

#haydarpasamun'24



# STUDY GUIDE

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## UNSC



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**HAYDARPAŞAMUN'24**  
**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE**  
**STUDY GUIDE**

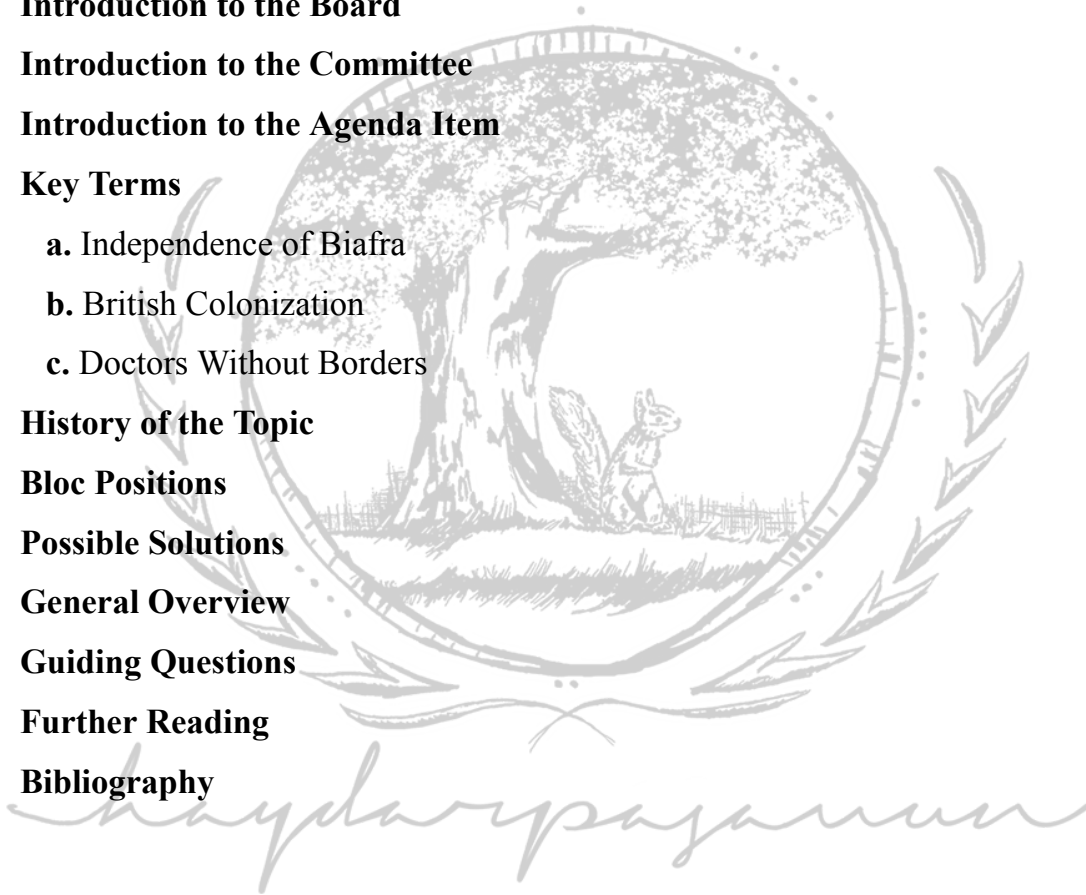
*Agenda Item 1: Nigerian Civil War*



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## **1. Introduction to the Board**

Dear delegates, I'm Irem Çelik, currently an 11th-grade student at Notre Dame de Sion High School, and I'm excited to serve as your committee director for this conference. My journey with the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) began in Haydarpasamun'22, marking my first engagement in this committee and instantly becoming my favorite.

Fast forward to Haydarpasamun'23, where I had the privilege of chairing the UNSC committee for the first time. The UNSC, along with the Haydarpasamun experience, holds a special place in my heart.

To all the delegates, I extend my warmest welcome to all of you. I hope to share my knowledge and experiences with you in the best way that I can. I trust that we are going to have an enjoyable time together.

