

COMMISSION GUIDE

DISEC



CCBMUNXVII

Disarmament and International Security Committee

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1. President's' Letter

Dear delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this year's CCBMUN Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). Our names are Daniel Villegas and Juanita Hernández, and we are from Colegio Bolivar. It is our first time as presidents of CCBMUN and we are very excited to be leading this Commission.

For this Model, we have chosen three topics of great importance in the world we live in. These are: the Conflict in Afghanistan; the Regulation and Protection of Satellites as Military Assets; and finally, Increasing Fire Tactics in the Hands of Belligerent Groups. It is no doubt that discussing these topics will be an opportunity for you to expand your views on current events and their different perspectives.

In order to reach the Committee's maximum potential, we expect all delegates to come prepared, and to work hard throughout the Model. As a delegate, you should be able to represent a position you may not agree with, come up with solutions to modern-day issues and partake in debate. We encourage you to practise your research, communication and debating skills in order to be able to get as much as possible out of this experience.

In order to be able to do that, we would like you to note that we are here to offer guidance and any help you might need. If you have any questions about the Committee, topics, or Model in general, please don't hesitate to ask us via email (disec@ccbcali.edu.co). We will be at your disposition before and during the Model.

Finally, we would like to tell you that our MUN experience has been life changing and that we hope, as your presidents, that your experience will be as enriching as ours has been.

Yours sincerely,

Your presidents,
Daniel Villegas and Juanita Hernandez

2. Commission Information

i. History

The United Nations General Assembly First Committee, usually known as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), was created after World War II with the purpose of dealing with threats to global peace. It mostly debates, advocates for and solves matters



regarding disarmament and security. It resolves current crises and conflicts that may affect the international community. These may include either small, regional armed conflicts or issues such as the proliferation of biological and nuclear arms, which affect most nations.

1

This Commission was created under the United Nations Charter on June 26th, 1945. After WWII, the world was in ruins politically and needed a new organization to help keep peace; the League of Nations, the former global organization, no longer worked. The UN was created with a General Assembly that consisted of various committees and commissions, one of which was DISEC.

What distinguishes DISEC from similar commissions, such as the Security Council, is that it attempts to resolve conflicts peacefully through dialogue, instead of imposing military action, which can often do more harm than good. It also tries to alleviate tensions and end conflicts through the process of disarmament, limiting violence and violent deaths in a peaceful and diplomatic way, where all points of view are heard and applied in accordance with the Charter.

ii. Structure

The Disarmament and International Security Committee is part of the General Assembly of the United Nations. This Committee meets once a year, usually in October, for a period of four to five weeks. All member countries of the UN (193) are welcome to attend. All member states in the

¹ Picture: UN General Assembly, Patrick Gruban

Committee are represented equally, which means that resolutions are passed by simple majority and that, unlike the Security Council, no delegations have veto power.

Some additional information to note is that DISEC works with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament in order to reach solutions of this nature. Its sessions are separated into three stages; general debate, thematic discussions and action on drafts. However, the Commission in the Model will not be structured this way.

Finally, no resolution passed in DISEC is legally binding, therefore, no resolution is subject to legal action. This means that even though DISEC tackles issues involving weapons and militarization, it does not have the power to take military action, and neither can it impose sanctions. There is no guarantee that the states will take action regarding the Commission's resolutions. Because of this, the resolution's job is to set the tone in order to bring any threats and issues to an end. It is important to note that all decisions can be recommended to the Security Council, so that they can be enforced properly.

3. **Simulation:** *Conflict in Afghanistan*

i. **History/Context**

Rising Communism / Revolution

In order to understand the current situation in Afghanistan, it is vital to know the history of this conflict. The roots of Afghanistan's conflict come from 1953, when a soviet-inclined PM² (Mohammed Daoud Khan) was appointed by the King. This PM allowed for more liberties to be given to women, such as the right to study and to exercise a profession.



Due to the faltering communist government, the USSR decided to invade Afghanistan on December 24th in order to restore political stability. This resulted in an outbreak of violent demonstrations opposing the system and the invading government. During the 1980's, the Mujahideen rebels, who claimed to be spiritual Muslim warriors belonging to a branch of the jihad, joined in the fight. They fought against the Soviets and the Afghan army.

