United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1991
Topic: Status of Ethiopia-Eritrea Conflict

Executive Summary

The 19th century brought about one of the most significant shifts in the history of international relations. Europe's industrialization swept the continent, and the resulting economic and political power allowed colonial influence to expand in Asia and Africa. In 1884, European powers used the Berlin Conference as a signal to divide Africa into useful colonies. In 1890, the Kingdom of Italy established Eritrea as their first colony after acquiring

both the territories of Assab and Massawa in 1882 and 1885, respectively. The territories were acquired in exchange for the economic support of Ethiopia after the Treaty of Uccialli ceded northern territories to Italy.[1] Eritrea shared Ethiopian cultural roots; however, under this colonial rule, like most European colonies, Eritrea began to develop a distinct identity.[2] Thus, while Ethiopia remained one of only two free African states during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Italian colony of Eritrea was shaped by colonial influences that would affect the region a century later.

Historical Background

From 1890 until WWII, Italy's focus had been on efforts to consolidate power in East Africa through its colony of what would become Eritrea. Under fascism, strict laws aimed to consolidate social hierarchy and separate Italians and Africans under racially biased mixed

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[1] http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ad18

[2] Dirar, Dr Uoldelul Chelati. "Colonialism and the Construction of National Identities: The Case of Eritrea." *Journal of Eastern African Studies*, vol. 1, no. 2, July 2007, pp. 256–76. *Taylor and Francis+NEJM*, doi:10.1080/17531050701452556.

marriage laws.[3] This trend of overall racial separation continued throughout Mussolini's reign, especially after Italian invasion during the early 30s. By the end of the war, however, Ethiopia's independence was facilitated by allied alignment, and the British gave the Federal Authority of Ethiopia control over Eritrea after conflict between the two entities. This control, was still given within the scope framework of limited autonomy and subsidiary operation under U.N. resolution 390-A(V). Specifically, Eritrea would eventually be given its own constitution (of course, then ratified by Ethiopia), a 68-member elected government (known as the Eritrean Representative Assembly), and a court with authority as the final source of appellate decision.[4] In 1952, 11 years after Ethiopian soldiers gained control of the colony, Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia.[5]

War of Independence
This regime would last until November of 1962, when the Ethiopian Chamber of Deputies abolished the autonomous Eritrean federation amid attacks perpetrated by the separatist Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF) in September of that year. The Eritrean Assembly had voted to fully join Ethiopia earlier in the year, but that decision had been unpopular and was condemned by separatist groups such as the ELF.[6] Months later, Ethiopia annexed Eritrea and declared that all inhabitants of the territory were once again Ethiopians. Between 1963 and 1967, the situation escalated to a full-blown territorial conflict, drawing support on behalf of the ELF from Syria, Iraq, Sudan, China, and Cuba. Amid a growing humanitarian crisis, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees assisted approximately 28,000 displaced people facing oppression from an increasingly violent Ethiopian government. In just one month between March and April of 1967, over 10,000 Eritreans were killed by government troops.[7] During this time, efforts made by the Ethiopian government to divide the Muslim and Christian soldiers along religious lines came to a peak when, in the summer of 1967, Christians of the ELF attempted to defect, and were murdered outside of the Ethiopian consulate by Muslim fighters. The ELF had its fair share of infighting. Specifically, in 1970, the organization split into other rebel groups such as the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), which gained support from several countries, such as

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[3] *Italian Colonial Rule - African Studies - Oxford Bibliographies - Obo*. https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199846733/obo-9780199846733-0150.xml. Accessed 14 Sept. 2019.

[4] *16. Ethiopia/Eritrea (1950-1993)*. https://uca.edu/politicalscience/dadm-project/sub-saharan-africa-region/ethiopiaeritrea-1950-1993/. Accessed 14 Sept. 2019.

[5] https://www.reuters.com/article/us-ethiopia-eritrea-politics-timeline/ethiopian-and-eritrean-relations-idUSKBN1K406Z

[6] https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/190115_Eritrea_IndependenceMovements.pdf

[7] Ibid.

Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, and Syria. The EPLF and ELF had significant conflicts, ultimately forcing the war into neighboring Sudan.

