

CLNMUN V



Historical Security Council

HSC

Colegio los Nogales

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Historical Security Council

Topic A: Greek Civil War

Topic B: The Congo Crisis

Chair:

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1. Welcoming letter:

Esteemed delegates,

Once this committee starts, we embark on a fictional divide between ourselves and reality, and begin to dream of the ability to go back in time by reviving history. This committee is an opportunity for you and us to revisit historical events coming from the privileged position of a better future, a future where humanity has already learned from these hardships. Receive a warm welcome from your chair, Antonio Baquero and Catalina Londoño, as we welcome you to the fifth edition of CLNMUN. It will be an honor for us to accompany you these three days in the hopes that this will be a memorable experience for all of you. As presidents, we fully believe in your potential as young people filled with creativity, who are expected to uphold the greatest academic standards. Overall, our governing interest lies in helping you cultivate human skills that will help you in your future: you will not excel with us if you cannot excel in your treatment of others.

We are beyond excited and cannot wait to meet you, should there be any doubts, let us know via the communication methods listed above.

Sincerely,

Antonio Baquero and Catalina Londoño

2. Introduction to the committee

The Security Council is a committee that has existed since the inception of the United Nations itself, and it is in effect one of its six main organs. The purpose of this committee is to maintain peace and security throughout the globe, so it has the power to authorize the use of sanctions or even force as a means to maintain or restore international peace and security. It is for the Security Council to determine when and where a UN peace operation should be deployed. Article 25 of the UN charter (1945) says: “The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.”

The People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America; are permanent members at all times and have the right to veto, They were granted the special status of Permanent Member States at the Security Council, along with a special voting power known as the "right to veto". It was agreed by the drafters that if any one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved.

3. Topic A: Greek Civil War

a. Historical Context:

In the frame of World War II, Greece was attacked by the axis powers on two occasions, first, by the Italians in October of 1940, this event is known as the Greco-Italian War. Followed by the German invasion in April 1941, whose troops landed on the island of Crete once the Allied forces had been defeated in mainland Greece by the Italian army. In April of 1941 the Axis forces reached Athens. King George II of Greece escaped to Egypt where he established a government-in-exile which was recognized by the United Kingdom, but not by the Soviet Union. This exiled government was proven to be ineffective in influencing internal matters back in Greece and was seen as irrelevant to most of the citizens of Greece at the time (The Cold War, 2019). Whilst King George was kept in exile, the Germans established a government in Athens which also lacked support from the people and many considered it illegitimate. This regime is seen by historians as a puppet regime, which brought inflation, acute food shortages and famine to Greece due to improper management of economic resources.

As the German puppet government lacked reach and proper control, several civilian-led movements from different ideologies began to take control of segments of Greek land. Some of the most influential resistance groups of the time were the Defenders of Northern Greece which organized many demonstrations in many cities across the country, and the National Liberation Front (EAM) which was prominently inclined to the leftist political spectrum, and claimed it had established a “united front against fascism”, which was a direct reflection of the USSR’s policy at the time for Eastern Europe.

The resistance groups carried out their operations by establishing large espionage networks and launching attacks against the occupying powers of key Greek territories. Some of these resistance groups saw themselves as the immediate governing power that would seize authority upon the Germans' departure. Greece's geography was favorable for guerrilla-style operations, with vast mountainous terrain in the countryside. The Axis forces were hardly able to keep control of the main urban centers of Greece and their main roads, hence the countryside remained controlled almost entirely by the resistance.



Intended Territories to be Controlled by Axis Powers. Taken from:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a0/Triple_Occupation_of_Greece.png

Amongst the most powerful resistance groups was EAM and its military wing, the Greek People's Liberation Army (ELAS). It controlled most of the country's mountainous interior territories. Some other resistance groups like EDES were limited to the region of Epirus, and EKKA was limited to Central Greece. ELAS had vast military power; by 1944 it could call on nearly 25,000 men under arms and had another 80,000 working in reserves or logistical support. The Prime Minister of the puppet government, Ioannis Rallis, feared EAM's military power and anticipated they would attempt to siege the country upon a possible German defeat. Therefore, he authorized the creation of a paramilitary force denominated as the Security Battalions, made up of 20,000 men in order to counteract their potential efforts.