By 1982, around 2.8 million Afghans had fled from the conflict as refugees to bordering countries such as Pakistan, while another 1.5 million went to Iran. Around this time, the Afghan Guerrillas took control of the rural part of the country, while the Soviets took control of urban zones. In 1984, the Saudi Islamist, Osama bin Laden, made his first official trip into Afghanistan with the purpose of helping pro-Islamist forces fighting the Soviets. There were allegations of human rights violations in the country, and the UN began to investigate the matter.

The US, Britain and China began shipping weapons to the Mujahedeen via Pakistan in the year 1986. In 1986, the Al-Qaida group formed under Osama bin Laden, along with 15 other Islamists, in order to continue the fight or "holy crusade" against the Soviets and anyone who opposed their ideals of a purely Islamic nation. By the end of the 1980's, the Soviet Union was



² Prime Minister

disintegrating, and the conflict had caused the death of approximately 15,000 Soviet troops. The Geneva Conferences occurred in 1989, where the US, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union signed the accords, compelling the Soviet Union to withdraw the 100,000 troops it had in the country.

Dissipation of government and rise of Islamic State

After these events, the Mujahedeen continued to fight against the communist regime led by president Dr. Mohammad Najibullah, who was still backed by the Soviets and was elected in 1986 to run the soviet *influenced* state. The Afghan guerrillas made Sibghatullah Mojaddedi the head of their exiled government. In 1992, the Mujahedeen, along with other rebel groups, took the capital Kabul, stripping Najibullah of power. The exiled president was given asylum by the UN, while the Mujahedeen broke apart due to warlords fighting over control of Afghanistan. In 1992, the Mujahedeen proceeded to form a new government, an Islamic state, appointing Burhanuddin Rabbani as president.

Rise of The Taliban

A growing militia arose called the Taliban to which the people of Afghanistan, battered by decades of conflict, droughts, and famine and with the promise of lasting peace and the instauration of Islamic values, showed no resistance. The Taliban made counter-reforms to the previous Soviet-established social reforms, applying harsh punishments to whoever disobeyed their new laws. Among the most affected were women, who were forced



to wear burqas along with banning them from education, work and leaving the house without a man. The “harsh punishments” included, but were not limited to, public execution, amputation, burning, torture, and public beatings.

The United States, along with the UN, did not recognize the Taliban government. During the remaining years of the decade, a drought struck, devastating farmers and forcing over a million Afghans to flee to Pakistan, filling up the refugee camps. This also resulted in a domino effect; making the land uninhabitable and unfarmable also meant that famine spread across urban areas, who were reliant on the farmers. An already high death toll was increased due to starvation. In 1997, the Taliban publicly executed Najibullah. During that same year, the Northern

Alliance, led by Masood, along with Hamid Karzai in the South, kept fighting the Taliban over the future and control of the country.

A year later, after the al-Qaeda bombings of two American embassies located in Africa, cruise missile attacks on bin Laden's training camps were ordered by President Clinton. By the beginning of the century, bin Laden was considered by the international community to be an international terrorist, and the US requested his extradition in order to be put on trial for the embassy bombings. The Taliban, on the pretext that bin Laden was a guest and, as such, could not be mistreated, declined the extradition, further angering the US, along with the UN, which then imposed sanctions restricting trade and economic development. On the 9th September, 2001, the leader of the Northern Alliance was assassinated by assassins pretending to be journalists.

9/11 and repercussions

On September 11, 2001, the world stared in awe as two commercial airplanes crashed into the World Trade Center Towers in New York City. Two other airplanes were also targeted, one in the Pentagon and a fourth in a field, where the passengers managed to regain control of the plane. This sequence of events triggered a response by the US and the international community, at first diplomatic, asking once again for bin Laden's extradition. Bin Laden denied such



allegations until the year 2004. The US and UK, unsatisfied by this, decided to initiate Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7th of the same year, where both countries initiated air strikes against military objectives in Afghanistan belonging to the Taliban and to al-Qaeda. In November of that year, Northern Alliance and Enduring Freedom forces entered Kabul, displacing Taliban forces further south, on route to Kandahar. On December 1st of that year, the Taliban officially lost all territory in Afghanistan, leading to an interim government being put in place on the 22nd of that month.

