



EthicalMUN VII

Iraqi Invasion

Chairs:

Aslan Bilimer

Jack Brenner

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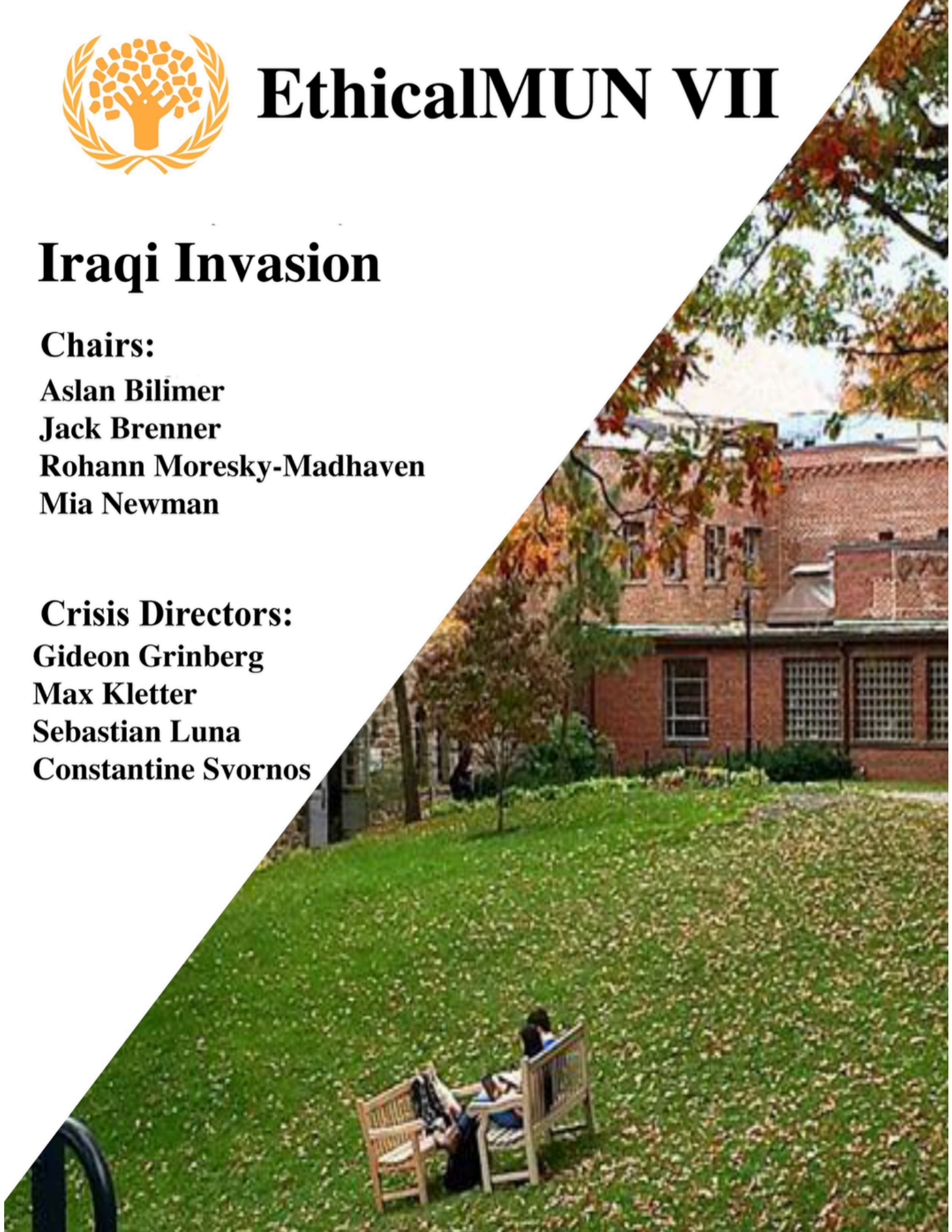
Crisis Directors:

Gideon Grinberg

Max Kletter

Sebastian Luna

Constantine Svornos



General Summary: This committee will simulate a meeting of the Security Council in the lead up to the 2003 invasion of Iraq by the U.S. The delegates will be responsible for discussing the threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in Iraq and determining how, if at all, to proceed.