Diplomatic attempts to end the conflict were offered that same year by Sudan, but the Ethiopian government refused mediation. After such failed attempts, the Sudanese government publicly expressed its support for the separatist movement in January 1977. Separatist movements finally united in 1975 when the ELF and their Marxist offshoot, the People's Liberation Front (PLF), were consolidated under one common military rebellion group, intuitively called the ELF-PLF. However, the PLF maintained dominance in the region, ultimately leaving control in the hands of the EPLF. In response to this escalation and continued violent rebellion, the Soviet Union and Cuba committed military assistance in support of the Ethiopian regime. The Soviet Union became involved after Ethiopian Emperor Hailie Selassie was ousted in a coup in 1974. This brought the Derg, a Marxist military junta, to power. In 1980, the EPLF proposed that, in order to resolve Eritrea's status in relation to Ethiopia, the international community or similar body should hold a supervised referendum of the territory's inhabitants. The Derg rejected this plan.[8]

Ethiopian Civil War
When the Derg overthrew the Ethiopian Empire in 1974 and established the military junta, the Ethiopian-Eritrean conflict became more complicated and violent with the beginning of the ongoing Ethiopian Civil War.[9] As the new regime continued the fight against Eritrean independence and sent troops to its northern border, it also faced the left-wing, ethnic, and anti-communist opposition groups supported by the United States. The power vacuum created by the rapid, violent transition of power allowed rebel groups to prosper, including the Ethiopian Democratic Union (EDU), the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party (EPRP), and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF).[10] The system of political repression and urban guerrilla warfare the government imposed on Ethiopian rebel groups (and Eritrean rebels) led to hundreds of thousands of innocent deaths and actually drove many Ethiopians into supporting rebel groups.

While the Derg was not a popular government, it was powerful due to support from the Soviet Union. In 1977, the Ogaden War proved the value of Soviet support. In July of that year, the Somali Democratic Republic invaded Ethiopia in an attempt to annex the Ogaden, a border region with a mainly Somali population.[11] Over the next year, Ethiopia was supported financially and militarily by Cuba and the Soviet Union and ended up winning the war and defeating the

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[8] https://www.hrw.org/reports/2003/ethioerit0103/ethioerit0103-02.htm
[9] http://content.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,960451,00.html
[10]
https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/190115_Eritrea_IndependenceMovements.pdf
[11] https://www.britannica.com/place/Ogaden

American-supported Somalian army. In retaliation, the Ethiopians bombed Ogaden villages, causing 1.5 million refugees to flee into Somalia.

During this time, the Eritrean civil war continued further north. The bloody conflict lasted between 1984 and 1988, as both sides were mired in a stalemate. The EPLF managed to make gains in Tessenei and Barentu, only to be met with more Ethiopian troops who would eventually retake both cities. Ethiopia launched the "Red Star Campaign," which committed 100,000 troops armed with Soviet military technology in an attempt to turn the tide of the conflict and cement Ethiopia's access to the sea, which was threatened by the EPLF's rebellion.[12]

Current Situation

March 1988 was a significant turning point in the war, as EPLF troops managed to make significant gains in the North and West. This turning point sparked diplomatic interest from both the Soviet Union and the United States. The United States in 1989, for example, began to negotiate with the EPLF, and the Soviet Union ended military support for Ethiopia in order to entertain the possibility of peace. Still, the EPLF had too much momentum not to capitalize upon such an opportunity for gain, and has been carrying out strategic operations in their support for Ethiopian liberation movements like the Tigray People's Liberation Front and the Oromo Liberation Front. In 1990, the EPLF liberated Massawa, and recently has been intensifying their efforts to remove access to the sea and potentially capture Asmara.

Given the past years of fighting and human rights abuses, the United Nations Security Council needs to adopt consensus on what should be done within the region. The task of this committee will be to decide how the International Community will respond to the conflict. Currently, tensions within the region can break out at any moment, and there's no telling what the implications of a sovereign Eritrea might have on global politics and the balance of power within Africa. Additionally, villages, homes, monuments, and vast areas of developing land have been destroyed. The Ethiopian government is currently run by a military junta-turned-socialist state (the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia), which is responsible for many massacres. In the wake of a collapsing economy, these territories' development is also curbed by the implications of having fought a 30-year-long war. The famine that struck Ethiopia from 1983-1985 is another factor that affects the Security Council, as more than 400,000 people are estimated to have died, and hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians are now scattered in a diaspora around Africa.[13] Should the Soviet Union continue to involve itself in East Africa going forward, or are its actions

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[12] *A_HRC_29_CRP-1_Chapter_III.Pdf.* https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoIEritrea/A_HRC_29_CRP-1_Chapter_III.pdf. Accessed 14 Sept. 2019.

