

KnightMUN XVII

United Nations Security Council
Background Guide



WELCOME LETTER

Dear delegates,

My name is Rylie Gay, and I am so excited to serve as your director for KnightMUN XVII's hypercompetitive Security Council. I am a junior majoring in political science with a focus on international relations, and I hope to go to law school eventually. This is my second year on staff for KnightMUN. Last year, I was the assistant director of the Godfather crisis committee. I spend the majority of my free time competing with UCF's model UN team, having competed in 7 conferences last year alone. Also, I serve as the executive vice president of UCF's United Nations Association and captain of the MUN travel team.

Our secretary general, Amy Garbarini, created this committee with the hope that each delegation would send an experienced student, and therefore the committee could foster a competitive experience. I believe this is a worthwhile goal, and I want to congratulate you all on being selected to represent your high school. The collegiate MUN circuit, while it encourages diplomacy, can be extraordinarily competitive. With the hope that you will all be continuing in Model UN in college, I plan on doing my best to prepare you for what that will look like. Therefore, I will run this committee to collegiate standards, and encourage each of you to not only focus on diplomatic solutions but to also strictly adhere to your country positions, alliances, and hostilities.

While this committee is officially a GA style, there will also be unique elements. This means that, while you are writing your resolution, I will potentially be giving you updates on the conflict and the effectiveness of your solutions. Also, each of you will also receive a letter at the beginning of the first session that will outline some goals that I will look for you to work towards in committee. Some of these goals will align with what you have researched, but they may also be surprising due to the futuristic aspect of our topic.

This committee is placed in the year 2022. In this near-future scenario, many events have transpired in the years between 2018 and 2022. These events have changed, and in some cases intensified, the tensions between the two nations. It is also extremely important for you to note that any events that have occurred after **July 20th, 2018** will NOT be considered in this committee. While you should put time and effort into researching the history of the conflict and the nations involved, I also want you to spend time contemplating how your assigned country would react to these new circumstances.

I am very much looking forward to spending this weekend solving this futuristic world crisis with all of you, and I want to thank you all in advance for your participation in this committee. I hope that you will all work your hardest, learn a lot, but most of all, have fun!

Your director,

Rylie Gay



HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is one of the six principal organs established by the UN Charter, and its primary responsibility is to maintain international peace. Therefore, the Security Council meets whenever peace is threatened. All UN Member States agree to accept and carry out the decision of the Council.¹ This is one of the significant differences between the Security Council and the other UN organs. While other organs can administer recommendations to the Member States, they are only obligated to listen to the verdict of the Security Council.

“On October 24, 1945, the victors of World War II — China, the U.S.S.R., France, the United Kingdom, and the United States — ratified the UN Charter, creating the Security Council and establishing themselves as its five permanent members with the unique ability to veto resolutions.”² The UN Security Council held its first session on January 17, 1946, in London. “Originally there were six temporary members, rotating every two years and distributed on an equitable geographic basis. That rule was more explicitly defined in 1965 when the number of temporary members was increased to ten.”³

The United Nations Security Council consists of 15 members at all times. This includes ten elected members and five permanent members, which are the United States, China, the Russian Federation, France, and the United Kingdom. Ten elected members are selected each year to serve a two-year term. These selections are allocated as follows: 5 for African and Asian states, 1 for the Eastern European States, 2 for Latin American and Caribbean States, and 2 for Western European and other States.⁴ A representative of each of the Council’s members must be present at UN Headquarters at all times so that they can meet at any time.

When a Member State of the United Nations is not a current member of the Security Council, but their nation’s interests are being discussed, they may participate in the Council debate without a vote. The Council can also invite non-members of the UN to take part in discussions if the Council considers that the country’s interests may be affected.

