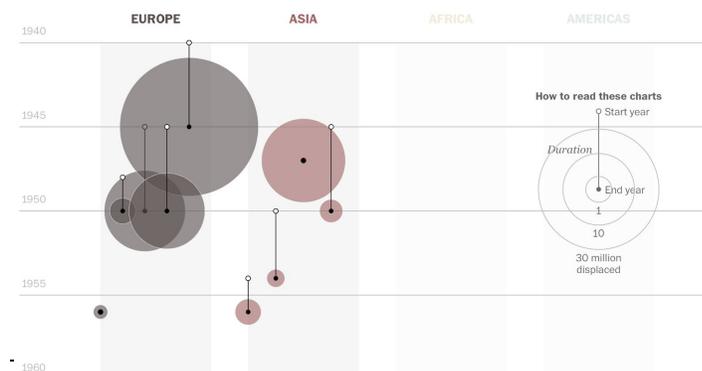
2.2. Historical Background

The movement of people across and within borders is nothing new in the span of human history. Migration has constituted much of the geographic, cultural, and linguistic exchange that make up the fabric of the communities we represent. The era of World War I saw the League of Nations provide an array of uncoordinated emergency relief efforts for the 1-2 million migrants fleeing Civil War-torn Russia for Europe and Asia. Nonetheless, most refugee efforts relied on exhausted material aid from charitable organizations and half-hearted international protection.¹ It wasn't until the aftermath of World War II that the issue of forced migration became a widespread, international concern worthy of proper discussion.

2.2.1. The Major Movements

The aftermath of World War II and the Soviet Union's tightening grip on Eastern Europe are producing the largest population movement in European history, with the majority of migrants making their way westward either voluntarily or as a result of forced deportation. The latter was particularly common during the war itself (between 1940-1945), including nearly 2 million Poles expelled during Nazi Germany occupation; a number of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians during Soviet occupation; and hundreds of thousands of Serbs during the Serbian Genocide. Of course, comparable numbers of people fled out of fear of persecution rather than forced exile. This most notably included the terrorized Jewish populations and other religious/ethnic

minorities faced with the ultimatum: death or escape. Not to mention, of course, the 750,000 Palestinians displaced in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon following the establishment of Israel in 1948.²



¹ https://www.icrc.org/ara/assets/mes/other/121_130_jaeger.pdf

² http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwtwo/refugees_01.shtml

More than 14 million Germans were expelled from the impending force of the Soviet army, removed at the hands of the post-war Potsdam Agreement, or fled voluntarily from Central and Eastern Europe into Allied-occupied Germany and Austria. Particularly affected were those of the eastern German territories that had been annexed by Poland and then the Soviet Union, as well as Czechoslovakia. Whether it was the desire for ethnically homogenous nation-states, punishment for Nazi Germany horrors, or the feeling of security the Soviet Union provided to its burgeoning satellite states, the mass migrations of people faced life-threatening journeys and, upon arrival, very little housing and economic opportunity. Only with proper legal and political frameworks have these refugees been able to contribute to significant economic growth in the coming years.

2.2.2. The International Response

Considered one of the first organizations of the U.N.—if not *the* first, though it came prior to the actual establishment of the supranational body—the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) of 1943 was a U.S.-led international agency that provided basic material aid and medical services to "victims of war." At its peak, the UNRRA operated almost 800 resettlement camps for displaced persons, the majority of whom were non-Germans living in Germany but they also came from the larger European area as well as China and Taiwan. Though the agency was ultimately plagued by inefficiency, shortages, and incompetence, it had a lasting impact on rebuilding stability in Eastern and Southern Europe as well as the forthcoming legal and organizational response.³

In the decade following 1945, the post-World War II crisis saw a series of written rights and bureaucratic initiatives to address the present and future of refugees. Whether it was 1948's Universal Declaration of Human Rights that assured the rights "to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum for persecution" and "to not be arbitrarily deprived of [his or her] nationality,"⁴ or 1951's Geneva Convention on Refugees that defined, accorded rights for, and prohibited forceful return of refugees, the status of those affected by violence and persecution gained legitimacy. In fact, it wasn't until the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees that the term "refugee" was given the most formal definition to date and internationally

