



Committee: Historical Council (HC)

Topics: The issue of the Cuban missile crisis,
Resolving the Persian Gulf crisis in late 1990.

Chairs: Theo Ryu

Shenzhen College of International Education
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Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

I am Theo Ryu, the co-Chair of the Historical Council, and it is a pleasure to extend my warm greetings to all of you. As a resolute and experienced Model United Nations (MUN) enthusiast, I am eagerly looking forward to talented, bright minds, and seeing how delegates can change the world and each other with their insightful ideas.

The topic “Resolving the Persian Gulf crisis in late 1990”, as one of our conference themes, is a significant historical event resulting in global ramifications that echo in various aspects up to this day. For some, the topic may be challenging and unfamiliar, or intriguing and fascinating. Either way, we will explore it in depth during our sessions, dissecting its complexities and most importantly, we will make creative changes on the past while forging a brand-new future.

I cannot wait to feel the excitement of another conference full of skillful debates, breathtaking negotiations, and memorable moments. Keep up with SCIEMUN announcements.

Theo Ryu

Co-Chair, Historical Council

Committee Background and Mission Statement

The Historical Council (HC) is a distinctive committee within the realm of MUN. Unlike conventional UN committees, the Historical Council does not focus on ongoing global affairs; instead, it allows its participants to step into the most significant moments of history to make world-changing decisions. In the Historical Council, we can not only both witness history and absorb its lessons but become a part of it.

We are presented with a remarkable privilege in the Historical Council. Being armed with the knowledge of the aftermaths of the decisions that the UN and international leaders have made, delegates are able to make perfecting touches onto the past decisions. We are also presented with a challenge that we are unable to face without cooperation – we must rewrite history itself and illuminate a path that would take global society to a new level of prosperity.

Topic Overview

Introduction

The Persian Gulf War, also known as the Gulf War or the First Gulf War, was an international armed conflict that took place during 1990-1991 and was a major international armed crisis. It occurred following the end of the Cold War era. In many ways, it shaped today's geopolitical relationships and international regulations governing the use of military forces and arms.

Different sources have distinct interpretations of Iraq's intentions of its invasion. There are many aspects that could be analyzed, such as the oil production and cost policies of Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and other OPEC member states and the shifting political relationships at the dawn of a post-Cold War Era. Delegates' interpretations of Iraq's intentions behind its invasion would be a crucial part of the conference that can lead to the conference topic being viewed through diverse perspectives.

Timeline

The Persian Gulf War's first signs of fire were started by then Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's speech, where he accused neighboring Kuwait of economic warfare (through oil pricing and production) and territorial encroachment against Iraq. On August 2, 1990, Iraqi troops poured

across the Kuwaiti borders, capturing Kuwait City with an alarming ease. Kuwaiti royals established a government-in-exile in Saudi Arabia, whilst hundreds of thousands of Kuwaiti refugees fled to nearby Middle East nations.

On August 3, 1990, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 660, calling for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwaiti territory. A foreign policy team with an “unprecedented international coalition” was formed with the assistance of member states and organizations. Coalition forces consisted of troops, equipment, and non-military assistance (such as public expression of support and efforts in condemnation) supplied by NATO allies, several Middle Eastern member states, and other UN member states. In Kuwait, Saddam was continuously increasing his occupation forces and devising methods to gain support from the Muslim world through religious measures, setting up hasty peace treaties, and offering policy exchanges.

The UN Security Council Resolution 678 and multiple preceding Resolutions officially set a military action countdown towards January 15, 1991. When Saddam refused to withdraw, the coalition forces were authorized to “use all necessary means” to implement Resolution 660 in Iraq and Kuwait.

After multiple military actions (specified under the next subtopic), the Gulf War ended with coalition victory. The war was followed by several significant factors that the Historical Council delegates must be mindful of: UN Security Council Resolution 687, United States’ post-war actions taken that led to the Iraq War, future attacks of terror within and outside the Middle East, and much more. It is a major part of the conference for delegates to delve into the consequences of decisions made on this matter to make effective and beneficial changes.