<https://www.casi.org.uk/info/undocs/sc2003-4701.pdf>

Background Guide Outline:

- Letter from the Dais
- Committee Introduction
 - History and Function of the Security Council
 - Specific Procedures
- Historical Background
- Current Issue
- Stances

Letter from the Dais:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Ethical MUN VII! Your chairs for this conference will be Rohann Moresky-Madhavan, Aslan Bilimer, and Jack Brenner, and your crisis directors will be Gideon, Grinberg, Constantine Svoronos, Max Kletter, and Sebastian Luna. We are all incredibly excited to meet each and every one of you at the conference!

As delegates to this conference, you will be simulating a United Nations Security Council meeting where you will discuss the alleged presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. In real life, this historic meeting of the Security Council led to the 2003 invasion of Iraq by the United States, but you are not bound by this outcome. Instead, you are tasked with diplomatically formulating a practical solution. During the conference, you will engage in discussions and debates with other delegates, and ultimately draft resolutions on the matter at hand. Doing so will require considerable background knowledge on the historical and geopolitical context of the issue, so you are encouraged to read this guide completely and to do your own research.

Model UN may not be the most realistic of simulations, but it is certainly a critical learning experience for all involved. We are hopeful that each of you will walk away from this committee with an in-depth and meaningful understanding of the competing interests diplomats must balance, and with more knowledge of these important events, which continue to shape international relations and domestic politics.

Please feel free to email any of us with any questions. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Committee Introduction

The U.N. Security Council is one of the five active organs of the United Nations. It is charged with upholding “international peace and security.”¹ The Council consists of five permanent members—the People’s Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France—and 10 members who are elected from specific geographic constituencies.² Each of the permanent members, colloquially referred to as the P5, have the power to veto any resolution proposed before the Security Council, while the other ten do not. Three temporary members represent the African Group (in this case those are Angola, Cameroon, and Guinea)³ and the Western Europe and Others (WEOG) group (Bulgaria, Germany, and Spain), while two represent the Latin America and the Caribbean (Chile and Mexico) and Asia-Pacific (Pakistan and Syria) groups. The Security Council is a unique organ of the United Nations in that its resolutions are binding on all member states. The Security Council has a wide range of tools at its disposal to resolve conflicts, but the most potent of these are the power to authorize the use of force and impose sanctions. Importantly, the UN Charter also forbids members from taking military action except in cases of self-defense or with the approval of the Council.⁴

While the Security Council appears to be quite powerful, it has sometimes been hobbled by the often conflicting interests of the P5 states, leading some members to take offensive military action without the Council’s approval. One notable example of this was the 78-day air war waged by NATO in Kosovo, which sought to protect Kosovar Albanians from an impending genocide by ethnic Serbs. Despite a veto from P5 member Russia, NATO intervened anyway,

¹ U.N. Charter, art. 24.

² Council on Foreign Relations, “The UN Security Council,” <https://www.cfr.org/background/un-security-council>.

³ United Nations. (n.d.). *Membership of Principal United Nations Organs in 2003 | meetings coverage and press releases*. United Nations. <https://press.un.org/en/2003/org1371.doc.htm>

⁴ U.N. Charter, art. 51.

seeking to protect human rights first and foremost despite the legal barrier; scholars would later label these actions “illegal but legitimate.”⁵

The Security Council is a unique and complex organ of the United Nations, and combines elements of crisis and General Assembly committees. During this conference, you will be tasked with representing the interests of your country in policy-making and decision-making, and responding to the impacts of those policies and decisions as they unfold in real-time.

