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STUDY GUIDE

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TEDMUN

20

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ANKARA  
TED ANKARA COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION HIGH SCHOOL  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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## A. Letters

### a. Letter from the Secretary General

Dear participants of TEDMUN 2024,

My words could not start without a quote that enlightens and motivates the whole spirit of this conference: “Peace in home, peace in world.” Although Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is known to be a great military commander and a brilliant government man, he was unique. At that time, while most of the leaders had rather aggressive views regarding the importance of International Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk knew that the future of the modern world and a future modern Türkiye must be tenant to diplomacy. It must be reminded that, our hearths and opinions lie within his words, and this conference is assembled through his enlightenment.

TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has assembled 9 conferences since 2014, and this year we are proud to be the part of the 10th TEDMUN Conference. Becoming a part of the PDC, being an MUN’er and organizing TEDMUN at the end of the 11th grade has turned into a long-lasting tradition of every TED Ankara College member. We are proud to be a part of this long-lasting tradition and glorifying our club. The TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club has a rich history of fostering such principles, organizing conferences that serve as platforms for meaningful discourse and collaboration. As we continue this tradition with the 10th TEDMUN Conference, we stand as proud torchbearers of our club's legacy, committed to upholding the values of diplomacy, mutual respect, and cooperation.

For each of us, participating in Model United Nations represents more than just a simulation; it is an opportunity to engage with diverse perspectives, to forge connections, and to contribute to the collective pursuit of peace and prosperity. As Secretary-General, I am deeply inspired by the dedication and passion that each of you brings to this conference. I hope the best for your contributions to the Model United Nations, and I wish you to enlighten yourselves by recovering the embedded solutions in each conflict. In my opinion, your youth and perspectives will make this conference shine like the North Star in the Arctic.



As we embark on this journey together, let us remember the words of Atatürk and the legacy of TED Ankara College Policy Diplomacy Club. Let us approach our deliberations with open minds, empathy, and a shared commitment to building a better world. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will not only honour our advisors but also reaffirm our belief in the power of diplomacy to transcend borders and unite humanity.

With warm regards,

Buğra Ermihan

Secretary-General of TEDMUN 2024



## b. Letter from the Under Secretary General

Dear participants of TEDMUN'24,

I am Enes Berk Uzun, the under secretary general of this very committee. I am an 11th Grade Student in the Jale Tezer who is eager to research history usually Prussian history, especially in the Prussian Military.

I am delighted to serve as the under-secretary general for this committee. We have put a lot of effort, estimations, and plans for the welfare of the committee with our president chairs, Arda Üre and Taha Ersoy, and we have written this study guide so that you can access all general information about the Iranian Hostage Crisis. We have worked for days. We can guarantee that you will experience the cold tensions and the harsh realities of the Iranian Hostage Crisis in this committee while also having fun and improving your skills, language and historical knowledge. MUN conferences are an opportunity for everyone to develop academic skills while developing  
a social network.

Therewithal, I would like to thank Arda Üre and Taha Ersoy, for their motivating support to me in this committee and my journey. We had many experiences in MUN, and he has always supported me in my rough times. Without them, it would be really tough. He has contributed to my MUN journey and to this committee a lot, he is certainly one of the people that I am glad that I met in my life.

As always, I thank Cihan Emre Elbir for being my mentor in MUNs, giving me advice, cheering me up on my stressful days, guiding me in every conference including this one, and being a true friend. You see, there are certain individuals that you meet in your life that influence you, guide you and support you; an individual that makes you say "What a real man, what a true friend". For me, this individual is literally Cihan Emre Elbir. I met with him in my fourth conference. I had my first crisis committee experience in his committee as he was the Under Secretary General of that committee. Later on, he taught me most of my crisis committee knowledge. He will always have a special place in my MUN journey. If I am here today as the



Under Secretary General of this committee and having my knowledge in history and the crisis committees, it is because of Cihan Emre Elbir, Kemal Jack Erten, Görkem Can Coşkun and Ulaşcan Tunçinan.

I also have one more thank to give, a major thank to Elif Verda Codar. She is one of my close friends my MUN buddy in many conferences. She was the one who brought me coffee when I was sleepless, she was the one who tried to talk to me and cheer me up whenever I was sad although we had debates a lot, she was the one that gave a positive energy constantly to her surroundings. Also, she has always worked hard to make a future in organization teams of MUNs and she is doing really well. I can guarantee that she is the future of MUNs, as a future director-general to other conferences, as an organisation head to other conferences, as an administrative staff, as a press team member, as an entertainment team member, and as a public relations team member. It is certain that she deserves a lot in MUNs with her joy and high efforts.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me,

Here is my email address:

[ens.ebu376019@gmail.com](mailto:ens.ebu376019@gmail.com)

Sincerely,

Your Under Secretary General

Enes Berk Uzun



c. Letter of the First President Chair

Dear Esteemed Members,

I am honored to join you as a member of the Historical Joint Crisis Committee. As we embark on this journey to dissect and deliberate upon pivotal moments in history, I am eager to contribute my expertise and collaborate with such a distinguished group.

My background in historical analysis and strategic decision-making equips me with the tools necessary to engage deeply with our tasks. I firmly believe that by examining the intricacies of past events, we can uncover lessons and strategies that are profoundly relevant to our present and future.

The attached study guide provides a comprehensive overview of our focus areas and the roles we each play. I have thoroughly reviewed this material and am prepared to actively participate in our discussions and decision-making processes. Together, we will strive to illuminate the complexities of our historical scenarios and propose well-founded resolutions.

I am committed to bringing a thoughtful and analytical perspective to our deliberations. I look forward to working alongside all of you and contributing to the success of our mission.

Sincerely,

Arda Üre



d. Letter of the Second President Chair

Dear Respected Colleagues,

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce myself as a member of the Historical Joint Crisis Committee. Joining this prestigious body of professionals is both an honor and a responsibility that I take very seriously.

With a strong foundation in historical research and strategic analysis, I am excited to delve into the complex and intriguing scenarios that our committee will explore. The opportunity to reexamine key historical events and consider alternative outcomes is a fascinating challenge that I am eager to undertake.

I have carefully reviewed the study guide and am ready to engage fully in our collaborative efforts. The guide's detailed information on our historical contexts and roles will be instrumental in guiding our work. I am committed to contributing thoughtfully and proactively to our discussions and solutions.

Together, I am confident that we can make meaningful strides in understanding and addressing the historical crises before us. I look forward to the insights and collaborative spirit that each member will bring to our sessions.

Best regards,

Taha Ersoy





## B. Introduction to the Committee

This committee, the Historical Joint Crisis Committee of the Iranian Hostage Crisis, includes two cabinets, the American Cabinet and the Iranian Cabinet. In this committee, both cabinets will receive sudden crises about various topics, mainly consisting of the US-Iran relations. During the sessions, you will grasp the events of the Iranian hostage crisis and understand the dynamics of the crisis itself. Remember, the events that took place in history will not be considered as happened after the starting date of the committee, which we will announce in the first session of the committee, and after the starting date you will be deciding upon the US-Iran relations and possible relations. You will face upcoming crises and try to solve them quickly while considering the possible outcomes of that solution. Do not forget to have fun too!