Date	Events
August 2, 1990	Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait: Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait
August 6, 1990	UN Security Council Resolution 660: UN’s condemnation of the Iraqi Invasion
August 7, 1990	Operation Desert Shield
November 29, 1990	UN Security Council Resolution 678: UN’s authorization of “all necessary means” to liberate Kuwait if Iraq does not withdraw by January 15, 1991
January 17, 1991	Operation Desert Storm
February 24-28, 1991	Operation Desert Sabre

February 27, 1991	Ceasefire Declaration by Iraq; Kuwait liberated
February 28 – March 3, 1991	Iraqi Troops Retreat from Kuwait
April 3, 1991	UN Security Council Resolution 687: The UN imposes terms of ceasefire on Iraq, including the destruction of its weapons of mass destruction
April 11, 1991	Uprising in Iraq suppressed: A Shiite uprising against Saddam Hussein's regime begins in southern Iraq but is brutally suppressed
April 18, 1991	No-Fly Zones: No-fly zones are established in northern and southern Iraq to protect Kurdish and Shiite populations.

Military Actions and Specific Policies

The Persian Gulf War was a series of intense battles full of military and policy strategies made by both coalition forces and Iraq. The Iraqi army was the fifth largest army in the world at the time, “with some 950,000 personnel, 5,500 main battle tanks, 10,000 additional armored vehicles, and nearly 4,000 artillery pieces,” and it was threatening to grow by capturing vast resources within very short periods of time.

Delegates are expected to make more detailed research regarding this section as they could add to the depth of the conference by bringing in specific details and effects of military and policy measures taken by international organizations and nations in the Gulf War.

1. Actions taken by the UN:

The most visible efforts the UN had made in the Gulf War can be seen in UN Security Council Resolutions – UNSCR 661, 665, 678 – and other preceding and subsequent Resolutions placed economic sanctions or military pressure on Iraq. The UN also set up committees, diplomatic policies, and demands regarding Iraqi annexation of Kuwait, civil repression, and hostages during the war.

2. Actions taken by the Coalition Nations:

The United States took over the role as a central commander of coalition military campaigns, and it took the largest military actions taken by individual member states during the Gulf War.

The first military action taken was defensive, called Operation Desert Shield. Operation Desert Shield was commenced to protect Saudi Arabia, a potential target of Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. A second successful invasion on a resource-rich nation like Saudi Arabia would have left Iraq to control 45% of the world's oil reserves. Gradually, additional troops from other member states joined together at the Saudi Arabian borders.



Figure 1: US fighter jets parked during Operation Desert Shield

Operation Desert Storm (the coalition air offensive) and Operation Desert Sabre (the ground offensive) were dual phases of the operation developed against Iraq. By January 28th, under Operation Desert Storm, allied Air Force achieved air supremacy and began degrading Iraqi ground forces, resources, manufacturing plants, and command, control, communication centers. Subsequently, troops under Operation Desert Sabre completed a final offensive that lasted only one-hundred hours to secure a final Iraqi surrender. During operation, naval battles took place between coalition naval forces and Iraqi coastal defenses. Operation Desert Shield, Storm, and Sabre were run by the US Central Command (CENTCOM).



Figure 2: Iraqi Republican Guard during Operation Desert Storm

Operation Provide Comfort, also known as Operation Haven, was a military and humanitarian action that established a no-fly zone on Iraqi territory near the end of the war. The no-fly zone allowed refugees, especially the numerous Kurdish refugees to either return home or receive aid in northern Iraq and other designated areas. Operation Provide Comfort was run by the US European Command (EUCOM) and was followed in 1997 by Operation Northern Watch.

3. Actions taken by Iraq:

One of the most significant military campaigns was Scud missile strikes. It started on January 15, 1991, with Israel as its main target, and over the course of a month, forty-two Scud missiles were launched into Israeli territory, mainly the cities of Tel Aviv and Haifa. The purpose of such attacks was to cause it to retaliate, predicting that a military response from Israel will cause Arab states to desert the coalition and potentially join forces with Iraq. To stop the Israeli retaliation, the US government, according to many sources, exerted diplomatic pressure, which Israel agreed the US send its defense artillery. The US and other coalition states sent defense systems, such as Patriot missile air defense artillery, to Israel, thus preventing Israeli retaliation.



