



United Nations Security Council

Peace building in the Middle East: Comprehensive strategies to maintain Rule of Law in Afghanistan.

Historical Context of The UNSC

Historically, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has played a crucial role in maintaining global peace and security by monitoring international tensions and assessing potential threats that may necessitate intervention or diplomatic resolution to address conflicts. Against the backdrop of the ongoing Cold War, which was in its final stages, the UNSC faced challenges arising from the persistent disagreements between the United States and the Soviet Union. This geopolitical rivalry often rendered the Security Council less effective, as conflicting interests and the emergence of new power dynamics complicated its mandate.

However, in the 1980s, there was a notable increase in the UNSC's efforts to uphold international peace, accompanied by a growth in its influence and prestige. Despite the looming conclusion of the Cold War, the Security Council's role became more pronounced, with an escalation in authorized operations. A significant testament to its success and recognition came in 1988 when the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the UN Peacekeeping Forces, underscoring the global acknowledgment of the organization's impactful endeavors.

In the period from 1988 to 1989, the UNSC initiated five peacekeeping operations to facilitate conflict resolution around the world. Among these operations, one that holds relevance to our discussion is the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP). This mission was specifically designed to address the complex conflict situation in Afghanistan, reflecting the UNSC's commitment to mitigating regional tensions and fostering stability.

As we delve into the dynamics of UNGOMAP and its involvement in Afghanistan, it is crucial to analyse how the UNSC navigated the intricate geopolitical landscape of the late 1980s. This period marked a significant juncture in international relations, with the winding down of the Cold War creating both opportunities and challenges for the UNSC in its pursuit of global peace and security.

Context of the Central Theme

Conflict has simmered in Afghan territory since 1973, as the USSR sought to assert control and include the region in its sphere of influence. However, political instability and opposition to the new communist policies triggered persistent rebellions by insurgent groups,

collectively known as the mujahideen. This tumultuous period witnessed the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, presenting the United States with strategic advantages.

The Soviet military aggression not only allowed the US government to inflict significant economic and political costs on the Soviet Union but also served to amplify global hostility towards the superpower. Additionally, it provided an opportunity for the US to expand its sphere of influence in the Middle East and foster stronger ties with the Saudi Arabian government.

Efforts within the Security Council to address the issue in January 1980 proved fruitless, prompting a shift towards the "Uniting for Peace" procedure. This resolution strongly deplored the armed intervention, calling for the immediate, unconditional, and total withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan. The Soviet withdrawal was ultimately completed on February 15, 1989, and Afghanistan returned to a nonaligned status. However, this did not signal the resolution of all conflicts, as the region's instability continued to pose a significant threat to international security.

The enduring impact of the war on the region is deeply concerning. Throughout the 1980s, the US government and its allies framed the Soviet invasion as a war against Islam. This narrative led thousands of Muslim recruits from the Middle East and beyond, spurred on by their respective governments, to converge on Afghanistan. Motivated by a perceived religious duty in the struggle against the Soviet Union, these recruits underwent ideological transformation in the Mujaheddin training camps. This ideological spark would go on to fuel the firestorm now recognized as global Islamist extremism, shaping the course of events for decades to come.

Throughout the 1980s, the United Nations Security Council grappled with the complex political landscape of Panama and Central America. The region was marked by civil conflicts in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala, where Cold War dynamics and U.S. intervention fueled tensions. Panama, home to the strategically vital Panama Canal, was particularly significant in international discussions. The Security Council addressed issues such as human rights abuses, arms trafficking, and territorial disputes, striving to promote stability and uphold international law in the region amidst the broader context of Cold War rivalries.

However, the geopolitical dynamics began to shift towards the end of the decade, notably after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. While the Security Council continued its efforts to mediate conflicts and promote dialogue, the focus gradually evolved as the Cold War tensions eased, leading to a different set of priorities and discussions in the region beyond October 1989.

Throughout the 1980s, the United Nations Security Council was actively involved in addressing migratory issues related to the division between East and West Germany. The Berlin Wall, erected in 1961, symbolized the physical and ideological separation between the two German states, and its presence contributed to a significant flow of refugees seeking asylum or attempting to escape from East to West Germany. Security Council decisions

during this period primarily focused on the humanitarian aspects of the migration crisis, emphasizing the need for the protection of refugees and displaced persons, as well as supporting host countries in managing the influx of migrants.

Security Council resolutions underscored the importance of upholding international law and respecting the rights of individuals affected by migration, while also recognizing the broader political implications of the division between East and West Germany. These resolutions aimed to alleviate human suffering, promote dialogue between the two German states, and mitigate tensions in the region.

Research Questions

Topic A

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- What was the main detonator for conflict in the Middle East during the 80s?
- How did the Cold War affect relations between the global superpowers and the Middle Eastern region?
- What importance does Afghanistan have as a strategic zone to the rest of the international scene?

Topic B

Tensions in Europe, diplomatic approaches to solve the East German social outbreak.

- What contrasts can you find between life in West and East Germany?
- How did repressive policies affect the daily lives of people in the Eastern bloc ?
- What was the reaction of the rest of the world to the decision to build the wall? What support did East Berlin receive?

Topic C

The situation in Panama, building bridges towards a democratic understanding of the parties.

- How many of the actions taken by the United States could be considered an abuse of power?
- What role did Bushes personal image and desire to preserve it take an effect on the Panamanian conflict?
- Was Panama ever truly a sovereign country? How does Panamas past history affect the conflict in 1989?

Discussion questions

1. What threats to global security do social outbreaks represent, and should it be repressed or not?
2. How can foreign nations benefit from war treaties after instability has been set?
3. What are possible alternatives outside of occupation or troops that could be used to mediate with insurgent groups?
4. Should sanctions be considered over propaganda and its impact on the development of international conflict?

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