## C. The Path to the Hostage Crisis

### a. Emerge of Pahlavis in Iran

During the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Iran was ruled by the Qajar Dynasty which was the major dynasty that ruled Iran for 136 years. With the start of the Great War, a Persian Campaign emerged, while Qajar Iran was particularly neutral, in December 1914 series of military conflicts took place on Iranian soil between the Ottoman Empire, British Empire and the Russian Empire. The conflict also involved local Persian units that fought with the forces of the Ottoman Empire and the Entente who were clashing in Qajar Iran. This power struggle and conflicts in Qajar Iran ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October with the Armistice of Mudros. Approximately over two million Persian civilians lost their lives due to the conflict mostly because of the Persian Famine of 1917-1919 which was an era of widespread starvation and diseases including typhus, plague and cholera as well as influenza across Qajar Iran. Because



of this unfortunate chain of events in 1921 Qajar Iran was ruined, beaten out and on the edge of disintegration. The last shah of the Qajar Dynasty, Ahmad Shah Qajar was inexperienced, young and unqualified, which is why he was unfit to rule the country in the eyes of many Persians. On top of all of these, the cabinet of Qajar Iran was decrepit and corruption was lurking around in every corner of the nation but there was a silver lining during the domination of Iran by foreign powers especially Great Britain and the Russian Empire nationalist and patriotic elements were raging across the country. During this chaos Reza Khan, later to be known as Reza Shah Pahlavi who was a non-aristocratic Mazanderani brigadier general at the time, was promoted by a British General, Edmund Ironside to lead the fairly effective and disciplined Persian Cossack Brigade. After Reza Khan's promotion, he immediately utilized it to consolidate power and put an end to the reign of chaos. Reza Khan enlisted young and progressive Iranian people into his ranks and also received support from some other British diplomats for his efforts towards his nation. On the 21st of February approximately a month later after his promotion in 1921, Reza Khan successfully managed to occupy Tehran with around 3000 men strong which later to be known as the 1921 Persian coup d'état. After the occupation of Tehran a young journalist, Sayyid Zia al-Din Tabataba'i became the new prime minister of the country, while Reza Khan consolidated command of all military forces and became the minister of war a few weeks later. With the overwhelming authority Reza Khan gained, he lost no time to levy some taxes, afterwards with the acquired sum from the taxes he built up the army and utilized that army to collect even more taxes until he had gained full grip over the entirety of the country. Reza Khan as the minister of war was the true power behind many prime ministers until 1923 when he became the prime minister himself. In the meantime, former ruler of Iran Ahmad Shah was severely ill and undergoing a long treatment in Europe. Despite the appeals made by Reza Khan and the Iranian parliament Ahmad Shah refused to come back to Iran. Afterwards, Reza Khan thought about proclaiming a republic but was strongly opposed by the Iranian masses, this idea was another dead end for the nation's future but in 1925 the Iranian parliament decided to depose Ahmad Shah Qajar and formally exiled him, abolished the absentee monarchy and a constituent assembly elected Reza Khan as the next shah of Iran, he founded the Pahlavi dynasty and vested sovereignty until it got overthrown in 1979 during the Iranian Revolution. Initially, he planned to proclaim a republic just



like Mustafa Kemal Atatürk had done in Turkey but due to major British and clerical opposition he was forced to abandon the idea but this didn't stop him from executing many modern and secular reforms. To begin with, the education system was changed which laid the basis of a modern education system and broke the influence of religion on education. He established the University of Tehran which was the first university of Iran. Reza Shah Pahlavi also set up free and mandatory education for both males and females and shut down private religious schools; Islamic, Christian, Jewish etc. Outside of education many other reforms also took place such as legal ones, previously nearly every court was administered by Shi'i Islamic rules but he put an end to this after he conducted his reforms courts were now either administered secularly, without being influenced by a religion or overseen by state bureaucracies and, as a result, the status of women improved but the secularization of courts wasn't the only thing Reza Shah Pahlavi did to improve the status of women. The custom of women wearing veils was banned, the minimum age for marriage was raised and strict religious divorce laws which favoured the husband were made more equitable, women were allowed to study in the colleges of law and medicine and in 1934 he introduced a law which set heavy financial fines to hotels, restaurants and cinemas that didn't open their doors to both genders. Reza Shah Pahlavi also introduced a wide range of secular reforms in other fields as well. Doctors were allowed to dissect human bodies even though there was a Quranic ban on the necropsy. Reza Shah Pahlavi also restricted public mourning observances to one day, banned self-flagellation during Ashura, and required mosques to use chairs instead of the traditional sitting on the floors of mosques. From the start of the 1930s, there was lots of clerical opposition and unrest throughout Iran. In 1935 a rebellion erupted in the Imam Reza Shrine in Mashhad which lasted for four full days and ended when troops from Iranian Azerbaijan arrived and broke into the shrine, killing dozens and injuring hundreds, and marking a final rupture between the clergy and the Shah. After nearly two controversial decades World War 2 broke out and Iran decided to remain neutral but Reza Shah Pahlavi's need to expand trade for the sake of the nation's economy, his fear of Soviet control over Iran's overland routes to Europe, and his concerns about renewed Soviet and continued British presence in Iran forced him to expand trade with Nazi Germany. In August 1941 the Allied Powers, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union in particular started invading Iran without a declaration of war.



In September 1941 Reza Shah Pahlavi was forced to abdicate by the Allied Powers, leaving his throne to his son, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

#### b. Invasion of Iran During the Second World War

On September 4, 1939, three days after the Second World War commenced Iran officially declared her neutrality. It was crystal clear that this declaration was made to eliminate any potential attacks on Iran by the belligerent sides. It is also important to add that when the war was only in Europe then, the need to make such an immediate declaration strongly signifies that Iran's administration was expecting an intervention. Despite Iran's efforts to stay neutral throughout the war, Iran couldn't avoid foreign intervention during World War 2. On the 22nd of June, 1941, Nazi Germany initiated Operation Barbarossa, an invasion of the Soviet Union and approximately six months later Imperial Japan did the unthinkable and bombed the United States fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The following day, the United States declared war on Imperial Japan, and it soon entered into a military alliance with China. These two crucial events shaped the rest of the world war and on top of that Iran gained a very strategic importance. Especially Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union put together a communist nation and her ideological enemies, the United States and the United Kingdom on the same side. When the war eventually forced these two opposite poles into allying up with each other against Nazi Germany, Iran suddenly became a significant geography so that the alliance could function swiftly. Convening at Placentia Bay, Newfoundland in August 1941, the United States' President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Winston Churchill decided to provide economic and military aid to the Soviet Union. Yet, there were major obstacles to providing the desired aid to the Soviets. The most significant obstacle that the Allies faced to convey the aid was security problems. The Soviet's Baltic gate was closed because of the German threat and the Far East was as risky as the Baltics because of Imperial Japan. These security threats left the Allies



