

Historical Security Council (HSC)

Humboldt-MUN XIV Edition



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Dear delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the fourteenth edition of the Model United Nations organized by the Colegio Alemán Alexander von Humboldt, Humboldt-MUN XIV, and likewise, welcome to the Historical Security Council.

We trust you to inform yourselves appropriately and contribute meaningfully to the debates. You should know that you will be discussing historical matters, and you will have to do so from a historical point of view, corresponding to this debate taking place in 1985. Please be mindful that you must strictly adhere to your country's official position at that time, and not express your own personal views or present-day perspectives.

We are going to be focusing on one major event in our history: *The Afghan Proxy War (1985)* and the effects that the deadlock state of the Security Council had on the Cold War and in Central Asia. During this period, Afghanistan became a battleground for competing ideologies, with the Soviet Union and the United States supporting opposing sides, while the paralysis of the Security Council prevented effective international action. This deadlock not only intensified the Cold War but also left lasting consequences for the stability of Central Asia.

These types of simulations establish invaluable resources for those who wish to expand and acquire their knowledge, not only in a historical matter, but also academically speaking. Through the sessions, you are going to be able to develop a variety of abilities that will help you in the future.

We are convinced that the experience gained in this committee will have lasting value, whether in your studies, your professional career, or professional life. Last but not least we hope you have fun and enjoy the time you spend with us!

Sincerely,

The Historical Security Council Directive.

President: Azul Valeria Valdez Barrera - 2166235@ca.edu.mx
Moderators: Héctor Romo Quevedo - 2166656@ca.edu.mx
Santiago Trigueros Peraza - 2164348@ca.edu.mx
Conference officer: Mar Enríquez Jiménez Thomas - 2151515@ca.edu.mx

Delegations

Members

1. United States of America
2. USSR
3. People's Republic of China
4. French Republic
5. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
6. Republic of India
7. Republic of Madagascar
8. Arab Republic of Egypt
9. Kingdom of Thailand
10. Republic of Peru
11. Trinidad y Tobago
12. Australia
13. Kingdom of Denmark
14. Burkina Faso
15. Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic

Observers

1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Introduction to the Committee

The Security Council is the most powerful United Nations' organ and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It is the only one that can impose sanctions, authorize peacekeeping missions and approve the use of force if needed. In 1985, the Security Council consisted of fifteen members, five of them being permanent (the United States of America, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic, the People's Republic China, the United Kingdom, and the French Republic), while the other ten were elected. Each permanent member held a ⁰veto power, meaning they were allowed to block a resolution, regardless of how much support it had.

About the Committee

During the Cold War, the Security Council became a place where the United States and the Soviet Union would often use their vetoes to defend their own interests, as well as their allies'. This resulted in unsolved international crises mainly because an agreement between permanent members has not been possible.

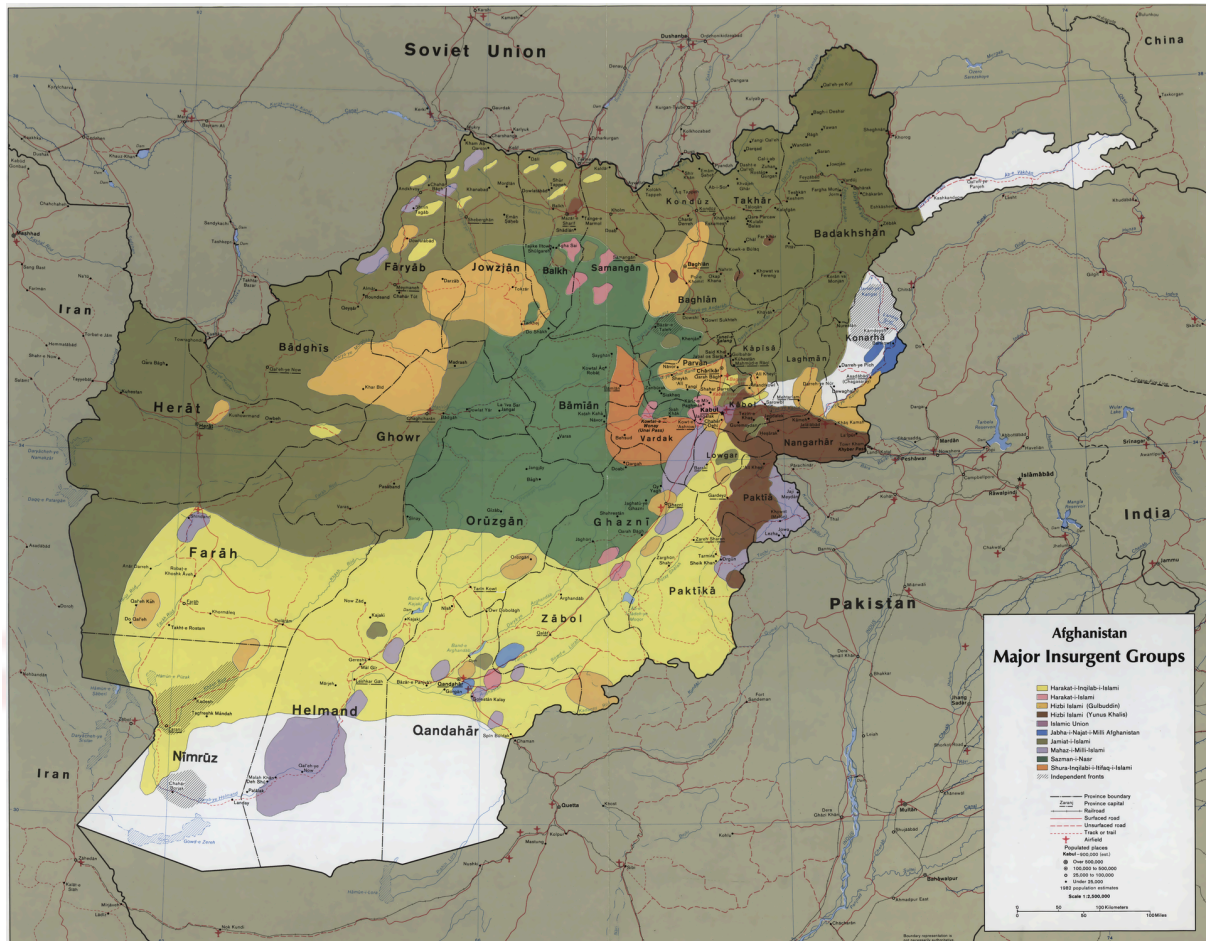
After the Soviet invasion during 1979, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan became a proxy war and had Soviet forces backing their communist government while the United States, Pakistan and their allies supported the Mujahideen resistance. Millions of people have been misplaced and killed, and the lack of stability has spread across Central Asia. Even after many debates, the Security Council has failed to take a decision because the USSR vetoed the resolutions demanding a Soviet withdrawal, while other nations blocked resolutions that supported the Afghan government.

