



UNSC STUDY GUIDE

BOĞAZIÇI MUN 2020



Letter from the Secretary-General

Honorable participants,

I, as the Secretary-General, have the immense pleasure of welcoming you to the second edition of Boğaziçi University Model United Nations Conference. I am very thrilled and excited to be the Secretary-General of the conference I have always dreamt of. The story of this conference started in a bench of Boğaziçi University two years ago, and from that day on, BoğaziçiMUN Legacy has grown more and more with the precious contributions of all members of BoğaziçiMUN Family.

This year, as the Academic Team of BoğaziçiMUN 2020, we firmly plan to execute a unique academic event that is unprecedented in the history of MUN in Turkey. For this purpose, we have created eight breathtaking committees. I can promise that none of our committees are born out of necessity, but all of them are made with great passion. Our main objective in designing our committees is "realism." We are determined to provide you the most realistic simulation of the specific organs of the United Nations, other international organizations, and historical events. I have my endless faith in all Academic Team members that they will most successfully execute our vision in the BoğaziçiMUN 2020. I would also like to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Binici, for continually helping me in the making of this conference.

This committee, UNSC, is brought to you by two exquisite gentlemen who have the most innovative and brilliant ideas. I believe that with the combination of their academic geniuses and innovative intelligence, there is nothing they cannot achieve. Therefore I am grateful to the distinguished USGs of UNSC, Mr. Gergef and Mr. Tursun for planning this wonderful committee and for making this Conference a better one.

With sincere appreciation,

Egemen Büyükkaya

Secretary-General of BoğaziçiMUN 2020



Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Most esteemed participants,

To start with, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to Boğaziçi University Model United Nations and to the UNSC committee. I am more than honored to serve as the Under Secretary General responsible for the UNSC committee in this conference. In Boğaziçi MUN 2020, hopefully, we will have a joyful simulation of this important entity.

I would like to wish you the best of luck during the committee, with the hope that I, in addition to my lovely Co-Under-Secretary-General Yekta Tursun, have succeeded in creating the best possible guidelines for you in the study guide. When the first day of the conference, you will have the duty to finish the work that we have started. As a last remark, I would like to thank our Secretary General Mr. Egemen Buyukkaya for giving me the chance to serve as the USG of UNSC and making this conference possible.

Best Regards,

Cengizhan Gergef

Under Secretary General Responsible for UNSC



Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Most esteemed participants,

My name is Yekta Can Tursun, and I am a second-year student at Istanbul Technical University in Computer Engineering Department. It is a great pleasure to serve you as the Under-Secretary-General responsible for the United Nations Security Council in BoğaziçiMUN 2020.

In this committee, we will try our best to ensure that you experience the best simulation in terms of world politics and the current climax of the world. We are looking forward to seeing your ideas which will be proposed by you in the utmost diplomatic fashion. It is very clear that without delegates, Model United Nations is nothing. This is why we are very oriented to delegates' experience and when the delegates leave the committee with a smile, it is the time that we truly understand we have done our jobs well.

I am pleased to work with people who share the same vision as I do. We as USGs of UNSC are here for you. For the study guide, we have designed in order to guide you, besides, in the footnotes, you can access more details in the events. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone whom and in particular to Secretary-General Egemen Büyükkaya for giving me the chance to serve as an Under-Secretary-General and a Crisis Director for this committee. I will all of you best of luck and a quick suggestion for all delegates, enjoy being in this family, BoğaziçiMUN 2020. If you have any questions, feel free to ask via email (tursun@itumun.org) before or during the conference.

Best Regards,

Yekta Can Tursun

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Security Council responsible for crises.



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I) The Situation in Venezuela

A. Background Information

1. Early History of Venezuela

Before the New Era, Venezuela was home to the indigenous peoples who lived by farming, hunting, and fishing. In 1498, Christopher Columbus became the first European to reach Venezuela. A year later, a Spaniard named Alonso de Ojeda led an expedition to the area. He called the area Venezuela, meaning little Venice, after seeing native huts on stilts. The Spanish founded their first town in Venezuela in 1521. They also began importing African slaves. Up until the 19th century, Venezuela was a Spanish colony, but at the beginning of the century, the national assembly declared Venezuela independent, which turned out to be short-lived because, after a year, Spanish forces were in control once again. The revolutionary Simon Bolivar finally liberated Venezuela in 1821. At first, Venezuela joined Colombia and Ecuador as part of a state called Gran Colombia. Gran Colombia did not endure long and soon broke up, after which Venezuela became completely independent in 1830. During the 19th century, Venezuela was ruled by various military dictators called Caudillos: Jose Antonio Paez, after whose rule Venezuela suffered a civil war, and General Antonio Guzman Blanco was caudillo from 1870-1888 during whose rule order was restored.

2. 20th Century and the oil discovery

Five successive military leaders dominated the first half of the twentieth century. Of those five, the longest lasting and most tyrannical was the General Juan Vicente Gómez, who seized power in 1908 and refused to step down until he passed away in 1935. During the time of his merciless rule, Gómez phased out the parliament, suppressed the opposition, and monopolized power. When oil was discovered in 1910, Gómez's regime used the newly found resources to put the national economy back on its feet. As the last years of the 1920s were coming, The largest exporter of oil was Venezuela, which was a blessing for the economic recovery of the country and enabled the government to pay off the entire foreign debt of the country. Despite all the accumulated wealth, almost none of it affected the citizens. The vast majority of the Venezuelans continued to live in poverty with little or no educational or health facilities, let alone reasonable housing. Since oil money was earned fast and in large amounts, it led to the abolishment of agriculture and the



development of other types of production and industry. Importing everything from abroad, which functioned for a while, was more manageable, but proved to be unsustainable.

All the turmoil and tensions in Venezuela rose during the coming dictatorships when it reached its peak in 1945 when the left-wing Acción Democrática (AD) leader, Rómulo Betancourt, took over the government. In the year 1947, a new constitution was adopted, and in the first democratic election in Venezuela, Rómulo Gallegos became president. Just eight months after the election of Gallegos, the inevitable coup took place, with Colonel Marcos Pérez Jiménez emerging as the new leader. He crushed the opposition once in power and plowed oil money into public works and built up Caracas. He modernized the nation superficially, but the mushrooming growth did not cure the economic and social inequalities of the region, nor did it quench the bitter resentment of the coup. In 1958, a coalition of civilians and navy and air force officers overthrew Pérez Jiménez. The nation returned to democratic rule and elected the president Rómulo Betancourt. He enjoyed the people's support and completed the constitutional five-year term of office, the first democratically elected Venezuelan president to do so. The steady stream of oil money poured into the coffers of the nation during President Rafael Caldera's appointed term (1969–74), keeping the economy prosperous. The oil bonanza also helped President Carlos Andrés Pérez (1974–79); not only increased oil production but, more significantly, quadrupled prices after 1973. In 1975 Pérez nationalized the iron-ore and oil industries and went on a spending spree; imported luxury goods were in abundant supply in the country's crammed shops, and the state of the country was such that the nation thought Venezuela was on a path to peace, prosperity, and riches. However, this was not the case, not even in the short term because, in the late 1970s, the growing international recession and oil lust began to shake Venezuela's economy to the core. Oil revenues started declining, heightening unemployment and inflation, and once more forcing the country into once again and even more foreign debt. The drop in world oil prices in 1988 halved the revenue of Venezuela, making it more difficult for Venezuela to pay off its debt. The austerity measures implemented in 1989 by the second-elected Pérez Jiménez did not receive good reception and sparked waves of outrage, escalating and contributing to the loss of more than 300 lives in three days of violent riots known as "El Caracazo." Strikes and street demonstrations continued to be part of everyday life in Venezuela.



