

UNSC

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MSMUN 2022

Chair

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Official language

English

Topic

Repercussions of international security regarding the mobilization and withdrawal of American troops in the Middle East

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1. Welcoming letter

Dear Delegates,

It is our absolute honor and pleasure to be your presidents for MSMUN internal model 2022 in a committee of such esteem and importance. Although the debate is only set for a day and the topic to be discussed is one that involves ongoing conflict and international military affairs, we trust your abilities, commitment and dedication to see it through with astonishing outcomes, adequate results, and intense cooperation. For this, indeed, we also expect you to be well prepared and active before and during the debate.

United Nation models give you the power to use not only your voice, but your knowledge alike; take profit of this opportunity and see that a better future is guaranteed, have the determination to speak through a whole nation's perspective and propose ample courses of action to problems that, outside from the committee, appear to be bigger than us, but that are deposited in your hands as soon as a plaque is set in front of you. This will not only bring you closer to the reality you are set to face, but it will uncover your capabilities to be part of the solution.

It only remains to say that we are at your disposal to answer any concerns during the whole model and are excited to see you develop the skills needed for the appropriate development of this committee. With this, we are more than happy to welcome you to MSMUN 2022, where you realize you are more than capable of *making the impossible possible*.

Genuinely,

Mariana Lopera & Valeria Henao;

Your chair.

2. Introduction to the committee

2.1 Historical context

The Security Council is the utmost important committee as its main focus is to guarantee and preserve international security. It intervenes whenever peace is threatened. It was originally established on October 24th, 1945, after the League of Nations failed to maintain peace during the times of World War II.

The Security council is made up of five permanent members: China, France, the United Kingdom, the U.S., and Russia with the addition of 10 nonpermanent members. This is important to note as the 5 permanent ones hold veto power, which indicates that by not affirmatively voting for a decision, it cannot be made. Logically, every action taken by the security council has to be previously approved by these veto powers.

2.2 Functions and objectives

According to the UN charter, the security council already has established purposes, objectives, and mandates. It aspires to:

- Maintain international peace and security;
- Develop friendly relations among nations;
- Cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- Be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Whenever this peace is threatened, the Security Council is allowed to:

- Set forth principles for such an agreement;
- Undertake investigation and mediation;

- Dispatch a mission;
- Apply enforcement measures, including: economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- Severance of diplomatic relations;
- Blockade;
- Collective military action.

The Security Council follows an established procedure as a United Nations committee in order:

Roll call: the chair makes sure all delegates are present for the debate.

Motion to establish agenda: this motion introduces the committee to the topic allowing the debate to begin.

Motion to open/suspend session: this motion is taken into account if 50% +1 of the delegations are present.

Motion for the reading of Opening Speeches: the speeches are read in alphabetical order.

Moderated caucus: an informal debate where delegations are free to speak when the chair recognizes them.

Unmoderated caucus: a lobby time where delegates can freely discuss the topic at hand and form alliances.

Speaker's list: a formal debate with a list of speakers previously established.

Motion to read working papers/press releases: heads of block read the resolutions given during the debate.

3. *Topic: Repercussions of international security regarding the mobilization and withdrawal of American troops in the Middle East.*

3.1 Introduction

The mobilization of troops by the United States was first made in July 1958 with a marine landing in Beirut and Lebanon, commencing a chain of back-to-back wars that still take place. (Riedel, 2018). The initial interventions were meant to propose friendly governments in the region. However, later on more severe interventions were inspired by the pro-Egyptian Iraqi coup. From this event up to 1990, less intense interventions took place. After this, came the 9/11 attack. On September 11, 2001, four planes associated with al Qaeda carried out suicide attack missions targeting the United States. With this, American initiatives against insurgency in the Middle East became more potent. (Angerer, 2022).

Along with this, came numerous measures taken by the United States government to protect its citizens from domestic and international terrorism, as well making it clear that troops in the Middle East needed to ensure international security.