[13] *Evil Days: Thirty Years of War and Famine in Ethiopia.* Human Rights Watch. 1991.

destabilizing the region? Would intervention by the United States cause the same result? These are the questions this committee may seek to answer.

Discussion Questions

- What does peace look like between Ethiopia and Eritrea? How can this be maintained?
- How should the International Community handle the thousands of displaced people in need of support?
- What does the identity of the region show about its ability to maintain security? Should geopolitical action be based on religious differences between ethnic groups?
- What kind of borders will we see between these two entities if they rise to statehood? How will this be determined and how will these borders' integrity be kept?
- What can be done to bolster economic development in the region?
- Should Eritrea be recognized as an independent state? What would be the implications of global adoption of another African country along the Horn?

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United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1991
Topic: Status of Post Cold War Europe

Executive Summary

The Cold War has dominated the politics of Europe since the end of World War II. Developments have recently occurred that have brought the future of Europe into question. With the weakening of the USSR, the Warsaw Pact, and the peaceful revolutions of 1989, the United Nations Security Council must be prepared to chart a new path for Europe in the wake of the Cold War. While Europe has not devolved into violent conflict, it is vital that the transition into a post-Cold War period ensures peace and prosperity for a new generation of Europeans. Any development in Europe could potentially undermine that new future if not handled responsibly by the international community. Furthermore, the decline in tensions between the great powers provides the UNSC an opportunity to move past the deadlock of the Cold War era and assert new authority.

Historical Background

The Cold War emerged in the aftermath of World War II as the wartime alliance between the United States and the Soviet Union became fractured. Differences over borders and governance of Europe emerged towards the end of the war at the various wartime conferences between the U.S., the U.K. and the USSR.[1] Initial sticking points in the relationship were over the Soviet recognition of a different Polish government than the government in exile in London, and the occupation of Germany. This growing tension between the wartime allies also restricted the newly created United Nations Security Council.

The Onset of the Cold War and Containment
From 1945 to 1949, the divisions between a Soviet-led Eastern Europe and an American-led Western Europe became more salient. While the Soviet Union had annexed multiple territories at the opening of World War II as per the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, it also created the Eastern Bloc of liberated Central and Eastern European regions.[2] The Soviet Union proceeded to consolidate control over the Eastern Bloc in the following years. Winston Churchill thus observed, "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent."[3] In response to the Soviet consolidation of Eastern Europe and the support of communists in Turkey and Greece, the United States enunciated the Truman doctrine, expressing American efforts to counter the spread of communism around the world, especially in Europe.

As the Soviet Union brought the Eastern Bloc into its command economy, the United States began the Marshall Plan in 1948. The Marshall Plan was economic assistance to European countries to rebuild post-war Europe. In response, the Soviet Union forbade its satellite states

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[1] https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zfwycdm/revision/3
[2] https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/eastern-bloc
[3] https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/churchill-delivers-iron-curtain-speech

from partaking in the Marshall Plan for fear of losing influence over Eastern Europe and instead created the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.[4]

As the economic gulf between Eastern and Western Europe grew wider, the Soviet Union attempted to bring Western-occupied West Berlin under its control by blockading the city in the Winter of 1948-49. The United States and other western countries began the Berlin Airlift, or the massive airlift of supplies into West Berlin. The Soviet Union was ultimately unsuccessful in bringing West Berlin under its control. In response to what the United States saw as an increasingly assertive Soviet Union, the U.S. led the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.[5] In addition to the collective security arrangement, West Germany was established in 1949. Following the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany in April 1949, the Soviet Union created the German Democratic Republic out of East Germany in October 1949. By 1949, Europe was economically and politically split into Soviet and American dominated spheres of influence.
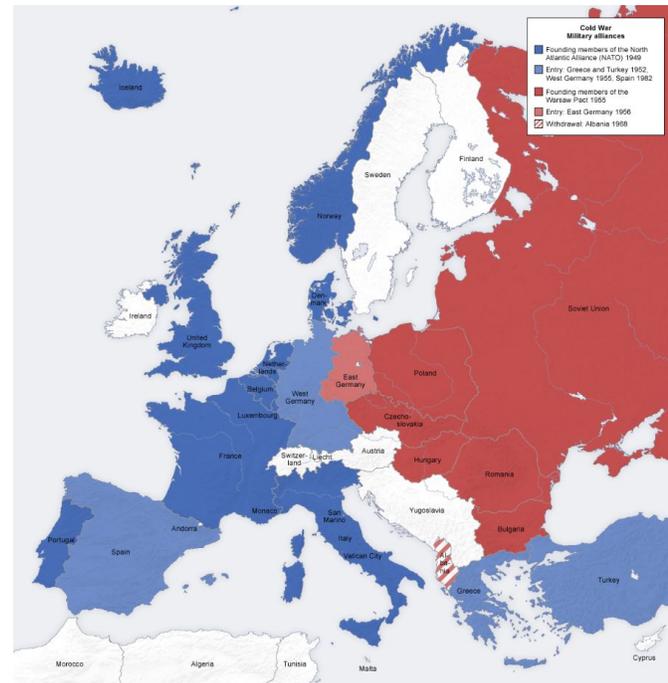
Competing Structures Emerge