New Government

Hamid Karzai was named president of the new interim government; he was a Pashto who had lived in exile in Pakistan for fear of his life. Elections were scheduled for 2004. Due to an increase in violence, NATO Forces (ISAF) took control of Kabul in 2003, being the first time the organization

had exerted its power outside of Europe. In January 2004 a new constitution was enforced, enforcing equality of women as one of the major changes, as well as a democratic system. In October of that same year, presidential elections were held, giving Karzai presidency again with a 55% majority, and a year after that the first parliamentary elections were held in 30 years.



A year later, NATO forces expanded south, taking over from the American troops, following a large wave of suicide attacks and raids from the Taliban. In 2008 alone, more than \$15 billion were raised to aid Afghanistan. In 2009, U.S. President Obama decided to send an additional 17,000 soldiers to the conflict. In 2011, the US army managed to take over a compound and kill Osama bin Laden, leader of al-Qaeda. However, after an incident involving the killing of 16 civilians during a raid made by American forces in

2012, Karzai ordered American troops to return to their bases and to abandon all villages and rural areas. Afghan forces replaced NATO forces in all military operations across the country in 2013. NATO officially ended all combat missions in Afghanistan in December 2014, and only US-led troops remained to advise and train Afghan troops.

ii. Current Situation

Rise of power in the hands of the Taliban:

The current armed conflict in Afghanistan can be traced back to 2014, when the US removed its forces from the country, leaving the Afghan Government in charge of the security situation. Even though US forces withdrew from the conflict, they still remained in Afghan territory alongside NATO forces, due to a bilateral agreement between Afghanistan and Nato. In the same year, this was followed by a string of events led to the reappearance of the Taliban in Afghan territory. The withdrawal of US forces meant that the Taliban were not constantly attacked. This increased the group's power significantly. Additionally, in Pakistan, efforts by the military to remove insurgents from the country led to many militants entering Afghanistan and joining the Taliban. These events, topped with the lack of interference from the international community and the

mismangement of the Afghan Government, permitted the strengthening of the Taliban and even facilitated the entrance of the radical Islamic group ISIS into the country.



From 2015, the country has seen multiple attacks by the Taliban, leaving many innocent Afghans dead, injured and insecure. Various events have marked the conflict in the country. On June 22nd 2015, a car bomb exploded outside Afghanistan's National Assembly in Kabul, while Taliban militants attempted to storm the building. This lasted for about two hours until the country's military retook the building. In September 2015, the Taliban attacked yet again. They attacked the city of Kunduz. They attacked both the regional hospital and University.

Currently, according to a report by the Special General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), 229 districts are under the control of the Government. This accounts for about 56.3 percent of Afghan districts. 59 districts or 14.5 percent are under rebel control (Taliban, ISIS, etc.) and 29.2 percent, or 119 districts, are not controlled by either.

International Involvement in the conflict:

NATO: After the US- led coalition ousted the Taliban government from control in Kabul in 2001, the UN hosted a conference in Bonn, Germany. This conference established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to protect Karzai and the ATA in Kabul. Ever since, ISAF has played a key role in the conflict. Initially, ISAF played a small role, it provided security to the Government. However, over time, ISAF's role expanded until its job was completed in 2014, being replaced by a mission called Resolute Support (RSM). It is important not to forget that ISAF is led by NATO. After this, NATO planned to withdraw its troops, however, it did not want to until it was sure that the Afghan Government was strong enough to handle the Taliban.

USA: The United States has been the country most involved in the Afghanistan situation. The US planned to start to withdraw their troops back in 2011 with NATO, but they delayed until 2014. Obama planned to remove all troops by 2016, however, for the same reasons as NATO, he decided not to. On the contrary, the country became highly involved in the situation. In 2016, the US signed an agreement with the Afghan military, allowing the US military to strike ISIS targets

within the county. In 2017, the US planned to send more troops to Afghanistan. This was mainly because, from the US perspective, withdrawal had failed to resolve the conflict and had resulted in the Taliban making gains in the country. However, the USA has recently tried various attempts to encourage peace talks between the Taliban and the Afghan Government, and has shown interest in ending this conflict as soon as possible.