Military officers started plotting seriously, and on 4 February 1992, they decided to strike. Chávez was only a lieutenant-colonel at that time, but generals were also involved in the coup attempt. The capture of Pérez was their priority. They almost had him cornered, but he managed to escape to the presidential residence, and from there, he got troops loyal to him corner Chávez in turn and arrested him. In exchange for prompting his co-conspirators to lay down their arms, Chávez gained permission to speak to the entire nation on television, wholly uniformed and unbowed. It led to much speculation after he said that his goals had not yet been accomplished. Several civilians and military leaders, as well as army members, were killed during the uprising. On November 27, 1992, higher-ranking officers than Chávez attempted to overthrow Pérez, but the authorities thwarted the plot early and easily on this occasion. Pérez's downfall came when he was compelled by a legal process to expose how he had used a classified but legal presidential fund that he fought with determination. Pérez was detained for a while in a detention center, and later under house arrest, with the supreme court and congress sweeping against him. Ramón J. Velásquez, a politician/historian who was his presidential secretary, was handed over the presidency in 1993. Velásquez oversaw the elections of 1993, when Caldera, a six-time presidential candidate, and one-time winner, wanted another go. When the returns were in, Caldera won. Back in the presidential palace, Caldera was faced with the 1994 Venezuelan banking crisis. He re-imposed exchange controls as part of a general financial liberalization that Pérez's administration had lifted. The economy suffered from the dropping price of oil, which resulted in a reduction in government revenues. Caldera fulfilled an election promise and released Chávez during the Pérez dictatorship, forgiving all the military and civilian conspirators. The economic crisis persisted, and the traditional political parties had become extremely unpopular and eventually by the elections of 1998.

3. Recent history- Hugo Chavez and Nicolas Maduro

In December 1998, Chávez, a former lieutenant-colonel, was elected president on a platform calling for the formation of a "Fifth Republic," a new constitution, a new name: "Venezuela's Bolivarian Republic," and a new set of socioeconomic class ties. In the year 1999, the citizens held a referendum on a new constitution that was approved, and in 2000, Chávez was re-elected, bringing in the National Assembly several members of his Fifth Republic Movement faction. In April 2002, Chávez was briefly ousted from power in the 2002 Venezuelan coup d'état attempt following actions by some of the military and



media and demonstrations by the minority opposition, but he was returned to power after two days as a result of demonstrations by the majority of the public and actions by most of the military. Chávez has remained in power after a national strike in December 2002–February 2003 that lasted more than two months, including a strike/lockout in the state oil company PDVSA and a recall referendum in August 2004. In December 2006, he was elected for another term. Chávez suffered his first electoral defeat in a constitutional referendum in December 2007 when the voters rejected the president's proposed constitutional changes, some of which would have strengthened the president's power. Recent polls in Venezuela have seen a very high level of abstention in the referendum. However, in February 2009, Chavez called another referendum, proposing the removal of term limits for all elected officials - previously, the constitution limited presidents to two terms, and other officials also had term limits. The referendum was held and approved on February 15, 2009. A new opposition political alliance, the Alliance for Democratic Unity, won nearly as large a share of the vote in the 2010 parliamentary elections as the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) but with only 65 seats compared to the 98 seats of PSUV. Preceded the election was an electoral reform that favored PSUV by giving the countryside more weight. Hugo Chávez was re-elected by a substantial margin in the 2012 presidential election, but he died in office in early 2013. Nicolás Maduro had replaced him. He served initially as interim President before narrowly winning the 2013 presidential elections.

President Nicolás Maduro was formally inaugurated on April 19 as President of Venezuela after the election commission had promised a full audit of the election results. On 13th of May 2013, One of his first plans, Plan Patria Segura, was initiated by President Maduro, saying, "we decided to fight to build a secure homeland." The goal of Plan Patria Segura was to disarm and prevent organized crime and drug enforcement. The methods of accomplishing these tasks were surveillance, documentation checking, verification of checkpoints, and helping guide communities. A year after the initiative was implemented, no improvements in crime were reported as murder rates remained the same across the world. In October 2013, Maduro requested the enabling of law to rule by decree in order to fight corruption, something he called an 'economic war.' On the 24th of October, he also announced the creation of a new agency, the Vice Ministry of Supreme Happiness, to coordinate all social programs. President Maduro used his special decree powers in November 2013, weeks before local elections, and ordered the military to take over



appliance stores. Analysts said the move led to a "cannibalization" of the economy, and in the future, it could lead to even more shortages. The government said it had confiscated more than 3,500 tons of contraband at the Colombian border— food and fuel — in February 2014.

In 2015 Venezuela had a parliamentary election. It resulted in the opposition gaining a majority, but in March 2017, the Supreme Court of Venezuela, dominated by supporters of Maduro, announced that since the parliament was in contempt of its rulings, the court would assume legislative duties. Although policy failures precipitated Venezuela's recession in 2014, the crisis was compounded by a fall in oil prices. Economic conditions continued to deteriorate in 2016 as consumer prices increased by 800 percent and the gross domestic product contracted by 18.6 percent, causing malnutrition to escalate to the point that the "Venezuela's Living Conditions Survey" (ENCOVI) found that due to a lack of adequate nutrition, almost 75% of the population lost an average of at least 19 pounds in 2016.

Following protests that resulted in at least 29 deaths in May 2017, Maduro called for a Constitutional Assembly to draft a new constitution to replace the Constitution of Venezuela in 1999. In open elections, the leaders of the Constitutional Assembly were not chosen but picked from Maduro supportive social organizations. It would also encourage him to remain in power during the interregnum period and miss the presidential elections in 2018 as it would take at least two years to complete the process.

For all the people in Venezuela who condemn the law, the opposition began a popular front. On June 20, 2017, National Assembly President Julio Borges, Venezuela's opposition-led legislative body, announced that Articles 333 and 350 of the Venezuelan Constitution had been activated in order to create a new parallel government. Constituent Assembly elections were held in July 2017. Members of the international community criticized the decision to hold the election, with more than 40 countries condemning and failing to recognize the election, along with supranational bodies such as the European Union, Mercosur and the Organization of American States, stating that it would only escalate tensions further. Allies like Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Russia, and Syria, Mr. Maduro, rejected foreign intervention in Venezuelan affairs and congratulated Mr. On August 4, 2017, Venezuela's Constituent Assembly was formally sworn in. The day after the



first session of the Constituent Assembly, the attorney general who is investigating charges of electoral fraud was dismissed.

Once again, in May 2018, in an election denounced by opposition leaders and the international community, Maduro manages to win another six-year term. Voter turnout falls to 46%, which is less than the 80% participation rate in 2013. Several drones armed with explosives flew towards Maduro in an apparent assassination attempt during a military parade in August of the same year. The next day, the interior minister announced that six people had been arrested in connection with the attack. A few weeks after the assassination attempt, Maduro's government issued a new currency to jumpstart the economy amid warnings from the IMF that the inflation rate could hit one million percent by the end of the year.

Maduro started his second term on January 10th, 2019, although most democratic countries in the region refused to recognize him as president. The Organization of American States (OAS) claims its member nations voted 19-6, with eight abstentions, to not recognize the legitimacy of Maduro's government. Thirteen days later, Juan Guaidó, who is the leader of the National Assembly in Venezuela, declared himself the interim president amid massive anti-government protests.

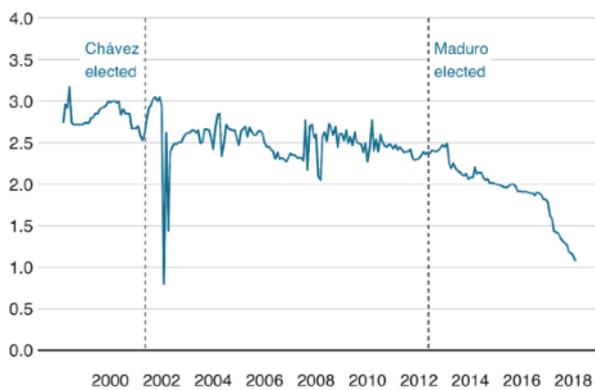
4. Hyperinflation and oil dependency

The biggest problem facing Venezuelans in their day-to-day lives is hyperinflation. The annual inflation rate reached 1,300,000% in the 12 months before November 2018. By the end of last year, prices were doubling every 19 days on average. This has left many Venezuelans struggling to afford necessary items such as food and toiletries. By the middle of 2018, the official foreign exchange rate was about \$250,000 to \$1. By 2014, the stability of Venezuela's currency, the bolivar, and the Venezuelan economy's development had been heavily dependent on oil exports. More than 90% of the export earnings of the country came from oil. From 1999 to 2013, these export earnings allowed the government led by Hugo Chavez to pay for social programs aimed at fighting poverty and inequality. From subsidies to health services for those on low incomes, the spending commitments of the government were high. Then the global oil price fell. Foreign demand to purchase Venezuelan oil from the bolivar collapsed. As the value of the currency fell, the cost of imported goods increasing. The solution of Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro was to

print more money. When oil prices continued to fall, things got worse, compounded by other factors that decreased Venezuelan oil output. International investors started to look elsewhere, pushing the bolivar's value even lower. Through declaring a currency devaluation, the government tried to get to the top of this crisis. Maduro devalued the bolivar by 95%, the largest devaluation of the currency in the contemporary history of the world. He also fixed the new currency to the oil price, an economic experiment designed to demonstrate solid foundations for the Venezuelan economy.