³ <http://www.fmreview.org/destination-europe/bundy.html>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

ratified by all European states. The definition stated that a refugee is one who, "owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable, or owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country."⁵

At the end of 1946, the International Refugee Organization (IRO) succeeded the UNRRA as the international community's primary resettlement agency with the additional duties of providing legal and political protective measures for migrants. Though it continued the work of its predecessor, its existence was not without controversy; given the still tense political climate of the time, the agency's constitution declared that "persons of German ethnic origin," including those who were of different birth nations that were to be resettled in post-war Germany, were "not [their] concern." This highly politicized statement referenced a number of displaced persons that was greater than all other displaced Europeans combined. Additionally, the organization was limited to areas occupied by Allied forces, and even returned droves of Soviet citizens back to Soviet control in the midst of an increasingly tumultuous relationship.⁶

Nonetheless, by the time of its demise in 1951, a good deal of the IRO's jurisdiction had been adopted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees to eventually be superseded by the United Nations organization of the same name (UNHCR) responsible for defending that which had been outlined in the convention of the same year. Yet what had developed over the course of the decade following the World War II was a united sense of responsibility for humanitarian disaster, particularly as the wounds of the Holocaust and other major ethnic cleansing horrors meant rebuilding with people in mind.

2.2.3. Beyond Europe

Though migration within and around Europe characterized the grand majority of crises, movements of peoples outside the region as a result of decolonization rendered Asia and Africa hot spots of displacement. Between the 14 million people displaced following the India-Pakistan partition, the millions fleeing Algeria, Nigeria, the Congo, and Angola's conflicts for independence, and the military dictatorships with ethnic purist agendas, life after the settlement of geopolitical disputes was far from stable. After the era of American Japanese internment

⁵ <http://origins.osu.edu/article/refugees-or-immigrants-migration-crisis-europe-historical-perspective>

⁶ <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/history-of-unhcr.html>

camps, the end of Imperial Japan saw the expulsion of Japanese nationals by the Allied powers throughout Asia.⁷ Nonetheless, many regions in Africa and Asia continue to be home to asylum-seekers fleeing persecution, natural disaster, ethnic conflict, and extreme poverty.

By nature of its geopolitics, India has seen some of the most frequent movements of in- and out-migration. In addition to its first major crisis of displaced persons following its partition with Pakistan, the Tibetan uprising in 1959 and the growing violence in East Pakistan (formerly East Bengal) have funneled thousands of refugees into this relatively new nation. Unable to deny humanitarian rights to these displaced peoples, granting asylum to the Tibetans proved costly in more ways than one. In fact, though India was not a signatory to the 1951 convention and remains a non-signatory to the recent protocol, the nation still hosts the largest refugee population in South Asia.⁸

2.3. Current Situation

The decolonization movement is an undoubtable catalyst for a great deal of the populations currently facing displacement. Though the transition to independence has indeed been peaceful for some, the same cannot be said for those who struggled to achieve a functioning democracy. In several instances, the assumption of power by military coups not only suppressed political opposition but decimated the lives of ethnic minorities. In the past decade alone, Asia has seen Pakistan (1958), Burma (1962), and Indonesia (1965) go and continue to go through violent transitions.⁹

At the start of the decade, the UNHCR began its widening involvement within the African continent beginning with the Algerian War of Independence (1954-1962), assisting Algerian refugees entering Morocco and Tunisia, and later repatriating after the conflict. Though the UNHCR played a major role in coordinating these efforts, organizations such as the League of Red Cross Societies carried out a number of relief operations. In contrast to the political stability of these "countries of first asylum" for Algerian refugees, the volatility of the surrounding states for the hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tutsi Rwandans proved much more difficult. The

⁷ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/world/historical-migrant-crisis/>

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<https://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/clQnX60MIR2LhCitpMmMWO/Indias-refugee-saga-from-1947-to-2017.html>

