



International Court of Justice

Background Guide

Chair: Ike Radin

Vice chairs: Matt Sorkin, Carter Lombardi

Delegates for each topic will have to determine if the accusation is legitimate and then will discuss solutions to the problem.

Cases:

Accuser v Accused- Topic

USA v Iran - Terror

Ukraine v Russia - Crimea Crisis

USA v Mexico - Drugs Across Borders

Topic A: USA v Iran Terror

Tensions between the U.S. and IRAN is a complex and contentious topic. delegates must work expeditiously in order to create resolutions that cover all aspects of such a broad topic. The U.S has had long standing tensions with Iraq dating back to the cold war. The first problem between the two nations was an incident that occurred in the late 70s. Problems between the 80s and 90s began to further escalate issues between the two nations. Delegates must work hard and expeditiously to relieve tensions between the nation.



Troubles with Iran in regards to terrorism have dated back to the 1920s. During the 1920s Reza was coronated in 1926 as the Shah. Initially the Shah attempted to modernize Iran and managed to make vast improvements to infrastructure as well as overall increase in living conditions. However the new Shah greatly hindered progress in regards to foreign relations due to his admiration of Adolf Hitler. The Shah's relations with the U.S were hindered greatly due to their relations with Nazi Germany. During the cold war The Shah worsened their situation as they refused to back either the soviet union or the NATO block. This was initially seen as good for the nation as they were not furthering their relationship with other nations. During this time Iranian government shut down their embassies in order to isolate themselves. The lack of foreign influence and government relations resulted in the strained relationship it had today with other. Iranian foreign relations are a complex issue in and delegates must expeditiously debate in order to meet an accord.

Since the introduction of a Shah the Iranian government has faced countless examples of uprising in attempts to usurp the government. This instability has lead to wars between Iran and other nations. The United states of America has been accused of terror attacks via air strikes against Iran. However, Iran is also currently on the U.S list of sponsors of terrorism. Delegates should review interactions between the two nations in order to properly determine if the U.S is guilty for their air strikes in Iran, or if Iran is in fact a state sponsored of terrorism.

The first instance of terror against the United States from Iran occurred in 1979. In 1979 66 American citizens were captured and held hostage by Iranian terrorists in Tehran. These hostages were not released until 1982. The hostage crisis was a major diplomatic dilemma testing the United States policy that states they do not negotiate with terrorists. The crisis lasted a whole 444 days before it was resolved. However the Iranian terrorists released 14 of the hostages initially as they were women and or suffered from health issues. This was a prelude to the rising anti-American sentiments that became apparent after the rise of the Ayatollah.

Also during the 1980s was the Iran Contra affair. The United States government provided weapons of mass destruction to a South American terror group known as the Contras. The United States government then used the money in order to free United States hostages. This was an example of how the U.S. government has been accused of state-sponsored terror against Iran. The U.S. was also guilty of accidentally shooting down Iranian Air Airbus killing 290 passengers and crew. This coupled with the U.S. placing heavy sanctions on them in recent years have resulted in seriously strained relations. Delegates should examine other accounts of terror between the two nations in order to better understand if the classification applies.

More recently in the early 2000s Iran was accused of creating weapons of mass destruction after the IAEA found enriched nuclear fuel. The discovery of enriched uranium led to the IAEA giving the Iranian government just weeks to prove their innocence. Results from this nuclear crisis were sanctions by the U.S.

government, as well as the seizing of Iranian assets. It is important that delegates take time to understand the Iranian nuclear deal and rule on whether or not the U.S. government should unfreeze the assets seized by the U.S.

State sponsored terrorism is utilized by nations that are fearing Evelin and insurgency. In 2012 Egyptian protesters were executed by the government for speaking out against government policies of harsh punishments for misdemeanor crimes and for executing their basic rights promised in both the Egyptian constitution and the universal declaration of human rights. Similarly the protest of Tiananmen Square led to the involvement of the Chinese military. It can be debated that this was an act of state sponsored terrorism as violence was used to make a political statement.

