

Committee Guide

Spc 2023

Our World at a Turning Point

2 0  2 3

BREAKING OLD PATTERNS

*Assessing the
Responsibility of Former
Imperial Countries for
the Colonial Exploitation
of the African Continent*



Contents

1. Personal Introduction	3
1.1. Louis Sachse	3
1.2. Clara von Kirchbach	3
2. About the Special Conference	4
3. About the Topic	5
4. Possible Solutions	6
5. Helpful Resources	7
6. General Advice	8

1. Personal Introduction

1.1. Louis Sachse

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to OLMUN 2023. My name is Louis, I am 20 years old and I am from Oldenburg. I finished school last summer. This is my third time participating in OLMUN and the second time chairing a committee. I first participated in OLMUN in 2019 as a Tech-Staff and IC Member. For me, OLMUN is all about gaining new experiences, getting to know other people from around the world, and having fun of course. I am looking forward to many interesting debates.

Besides OLMUN, I work in construction to gain experience for my architecture studies. On weekends, I can be found as an LJ in nightclubs in Oldenburg. I wish you all the best in your preparation for the conference.

See you in June.

Louis Sachse

1.2. Clara von Kirchbach

Dear Delegates,

I am Clara von Kirchbach and I will be chairing this OLMUN's Special Conference with Louis. I am 18 (I will be 19 by the time we'll meet for OLMUN 2023 though) and currently doing my Abitur at the Liebfrauenschule Oldenburg. This MUN conference will be my third. My first OLMUN was in 2019, in which I attended as a delegate for the Human Rights Council. Last year, I was a President of the Security Council. Aside from OLMUN, I enjoy doing sports and playing the piano and the organ, as well as volunteering at my local church's youth organization.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to the debates in our committee!

Clara

2. About the Special Conference

Fundamental administrative bodies of the United Nations (UN) include the General Assembly, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Secretariat, the International Court of Justice and the Economic and Social Council. These organs of the United Nations can establish special agencies that are entrusted with specific topics that are not bound by the same conventions as the organs themselves. While functioning under the umbrella organization of the United Nations, they have autonomous procedures, their own governing bodies, individual memberships and independent funding mechanisms.

Typically, the topic chosen to be debated is obscure for more global audiences, however it usually possesses a certain urgency to it. By being able to select member states depending on the exact topic, the Special Conference can uniquely tailor its' approach to the issue, tackling problems with an efficiency that would often be hampered by the bureaucracy of larger agencies.

The Oldenburg Model United Nations uses the possibility to pick and choose member states to streamline the member states involved in a debate over a specific topic, limiting it to states the topic applies to. With our topic this year being *Assessing the Responsibility of Former Imperial Countries for the Colonial Exploitation of the African Continent*, we have included exclusively African and former imperial countries with colonies in Africa.

3. About the Topic

Colonialism in Africa refers to the period in which European powers colonized and exploited various territories and peoples across the African continent from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century.

The scramble for Africa began in the late 19th century as European powers sought to expand their economic, political, and military power. At the Berlin Conference in 1884-1885, European leaders divided Africa among themselves, disregarding the existing political and cultural boundaries of African societies.

The European colonial powers established control over African territories by using a variety of tactics, including military force, political manipulation, and economic exploitation. They imposed their political and legal systems on African societies, often imposing arbitrary borders that ignored existing tribal, ethnic, and linguistic divisions.

Colonial powers exploited Africa's resources, including minerals, timber, and agricultural products, for their own economic gain. They forced Africans to work in mines and plantations, often under brutal conditions, and imposed heavy taxes and fees on African communities.

The impact of colonialism on Africa was profound and enduring. European powers imposed their languages, religions, and cultural values on African societies, often leading to the erosion of traditional African cultures and values. Colonialism also resulted in the displacement of millions of Africans, the destruction of traditional economic systems, and the erosion of African political institutions.

After World War II, many African nations began to demand independence from their colonial rulers. Many European powers granted independence to their African colonies in the 1950s and 1960s, but the legacy of colonialism continues to shape African societies today.

Due to this, our goal in our committee is to assess the responsibility of European powers in modern day Africa with consideration towards the instability and corruption often found in many countries.

4. Possible Solutions

Possible solutions might include:

- Education: a profound elucidation of the colonial era in Africa
- Indemnity payment: economic aid to strengthen the African states
- Giving back resources or museum pieces: to bring back art and culture

Possible problems might include:

- Corruption in African countries
- Bureaucracy might slow down response time

5. Helpful Resources

The following sources are only a rough overview of information.

Please remember that you must inform yourself in depth about your country and its position!

- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/07/how-africas-colonial-history-affects-its-development/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJPLiT1kCSM&t=186s>
- <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/colonialism-and-development-africa>
- https://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1182&context=utk_chan-honoproj
- <https://www.olmun.org/uploads/2023/Documents/HandbookOLMUN2023.pdf>

6. General Advice

Be aware that you do not represent your personal opinion and ideas! You are the delegate of your assigned country and behave accordingly. This is the only way to have an exciting debate.

Practice speaking in front of the group and be prepared for everyone to speak in front of our small committee.

Find out about possible partners for your resolution early on.

Most importantly, besides the committee meeting, talk a lot with others to make new friends and attend the evening events. This way you will get the full OLMUN experience!



OLMUN 2023

**22nd International
Session**