⁹ <http://www.unhcr.org/3ebf9bab0.pdf>

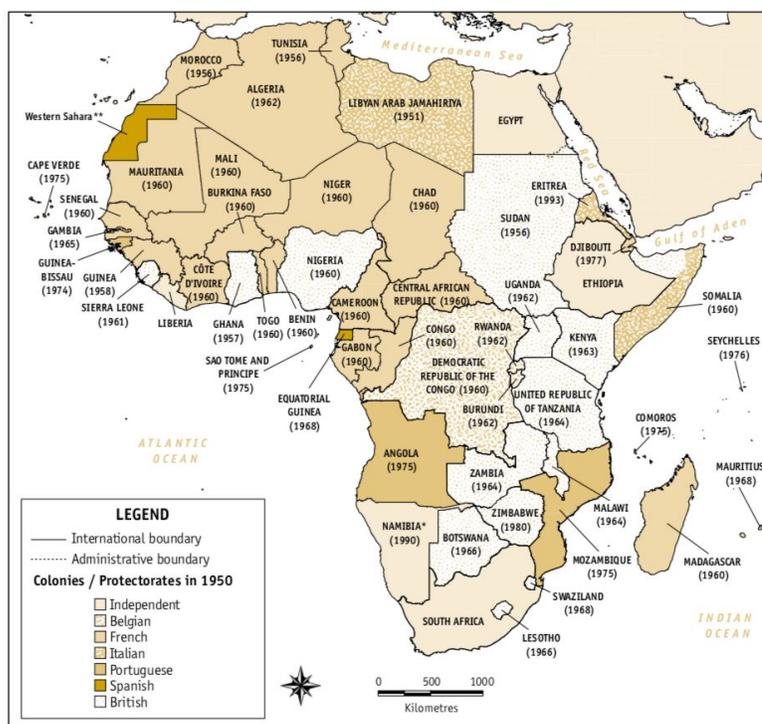
independence movements within the Great Lakes, including the Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi, have been nothing short of brutal. Thousands fleeing Portuguese-controlled Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau continue to seek refuge in neighboring states such as Zambia, Botswana, and Senegal as armed struggles of independence are ceaseless. Waves of refugees continue to flood from Eritrea into Sudan, and from Sudan into Uganda.¹⁰

To date, the UNHCR spends nearly two thirds of its global program funds in Africa, indicating a major shift from the post-World War II reality. Given the frequency of violence in the Sahara in the last decade alone, it's not difficult to see why. Yet it wasn't until last year that the 1967 protocol to the 1951 convention even granted African refugees the framework of legal protection, as the latter was confined to events prior to its year of inception. The rapidly-adopted protocol did away with these restrictions, allowing proper attention to be placed beyond Europe.

But Africa alone does not comprise the whole picture of displaced peoples around the world. Though not as significant in numbers, the developing conflicts within Asia are nonetheless pressing. In addition to continued conflict between India and Pakistan, the present situation in Vietnam has instigated a wave of populations fleeing violence. As of the end of last year, the conflict between the North and South Vietnamese had generated nearly 800,000 displaced peoples. This past January, however, a massive offensive by Viet Cong forces and North Vietnamese troops hit several of the largest cities occupied by

Colonial rule and independence in Africa

Map 2.1



¹⁰ <http://www.unhcr.org/pubs/sowr2000/ch02.pdf>

the South Vietnamese. The result was an added 350,000 displaced persons over the course of the past two months alone.¹¹ This number is likely to escalate.

The Indo-Pakistani and Vietnamese conflicts are not the only budding hot spots at risk of a crisis of migration. While South Vietnam was being occupied by Northern rebel forces, a radical reform was occurring in Eastern Europe in Czechoslovakia known as the Prague Spring. Newly-elected First Secretary and political liberal Alexander Dubcek has continued to espouse support for dramatic democratic changes in the nation, including decentralization, democratization, and liberalization of speech and media. To the great frustration of the socialist Soviet Union, no agreement has been reached to scale back these radical platforms, with talk among the international community that an unwavering Dubcek could incite wrath from Leonid Brezhnev and company.¹²

2.4. Bloc Positions

Devotion to the humanitarian cause is nearly universal among all member states. Very little disagreement exists regarding the importance of the rights and values espoused in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. One would be hard-pressed to find controversy when it comes to the necessity of food, water, shelter, and other basic health and wellness necessities. However, the extent to which this aid is supplied, whose responsibility it is to do so, the politicized nature of certain population movements, and the burden on the host country remain important elements of the discussion.

