

J-HCC



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Study Guide

CRISIS COMMITTEE

JOINT HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE

(J-HCC) STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item: Suez Crisis

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1. Opening Letters

1.1 Letter from Secretary-General

To Our Distinguished Participants and Esteemed Delegates,

It is my greatest honor to welcome you all to first ever LeadersMUN'26. On behalf of the entire Secretariat team, I am thrilled to invite you to join us for what promises to be an inspiring and incredible conference.

We find ourselves in an era where unprecedented global challenges face us. From the intricacies of climate change to the subtleties of international security, the world does not simply need conversation; it needs cooperation, it needs innovation. This conference is intended to be an environment in which your voices matter, your solutions weigh heavily, and your diplomacy creates the future.

Remember that diplomacy begins with the courage to speak, the patience to listen and the determination to seek solutions even when challenges seem impossible.

As the Secretary General it is my privilege to say that I have such amazing friends by my side. We went through the good and bad times together. I am excited to see the outcome of our effort.

I am looking forward to witnessing the spectacular debates and resolutions that will emerge from your committees.

Best Regards,
Elvin HANCI
Secretary-General of LeadersMUN'26

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1.2 Letter from Under-Secretary-General

Esteemed Delegates,

It is of great joy that I welcome you to LEADERSMUN'26. My name is Mehmet Kayra, and serving as the Under-Secretary General of this committee I have prepared a study guide to help you in your journey to familiarise with the agenda item as well as prepare for your roles for the time being. Although I have included much of the core information you would need, it is highly advised that you do not skip the Further Reading part as it contains in-depth explanations for many events.

Our committee, even if it would not directly affect how things have played out, goes over one of the breaking points of the Cold War, it will help us see what an alternate scenario would be like. It will be a committee full of different perspectives, solution ideas, and of course, chaos. Your preparation for the committee will benefit your performance and the solutions.

If you have any questions, or get confused about anything, feel free to reach out to me through my Email address, and I mean it. MUN procedures are often tiring, so I will do my best to help you the most.

I wish each of our delegates a great experience and welcome you once again to LEADERSMUN'26.

Mehmet Kayra Daştan
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2. Introduction to the Committee

JCC is a MUN committee where historical events are the main subject. The committee, as any other crisis committee, is a simulation of an alternate timeline, where different decisions were made in the past rather than the ones in our own. It is rather how things could have been than how things should have been. Differently from HCC, JCC doesn't only talk about the problems or the events. JCC gives delegates a new chance to change how things have played out in real life. For example, the delegate of Britain can refuse to help Israel against Egypt, or send their own troops to the opposite side.

In our JCC committee, our main topic will be the Suez Crisis, a crisis in which different nations from different blocs collaborated, diplomats were rushing all around the world and one of the critical turnpoints of the greater Cold War was happening. Historically, the crisis was resolved after military intervention by Israel and the Anglo-French coalition. Our main mission is to simulate how the crisis could've been resolved more efficiently, or how people in key roles could've done things differently for their own nation's interests. Will there be an armed conflict taking place? How will the major powers respond to the crisis? And if a war really breaks out, who will be the victor?



3. General Information Concerning the Historical Period

3.1 Historical Background

3.1.1 The Occupation of Egypt

Egypt, a province of critical value for both the Ottoman Empire and various geopolitical competitors (consisting mostly of the European nations) throughout the 19th century had witnessed multiple revolts and wars, such as the French Invasion of Egypt (1798-1801), Revolt of Mehmet Ali Pasha (1831). Being the centre of civilisation in Ancient times and having a history of wealth and culture, Egypt was a place any given empire or kingdom would fancy to have within its circle of influence. Especially with the construction of the Suez Canal in 1869, Egypt has proved its worth for trade and colonisation, increasing the European interests for the area, especially the Kingdom of Great Britain. Historically, with the documentation provided, Britain has been on different sides for its ambitions, supporting the Ottoman rule against the French invasion forces led by Bonaparte during the French Invasion and the Queen siding with the Turks in the London Convention for the Pacification of Levant. But as the Ottomans lost their economic power and their military's competitiveness fading away, the British realized that an Ottoman-ruled Egypt would mean one of the most important regions for international trade being at danger of foreign influence, specifically by its fellow European rivals. With the poor Ottoman performance in the Crimean War and other crises within the area, Britain's ideas of a fading empire for the Ottomans were solidified and so the decision to invade an old ally, the Sick Man of Europe was made.