Figure 3: Patriot missiles being launched against Iraqi Scud missiles over Tel Aviv

On January 29, 1991, Iraq invaded Saudi Arabian territory, conquering the lightly defended city of Khafji. However, the battle at Khafji ended just two days later when the Iraqi forces were driven back by the coalition forces. The battle was one of one-sided losses, given that when the coalition forces suffered around just two dozen casualties, incomplete statistics show that the Iraqi forces may have suffered up to 300. Inability to gather organized forces due to the coalition air power shortened the time spent and caused drastically different

casualty levels in the two sides upon the battle at Khafji, as numerous other battles of the war.

Aftermaths

As the Historical Council is set in the late 1990s, the focus of the majority of the conference should be guided toward the policies and decisions made (or not made) that had influenced the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis.

Regarding the aftermath, some are highly publicized but not completely factually supported. An appropriate example would be the Gulf War Syndrome, or the Gulf War Illness, which were thought to be linked with veterans' exposures to toxins during the war but is still yet to be scientifically confirmed. It would be constructive if a delegate could list such aftermaths and lead a part of the conference on this, but it highly advised that factual evidence be provided at the used in such arguments. The following are some consequences of the Gulf War that were proven through credible analyses and observations.

A generally evaluative statement would be the war was not a war without cost. A generally evaluative statement would be that the war was not a war without cost. The US Congress calculated in 1992 that its government had spent \$61.1 billion in the war (approximately equivalent to \$130 billion in 2023). Global oil production malfunctions turned into economic instabilities in multiple war-torn nations, causing further debt burdens. For economically developing nations, disproportionately more dependent on earnings and tourism, the cost was comparatively more severe. For example, "for Egypt, the cost totaled \$1 billion, 3% of GDP. Yemen had a cost of \$830 million, 10% of GDP, while it cost Jordan \$1.8 billion, 32% of GDP." (Overseas Development Institute)

Additionally, on top of the supply shortages and sharp price increases, most nations experienced during the 1973-1974 Arab Oil Embargo, the 1979 Oil Crisis, and the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980's, the Gulf War saw a \$34-to-\$77 per barrel global price increase. Human casualties were considerable – in Iraq, it is estimated tens of thousands of civilians died from bombings and battles, with the completely destroyed medical and electrical provisions reaped immeasurable subsequent damages. For Iraqi civilians, sanctions such as that set by the UN Security Council Resolution 661 caused hyperinflation, widespread malnutrition, and poverty.

The Gulf War witnessed stark disparities in casualties between the coalition forces and Iraqi forces. While coalition forces saw a relatively low casualties with 392 deaths and 776 wounded, the

Iraqi military suffered much higher numbers, with estimates ranging from 20,000 to 26,000 killed and 75,000 wounded.

The destruction of natural resource sources caused irreversible ecological damage, meant long-term atmospheric and marine consequences. During his retreat, Saddam Hussein set fire onto 750 Kuwaiti oil wells. These fires not only consumed approximately six million barrels of oil per day, but also sent toxic mixtures into the atmosphere that were observed hundreds of miles (kilometers) away and sent acid rain as far as the Black Sea and Pakistan. Its poisoning gas is believed by some analyses to have caused the Gulf War syndrome among veterans and their children.



Figure 4: Burning Kuwaiti oil wells.

As previously mentioned, no-fly zones were established in Iraqi territory. After Hussein's defeat, major ethnic groups revolted against his leadership and faced brutal suppression. Hussein's Ba'ath Party maintained control in Iraq by violently suppressing the Kurds and Shi'i Arab populations. No-fly zones were established in order to protect these people, in addition to UN regulations allowing inspectors to check for WMDs and other weapons. However, Iraq did not cooperate with regulations. These incidents sometimes resulted in short spurts of collision (see Operation Desert Fox), and exchange of fire over Iraqi no-fly zones were continued into the first few years of the 21st century.

With the privilege of hindsight in the Historical Council, we know that the most significant events resulting from the unsettled details between the coalition nations and Iraq started on March 17, 2002, when US President George W. Bush issued an ultimatum to Saddam, leading to one of the most controversial wars in perhaps the entire human history, the 2003 Iraq War.

Delegates must focus on the significant events that shaping world politics and economics today originating from the 1990s, including September 11, 2001, US's unauthorized declarations,

and followed conflicts. A well-established system must be made to benefit global economic restoration trends at the time and eventually benefit the global society of today, requiring completely efficient global cooperation.