This chart represents the number of countries involved in the current conflict. 39 countries are currently sending troops into Afghanistan.

Current peace talks:

Throughout the conflict, there have been various intents to resolve and make peace in the conflict. In 2016, China started a peace deal, and both sides agreed to discuss resolutions. However, this attempt failed. The last attempt at peace was on April 26th 2019, when representatives from the US, Russia and China came together.

iii. Key points of the debate

- The presence of belligerent groups in Afghanistan
- The effect of the constant changes in government over the people
- The reasons why such extremist groups have formed
- Possible solutions that will prevent extremist groups from rising again

iv. Participating Organisms

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)

v. Guiding Questions

1. Is your delegation directly involved in the conflict? If so, to what extent? (Consider military troops, humanitarian aid, voting on UN's previous resolutions, etc.)
2. How has your country/delegation been affected by the conflict in Afghanistan? (Consider refugees, human trafficking and the rise of belligerent groups.)
3. What solutions can the Committee suggest in order to find an end to this conflict and return security to the people of Afghanistan?
4. What long term solutions can the Committee suggest in order to ensure long lasting peace and security in the region?

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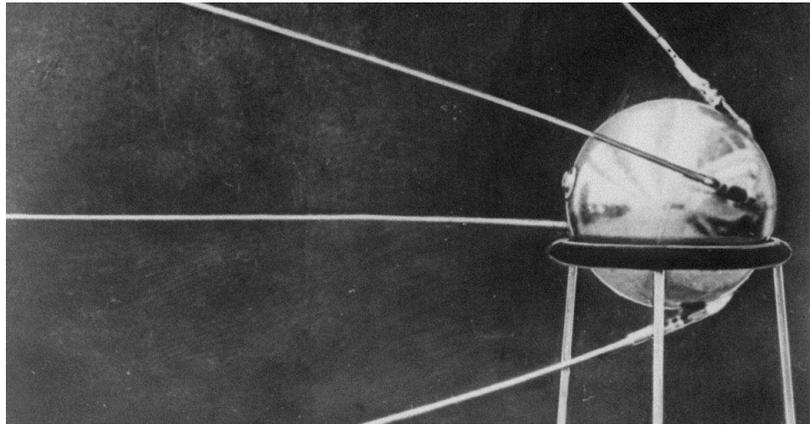
Topic 1: Regulation and Protection of Satellites as Military Assets

i. History/Context

Space militarization has been used since the Cold War as a method of increasing national security. It is defined as the placement and involvement of weaponry and military technology in outer space. Artificial satellites are commonly used as military assets in space militarization.

Cold War:

During the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union spent millions on the development of military weapons and technologies for war. On August 2nd 1955, these two rivals got involved in the “Space Race”, a competition in order to dominate space and spaceflight capability. This started when the US announced



they would launch satellites, and the USSR responded that they would too. This race saw efforts from both nations to launch space probes (robotic spacecraft that explore outer space), human spaceflight, and, mostly, artificial satellites. By the end of the 1960's, both countries used satellites as military assets in order to observe and take photos of their rival's military stations. They then became alarmed by the rival's space capability and the threat to national security, which led to the creation of technology to find and destroy satellites. They used spy satellites (which are still used today), orbital nuclear explosion, directed-energy weapons and Kamikaze-style satellites. They also developed intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) which are usually launched into sub-orbital spaceflight.

