

The Korean Conflict

Committee Guide

Historical Security Council





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1. Introduction

Dear honourable delegates,

The Historical Security Council is anything but a usual committee. Being set in a post-WWII, early cold-war era more than 60 years ago, this council is even more exciting than MUN in general - it is a chance to rewrite history.

Consisting of only 16 delegates we are also a small committee. This group structure will even more reinforce our intense work atmosphere during the OLMUN week.

We are thrilled to guide you as your presidents through war and peace, through conflict and conciliation. In order to live through an exciting week, we need the support of all of you both in the weeks before the OLMUN and the OLMUN itself. Given to the special structure of this council it does need more preparation than the other committees - but therefore it also offers more of everything else as well: drama, action, emotions - and fun, obviously.



United Nations Security Council in 1950¹

¹ Source: <http://www.unmultimedia.org/s/photo/detail/645/0064552.html>



2. About us

My name is Marie Jelenka Kirchner. I'm a 23-year-old student in my last semester of European Studies. My first OLMUN was in 2008 when I not only got caught by the OLMUN fever, but also met my co-president Sebastian. I have since participated in MUN conferences in Germany, Hungary, California and Taiwan.

I am very interested in international relations and international politics and I have organized my whole life around it since I graduated from high school in Oldenburg in 2011. So far I have lived in Turkey, Poland, Japan and Taiwan, travelled to many countries more and got involved with different (youth) projects about the promotion of the idea of a united Europe.

I'm glad that I have the chance to be one of your presidents in the first Historical Security Council at OLMUN!

My name is Sebastian Katzer, I am 23 years old and I will be one of your presidents for the Historical Security Council at OLMUN 2016 together with Marie. Having graduated from high school in 2011 near Oldenburg, I am currently living in Berlin where I study film and work as a freelancer.

This conference will be my 11th Model United Nations in total, including various participations as delegate, chair and Deputy PGA in Germany, Romania and Hungary.

Let us make this unconventional OLMUN committee an exciting experience for both delegates and presidents. I am looking forward to seeing you in June!

3. Word from the Chairs

Given to the special structure of OLMUN 2016 HSC, this council will need careful research in preparation for the conference. We have collected important information and ask all of you to read this committee guide to allow a smooth pre-conference phase and a thoroughly satisfying OLMUN week.

To ensure that all delegates are well-prepared and to enable fluent lobbying and debating as well as a great variety of opinions and ideas, we expect every delegate to bring an **essay**. This essay should give information about the respective country's economic and political situation, international relations and resources (e.g. military, industrial and others) **in 1950**. This essay should consist of **200 to 250 words**.

Additionally, you will need a **short policy statement**, outlining your country's perspective towards our topic and what measures could be taken. Keep in mind that our point of time is only **one day after the outbreak of the conflict**. The statement should not exceed **150 words**, as it shall briefly give other delegates an overview on your country's position.

Before starting the lobbying, we will call for every delegate to read out their policy statement to the committee to make the lobbying process more efficient.

Please send us both your essay and your policy statement via email until **May 29th**. We will then hand them out to all delegates.

If you need help writing, please read the OLMUN 2016 handbook or contact us as we will happily support you.

When researching your country's position on our topic, you should consider a few things on the way - especially since our committee is set in a different time period.

1. Begin with your research **in time!**

It is of vital importance for you to start early enough with your researching work. As our committee can only function if every delegate is acquainted with the initial situation, you need to dive into the topic and understand all of its facets properly. While doing so, you will need to:

2. Use a **variety of sources** for your research!

Be sure not to use just one single source for your whole information. Diversification is important to reach a well-thought-out resolution with useful and debatable points. Also, the more sources you use, the more you broaden your horizon on our topic. This will prove to be very useful when discussing in your lobbying groups as well as in the debates itself. However, in OLMUN 2016 HSC it is vital to not research on your country's current political situation but instead:



3. Find out the **1950 situation** in the **country you represent!**

Perhaps the most important aspect of our committee is the fact that it **takes place in 1950**. In order to prepare for the conference you will need to find out

- your country's situation before 1950;
- the role your country played in the outbreak of the Korean war;
- the political direction your country was facing in 1950.

An important aspect you should never forget is that you are not required to find a solution based on your personal opinions but one that your country would have supported back in 1950. Once you have memorized this, you are ready to:

4. Develop a comprehensible, realistic **position of your country!**

This position needs to be elaborated in the 200 - 250 words essay that you are required to send us prior to the conference.