3.1.2 World War I

Increasing tensions in Europe; with the rapid armaments of all powers, Germany and Italy uniting and joining as new powers in geopolitics, conflicts between colonial interests were only a few of the reasons why the Great War broke out. The Assassination of Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand in 1914 caused a confrontation between Austria-Hungary, backed by the German Empire and Serbia, backed by the Russian Empire and its allies. We will be focusing on the Egypt-Levantine front for the context.

With the Ottoman Empire joining on the side of the Central Powers (Austria-Hungary, Germany and later on Bulgaria) by the Committee of Union and Progress, a new front in Egypt and Levant has opened. Turkish invasion forces, backed by the German army and high command, attempted to cross the Suez Canal in 1915 in order to put a blockade on the support coming from British dominions and colonies. The plan aimed to cut off support to Britain, specifically to break the stalemate in the Western Front between the Anglo-French forces and the German army and relieve further pressure by Entente Powers. The joint plan failed, and the invasion was a massive failure for the Central Powers. Soon enough Britain retaliated, starting its own invasion across Suez and pushing for Levant, another trade center for the Middle East after Egypt and a region of high cultural-religious importance.



3.1.2.1 Arap Revolt

As the British charged from Sinai, a new movement was born in the south of the Ottoman Empire: the Arab Revolt. Many Arabs, because of the semi-cultural differences (Hanafi Ottomans vs Shafi'i Arabs), the new military government of the Ottomans since the time of the coup by the Committee of Union and Progress, and most importantly the British efforts to antagonise and promise them rewards in the future, united under the banner of Hejaz and started an attack against the Ottoman forces in mainly Arabic-speaking territories. The Arab revolutionaries pushed the Ottomans from Yemen to Syria, causing significant land and important bases for the Ottoman side. The Revolt caused Arabs to unite and form their own countries (Saudi Arabia), but shortly after the Ottomans fell Arab lands were harshly colonised by the Entente powers. The Revolution was a victory, but the revolutionaries fought the wrong enemy.

3.1.3 World War II

After the events of the first world war, new powers emerged from war-torn Europe, fallen nations rising once again under new ideologies and much more violent ways. Germany, in spite of the harsh treaty they were forced to sign and nationalism became a fascist dictatorship, alongside Italy's Mussolini, a fascist revolutionary who took over his country and became the The war officially started with the German invasion of Poland, but our main focus will be the Middle Eastern theatre of it.

Iraq, as we talked about in the First World War part, soon fell under heavy British influence, becoming a de facto protectorate. Important regions such as the Suez Canal and the Levant were under British domination, with British Egypt overseeing the canal. Modern areas of Israel and Palestine were ruled by the British. After the German discrimination against the Jewish population in Europe started, many Jews sought to escape from mainland Europe to elsewhere.



3.1.3.1 Jewish Settlements in Levant

During this period of time, many Ashkenazi and Western Jews fled to Palestine to seek refuge, between 1939 and 1948. The locals welcomed the Jews wholeheartedly, and so the mass migrations into Palestine began. The region, ever since the Ottoman times was ethnically and culturally diverse, with many different groups coexisting such as Christians, Muslims, Jews and many other minority groups. The Ottomans followed a policy for freedom of religion, especially after the Tanzimat reforms within the empire that allowed all these minorities to have rights to the land of Palestine.

