

8th Annual Conference  
13th-15th February

# HSC

## BACKGROUND GUIDE



Wesgreen International School  
Model United Nations

# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Welcome Note	3
Topic 1	4
Topic 2	10



# Welcome Note

Dear Respected Delegates,

We are extremely honored and privileged to greet you at the 7th annual MUN conference at Wesgreen International School focusing on the model United Nations and specifically HSC. We are ecstatic to be attending this conference as your chairs.

MUN is an event in which students will take the role of a representative and this enables them to enhance their skills in research, discussions, and collaborations are essential. It also provides assistance. Students develop their self-assurance through participating in public speaking activities. We want to make sure that each and every one of you has an amazing and unforgettable time. In addition, we hope that the upcoming sessions that will start during the MUN conference will boost your self-esteem, improve your teamwork and debate abilities, and motivate you to actively engage and speak out on these problems.

Welcome to the Historic Security Council, a committee focused on critically examining past global conflicts. By exploring historical issues in isolation, we aim to uncover alternative strategies that might have shaped history differently.

Modeled after the UN Security Council, established in 1945 to address the League of Nations' shortcomings, this forum fosters innovative thinking to reevaluate past conflicts and seek better solutions for peace.

The purpose of this background guide is to provide you with a summary of the topics that will be addressed. Additionally, a variety of unique yet connected challenges will be explored in the themes. To improve your comprehension of HSC, it's critical to identify all previous efforts and purposes. Whether you are a fresh member or an experienced delegate, you are not restricted to using just one research source. We encourage you to think creatively and give it your all. We are excited to meet each one of you and have interesting, valuable conversations. Please do not hesitate to use the email address listed below to contact us with any questions.

We are looking forward to seeing you all very soon!

Your chairs sincerely,  
Yousef Saeed, Hajar Bakir and Sana Ataalla.

## Topic 1:

### Discussing the international response to the emergence of nazi Germany and Hitlers regime

#### Introduction:

The emergence of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler's regime from 1919 to 1945 marked a critical period in global history. Characterized by aggressive nationalism, territorial expansion, and the perpetration of mass atrocities, the Nazi era forced the international community to confront one of its gravest challenges. Adolf Hitler's rise to power was facilitated by a combination of economic despair, political instability, and societal resentment in post-World War I Germany, all of which were exacerbated by the harsh terms of the Treaty of Versailles (1919). These conditions created fertile ground for extremist ideologies, with the Nazi Party exploiting nationalist sentiment and promising a return to German greatness.

The international response to Nazi Germany was multifaceted but often inconsistent, reflecting the complexities of balancing diplomacy, appeasement, and the need for collective security. From the League of Nations' inability to enforce its mandates to the adoption of appeasement policies by Western democracies, early efforts to manage Hitler's ambitions often fell short. It was not until the outbreak of World War II in 1939 that the global community transitioned from tentative diplomacy to direct confrontation.

This background explores the key facets of the international response to Nazi Germany, including the actions of major powers, the role of international organizations, and the broader implications for global governance and human rights. It examines the successes and failures of these efforts and their lasting impact on the global order.

### Analysis:

The international community's initial response to Nazi Germany was shaped by a desire to maintain peace in the wake of World War I. The devastation of the Great War left nations reluctant to engage in another large-scale conflict, which influenced their decisions to pursue diplomacy and appeasement rather than confrontation. This approach, however, had significant consequences, as it allowed Hitler to consolidate power and expand Germany's influence without facing immediate repercussions.

One of the most prominent examples of appeasement was the Munich Agreement of 1938, in which Britain and France allowed Germany to annex the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia. This decision, made under the guise of preserving peace, emboldened Hitler and demonstrated the reluctance of Western powers to intervene decisively. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain famously declared that the agreement secured "peace for our time," but the subsequent German invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1939 revealed the futility of appeasement.

The League of Nations, established after World War I to promote international peace and security, was another key player in the early response to Nazi Germany.

However, the League faced significant limitations, including the absence of the United States as a member and its reliance on consensus among member states.

Despite condemning Germany's withdrawal from the League in 1933 and its violations of the Treaty of Versailles, the organization lacked the authority and resources to enforce its decisions. This ineffectiveness further highlighted the weaknesses of international governance during the interwar period.

The invasion of Poland in September 1939 marked a turning point, as it demonstrated the limits of diplomacy and the inevitability of conflict. Britain and France, bound by treaties to defend Poland, declared war on Germany, officially beginning World War II. This shift from appeasement to military action underscored the failure of earlier strategies and the necessity of a more assertive approach.

The Holocaust, one of the darkest chapters of this period, further complicated the international response. The systemic extermination of six million Jews and millions of other marginalized groups revealed the extent of Nazi atrocities. While reports of these crimes reached the Allied powers early on, their responses were often delayed or insufficient. The lack of timely intervention to halt the genocide remains a subject of moral and historical debate, highlighting the challenges of addressing human rights violations during wartime.