Bloc Positions

Below are the possible viewpoints of major members states or international organizations regarding the Gulf War. It is suggested that delegates fully represent the positions and interests of their representing nations to ensure a conference that is academically and historically sound.

Coalition

Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States are coalition members expected to be present at the conference.

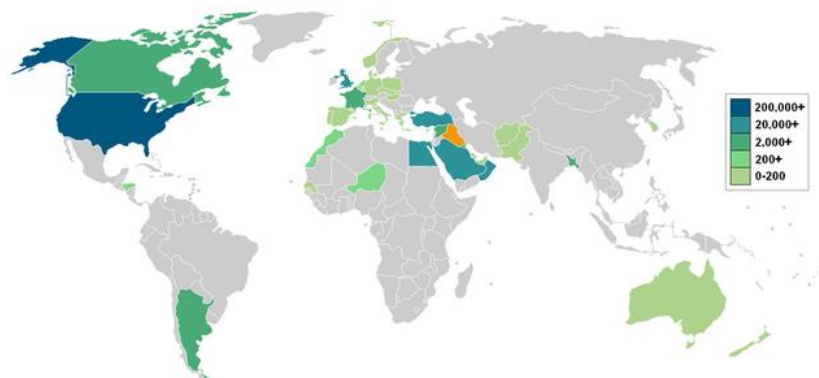


Figure 5: Coalition members with number of troops contributed shown

Coalition members, as victors of the Gulf War, will potentially have more diplomatic power to devise post-war policies. They will be interested in stabilizing global oil prices, setting more beneficial compensation terms, restoring regional peace, and restoring global trade and tourism. They will be interested in stabilizing global oil prices, setting more beneficial compensation terms, restoring regional peace, and strengthening global trade and tourism. Methods and degree in setting more effective WMD regulations on each other or specific member states would also be an important choice that the coalition members would have to make.

As for member states significantly impacted by the Gulf War, such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey, it is obligatory that they discuss with provider states to establish effective domestic protection systems.

It is wise that the current coalition members set up a more organized military cooperation. Its hasty establishment comprised only voluntary forces and supplies and may be needed to be replaced with a more formal organization with common goals to win future regional battles in the Middle East or other regions more efficiently.

Iraq

Iraq is a key member state with power to decide many factors affecting the final outcome of the conference. It wants to establish or restore relationships with the international community and negotiate favorable terms regarding future global political trends and policy establishments. It can do so through setting up logical but flexible positional viewpoints in oil and gas regulations, WMD inspections, and compensation policies.

However, it will be invalid if Iraq is overly generous and accepting toward the policies other nations ask of it. It is currently in a barren and injured state. OPEC and non-member states may conclude policies threatening their economy. Their civilians require immediate UN humanitarian assistance. In this context it must stand firm and open new possibilities of it to recover and stabilize faster with historical speed.

Cuba

Cuba was one of the very few UN member states supporting Iraq, and provided diplomatic support, medical assistance, and humanitarian aid. It continued this stance since the Cold War's conclusion, where it voiced its disagreements concerning Western forces threatening other member states' territorial integrity.

In the conference, if Cuba continues this traditional path, it will likely claim that the coalition reaction violated Iraq's sovereignty and call for international reconsideration. Even if it chooses to not go so far here, it is likely to condemn economic sanctions, as it had done historically, for being tools or coercion and harmful to civilians. It wants to establish methods to ensure global political stability and strengthen ties with member states who share similar views. Finally, it wants to establish methods guaranteeing regional political and economic security in the post-Cold War era.

Russia

The Soviet Union (USSR) was dissolved with its flag was lowering for the last time in December of 1991, and the Russian Federation replacing it. As a new nation but with a considerable amount of influence and power, its actions in the conference will be a decisive factor.

It may choose to support the coalition and establish policies beneficial to them, to establish regional stability and strengthen coalition relationships. However, it has every reason to resist coalition diplomatic efforts, and may see benefits in restoring the Soviet-era ties with Iraq and other regional actors. It will almost certainly be against the United States acquiring a dominant position in the Middle East, and if Russia chooses to follow the coalition forces, it will indicate its intentions to continuing the Soviet Union's claim of its respect international law and justify previous Union condemnation of Iraq's invasion. If Russia chooses to counter coalition efforts, it will argue preventing other political forces from overly interfering with a region's political actions aligns with the USSRs, and therefore Russia's, traditional foreign policy principles.