Currently only three states are considered state sponsors of terrorism: Sudan, Iran, and Syria. State sponsorship of terrorism can also manifest itself in aid to rebel groups. The U.S. aided Osama Bin Laden and his rebel group during the 1980s. Delegates should take into account what constitutes for terror sponsorship and should amend the list as they see fit.

During the 1980s middle eastern nations such as Iran and Iraq had totalitarian dictatorships that were supported by communist regimes. The communist regimes who supported leaders in these nations were ousted by militias as well as liberation fronts. An example would be the rise of Al Qaeda. The ousting of soviet influence in Iran eventually led to the rise of Osama Bin Laden. By ousting the political force

that is the Soviet Union a power vacuum is created similar to the situation that arose in Vietnam in regards the The Vietcong. The more recent example of a power vacuum would be the situation that has risen due to the assassination of Muammar Gaddafi. Gaddafi was the military leader of Libya, while his actions were brutal involving torture and other human rights abuses his death created a vacuum that has allowed ISIL (the Islamic state in levant). Delegates should work hard to review documents that could prevent terror cells from growing in an attempt to stop terrorism at it's source.

Many large terror cells such as ISIL, FARC, and the Vietcong were popular as they offer stability to an unusable region. A major issue that is related to terrorism is stability. Unstable regions in the Middle East result in terrorism. While the regime of ISIL is brutal and barbaric; ISIL creates a code of law and improves stability within the region. Delegates should understand why Terror groups are backed by state and likewise how to depose a popular terror group such as ISIL.



Topic B: Russia-Ukraine Land Disputes

The start of the rocky relations between Russia and Ukraine was instigated by the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. This caused a power vacuum that led to a multitude of conflicts regarding the rightful owner of disputed lands. From 1991 to present day, Russia and Ukraine have been embroiled in various conflicts regarding the distribution of land between these nations. Likewise, there have been periods of relative peace, such as during the presidency of the Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich. During Yanukovich's presidency, there were extensive diplomatic relations between the nations, including the establishment of various trade deals. This is considered the high point in relations between the nations between the years of 1991 to 2016. This period of prosperity was cut short by the Ukrainian Revolution in 2014. Yanukovich, as a supporter of Russia, was removed from office and replaced with a government that was decidedly anti-Russia. This is what brought the Ukraine-Russia conflict to the point it's at today. Russia refused to even recognize the new government, maintaining that the new government was just the temporary result of a coup d'état and not a legitimate government.

Crimea, a region of Ukraine, is primarily composed of pro-Russians. This is indicated in the map above by the fact that the overwhelming majority language in Crimea is Russian. This shows a clear ethnic split between Ukraine and Crimea, justifying the fact that Crimea was not fully integrated into Ukraine. As such, a referendum was held in 2014 with the options of joining the Russian Federation as a federal subject, or becoming more integrated into Ukraine. Despite these results being overwhelmingly in favor of joining the Russian Federation, the results were disputed by some due to the fact that the referendum was lacking an option to maintain the status quo. It is argued that were there an option to negate the referendum, many voters would think that is better than becoming more integrated into Ukraine. As shown in the adjacent poll, this argument was accepted almost exclusively by Ukrainians who aren't in Crimea, as they were the ones who stood to lose the most by losing Crimea. Crimea provides a significant economic boost to Ukraine, and as such, a Crimean exit is largely unpopular in the other regions of Ukraine. Following the referendum, Crimea declared their independence from Ukraine, and were swiftly recognized as a Sovereign nation by Russia — but not by Ukraine. Following this, Russia began a covert invasion of Crimea in order to annex it. Shortly after, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a treaty officially annexing Crimea. Crimea's independence is recognized by very few nations — a non-binding resolution passed by the United Nations calls upon nations to not recognize there being any Ukrainian territory changes.

The Ukraine-Russia land disputes call into question the nature of self-determination of sovereignty. The citizens of Crimea determined by referendum

that they would prefer to be part of the Russian Federation, though many Ukrainians would argue about the legitimacy of the referendum. In a situation such as this, it is essential that a relatively unbiased third party step in and mediate the conflict, and this role is best filled by the United Nations.