2.4.1. Newly Independent / Decolonized (incl. Africa)

For states that are newly independent, of marginal economic status, and/or with significant ethnic conflict, the need for assistance far outweighs the willingness to provide it. Host countries within this category (i.e., those that have received an influx of refugees but have little with which to manage them) understand the importance of the international community providing the necessary assistance that they themselves cannot provide. As in the case of the Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia, the mobilization of resources and the quick repatriation

¹¹ <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/tet-offensive-results-in-many-new-refugees>

¹² <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/prague-spring-begins-in-czechoslovakia>

post-conflict allowed these economically weak yet politically stable states to provide temporary asylum.

2.4.2. Eastern Europe / Warsaw Pact

The successful reintegration of potentially hundreds of thousands of individuals in a post-war region cannot be overstated, as failure to do so could reopen the healing wounds. This is particularly true for much of Eastern Europe, as the desire for ethnic homogeneity continues to "cleanse" certain groups from their homelands or, at the very least, force them to leave preemptively. This region embodies one of the most difficult questions to answer on the topic of displaced peoples: Should conflict resolution be prioritized to prevent a crisis of migration, or are resources better spent anticipating and reacting to the worst case scenario? Additionally, the issue of national sovereignty arises, as nations seeking to protect their idealized state must face the condemnation and potential intervention of the international community. With indirect tension between members of the Warsaw Pact and NATO, there is much finger-pointing to go around.

2.4.3. Western Europe / NATO

Finally, the "West" serves in many ways as a model for post-crisis reconstruction. Though the process was not without struggle, many of the millions of refugees who were left at the end of World War II have rebuilt their lives either in their homeland or with a new nationality and, in the process, have contributed to the economic resuscitation of post-war Europe. Nonetheless, assimilation is easier said than done. Not only does the Soviet Union's tightening grip on Eastern Europe threaten regional stability, but the political complexities of Africa and Asia as former colonies and areas of prolonged (and violent) involvement add less tangible factors for consideration.

2.4.4. Asia

The South and Southeast Asian regions have been flagged as areas at high risk for crises of migration, similar to the newly decolonized nations of Africa. With multiple ongoing conflicts that have seen the beginning of significant forced and voluntary displacement, exacerbation is likely within the Asian continent. The question, however, comes down to the capacity for the risk to be

dealt with sovereignly or with international intervention, and whether an agreement can be reached for the latter given the highly politicized climate.

2.4.5. Non-Affiliates

Nations of origin (i.e., those that have experienced out-migration due to conflict, disaster, instability, etc.) have different, albeit comparable, priorities during and after the fact. During war, the top priority is its resolution. However, the realities of repatriation and post-conflict reconstruction—institutional, political, and economic—pose significant challenges as well. The successful reintegration of potentially hundreds of thousands of individuals in a post-war region cannot be overstated, as failure to do so can reopen the healing wounds.

2.5. Discussion Questions

1. Are refugees—and the questions of their security, resettlement, and legal status—political entities? That is to say, are they an extension of the political conflict from which they come?
2. At what level of urgency should resettlement and/or repatriation occur?
3. Does the responsibility for care of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fall on the national government or international community?
4. Should the focus of the discussion prioritize preventative measures (such as mitigating chances of conflict) or reactive measures (such as those after a refugee crisis takes place)?
5. What are current international hot spots at risk of a crisis of unprecedented emigration?

