



# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MVHSMUN Conference

*“in aliis autem discite”*

Through Others We Learn

## Introductions

Hey I'm Ben Nguyen and I will be your head chair for the 38th MVHS MUN conference. I'm currently a senior and probably stressing out over college applications right now. When I'm not stressing out over the 20 assignments I have to do, I'm probably watching some anime, going full weeb and learning some Japanese, or just sleeping. I am looking forward to meeting you all at this conference. If you have any questions please contact me at (insert email here)

Hi, I'm Jacob Richardson, and I will be your vice chair for the 38th MVHS MUN conference. I'm 17 and a junior at mission viejo high school. When I'm not focused on homework I'm usually working on my Eagle Scout project or playing video games with my friends. I'm looking forward to our conference.

## NUNO: Israel-Palestine Conflict

### I. Background

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing since the nineteenth century, but truly started to escalate in 1947 when the United Nations adopted Resolution 181 (also known as the Partition Plan). In this Resolution, British Mandate over Palestine would be divided into Arab and Jewish states. Shortly after the first Arab-Israeli War, over 750,000 Palestinians were displaced as a result of Israel's victory. The displaced Palestinians were spread out into 3 different territories, the State of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Israel manages to control the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through institutionalized discrimination and systemic abuses according to the Human Rights Watch. Their treatment of the Palestinian people has violated the international human rights and humanitarian laws, including unlawful killings, forced displacement, and abusive detention among other violations. Even recently, Israeli security forces continue to use excessive force against the Palestinians in the West Bank.

Although Israel has managed to work out its relations with its neighboring countries, the Palestinian people's self-determination and self-governance were still in question, and in 1987, many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza strip rose up against the Israeli government due to their atrocious treatment of them. The Israelis aren't completely at fault though as armed Palestinians have committed war crimes too, such as sending rocket attacks towards Israeli population centers. In one of the more recent conflicts, fighting between Hamas and the Israeli military broke out in 2018. Over one hundred rockets were fired at Israel, which was met with over fifty targeted strikes in Gaza.

Though there have been attempts at peace, none have seen much success. Recently, President Donald Trump in 2018, canceled funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency and relocated the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, which was condemned by Palestinian leaders as well as other leaders in the Middle East and Europe.



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For the purpose of this mock simulation, we have taken the liberty of escalating tensions between the two states to a fever pitch. Therefore, war has broken out between the two states and their respective allies have joined in to assist each side.

## **II. UN Involvement**

One of the first acts from the United Nations on the issue was in the passing of Resolution 181, in which the United Nations divided the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. The UN Security Council has done little in resolving the conflict between Israel and Palestine despite striving to maintain international peace and security. The most recent significant action from the UN Security Council was in 1967 when they passed Resolution 242, calling for Israel to give back the territory they gained in their war with Syria and Egypt. The lack of serious involvement by the UN Security Council can partly be attributed to the United States who has used its power and influence to keep the issue away from the Security Council's agenda. On the other hand, the General Assembly has repeatedly tried to intervene on the issue, calling for both sides to respect each other's human rights. In 1988, the Assembly even held a special session in Geneva despite the United States' refusal in granting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat the visa required to address the Assembly in New York. Although the General Assembly has tried to create peace between the two sides, it has been relatively unsuccessful as their resolutions have no legal binding.

## **III. Possible Solutions**

Due to this committee being a crisis committee, the objective of this committee will be to obtain more land than Israel. The territory you will be fighting for is the original territory of Palestine prior to 1947. With this in mind, gear your solutions to figuring out strategic vantage points such as cities or resource centers. Consider the value of guerilla tactics as the Israeli forces will be more spread out and take longer to mobilize. Pay close attention to the assets being supplied to you and use them wisely. Lastly, focus on how to outwit the opposing force and deal with any possible setbacks.

## **IV. Guiding Questions**

- How many and what type of assets does each side have at its disposal?
- Which cities are more important to take control of?
- Who are the allies of each respective side and how will they contribute to the war?
- How sparingly should resources be utilized?
- What responses would each country make in response to the opposition's actions?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of each side?



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