Topic C: US v Mexico

Drug trafficking is defined as: a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances which are subject to drug prohibition laws. The particular branch of the UN that deals with drug trafficking is known as the United Nations Office On Drug and Crime, or UNODC. The main drug markets include the heroin and cocaine markets. The heroin is mainly trafficked through the Balkans from Afghanistan, while cocaine is mainly trafficked from South America into the U.S. and Europe. This committee will be run like a cross between a GA and a specialized committee. Delegates will be tasked with writing resolutions that aim to prevent further trafficking and increase drug seizures.

Drug trafficking has been a major international issue ever since the nineteenth century, when various drugs such as heroin and cocaine were first introduced into society. It is important to define the difference between drug trafficking and drug



distribution. Drug distribution is defined as the “selling, furnishing, or delivering of a controlled substance and is considered to be a class B felony, which carries a maximum sentence of two to twenty years and fine up to \$10,000. If the drugs are distributed to anyone under the age of 18 it becomes a Class A felony without the possibility of suspended sentence or probation.” On the other hand, drug trafficking actually refers to “the weight of the substances rather than the movement of the drugs.” It is further explained by Get Smart About Drugs as “Trafficking refers primarily to the weight of the substances involved and not to the movement of the drugs either across state lines or from one person to another. Possession of a controlled substance may become a trafficking charge if the drugs weigh enough.” Specifically in Mexico, the drug war against the cartels began in 2006, when the president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, deployed more than 6,500 Mexican soldiers to the state of Michoacán to combat drug traffickers. President Calderon continued his campaign against the cartels, sending out more than 20,000 Mexican soldiers spread across Mexico to continue the fight against the cartels. Unfortunately, the cartels managed to pay off many members of the Mexican police, which lead to the firing of 284 corrupt police commanders. In 2007, the first full year of the drug war, a

total of 2,837 people were killed. The cartels began targeting the police, killing the federal police chief of Mexico, Edgar Eusebio Millan Gomez, in 2008, along with the commander of Mexico City's investigative police force, Esteban Roble Espinosa. Subsequently, the police gained several victories against the cartels with two of the leaders of two different cartels, Braulio Arellano Dominguez (Los Zetas), and Arturo Beltran Leyva (Beltran Leyva) being killed in 2009, and Osiel Cardenas Guillen (Gulf Cartel) was arrested in 2010. 2010 was an especially successful year for the Mexican forces against the drug war, with many cartel leaders being arrested or killed. 2011 was also a good year, with several more heads of various cartels taken down, but civilians were also murdered by the cartel in retaliation for their actions denouncing the actions of the cartel. President Calderon's method of fighting the cartels with the army led to the deaths of more than 40 major cartel members total in the drug war in 2012.

This war has continued through today, with a recent major victory being the capture of notorious drug kingpin Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who was recently extradited to the United States.

The US accuses Mexico of bringing drugs and violence within its borders. Delegates will first have to determine if Mexico is guilty of the accusations, specifically because of international law. Delegates will be tasked with creating new strategies to fight the cartels, and the determination of the extent of the UN's along with other nearby countries to Mexico's involvement in helping to fight the drug war.

Delegates should keep in mind the following:

To what extent is the drug war in Mexico the responsibility of the neighbouring nations such as the United States?

What strategies should be explored to help combat the cartels in Mexico?

Should the punishments for drug trafficking remain the same, or should they be more clearly defined and be more serious for those directly involved with the cartel?

How should the protection of innocent civilians who are targeted by the cartels be managed?

How can the UN ensure that the human rights of civilians are protected?