Of course you shall not just copy the steps your country has taken in reality. Rather you are urged to think for yourself and try to influence the course of events in your country's spirit. Your essay needs to be realistic considering that you are a representative of an existing country with existing positions - in a past time.

Hopefully we have given you a good first overview about how to prepare for our committee. We are confident that you will manage this task successfully and adequately prepare yourself for the OLMUN 2016 Historical Security Council, as we are looking forward to welcoming enthusiastic delegates, willing to make this conference a memorable experience for every single one of us.

Once again, if you have any questions or problems, whether it is regarding research, the essay and policy statement, the committee itself or any other issue, do not hesitate to contact us via hsc@olmun.org.

We are looking forward to an interesting, successful and entertaining MUN and we will happily welcome you to spend a great OLMUN conference with you from June 14th to 17th!

4. About the Historical Security Council

This committee's premise might be somewhat challenging for you during preparation. Other than in usual MUN committees, you cannot look up your country's current situation, its current political leaders and what is currently being discussed concerning the committee's topic.

Instead, you are supposed to put yourself and the country you are representing more than 60 years back in time! This means everything your country's officials have said and done after 1950 is declared null and void. It has not yet happened in our committee's time frame. Quite possibly it never will because you - the delegates - are the ones rewriting history.

Once you have adjusted to this unusual setting, you are just as free as any delegate of another committee is in preparing their statements and resolutions. The only difference is that you are operating in a different time. This means having a **different background** compared to the rest of your delegation.

This becomes most apparent using the examples of the delegates of **Russia** and **China**.

While their delegation colleagues are generally representing those exact countries, they instead represent their former equivalents in the UN.

The delegate of Russia in the HSC will represent the **Soviet Union**, as we are situated in a time period soon after WWII, early in the Cold War Era. Similarly, the delegate of China will act as the **Republic of China**, also known as **Taiwan**, which represented China in the UN until 1971. These delegates will be addressed by their historically accurate delegations.

While these are only the most obvious cases, the same counts for every single delegate in this committee. Whenever you speak or act for your country, you will be doing so for a version of your country that lies 66 years in the past.

Of course you should still know roughly how your country has emerged until today. Operating in a past time frame does not mean erasing everything that happened after 1950 in total. Development of a country does not start from scratch, so if your country has turned into a socialist dictatorship in 1960, you probably won't quote John Maynard Keynes as your archetype in 1950 - metaphorically speaking.

This being said about our committee's setting, **how exactly does it work?**

The OLMUN 2016 HSC is a crisis committee. That means we will take the outbreak of the Korean War as our initial crisis to start acting. We have come together in this council to discuss the very first measures that are to be taken considering the recent events. Everything up from that point lies in your hands.

We will be starting our committee on Wednesday exactly one day after the invasion of North Korean troops in South Korea. Your first task will be to debate on the actions to be taken and merge one single resolution on behalf of the (Historical) Security Council.

Naturally the presidents will moderate the course of events and take care that you follow the rules of procedure and act in a reasonable and responsible way, as we are discussing a very delicate situation.

We will then face the reactions to your decisions on Thursday. Everything you have decided on our first day of debate will **change the course of the conflict** and determine the content of our continuing session. It lies in your hands how this development will look like.

You will be forced to react at rather short notice when compared to the usual MUN procedure. We will operate with short periods of moderated and unmoderated caucus and long periods of debate. This committee is a **debating committee**. If you are open to speaking in front of the audience, challenging speakers and working with political history in a creative, yet accurate way: Congratulations, you have chosen the right door. We are expecting motivated and well-prepared delegates, willing to fully adapt to our exceptional committee setting and to make OLMUN 2016 HSC an overall success!



5. Historical Background

Our topic is the Korean War in 1950 and many past events had led to the outbreak of this conflict. As described before, it lies not only in your responsibility to find solutions as in any Security Council. As an action-driven crisis committee it will be up to you to shape history. Therefore it is crucial for you to know your history. In this chapter we will give you a brief overview over the situation mainly in East Asia in the early 20th century.