with only two other alternatives; Turkish straits or Iran. However, the utilization of the Turkish straits was not possible according to the terms that the Treaty of Montreux prescribed so the Allies had no other way than to convey the aid to the Soviets through Iran. When the Allies finally decided to aid the Soviets through Iran they saw Reza Shah Pahlavi as a hindrance to their reason for this is that the Shah declared his neutrality and wasn't willing to make an attempt against Nazi Germany such as allowing the Allies to pass through Iran in order to aid the Soviets. Despite this, the Allies did not take into consideration Iran's neutrality and independence and began invading Iran by force on August 26, 1941, without a declaration of war. Just after a few days, the Iranian military was in total chaos. The Allies easily gained air superiority and were ruling the skies of Iran, and large sections of the country were under occupation. Major cities such as Tehran were facing significant air raids. In Tehran, the casualties were considerably not that high but the Soviet Air Force dropped brochures over the city, warning the people of an upcoming massive bombing and exhorting them to surrender before they suffer major casualties and destruction. Tehran was facing food and water shortages due to the invasion and many soldiers fled the city in fear of the Soviets executing them upon capture. Because of these circumstances, the royal family except Reza Shah Pahlavi and the Crown Prince fled to Isfahan. The collapse of the army Reza Shah Pahlavi had spent so much time and effort on was extremely humiliating for many and on top of that most of the military generals had behaved incompetently or secretly sympathized with the British and ended up sabotaging the Iranian resistance rather than fighting for their country. Many army generals secretly met with the British in order to discuss surrender options. Due to this Reza Shah Pahlavi ordered the resignation of the pro-British Prime Minister Ali Mansur and replaced him with Mohammad Ali Foroughi. After the replacement, Reza Shah Pahlavi ordered an end to the resistance and demanded a ceasefire. He started the negotiations with the British and the Soviets. Unfortunately, Reza Shah Pahlavi made a big mistake by appointing Mohammad Ali Foroughi as the Prime Minister and sending him to negotiate with the British and the Soviets because he was a foe of the Shah in earlier years he was forced into retirement due to political reasons and his son was executed by firing squad. When Mohammad Ali Foroughi started negotiating with the British, instead of negotiating a favourable settlement he implied that both he and the Iranian people wanted to be "liberated" from the rule of



Reza Shah Pahlavi and put the blame on him. The British and Foroughi agreed that the Allies would withdraw from Iran but in return, Iranians had to ensure that the German minister and his staff would leave Tehran, every single German, Italian, Hungarian and Romanian legations to be closed and all remaining German nationals including all families to be handed over to the British and Soviet authorities. The last demand meant the certain arrest or even death of many innocent souls. That is why Reza Shah Pahlavi delayed the last demand and staged a secret evacuation of all German nationals from Iran. His plan fortunately worked and by the 18th of September, most of the German nationals had fled from the Turkish border. In response to this act, the Soviet army started moving to occupy Tehran on the 16th of September due to this many people, especially the wealthy, fled the city in fear of getting executed by the communists. Reza Shah Pahlavi, in a letter handwritten by Foroughi, announced his abdication, as the Soviets entered the city on 17 September. At first, the British wanted to restore the Qajar Dynasty because they had served the British interests well. However, the heir to the throne, Hamid Hassan Mirza, was a British citizen who spoke no Persian. Instead, with the great help which came from Ardeshir Reporter the son of Reza Shah Pahlavi, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi took the oath and became the next shah of Iran. Reza Shah Pahlavi was arrested before he could leave the country and put in British custody He was exiled as a British prisoner to British Mauritius for 7 months, before being sent to South Africa, where he died in 1944. On the 17th of October, the Allies withdrew from Tehran and Iran was partitioned between the British and the Soviets until the end of the war. The Soviets occupied northern Iran while the British occupied southern Iran.

#### a. The Cold War

The Cold War is commonly known by people as the rivalry between the Soviet Union and the United States of America. Yes, it was but it was more than this. Cold War involved many countries from all continents in many different fields: space, intelligence operations, arms race, technology race, political race, ideological race etc.

##### i. Path to the Cold War



In Europe, the 1940s were devastating years for many countries. Starting from 1939, the Nazi Invasion of Poland, the Second World War had tremendous costs for European Countries. At the time of the Second World War, there were 3 factions in the world: the Axis, the Allies and the Communist Bloc. Of course, the Soviet Union joined and cooperated with the Allies, but there were many differences with the main Allied countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The main difference was basically Communism. The German Wrath might have led to the cooperation of these 2 different ideologies Capitalism and Communism Yet, this cooperation could not last long after the Second World War.

At the end of the Second World War, there were no longer 3 factions but now 2. Negotiations between the 2 remaining factions of the world to discuss the Post-War Europe and Germany. The main negotiations were the 2 conferences known as the Yalta Conference and the Potsdam Conference in 1945. As a result of the negotiations, Germany was divided alongside the city of Berlin being divided separately while some German lands were given back to their owners or given to other countries. Other major Axis forces such as the Japanese Empire and Italy were not divided but occupied by the Allied forces and Democracy was spread in these countries. However, due to the Soviet front of World War II, Eastern Europe was heavily under Communist influence, and the situation did not change after the war because the policies of the American government under Roosevelt made appeasements in negotiations with the Soviets to convince them to join the attack against Japan. As a result of these appeasements, Eastern Europe fell to Communist influence and regimes. Officially there were elections in the liberated states, but the Soviets using legal and illegal policies to put up a communist regime managed to gain success.

There was now an Iron Curtain in Europe, putting up a certain border between Communism and Capitalism in Europe, and a rivalry naturally started because of the differences between these 2 ideologies, since there was no more a third faction that fought against the rest 2 factions which kept these 2 factions focused on the third one. Finally, these 2 remaining factions turned their focus to each other and continued the rivalry. On one side there was Communism based on equality, and on the other side



Capitalism, which defended that it was normal for differences to exist between people. But this rivalry was not in a direct way with battles, but with a similar concept to race as one side would prove to be better than the other one.

## ii. Events of the Cold War

The Cold War officially started with the Truman Doctrine of 1947. In this doctrine, the US adopted anti-Soviet policies in international politics. This doctrine made it clear that the US was now seeing the Soviet Union as a threat, and that measures should be taken against them. Tensions rose up eventually. After the Truman Doctrine, the US government aimed to help European Western allies economically with financial aid, primarily focused on Turkey and Greece. Later on, they did provide financial aid to Western US allies, with the plan known as the Marshall Plan. This plan helped Western Europe to recover from the consequences of the Second World War. After the Marshall Plan, the Soviet Bloc launched its own financial aid plan known as the Cominform which was not effective as the Marshall Plan.

In 1948, the Soviet Union started a blockade against the Western capitalists to cut their access to Berlin, to force them out of the city. However, the Americans came up with a solution, to send necessary supplies from the air. This is known as the Berlin Airlift in history. Because of the Airlift, the Soviet Blockade proved to be ineffective and the Soviets eventually dropped the blockade.