After the Cold War:

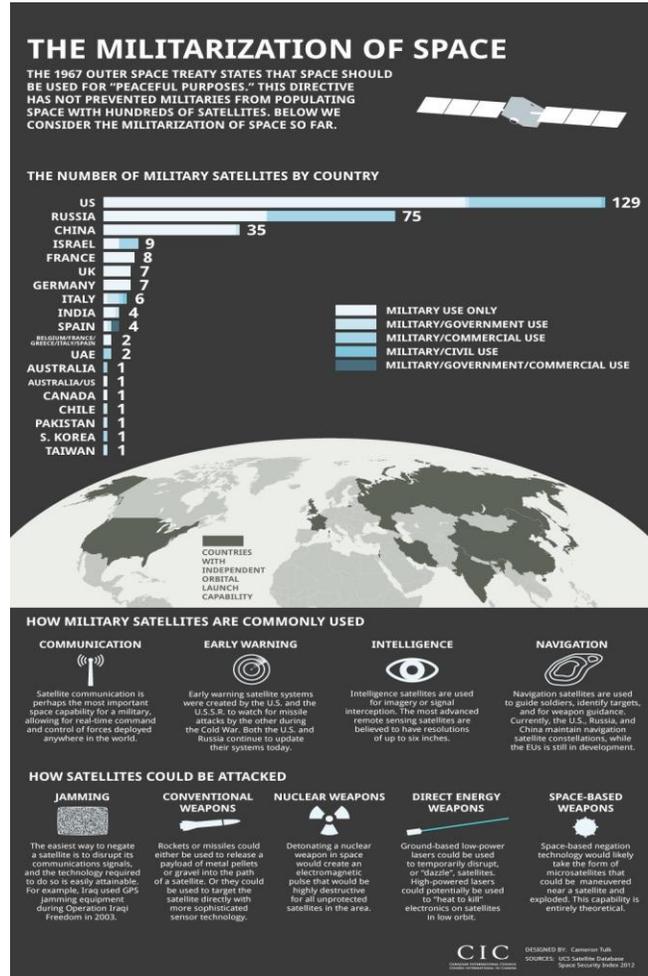
While the US became the main leader in the field, making significant technological advances, many other countries have begun their space militarization process. These countries include China, Japan, and India, as well as the European Union. Now, more than 40 countries have artificial satellites.

ii. Current Situation

Space militarization seems to revolve around three types of applications. However, it is not definite due to the lack of transparency the countries involved have regarding this issue, due to questions of national security. The first category is spy satellites, which have abilities such as covert communication, communications eavesdropping and high resolution photography. The other types of applications are nuclear-detection and ones to warn about missile launches.

Space militarization treaties haven't seen much progress on the topic. As of today, only weapons of mass destruction are completely banned. Both Russia and China advocate the banning of all weapons and the US opposes them. However, both sides still use satellites as military assets.

The infographic on the right illustrates those countries that own satellites and whether they use them for military reasons.



Space Weapons:



Currently, there is still a lot of confusion and disagreement about what counts as a military space weapon. Many consider that military satellites count as weapons, since some have the power to destroy other satellites. Many countries also have weapons on the ground that can reach satellites, whilst some missiles go into space before reaching their targets on Earth, meaning that these could be also be considered as space weapons.

Treaties and Agreements:

Two main treaties have been carried out concerning this issue. The Outer Space Treaty was first considered in 1966 by the Legal Subcommittee and later that year, the General Assembly reached an agreement. The Treaty advocated for the interests of all countries. It called for all explorations in outer space to be carried out for the benefit of all, for no weapons of mass destruction (such as nuclear weapons) to be placed in outer space, and for states to be liable and responsible for all damage and activities carried out in outer space, among other principles. 30 countries have now signed the treaty, the first ones being the US, USSR, and the UK.

The other main treaty that has addressed this topic is the Space Preservation Treaty 2006 in the General Assembly, which proposed a resolution against all space weapons. All states present voted for the Treaty, except the US, which voted against, and Israel which abstained.

The UN has also reached other agreements such as the Moon Agreement in 1984, which proposed that the moon and other natural objects in space should benefit all nations. The UN also carried out the Registration Convention, which stated that all states should report and register their space objects. Currently, over 92% of objects are registered.

iii. Key points of the debate

- The banning of weapons in space
- Transparency of use of weapons and military capability from countries
- Classification of a space weapon
- The pros and cons of military satellites
- The risks of using military satellites and how these could possibly be used as weapons

iv. Participating Organisms

- United Nations (UN)
- National Missile Defense (NMD)

v. Guiding Questions

1. Has your country signed or ratified any treaty regarding the militarization of space?
2. Does your country have or plans to implement a weaponization program in space?