As the end of World War II came closer, further questions about Greece's political future arose, with many different resistance groups that had been operating semi-autonomously, now seeing themselves contemplating the possibility of a war to settle the political powers that would now reign over the Hellenes.

b. Current Situation:

During the Axis occupation of Greece, the Allies supported all resistance groups, especially the ELAS. However, as the ELAS began expanding and gaining more military and political control over Greece, the Allies determined the ELAS was spiraling outside of their sphere of control, and in 1943, with the departure of the Italians from Greece, they stopped their support for ELAS. This decision was in part influenced by the fact that ELAS was openly communist and some of the Allies had difficulties supporting such ideologies. The allies turned their support to a different resistance group, the National Republican Greek League (EDES), which was openly anti-communist. As stated by Britannica "Led by Gen. Napoleon Zervas, EDES was originally liberal and antimonarchist, but it moved steadily to the political right." (2016).

Soon enough political tensions reached a critical point between the EAM-ELAS and EDES, and shooting conflicts began. In 1944 EDES was pushed back into the region of Epirus (south of Albania). The United Kingdom forced both parties to reach a cease-fire agreement, however, in the truce period, there were mass killings of collaborators of the previous occupants of Greece (Axis collaborators). Civilian-led groups emerged in the form of Security Battalions, which fought back against the communist forces, and carried out mass executions of leftists and EAM leaders.



Region of Epirus. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epirus_%28region%29

The EAM established a rival government against the Axis collaborators and the government in exile in Egypt, called the Political Committee of National Liberation (PEEA). The PEEA had significant support from the people of Greece and its army. They demanded to become the governing force to take over once the Axis occupation was over, since they considered the government in exile was no longer legitimate. The United States and the United Kingdom differed, and “responded with suppression using their soldiers and some of the Greek army loyal to the king.” (The Cold War, 2020) This position threatened to cause a large civil war, therefore all parties met in Lebanon to discuss the future of a post-war Greece. This was known as the Lebanon Conference.

The result of the Lebanon Conference was an agreement called the National Contract and the establishment of a new government. **However, the stability of these agreements relied on the good relationship between the Soviets and the rest of the Allies, which would soon come to an end.** In 1944, near the end of World War II, the Soviets began pushing onto German-controlled territory and advanced to Romania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The German troops still left in Greece evacuated the country, anticipating the British invasion. By the time the Allies arrived in Greece, the resistance groups had liberated most of the country, and the British helped take out the last occupying forces in Athens. A week later the government in exile arrived in Athens to conform to the post-occupation government which had been agreed upon in the Lebanon Conference. The new leader, George Papandreou, decided that the future of the monarchy in Greece would be decided by a referendum. Whilst the referendum was

held, the King stayed in Egypt. However this new government only held control of Athens: the rest of Greek territory had been taken by ELAS after sweeping the German forces away.

Tensions were high between the communists and Papandreau's government, however, the war did not break out because Moscow instructed not to cause difficulties with the alliance that had been created to fight against Germany. However, some of the leaders of the communist party disagreed with this order, as they did not want to continue to relate themselves with the greater world powers, and it resonated much further with the ideologies of the communist Yugoslavian leader, Josip Tito. After all, Tito organized a communist takeover of Yugoslavia without much help from the Soviets, as he believed in achieving communist independence by means different to those encouraged by Moscow.

The government in Athens devised a plan to disarm the ELAS forces. Both the Athens military forces and the ELAS forces were to be disarmed at the same time, however, the plan did not come through, as there were some differences in the execution of the disarmament process. This sparked the beginning of setting up right-wing militias by those in Athens who opposed the EAM. The EAM responded to this threat by announcing a general strike and a reorganization of the ELAS forces. 20,000 protesters marched on Athens and had violent interactions with British forces and the Athens police. Over two-dozens leftists were killed and over a hundred were injured. This caused a period of time called the Dekemvriana which was a month of violent encounters between civilians who sympathized with the EAM and the police in the streets of Athens.