In fact, for the past year the United States has been withdrawing troops and air defenses from various countries in the Middle East. Including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. Furthermore, the most staggering withdrawals were made in Iraq, on December 15 2011 and Afghanistan, in August 2021. Diverse effects on the matter might rise. As stated by The White House, “the terrorist threat has metastasized well beyond Afghanistan (...)” (2021) not only affecting the countries stated, but possessing a threat to international security.

3.2 Theoretical framework

Troop mobilization: The assembling and organizing of military resources to support a nation's defense or strategic objectives.

Troop withdrawal: Is the act or process of removing military troops from a given state or place.

Regime: A regime is an authoritarian system or government, especially one that has not been elected in a fair way.

Taliban: Is an Islamic fundamentalist and ultraconservative group that operates in Afghanistan.

Political deadlock: Situation in which agreements in a political argument or dispute cannot be reached because neither side will change its demands.

NATO: Is a security alliance between 30 countries from North America and Europe. Its main purpose is to safeguard the alliances freedom and security by political and military means.

ISIS: Stands for Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, but also known as ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and Levant). Is a jihadist group with a particular violent ideology and claims religious authority over all Muslims.

al-Qaeda: Is a transnational Sunni Islamic insurgent organization. Founded in 1988 by Osama bin Laden.

al-Shabab: Islamist insurgent group based in Somalia. Formed in early 2000s, and their main purpose is to establish the Islamic state in Somalia.

Insurgency/Insurgent groups: More appropriate language for the terms "terrorism" and "terrorist groups" which are not part of the parliamentary language, yet are thoroughly

advised to be proposed to include through a motion for the development of the committee.

3.3 Historical context

The first ever American troops mobilized to the Middle East entered the territory a little more than 60 years ago in July 1958 with a marine landing in Beirut and Lebanon, commencing a chain of back-to-back wars that still take place. (Riedel, 2018).

The western intervention was initially meant to propose friendly governments in the region, for which British troops also deployed in the area. Later, though, more severe interventions were inspired by the pro-Egyptian Iraqi coup, when more marine troops arrived and nuclear weapons were even prepared in Germany. Thankfully, the feared combat did not erupt and the apparently rushed intervention was criticized in the American country, little did they know that it certainly wouldn't be the last of its kind. (Riedel, 2018).

From this event up to 1990 a few, less intense involvements took place. In 1963, American troops protected the Saudis against Egyptian bombings (no actual combat took place); in 1983 there was an almost careless intervention in a Lebanese civil war, though troops were soon withdrew; in 1987, the USA got in the middle of a conflict between Iran and Iraq until they both accepted to ceasefire in 1990. (Riedel, 2020).

About 30 years later, in August the 2nd 1990, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait set the panorama for America's "endless wars" in the Middle East. By this time, the president of the United States was President George H.W Bush. It all began when late President Saddam Husein (Iraqi) entered an economic crisis that made special agents from the CIA understand that his next target was most probably, Saudi Arabia. Logically, in an attempt to, once more, protect the

Saudis, American troops were sent, yet they never foresaw the Kuwait invasion nor the threats to Israel. (Riedel, 2020)

‘Bush and his National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft created a coalition to fight Iraq that included dozens of countries with major troop contributions from Britain and France in particular, as well as Egypt and Syria. Over a half-million American troops were deployed to the Gulf. More went to Israel after the war began and Saddam fired his Scuds at Israel.’ (Riedel, 2020).

Bush, wisely, opted to take non-invasive measures for the liberation of Kuwait so indefinite war would not erupt, he took a more strategic approach by creating a no-fly zone in northern Iraq to overlook its activity. (Riedel, 2020).

Then came the 9/11 attack. On September 11, 2001, four planes associated with al Qaeda carried out suicide attack missions targeting the United States. Two of them crashed into the twin towers in New York, a third in the Pentagon and the fourth in a field in Shanksville. All combined left almost 3,000 people dead. With this, American initiatives against insurgency in the Middle East became more potent. (Angerer, 2022).

The aftermath of this attack began with utter terror from American civilians, making al Qaeda a household name. When it was established that this group, with Osama Bin Laden at its head, was indeed to blame, NATO invoked article 5 for the first time, granting permission for all of its members to act collectively in self-defense. On October 7th, the United States and allied military forces launched their attack against Afghanistan, where al Qaeda was located. (Bergen, 2022). Along with this came numerous new measurements taken by the American government to protect its citizens from domestic and international terrorism, also making it clear that troops in the Middle East, at least focused on surveillance, were needed to ensure international security.