Objective

The Security Council has, under the Charter of the United Nations, the primary duty for the maintenance of international peace and security. With this in mind, the committee is not only addressing the future of Afghanistan, but also confronting the limits of the United Nations. The Security Council will decide if it will stay stuck in Cold War conflicts or if diplomacy can help move things forward. The decisions made

during the sessions could change how the power is balanced, the future of Afghanistan and how the United Nations is seen around the world.

Only topic: The Afghan Proxy War (1985) and the effects that the deadlock state of the Security Council had on the Cold War and in Central Asia.



The areas where the different Mujahideen Forbes operated in 1985.

Information in regard to the topic:

By 1985, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan had become the most important space during the Cold War. Even though it had begun as a domestic conflict, it ended up turning into a global ¹proxy war, when the Soviet Union sent their military troops into Afghanistan in 1979 in order to support the communist government that was losing control of their country. This intervention was noticed by the international community (especially the United States of

America and its allies), who thought that the invasion was a dangerous way to expand the influence from the Soviet Union.

The war would later become a proxy conflict, in which the Afghan government was backed by the Soviet Union, providing weapons, advisers and troops, while the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and others supported the Afghan resistance (known as ²Mujahideen). The resistance was provided with many supplies such as money, training, advanced weapons, etc. which allowed them to combat and resist the Soviet army even though they were less organized and did not have much technological advantage. This made Afghanistan become a place where powerful countries fought indirectly, meaning that they avoided a direct war but still competed for influence and power.



Afghan mujahideen : fighters armed with weapons supplied by the US.

By the mid-1980s, the war had reached a neutral point, where the Soviet Union had control over the main cities and roads, but could not defeat the ²Mujahideen who controlled large portions of the country and continued receiving support from foreign countries. This conflict caused a massive destruction inside the country, causing millions of civilians to get injured, killed, or even forced to flee the country mostly into Iran or Pakistan. Not only that, but there was a huge political and economical pressure on the Soviet Union as it was already facing problems inside its country.

Meanwhile, the conflict created instability across Central Asia and the broader Middle East, as some states nearby were affected by the refugee flows, cross border fights and the

weapons' and fighters' spread. That is how a national crisis turned into an international security threat.

As previously mentioned, the Security Council's actions rely strongly on the agreement of the five permanent members. Each of these members has a ⁰veto power, meaning that they can block any resolution.

From the beginning of the Afghan war, this ⁰veto system created a deadlock. On one hand, the Soviet Union vetoed resolutions that condemned its invasion or demanded a withdrawal from their troops. On the other hand, the United States and other countries were opposed to any resolutions that might give the Soviet Union control over Afghanistan.

This caused the issue to be often moved to the United Nations General Assembly, which authorized resolutions calling for the withdrawal of foreign troops and respect for Afghanistan's ³sovereignty.

The year 1985 marks a turning point, in which Mikhail Gorbachev, became the new leader of the Soviet Union and began to view the cost of the Afghan war. At the same time, the United States increased its support to the ²Mujahideen which included the delivery of more advanced weapons, causing the war to become more dangerous and difficult to stop.

FIGURE 1.