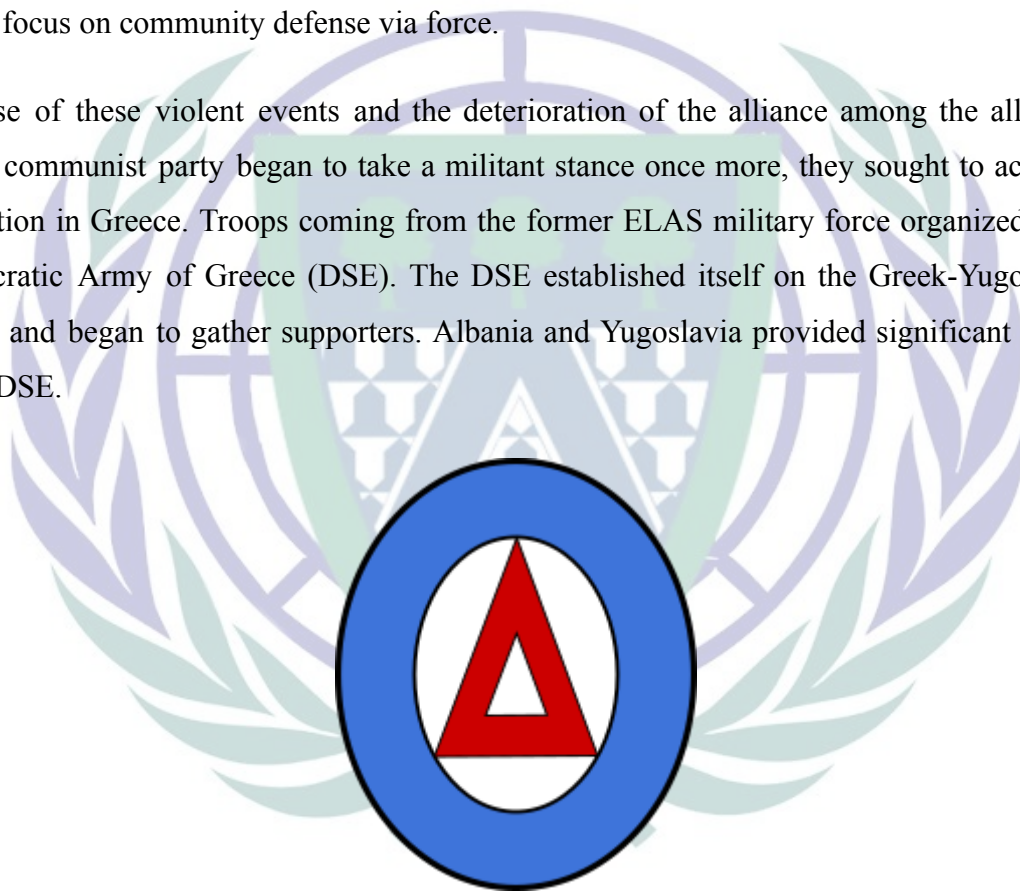


Churchill Visits Athens in December 1944.

<https://winstonchurchill.org/publications/finest-hour/finest-hour-180/churchill-visits-athens-greek-government/>

At the beginning the EAM had a significant advantage over the government in Athens, however, with the help of the British, situations changed, and the EAM was forced to surrender. The EAM negotiated the conditions for their surrender: they would disarm and withdraw all ELAS forces from the countryside but were to be given amnesty and the communist party was to remain a legal party within the country. Even though the EAM had demobilized itself, right-wing extremists tortured and murdered thousands of communists in the years to come, which resulted in the creation of small groups from the former ELAS that would focus on community defense via force.

Because of these violent events and the deterioration of the alliance among the allies, the Greek communist party began to take a militant stance once more, they sought to achieve a revolution in Greece. Troops coming from the former ELAS military force organized a New Democratic Army of Greece (DSE). The DSE established itself on the Greek-Yugoslavian border and began to gather supporters. Albania and Yugoslavia provided significant support to the DSE.



Badge of the Democratic Army of Greece. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Army_of_Greece

The United Kingdom was not at the best of its ability to help bring back a monarchist government, for the war had cost them greatly. For the United States this situation was very concerning, because the geographical position of Greece made it a useful entry to the Mediterranean. Additionally, they considered it would be dangerous to have Greece fall into the hands of socialism, due to its proximity to the Middle East. Harry S. Truman, president of the United States, decided to give 400 million dollars in military and economic support to

Greece and Turkey to help prevent the overtaking of socialism. Truman had been motivated by the Domino Theory which proposed that if one country fell into socialism, other neighboring countries would see themselves at a higher risk of becoming socialist as well.