3.4 Current situation

The US troops were deployed into Afghanistan under a United Nations (UN) Security Council mandate after the 9/11 attacks on the United States, to ensure that the country would not again become a safe haven for international terrorist attacks to the United States and NATO members (NATO, 2022). As stated by Cronk in 2021, representing the Department of State, after considering the aim of President Biden to keep the U.S agreement with the Taliban, which was formulated during the former administration, the United States has been withdrawing troops and air defenses from various countries in the Middle East this past year, amongst them, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. On the other hand, NATO forces, including those of the UK have also committed to withdraw troops from these countries, as the US and its allies believe that “original objectives of the campaign in Afghanistan have been achieved and that a military presence is no longer appropriate.” (UK Parliament, 2021). Also, Biden stated that troops will be withdrawn “in a safe, deliberate and responsible manner, in coordination with its partners and allies. Diplomacy and counter-terrorism mechanism will be reorganized to hold the Taliban accountable” (Cronk.T, 2021). However, this policy morosely failed as it wasn’t as effective and well-mannered as it was intended.

The US government made catastrophic mistakes by undercutting both evacuation effort timelines and not expanding the airport perimeter to have more protection from attacks and allow more access points to the airport. The aggregate of this miscalculation, and many others, resulted in the deaths of US service members, the creation of effective Taliban checkpoints, an inability to retrieve US persons throughout Kabul and the rest of Afghanistan, and a humanitarian disaster at the gates of Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul. (Atlantic Council, 2021)

Nonetheless there are still two main withdrawals that stand out and should be highlighted in the context of the issue.

In the first place, on December 15 of 2011, U.S troops in Baghdad lowered their flag, signaling the end of American military missions in Iraq. Leaving their defense to the Iraqi troops, and a vulnerable state grappling with political deadlock, vulnerable to regional interference, and domestic insurgency. As stated by the Middle East Policy Council

Iraq has faced an unsettling rise in civil unrest experiencing a political power struggle that threatens to undermine its ability to develop into a functioning democracy perhaps most troubling, these minor skirmishes and political crises could spiral into new rounds of sectarian and ethnic conflict. (n.d).

Encountered conclusions were drawn from these actions for once, doubts of Iraqi security forces being capable of maintaining peace and order arose. Alternatively, withdrawal might also help Baghdad pave the way for the progress and prosperity of the Iraqi nation (Middle East Policy Council, n.d).

Secondly, after twenty years of insurgency, the Taliban insurgent group took power in August 2021. After the ouster by the United States in 2001, the Taliban regrouped, taking back territory less than ten years after the ouster. By August 2021, the Taliban group went back to power, as American Troops withdrew from the territory as stated in the 2020 peace agreement with the Taliban (Maizland. L, 2022). However, the Taliban's have imposed a severe interpretation of the Islamic law, violating several Human Rights. As stated by the Human Rights Watch "the protracted Afghanistan conflict abruptly gave way to an accelerating human rights and humanitarian crisis. The Taliban immediately rolled back women's rights advances and media

freedom among the foremost achievements of the post-2001 reconstruction effort.” (Human Rights Watch, n.d)

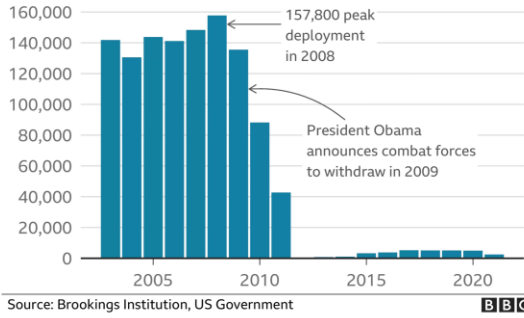
Furthermore, diverse effects on the matter might rise. As stated by The White House, “the terrorist threat has metastasized well beyond Afghanistan: al-Shabab in Somalia, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, al-Nusra in Syria, and ISIS attempting to create a caliphate in Syria and Iraq and establishing affiliates in multiple countries in Africa and Asia” (2021).