Historical Background

The upcoming Security Council meeting did not happen out of the blue; indeed, tensions between Iraq and many in the broader international community have been unfolding since Iraq invaded and occupied Kuwait in 1990. The invasion was widely condemned, and Kuwait was liberated by a U.S.-led coalition during the Gulf War (sometimes referred to as Desert Storm or the First Iraq War), in which 42 countries and several militias participated. As part of a UN-brokered ceasefire between Iraq and the coalition, Iraq was prohibited from developing chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons, which are commonly referred to as weapons of mass destruction or WMDs. The United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were tasked with inspecting Iraqi weapons facilities and ensuring the implementation of the agreements made as a part of the ceasefire. However, Iraq often failed to cooperate with the UN, leading to further sanctions. Additionally, the U.S. and other coalition members implemented “no-fly zones” over northern Iraq, which were designed to protect the Kurdish minority population, against whom Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had previously deployed chemical weapons. In 1998, the U.S. Congress passed the Iraq Liberation Act, which condemned Iraq for its violations of international law and advocated for

⁵ Council on Foreign Relations, “The UN Security Council,” <https://www.cfr.org/background/un-security-council>.

the removal of Saddam Hussein from power. Following the election of George W. Bush, the U.S. took an increasingly aggressive stance towards Iraq, a position that escalated further after the traumatizing terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Throughout 2001 and 2002, the Bush Administration worked closely with the government of British Prime Minister Tony Blair to build a case for military action against Iraq. They initially focused on Iraq's non-compliance with UN weapons inspections and presented a wide range of evidence to prove that the Iraqi government held WMDs. The evidence was of dubious veracity, causing the U.S. to shift towards secondary justifications for an invasion, including Iraq's brutal repression of its own citizens, their demonstrated willingness to use chemical weapons on their own citizens and those of foreign nations, as well as their hostility towards the U.S. The Bush Administration also cited Iraq's attempted assassination of President George H.W. Bush in 1993 and their alleged support for terrorist group al-Qaeda, who happened to be responsible for 9/11, as justification for military action against Iraq.

Current Situation

On February 5, 2003, the United States has called a meeting of the Security Council. During the meeting, the country hopes that the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, may present evidence that might justify an invasion of Iraq by U.S. forces. The Security Council is tasked with assessing the U.S's arguments and determining an appropriate course of action. During the committee, delegates are permitted to use and present any intelligence that would be available to them on or before March 14, 2003, but not information that would only be accessible after. Delegates may also send crisis notes in order to request additional information, and the Council may be briefed by various representatives of the IAEA, UNMOVIC, and other NGOs or

countries throughout the committee. Delegates who wish to present slides or images should send them to the chairs with their position papers.

Positions

United States: Calls for a unilateral disarmament of Iraq and shows frustration that Iraq has made little efforts to uphold 17 previous UN resolutions. Willing to take military action if Iraq disregards the "one final chance to comply" provision.

United Kingdom: Aligns with the United States, emphasizes the importance of enforcing UN resolutions and the threat posed by Iraq's non-compliance with weapons inspections. Influences the United States to take firm and immediate action.

France: Advocates for a diplomatic solution and more time for inspections, expressing that military action should not be taken. Highlights that there could be severe consequences for any military action. Expresses that Iraq is making steps in the right direction to enforce disarmament.

Russia: Opposes military action, argues for continued diplomacy and inspections, and expresses concern about the potential destabilization of the region. Deems that there is no evidence to warrant any military action. Advocates for working with the UN Security Council and stresses the need for more time to make a decision.

China: Calls for caution and adherence to international law, emphasizing the role of the UN Security Council in maintaining peace and security. Supports a diplomatic solution and advocates for Iraqi compliance with past UN resolutions.

Germany: Supports a peaceful resolution, questioning the justification for war and advocating for extended inspections and diplomacy. Influences other neutral countries because they are presiding over the security council

Angola: Emphasizes a need for increased inspections and Iraqi compliance but maintains a neutral stance on disarmament via military action.

Mexico: Supports further inspections but also would support the United States if it gained UN approval for military action. Remains skeptical because of ramifications of United States foreign policy with Mexico.

Bulgaria: Supports the U.S. position, emphasizing the importance of addressing the threat of weapons of mass destruction. Is willing to support an invasion without UN backing.

Pakistan: Supports continued inspections but also maintains a neutral stance on any military intervention.

Syria: Opposes military intervention, emphasizing the importance of Arab sovereignty and the need for a peaceful resolution. Advocates for the UN to lift unjust sanctions on Iraq and claims that Iraq had been meeting obligations set by past UN resolutions.

Spain: Supports a United States invasion of Iraq and the use of force to implement mass disarmament. Is willing to support the invasion with or without UN approval.