## **2. Introduction to the Committee**

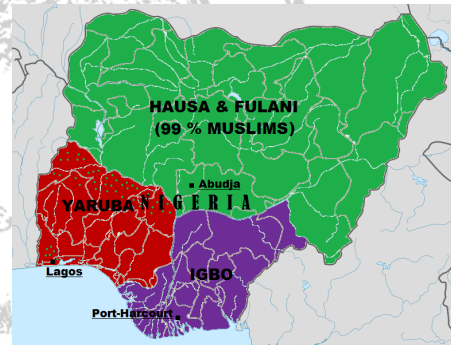
The Security Council, which held its first session on the 17th of January 1946, is among the six main institutions that were established by the United Nations Charter. It is its utmost duty to preserve global peace and security in any possible manner, while promoting notions such as international cooperation and respect for human rights. In terms of organization, the Security Council consists of five permanent members with veto power (the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, France and China) and ten non-permanent members who are granted a seat at the council for a two-year term following a rotating system. The only UN body with the authority to make decisions that all member states must comply with is the UNSC.

## **3. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

The **Nigerian Civil War** (6 July 1967 – 15 January 1970), also known as the **Nigerian–Biafran War** or the **Biafran War**, was a civil war fought between Nigeria and the Republic of Biafra, a secessionist state which had declared its independence from Nigeria in 1967.

The largest ethnic group constituting Nigeria is the Hausa-Fulani people, with the majority being Muslims and located in the north. They are followed by the Yoruba people, residing in the southwest, who are evenly divided between Christianity and Islam, and the Igbo people, the majority of whom are Christians.

The Biafran state, representing the aspirations of the Igbo ethnic group, sought independence due to perceived irreconcilable differences with the Nigerian government. The conflict's origins can be traced back to political, economic, ethnic, and religious tensions dating back to Nigeria's decolonization. Immediate triggers included a series of coups and violence against the Igbo in 1966. Nigerian forces swiftly surrounded Biafra, seizing crucial locations and imposing a blockade that resulted in widespread starvation among Biafran civilians. Over the two and a half years of the war, there were approximately 100,000 military casualties, while between 500,000 and 2 million Biafran civilians died from starvation.



#### 4. Key Terms

**Independence of Biafra:** Nigeria has been home to several indigenous pre-colonial states and kingdoms since the second millennium BC. The secessionist state of Biafra declared its independence from Nigeria in 1967 primarily due to a combination of political, economic, and ethnic factors. The key reasons include:

Ethnic Grievances:

- Biafra represented the aspirations of the Igbo ethnic group. The Igbo people felt marginalized and disenfranchised within the Nigerian political structure, particularly as power was perceived to be concentrated in the hands of the Muslim-dominated Hausa-Fulani ethnic group in the north.

Political Instability:

- Nigeria experienced a series of political upheavals and coups in the 1960s. The political instability created an environment of uncertainty and heightened ethnic tensions.

#### Economic Disparities:

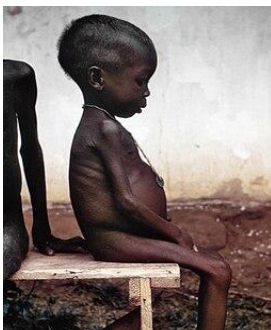
- There were perceived economic imbalances, with the Igbo feeling that they were not adequately benefiting from the nation's resources, particularly oil revenue. The discovery of oil in the southeastern region increased the economic stakes.

#### Perceived Threats to Igbo People:

- The anti-Igbo pogroms in northern Nigeria in 1966, which involved violence and targeted killings of Igbo people, created a sense of insecurity and fear among the Igbo population. This further fueled the desire for a separate state where they could govern themselves.

#### Desire for Self-Determination:

- Biafra sought self-determination and autonomy, believing that they could establish a more equitable and just political and economic system independently of the Nigerian government.
- a. **British Colonization:** Biafra represented the nationalist aspirations of the Igbo ethnic group, whose leadership felt they could no longer coexist with the federal government dominated by the interests of the Muslim Hausa-Fulanis of Northern Nigeria. The conflict resulted from political, economic, ethnic, cultural and religious tensions which preceded the United Kingdom's formal decolonisation of Nigeria from 1960 to 1963. Immediate causes of the war in 1966 included a military coup, a counter-coup, and anti-Igbo pogroms in Northern Nigeria.
- b. **Doctors Without Borders:** Doctors Without Borders, is a charity that provides



humanitarian medical care. It is a non-governmental organization (NGO) of French origin known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases. The Nigerian Civil war was one of the first wars in human history to be televised to a global audience. Biafra received international humanitarian aid from civilians during the

Biafran airlift, an event which inspired the formation of Doctors Without Borders following the end of the war.