Later in 1949, Western countries formed a collective defence alliance known as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO. NATO was primarily founded to tackle the Communist threat and to prevent the spread of communism. The alliance first included these countries: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, United Kingdom and the United States.

There were also other major events in 1949, such as the end of the Chinese Civil War between Nationalist China and Communist China, Mao Zedong's rise to power, first successful Soviet Nuclear Bomb test. These events increased the communist influence





with China becoming a major communist country and the Soviets keeping up with the Americans in the arms race.

In 1950, the Communist forces of North Korea passed the borders entered South Korean soil and started a major war in Asia known as the Korean War. In the first year, the Northern forces quickly advanced all the way to Pusan, but the UN intervened in the war with peacekeeping forces and landed on Korea, pushing North Koreans even further from the pre-war borders. But after this, China officially entered the war and once again the Northern forces with the support of the Soviets and the Chinese marched to the South. However, the situation turned into a stalemate and both sides agreed on peace and also agreed on pre-war borders in 1953, the year that Joseph Stalin passed away and Nikita Khrushchev took power of the Soviet Union.

In 1955, the Communist Bloc formed their own collective defence alliance known as the Warsaw Pact. The founding members were Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union.

In 1957, the Soviets scored the first goal in the space race by sending the first satellite known as Sputnik into space. On the other hand, Americans sent their own satellite in January 1958. This was an unexpected situation, a situation that made it clear that the Soviets were ahead of the Americans in terms of technology in space.

In 1959, the communists in Cuba won the Cuban Civil War and took power with Prime Minister Fidel Castro. A communist regime located just under the United States in the Caribbean Sea posed a threat to the United States since it was a potential base for the enemy to use near the American mainland. Due to this potential threat, Americans decided to launch an operation and change the regime in Cuba with the operation known as the Bay of Pigs Invasion. However, there was a major lack of air support and the Cubans utilized guerilla tactics against the Cuban exiles who were trained and aided by the United States. The invasion resulted in a disaster for the United States and further escalated the tensions between Cuba and the United States.



In 1961, the Soviets started to build a massive wall in Berlin to cut connections between East and West Berlin. The wall symbolized the Cold War and was heavily guarded and patrolled by the forces of both sides. Yet, the wall still failed to put a decisive end to the access of both sides since there were events of desertion. One of the main reasons behind the construction of this wall was that due to economic conditions, labour conditions, and employment issues, there was a massive scale migration from East Berlin to West Berlin. The Soviets aimed to prevent this migration with the Berlin Wall.

In 1962, an American spy plane spotted missile sites in Cuba containing Soviet Missiles. This alarmed the US government and the cabinet considered various measures but agreed on one, to blockade Cuba. Tensions escalated with the threat of a nuclear war, an invasion or basically the end of the world. On the other hand, Americans had nuclear weapons located in Turkey to have a near nuclear base against the Soviets.. Yet, both sides the Soviets and the Americans came to a common sense that a simple flame of the tensions could result in a mass destruction of the world and both sides demanded the withdrawal of Nuclear weapons that were located near their mainland. As a result of this, Americans took out the nuclear missiles from Turkey and the Soviets took out their nuclear missiles from Cuba, and the crisis came to an end. This crisis is known as the Cuban Missile Crisis in history.

In 1963, a hotline between the Kremlin and the White House was established, American President John F. Kennedy was assassinated and a treaty was signed to de-escalate the nuclear arms race, known as the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by the Soviets, Americans and the British.

In 1954, a war broke out in Vietnam as a result of the internal political complexities. Before 1954, Vietnam already fought an independence war against France since they were a French colony. After the independence war, two countries emerged: North Vietnam which was under communist influence, and South Vietnam which were under capitalist influence. Yet, the differences of ideologies and a desire to unite by both sides caused tremendous political tensions. Tensions that started a war in 1954, involving all states that emerged after the French rule. But between 1954 and 1959,



North Vietnam did not enter the war. Northerners entered the war in 1959, causing a bigger-scale war. The South was already supported by the US and when the Northerners entered the war, US support increased. The US considered a direct intervention in the war too.

The main US involvement in the Vietnam War came into effect when Ngo Dinh Diem, the leader of South Vietnam was assassinated and an American warship was attacked by North Vietnamese forces in the Gulf of Tonkin.

After the US intervention in 1964, the situation in Vietnam did not take a major turn because there was an ongoing stalemate. The geographical conditions of Vietnam and the guerrilla tactics utilized perfectly according to the geographical conditions caused a stalemate causing heavy casualties to the enemy. Under the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson in the US, the US sent more troops to Vietnam but could not change the tide of the war. Eventually, due to high casualties and no major progress, the US decided to withdraw from Vietnam in 1973, and the war ended with a Northern Communist victory.

It is also important to note that there was a series of negotiations between the Soviet Union and Vietnam to decrease the arms race. Major ones are the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and the SALTs (Strategic Arms Limitation Talks). The NPT aimed to unite major countries of the world with the aim of opposing nuclear developments further. The treaty was signed in 1968 by the Soviet Union and the United States of America. On the other hand, SALTs aimed to prevent the production of further strategic and destructive missiles, and the talks were successful in terms of de-escalation of the situation.

### iii. Cold War in the Iranian Aspect

Following the Allied invasion of Iran in August 1941, Iranian regional autonomy suffered critical foreign interference of their administration, particularly by the Soviet Union, facing restrictions and influence upon the state's military exercises, national industry, inner politics and more. Under the deep influence of the USSR, communist political campaigns emerged within Iran, primarily with the establishment of the



Tudeh Party. The Soviet approach towards the region throughout the occupation period triggered conflicts among the foreign influential powers, essentially the USSR and the US. The US intentions on the region differed from the USSR as the US command was mostly used to distribute the American lend-lease to their allies thus nearing the end of the war, the Soviet actions started to disturb the American authorities of Iran considering the growing tensions between states. The US maintained friendly ties with the central Iranian government and objected to the Soviet oppression of the Iranian administration, gaining the trust and support of the central government. US forces created the PGC (Persian Gulf Command), a task force consisting of 30.000 US army officers, to distribute the lend-lease during the war through the “Persian Corridor”, which also served to accomplish the US counter-operations against the Soviets in the region. The PGC assisted the development of Iranian transportation, distributed land in Iran and conducted military training programs for the Iranian army and gendarmerie, granting US diplomatic opportunities within Iran.