Oil production is falling

Millions of barrels per day



Source: OPEC

BBC

Figure : A chart the falling oil production under the Maduro Administration.

PDVSA, the oil and gas company owned by the state in Venezuela, has operations in oil exploration, development, refining, and shipping, as well as natural gas exploration and production. Since its founding in 1976 with the nationalization of the Venezuelan oil industry, PDVSA has dominated the oil industry of Venezuela, which is also the world's fifth-largest oil exporter.

The world's largest oil reserves are in Venezuela, and the state-owned PDVSA provides significant financial support to the Venezuelan government. After the Bolivarian Revolution, PDVSA was primarily used as the government's political tool. Between 2004 and 2010, PDVSA contributed \$61.4 billion to the social development projects of the government, approximately half of which went directly to various Bolivarian missions, while the rest went through the National Development Fund. Profits have also been used to assist the presidency, with funds for the Venezuelan government's allies. With PDVSA focusing on political projects rather than oil production, mechanical and technical status deteriorated as the expertise of employees was removed after thousands of politically motivated firings. The company's weakness has resulted in severe inefficiencies and incidents, as well as endemic corruption. As a result, thousands of workers left their work for PDVSA, particularly after the military control of PDVSA.

B. Main Measures Already Adopted



1. UN Resolutions

The situation in Venezuela is very dire, and the world is divided as it can be on this specific topic. The division between major powers in the world usually led to multiple UN Resolutions being vetoed and not getting passed.

Russia and China already vetoed a US resolution in February in the UN Security Council on addressing the crisis in Venezuela, but a counterproposal from Moscow did not win enough votes either. The failure to act on the two conflicting drafts laid bare disagreements among world powers over Venezuela's path forward, mired in a diplomatic crisis and an economic meltdown. The proposed U.S. text calling for new Venezuelan presidential elections and reckless deliveries of humanitarian aid won the council's required nine votes, but Moscow and Beijing joined forces to block it. France, Germany, and Britain were among the proponents of the proposed U.S. plan. South Africa voted no while it abstained from Indonesia, Equatorial Guinea, and Ivory Coast.

Russia's draft resolution, which urged a settlement "through peaceful means" and insisted that all humanitarian aid be agreed by President Nicolas Maduro's government won only four votes: Russia, China, South Africa, and Equatorial Guinea. Seven countries were opposed to the Russian measure, including the United States, European countries, and Peru, and four abstentions took place. Meanwhile, Russian Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused the United States of delivering a document "written for regime change, disguised as care for people. We have all seen this in Libya, Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan."

Guaidó, who heads the National Assembly, is leading a push for recognition by the United States. More than 50 countries are now supporting him. U.S. envoy for Venezuela Elliott Abrams took an implied dig at Russia and China after the double vetoes, lamenting that countries "continue protecting Maduro and his cronies and prolonging the suffering of the people of Venezuela."

Venezuela's Ambassador Samuel Moncada renewed his government's assertions that the United States is preparing military action, referring to President Donald Trump's statement that "all options are on the table." Maduro has accused the United States of using aid as a



political tool aimed at overthrowing him and blames US sanctions for the economic turmoil.

2. European Union

The European Council agreed on November 6, 2018, to extend the necessary restrictive measures until November 14, 2019. On 13 November 2017, the Council adopted targeted restrictive measures on Venezuela. These included an arms embargo and internal repression equipment, as well as a travel ban and asset freeze on 18 individuals holding official positions and responsible for human rights violations, as well as undermining Venezuela's democracy and the rule of law. The EU has reiterated on numerous occasions its readiness to help find a democratic way out of the current multidimensional crisis through a meaningful and results-oriented negotiation, conducted in good faith, that includes all relevant Venezuelan political actors. EU foreign ministers discussed the situation in Venezuela and its impact in the region at their last meeting on the 15th of October and reaffirmed this position. Because the issue can only be resolved through a political process, they decided to explore the possibility of setting up a working group that could help facilitate such a process if conditions are met.

3. OAS

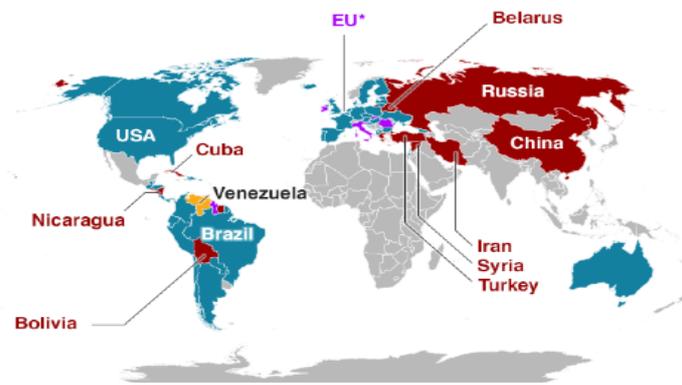
On Thursday, January 10, in Washington, DC, the OAS Permanent Council had the votes to adopt a resolution that "does not acknowledge the validity of the new term of Nicolás Maduro as of January 10, 2019" and, among other things, "calls for new presidential elections" to be held in Venezuela with the participation of international observers as guarantors of its fairness and transparency. It was the first time in a while that sufficient votes were gained by this international group of states to have a formal document accepted at the OAS condemning the Maduro regime. It is said to reflect the Venezuelan people and democratic institutions in the world the full support of the majority of democratic states in the Inter-American system. A total of 19 countries voted to approve the Resolution of the Permanent Council. Six countries voted against it, and eight countries abstained from voting.

The swearing-in ceremony of Maduro was attended by only four countries in the region: Cuba, Bolivia, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. Bolivia and Nicaragua's representatives to the OAS, as expected, voted against the resolution with Venezuela, while their presidents were

in Caracas with Maduro. El Salvador's President Sánchez Cerén also joined the party with Maduro, Evo Morales, and Daniel Ortega, but their representative abstained from the OAS vote.

Where do countries stand on Venezuela?

■ Support Maduro ■ Recognise Guaidó as interim president
■ Calling for new elections



C. Actors Involved

Figure 2: A map showing countries' stance regarding the Maduro Regime

1. The United States

After socialist leader Hugo Chávez was elected in 1998, tensions between the two countries began to increase. Chávez overhauled the

economic system of the country and became more and more opposed to US foreign policy. The relations between Venezuela and the US have continued to worsen under President Maduro, who came to power after Chávez died. The US has continuously criticized President Maduro's increased usage of the country's courts and security forces for suppressing political opposition.

The US government declared his re-election as illegitimate and imposed a raft of economic measures against Venezuela. The United States is home to about 100,000 Venezuelans, many of whom oppose Maduro. However, Maduro used U.S. sanctions as a scapegoat to shift the blame for the economic troubles of the country. Venezuela has struggled to make use of its stock of the world's largest proven oil reserves in the middle of an economic crisis that is getting worse. US imports of that oil have declined sharply-but businesses are still importing about 500,000 barrels daily from the region. This amounts to about 41 percent of total oil exports from Venezuela. An important fact is that unlike other countries that Venezuela is indebted to, US firms pay for oil in cash.

President Donald Trump said in August 2017 that he would "not rule out a military option" to counter Nicolás Maduro's autocratic government and Venezuela's growing crisis. Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino strongly blamed Trump for his speech, calling it "an act of absolute bigotry" and "an act of folly." Trump's words were "an unparalleled threat to national sovereignty," said Venezuelan communications minister



Ernesto Villegas. On September 24th, 2017, the Trump administration announced new travel restrictions on certain foreigners in eight countries, including Venezuela. Sanctions from the Fresh Trump administration aim to frustrate the source of income by punishing the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA. Several refineries have already said they are going to be producing oil elsewhere. Citgo, a US-based company, is a PDSVA subsidiary. Under new sanctions, only if its profits are deposited into an account blocked by President Maduro is allowed to operate. In response to the country's crisis, President Trump refused to take any option off the table, and his administration promised instead to try to divert oil earnings to Juan Guaidó. On January 24th, 2019, the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the US is ready to provide humanitarian aid to assist with the effects of the proliferating crisis surrounding Maduro's illegitimate government. On January 23, 2019, Maduro announced that after an announcement by President Trump to recognize Juan Guaidó, the leader of Venezuela's National Assembly, Venezuela was breaking ties with the United States. Maduro said all U.S. diplomats had to leave within 72 hours, but Guaidó said they had to stay. Later, Maduro announced the closing of the Venezuelan Embassy and all U.S. consulates.