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>

² <http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-un-security-council.html>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/faq.shtml#nonpermanent>

PURPOSES AND POWERS

The United Nations Charter outlines ten functions and goals for the Security Council⁵:

- to maintain international peace and security by the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

When a threat to peace is brought before the Security Council, the Council typically begins with a recommendation that the involved parties attempt to reach a conflict resolution via peaceful means. This can include setting principles, undertaking mediation, dispatching missions, appointing envoys, or requesting the Secretary-General assist in achieving a settlement. If the dispute leads to hostilities, the council may issue ceasefire directives or dispatch peacekeeping forces to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible. In addition to these measures, the Council can opt for other ways to enforce peace. These could include economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties, travel bans, blockades, severance of diplomatic relations, or even collective military action.

⁵ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/functions.shtml>

INTRODUCTION OF CONFLICT:

THE PARTITION OF BRITISH INDIA

Several factors played into the ultimate independence of India, among the most significant were a growing Indian independence movement, general unrest over unkept promises made to the Indian National Congress by the British government during and following World War I, & the massive economic destruction wrought on Britain by the second World War.⁶ As a result of these factors and numerous others, then British Prime Minister Clement Attlee announced on February 20th, 1947 that the Indian government would be turned over to the Indian people by June 1948 at the latest and that Viceroy Louis Mountbatten would be the one to draft and oversee the transition to Indian independence.⁷

Severe religious tensions between the Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh people of India led to Lord Mountbatten determining that a single, unified Indian state would be impractical. The Muslim League sought an independent Islamic nation of its own in contrast to the Indian National Congress which had been pushing for a united India.⁸ In order to reduce bloodshed that might be caused by a single state, it was decided that British India would be partitioned into two separate dominions: India and Pakistan. The border demarcating two was largely established by the Indian Boundary Commission, with a more specific focus on dividing the Bengal and Punjab territories. While the Commission had representatives from the Muslim League and Indian National Congress, Sir Cyril Radcliffe was appointed to chair it, giving him ultimate authority over approving the border, which eventually came to be known as the Radcliffe Line.⁹

The Radcliffe Line was just one facet of the larger Mountbatten Plan dictating India's separation from Britain. Some of the most important provisions of The Mountbatten Plan were as follows:¹⁰

- The partition of India into the Dominions of India and Pakistan.
- The division of the Bengal and Punjab provinces between the two new states.

⁶<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/cabinetpapers/themes/indian-independence.htm>

⁷<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/indian-independence-act-329774-2016-07-18>

⁸http://www2.needham.k12.ma.us/nhs/cur/Baker_00/baker_modern/baker_mj_ep_p4/indian_pakistani_conflict.htm

⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Boundary-Commission>

¹⁰<http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelpregion/asia/india/indianindependence/transfer/transfer7/index.html>

- Transfer of total legislative control to the new states.
- The end of British rule over the Princely States of India, allowing them to either remain independent or accede to either of the new states.

Announced June 3rd, The Mountbatten Plan was introduced in Parliament as The Indian Independence Act 1947. It was passed on July 5th, received royal assent July 18th, and was enacted August 15th, 1947, finally granting India and Pakistan their long sought-after independence.¹¹

THE HEART OF THE INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT

Perhaps the most significant source of conflict between India and Pakistan lies in their respective claims over the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Historically, Jammu and Kashmir was a quasi-independent princely state under British suzerainty. When the Indian Independence Act 1947 was passed, it was offered the choice of independence or accession to either of the newly formed dominions of India and Pakistan. Unlike every other princely state, Jammu and Kashmir chose to be independent rather than accede itself to India or Pakistan, instead offering a standstill agreement to both of them.¹² While Pakistan quickly accepted this offer, India requested that the princely state send a representative to discuss the terms of the agreement. Before such a discussion could take place, however, Pakistan launched a full-scale invasion of the state.

Being incapable of fending Pakistan off, the Maharaja requested military support from India. In exchange for their support, India demanded that Jammu and Kashmir be integrated into India and that the Maharaja would have to make a number of democratizing reforms to the state's government. He accepted the terms on October 26th¹³ and India deployed its military soon after, rapidly repelling the Pakistani forces and ultimately expelling them from the Kashmir Valley. After numerous protracted military operations and diplomatic negotiations, the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 was brought to a close by a cease-fire laid out in a UN resolution passed in January 1949.¹⁴ Despite the cease-fire, the conflict over Jammu and Kashmir had only just begun.