2.6. Key Terms

- Refugee
- Migrant
- Internally Displaced Person (IDP)
- Externally Displaced Person (EDP)
- Refoulement
- 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees
- 1967 Protocol to the 1951 Convention

- Warsaw Pact
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)

2.7. References

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- <http://www.unhcr.org/pubs/sowr2000/ch02.pdf>
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- <https://www.livemint.com/Sundayapp/clQnX60MIR2LhCitpMmMWO/Indias-refugee-saga-from-1947-to-2017.html>
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3. Topic 3 - The Question of General and Complete Disarmament

3.1. Executive Summary

As the Cold War continues to warm up, the entire world is held hostage by just a few countries with the power to destroy the planet. Those that have the most at stake are the countries not involved with either side, and with the apocalypse looming, it is crucial for a disarmament treaty that all countries can agree on.

3.2. Historical Background



When the U.S. dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima in 1945, the landscapes of global politics and modern warfare were irrevocably altered, resulting in the ignition of the Cold War and a global arms race. The later development of the hydrogen bomb by the U.S., which was five hundred times more powerful than the atomic bombs dropped during WWII, further threatened to turn the Cold War hot. Attempts were made by the U.N. as well as leading scientists involved in the development of the atomic weapons to urge the nations to find a peaceful solutions, yet the countries took no heed, and the arms race chugged on.

3.2.1. The Manhattan Project

The Manhattan Project was the forefather of all future nuclear weapons programs, and was responsible for the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Many of the scientists involved in the Manhattan Project were refugees from fascist European countries, eager to give the U.S. a leg up. Upon drafting Albert Einstein into their ranks, the U.S. government officially funded the Manhattan Project and by 1942, the organization was put under the lead of the Office of Scientific Research and Development. By 1945, the Manhattan Project had exceeded 2 billion dollars in funds, but they finally succeeded and “The first atomic bomb was exploded at 5:30 AM on July 16, 1945, at a site on the Alamogordo air base 120 miles (193 km) south of Albuquerque, New Mexico.”¹³ The following month, two more atomic bombs were produced, and they would subsequently be dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

3.2.2. The Effects of the Atomic Bomb

President Truman claimed that he made the decision to drop the atomic bombs in order to “save the lives of thousands and thousands of young Americans.” The price of the lives of these young American soldiers were paid in the blood of the Japanese people; the bomb dropped on Hiroshima destroyed four square miles of the city and killed 80,000 people, with tens of thousands more people dying of their wounds and radiation poisoning in the following weeks. The bomb dropped on Nagasaki killed nearly 40,000 more. One witness even stated that “I climbed Hikiyama Hill and looked down. I saw that Hiroshima had disappeared...”¹⁴

¹³ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Manhattan-Project>

¹⁴ <https://www.nps.gov/articles/trumanatomicbomb.htm>

3.2.3. The Response to the Atomic Bomb

The nuclear age and the U.N. rose after the horrors of WWII, and “by its first resolution, the General Assembly established the UN Atomic Energy Commission to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy.”¹⁵ The purpose of the Commission was to exchange scientific information between nations for lasting peace, to make sure the nuclear energy would be used only for peaceful purposes, and to eliminate the armament of nuclear energy. Although the UNAEC would be disbanded in 1952 and replaced by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it was the first collective international response to the rise of nuclear weaponry and call for the peaceful disarmament of nuclear weapons.

Upon learning of the atomic bomb at the Potsdam conference from President Truman, “Stalin called for an all-out crash program in atomic research and development.” During the war, the Soviets had already begun research into atomic weapons, albeit with a drastically smaller team of scientists and far less funds than the Manhattan Project. Following the war, the Soviets instated General Boris L. Vannikov and began pouring money into the project. The Soviets would create a successful production reactor in the fall of 1948, and by August 29, 1949, “the Soviets successfully tested their first nuclear device, called RDS-1 or ‘First Lightning’ (codenamed ‘Joe-1’ by the United States), at Semipalatinsk.”¹⁶ The Soviet development of a bomb was even more significant due to the fact that the Soviet Union was now the only other country in the world to possess atomic weapons.