3.1.4 European Decolonisation

As all European powers, majorly Britain and France got weary from two both devastating yet victorious world wars, a new threat for their rule was on sight. Their overseas colonies no longer were obedient subjects. British Raj, one of the main dominions of Britain was slowly sliding away from British rule with constant protests and restless movements calling for decolonisation. As for France, after their capital fell in Paris to Germany in World War II, they had promised their colonies their independence after their assistance for the reconquest of mainland France. After the war was over and France was stabilised under French control again, their promises to their African subjects were ignored, and so their colonies in Africa were moving for independence as well. Having left no strong military nor resources to suppress these rebellions (since the most of the resources were spent on rebuilding the nation after the war), both countries decided to give up their colonies with planned agreements (sometimes after bloody wars, for more information check the French Decolonisation of Indochina and the VOC's conflicts with Indonesia). Most importantly, as for our agenda item, was the subjects in the Middle East. The British administration withdrew from Egypt, with agreements to solidify their control over the Suez Canal even while doing so and keeping Egypt under their soft influence still. But one region was of very critical importance: the fate of Palestine. After receiving backlash from within and the pressures from the international community, the British government gave the job to divide Palestine to the United Nations in 1947. During the process of mapping, the main focus was supposed to be the majorities in different cities' populations, but the borders brought chaos with themselves as well, starting another crisis.



3.2 Cold War Politics

After World War II was over, power dynamics started to change. Two new blocs were forming: A Western capitalist bloc led by the US and an Eastern communist bloc led by the Soviets. As Germany was gone, both sides tried to fill the gap of authority in Europe, and competed against each other in various parts of the world including Vietnam and Korea. Fierce competition and rivalry, conflicting ideologies set the grounds for a war and a tense atmosphere that would last all the way until the fall of the Soviet Union. As for our agenda item, we will be focusing on the Middle East.

The Western Bloc

Led by the US, the Western bloc has a strong military and the economical upper hand. Consisting of many Western European and American countries, the bloc's main ideology is a capitalist democracy. Example nations: United States, United Kingdom, France, West Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece, Israel etc.

The Eastern Bloc

Led by the USSR, the Eastern bloc is the sum of all communist states on the East. Its main resource is its manpower and agriculture, as well as a military power matching the West. Example nations: Soviet Union, China, Poland, East Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia etc.

The Non-Aligned Nations

Finding themselves in the middle of a global war, these nations do not wish to involve in it and so are reserved to themselves mostly. For this reason, they're competed upon by the two blocs, with both trying to pull them on their side. Example nations: Iran, Switzerland, Finland etc.

The Middle East was a strategic region, whether it was the large amounts of oil it had buried under its soil or the canals that led the world trade, both sides wanted to have the upper hand. And so it was one of the main theatres of the war.

3.3 The Suez Crisis

Our main agenda item, the Suez Crisis was a diplomatic event that happened between 29th October and 7th November, 1956. There were many reasons for it, with the most important one being the Egyptian takeover of the Suez Company. During the crisis, Egypt was against Israel, France and the UK stood beside Israel and supported the Israeli war goals. It didn't last long, but it made a change in the power dynamics of the broader Cold War.

3.3.1 The Opening of the Suez Canal

The canal was opened in 1869, with heavy investments from the UK and France, and under the supervision of the leader of Egypt, Khedive Ismail Pasha. Geopolitically, this gave the Europeans a much shorter route passing from the Red Sea to the Indian Sea, shortening the original route by half. As we mentioned earlier, the invasion of Egypt by the British was for the means to secure this canal, since it was quite critical all the time.

3.3.2 Egyptian Coup of Free Officers

The coup was a decisive event that changed the British-backed Egyptian monarchy to a militarist republic in 1952. A group of young officers, led by Gamel Abdel Nasser were furious at the government's harsh failures in the war of 1948 and its corruption, and so with an operation with zero casualties, took over the government overnight. The group started to change government policies radically, introducing new land reforms, therefore changing the class dynamics as well. The coup's target was the Muhammad Ali dynasty, a dynasty that has been ruling over Egypt for nearly 150 years at the time. One could safely say that this coup was one of the leading movements that fueled Arab nationalism and the riddance of post-decolonisation governments who were funded by the Europeans.