¹¹<https://www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/evolutionofparliament/legislativescrutiny/parliament-and-empire/collections1/collections2/1947-indian-independence-act/>

¹²<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/1399992/A-brief-history-of-the-Kashmir-conflict.html>

¹³<https://thewire.in/history/public-first-time-jammu-kashmir-instrument-accession-india>

¹⁴<https://www.cnn.com/2013/11/08/world/kashmir-fast-facts/index.html>

THE INDO-PAKISTANI WAR OF 1965

Much like the first Indo-Pakistani war, the second was fought over the control of Kashmir. The war was initiated by Pakistan in April 1965 as the Pakistani government was under the impression that India would be unable to defend the region following their defeat in the Sino-Indian War and that the Kashmiri people secretly supported Pakistan.¹⁵ These notions were both quickly refuted as India mobilized its forces and escalated the conflict. India soon called for the United Nations to repeat its role in the first Indo-Pakistani War by negotiating an end to the war. On September 20th, the Security Council passed a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations to resolve the settlement of Kashmir.¹⁶ India accepted the resolution the next day and Pakistan followed suit the day after India. The Soviet Union acted as a third-party negotiator to resolve the Kashmir issue and both India and Pakistan accepted the terms of the mediation. Despite this, the conflict between the two states erupted once again soon after the peace.

THE INDO-PAKISTANI WAR OF 1971

Unlike the previous two Indo-Pakistani wars, the third was fought over a Bangladeshi separatist movement in what was then known as East Pakistan. Partially due to Bangladeshi refugees and partially due to India's past relations with Pakistan, Indian leadership decided to support the Bangladesh liberation efforts.¹⁷ In response, Pakistan launched a pre-emptive strike on Indian air bases. The attack's damage was negligible as India soon achieved air superiority. Over in less than a month, the war was a total victory for India.¹⁸ Pakistan was indisputably defeated and the eastern half of the nation (in Bengal) became its own independent state: The People's Republic of Bangladesh.

¹⁵ https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/indo-pak_1965.htm

¹⁶ <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/india-pakistan-war>

¹⁷ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/indo-pakistan-wars-1947-1965-1971-1999.html>

¹⁸ https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/indo-pak_1971.htm

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION FOR INDIA AND PAKISTAN (1948 - 1950)

“The United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan's task was to investigate and mediate the India/Pakistan dispute over the future of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. It existed from June 1948, until March 1950. The United Nations Representative for India and Pakistan was Sir Owen Dixon. His task was to assume the responsibilities of UNCIP, to prepare for the Plebiscite Administrator for Jammu and Kashmir, and to assist in preparation for and supervision of demilitarization¹⁹.”

UNITED NATIONS MILITARY OBSERVER GROUP FOR INDIA AND PAKISTAN

“The first group of United Nations military observers arrived in the mission area on 24 January of 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. These observers, under the command of the Military Adviser appointed by the UN Secretary-General, formed the nucleus of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). Following renewed hostilities of 1971, UNMOGIP has remained in the area to observe developments pertaining to the strict observance of the ceasefire of 17 December 1971 and report thereon to the Secretary-General.²⁰”

¹⁹ <https://search.archives.un.org/united-nations-commission-for-india-and-pakistan-uncip-1948-1950>

²⁰ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmogip>

RECENT CONFLICTS

2001-2002 INDIA-PAKISTAN STANDOFF

This was a military standoff that was initiated by India after an attack on India's Parliament with 12 casualties²¹. India claimed the attacks were perpetrated by Pakistan-based terror groups that were supposedly backed by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Pakistan has since denied these claims²². This caused India to mass troops at the Line of Control, and Pakistan responded by sending troops as well. This conflict put the two nations very close to nuclear war and was eventually resolved via diplomatic mediation that resulted in the withdrawal of troops on both sides²³.