3. Does your country support militarization on space? Why/ why not?
4. Does your country own any satellites? If so, does it use them or plan to use them as military assets?
5. What should be considered as a space weapon?
6. If your country does not support militarization in space, what rules and regulations does it consider pertinent for the use of satellites as military assets?
7. Should military satellites be banned along with other space weapons?

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Topic 2: Controlling Belligerent Groups' Access to Advanced Weaponry

Note to the reader:

To begin interpreting the topic one must address the fact that “terrorism”, although not a parliamentary word, has close correlations with the discussion and will be found often throughout relevant research; it is clear that the UN doesn't give a clear definition of “terrorism”, given its broad implications and to the subjective ways in which it can be interpreted.

Given this, the Commission will use the term ‘belligerent groups’ paired with the widely accepted US Government definition of terrorism to address the issue: “the unlawful use of force and violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives”.

i. History/Context

In order to understand the situation regarding belligerent groups and their access to advanced weaponry, one must first understand how they came to be. As with any sensitive topic, there is some subjectivity about certain information, given the different viewpoints and circumstances. The stages of so called “terrorism” or the history of belligerent groups can be divided into stages. This goes back to the beginning of the 20th century,³ when great empires began to fall due to progressive thought, and extending to today's form of modern-day “terrorism”.

Anarchist wave (1880's-1920's):

Once the anarchists (a growing ideology at the time) realized that change was ineffective through the use of pen and paper, they began making use of the sword. This process began in Russia, when a group of anarchists assassinated Alexander II, giving way to new techniques in the reign of terror; that of assassinating public figures. The newly employed techniques and increase in attacks led to an anti-terrorist movement among the people, forcing the assassins, originally from the people, to stop. This first stage produced new regulations and revolutionary changes in the police force and on how to fight terrorism. It led to the Russian police taking preemptive practices in order to prevent such attacks, and it also revived torture and abolished public trials, in order

³ Note: Pre-UN only used for research and contextualization purposes

to obtain more information from captured subjects (who were not treated as criminals or prisoners of war because they did not follow the rules of war).⁴

Anti-Colonial Wave (1920's-1960's):

It began after World War I but truly took force after World War II, when the colonies, especially those of the Middle East, were promised freedom from oppressive empires by developed nations if they would fight alongside them during the war. When such promises were “fulfilled” the ethnic differences between the groups was not taken into consideration when drawing out the borders, leading to widespread disagreement as to how to govern. This disarray meant the people started rebelling, not against the rest of the people, but particularly against the police force and state owned assets; they were careful to keep civilian casualties to a minimum, gathering international support, even from the UN, by calling themselves “freedom fighters”. This led to the liberation of such territories, but also left the region with vast amounts of political instability.⁵

New Left (1960's-1980's):

After the Second World War, states were no longer able to attack each other directly, especially powerful ones like the US and USSR. The solution both these parties found was proxy wars carried out on developing countries. The big powers would finance revolutionary or rebel groups in developing countries in order to promote their ideology or to take over the government. Two of the most notorious cases are the success of Castro in Cuba and the Vietnam War, which further proved that bigger, more powerful countries, can still be defeated by the people. The Vietnam War inspired more than 404 belligerent groups to arise, which eventually resulted in 700 hijacked airplanes and the fall of the Nicaraguan Congress.⁶



⁴Rapoport, D. C. (2019, May 15). Terrorism as a Global Wave Phenomenon: Anarchist Wave - Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics. Retrieved from