With the necessary economic resources, the government had enough resources to take out what was left of the socialist forces in Greece. They began carrying out operations from town to town to arrest, deport and kill all DSE sympathizers and troops. The conflict would escalate up until a war broke out in 1947 when the Communist Party announced the creation of a government and the beginning of a communist revolution.

c. QARMAS:

- Did my country have any involvement in World War II?
- What was my country's political affiliation at the time?
- What was my country's relationship with Greece and its people?
- Did my country react to the Greek Civil war by any diplomatic, economic or political means?
- Has my country ever faced civil war before, if so, how has it overcome it?
- What recent involvements did my country have with the United Nations?

d. Useful Links:

- Greek Civil War 1946-1949 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MExBH25xf5o>

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- Nachmani, A. (2016) Origins. The Greek Civil War 1946-1949. Retrieved from: https://origins.osu.edu/milestones/march-2016-greek-civil-war-1946-1949?language_content_entity=en
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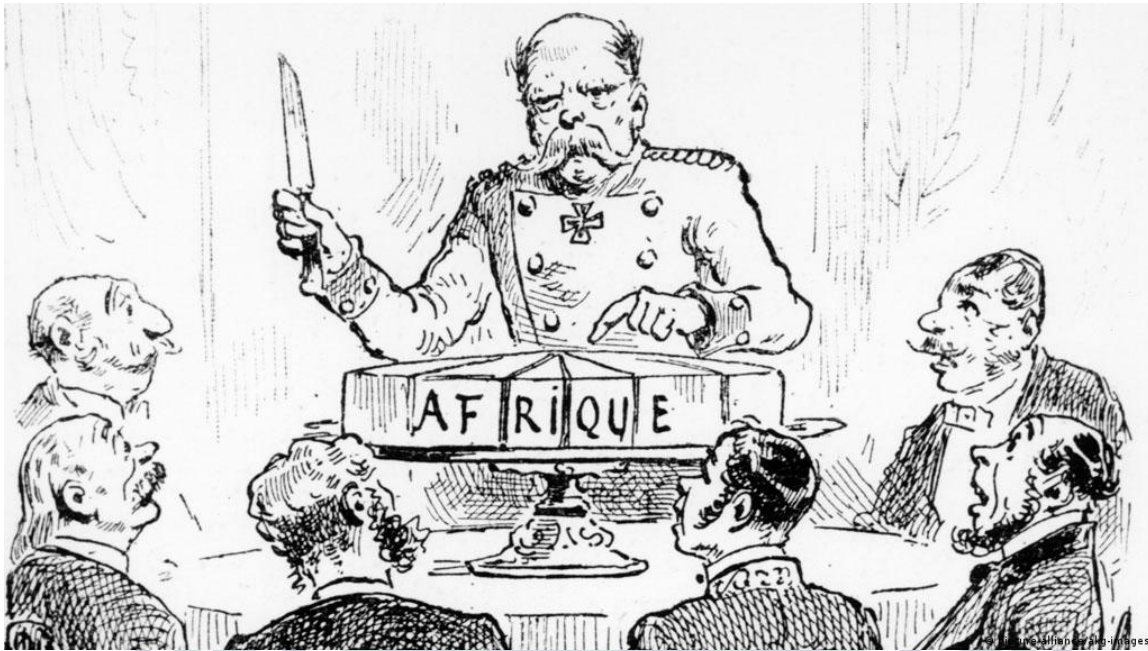
4. Topic B: The Congo Crisis

a. Historical context:

In Britain, during the 19th century, a process that would change the world began, it was called the industrial revolution, and essentially it was the change to an economy dominated by industry and manufacturing from a previous one based on agriculture and handicraft. The industrial revolution boosted the creation of new machines and technologies, and it was the source of many, if not all of today's inventions. It made significant advancements in transportation and communication. These include the steam locomotive, steamship, automobile, airplane, telegraph, and radio. All of this contributed to building an economic system based around mass production. However, mass production required a gigantic amount of natural resources, which after some time depleted Europe's natural resources greatly. This in turn made Africa, due to the extensive list of raw materials that could be found there, like ivory, rubber, palm oil, cocoa, etc a market for Europe.

The Berlin Conference (1884–1885) also known as the Congo Conference or the West African conference was a series of negotiations in which Europe's largest powers divided the territories of Africa. During this conference, diplomatic discussions regarding ending slave trade were held. However, the primary goal of the present diplomats there was to discuss the division of the African territory among themselves, in this process ignoring all African autonomy and self-governance.

It also regulated European colonization and trade in Africa during the new period of imperialism, which is defined as a policy of extending a country's power and influence through colonization, use of military force, or other means, which was around the same time as Germany's sudden emergence as an imperial power.



Deutsche Welle. "130 Years Ago: Carving up Africa in Berlin – DW – 02/25/2015." *Dw.com*, Deutsche Welle, 25 Feb. 2015, <https://www.dw.com/en/130-years-ago-carving-up-africa-in-berlin/a-18278894>.