The Middle East is home to diverse Islamic terrorist groups, which could have been energized and emboldened by the Taliban takeover (Wilson Center, 2021). Possessing a possible threat to international security due to retaliation. Additionally, America’s adversaries might think that they have succeeded in driving the United States out of their territory, and that they may succeed in driving it out of other territories. The withdrawal could also embolden other countries to increase their involvement in them, Pakistan in Afghanistan or Iran in Iraq (Katz. M, n.d)

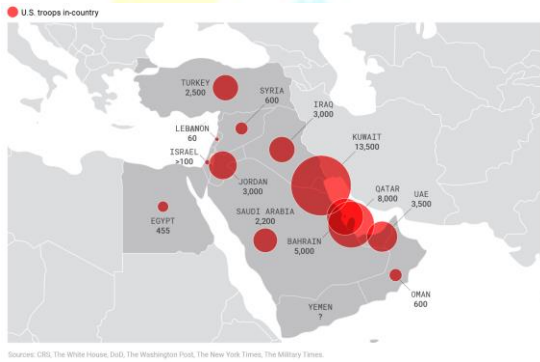
The measures implemented were made in keeping with strategies implemented by presidents Barack Obama and Donald Trump in order to minimize risk. Trump increased air defense capabilities in the region after Iranian drones struck a Saudi oil facility in 2019. Instead, the Biden administration withdrawal appears to be directed by the need to deploy these weapons in other regions (Friedman. G, 2021). Also, according to the White House “we did not go to Afghanistan to nation-build. And it’s the right and the responsibility of the Afghan people alone to decide their future and how they want to run their country. (...) We provided our Afghan partners with all the tools, training, and equipment of any modern military. We provided advanced weaponry. And we’re going to continue to provide funding and equipment. (The White House, 2021

Graphs and maps

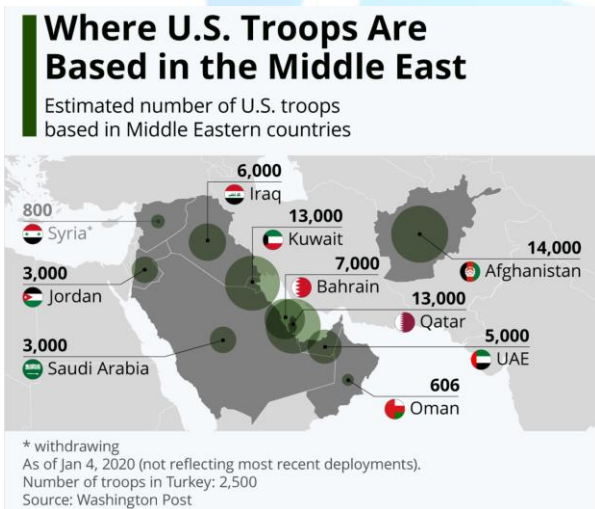
US troops in Iraq since the start of the conflict in 2003



(BBC News, 2021)



(Defense Priorities, 2020)



(Statista, 2020)

3.5 Previous resolutions

In 2021, due to insurgent related activities after the 9/11 attack, NATO military troops settled in Afghanistan after a Security Council mandate. Initially, in 2020, an accord was signed by the United States and the Taliban, agreeing to remove the previously mentioned international forces, a process set to last a few months. For a while, NATO focused on the assurance of a safe departure from the Afghan territory, including the safe evacuation and resettlement of personnel from Afghanistan and other partner countries. (NATO, 2022)

The process began the 29th of February 2020, when a ceremony held by the Afghan president, Asharf Ghani, and the US Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, established an agreement between the United States and the Taliban. This was, considered by NATO, the first step towards a peaceful removal or reduction of the current military presence. (NATO, 2022)

By June 14th of 2021, allied leaders involved in the conflict finally confirmed the collective decision to withdraw the troops, still remaining committed to the provision of training and financial support to Afghan forces and institutions. In addition, they reassured their support to Afghan led and owned peace processes. (NATO, 2022)