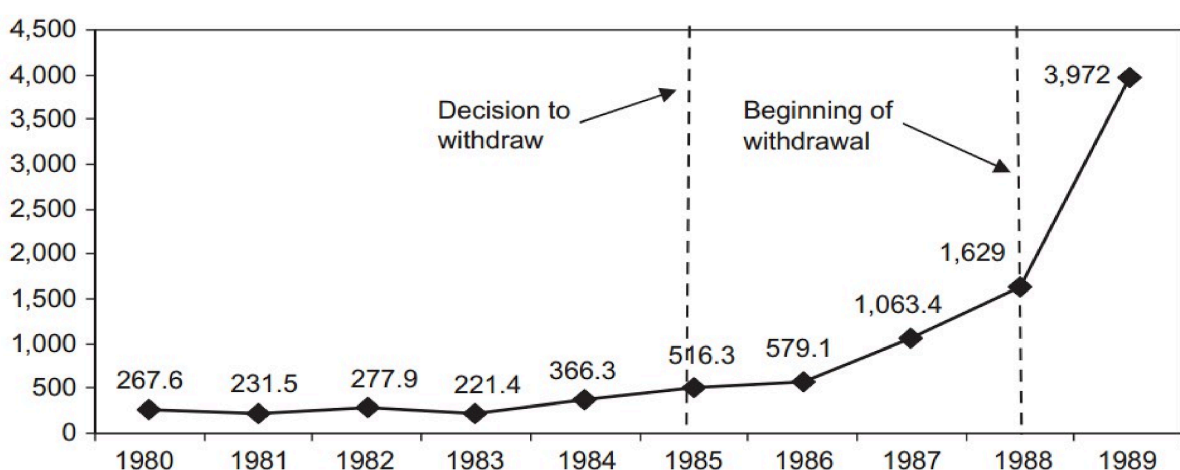


Figure 1 Soviet military spending on Afghanistan from 1980 -1989

Glossary

⁰**Veto (power):** an official power or right to refuse to accept or allow something, especially the power of a senior government official.

¹**Proxy War:** a war fought between groups or smaller countries that each represent the interests of other larger powers, and may have help and support from these.

²**Mujahideen:** Muslims who are fighting in support of Islam.

³**Sovereignty:** the power of a country to control its own government.

Power balance: a position in which both or all of the groups or people involved, usually in a political situation, have equal power.

Chronology of the events that occurred

April 1978; The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, a communist faction, takes control in Kabul by deposing President Mohammed Daoud Khan. The new administration initiates extensive changes, such as land redistribution and the promotion of nonreligious values, which provoke significant recoil from conservative and religious factions.

1979 (early); Mujahideen groups, indirectly backed by Pakistan and eventually by the United States, start to organize resistance efforts. This situation poses a threat to Soviet dominance in the area.

December 1979; The Soviet Union dispatches numerous troops to Afghanistan to support the PDPA regime, killing President Hafizullah Amin and appointing Babrak Karmal as the new leader. This event signifies the beginning of the Soviet-Afghan War. The Security Council engages in discussions about the invasion but becomes ineffective due to divisions rooted in the Cold War, with the USSR vetoing proposals that challenge its actions.

1980: The United States, along with Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and other allies, initiates the flow of weapons and financial aid to the Mujahideen. The UN General Assembly adopts resolutions denouncing the invasion, yet the Security Council remains still and unable to effect any binding measures.

1981–1983: The struggle escalates as Mujahideen forces grow in power. The CIA expands its covert activities, supplying arms via Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence. In response, the Soviet Union boosts its military presence, deploying over 100,000 troops. In spite of increasing civilian fatalities, the Security Council finds itself delayed by Soviet vetoes, revealing its failure to uphold its mandate of maintaining global peace.

1984: Intense combat wreaks catastrophe in Afghanistan. Millions of individuals seek refuge in Pakistan and Iran. Global humanitarian agencies raise concerns, but the Security Council remains inactive, stalled by Cold War tensions. The conflict exemplifies the limitations of the UN when superpower agendas clash.

1985: The United States begins to provide Stinger missiles to the Mujahideen, significantly altering the dynamics by countering Soviet air power. The war enters one of its worst periods. The Security Council continues to be standstill, unable to take action, highlighting how Cold War rivalries stifled international diplomatic efforts. This year became a representation of the Afghan Proxy War as a significant regional catastrophe and a critical episode in the broader Cold War.

Guiding questions

- Is your country a part of the international coalition?
- Is your country in favor or against the invasion?
- Is your country being directly affected by the conflict (refugees, security, economy)?
- Does your country provide military, financial, or humanitarian support to any side of the conflict?
- Is your country aligned with either of the Cold War blocs (USA or USSR) in this conflict?

- What national interests does your country have in Afghanistan or Central Asia?
- Is your country advocating for stronger humanitarian intervention through the United Nations?
- What are the risks of continuing to send weapons to the mujahideen?
- What would be the consequences of an immediate Soviet withdrawal?
- Does your country prioritize regional stability or global balance of power?

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