Additionally, Russia faced significant political and economic challenges in its first few years into establishment. It is desperate to establish policies that would favor it, like establishing energy trade partners, finding investment opportunities, and relieving sanctions that affect its own economy.

Iran

Iran had a complicated position in the Gulf War. It was a few years after the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), where Iran was brutally attacked by Iraq. In the aftermath of the war with its severe casualties and economic hardships, it wants Iraq weakened. While remaining a neutral, it did provide some assistance to forces opposing Iraq.

In this conference, Iran will pursue heavy compensation from Iraq. It will try to enforce effective Iraqi disarmament to prevent further threats. However, it may also decide to take a historically significant step by placing itself as a regional leader, of stabilizing force in the Middle East and regional cooperation, economic reconstruction, and humanitarian assistance from the international community to Iraq.

Neutral states

Brazil, China, and India are neutral states expected to be present at the conference.

Nations like Switzerland and Finland that remained neutrality often held longstanding policies of nonintervention in international conflicts. They either voiced their support for peace, provided humanitarian support to those affected by the war, or expressed support to a certain side of the war, whilst not participating militarily or financially.

In the conference, neutral nations will likely prioritize regional stability in the gulf region. They want to prevent further economic disruptions or refugee crises. They will participate in

discussions to drive diplomatic efforts towards a peaceful solution to the war. They want to establish methods to cooperatively support Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees through medical and financial aid. Finally, they will stress the importance of international law to prevent further conflicts.

However, these nations are more likely to hold different opinions in some areas such as WMDs and methods to inspect and enforce it and future intervention in the Gulf region politics. Such nations can be particularly influential. Some will grow into nations that play important roles in restoring the balance of power after the Cold War. Their stance and willingness to cooperate with certain sides will come to be decisive factors in the conference.

Possible Solutions

There are a huge range of possible outcomes to the conference. The Gulf War had far-reaching consequences to the global economy and caused significant humanitarian and ecological harm. Establishing policies neatly reconciling this crisis requires a historic level of cooperation, critical analysis, and innovation. Below are some broadly structured suggestions for the aspects that the final resolutions of the conference could focus on.

4. Preventing further warfare in the Middle East:

A comprehensive diplomatic solution must be established to prevent the years of harsh warfare the world had seen after the Gulf War, and this must be done urgently and extremely successfully. The root cause of the conflict must be addressed.

It is suggested that the UN, through global cooperation, form stronger diplomatic ties between Middle Eastern member states. Regional stability must be promoted through effective negotiations in order to prevent further external military clashes.

5. Ensuring global cooperation with UN regulations:

UN regulations made on the Gulf War matter was not properly executed, or received international mistrust, which led to near military collisions and gave to the further buildup of the upcoming series of wars. Policies regarding WMD, refugees, and prisoners of war (POWs) must be enforced effectively and clear consequences of disrespect toward UN regulations must be established.

6. Protecting minorities in Iraq:

The political uprisings in Iraq after the Gulf War were responded to with Saddam Hussein's violence. The international community must either find better ways to achieve a peaceful transfer of power in Iraq and protect political and ethnic minorities in Iraq.

7. Managing oil prices and production:

Oil prices was always a common source of economic instability or hardships, and this time, it was proven once again that it could even go as far as causing international warfare. Production rates must be regulated with frequent and adequate exchanges of information and desires between the UN and international organizations in order to prevent this from happening again and is an opportunity to discuss future oil and natural resource policies.

Additionally, the Gulf War itself caused significant instability in the oil industry. This was caused by multiple factors such as sanctions, production policies, and source disruptions. Further policy tools must be carefully considered upon this aspect, and the global petrol prices must be restored for nations to start recovering from the Cold and Gulf Wars immediately.

8. Humanitarian assistance:

Finally, the international community must look after the refugees, the wounded, and the IDPs that resulted from the War. Humanitarian assistance, such as medical care and financial assistance, must be given to various member states. Re-establishing process for educational, electrical, and medical infrastructures must happen immediately.

The topic of "Resolving the Persian Gulf crisis in late 1990" is one of the toughest MUN topics I can remember, yet one of the most promising. It has potentially huge consequences, and room for creativity in resolutions. So let us change history and build a future.

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