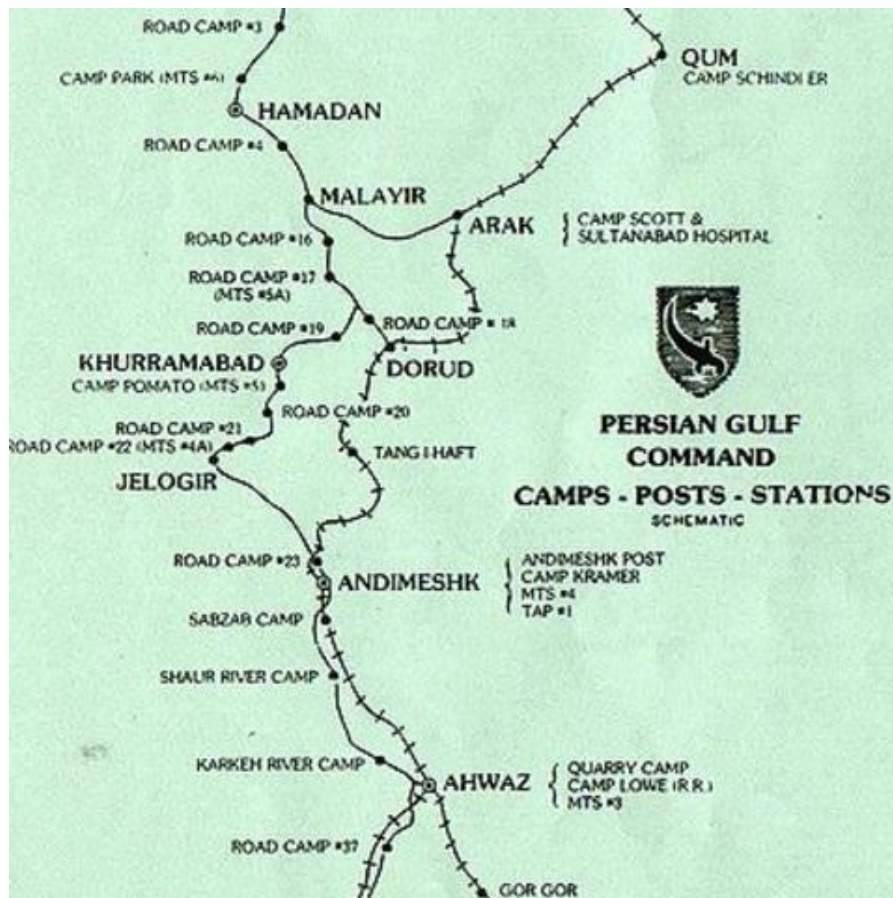


Figure 1

Eventually, the diplomatic efforts of the US resulted effectively. A newly appointed director-general of finance, Arthur C. Millspaugh, of the Iranian government, brought an American team of economists consisting of 60 Americans to serve under the ministry of finance. Millspaugh insisted on granting the assigned American officers unrestricted travel access within the Soviet-occupied regions of Iran despite the strict policies of the Soviets, escalating the situation into a possible crisis which was foreseen by the 23 years old Shah, Muhammed Riza, and prevented with the pressure on Millspaugh, forcing his resignation to the office. The Millspaugh failure did not halt the strengthening of the American-Iranian ties and the US government continued presenting projects upon the development of American objectives in the Iranian Gulf. The American plan which gathered the support of Iran aimed to abolish all great powers but the US on the petroleum developments of the region thus both improving the diplomatic ties between states and securing the superiority of the US on the petroleum reserves of the Middle East. The Secretary of State, Cordell Hull, cited the American intentions in one of their statements to the press saying, "Likewise from a more directly selfish point of view, it is to our interest that no great power be established on the Persian Gulf opposite the important American petroleum development in Saudi Arabia."

Through the conferences held in Tehran regarding the regional economic affairs of the Persian Gulf, with the attendance of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the US, Britain and the USSR agreed to assist the alleviation efforts of the Iranian economic crisis. Bids granting oil concessions for the foreign companies were proposed to the Iranian Government, enabling the negotiations of the American-owned Standard-Vacuum Company, Sinclair Oil Company and the British Shell Company with the Iranian officials. The ongoing negotiations between sides were intercepted by the demands of the Soviet delegation headed by Sergei I. Kavtaradze, indicating their requests for 5-year petroleum exploratory rights in the northern provinces. The potential dispute agreeing on either proposal would have forced the Iranian Government to adjourn the concession discussions until the end of the war. The



Soviet delegation and the Tudeh Party leaders criticized the Iranian decisions, alleging the US and Britain's influence as the reason for the adjournment while the US officials condemned the Russian interference in Iranian politics, defining the interference as an attack on Iranian sovereignty.

During the oil dispute, the Soviets concentrated their political activities in Azerbaijan. Recent actions of the Shah, centralizing commercial activities in the capital, escalated separatist movements throughout Azerbaijan, causing the political tension sought by the USSR. The Soviet attempts to provoke the local landlords and the business community in Iran succeeded, for the propaganda was initiated proficiently with communist parties demonstrating their extremist actions as reforms. Overall, although the Soviets justified their actions in the region by defining them as responses to the "tortious" US practices, the essential intentions for the established communist-led parties, the delegation and the "reforms" in Azerbaijan were to avert other regional powers from exploiting Northern Iran. The US political stance and goals were considered threats to Soviet control in the region thus over time, escalated the tension between the states. Projects to relieve the tension were proposed by the US President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, upon constructing a Soviet-administered port in the Persian Gulf and railways to connect it to the USSR but facing great criticism within the US Government, Roosevelt dropped the plan.

In the early 1945s, as a result of the bilateral benefit policies of the US throughout the occupation period, Iran began to fully depend on the US to eliminate Soviet occupation of the region. The US and Britain referred to the possible allied withdrawal from Iran in the Yalta conference but faced strict Soviet objections to the proposal. Frustrated at the Soviet persistence, Iran introduced a stabilization plan for Northern Iran, considering the Soviet apathy on the topic, which included the dispatching of Iranian battalions towards Northern Iran to pursue Kurdish tribesmen pillaging towns and villages. The Iranian Government was reluctant to request Soviet permission to enter the conflict zone for it would mean acknowledging Russian control. Through the negotiations, the Soviets came to agree upon allowing a single Iranian battalion in Tabriz to be dispatched to the region, though did not permit forces from outside the Soviet-controlled provinces from entering the region. Iran,



hesitantly, had to agree to the Russian terms to avoid another conflict which may have crashed their already stricken economy.

With the end of the Second World War, the question of allied withdrawal was brought up once again. According to the terms of the 1942 Tripartite Agreement signed by the US, Britain and USSR, allied troops were to withdraw from Iran after the end of the conflicts with the German Reich. British and American forces honoured the agreement and began their withdrawal. The Tehran government, incited by the political exercises of the USSR and Britain in the Majlis (Iranian Parliament), appealed to the US to pressurize the immediate Allied withdrawal. Wallace Murray, the new US ambassador in Iran, obligingly responded to the Iranian appeals and urged the instant withdrawal of all American forces from the region, believing a total withdrawal of American troops would obligate the Soviet withdrawal as well. Within the negotiation conferences, President Harry S. Truman promised the withdrawal of the remaining American battalions, composed of 5.000 men in total, within the next sixty days, though the Soviets and British initiated only the total withdrawal of their forces in Tehran and postponed the discussions until the foreign ministers' meetings. Throughout the meeting, the Soviets stated their commitment to the 1942 Tripartite Agreement and refused further negotiations. Nonetheless, Murray was still concerned that Soviet exercises in Northern Iran could hinder American economic interests in the region, yet pressed Washington to secure the immediate withdrawal.