In August of the past year, is when NATO took the previously mentioned actions to ensure safe and organized departure of personnel, them being Afghan, American or other countries' allies. An evacuation of about 2000 Afghans who previously worked with NATO, and their families, marked the largest evacuation mission in NATO's history. Allied countries also provided aid as troops, apart from those from the United States, from the UK, Turkey, and Norway, which secured the airports and hospitals of Afghanistan as background processes for the whole operation. (NATO, 2022)

Later this year, Operation Allied Solace was launched to resettle NATO-affiliated Afghans and their families in temporary staging areas in Germany, Poland, and Kosovo. Efforts were made to help them start a new, stable life in allied countries. (NATO, 2022)

From the processes taken by the NATO specifically for this military withdrawal, which was successful, time was well managed and every step was carefully calibrated and planned. They focused primarily on the safety of the civilians and took advantage of the allied countries, which were more than happy to supply. It is important to maintain this type of procedure when planning to make such abrupt changes to international affairs that involve thousands of people and several nations.

As extreme measures, the UN can also demand for countries to remove their troops or eradicate invasions to other sovereignties. This year, after the General Assembly voted for it with a majority of 141 against 5, a resolution to eject the Russian Federation from Ukraine after a brutal invasion, was settled. For this, the Security Council was stopped from intervening to prevent Russia from vetoing the almost unanimous decision. (European Union, 2022).

This is a decision to prevent this issue from happening. If military withdrawal is set to take place, it is fundamental that it is well and strategically planned so people are not endangered or rushed through the whole processes and decisions from several countries and their international affairs. In addition, it is probable that, as happened in the previous example, the Security Council is excluded from the final decision due to the probable use of the veto power.

4. Useful questions for the delegate

- 1) Is your country in favor or against the US troop withdrawal and overall involvement in the Middle East, why?
- 2) In what ways would the global community, and your country, be affected if the activity of the US military increases/decreases?
- 3) Has your country been involved in the mobilization of troops in the Middle East? If so, where, how, and what were the consequences of this involvement?
- 4) What measures, in terms of international security, can your country and the international community take to prevent insurgent Middle Eastern groups from threatening people's safety as well as minimizing the risk of national and international conflicts?
- 5) What solutions, other than troop withdrawal, can the international community implement to minimize western military activity in the Middle East?

5. QARMAS

- 1) What position has your delegation taken so far regarding the multiple occasions in which the American military has intervened with a Middle Eastern country or conflict? Has it been an observer, a mediator or an asset?
- 2) Has your country been involved willingly or unwillingly in any of the conflicts related to US troops in the Middle East?
- 3) Has your country been directly or indirectly affected by insurgent activity or groups developing in the Middle East?
- 4) Has your country had any experiences withdrawing troops from international land? Have the strategies being used been successful?

- 5) Is your country a member of any international alliance or agreement such as NATO? If so, has it had any intervention towards the issues and/or the withdrawal of troops

6. Useful Resources

- 30 years after the US “endless wars” in the Middle East:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/07/27/30-years-after-our-endless-wars-in-the-middle-east-began-still-no-end-in-sight/>

- Remarks by President Biden on the US troop withdrawal in Afghanistan:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/07/08/remarks-by-president-biden-on-the-drawdown-of-u-s-forces-in-afghanistan/>

- Implications of the American withdrawal from Iraq and Afghanistan:

<https://mepc.org/commentary/implications-america-withdrawing-iraq-and-afghanistan>

- Impact of US troop withdrawal in Iraq:

<https://mepc.org/commentary/iraq-after-us-troop-withdrawal>

- Review made by the Atlantic Council on the U.S. troop withdrawal:

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/experts-react-the-us-withdrawal-from-afghanistan-is-complete-whats-next/>

- Al Qaeda: background, current situation and US policy:

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11854>

- NATO and the troop mobilization into Afghanistan:

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_8189.htm

- Security Council report, previous resolutions made in Afghanistan

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/?ctype=Afghanistan&cbtype=afghanistan

7. Delegations

- Afghanistan
- Iraq
- Iran
- Saudi Arabia
- China
- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- France
- Kuwait
- Syria
- Pakistan

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