3.3.3 Czechoslovak Arms Deal

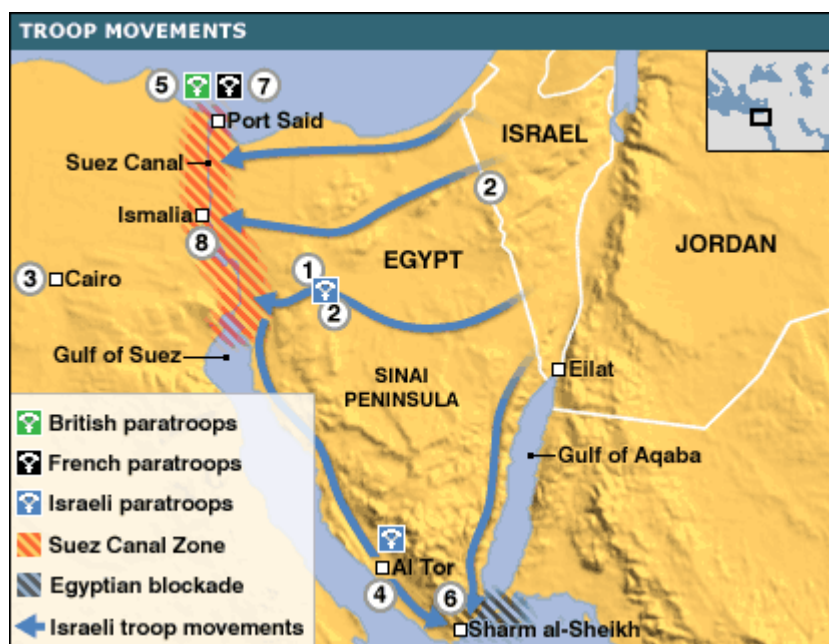
In September 1955, the new Egyptian government faced a lack of arms issue, and they first approached the Western powers for it. But due to the concerns over current Egyptian policies being neither pro-Western or pro-Eastern, the US refused to fund the Egyptian military. Having left with no other alternatives, Nasser, the leading officer of the military government and now the de facto head of state, approached the Soviet for a deal. Shortly after a deal was made over Czechoslovakia, a Soviet satellite state. This raised further concerns in the West over Egyptian neutrality and thus the Suez Canal.

3.3.4 Nationalisation of the Suez Company

As we emphasised on top as well, the new military government was revolutionary. They had a strong goal: To get rid of colonial influence and retake Egypt's sovereignty, and with the American-British funding to the Aswan Dam Project cut off, the new government seized control over the canal and put a blockade. And so the 99-years-old Suez Company was formally shut off.

3.3.5 The Israeli-Egyptian War

A military confrontation that marked the end of European imperial power was the Suez Crisis of 1956. Operation Musketeer, a tripartite invasion involving Israeli armoured thrusts across the Sinai and Anglo-French paratrooper drops on Port Said, was initiated by Britain, France, and Israel after Nasser nationalised the canal. Despite the coalition's tactical superiority, the war brought about a profound change in geopolitics as the US and the USSR jointly imposed a humiliating withdrawal, establishing superpower hegemony over the former colonial overlords. This military "victory" turned into a political disaster that ended British and French influence in the Middle East forever, turned the Suez Canal into a stronghold of Arab nationalism, and made the area a major theatre of the Cold War. Israeli advances within a 6-day span was incredible, and left an effect on the world. The US pressures on the coalition and the withdrawal of France and UK soon after was a proof of fading European power, a final nail on the coffin.



4. Prominent People

Presidents from various countries, diplomats and generals shaped the entirety of the Suez Crisis with the decisions they made. We will have 14 roles for 6 countries in our committee, trying to simulate the most important of the moments.

1. The Israeli Side

a. Israel

i. David Ben-Gurion (Prime Minister)

The strategist who sought to break the Egyptian blockade of the Straits of Tiran and destroy Egyptian militant bases through the secret alliance with Europe.



ii. Moshe Dayan (IDF Chief of Staff)

The iconic commander of Operation Kadesh, he led the lightning armored thrust across the Sinai that reached the Canal in days.

iii. Shimon Peres (Director-General of Defense)

The diplomat of the secret Protocol of Sèvres, who secured the critical French arms and jet fighters for the Israeli military.

b. United Kingdom

i. Antony Eden (Prime Minister)

The chief architect of the British intervention, he viewed Nasser as a "Mussolini on the Nile" and saw his downfall as essential to British prestige.




ii. Sir Charles Keightley (Commander-in-Chief)

The operational commander of Operation Musketeer; he orchestrated the complex amphibious and airborne assault on Port Said.

c. France

i. Guy Mollet (Prime Minister)



Driven by the desire to stop Nasser's support for Algerian rebels, he was the most aggressive proponent of military action to reclaim the Canal.

ii. André Beaufre (Task Force Commander)

The French operational leader at Port Said, he advocated for a faster, more aggressive paratrooper deployment than the more cautious British plan.