2008 MUMBAI ATTACKS

In Mumbai in 2008, a Pakistan-based terrorist group carried out twelve separate attacks across the span of four days²⁴. India believed that Pakistan's ISI was directly responsible for these attack, which caused an increased strain between the two nations, as well as a rise in the anti-Pakistan sentiment in India. These increased tensions led to another border standoff between the nations.

2011 INDIA-PAKISTAN BORDER SHOOTING

The 2011 India-Pakistan border skirmish was a series of incidents which took place during the months of July and August 2011 across the Line of Control in Kupwara District and Neelam Valley. Both countries have different accounts of the incident, each accusing the other of initiating the hostilities²⁵.

2016 URI ATTACK

In September 2016, the pro-Pakistani jihadist group Jaish-e-Mohammed initiated a terrorist attack on the Indian Army brigade stationed near the town of Uri in Kashmir resulting in the death of eighteen Indian soldiers and the injury of another nineteen.²⁶ India claims Pakistani involvement in the attack and called for a diplomatic response. Pakistan denies involvement.²⁷

²¹ <https://books.google.com.pk/books?id=-vifpWqV2WYC&pg=PA326#v=onepage&q&f=false>

²² <https://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/30/world/asia/30pstan.html>

²³ http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/world/south_asia/2335599.stm

²⁴ <https://abcnews.go.com/International/mumbai-terror-attacks-pakistanis-charged/story?id=9176592>

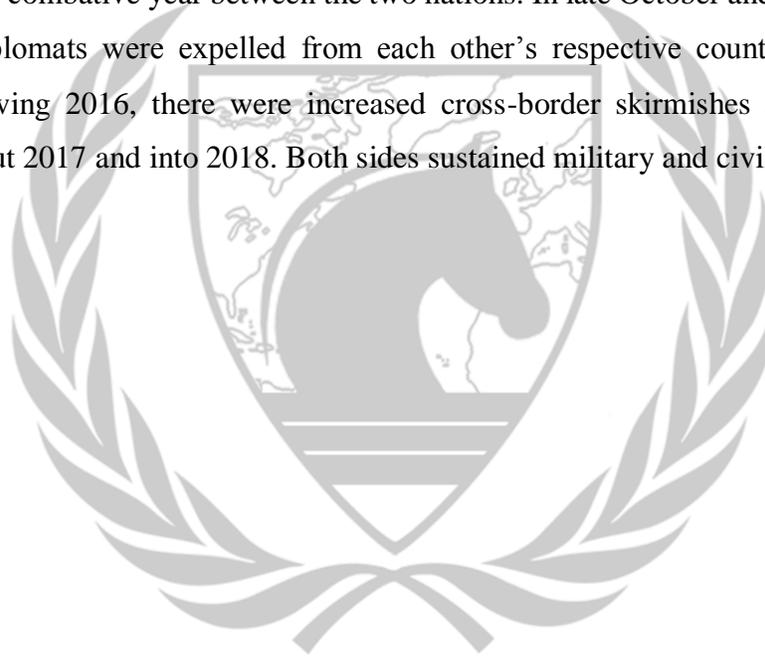
²⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_India%E2%80%93Pakistan_border_skirmish

²⁶ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/indo-pakistan-wars-1947-1965-1971-1999.html>

²⁷ <http://time.com/4498891/kashmir-uri-attack-india-pakistan-military-conflict/>

2016-2018 RECENT INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFRONTATIONS

In January of 2016, six armed militants attacked an Air Force base in India near the border of Pakistan. Seven Indian security personnel were killed before the militants were stopped and killed.²⁸ In July of that same year, anti-India protests broke out across Kashmir following the death of a militant leader. These protests, calling for an independent Kashmir, continued through November and caused more than ninety deaths and thousands of injuries due to the strong response from Indian forces.²⁹ Attacks and protests similar to this nature continued throughout 2016, making it a highly combative year between the two nations. In late October and November, Indian and Pakistani diplomats were expelled from each other's respective countries on charges of espionage. Following 2016, there were increased cross-border skirmishes across the Line of Control throughout 2017 and into 2018. Both sides sustained military and civilian deaths.



CURRENT EVENTS (2018-2022)

²⁸ <https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan>

²⁹ Ibid.