The countries that participated in this event were the following:

Austria-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Sweden-Norway (unified from 1814-1905), Turkey, and the United States of America.

b. Current Situation:

The Congo Crisis was a period of disorder during the development of the first republic of the democratic Congo.

During the Berlin Conference, King Leopold the II of Belgium was given the lands of the Congo (in 1886), and for 22 years he forced the residents of this land to suffer living in deplorable conditions, making them work until death. It is estimated that up to 8 million of the estimated 16 million native inhabitants of the Congo died between 1885 and 1908. However, in 1908 due to international pressure, these lands were annexed to all of Belgium, not just its king, because of which it became an official colony. The famed Roger Casement

also played a fundamental role in this, He did this through the *Casement report* which was a report detailing the abuses and the brutality that the indigenous population of the Congo had been forced to withstand. Among these abuses, some of the most common were cutting off workers' hands when they did not meet rubber collection quotas. With this change, living conditions in the Congo got better, and there was an investment in infrastructure, hospitals, and schools, however, discrimination remained present.



Webster, Georgina Rannard & Eve. “Leopold II: Belgium 'Wakes up' to Its Bloody Colonial Past.” *BBC News*, BBC, 12 June 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53017188>.

In 1945, article 73 the charter of the United Nations caused international pressure on Belgium to give up its lands. In this article, it is stated that;

“Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount, and accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost, within the system of

international peace and security established by the present Charter; the well-being of the inhabitants of these territories”

This, in turn, caused nationalist movements to rise to light around 1950, within these the MNC (Mouvement national Congolais), whose leader was Patrice Lumumba. This movement's goal was to give rise to an independent Congo. Eventually, Belgium gave in and in 1955 it took the initiative to decolonize the Congo. It was predicted that the Congo would become independent around the 1980s to 2000s, however, the fact that French colonies were quickly gaining their independence forced this process to speed up.

In 1959 elections were held in the Congo, and that same year, on the 13th of January 1959, the Belgae king addressed the nation declaring that Belgium would work towards Congolese independence and a date was set for declaring independence (the 30th day of June 1960). In 1960, Joseph Kasarubu was named president and Patrice Lumumba Prime minister, yet on the 29th of June, a plot to make Katanga independent by part of Moise Tshombe was discovered. Even so, on the 30th of June independence was declared, just as it had been previously planned.

The Congo was finally liberated and it was named The Democratic Republic of the Congo, but the problem was that even if it was considered to be politically independent it did not have many national officers (No national elites had been formed yet because of the little time since the independence from Belgium had been made official) because of which many foreign officers remained in the Congo, waiting for national elites to form. On July 5th, 1960, the army or “the force publique” close to Leopoldville rebelled against white foreign officers and attacked them.

The effect of these actions proved to be incredibly damaging to the recently independent nation since it created the idea that the new government was not capable of controlling its own army, and with over 100,000 Europeans living in the Congo, panic settled in. The consequence of this is that Belgium immediately took military action, stating the need to protect its citizens and entered the Congo, violating the country's sovereignty.

This committee will have as a starting date the 30th of June of 1960, the official date of independence of the Congo. This means that from this date, Belgium no longer holds political

power over the lands of the Congo. Which as of this date have Joseph Kasarubu as their president and Patrice Lumumba as their prime minister.

c. QARMAS:

1. What are your country's views on imperialism and colonization?
2. As of 1960 does your country hold any territory as its colony?
3. What actions can your country take towards this crisis?
4. How is your country involved in this crisis?
5. Was your country involved in the Berlin Conference?
6. Has your country taken any concrete actions to help the Congo or Belgium during these times?

d. Useful links:

Article 73 of the charter of the United Nations:

<https://legal.un.org/repertory/art73.shtml>

Decolonization of the Congo:

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1961-1968/congo-decolonization#:~:text=The%20first%20such%20confrontation%20occurred,independence%20on%20June%2030%2C%201960.&text=In%20the%20months%20leading%20up,in%20the%20Congo's%20numerous%20province>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ACldN-miF0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCx2Lze1_bE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_sGTspaF4Y

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FIMKqRCNX9c>

e. Bibliography:

“Berlin West Africa Conference.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Berlin-West-Africa-Conference>

“The Congo Crisis.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Democratic-Republic-of-the-Congo/The-Congo-crisis#ref845774>

“Greek Civil War 1946-1949 - Cold War Documentary.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 21 Dec. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MExBH25xf5o>

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“Oxford Languages and Google - English.” *Oxford Languages*, <https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>