In search of possible influence methods, the Soviets supported the establishment of a communist-led "Democratic Party" in Azerbaijan, seeking to maintain autonomous regional control. Having sought independence for many years, the Azerbaijani locals were perfectly suited for escalating chaos and separatist movements, therefore granting the Soviets an excuse for their military presence in the region. Upon the emergence of the Democratic Party, the Tedah Party with its members decided to join the new party and merge their powers. The party was used to spread pro-Russian propaganda, presenting Soviet protection as the sole way to secure an independent state of Azerbaijan. As planned, Soviet-triggered fierce uprisings, aiming to take over the provincial control of the region, escalated throughout Azerbaijan. To halt rapid response, the Soviets curtailed the communication lines between Tabriz and Tehran.



New Iranian units were designed to be dispatched to the region to relieve the tensions but faced Soviet blockade of the Qazvin Russian garrisons. The interference was clearly a violation of the 1942 Tripartite Agreement as the Allies weren't warranted to interfere with the Iranian army, forcing the central Iranian Government to seek support from the US once again. Washington passed a note to Moscow, confronting their actions and demanding their immediate withdrawal, emphasizing their violations of the treaty. Awaiting a response, Tehran received reports from Azerbaijan, stating that the Democratic Party had seized control of most towns in the region and had formed the "National Congress", challenging Tehran's administration of Azerbaijan. The news pushed Tehran closer to Washington as the actions directly targeted the American-supported Tehran Regime. Regarding the actions, in response, Soviet officials of Azerbaijan indicated the possible unrest in case of Iranian interference in the region, justifying their blockade. Additionally, the Soviets remarked the uprisings as "liberal" movements in dread of the possible Iranian oppression they may face in case of Russian withdrawal.

After enormous efforts to secure travel passes to the region aiming to tighten regional intelligence with direct inspections inside the conflict zone, Murray could finally receive permission to dispatch a team of ambassadors to Tabriz, yet to find out the Democratic Party lacked popular support and was dependent on Soviet support. Murray additionally obtained information on Soviet terms in case of a full withdrawal, which included: Oil concessions in the northern provinces, internal air transportation rights, and a "special position" at the port of Pahlavi on the Caspian Sea. Tehran was reluctant to grant such compromises to the Soviets and continued their American-sided policies to force the Soviets out.

The "National Congress" of Azerbaijan later held elections, defined "illegal" by the Central Iranian Government, which showed a clear majority in pro-separatist ambitions of the locals, clashing with the obtained information of Murray's team. The American interpretation of the clash mainly focused on the probable Soviet intervention in the elections which caused the "illegal" allegations of the Iranian officials. As tensions arose within the conflict, eyes were laid on the Moscow Conference, creating hope for the sides to resolve the dispute.





The Moscow Conference can be stated as a “disappointment” for the US and Iran as the insistent approach of the Soviets was realized to be lasting. The Soviets denied any terms and maintained their radical stance on the matter. Trapped in a desperate crisis, Prime Minister Hakimi decided to resign, by the order of the Shah, granting his cabinet to the new minister, Qavam Saltaneh. Qavam maintained a rather friendly approach towards Soviet negotiations and purged many pro-British officers in the administration. Qavam arrived in Moscow on February 19, 1946, to finalize the discussions.

During the following weeks, he met with Stalin and the minister of foreign affairs many times but could not achieve his goals. The Soviets pressed for recognition of Azerbaijan's autonomy, a joint oil company for the development of the northern provinces' resources, and the retention of some troops for an indefinite period. Meanwhile, an anxious wait was taking place in Washington to see whether the Soviets would honour the treaty and retreat before the second of March or not. On the second of March, the Soviets ordered the withdrawal of their Northern divisions but maintained the position of many forces throughout Iran. A crisis occurred on the 5th of March when the US and Iran pressured the Soviets to initiate the withdrawal immediately, publicly. In response, the Soviets ordered the dispatch of enormous mobilized forces including mass ammunition, tanks, soldiers and such along Iran, mainly to Tabriz and Tehran. Notes of allied forces were disregarded by the Soviets and tensions began to rise exceedingly between states. The Russians maintained their claims of being indifferent in the Azerbaijan elections though clearly pressured their demands of oil concessions showing off their forces. The Soviet deployment of troops indicated their plans to promote an Iranian coup to fulfil their demands, stated the Iranian Government.

The Iranian question was brought up once again the the Security Council, which was the most effective American negotiation method considering their regional neutrality with their early withdrawal. Negotiations were once again unsuccessful with clashing offers of the sides in the Security Council. The terms discussed and decided upon between the states were as such: “The Soviets promised unconditionally to withdraw



all troops by May 6; (2) a joint Irano-Soviet oil company, with the Soviets holding a majority interest, would be established, subject to the approval of the Majlis; (3) Azerbaijan was recognized as an internal Iranian affair, with the Iranian government responsible for reaching a peaceful accord with Azerbaijan and implementing necessary reform. ” The terms were viewed hesitantly by the Iranian officials but were somewhat enforced considering the probable incoming coup of the Soviets. Washington had to agree to Russian terms as they could not risk further Soviet control of the region and a coup would most definitely halt any American economic exercise in Iran.

Later on, the Soviets began their withdrawal as promised and the oil company was established. Both the Soviet demands and Iranian goals were achieved after all. With American support, Iran finally secured control over Azerbaijan and dissolved the “National Congress”. Though the Soviet military presence was eliminated, the Soviets still had a fairly effective influence on Azerbaijan's politics and inner affairs. Throughout the Cold War, the US and Soviet minor disputes over Iran maintained their significant role on the agenda and shaped international politics for a long period.

#### D. Hostage Crisis

##### a. Iranian Revolution

The Iranian Revolution which could be considered as the main trigger of the hostage crisis took place in the years of 1978 and 1979. Firstly, In January 1978 protests began to erupt in the streets of Tehran mainly consisting of religious school students. Shortly after, thousands of people, mostly among the Iranian youth, most of them being unemployed and from the countryside joined the protests because they thought that the current regime was unsuccessful and fairly extremist. In the meantime, the Shah of Iran was battling cancer and was in no shape to fight with the ever-growing hostility against him. Shah was really indecisive whether to give appeasements or to



try to stop the protests using force; he thought that the events were part of an international conspiracy that was plotted against him. Many people were killed by Iranian forces but it came with a huge backlash and fueled the protests even more. Protests grew even larger despite the government's efforts to suppress them and a cycle of violence occurred, each death caused even bigger protests than before. On top of all of this many diverse ideological viewpoints secular left to religious right were gathered under a single roof that roof being Shi'i Islam which was crowned by the revolutionary cry of Allahu Akbar. National instability escalated further and on September 8 martial law was declared by the government and conflict between the citizens and troops erupted in the streets of Tehran that resulted in hundreds of casualties. A few weeks later workers of the government began to strike which resulted in a halt in the oil industry which was essential for the country's economy. By that time the streets of Tehran were bulging at the seams. Moreover, Ruhollah Khomeini in his exile who was an Islamic revolutionary demanded the abdication of the Shah and in January 1979 the Shah and his family fled the country and officially made it seem like it was a "vacation". With the last stroke, the country was in total despair. During the Shah's absence the Regency Council tried to run the nation but unfortunately failed to do so and Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar, promptly appointed by the Shah before he fled, wasn't capable of finding a compromise either with his colleagues in the National Fronts or Khomeini. In the meantime, the number of demonstrators that were in Tehran increased to nearly one million people and demanded the appeal of Khomeini. On February 11 Iran's armed forces formally declared their neutrality and put an end to the Shah's regime and the Pahlavi Dynasty. After some time Khomeini rose to power and a referendum took place. With overwhelming support, Khomeini declared Iran as an Islamic Republic.