As the 1950s approached, Europe was thoroughly divided between East and West, with developments that shaped the politics of each sphere. In Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union expanded its institutional architecture to compete with the growing integration of Western European states. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance was established in 1949 as the primary economic organization for the Eastern Bloc and a counter to the American-led Marshall Plan and the Organization for European Economic Co-operation.[6] Furthermore, the Soviet Union and the rest of the Eastern Bloc established the Warsaw Pact in 1955 as a counterweight to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).[7] Only a year after the establishment of the Warsaw Pact, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 was violently suppressed by the Soviet Union. This would hurt membership in communist parties around the world and caused disillusionment with the Soviet Union.

The creation of the Warsaw Pact was a direct response to the continuing integration of Western Europe in various economic and security organizations. At the London and Paris Conferences of 1954, West Germany was granted full sovereignty, ending the Allied occupation of West Germany and allowing for its admission into NATO. In addition to the participation in NATO, Western European countries continued to expand and deepen their economic partnership. In

[4] https://www.britannica.com/topic/Comecon
[5] https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/nato
[6] https://www.oecd.org/general/organisationforeuropeaneconomicco-operation.htm
[7] https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/warsaw-treaty

1951, the European Coal and Steel Community were established, and six years later, the Treaty of Rome was signed, creating the European Economic Community.[8]

Escalation of the Cold War
As the 1950s progressed, the Cold War moved towards East Asia and Latin America, allowing developments in Europe to slow. As the 1960s emerged, a set of crises escalated the Cold War in Europe. In 1961, the last major dispute over the status of Berlin occurred. Attempting to start the flow of immigration of East Germans to the West via West Berlin, the Soviet Union issued an ultimatum demanding the removal of allied forces from West Berlin.[9] The Allied forces did not end their occupation, and in 1961, the Berlin Wall was erected.

While the division of Germany continued, NATO faltered in 1966. For various reasons, including the U.S.-U.K. relationship and NATO's decision to not help France in its conflict in Algeria, France withdrew from NATO's military structures and expelled NATO troops from French soil.[10] In addition, France began the development of nuclear weapons in the late 1950s and acquired the hydrogen bomb in 1968, expanding its nuclear deterrent and allowing for greater distance from NATO.[11] While France withdrew from NATO, Czechoslovakia considered withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact during a period of liberalization in 1968 known as the Prague Spring. In response, the Warsaw Pact countries invaded Czechoslovakia. A month later, the Soviet leader, Brezhnev, claimed the right of the Soviet Union to violate the sovereignty of any communist country moving towards capitalism.[12]

Resolution of the Cold War
Throughout the 1970s, the detente between the Soviet Union and the United States led to less confrontation and competition in Europe. Following this de-escalation, the 1980s saw a further weakening of the Soviet position in Eastern Europe. Increasing economic pressures on the Soviet Union forced a reduction in the military, and as a result, communist parties in Warsaw Pact countries were losing their grip across Eastern Europe. In 1989, Poland and Hungary allowed for competitive elections. Following this decision, protests in Czechoslovakia and East Germany brought down communist regimes and violent uprisings against Bulgarian and Romanian communist leaders caused the crumbling of the Soviet alliance system.[13] In addition, the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, and Germany was reunified in 1990. On December 3, 1989, the end of the Cold War was declared at the Malta Summit.[14]