Sources

The Atlantic. Atlantic Media Company, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

By John Tirman / AlterNet. "The Cold War on Terror." Alternet. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

By Signing up to The Jpost Mailing List, I Hereby Accept the Terms and Conditions. "The 'war on Terrorism' and the Cold War." The Jerusalem Post. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Chapter 2. Country Reports: Middle East and North Africa Overview." U.S. Department of State. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

Cheung, Helier. "Global Terror Attack Deaths Rose Sharply in 2013, Says Report." BBC News. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

The Independent. Independent Digital News and Media, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Sandinista." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Sandinista Revolution." ViaNica.com: Explore Nicaragua Online. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Terrorism Causes and Consequences." Globalresearch.ca. N.p., n.d. Web.

"Terrorism in Latin America: Infographic - War on the Rocks." War on the Rocks. N.p., 17 July 2014.
Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

The Atlantic. Atlantic Media Company, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

By John Tirman / AlterNet. "The Cold War on Terror." Alternet. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

By Signing up to The Jpost Mailing List, I Hereby Accept the Terms and Conditions. "The 'war on
Terrorism' and the Cold War." The Jerusalem Post. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Chapter 2. Country Reports: Middle East and North Africa Overview." U.S. Department of State. U.S.
Department of State, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

Cheung, Helier. "Global Terror Attack Deaths Rose Sharply in 2013, Says Report." BBC News. N.p., n.d.
Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

The Independent. Independent Digital News and Media, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Sandinista." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Sandinista Revolution." ViaNica.com: Explore Nicaragua Online. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Terrorism Causes and Consequences." Globalresearch.ca. N.p., n.d. Web.

"Terrorism in Latin America: Infographic - War on the Rocks." War on the Rocks. N.p., 17 July 2014.
Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

The Associated Press and Reuters Mar 11, 2014 4:30 AM, By Rotem Starkman17 Hours Ago This Is a Premium
Article 1 Comments 1, By Nir Hassonyesterday This Is a Premium Article This Article Contains a
Video, By Sami Peretz yesterday This Is a Premium Article 1 Comments 1, By Dafna Aradyesterday
This Is a Premium Article, By Yarden Skop2 Days Ago This Is a Premium Article 16 Comments 16,
and By Cohen yesterday Gili. "Why Are Ukraine and Russia Fighting over Crimea? - World."
Haaretz.com. N.p., 11 Mar. 2014. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

Kirby, Paul. "Ukraine Conflict: Why Is East Hit by Conflict?" *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

News, BBC. "Ukraine's Sharp Divisions." *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

@pkfranz. "The Ukraine Crisis Timeline." *The Ukraine Crisis Timeline*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Putin Won His War in Ukraine." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

@theunisbates. "Ukraine's Fraught Relationship with Russia: A Brief History." *Ukraine's Fraught Relationship
with Russia: A Brief History*. N.p., 08 Mar. 2014. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Ukraine Crisis." *CNN*. Cable News Network, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016

Kirby, Paul. "Ukraine Conflict: Why Is East Hit by Conflict?" *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

News, BBC. "Ukraine's Sharp Divisions." *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016

@pkfranz. "The Ukraine Crisis Timeline." *The Uk*

"Putin Won His War in Ukraine." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

@theunisbates. "Ukraine's Fraught Relationship with Russia: A Brief History." *Ukraine's Fraught Relationship with Russia: A Brief History*. N.p., 08 Mar. 2014. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Ukraine Crisis." *CNN*. Cable News Network, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"FACT SHEET: United States-Mexico Relations." *The White House*. The White House, 22 July 2016. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"In Mexico, Tens Of Thousands Of Illegal Guns Come From The U.S." *NPR*. NPR, n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Latin American Herald Tribune - Mexico: Cartels Pay Corrupt Cops \$100 Million a Month." *Latin American Herald Tribune - Mexico: Cartels Pay Corrupt Cops \$100 Million a Month*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 Sept. 2016.

"Mexico Drug War Fast Facts." *CNN*. Cable News Network, n.d. Web. 05 July 2016.

"10 Examples of Drug Trafficking Charges." Guide to Federal Drug Charges 2016.

FederalDrugCharges.net, n.d. Web. 05 July 2016.

"Drug Trafficking." Drug Trafficking. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, n.d. Web. 05 July 2016.