



MUN DES LYCEENS

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FREEZE IN TIME COMMITTEE
Guidelines

Freeze In Time Committee Guidelines

TOPIC 1:

THE CREATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the sixth Secretary General of the UN, explains that "*The UN is a magnifying mirror of international opinion. The hopes and anxieties of states and peoples are reflected to the point of excess*". The United Nations is a unique international organization in world geopolitics. Its purpose is to promote cooperation among states to resolve conflicts peacefully and thus improve the quality of life of peoples.

This desire for peace was born after the horror of the Second World War from 1939 to 1945. Several precursory events were the foundations for the creation of the United Nations. With the organization of the **International Peace Conference** in The Hague in 1899, peace and security began to become a priority for States.

After the Great War (1914-1918), a proto project emerged to guarantee peace, **the League of Nations** (1919-1946). It was the second international organization for peace (after the International Peace Bureau). It was dissolved in 1946. It is interesting to analyze this organization to understand why the stakes of the creation of the UN are important.

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The League of Nations, the forerunner of the UN

The creation of the League of Nations was initiated by President Wilson and the United States with the cooperation of its allies. It had three stated goals: to ensure respect for international law, to resolve conflicts through arbitration and to put an end to secret diplomacy. It had 42 founding members, a huge number in the context that many countries today had not yet asserted their independence or established international diplomacy.

The League of Nations had several significant successes as well as various missions. Regarding its successes, the League was the pivot in several crises such as the Albanian border, the Greek-Bulgarian dispute or the assistance given to exploited plantation workers in Liberia. Concerning its missions, the League of Nations put several territories under a mandate system, mainly former German colonies. Thus, several countries were accompanied by member countries of the League of Nations to engage in a path of development.

The League of Nations has known several controversies that explain the current functioning of the UN. Firstly, the League of Nations had the power to place less developed countries under trusteeship, which was very close to a very anti-diplomatic colonial system. Second, several minor wars broke out without the SDC being able to provide a peaceful solution (such as the invasion of the Ruhr in 1923). Unlike the UN, it had no armed power, which prevented it from becoming a stabilizing force for the states. Afterwards, several founding members withdrew from the organization. The first was the United States, which, despite its presence at the founding of the organization, never joined because of opposition from the Senate. Other countries such as Japan withdrew after several crises.

The League of Nations was an ambitious project in a world full of tensions and desire for peace. The Second Great War put an end to this organization, however, its situation was already precarious. It suffered from major defects which, despite some successes, did not allow its long-term survival. The question now is whether these defects have been passed on to its heir, the United Nations.

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The United Nations, an imperfect institution

First, let's tackle a very controversial subject: peacekeepers.

This armed corps, called *the United Nations Peacekeeping Force*, was created in 1948. The controversy stems from the fact that we are talking about an armed body, with a budget of more than **600 million euros in 2017**¹, which is not controlled by a state.

At the same time, however, they are not entirely controlled by the UN, since they are military personnel on loan from member countries.

The peacekeepers are therefore a paradox, they are not controlled by a state, but at the same time they are. They cannot therefore present themselves as an independent and stabilizing force for the states.

The question of the distribution of powers also raises questions. Indeed, only the founding members (USA, USSR, China, France, and the United Kingdom) have a permanent place in the Security Council, the most important organ of the UN, as well as a right of veto on the decisions taken in this committee. Some founding members have also been accused of espionage during the setting up of international conferences.

To continue the Security Council, its area of competence has been extended, preventing many countries from having a real impact on UN policy, as the Security Council is quite small in number of member countries. To continue, the question of the implementation of sanctions by the UN must be asked. Only the Security Council can take sanctions against states to settle conflicts.

Finally, the question of the place of the UN in world geopolitics arises. One event has really called into question the legitimacy of the UN: the invasion of Iraq by the United States when the Security Council had spoken out against it. To add to the criticism, the will for reform of some members was quickly stifled. Thus, some criticize the "immobility" of the UN because of the existence of camps with very different interests and equivalent powers.

1. "Agreement at the UN for a decrease in the budget of the Blue Helmets", LExpress.fr, June 29, 2017

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Challenges requiring international cooperation?

When the United Nations was created, the Second World War left deep marks on the global landscape, so much so that several crises had to be managed in the early years.

One of the first issues was the problem of the atom, which was used to end the American/Japanese front of the war. The question of a military use of this technology, which is only owned by the USA, arises. It is a subject that was discussed just after the creation of the UN, so you must ask yourself whether rules will have to be addressed at the same time as the creation of the UN.

Then, the question of the Israeli-Palestinian crisis will have to be considered since it will set the limits of the power of the organization that diplomats will want to put in place. The questions of setting up an independent army, of sanctions or the establishment of veto rights will be essential to manage this future conflict.

The United Nations is certainly an imperfect organization today, but it is essential to global geopolitics. As a pivotal institution, it helps to steer the world towards common goals every day to promote peace. However, one should not sin by excess of naivety, the UN sometimes becomes the medium of political communication or a place where wait-and-see becomes an art. Crises such as Rwanda or the inability to coordinate aid for Haiti have demonstrated over the years that the UN can be quickly overwhelmed by the behavior of states or even by the bureaucracy it has established.

In this committee, you, as diplomats, can envision a new future. It is not necessary to lock yourselves into a historical rigorism, but a certain realism in your positions is asked of you.

It is now in your hands that the future of world geopolitics will be played out.



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