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[8] http://www.civitas.org.uk/content/files/OS.15.TimelineEUIntegration.pdf
[9] https://www.britannica.com/event/Berlin-crisis-of-1961
[10] https://www.history.com/news/france-nato-withdrawal-charles-de-gaulle
[11] https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/french-nuclear-program
[12] https://www.britannica.com/event/Brezhnev-Doctrine
[13] https://history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/fall-of-communism
[14] https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/the-malta-summit-and-us-soviet-relations-testing-the-waters-amidst-stormy-seas

Current Situation

While the United Nations Security Council has played a peripheral role in the politics of Europe during the Cold War, new challenges and new opportunities exist for the UNSC. Reduced tensions between the permanent members of the Security Council may allow for cooperation like that of the international coalition to liberate Kuwait earlier this year.

The most pressing questions for the UNSC will be maintaining peace and security in Europe as Eastern Europe transitions away from the Soviet-led model of the Cold War period. While the revolutions of 1989 were mostly peaceful, the situation in the former satellites is not entirely stable. Furthermore, relations amongst member states and the USSR could prove to be destabilizing as well. In addition to the former satellite states, the UNSC should monitor the situation in the Soviet Union itself. The Baltic states are moving towards independence daily, and its peace and stability must be maintained in what could potentially escalate into a volatile situation. Ukraine also moves towards independence rapidly, and the future of the central USSR government remains to be determined.

In addition to the question of the structure of Eastern Europe, the UNSC should be prepared to take action on nuclear weapons. The future of the largest nuclear stockpile in the world is at risk as the USSR is deteriorating. While there is currently no outstanding issue, it will be necessary for the UNSC to keep an eye on the horizon. Europe is presently in a phase of transition with a loosening of Soviet control and the continued integration of Western Europe. The UNSC must remain watchful and prepared to take action if the situation in Europe deteriorates.

Discussion Questions
- How can the UNSC guide the former Soviet satellite states towards peaceful coexistence and self-governing?
- What role should the UNSC take in the post-Cold War order more generally?
- What should the UNSC do to ensure the safety of nuclear stockpiles across Europe?
- What should Europe's political order look like in the post-Cold War period?

Key Terms
- Warsaw Pact
- Malta Summit
- Marshall Plan
- Treaty of Rome

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) 1991
Topic: Status of Israel – Palestine

Executive Summary

The Arab-Israeli conflict is an extremely complex one with many different perspectives and no clear solution. The Jewish people, who had historical ties to the land currently known as Israel, were compelled to migrate back to their holy land in the early nineteenth century as Zionism rose in political prominence. At the time, the area was controlled by the Ottoman Empire. At the end of the First World War, the British gained control of the land through the Palestine Mandate and held power until 1948, when they ended the mandate in response to international pressure following the events of World War II. The United Nations ultimately decided that the land be divided into one state for each ethnic group. the jewish people accepted this decision, but the Arabs rejected it due to issues over the favorability of the terms and the Palestinians' claim that the land had initially been their own. Violence erupted as the Arabs attacked the jewish people in their first war, the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, which Israel won. There would be an armistice until 1967, when the Six Days War broke out, which saw the jewish people take the Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula from Palestine, Syria, and Egypt, respectively. By 1987, Israel would have lost the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt by the time the Intifada started. The Intifada is a Palestinian uprising in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip that is causing violence and unrest in the area to this day. This unrest is still looking to be resolved in the Madrid Conference.

Historical Background

Jewish Immigration and Zionism
In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Zionist movement began. This movement started as a reaction to antisemitism running rampant in Europe and claimed that the jewish people had the right to re-establish their sovereignty over the land of Israel. After almost two thousand years without a home state, a migration of the jewish people to Ottoman Palestine began. This movement expanded rapidly, and the Jewish population in Palestine grew significantly. Each wave of migration became known as Aliyah, and there were five waves of Aliyah. By 1945, the Jewish community in Tel Aviv consisted of approximately 40,000 people.