2. European Union Countries

Austria, The United Kingdom, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Poland, Spain, and Sweden declared that they recognize Juan Guaidó as interim president. It came after President Maduro ignored an EU ultimatum calling for free, transparent, and credible presidential elections.

The EU argues that Venezuela's presidential elections in May 2018 were neither free, equal, nor credible, lacking democratic legitimacy and that the world urgently needs a government that represents the Venezuelan people's will. In January 2019, the EU set up an international working group to put together countries from the EU and Latin America to contribute to the development of a diplomatic and peaceful process. Since 2016, the EU has dedicated over €60 million to meet the urgent needs of citizens affected by the crisis. The European Council introduced sanctions against Venezuela on the 13th of November 2017. The sanctions include an arms and equipment embargo on domestic repression, a travel ban, and an asset freeze on 18 officials responsible for violations of human rights, as well as undermining democracy and the rule of law. In January 2019, Guaidó called on



British authorities to prevent Maduro from removing any of the country's gold held in the UK's central bank. In letters sent to British Prime Minister Theresa May Guaidó stated, "If the money is transferred, it will be used by the illegitimate and kleptocratic regime of Maduro to repress and brutalize the Venezuelan people."

3. Russia

Russia has continued to support Maduro's President. It warned the US against military action and accused Venezuela of "crudely breaching standards" in international law in pursuing a path toward "illegal regime change." For an isolated President Maduro Russia has provided a source of military and economic support. Last month Russia flew two nuclear-capable bombers to the region in a show of support for the sitting President. "President Putin is giving us support on all levels, and we have received it with much pleasure and gratitude," President Maduro told the media. In the economic sense, Russia has become a crucial lender to Venezuela's stricken economy. The Russian government, along with state-owned oil company Rosneft, has handed billions of dollars in loans to Maduro's government. It is estimated that at least £17bn of these have been credited since 2006. In recent days, however, Russian officials have made clear they expect Venezuela to continue its repayments, despite the deepening crisis.

4. China

Venezuela's most important creditor is China. From 2007 to 2016, China's state banks extended 17 loans to Venezuela with a worth of a total of \$62.2 billion, more than it loaned to any other Latin American country. From 2005 to 2015, multiple Chinese companies invested a total of \$19.15 billion in projects in Venezuela. Despite these facts, the figures in more recent times show that China is cutting back on investments, which is because Venezuela is becoming increasingly unable to meet repayments. From 2016-18, China added just \$1.84 billion to its investments in Venezuela.

Considering its tremendous influence in Venezuela, China may play a key role. While it remains close to the government of President Maduro, a peaceful transition that values its assets and the outstanding debt of Venezuela to Beijing, estimated at \$20 billion, will serve its interests much better.

5. Latin American Governments



Almost all Latin American countries have come out in support of opposition leader Juan Guaidó. It is not shocking that this involves several more right-leaning Latin American nations that would be keen to reduce the influence of the left in Venezuela, politically. These include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay, Honduras, and Peru. Some of those countries thought that the situation in Venezuela had a direct impact. Three million Venezuelans have fled across the borders of the country as refugees amid financial instability, hyperinflation, and food shortages. In August 2018, Peru and Ecuador announced new restrictions on migration, as thousands of Venezuelans tried to flee to neighboring countries.

D. Possible Measures to be Adopted

1. Regional cooperation

In order to help Venezuela, regional cooperation via international organizations such as OAS is to be encouraged. In April 2017, Venezuela announced its intention to withdraw from the OAS. Venezuelan Foreign Minister Delcy Rodríguez said that President Nicolás Maduro planned to renounce Venezuela's membership in the same month publicly. It would take two years for the country to leave formally. During this period, the country did not plan on participating in the OAS. During the ongoing Venezuelan presidential crisis, the National Assembly, which was recognized in January 2019 by the OAS as the sole leading body in the country, designated a special envoy as representative to the OAS.

2. Expectations

- Diplomatic relationships are encouraged to be maintained, and non-military solutions must be tried.
- Humanitarian help must be given as soon as possible and provide the population with basic necessities such as food and medicines.
- Ways to liven up the economy must be found, aiming at expansion and diversification of the industrial production.
- Cooperation between government supporters and the opposition must be sought in every way, in order to bring further stability to the political situation.
- Financial plans must be established in order to alleviate the Venezuelan international debt.



E. Questions that must be Addressed in the Final Resolution

- The humanitarian crisis and refugees

Venezuelans once were Latin America's wealthiest people, but today they are suffering an unprecedented humanitarian disaster. They leave their country at an annual rate of 5,000 per day, deprived of adequate food, medication, power, and water, vulnerable to violent crime, ravaged by political instability. U.N. explains the movement of refugees. It is estimated that there are more than 1 million in Colombia, 600,000 in Ecuador this year, and 400,000 in Peru. More than 70,000 have sought asylum from the United States, rendering Venezuela the largest source of asylum seekers by far. Latin American neighbors of Venezuela, along with Caribbean nations such as Trinidad and Tobago, lack the resources to manage the Venezuelans. However, the international response has been somewhat weak. The UN refugee agency had raised only half of the \$46 million it was seeking for operations in Venezuela.

Some countries are now taking steps to block asylum-seeking Venezuelans. Last week, Ecuador and Peru announced that they would only accept those with passports that are almost impossible to obtain in Venezuela. Chile has already implemented this limit. Elsewhere, the Brazilian government declared that it would send troops to Roraima's border state. The US response has also not been shiny, despite frequent condemnations of the Maduro government by President Trump. The administration has provided \$12 million to UN refugee efforts and about \$55 million overall, before stepping down from his position, former Defence Secretary Jim Mattis said that a Navy hospital ship would be stationed off Colombia to provide medical aid to Venezuelans.

Women and girls are the most at risk because of difficult pregnancies and lack of antenatal care, anemia restrictions, or Caesarean sections. Increased sexual abuse, gender-based harassment, and HIV are also significant concerns. With health facilities already struggling to meet the needs of drastically increasing patient populations, there is a widespread lack of training among health providers in appropriate and confidential gender-based violence case management and clinical management of rape, putting these survivors at higher risk of neglect, abuse, and disease.



- Prevention of an all-out civil war

Venezuela now has two men claiming to be president, but neither of them is governing the country. Nevertheless, since the late Hugo Chavez came to power almost precisely ten years ago on a platform of left-wing nationalist populism, or Bolivarianism to use the right local branding, the situation has never been so combustible. Thousands of Venezuelans are on the streets of Caracas protesting in support of both President Maduro and Juan Guaidó. Maduro retains the support of the military, but after the demonstrations, Juan Guaidó received a boost when an air force general, Francisco Yanez, became the highest-ranking military official yet to pledge support for him. Guaidó claimed he had held private meetings with the military to win support for ousting Maduro. He also claimed that he has reached out to China, one of Maduro's most important backers.

The military branch, not always friends of socialist South American regimes, came out to pledge their allegiance to President Maduro. A crucial question is whether the recognition of Guaidó as the legitimate President of Venezuela could escalate into some physical intervention. The international community should move carefully because, for many years, a civil war has been threatening to break out, motivated by people who have become frustrated by the loss of economic freedom, hope, and opportunity. There is a genuine risk of events spiraling out of control, the UN predicts. It is challenging to see how events could turn into a peaceful resolution of the disputed elections. All the conditions for a confused civil are fulfilled. Already approximately 20 demonstrators have been shot dead in the latest round of protests, and a further 350 arrested. The people of Venezuela are already suffering terribly, and a civil war could prove to be long, costly, and, worst of all, it would come with great numbers of victims.