In May of 2018, the India-Pakistan conflict witnessed a glimmer of hope: military leaders from both nations agreed to reinstitute compliance with a 2003 cease-fire agreement. This understanding was reached after both nations reviewed the spike in violence and deaths along the border that had occurred since 2016. In the case of any issue, both sides agreed to solve disputes via peaceful meetings rather than through military action.³⁰ After the 2018 ceasefire, tensions seemed to lessen between the two governments. Citizens on both sides remained defensive and hostile, but political officials seemed to remain supportive of the diplomatic agreement.

ELECTIONS - 2018/2019

On July 25th, 2018, Pakistani politician Attaf Mir, a member of the Pakistan Muslim League (N), was narrowly elected as Prime Minister. Among his many center-right political goals was a strong defense of India-Pakistan reconciliation. Then on May 9th, 2019, the Indian people overwhelmingly and surprisingly elected Vihaan Kapoor as their Prime Minister. Kapoor was known for his charming demeanor and was a wildly popular member of the Indian National Congress, which opposes the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP is the biggest party in India and considers hyper-nationalism one of their main ideologies.

PEACE TALKS REVIVED/ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT - 2020

In May of 2020, Pakistani Prime Minister Attaf Mir reached out to India's Vihaan Kapoor to have a peace conference in Gujranwala. After much controversy on whether or not Kapoor should attend, he crossed the border to attend the talks. However, while Kapoor was walking up the steps to the conference, he was shot in the shoulder by an unknown suspect. No evidence of Pakistani involvement in the attempt could be found. Kapoor was rushed to a Pakistani hospital, given life-saving procedures, and then was quickly returned to an Indian hospital for observation. He fully recovered after just a week in the hospital.

RISE IN PROTESTS - 2020/2021

After the assassination attempt in Pakistan, protests broke out across India accusing the Pakistanis of attempting to use a diplomatic trick to murder their prime minister. These protests also begged the Indian government to act in response to this "atrociousness". Pakistan claims to have no knowledge of who is behind the attack and promises to make every attempt to investigate further. There is

³⁰<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/southasia/2018/05/pakistan-india-vow-implement-2003-ceasefire-agreement-180529175109946.html>

also a small increase in anti-India protests by Pakistanis who felt that they were unfairly accused by India.

DEATH OF INDIAN SPIES - 2021

In order to try and discover more about who committed the assassination attempt, the Indian government utilized their embassy staff within Pakistan as spies to try to discover if Pakistan's government was involved. The spies were caught and imprisoned on Pakistani soil after being discovered attempting to place recording devices within Pakistan's ISI. After an extremely brief trial, three Indians were found guilty and executed for espionage. The rest of the embassy workers were expelled from the nation immediately. While the Indian protests increased after the executions, more protests also began to erupt in Pakistan due to the citizen's anger with India's attempt to spy on Pakistan's intelligence services.

BRINK OF NUCLEAR WAR - 2022

By current day, tensions have increased so much that not only do both nations have large numbers of troops at the Line of Control, but more and more skirmishes have occurred than ever seen before. These almost daily conflicts have caused many casualties on both sides and government officials are scrambling to try and obtain the upper hand. In January of 2020, Pakistan test-fired a nuclear weapon, and India retaliated not even a month later with their own weapon testing. Therefore, there is an extremely increased threat of nuclear action.

UNITED NATIONS INTERVENTION AND GOALS GOING FORWARD

Due to the increasing nuclear threat to peace in the South Asian region, a meeting of the Security Council has been called to intervene and help negotiate a diplomatic peace between the two nations. The current states participating in this meeting of the Security Council are **Australia, Bangladesh, China, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Mexico, Pakistan, The Republic of Korea, The Russian Federation, South Africa, The United Kingdom, The United States of America** and **Uruguay**. The goal of this meeting is not easy, but it is fairly simple: negotiate peace and prevent a nuclear attack. An attack of that magnitude would be devastating to the region and potentially the world. All nations will need to work together in order to prevent extreme action and broker a peace that could last longer than any in the past.