End of British Mandate
At the conclusion of World War I, the British, French, and Soviets signed the Sykes-Picot Agreement, which would dissolve the Ottoman Empire and divide its land amongst the victors. As a result of this agreement, the British took over the land of modern-day Israel and established Mandatory Palestine in July 1920. This act of aggression was far from a peaceful arrangement, and there were many conflicts, such as the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt in Palestine. Many of these revolts were from the Arabs who were unhappy with the British, but also from the jewish people, who had migrated to the area and sought to reclaim the land as Zionism dictated. As a result of many elements, such as the unrest in the mandate and lack of support from its allies, the British decided to give up on their mandate in 1948 after the conclusion of World War II. The British deferred responsibility of the commission to the United Nations, who was then tasked with

dividing the land. The United Nations passed Resolution 181, which divided the land into a Jewish state and an Arab state. This decision was mostly accepted by the Jewish community and mostly rejected by the Arabs within the nation. The result was an eruption of violence, which would become known as the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. Militant Arab groups from the Arab Liberation Army levied attacks on Jewish cities and settlements throughout the entire region. Their goal was to block the creation of a Jewish state in its entirety, while the Jewish population's goal was to maintain the land that was promised to them in the U.N. Resolution. Armies from Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Egypt fought intensely against Israeli forces, but the troops were evenly matched and remained in conflict until a ceasefire was brokered in February 1949. Israel gained a small amount of land in the dispute that had previously been given to Palestine. Besides that, the map remained relatively unchanged.


Six-Day War
This armistice was upheld until 1967 when another war broke out between the two neighboring entities. This war was known as the Six-Day War, lasting June 5-10, 1967. Tensions were already high between Israel and many of its neighbors, such as Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Palestine. In 1956, the Israelis had invaded the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula because the Egyptians had blocked their access to a vital shipping route in the Suez Canal. The creation of the Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrian, Iraqi military pact, movement of troops to the Israeli border, Israel mobilization of reserve troops, and Israeli failure to get international support coalesced into Israel preemptively striking the Egyptians by launching an air raid onto their airfields, taking out nearly the whole air force. Simultaneously, the Israelis mobilized infantry to the Gaza Strip and Sinai. The attack took the Egyptians by surprise; they did not think the Israelis would strike so quickly and effectively.

Nonetheless, the damage was done, and Egyptian President Nassar had to order a retreat. The aforementioned military agreement between the Egyptians, Jordanians, and Syrians resulted in each state having to get involved, but their efforts were unorganized due to the speed with which this war progressed. Israel was able to get rid of them with ease, killing more than 20,000 of their soldiers while only losing about 1,000 of their own. Six days later, the Arab Coalition surrendered to the Israelis in a humiliating defeat that saw Israel taking control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights. The Israeli conquering of this land saw hundreds of thousands of Palestinians displaced, which would add to the current conflict.
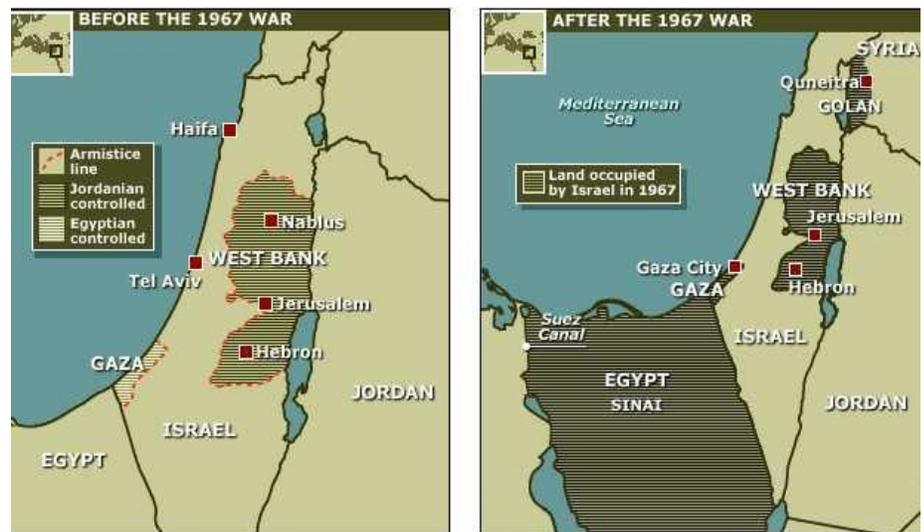
Yom Kippur War
After the quick and brutal Israeli victory in 1967, the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) became extremely confident, even dangerously so. On October 6, 1973, Egypt and Syria launched an attack on the Israeli-occupied Sinai Peninsula and Golan Heights in an attempt to take back the land that they lost. The attacked was launched on Yom Kippur, the holiest of Jewish holidays. Israel took three days to mobilize their forces as they were caught by surprise and met the Egyptians in the Suez Canal, resulting in a stalemate. Meanwhile, the Syrians attacked in the Golan Heights, launching a war on two fronts. While they made impressive gains, the Israelis were able to fight them off and then push further into Syrian territory. After a first U.N. ceasefire had failed, a second U.N. ceasefire was brokered, ending this conflict after twenty-two days. This conflict broke Israel's thinking that they could stomp over their enemies as they had in the previous two wars, which led the way for more productive negotiations moving forward.