#### b. Overtaking of the Embassy

Following the Iranian Revolution on November 4, 1979, some students began demonstrating protests in front of the U.S. embassy in Tehran and soon after the protests escalated into a conflict in a short period of time. At approximately 6.30 A.M. the promoters of the protests gathered almost five hundred students and started making a plan. When the plan was concluded they gave a female student a metal



cutter who hid it under her chador. At first glance, students didn't mean to cause an entire diplomatic crisis but rather make a symbolic occupation because when students gathered around they were carrying placards saying "Don't be afraid. We just want to sit in." when the security of the embassy started using firearms and deadly force students began to retreat. It is also recorded that one of the students said "Don't be afraid. We just want to sit in." but, even though the protestors retreated a bit it wasn't enough to scatter them entirely. As time passed the crowd outside the embassy grew even larger with dozens of people cheering for the occupiers and supporting them. Eventually, the plan changed and they decided to capture some hostages and the Muslim Students of the Imam's Line broke the gates of the embassy and stormed it immediately. Students who broke into the embassy were strong followers of Ruhollah Khomeini who was the Supreme Leader of Iran back at the time. As the students hoped Khomeini lost no time to support his followers on the matter by calling the takeover the second revolution and stating that the American embassy was a den of spies in the radio. Occupiers blindfolded marines, diplomats and the embassy staff and forced them out of the embassy for the photographers to take pictures. Although some embassy staff and diplomats managed to avoid being captured by either not going to work that day or by sneaking out of the embassy it is safe to say that the protestors even though their first goal wasn't to take hostages successful but also had no clue what kind of a diplomatic crisis that they have caused.

### c. Reactions by the United States

The American response included many aspects, some even criticized for its convenience of international law. Besides the relentless efforts of resolving the conflict through direct interventions, the US maintained its efforts politically and economically to retribute to Iranian actions. As in economic measures, the US initiated a ban on oil exports and military trade, as well as an inclusive freeze on Iranian belongings and entities in the US. Later, the US decided to advance the economic measures to then further initiate comprehensive embargoes on Iran,



additionally banning US citizens' travel to Iran and cancelling visas of Iranian citizens. The proposals of multilateral embargoes and sanctions were presented to the Security Council by the US though considering the remnant tensions from the Cold War, were vetoed by the Soviet Union. The US maintained its efforts on retaliating to Iran and conducted its political propaganda to gather support in the global arena for Iranian embargoes. Many states aided the US on the measures taken, Portugal being the first nation to fully initiate exclusive embargoes on Iran. Through the 1980-1981 period, the estimated impact on the Iranian economy was around 3.3 billion dollars solely due to the embargoes. The most impactful measure was the asset freeze of the US which cost the Iranian economy around 12 billion dollars.

Also, American thorough investigations and inspections of the Iranian immigrants were conducted. The international law basis of the actions taken is controversial as the freeze on all Iranian belongings has no justifiable explanation, though the embargoes and political actions are pertinent according to international law, considering the trade measures and immigration control of states are recognized as sovereign rights. Having clearly breached international law, Iran enabled the US actions to be defined as a reprisal, thus the American response did not attract much attention. Although the discriminatory acts of the US on Iranians irrelevant to the crisis can be categorized under violation of rights, the actions did not gather international objections likewise due to the prominent Iranian exercises and the American well-conducted propaganda.

Following the negotiations between states, with Iran focusing mainly on the lifting of the embargoes and the freeze, the hostages were agreed upon to be released on condition that the economic campaign against Iran is abolished. The impact of the conflict partially remains today and the crushing effects of the actions towards the Iranian economy had halted Iranian development for many years.

#### d. Iranian Responses

The political arena of Iran was significantly complex, considering the formation of the new Khomeini government and their dissension with the Shah. Anti-American movements were gradually advancing fueled by the new government's political



stance. The existing aggravation to the US for their continuous interventions in Iranian affairs were concerning the American officials as accepting the Shah into the States would possibly be recognized as another act of disrespect to Iranian sovereignty. The Khomeini government pressured the US to restrict their military and overall presence in Iran, occupying the embassy. Foreseeing the probable fierce responses of Iranian forces, the US Ambassador Sullivan reluctantly agreed to the terms and restricted the embassy's forces, reducing the personnel from 1400 down to 70. After the Shah arrived at the US to seek medical treatment, the Iranian revolutionary forces overran the Tehran US Embassy, officially triggering the crisis. The first terms proposed to the United States by Iranian officials included the return of the Shah to Iran for trial, the declaration of the Shah's assets as stolen property and the US cancellation of any interference in Iranian inner politics, for the hostages to be released. The US responded and stated the freedom of Iran to make financial claims against the shah in U.S. courts and further declared that they would support establishing an international commission to investigate purported human rights abuses under the shah's regime; as a precondition of any such actions, however, the hostages would have to be returned.

The proposed terms were seen as unsatisfactory by the Khomeini Regime and the crisis escalated further gradually. The persistence of both sides in enforcing their goals ruled out the probable resolution of the crisis within its early period and obligated the mentioned measures to be. Through the crisis, the Iranian forces maintained their exercises until the conflict could be resolved.

#### e. Rescue Operations

Realizing the inability of economic and political sanctions, witnessing the neglectful Iranian attitude toward maintaining negotiations and facing public criticism for the insufficient actions on resolving the dispute, the US decided to promote their efforts, executing "Operation Eagle Claw". The Eagle Claw was a failed US operation of



rescuing the captive Americans of the Embassy, highlighting the flaws of the American military command of the time.

The overtake of the embassy on the 4th of November gave Iran 63 hostages, 13 of which were women and African Americans who were released in mid-November whilst the remaining 50 were held until April 1980 due to abortive negotiations. The US Navy, Air Force, Marines and Army were jointly included in the rescue operation and specialized training for the forces upon the plan began rapidly. The plan compromised the utilization of helicopters and C-130 aircraft to dispatch the commissioned US marines and officers from Oman and the Arabian Sea to the Alkali Flat (Code name: Desert One, 200 miles southeast of Tehran), a rendezvous point of US forces set for the coordinated execution of the Eagle Claw, to then transport the deployed troops to the designated mountainous region to commence the rescue operation.

