

St. Bonaventure University - High School Model UN Conference

Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

Topics:

Refugees and Diplomatic Asylum
Outer Space
The Legacy of Proxy Wars

Chair: Taylor Elliott

Welcome delegates. It is a pleasure to be your Chair this year at the Saint Bonaventure University High School Model United Nations Conference of 2018. I am an International Studies major here at Saint Bonaventure. I have two of chairing experience from past high school conferences. I expect all participants to be familiar with the rules of procedures of the conference. I also expect delegates to be thoroughly familiar with their countries and their positions on the various issues under consideration in this conference. I also believe that all of you are passionate about this committee and its importance and relevance. I am very confident that all delegates will enjoy the experience that Model UN provides. I also believe that the main purpose of the conference is not solely to obtain awards but rather to work hard and learn from each other and work together to offer solutions to the problems we will be discussing. Without further ado, let me present some idea on the topics that will be debated in our committee. I will also suggest some sources that you may want to consult in preparing for the conference. I am looking forward to seeing you all in the conference!

Co-Chair: Daniel Bakowski

Hello everyone, my name is Daniel Bakowski and I will be the Co-Chair of this committee this year! I am a Political Science and International Studies double major with a minor in Pre-Law here at St. Bonaventure University. I have several years of experience participating in conferences very similar to this one in the past. I advise you to do your best to represent your countries to the issues. This is a simulation experience and you are playing roles and you have to understand and faithfully repre

Refugees and Diplomatic Asylum:

because of persecution . According to UNHCR there are 22.5 million refugees in the world today and 65.6 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. These figures are toward their own people and because of wars:

persons are denied the basic human rights that the United Nations grants every citizen of the world. The United Nations General Assembly established the UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency)

on December 14, 1950 after World War II in order to help many people who were displaced by the war.

Outer Space

The Legacy of Proxy Wars

A _____ ted directly by an outside power without that outside force becoming involved in the conflict directly; that is, outside powers fight wars by using other local powers/proxy powers.

This has been an ongoing problem, especially during the Cold War, when the Soviet Union and the United States

proxy wars (think Vietnam for example, or Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion in 1979). This problem persists today. There are many historical conflicts that have impacted our world today. The Vietnam War became a proxy war when the United States got involved to prevent Vietnamese nationalists from unifying their country. One of the major conflicts during the Cold War was the Korean War which turned into a proxy war between the USSR and the United States over the containment of communism. Afghanistan war was a proxy war between the United States and the Soviet Union and the US was determined to inflict defeat on the Soviets and to turn Afghanistan

The US supported the Afghan mujahedeen who fought the Soviet troops but some of whom would later form the backbone of al-Qaeda. As you can see, proxy wars could have some serious repercussions.

How do we prevent new proxy wars from happening? How do we prevent outside powers from using weaker states as their battleground? These are the types of questions that should be asked when looking to end proxy wars. But, we also need to be mindful of the short term and long term consequences of proxy wars (think of where N. Korea stands now and think of where the US intervention against the Soviets in Afghanistan took us!)

Questions to Consider:

Has your country ever been involved in a proxy war?

Was your country affected by proxy wars? How?

What could be done to prevent proxy wars?

What can the UN do?

Can the UN do anything nowadays?

What about the role of regional organizations?

What are the human costs of proxy wars?

Can we hold great powers responsible for using smaller and weaker countries as their proxy?

Can you think of proxy wars nowadays? Which ones?

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_proxy_wars

<https://thevietnamwar.info/proxy-war/>

<http://articles.latimes.com/2014/jan/12/opinion/la-oe-mcmanus-column-proxy-war->