F. Further Readings

1. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/venezuela-crisis>
2. <http://www.addisonlibrary.org/sites/default/files/The%20Collapse%20of%20Venezuela.pdf>
3. <https://venezuelanalysis.com/>
4. https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/mccarthy_venezuela_crisis_final.pdf



5. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/us-seeks-un-draft-resolution-calling-for-venezuela-elections-11226802>

II) The Situation in the Middle East

A. Introduction

The definition of a middle east term is not as old as perceived it is. Besides, it defined in the late 20th century. In medieval times when the world has perceived as the whole Europe, it was called the “near east.” Historians called this time as Eurocentric times; this was the time civilization did not any idea about the “new world” -the continents of America.” This region can be defined as a transcontinental region includes Anatolia and East Thrace, Arabian Peninsula with Western Asia. However, in the late 1900s, this term lost its presence in academia and left its position to the American English term that is the “Middle East” after the first world war.¹ Middle East countries can be stated as in alphabetic order:

- Akrotiri and Dhekelia
- Bahrain
- Cyprus
- Egypt
- Iran
- Iraq
- Israel
- Jordan
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Palestine
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria
- Turkey
- United Arab Emirates
- Yemen

18 state exists in the area and has a total population of 371 million. The majority of that population identifies their religions like Islam. Furthermore, 60 languages have been spoken in the area.²

¹ Khoury, Philip S., and Joseph Kostiner, eds. *Tribes and State Formation in the Middle East*. Los Angeles, California: University of California Press, Ltd., 1990.

² “The Middle East at Crossroads.” *The Middle East at Crossroads*. New York City, 2013. https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/b0f9/9025d232494803f84f1a4578d7a11dcf1be2.pdf?_ga=2.108739915.8353599.1578074486-844530514.1578074486.

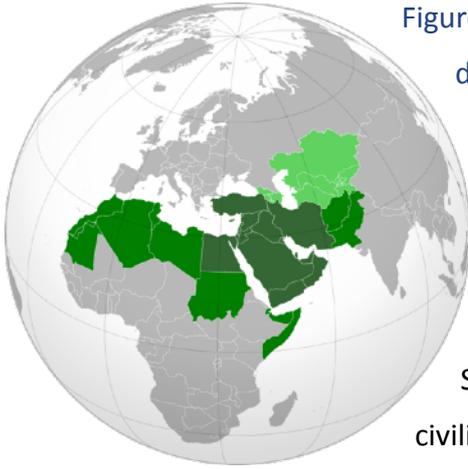


Figure 3, dark green area is the Middle East, the green area is defined as “Greater Middle East,” and the brightest green has been using by some academia.³

B. History of Middle East

1. Birth of Civilizations

Some scholars called the middle east as the “cradle of civilization.” Any observation of the region's past will explain the reasons for that call. The region has two rivers that have significant importance are Tigris and Euphrates. Moreover, the region that is in between these two rivers also designates as Mesopotamia. It is believed that Neolithic humans started to use first tools such as a wheel in order to establish agriculture. Furthermore, the original written works discovered in that region. Starting from Sumer to Romans, the region once was the home of many ancient civilizations, including but not limited to Akkadian, Babylonia, and Assyrian. Some number of Persian kingdoms also influenced the regions. Due to these reasons, many first works of humanity recorded back to Mesopotamia thus became the cradle of civilizations.⁴

2. Birth of Religions

There is no doubt that religions have an excellent correlation with the current conflict in the middle east. Moreover, the middle east is the origin point of many faiths and belief systems. These are having a great effect on the shaping of modern civilization. Because of being the birthplace for many religions, understanding of these religions is the key to understand the current climax of the middle east.⁵ First Jew is believed as Abraham. Since Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all believe Abraham as their prophet, these religions al can be specified as Abrahamic religions.⁶

i. Judaism

³ “Middle East.” Wikipedia Website. Wikedia Foundation, January 1, 2009. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East#/media/File:Greater_Middle_East_\(orthographic_projection\).svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East#/media/File:Greater_Middle_East_(orthographic_projection).svg).

⁴ “Answers.” World Atlas - Maps, Geography, travel, September 19, 2016. <https://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/me.htm>.

⁵ ibid

⁶ “Global Connections . Religion.” PBS. Public Broadcasting Service. Accessed December 23, 2019. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/mideast/themes/religion/index.html>.



Rising from the eastern Mediterranean Sea, Judaism becomes the oldest surviving monotheistic religion. Despite being born in the east of the Mediterranean Sea, many Jewish communities lived far from their homeland until the foundation of the State of Israel; this situation also often are being called diaspora in academia.⁷

ii. Christianity

After Judaism, in the first century, Christianity was born in the region. However, it quickly spread across the regions, thus led to emperor Constantine converted to Christianity. After the birth of Islam, many attempts had been taken place to reconquer the territory, including crusades, but failed. Despite having born in the middle east. A minimal number of people identify themselves as Christian in the middle east.⁸

iii. Islam

In the 7th century, Islam was born in Mecca. After birth, it started to control the Arabian Peninsula quickly. As accepted by many communities thus encountered many cultures. Due to these reasons, many numbers of divisions became real and still exist today in the region. Sunnis, Shias, Ismailis, Alevism, and more. These divisions are one of the crucial points in order to understand current problems in the region.⁹

3. Oil

i. Finding the Oil

One of the import days that shape the middle east is May 26, 1908. The citizen of the United Kingdom, William D'Arcy, had their license to investigate oil in Persia in 1901. William sent his one of the great team with the investment from Burmah Oil Co. After the seven years of search, on May 26, 1908, a very great reserve of oil was found, thus change the importance of the region from the perspective of world powers. Many kinds of research mostly founded by western countries, followed after that discovery, and many reserves have been founded.¹⁰

⁷ "Diaspora Noun - Definition." Oxford Learners Dictionaries. Oxford University. Accessed December 23, 2019. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/diaspora>.

⁸ idib

⁹ idib

¹⁰ Alfred, Randy. "May 26, 1908: Mideast Oil Discovered - There Will Be Blood." Wired. Conde Nast, June 4, 2008. <https://www.wired.com/2008/05/dayintech-0526/>.



Figure 4: First oil pumping station in the region.¹¹

ii. Current Reserves of Oil in the Middle East

After the discovery of the “black gold” in the regions, today, the great percentage of oil reserves are still under the soils of middle eastern nations. 48.3% of total proved reserves on the earth are in the central east region. Furthermore, the world’s most giant oil fields are in the region, including Ghawar and Safaniya fields in Saudi Arabia, the Burgan field in Kuwait, and West Qurna and Rumaila in Iraq. Moreover, the world’s biggest oil production company is located in the region that is Saudi Aramco. It is the national oil company of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.¹²

iii. Saudi Arabia’s Statics about oil reserves

Despite having the biggest oil reserves in the middle east, Saudi Arabia has 17.2% of the world’s total proved oil reserves. Due to this statistic, the kingdom has second-largest oil reserves after Venezuela. In addition to this, the kingdom also has the biggest oil processing plant owned by Saudi Aramco.¹³

iv. Iran’s Statistics about oil reserves

Second place goes to Iran, having 9% of the world’s total proved oil reserves. In the world, Iran is in 4th place after Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, and Canada. National Iranian Oil Company has been in production since 1954.¹⁴

v. Iraq’s Statistics about oil reserves

¹¹ British Petroleum as cited from Alfred, Randy. “May 26, 1908: Mideast Oil Discovered - There Will Be Blood.” Wired. Conde Nast, June 4, 2008. <https://www.wired.com/2008/05/dayintech-0526/>.

¹² “BP Statistical Review of World Energy.” BP Statistical Review of World Energy. BP, 2019. <https://www.bp.com/content/dam/bp/business-sites/en/global/corporate/pdfs/energy-economics/statistical-review/bp-stats-review-2019-full-report.pdf>.

¹³ “Top Five Countries with the Largest Oil Reserves in the Middle East.” NS Energy, October 11, 2019. <https://www.nsenerybusiness.com/features/countries-oil-reserves-middle-east/>.

¹⁴ idib

Iraq is in third place in the Middle East in terms of having oil reserves. It has an 8% percentage of total proved oil reserves of the world. Besides, the nation runs the third-biggest production field globally.¹⁵

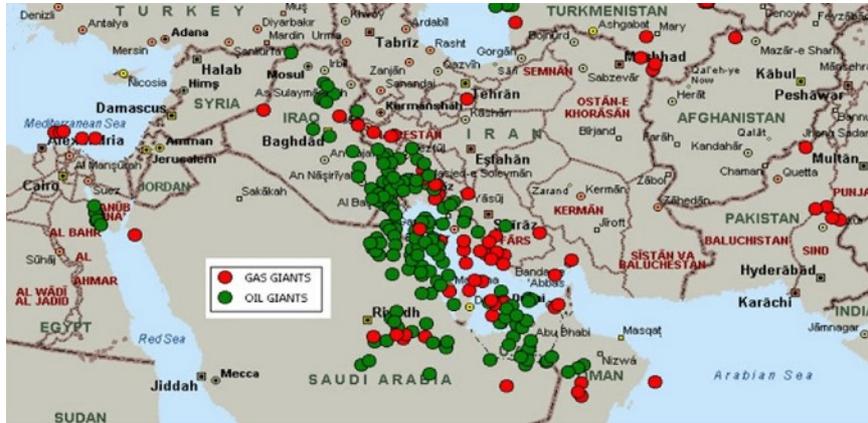


Figure 5: Oil Plants in the region¹⁶

C. Current Situation

1. Proxy War Definition

Proxy war definition must certainly define in this study guide for aiming to understand the conflicts in the region better. A proxy war is a military or armed conflict. It is in between two parts that can be two-state or non-state, which they act on dependently with other parties that are not present in the dispute directly. Other parties that are nor present can support acting parties by funding their armies, training armies, selling, donation military equipment, and such. Moreover, financial help to serve parties can also be considered as a proxy war.¹⁷ These types of conflict create more issues and never-ending conflicts. In the next part, most of the conflict that is going to be explained can be considered as a proxy war.