Camp David Accords
In 1978, U.S. President Jimmy Carter invited Egypt and Israel to Camp David to negotiate a peace treaty. During the meeting, the leaders of Egypt and Israel, President Anwar el- Sadat and Prime Minister Menachem Begin, respectively, agreed to allow the Palestinians the ability to self-govern in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and gave the Sinai Peninsula back to Egypt. As a result, Egypt became the first Arab state to recognize Israel. The summit allowed for better diplomatic relations between the two states and offered a promising future for the Middle East. Unfortunately, this would not be the case.

Current Situation

Intifada
The Intifada is a Palestinian uprising that began in December 1987 that sought to create an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The rebellion started with nonviolent demonstrations in response to an accidental killing of four Palestinians when an IDF truck crashed into a car in a Palestinian Refugee camp. The protests were confined to just strikes, boycotts, and refusal to work with Israelis. However, some protesters employed more dangerous methods of protest, such as throwing rocks and Molotov cocktails at the IDF and buildings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israel deployed 80,000 troops to quell the protests, which then escalated the violence by firing live rounds into the crowd, killing many. This set a precedent for violent demonstrations throughout the West Bank and Gaza, where hundreds of Palestinians and Israelis would be killed. One of the biggest priorities of the Security Council is to address this uprising and bring an end to the bloodshed so that the people of Israel and Palestine may see peace.

Madrid Conference
U.S. President George H.W. Bush is intending to capitalize on the United States victory in the Gulf War by convening the Madrid conference, an unprecedented conference bringing the leaders of Israel and Palestine directly together to seek an end to their decades-long conflict.

Bloc Positions

United States
The United States has been a longtime supporter of Israel and has provided much aid to them in their conflict. The U.S. would like to see Israel come out on top of any negotiations because of the money and resources invested in Israel. Despite the fact that the rest of the international community has condemned Israel, the United States remains its most reliable ally. For now, it seems that the relationship is unwavering, but President Bush will have to consider at what point is this relationship no longer strategic.

USSR
Just as the U.S. supports Israel, the USSR fully supports Palestine. The USSR gives consistent aid to the Palestinian Liberation Organization and, especially now, will do even more to see Palestine come out on top. The USSR will continue to condemn Israel, alienating the U.S. from the rest of the Security Council and putting them in an unfamiliar spot.

France and the UK
While the U.S. and its closest western allies do not agree often, this situation puts France and the U.K. in a tight position due to the high tensions pervasive in this topic even forty years after the Holocaust and seventy-five years after the beginning of Jewish immigration to Israel/Palestine. Historically, these two nations have sided with the United States but have explicitly condemned Israel's actions in the Intifada instead of siding with the USSR.

Arab States
The Arab states detest Israel and do not acknowledge its existence. While tensions have cooled, it only takes one act of aggression to spark a fire, as seen in the Six-Day War. The Arab states will need to decide if they will continue with their tenuous peace with no formal agreement, sign a treaty, or exorcise the region of Israel once and for all.

Developing Countries
The developing countries represented in the Security Council this year have a unique opportunity to involve themselves and their nation's resources in the conflict as they attempt to play a role in the peacebuilding process for the first time.

Discussion Questions

- Can a two-state solution exist in Israel and Palestine after a long history of violence?
- Is on side more entitled to the land than the other?
- Will the Arabs allow Israel the right to exist?
- What stake, if any, do the United States and USSR have in this conflict concerning the Cold War?
- Are the U.S. and USSR willing to engage in another proxy war using Israel and Palestine?
- What opportunity does the upcoming Madrid Conference offer for the Security Council and its continuous member, the United States, to address this conflict?

Keywords
- Mandatory Palestine
- Zionism
- Aliyah
- Six-Day War
- Intifada
- Madrid Conference
- UN Resolution 181
- Camp David Accords
- Yom Kippur War
- Gaza Strip
- West Bank
- Golan Heights
- Sinai Peninsula

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