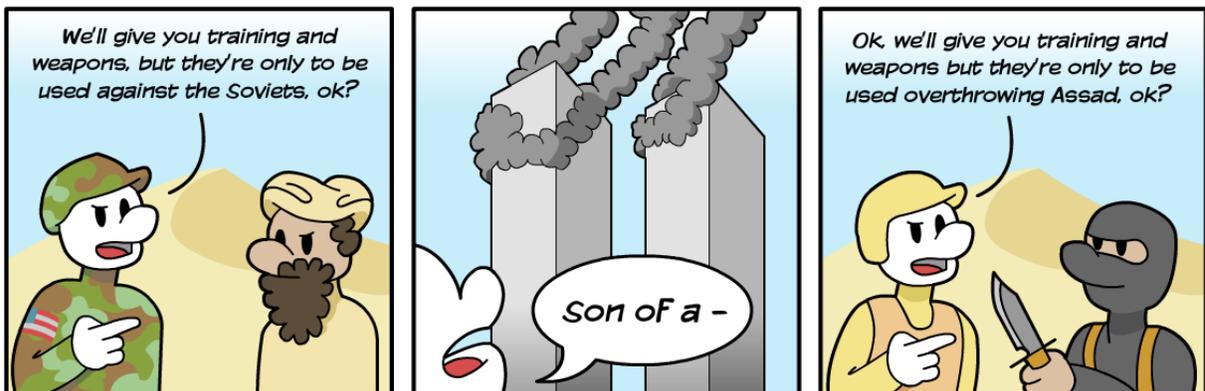
<https://oxfordre.com/politics/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.001.0001/acrefore-9780190228637-e-646>

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'Religious' Wave (1979-present):

The "Religious" wave came after religious groups started using their own religions to achieve a world that reflected this religion. The first reported case was the Iranian Revolution, where Islamic groups overthrew the US-backed monarchy, marking an end to the age of kingdoms and the beginning of the age of Islam in the region. In the case of Islam, it led to the foundation of groups such as Al Qaeda, formed in rebellion to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It also resulted in the US invasion of Afghanistan and later of Iraq, angering the Muslim community, and further stigmatizing the rivalries between the two cultures. This foreign interference led to the foundation of even more groups, especially in politically unstable regions. The new wave also brought new tactics into the conflict, introducing things such as suicide bombers and chemical weapons. Chemical weapons were first implemented in 1995 in Tokyo by the Aum Shinrikyo sect,



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whilst suicide bombers were implemented on a large scale during 1983 by Hezbollah (supported by Iran) towards US marines and French paratroopers in Lebanon. It is important to note that both the Soviets and Americans (the superpowers of the time) supported various belligerent groups; these groups were granted weapons, among other things, if they would fight on the superpowers' behalf, a phenomena known as 'proxy wars'.

***Important to note:** The use of weapons such as biological weapons and the expansion of such arsenals began after the entrance of foreign powers in the Middle East.

ii. Current Situation

In today's world, the Commission is faced with new tactics being employed daily due to the development of technology. The US claimed, for example, that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction, which it was planning on supplying them to Al Qaeda and other belligerent groups. The presence of biological warfare by both parties in the *state vs belligerent groups* conflict in Syria is also worrying. It is an issue that, if escalated, could give belligerent groups enough destructive power to eliminate entire populations, more people than have already been killed. Up to now, the UN has mostly been treating such cases objectively, except with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism strategy depicted below. That is why we, as a Commission, need stronger regulations as to how to stop such problems from the root. It is not enough to eradicate one group when a dozen more can form from its ashes, as was seen with Al Qaeda and others. There needs to be a permanent solution to this culture of fear, not only in the Middle East, but throughout the globe.



UN Global Counter-Terrorism strategy

iii. Key points of the debate

- The delegates will have to agree upon a solution where belligerent groups are not allowed to keep obtaining more powerful weapons. This might prove difficult given the close ties some delegations have with these groups.
 - Detainment of weapon flow to the belligerent groups
 - How to deal with the parties involved in the group's support
- How to mitigate the tension caused by these groups and to avoid future growth of their arsenals.

iv. Participating Organisms

- DISEC
- UNOCT
- Security Council (past approaches [military])

v. Guiding Questions

1. How can terrorism be stopped without the use of weapons?
2. What is the *true* cause of terrorism? (universal)
3. How can terrorist behaviour be predicted?
4. What has been done to combat terrorism? (nonmilitary)
5. How does a state partake or promote terrorist activities?

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