2. Conflicts

i. Iran Issue - Protest of 2019

On November 15, 2019, the Iranian Government announced the increment of prices, including the price of oil by 50%. According to the government of Iran, this action was

¹⁵ idib

¹⁶ Sorkhabi, Rasoul, Steven Bowman, Toril Leite Jensen, and Jane Whaley. "How Much Oil in the Middle East?" GEO ExPro, January 12, 2015. <https://www.geoexpro.com/articles/2014/02/how-much-oil-in-the-middle-east>.

¹⁷ Osmańczyk, Edmund Jan, and Anthony Mango. *Encyclopedia of the United Nations and International Agreements*. New York: Routledge, 2003.



necessary to combat the decline of Iranian currency and economic downfall due to economic sanctions. A great number of Iranian took to the street in order to protest these increments.¹⁸ Minister of Interior of Iran has publicly warned its security forces to increase forces and actions against protesters who were protesting in across the country.¹⁹ Some protestors in the city set to fire at a gas station and demanded that “Rouhani leave this country.” According to Amnesty International, on 16th December 2019, at least 304 people killed during the demonstrations. Furthermore, thousands of people, including children as young as 15, arrested and detainees were faced with enforced disappearance and even torture. Many journalists, students, and human rights defender detained. Amnesty International also added that the Iran government used vicious forces to stop protests according to its interviews with a great number of people. Interviewers also stated that there is a great number of people who were not reachable under arrest. A great number of people again disappeared, and conflict grew even larger.²⁰ Protestors blocked the second most considerable city of Iran, Mashhad, streets, and highways. Protesting quickly became antigovernment across all countries.²¹ A great number of people demonstrated their anger toward the regime of Iran by social media.²² Because of the contribution of social media to protest, the Iran government shut down the access of the Internet to stop the protest. Real-time network connectivity has dropped to 7%.²³ Due to these reasons, Students of the University of Tehran and the University of Tabriz joined the demonstration and boycotted their classes. According to observations and reports, 95 percentage of protesters were between 20 age to 25 age.²⁴

¹⁸ “Iran Gasoline Rationing, Price Hikes Draw Street Protests.” Reuters. Thomson Reuters, November 15, 2019. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-iran-gasoline-rationing/iran-gasoline-rationing-price-hikes-draw-street-protests-idUKKBN1XO2ZE>.

¹⁹ “Iran Petrol Price Hike: Protesters Warned That Security Forces May Intervene.” BBC News. British Broadcasting Corporation, November 17, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50444429>.

²⁰ “Iran's Authorities Carrying out Vicious Post-Protest Crackdown.” Iran: Thousands arbitrarily detained and at risk of torture in chilling post-protest crackdown | Amnesty International, December 16, 2019. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/12/iran-thousands-arbitrarily-detained-and-at-risk-of-torture-in-chilling-post-protest-crackdown/>.

²¹ Fassihi, Farnaz, and Rick Gladstone. “Iran Abruptly Raises Fuel Prices, and Protests Erupt.” The New York Times. The New York Times, November 15, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/middleeast/iran-gasoline-prices-rations.html>.

²² idib

²³ “Iran in 'near-Total National Internet Shutdown' amid Ongoing Protests.” Al Arabiya English. Accessed January 4, 2020. <http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2019/11/17/Iran-in-near-total-national-internet-shutdown-amid-ongoing-protests.html>.

²⁴ McKay, Hollie. “Brutal Crackdown of Iran Protesters Points to Increasing Divide, Leadership Losing Grip: 'The Regime Is Afraid'.” Fox News. FOX News Network, November 23, 2019. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/iran-protest-crackdown-leadership>.

Just two days after the protesting began, the Government of the United States of America, White House, publicly stated that the United States supports the Iranian people with their peaceful protests against the government that having a job to lead the country.

Furthermore, the United States of America officially condemned the usage of lethal force by police. The communications ban was also condemned. White House further criticize the regime of Iran due to fanatically pursuing nuclear weapons and missile programs and accused of supporting terrorism.²⁵

Furthermore, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioners released a public press release. In this press release, at least 208 people were killed on the first day of protest. It is also believed that 120.000 to 200.000 people got involved in the protesting. Moreover, the security forces use live ammunition against unarmed demonstrators.

OHCHR also stated that they had obtained information about forced confession cases. In addition to this, OHCHR declared its great concern about the issue and urged the authorities to release from detention whose basic civil rights definitely attacked immediately.²⁶

One of the cabinet meetings, President Rouhani of Iran, blamed the protest as an organized event against Iran to dismantle the stability of the region. Furthermore, he blamed the involvement of Saudi Arabia and the Zionists, Israel, and the United States of America.²⁷



Figure 6²⁸

²⁵ "White House of the United States of America." *White House of the United States of America*. White House, November 17, 2019. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/statement-press-secretary-regarding-protests-iran/>.

²⁶ "United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioners on Iranian Protest." United Nations. UN OHCHR, November 6, 2019. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/12/1052911>.

²⁷ "Iran Protests: Rouhani Claims Victory against 'Enemy' after Crackdown." BBC News. British Broadcasting Company, November 20, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-50486646>.

²⁸ McKay, Hollie. "Brutal Crackdown of Iran Protesters Points to Increasing Divide, Leadership Losing Grip: 'The Regime Is Afraid!'" Fox News. FOX News Network, November 23, 2019. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/iran-protest-crackdown-leadership>.



Figure 7, A road is blocked by protesters²⁹



Figure 8, A gas station shows damages after it was attacked and burned during protests³⁰



Figure 9, Smoke rises during a protest³¹

ii. USA-Iran Conflict

After the 1979 Islamic revelation in Iran, the relationship between the United States of America and Iran never became as bright as the kingdom era of Iran. Especially in Trump administration, the USA and Iran relations are harsh than ever before. Every side criticizes each other actions; thus, the middle ground has never been found. After the USA's withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei banned holding any direct talks with the USA. He stated that "I ban holding any talks with

²⁹ idib

³⁰ McKay, Hollie. "Brutal Crackdown of Iran Protesters Points to Increasing Divide, Leadership Losing Grip: 'The Regime Is Afraid!'" Fox News. FOX News Network, November 23, 2019. <https://www.foxnews.com/world/iran-protest-crackdown-leadership>.

³¹ idib



America ... America never remains loyal to its promises in talks ... gives empty words ... and never retreats from its goals for talks”.³²

(a) Brief Recent History of USA-Iran Relations

Some countries, including Iran’s citizens, were temporarily banned from entering soil of the US by the order on 27 January 2017. Furthermore, the United States of America does not permit Citizens of Iran to enter US soil except for transit. Moreover, if all nationally have Iranian entry, tamps in their passport can not immigrate to the USA.³³ Due to this situation, no direct flight between Iran and the USA exists, and any Iranian registered aircraft may not enter the USA airspace.

The USA, informally, created a coalition with Saudi Arabia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and other Sunni Gulf states to stay in front of Iran’s influence in the middle east. Some critics also added that Trump’s first international trip that was to be selected to Saudi Arabia was aimed to create this unofficial coalition.³⁴

On May 8, 2018, President of the USA, Trump publicly announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) publicly known as Iran nuclear deal.³⁵ Trump also added that economic sanctions were going to start again on November 4 in that year.³⁶ Just one day after, in the parliament of Iran, members burned the flag of the USA and shouted: “Death to America.” On the same day, President of Iran, Rouhani, stated that if needed, they would start industrial enrichment without any limitations.³⁷ After a month, President Rouhani said that Iran considers the possibility of blocking US ships entering to

³² “Iran's Khamenei Bans Holding Direct Talks with United States: TV.” Reuters. Thomson Reuters, August 13, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-usa/irans-khamenei-bans-holding-direct-talks-with-united-states-tv-idUSKBN1KY14A>.