2. The Egyptian Side

a. Egypt



i. Gamal Abdel Nasser (President)

The idealist general, he nationalised the Canal to fund the Aswan Dam, transforming a military confrontation into a certain political victory for Arab nationalism.

ii. Abdel Hakim Amer (Defense Minister/Commander-in-Chief)

Nasser's close confidant who oversaw the Egyptian military response; despite tactical retreats, he remained the face of the invincible revolutionary army

iii. Zakaria Mohieddin (Interior Minister)

The intelligence mastermind responsible for domestic security and suppressing internal unrest during the tripartite invasion, ensuring the regime's survival.

b. United States



i. Antony Eden (Prime Minister)

The decisive president, he prioritised global stability and anti-colonialism, using economic pressure to force the withdrawal of his own NATO allies.

ii. Sir Charles Keightley (Commander-in-Chief)

Managed the intelligence fallout; he focused on the Communist-leaning side of Egypt while trying to gauge the risk of a full Soviet intervention.

c. Soviet Union

i. Nikita Khrushchev (First Secretary)

Exploited the crisis to expand Soviet influence in the Middle East, famously threatening the West with rocket attacks to defend Egyptian sovereignty.



ii. Dmitri Shepilov (Foreign Minister)

The diplomatic voice of the USSR who backed Egypt's cause at the UN, solidifying the Soviet-Egyptian strategic partnership.

5. Keyword

- **Sovereignty:** The authority of a state to govern itself or another state.
- **Nationalization:** The transfer of a major branch of industry from private to state ownership.
- **Hegemony:** Leadership or dominance, especially by one country or social group over others.
- **Decolonization:** The action of a state withdrawing from a former colony, leaving it independent.
- **Geopolitics:** Politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors.
- **Nationalism:** Identification with one's own nation and support for its interests.
- **Brinkmanship:** The practice of pursuing a dangerous policy to the limits of safety.
- **Imperialism:** A policy of extending a country's power through diplomacy or military force.
- **Non-Alignment:** A policy of not forming an alliance with major world powers.
- **Revanchism:** A policy of seeking to retaliate or recover lost territory.
- **Proxy War:** A war instigated by a major power not directly involved.
- **Chokepoint:** A strategic narrow route providing passage through a region.
- **Bipolarity:** A distribution of power in which two states hold most influence.
- **Sphere of Influence:** An area where a country has power to affect developments.
- **Concession:** A thing granted, especially a commercial operation within foreign premises.
- **Armistice:** An agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting.
- **Hegemon:** A leading or paramount power.
- **Status Quo:** The existing state of affairs, especially regarding social or political issues.
- **Suzerainty:** Control by one state over another that is internally autonomous.
- **Diplomatic Immunity:** Exemption from laws granted to diplomats in foreign countries.
- **Entente:** A friendly understanding or informal alliance between states or factions.
- **Mandate:** An official order or commission to do something.
- **Plebiscite:** The direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question.
- **Protectorate:** A state that is controlled and protected by another.
- **Sanction:** A threatened penalty for disobeying a law or rule.
- **Subversion:** The undermining of the power and authority of an established system.
- **Truce:** An agreement between enemies or opponents to stop fighting for a certain time.
- **Unilateralism:** The process of acting, reaching a decision, or espousing a principle alone.
- **Veto:** A constitutional right to reject a decision or proposal made by a law-making body.
- **Zionism:** A movement for the re-establishment and protection of a Jewish nation.

6. Further Reading

The Arab-Israeli War of 1948

- <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/arab-israeli-war>

Cold War Politics & Blocs

- <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/collection/cold-war-middle-east>

The Western & Eastern Blocs

- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Warsaw-Pact>
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/North-Atlantic-Treaty-Organization>

The Non-Aligned Nations

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The Suez Conflict & Revolution

- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Suez-Canal>

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- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Egyptian-coup-of-1952>

The Czechoslovak Arms Deal (1955)

- <https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP79R00890A001100060013-0.pdf>

The Suez Crisis (1956)

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The Israeli-Egyptian War (Long-term)

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The Occupation of Egypt (1882–1922)

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