



Committee: UNHSC

Topic: Political Unrest in Germany (1949)

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1. COMMITTEE BACKGROUND:

The *United Nations Security Council* (UNSC) was established in 1945 as one of the six main bodies of the United Nations (UN). It was created to address 4 main issues listed in the UN Charter. The purposes are: “to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, to cooperate in solving international problems and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.” The Council is composed of 5 permanent member states (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) and 10 non-permanent members that are elected by the General Assembly to serve a term of two years (What is the Security Council?, UN, 2020). In the UNSC, the permanent member states have a special power called a veto which enables them to block any substantive resolution. The presidency of the committee rotates monthly among its members. In order to carry out its mandate, the UNSC has the power to establish peacekeeping operations, enact international sanctions, and authorise military action. Moreover, it is the only committee within the UN system with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states (Functions, UN, 2020).

However, in the year of 1949, the UNSC was structured with different non-permanent members and all the nations listed will be nations participating in the conference.

MEMBERS:

- Permanent Members of the UNSC:
 - *U.S.*
 - *Republic of China*
 - *France*
 - *U.K.*
 - *U.S.S.R.*

- Non-Permanent Members: (selected from nations present at the different times of crises)
 - *Belgium*
 - *Canada*
 - *Turkey*
 - *Austria*
 - *Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia*
 - *Polish People's Republic*
 - *West Germany (Federal Republic of Germany)*
 - *East Germany (German Democratic Republic)*
 - *Socialist Republic of Romania*
 - *People's Republic of Bulgaria*
 - *People's Socialist Republic of Albania*
 - *Portugal*
 - *Spain*

2. HISTORY OF THE TOPIC:

A) Background on Nazi rule

As World War two was coming to an end, many changes were made to Germany throughout the time. Due to the Ideology of the Nazi party, 11 million Jews and other European minority groups were murdered during the Holocaust in concentration camps and sites across Europe. This was partially caused due to the indoctrination of the German people by the Nazi party. This also came with the Indoctrination of its children. By the end of Nazi rule in 1945, industry was largely destroyed, and there was significant loss of life among the army and civilian population.

B) Division of Germany (Yalta and Potsdam)

Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally on May 8th 1945. Twelve years of Nazi dictatorship led to horrific crimes, and cost the lives of almost 60 million people through war and the extermination camps. In the period after World War II, Germany

was divided into four occupation zones: British, French, American, and Soviet controlled zones. The city of Berlin was also divided into 4 occupation zones. The Western powers fostered the development of a parliamentary democracy, while the Soviet Union opened the door for socialism in the East. This division was intended to be temporary, but as Cold War hostilities began to increase, it was clear that the division between the communist and non-communist zones of Germany and Berlin would become permanent. In May 1946, the United States halted reparation payments from West Germany to the Soviet Union. In December, the United States and Great Britain combined their occupation zones into what came to be known as Bizonia. France agreed to become part of this arrangement, and in May 1949, the three zones became one.

C) Formation of the Federal Republic of Germany, May 1949

On May 23, the West German Parliamentary Council met and formally declared the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany. Konrad Adenauer, the President of the council and future President of West Germany, proclaimed, "Today a new Germany arises," but the occasion was not a festive one. Many of

the German representatives at the meeting were muted because they hoped that Germany might be reunified. Two communist members of the council refused to sign the proclamation establishing the new state.

The Soviets reacted quickly to actions in West Germany. In October 1949, the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) was proclaimed. These actions in 1949 marked the end of any talk of a reunified Germany. For the next 41 years, East and West Germany served as symbols of the divided world, and of the Cold War tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States as Germany was in effect divided into East and West.

D) Churchill's speech, Fulton Missouri

In one of the most famous orations of the Cold War period, former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, condemned the Soviet Union's expansionist policies in Europe, which violated the agreements made at the Potsdam and Yalta post-war conferences, in a speech declaring: "From Stettin in the Baltic, to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent." This declaration is often viewed as the true start of the Cold War, as it clearly revealed the ideologically-grounded

separation which had been growing between the Western Allies and the Eastern Soviets.

3. CURRENT ISSUES (AIMS OF THE NATIONS)

West Germany:

- After WW2, West Germany was primarily focused on rebuilding the German industrial base using loans sourced from the United States under the Marshall Plan. West Germany also worked towards cooperation with the West, denazification, and their end goal: reuniting Germany as a federal republic.

East Germany:

- After WW2, East Germany was established as a Soviet puppet state. The state was primarily formed as a buffer state, and faced a far longer timeline for industrial rebuilding than Western states due to the seizing of goods from occupied Germany by Soviet forces. East Germany was primarily aimed towards rebuilding German industry, and reuniting Germany under a Communist regime.

USSR:

- The USSR was largely focused on maintaining its control over the Eastern European buffer zones, as well as establishing itself as a true rival to the United States. Under Joseph Stalin, The USSR worked towards ever greater provocations towards the West, in order to win regional disputes.

USA:

- The USA was focused on maintaining the global order, and preventing the spread of communism. As the world's biggest economy, and the main military power in NATO, the U.S. faces worldwide commitments as of 1949.

UK:

- The U.K. was a diminishing global power in 1949. Having lost many of its key colonies, and with others breaking away or seeking greater autonomy, the United Kingdom was being relegated to a position as a secondary world power. Despite the damage sustained during WW2, the British military remained a major contender on the world stage, and is one of the most influential nations in Europe.

4. ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. *Why was Germany divided after WW2? Should it remain divided? For how long should it be divided?*
2. *Should East and West Germany establish freedom of movement of people and goods?*
3. *How should the economy of Germany be integrated given a political divide?*
4. *How should Denazification continue as particularly related to the middle and lower ranking Nazis?*
5. *Should War Criminals be apprehended? How should they be apprehended?*

CUT-OFF DATE

The last date for information regarding the crisis will be 24th of June 1948. No information after this date may be used as arguments or primary information. Arguments can take inspiration from the cut-off date.

REMINDERS

The committee style is a crisis committee and many unexpected situations may arise that will require in depth knowledge about the issues presented. It is advised to have general understanding of the time period to have an active role in the committee

5. RESOURCES

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6. CITATIONS

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