³³ “Executive Order 13769 of January 27, 2017, Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States,” Code of Federal Regulations, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/02/01/2017-02281/protecting-the-nation-from-foreign-terrorist-entry-into-the-united-states>

³⁴ Entous, Adam. “Donald Trump's New World Order.” The New Yorker. The New Yorker, November 19, 2019. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/06/18/donald-trumps-new-world-order>.

³⁵ “Remarks by President Trump on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.” The White House. The United States Government, May 8, 2017. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-comprehensive-plan-action/>.

³⁶ idib

³⁷ Hjelmggaard, Kim. “Iran Lawmakers Shout 'Death to America,' Burn U.S. Flag after Trump Nixes Nuclear Deal.” USA Today. Gannett Satellite Information Network, May 9, 2018. <https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/05/09/trump-iran-nuclear-deal-withdrawal-fallout/593490002/>.



Strait of Hormuz.³⁸ Furthermore, the US declared that Iran's Revolutionary Guard units as a "foreign terrorist organization."

In 2019, conflict grew, and tension raised dramatically. More military assets deployed by the USA in the Persian Gulf. According to the USA, this was a response after getting intel about an alleged campaign by Iran.³⁹ According to Israel Intelligence, Iran believed to prepare an attack on USA trading ships in the Gulf; due to these reasons, the US deployed its biggest class carrier in the Arabian Sea outside the Gulf.⁴⁰

In May 2019, four commercial ships, including oil tankers that were owned by Saudi Aramco, were damaged.⁴¹ This situation fuels the fire between the USA and Iran. The USA stated that they believed this attack came from a group of terrorists that supported as "proxy" as by Iran. Furthermore, the USA President Trump and Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, Salman, personally stated that there is a strong connection between attacks and Iran despite not showing any evidence.⁴² Tension continued to rise in June of 2019. The US officials publicly declared that over one thousand more soldiers located in the middle east. Moreover, two more oil ship was being attacked by flying objects that were believed to be drones and such.⁴³

In June 2019, tensions were still growing even faster. US's Global Hawk drone was shot down by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). According to IRGC commander, the US drone violated Iranian airspace, thus being shot down. Furthermore, the commander also added that they showed a "clear message" to the USA, also underling that they were not provoking war; however, if necessary, Iran was ready. Pentagon confirmed the incident but not provided the essential information about whether the drone violated or not

³⁸ Dehghan, Saeed Kamali. "Iran Threatens to Block Strait of Hormuz over US Oil Sanctions." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, July 5, 2018. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/jul/05/iran-retaliate-us-oil-threats-eu-visit-hassan-rouhani-trump>.

³⁹ TRTWorld. "A Timeline of the Recent US-Iran Standoff." TRT World. Turkish Association of Radio And Television, TRT, May 16, 2019. <https://www.trtworld.com/middle-east/a-timeline-of-the-recent-us-iran-standoff-26699>.

⁴⁰ Ravid, Barak. "Scoop: Israel Passed White House Intelligence on Possible Iran Plot." Axios, May 6, 2019. <https://www.axios.com/israel-warned-trump-of-possible-iran-plot-bolton-34f25563-c3f3-41ee-a653-9d96b4541984.html>.

⁴¹ "Four Ships 'Sabotaged' in the Gulf of Oman amid Tensions." BBC News. British Broadcasting Company, May 13, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-48245204>.

⁴² Trevithick, Joseph. "U.S. Government Claims Iran Is Behind Attacks On Oil Tankers, But Has Yet To Show Evidence." The Drive, May 14, 2019. <https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/27992/u-s-government-claims-iran-is-behind-attacks-on-oil-tankers-but-has-yet-to-show-evidence>.

⁴³ "Gulf Crisis: US Sends More Troops amid Tanker Tension with Iran." BBC News. British Broadcasting Company, June 18, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-48671319>.



violated the Iranian airspace.⁴⁴ At that time, the USA demanded the UN Security Council meeting on Iran.⁴⁵

IRGC computer and network systems experienced cyber-attacks on June 22, 2019. This attack aimed to missile launch and attacked computers on its bases. According to the New York Times, President Trump had given the green light the attacks, and US Cyber Command operated the cyber-attacks. It was the first offensive attack that came from the USA against Iran.⁴⁶

Moreover, new sanctions introduced to the regime of Iran. Top military commanders also listed in the blacklist and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Javad Zarif, also was put in the sanctions.⁴⁷ The United States of America's air force stated that they relocate a great number of F-22 Raptor stealth fighter to Qatar due to ongoing tensions with Iran regime.⁴⁸

On the 27th of December 2019, an event occurred that can be seen as a catalyst for future events. A military base of the USA in Iraq attacked by a rocket. This attack resulted in many deaths from citizens of the USA and Iraqi forces. White House publicly stated that this attack organized by the Iraqi Shi militia group. This militia group has been backing by the Iranian regime, according to the White House.⁴⁹

On January 3, 2020, President of USA, Trump stated that he commanded drone strike to according to his words "terminate" a top Iranian commander, Qasem Soleimani, who was

⁴⁴ Cooper, Helene. "What We Know About Iran Shooting Down a U.S. Drone." The New York Times. The New York Times, June 20, 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/20/us/politics/drone-shot-down-iran-us.html>.

⁴⁵ France-Presse, Agence. "U.S. Requests UN Security Council Meeting on Iran – Diplomats." Rappler. Accessed January 5, 2020. <https://www.rappler.com/world/global-affairs/233648-us-requests-un-security-council-meeting-iran>.

⁴⁶ "Trump Approved Cyber-Strikes against Iranian Computer Database Used to Plan Attacks on Oil Tankers." The Washington Post. WP Company, June 23, 2019. https://www.washingtonpost.com/gdpr-consent/?destination=/world/national-security/with-trumps-approval-pentagon-launched-cyber-strikes-against-iran/2019/06/22/250d3740-950d-11e9-b570-6416efdc0803_story.html?

⁴⁷ "Latest Sanctions on Iran Will Block 'Billions' in Assets: US." France 24. France 24, June 24, 2019. <https://www.france24.com/en/20190624-latest-sanctions-iran-will-block-billions-assets-us>.

⁴⁸ Pawlyk, Oriana. "F-22s Deploy to Qatar for the First Time Amid Iran Tensions." Military.com, June 28, 2019. <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/06/28/f-22s-deploy-qatar-first-time-amid-iran-tensions.html>.

⁴⁹ "U.S. Civilian Contractor Killed in Iraq Base Rocket Attack: Officials." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, December 27, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security/u-s-civilian-contractor-killed-in-iraq-base-rocket-attack-officials-idUSKBN1YV1IX>.



creating “imminent and sinister attacks on Americans” according to Trump. This was the response of the 27th December attacks of the US base in Iraq.⁵⁰

The attack occurred on January 3, 2020. The plane that carries Soleimani landed at Baghdad International Airport. During the same time, An American uncrewed aerial vehicles, a UAV -a drone- also arrived. Soleimani and other 9 Iranian officials started to go to the city center of Baghdad with two cars. At that time, the US drone launched many missiles towards convoy and killed ten people, including Soleimani.⁵¹

Tensions between Iran and the USA reached an all-time high. This attacks also caused the rise of fear around all nations that possibility of great conflict in the middle east that is still not stable in the first place.⁵² Some Iranian citizens also feared that any dispute that could break out as war could create tremendous problems for the existing issues of Iran.⁵³ Some countries publicly stated to its citizens that “leave Iraq immediately,” including the US, UK.⁵⁴ Australia also declared Iraq as do not travel category.⁵⁵

Justification of that attacks raises many questions about the legality of the attacks.

According to the UN, charter prohibits the use of force against other states unless if a country permits to use power on its territory.⁵⁶ However, there is not any permission from the Iraqi government; due to this situation, it is difficult for the United States to justify the attack.⁵⁷ According to Yale Law School professor Oona Hathaway, an international law professor, the current situation according to facts that are available “does not seem to

⁵⁰ Cohen, Zachary, Hamdi Alkhshali, and Angela Dewan. “US Drone Strike Ordered by Trump Kills Top Iranian Commander in Baghdad.” CNN. Cable News Network, January 4, 2020. <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/02/middleeast/baghdad-airport-rockets/index.html>.