A total of 8 helicopters were originally assigned to the transportation of the commissioned forces though 2 had to abort the mission due to major mechanical failure upon departure and the functional helicopters faced harsh dust storms in the region, delaying the Desert One landing by 90 minutes. After such severe conditions were faced, another helicopter turned out unfit to continue the mission leaving only 5 functional vehicles for the Eagle Claw, yet the mission had to be ceased as 5 helicopters would be inadequate to proceed with the operation. The occurrence of a civilian Iranian passage through Desert One also hindered the process and forced the US troops to detain the 40 trespassers to maintain the privacy of the operation. Facing tremendous challenges in vision and flying in extraordinary conditions, a US helicopter collided with an operating C-130, killing 5 air personnel with 2 marines escalating inevitable chaos within the task force thus forcing the abandonment of the American equipment in Desert One. Immediate withdrawal of the forces was ordered by the high command, leaving helicopters, equipment, maps and dead behind.

The Eagle Claw proved the military incapacity of the US in coordinated operations of its military branches and promoted further development of US special operations, leading up to the constitution of the United States Special Operations Command



(SOCOM). The abrupt American failure shaped the progression of the conflict and forced the US to aggravate their sanctions to resolve the conflict in the “only way” they could.

#### f. Iran-Iraq War

Tensions between Iran and Iraq immediately rose in 1921 due to the establishment of the latter nation, in the aftermath of the Great War. By 1970 conflict emerged between the two over the control of the Shatt al-Arab which was a waterway formed by the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the southern end being the border between the two nations. In 1975, to solve the conflict, the Algiers Agreement was signed which reduced the Iraqi control over the waterway and, in return, Iran had to withdraw her support from the Kurdish insurgency in northern Iraq. With the Algiers Agreement, the tensions were lowered a bit but unfortunately, that didn't last very long. A turning point emerged with the Iranian Revolution of 1978-79, the revolution initially toppled the government of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi which was a pro-Western and more of a non-aligned one and replaced it with a fundamentalist regime led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a Shi'ite Muslim cleric. Following the Iranian Revolution, in July 1979, Saddam Hussein became the new president of Iraq and leader of the country's Ba'ath party. Saddam Hussein counted on the support of his nation's Sunni Muslim population and feared an expansion of Iran's revolution to the west, especially to the areas where the majority of the population were Shi'ite Muslims. He also thought to terminate the border agreement which was signed in 1975 and reassert control over both sides of the Shatt al-Arab which was Iraq's only access to the Persian Gulf. Bearing in mind that Iran's military was significantly weakened due to the revolution and the chaos that the country was in, Saddam Hussein made a crucial decision that would shape nearly the next decade of the two nations and began invading Iran. Iraqi forces first initiated air strikes on Iranian air bases which was followed by a ground invasion of oil-producing regions of Khuzestan. The invasion was actually a success with Iraq capturing the city of Khorramshahr and making other territorial gains by November. However Iraqi advancement in the region soon slowed down and stopped due to the significant Iranian resistance which was powered by the addition of revolutionary militia to the





regular armed forces. After some skirmishes, Iran launched a major counter-offensive by early 1982 and regained all of the lost territory. By the end of 1982 with Iraqi forces withdrawn to the pre-war borders Iraq attempted to seek peace but Iran refused and insisted on keeping the conflict going in an effort to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein. In July 1982 Iran invaded Iraqi soil in an unsuccessful attempt in order to gain control over the Iraqi port city of Basra. With Iran now on the offensive, Iraqi defences strengthened and solidified and the war settled into a clear stalemate on approximately the pre-war borders. Both sides launched air and missile strikes to cities, military bases, oil facilities and transports prompting the United States and other Western powers to send warships to the Persian Gulf to regulate the output of oil to the global market. While Iran had a large numerical advantage in terms of men Iraq had more improved weaponry and better-trained officer corps, thanks to the direct support from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other Arab states and tactical support from the United States and other Western nations. Because of the hostage crisis, Iran was fairly isolated from the international scene and her only allies were Syria and Libya. Iraq still insisted on signing a peace, but drew outrage from the international community for using chemical weapons against Iranian troops and as well as Kurdish civilians in Iraq. Finally, in the spring of 1988, after nearly four years of stalemate and countless lost lives Iranian troops began to demoralize due to many failed attempts of offensives over the year, Iraq launched its own offensive. Iraqi gains on the battlefield convinced the clerical leaders of Iran that the war was virtually unwinnable for them. That July two countries decided to agree to a United Nations-brokered ceasefire under Security Council Resolution 598 and the war formally ended on August 20, 1988, with a status quo ante-bellum with both sides suffering extreme casualties while the numbers may vary but the estimated number of losses being around 2 million.

g. Negotiations and the End of the Crisis

Series of negotiation attempts were made in order to resolve the crisis. By the time May 1980 arrived the United States managed to convince its closest allies to issue an



embargo to Iran. Although the embargo itself was fairly effective it wasn't enough in order to weaken Iran and gain the upper hand or resolve the crisis entirely; nor, for that matter, did the Shah's death on July 27 break the standoff. But fortunately for the Americans, two major events occurred to turn the tide and made a resolution for the crisis more possible. The first event was the replacement of the Iranian government in mid August and the Carter administration immediately decided to extend the diplomatic negotiations further. The second event obviously was the Iran-Iraq War. In the first place, the war distracted the Iranian authorities from the crisis but in a short period of time the embargo crippled the nation's economy and the country's ability to stave off Iraqi forces. Also, when Mohammad Ali Raja'i, prime minister of Iran visited the United Nations in October the UN made it clear that Iran won't be receiving any support in the Iran-Iraq conflict as long as it kept the U.S hostages. With this chain of events Iran found itself in chaos and despair once again, as a result, Iranian officials started the negotiations to resolve the crisis. Although the Iranian prime minister insisted that there would not be any direct negotiations, the Algerian government and their diplomats acted as a mediator throughout the crisis. Negotiations lasted until 1981. Iran's government demanded that the trade embargos would be lifted and the frozen Iranian assets would be released. On January 20, 1981 an agreement was made and the hostages were released.

#### E. Impacts of the Iranian Hostage Crisis

Although, in the end, the United States managed to find a middle ground and get back the hostages it still was a major blow to the morale and prestige of the United States. The timing of the crisis couldn't be worse for the United States because it happened in the aftermath of the Vietnam War and they had lost. The crisis itself also hindered the upcoming U.S.-Iranian relations. It is also considered to contribute to Carter's defeat by Reagan in the 1980 Presidential Elections. On top of this allegations were also made in the following years that the Reagan campaign revolved around sabotaging the negotiations that Carter's government tried to conduct. To sum up the crisis it is safe to say that the hostage crisis altered the U.S Iranian relations for the next decades to come. Moreover, the countries' internal politics were severely altered as well.



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