

# **Historical Security Council (1990-1994)**

## **President's Letter**

### **Introduction**

Welcome delegates. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the St. Bonaventure University High School Model UN Conference. I am excited to be welcoming you to the Historical Security Council set between the years 1990 and 1994. As chair, I place a great emphasis on knowledge and use of the rules. I encourage you all to speak up and use this opportunity to enhance your public speaking and debating skills. Do not be hesitant at all. This is a learning environment. Coming out strong is the best way to make a good impression. Being in the Historical Security Council, it is extremely important to understand your countries' positions and alignment' at each specific date which is listed with each topic. I advise you to read as much as you could on the topics. The internet is a treasure trove of information. Use it! I am looking forward to seeing you all in this exciting conference!

**Permanent Members:** United States, United Kingdom, China, France, USSR/Russia

**Non-permanent Members:** Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Djibouti, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, and Spain

## **Topics**

### **First Gulf War: (August 1990 – February 1991)**

The Middle East is a hotbed of various conflicts. This crisis started when Iraq accused Kuwait of stealing Iraqi Petroleum through a method of slant drilling. As a response, on August 2, 1990 Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered the Iraqi army to invade the sovereign nation of Kuwait. Iraq later annexed Kuwait and claimed that it has become Iraqi territory now. The international community, led by the United States, utterly rejected such invasion and the subsequent annexation and vowed to liberate Kuwait. The war had some serious repercussions in the region. The United States led a large armed coalition to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Later Iraq was placed under severe sanctions regime that crippled its capacity to provide essential services to its citizens.

### **Questions to consider**

1. Why did Iraq invade Kuwait?
2. How was Saudi Arabia affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait?

3. What was the position of the veto powers in the security council?
4. What actions could the security council take against Iraq? Is it within the security council's purview to intervene?
5. Does your country support military intervention to help liberate Kuwait?
6. Does your nation have vested interests in Kuwait? What are those interests and how they affect your country's decision making?

#### Resources

1. [Superpowers unite over Iraqi invasion of Kuwait - archive, 1990](#)
2. [This Day in History](#)
3. [The Invasion of Kuwait](#)
4. [Gulf War, \(1990–91\)](#)
5. [Why Did Iraq Invade Kuwait in 1990?](#)
6. [Timeline: Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, 25 years on](#)
7. [The Gulf War, 1991](#)
8. [Iraq Invades Kuwait](#)

#### **Bosnian Genocide, May, 1992**

In April of 1992, as part of the breakup of the Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence, following other republics such as Croatia and Slovenia. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a multi-ethnic state where Muslims (44%), Orthodox Serbs (32) and Catholic Croats lived side by side during the lifetime of former Yugoslavia. Right after Bosnia/Herzegovina declared its independence, conflict followed. The main parties were the forces of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and those of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat entities within Bosnia and Herzegovina, which were led and supplied by Serbia and Croatia, respectively.

Following Bosnia and Herzegovina's declaration of independence (which gained international recognition), the Bosnian Serbs, led by Radovan Karadžić and supported by the Serbian government of Slobodan Milošević and the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), mobilized their forces inside Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to secure ethnic Serb territory. Then war soon spread across the country. The Bosnian War was characterized by bitter fighting, indiscriminate shelling of cities and towns, ethnic cleansing and systematic mass rape, mainly perpetrated by Serb and to a lesser extent, Croat and Bosniak forces. Events such as the **Siege of Sarajevo** (the capital) and the **Srebrenica massacre** later became iconic of the conflict.

#### **Questions to consider:**

What are the causes of the conflict?

Was your country directly or indirectly affected by the conflict?

Did the international community (the EU and the UN for example) play a role in containing the conflict? Were they effective?

Why were so many atrocities, ethnic cleansing and massacres committed in the conflict, right in Europe!

How was the conflict resolved?

**Resources:**

[Bosnian Genocide](#)

[Bosnian conflict: EUROPEAN HISTORY \[1992–1995\]](#)

[Bosnian Genocide: Facts](#)

[Yugoslav Wars](#)

[International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia](#)

[The History and Analysis of the Conflict in the former Yugoslavia: 1991-1995](#)

**Rwandan Genocide, April 20, 1994**

The Rwandan genocide began over fundamental differences between the Hutu and the Tutsi people of Rwanda. The Tutsi and Hutu distinction originated as a simple class structure, where change of class was easy. However, during colonization (1894), European settlers took the terms, Hutu and Tutsi, to define racial groups, and finding the Tutsi's to hold more 'European' characteristics, they placed the Tutsis at the helm of political power. Animosity between the two groups increased drastically, as different European groups continued to switch the leadership from Tutsi (10% of the population), to the Hutu (90%) of the population. By this time, the initial class distinctions that Hutu and Tutsi conveyed have become 'racial' indicating irreconcilable differences. The conflict now is about 'race,' not about economic or social status.

A civil war, starting in 1990, erupted due to the increasing tensions between the Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority. The Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), made up of mostly Tutsis, placed blame on the government for failing to address Tutsi refugees in Uganda. This civil war exacerbated the conflicts, and placed an even deeper wedge between the Tutsi and the Hutu.

On April 6, 1994, at 8:30 pm, the Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana's plane was shot down while returning from a summit in Tanzania. President Juvenal Habyarimana was a Hutu who ran a totalitarian regime, excluding Tutsis from participation. Following the death of the Rwandan president, Hutu extremists soon took over the government, blaming the Tutsis for the assassination and immediately began the systematic slaughter of the Tutsis, known as the Rwandan genocide. The number of people killed is upward of half a million civilian!

The murder began in the capital city of Kigali, and started with checking of identification cards (since racial identifications are written on those cards)...and then slaughtering any Tutsis. The heinous crimes, committed with machetes, clubs, and knives, swept across the country. Prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, along with 10 Belgian UN peacekeeping soldiers, were part of those killed. Anarchy and mass-killing spread, and average Hutu were encouraged to kill their Tutsi neighbors. The world stood by and watched as the crisis began to dramatically escalate, and no one was safe within the walls of Rwanda, as hospitals, schools, and churches were common targets for the Hutu murderers.

**Questions to Consider:**

1. What is your country's history in Rwanda/ in colonization?
2. Was your country involved in this conflict, directly or indirectly?
3. Did your country consider this area (Rwanda) strategic or vital for its interests?
4. Why did the international community fail to intervene?
5. What was the role of the United Nations? What explains this failure?
6. How was the conflict resolved?
7. What actions need to be taken to prevent such atrocities from happening again?

**Resources:**

1. [The Rwandan Genocide](#)
2. [The Rwandan Genocide: A Short History of the Brutal Slaughter of the Tutsis by the Hutus](#)
3. [Rwanda genocide of 1994](#)
4. [The Rwandan Genocide: 21 Years On](#)