U.S. soldiers were overjoyed that they would no longer have to risk their lives fighting on beaches full of Japanese soldiers. The U.S. government for their part, aggressively attempted to silence the nature of the bomb’s radiation, “by censoring newspapers, by silencing outspoken individuals, [and] by limiting circulation of the earliest official medical reports”¹⁷ in order to keep information limited.

3.2.4. The Hydrogen Bomb

¹⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/atomic-energy/index.html>

¹⁶ <https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/soviet-atomic-program-1946>

¹⁷ <https://theconversation.com/the-little-known-history-of-secrecy-and-censorship-in-wake-of-atomic-bombings-45213>

Not long after the Soviet Union tested its first atom bomb, a group of scientists that were a part of the Manhattan Project and led by Edward Teller approached the U.S. government about creating a hydrogen bomb. Many other scientists, including J. Robert Oppenheimer and Enrico Fermi who were the lead scientists on the Manhattan Project, heeded against the creation of such a weapon, saying “no limit exists to the destructiveness of this weapon, its existence and knowledge of its construction is a danger to humanity as a whole.”¹⁸ Despite the warnings, research continued and the U.S. tested the world’s first hydrogen bomb on November 1st, 1952. The Soviet Union would test the H-Bomb on September 22, 1955 and the U.K. on May 15, 1957.

3.3. Current Situation

Global tensions have grown even more terse, as the Soviet Union, the U.S., and the U.K. have continued to test, develop, and stockpile nuclear weapons in an all-out nuclear arms race. The fear of a nuclear attack has been etched into the minds of children and adults alike throughout the Western world. Governments urged their citizens to build fallout shelters, showed films of the destructive power of nuclear weapons, and even made “instructional films featuring friendly animals” meant to instruct children what to do in the case of a nuclear attack.¹⁹ This culture of fear permeated all aspects of society, leaving people with more depressed outlooks on life. What resulted was the unofficial adoption of the Mutually Assured Destruction policy (MAD). If one country were to deploy nuclear weapons on the other, they would retaliate with nuclear weapons of their own, leaving both countries decimated and hundreds of millions dead. This policy has further encouraged the U.S. and the Soviet Union to build up their nuclear weapons arsenal in order to have the edge should the MAD policy collapse. Furthermore, France is on the verge of obtaining its own nuclear weapons, and it likely won’t be long before they test their own H-Bomb, becoming the fourth country to have access to nuclear weaponry. With tensions at an all-time high and growing nuclear arsenals, countries should look for an official and permanent solution to a prevent all-out nuclear warfare.

3.4. Blocs

¹⁸ <http://www.atomicarchive.com/History/coldwar/page04.shtml>

¹⁹ <https://timeline.com/nuclear-war-child-psychology-d1ff491b5fe0>

Embroiled in the Cold War, neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union would agree to non-proliferation without full insurance that the other will do the same.

3.4.1. NATO

NATO members would seek to adopt a treaty of non-proliferation in order to gain more control over the existence of nuclear weapons.

3.4.2. The Warsaw Pact

The Soviet Union has grown their nuclear arms stash yet cannot match the U.S.'s arsenal. Furthermore, the Soviets would have to match the nuclear might of the United Kingdom, which would leave them as the underdog, and would make a treaty of non-proliferation favorable.

3.4.3. Nonaligned

Countries outside of NATO and the Warsaw Pact stand to lose the most if the Cold War were to turn hot, given that they have no nuclear weapons to defend themselves and would be defenseless victims caught in the crossfire. As such, it would be favorable for nonaligned countries to aggressively seek a non-proliferation treaty, and to have countries with existing nuclear weapons stashes to pledge to decommission their arsenals.

3.5. Discussion Questions

1. Should countries be allowed to research nuclear weapons in any capacity?
2. Should nuclear power be allowed for peaceful purposes (i.e. nuclear power plants)?
3. What should be done about existing nuclear weapons?
4. What measure of protection will be offered to countries without nuclear weapons?

3.6. Key Terms

- Atomic Bomb
- Arms Race
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

- Manhattan Project
- Fission
- Hydrogen Bomb
- Proliferation
- UNAEC

3.7. References

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