Inspired by industrialized and well-developed countries in the Western world Japan was the first country in the Pacific region to establish a modern industrial state with a constitutional monarchy. Fast economic growth and a very effective arms policy quickly put it in a strong position which allowed Japan to soon dominate the region. In 1895 it colonized Taiwan, in 1910 Korea. The annexed states profited from the colonisation in terms of industrialization and development, but on the expenses of repression and discrimination of the local communities.

In July 1937 Japan attacked the Republic of China (on mainland China) and hereby started the second Sino-Japanese war. China was weakened at that time because of the Chinese Civil War between supporters of Chiang Kai Shek's national party (Kuomintang) and Mao Zedong's communist party. This civil war had begun in 1927 and was temporarily paused during the Sino-Chinese War in order to unite against the enemy Japan.

But one military conflict was not enough for Japan: In order to expand their Northern borders, Japanese diplomats spurred the Soviet government to take their troops from the Soviet-Japanese borders and attacked when the government refused to give in. A short military "incident" followed, the borders remained as they were. As consequence Japan did not attack the UdSSR during World War II.

September 1939 marks the outbreak of World War II with the invasion of Nazi-Germany in Poland. We will not go into detail about the events in Europe since they are not as important to us. Participation in this war might have lastingly weakened your country's economy though, so please make sure to know your country's stand during World War II and the consequent effects.

While the War in Europe was fought brutally, the expansion of Japan in Asia continued as well. Until 1941 Germany had supported the Kuomintang-party in China. Later the Soviet Union supported them (in fear of the Japanese expansion) and got directly involved in the war. Fighting against both Japan and the spreading communism, the USA supported the Kuomintang in China against Mao Zedong's communist party with military means. This also allowed US-troops to be stationed on the Chinese mainland while fighting Japan.

World War II, also known as Pacific War, was devastating for China not least because of the use of biological and chemical weapons by Japanese troops.

The capitulation of Japan in 1945 after the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki marks the end of the Pacific War in the same year as the end of World War II in Europe. While Japan had to give up Taiwan and Korea, the Civil War in China continued. As a consequence of the ended colonisation Korea was not given independence, but the country was divided into two occupation zones: North of the 38th latitude was given to the Soviet Union, the country South of the 38th latitude was given to the USA. During the Conference of Jalta the victorious powers decided that the short term goal should be a reunification of Korea. The begin of the Cold War and as consequence of that the unwillingness of the UdSSR and the USA to cooperate, the mandat for reunification was given to the United Nations in 1947.²



Don't forget that the UN were a newly established international organization at that time, formed only 2 years before in 1945 with 51 founding members.

While the Civil War in China continued, the Stalinist regime in the Soviet Union expressed its terror and the states in Europe recovered from World War II, the US initiated free elections in Korea. In those elections in 1948 only the Southern part participated - and even here the left parties boycotted the elections. Nevertheless a pseudo-democratic president was elected who proclaimed the Republic Korea on August 15th. In reaction the Sovietunion supported Kim Il Sung to become leader of the North part of Korea (distinctively a dictator) who soon after proclaimed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on September 9th. Kim started to persuade Stalin to support him for a military intervention against the South while at the same time playing him off against Mao Zedong. Indeed, Stalin - hesitant at first - supported him with arms while also working towards the withdrawal of all foreign troops (UdSSR&US) from Korea. During a meeting in Spring 1950 he allowed the planned invasion by Kim Il Sung.

This was only one year after a decisive end to the Chinese Civil War. The Nationalist Party lost and Chiang Kai Shek fled to Taiwan where the Republic of China continued to represent the Chinese entity to the world - and also remained as the "true China" in the United Nations. The Communist Party established a socialist state on the mainland under the control of Mao Zedong, the People's Republic of China was not represented internationally at all.

On 25th of June 1950 North Korea attacked South Korea to reestablish a United Korea. This is where our story begins. You are one of the delegates in the Security Council meeting on the 26th of June, one day after the invasion. As representatives of a committee striving for peace and cooperation in a tense decade it is now your turn to come up with possible solutions to this complex matter.

² Source: <http://www.documentary-video.com/resources/documents/200.jpg>

While it can be interesting to know more about the further development of your country as it happened, we ask you not to have yourself guided by reality, but rather the question “what could have been if?”.

Be creative, be innovative and be constructive, while always keeping in mind your country’s policy.

We hope this committee guide provides you with all important information. We are excited to meet you and wish you successful preparation.

See you in June,

Marie & Sebastian