## History:

The roots of the international response to Nazi Germany lie in the aftermath of World War I and the Treaty of Versailles. Signed in 1919, the treaty imposed harsh reparations, territorial losses, and military restrictions on Germany, leading to widespread economic and social unrest. The resulting environment of resentment and instability provided a fertile ground for the rise of extremist movements, including the Nazi Party. Adolf Hitler capitalized on this discontent, using propaganda and promises of national rejuvenation to gain popular support.

In the 1930s, Germany's actions increasingly tested the resolve of the international community. The remilitarization of the Rhineland in 1936 was a direct violation of the Treaty of Versailles, but it was met with little resistance from France or Britain. Similarly, the Anschluss (annexation of Austria) in 1938 was largely unopposed, further emboldening Hitler. These events highlighted the inability or unwillingness of major powers to confront Germany's growing aggression.

The League of Nations, intended to serve as a forum for resolving international disputes, struggled to address these violations. Its reliance on moral persuasion rather than enforcement mechanisms rendered it ineffective in the face of Germany's defiance. The withdrawal of major powers, including Germany, Japan, and eventually Italy, further weakened the League's authority.

World War II (1939–1945) marked a dramatic escalation in the international response. The formation of the Allied Powers, including Britain, the Soviet Union, and later the United States, represented a united front against Nazi Germany. Key military campaigns, such as the Battle of Stalingrad (1942–1943) and the Normandy invasion (D-Day) in 1944, played crucial roles in turning the tide of the war. The eventual defeat of Germany in May 1945 marked the culmination of years of military and strategic efforts by the Allies.

The atrocities of the Holocaust and other war crimes committed by the Nazi regime prompted significant post-war responses. The Nuremberg Trials (1945–1946) were a landmark in international law, establishing precedents for prosecuting crimes against humanity and genocide. These trials underscored the importance of accountability and set the stage for the development of modern human rights frameworks.

### **Impact and Legacy:**

The international response to Nazi Germany had profound implications for global governance, human rights, and the prevention of future conflicts. The failures of appeasement and the League of Nations highlighted the need for stronger international institutions. This realization led to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, which aimed to promote peace, security, and cooperation among nations.

The Holocaust also had a lasting impact on international human rights discourse. The revelations of Nazi atrocities galvanized efforts to codify protections for individuals, resulting in the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the Genocide Convention (1948). These developments underscored the international community's commitment to preventing similar atrocities in the future.

The lessons of this period continue to shape contemporary responses to authoritarian regimes and human rights crises. The need for early intervention, collective action, and adherence to international norms remains a guiding principle in addressing global challenges.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. How did the policy of appeasement contribute to the rise of Nazi Germany, and what alternative strategies could have been pursued?
2. To what extent did the League of Nations fail in its mandate to maintain peace, and what were the key factors behind its ineffectiveness?
3. How did the Holocaust influence the development of international human rights laws and frameworks?
4. What role did economic conditions, such as the Great Depression, play in enabling the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party?
5. How can the lessons of the international response to Nazi Germany inform modern approaches to addressing authoritarianism and human rights abuses?

This comprehensive analysis highlights the complexities of the international response to Nazi Germany, emphasizing the importance of collective action and the enduring impact of this period on global governance and human rights.

## Bibliography:

<https://www.ushmm.org/>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/the-nazi-rise-to-power>

<https://www.theholocaustexplained.org/how-and-why/why/rise-of-the-nazis-and-adolf-hitler/>

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/chamberlain-and-hitler/>

<https://holocaustcentrenorth.org.uk/blog/human-rights-the-legacy-of-the-holocaust/>





## TOPIC 2:

### Addressing the Role of the International Community in Addressing the Challenges of Decolonization (1945–1980)

(Note from the chairs: this topic was chosen to be extremely vague and general, delegates are encouraged to bring up any relevant occurrences of decolonization and it is not limited to the history of your country only.)

Decolonization, a defining global process from 1945 to 1980, marked the dismantling of colonial empires and the emergence of over 100 new sovereign states. The aftermath of World War II created a political environment that supported self-determination, with the United Nations (UN) at the forefront of advocating for independence. However, the transition from colonial rule was far from smooth, often characterized by political instability, economic dependency, and social unrest. The international community, especially the UN and its member states, played a critical role in addressing these challenges through diplomatic, financial, and peacekeeping initiatives. The focus of this analysis is on how international efforts shaped the decolonization process and its impact on the modern global landscape.

#### Analysis

The challenges of decolonization were diverse and complex, shaped by regional contexts and the geopolitical tensions of the Cold War era.