⁵¹ Crowley, Michael, Falih Hassan, and Eric Schmitt. “Top Iranian General Qassim Suleimani Is Killed on Trump's Orders, Officials Say.” The New York Times. The New York Times, January 3, 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/02/world/middleeast/qassem-soleimani-iraq-iran-attack.html>.

⁵² DODMAN, Benjamin. “A More Dangerous World! : US Killing of Iran's Soleimani Stokes Fears of Regional Conflict.” France 24. France 24, January 3, 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200103-a-more-dangerous-world-usa-killing-soleimani-stokes-fears-regional-conflict-iran-iraq-trump>.

⁵³ Hafezi, Parisa. “Sorrow Mixed with Fear as Iran Mourns Soleimani's Death.” Reuters. Thomson Reuters, January 4, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security-iran-mood/sorrow-mixed-with-fear-as-iran-mourns-soleimanis-death-idUSKBN1Z30FD>.

⁵⁴ Thomson Reuters Foundation. “U.S. Embassy Urges Citizens to Depart Iraq Immediately -Statement.” news.trust.org. Accessed January 7, 2020. <http://news.trust.org/item/20200103080348-ku86v/>.

⁵⁵ “Iraq Travel Advice & Safety.” Australian Government. Accessed January 4, 2020. <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations/middle-east/iraq>.

⁵⁶ Author, No. “A Question of Laws: Was U.S. Killing of Iran's Soleimani Self-Defense or Assassination?” The Japan Times, January 4, 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/01/04/world/question-laws-u-s-killing-irans-soleimani-self-defense-assassination/#.XhSkrEczaUk>.

⁵⁷ idib

support” that this attack was an act of self-defense. Hataway also ended with its sentences as “legally tenuous under both domestic and international law.”⁵⁸

Nevertheless, this attack will lead to a new era not only for Iran-US relations but for the future of the middle east. As the date of 6th January 2020, writing of this study guide, updates are still coming. Because of these reasons, delegates are advised to research the topic for recent updates.



Figure 10, Tehran Protesting, ⁵⁹



Figure 11, Burning flag of the USA in the National Assembly of Iran by its members.⁶⁰



Figure 12, Soleimani's car just after the drone attack in the Baghdad⁶¹

58 idib

59 idib

60 idib

61 idib



Figure 13, The Funeral of Soleimani⁶²

iii. Saudi Arabia Issue

Another key player in the region is, no doubt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Since Trump administration, Saudi Arabia becomes more near to the US than ever before. As stated in the previous chapter, Donald Trump made his first visit as the 45th President of the US to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Furthermore, Suni-Sii issues lead to tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran. In this chapter, this study guide will explain one of the catalyst events that create a current climax.

(a) Saudi Aramco Attacks

Officially known as Saudi Arabian Oil Company, Saudi Aramco is a state-owned, are national petroleum and natural gas company.⁶³ According to economists, Saudi Aramco is one of the largest companies in the world in terms of revenue.⁶⁴ Moreover, it produces second-largest daily oil in the world and has the world's second-largest oil reserves.⁶⁵

In the morning, at 4.00 am, workers of Saudi Aramco reported some number of fires at its Abqaiq and Khurais facilities. After all efforts, all fire distinguished few hours lattes.

According to reports, there is none died during the attacks.⁶⁶

⁶² CBS News. "Iran Vows to Retaliate against 'Legitimate' Targets as Soleimani Funeral Turns Deadly." CBS News. CBS Interactive, January 7, 2020. <https://www.cbsnews.com/live-updates/iran-news-qassem-soleimani-funeral-deaths-today-revolutionary-guard-threatens-us-allies-live-updates-2020-01-07/>.

⁶³ <https://www.saudiaramco.com/en/#>

⁶⁴ Bloomberg.com. Bloomberg, 2018. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-04-13/the-aramco-accounts-inside-the-world-s-most-profitable-company>.

⁶⁵ "Country Analysis: Saudi Arabia." *Country Analysis: Saudi Arabia*, October 27, 2017.

⁶⁶ Gambrell, Jon. "Saudi Arabia: Drone Attacks Knocked out Half Its Oil Supply." AP NEWS. Associated Press, September 15, 2019. <https://apnews.com/d20f80188e3543bfb36d512df7777cd4>.



After a few hours, Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud bin Naif, Saudi Arabian Minister of Interior, stated that the cause of fires is unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as UAV publicly as drones.⁶⁷ During the same time, Houthi rebels of Yemen that are backed by the Iranian Regime claimed responsibility for the attacks.⁶⁸ Rebels claimed that they managed to developed drones and sent them to the facilities to stop the oil and natural gas production of Saudi Arabia.⁶⁹ Houthi also explained the motivation of the attack that these attacks were direct results of Saudi Arabian-led intervention in Yemen that began in 2015 caused many civilian casualties and created another conflict for the conflict of the sea, the middle east.⁷⁰ After this statement, Secretary of the US, Pompeo stated that the Iranian regime is behind these attacks; he also gave names and added that Rouhani and Zarif “pretended to engage” in diplomacy while preparing the attacks in order to create fear for world’s energy supply. Furthermore, Secretary Pompeo also added that there is “no evidence” the attacks came from Yemen.⁷¹ Moreover, the President of the US, Trump also stated that it was “seeming like” there is a relation with Iran and attacks.⁷²

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran, Javad Zarif, replied that Iran denied all claims from the US and stated that “blaming Iran will not end the disaster in Yemen.” Furthermore, he also added that “blind accusations and remarks are incomprehensible and meaningless.”⁷³ After that, US President Trump stated that the United States of America was “locked and loaded for a potential response to the attacks on Saudi Aramco’s facilities.”⁷⁴

On the other hand, Russia criticized that immediate effort to have “hasty conclusions” on who staged the attacks on Saudi Aramco. Moscow’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said about the US statement -locked and loaded- they have a negative attitude towards rising tensions

⁶⁷ “Saudi Arabia Oil Facilities Ablaze after Drone Strikes.” BBC News. British Broadcasting Company, September 14, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-49699429>.

⁶⁸ Al Jazeera. “Houthi Drone Attacks on 2 Saudi Aramco Oil Facilities Spark Fires.” News | Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera, September 14, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/drones-hit-saudi-aramco-facilities-fires-190914051900472.html>.

⁶⁹ idib

⁷⁰ idib

⁷¹ “Saudi Oil Attacks: US Blames Iran for Drone Strikes on Two Sites.” BBC News. British Broadcasting Company, September 15, 2019. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-49705197>.

⁷² Brown, David. “Trump Stops Short of Blaming Iran for Saudi Attack.” POLITICO, September 17, 2019. <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-defense/2019/09/17/trump-stops-short-of-blaming-iran-for-saudi-attack-478422>.

⁷³ idib

⁷⁴ Rampton, Roberta. “U.S. Blames Iran for Saudi Oil Attack, Trump Says 'Locked and Loaded'.” Reuters. Thomson Reuters, September 16, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-aramco-attacks-idUSKBN1W00SA>.

in the region and he also added that Moscow calls all countries in region and outside of it to avoid any hasty steps or conclusions which may create greater conflict thus can lead to “destabilization.”



Figure 13, a Saudi Aramco facility just after the attacks.⁷⁵



Figure 14, Satellite image of facilities after the attacks.⁷⁶

D. Conclusion

Throughout history, the middle east could not become stable as was desired. After the ISIS defeated, the tension between Iran and the US started skyrocketed despite the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal. Since 2018, the pressure created great risk for the regions and the world. On the other hand, players in the area have also desire to have authority in the region, and this leads to even more conflict. There is no doubt that the middle east has great strategic power still today. It is the powerhouse of the world’s energy and will remain in the future. Because of being the powerplant of the world, the region's stability is vital not only for the region’s peace but for the whole world. As the writing of the day of this study guide. The future is not seeming bright as was appeared in the past.

⁷⁵ idib

⁷⁶ NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration, United States of America, nasa.gov



United Nations Security Council is established with the aim of ensuring the peace and safety of all nations.⁷⁷ The current climax of the middle east creates significant risks that can treat international peace and safety, thus leads to an unofficially call UN Security Council to act and find solutions. It is the responsibility of the UNSC, and it requires vital steps to help to keep other world level conflicts.

⁷⁷ "Article 24 (1) of Charter of the United Nations"