- **Economic Dependency and Development**

Many newly independent nations inherited economies designed to benefit colonial powers, lacking infrastructure and diverse industries. This economic dependency often translated into poverty and reliance on foreign aid. International institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank provided funding, but their conditions sometimes perpetuated unequal relationships. Efforts like the establishment of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in 1964 sought to redress these imbalances by advocating for fair trade policies and economic restructuring.

- **Political Transition and Governance**

The shift from colonial governance to independence brought political instability in many regions. Newly formed governments faced challenges in creating inclusive systems that represented diverse ethnic and social groups. International actors supported nation-building efforts by facilitating constitution drafting, election monitoring, and governance training. The United Nations Electoral Assistance Division, for example, played a significant role in ensuring fair elections in Namibia and Zimbabwe.

- **Cold War Influence**

The decolonization process coincided with the Cold War, where the United States and the Soviet Union sought to expand their influence among emerging nations. This often-exacerbated local conflicts, as seen in Angola and Vietnam, where ideological allegiances transformed independence struggles into proxy wars. The international community faced the challenge of promoting self-determination while mitigating the influence of superpower rivalry.

- **Social and Cultural Challenges**

Decolonization also entailed addressing the social and cultural legacies of colonial rule. Ethnic and tribal divisions, often exacerbated by colonial boundaries, led to conflicts such as the Biafra War in Nigeria. International actors facilitated dialogues and provided platforms for conflict resolution. Cultural decolonization efforts included UNESCO campaigns to preserve indigenous knowledge and heritage, fostering a sense of national identity among former colonies.

## **History**

Decolonization unfolded in waves, influenced by global events, regional movements, and the stance of colonial powers:

**Early Efforts:** The Atlantic Charter (1941) laid the groundwork by emphasizing the right to self-determination. After World War II, weakened colonial powers like Britain and France faced pressure from independence movements and international advocacy.

**UN Initiatives:** The UN Charter of 1945 explicitly promoted self-determination, leading to the establishment of the Trusteeship Council, tasked with overseeing the transition of trust territories to independence.

**Asian and African Independence:** The independence of India and Pakistan in 1947 inspired movements in Africa, where countries like Ghana (1957) led the charge. By the 1960s, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 1514, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which condemned colonialism and called for immediate decolonization.

**Resistance from Colonial Powers:** While some powers negotiated peaceful transitions, others resisted. France's wars in Algeria and Indochina and Portugal's conflicts in Angola and Mozambique demonstrated the lengths to which colonial powers would go to retain control. International condemnation and solidarity movements helped turn global opinion against such practices.

#### **Questions a resolution must answer:**

To effectively tackle the challenges of decolonization, resolutions should consider the following:

1. How can international organizations better address the economic dependency of former colonies?
2. What mechanisms can be implemented to promote political stability and inclusive governance in post-colonial states?
3. How can the UN mitigate the influence of external powers in conflicts arising from decolonization?
4. What role should reparations and apologies play in addressing the historical injustices of colonialism?
5. How can the international community support the preservation of indigenous cultures and knowledge in post-colonial states?

## Evolution of the International Community's Response to Decolonization (1945–1980)

From 1945 to 1980, decolonization unfolded rapidly, largely driven by the weakening of European powers post-World War II. This shift coincided with the rise of global movements for self-determination, particularly influenced by the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. The UN promoted self-rule, while colonial powers like Britain, France, and Belgium, struggling with war debts and weakened economies, faced rising nationalist movements. Notably, countries like

India (1947) and Ghana (1957) led the charge for independence, with many African and Asian nations following in the 1960s. Throughout this period, the Cold War also shaped the dynamics, as both the U.S. and the Soviet Union vied for influence in newly independent states, complicating decolonization efforts.

The 1960s and 1970s saw the Non-Aligned Movement, which included former colonies, grow in prominence, advocating for political and economic independence without aligning with either superpower. Although the formal process of decolonization largely concluded by the 1970s, many newly independent nations faced severe challenges, such as economic instability, ethnic conflict, and the consequences of colonial borders. While the international community provided support through the UN and economic aid, countries like Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) and Angola exemplified the difficulties of achieving stable governance post-independence. By 1980, the international community shifted focus towards supporting post-colonial recovery, with most former colonies achieving independence but facing ongoing struggles for development and peace.

### **Bibliography**

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/asia-and-africa>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/decolonization>

<https://education.cfr.org/learn/reading/how-did-decolonization-reshape-world>

<https://www.ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/europe-and-the-world/european-overseas-rule/fabian-klose-decolonization-and-revolution>

<https://www.cvce.eu/en/recherche/unit-content/-/unit/02bb76df-d066-4c08-a58a-d4686a3e68ff/0397bac4-10f2-4b69-8d1a-366ca4a08c34>