## **5. History of Topic**

**Ethnic and Regional Tensions:**

Deep-seated ethnic and regional divisions were a primary cause. The Igbo people, primarily located in the southeastern region, felt marginalized and believed that they were not adequately represented in the Nigerian government. This sense of exclusion and political imbalance led to a desire for greater autonomy.

**Political Instability:**

Nigeria experienced a series of political upheavals, including coups and counter-coups in the mid-1960s. The resulting political instability created an environment of uncertainty and heightened ethnic and regional tensions, contributing to the outbreak of the civil war.

**Resource Allocation Disputes:**

Economic factors played a role, particularly regarding the control and distribution of oil resources. The discovery of oil in the southeastern region increased the economic stakes, and disputes over resource allocation further fueled the desire for independence.

**Anti-Igbo Pogroms:**

The anti-Igbo violence and pogroms in northern Nigeria in 1966 exacerbated ethnic tensions. Many Igbo people faced targeted attacks and killings, leading to a heightened sense of insecurity and a desire for self-determination.

**Secession of Biafra:**

In response to these factors, Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, the leader of the southeastern region, declared the independent state of Biafra in 1967. This declaration marked the formal secession from Nigeria, leading to the outbreak of the civil war as the Nigerian government sought to prevent the disintegration of the country.

### International Factors:

International actors also played a role in the conflict, with various countries supporting different sides. This international involvement further complicated the dynamics of the war.

## **6. Bloc Positions**

**Nigeria:** As a major participant in the Nigerian Civil War, Nigeria firmly supports diplomatic solutions to deal with the root causes of the war. Nigeria emphasizes the value of regional collaboration and looks for cooperative initiatives to support stability and economic growth. The government emphasizes its dedication to upholding territorial integrity and national sovereignty while pleading with the international community to aid humanitarian efforts in impacted areas. Nigeria is probably going to stress how important it is to have extensive talks and dialogue in order to get a permanent settlement.

**Biafra:** The delegation, speaking on behalf of Biafra, is requesting backing and recognition from other countries for its quest for self-determination. By highlighting the cultural and historical elements that support its aspiration for independence, Biafra emphasizes the necessity of a peaceful resolution achieved via fruitful discourse and talks. The delegation may advocate for understanding and acknowledgment by highlighting particular grievances that contributed to the conflict. In order to help achieve a settlement that upholds the rights and ambitions of its people, Biafra is probably going to demand that international mediation attempts be made.

### **The status of the neighboring countries in the region, such as Cameroon and Chad:**

Concerns about the repercussions of the Nigerian Civil War on their territory are shared by neighboring countries. These countries emphasize that in order to promote stability, a comprehensive regional approach is necessary and that tackling the underlying causes of instability is crucial. To stop the violence from getting worse, the delegation can demand more coordination and collaboration from all the players in the region. Their approach is probably centered on humanitarian aid, regional security, and cooperative initiatives to mitigate the conflict's economic effects.

### **The stance of foreign backers, such as the US and the Soviet Union:**



International backers negotiate intricate geopolitical issues while taking varying stances according to their top priorities. Some may push for a non-interference principle in domestic matters and an approach to internal disputes that is detached from politics. Others may support one of the parties involved in the conflict diplomatically or even militarily. The focus can be on promoting a diplomatic solution, defending human rights, or defending larger geopolitical objectives in the area. The arguments are made more complex by the diverse worldwide viewpoints, which highlight the conflict's complexity.

### **7. Possible Solutions**

One of the most important strategies for ending the Nigerian Civil War is to encourage the parties involved to reach a settlement and find common ground. Inspiring genuine and inclusive discussions between the Nigerian government and Biafra delegates may open the door to amicable solutions, which might include agreements on power-sharing, regional autonomy, or constitutional changes. Furthermore, given the complexity of the conflict, the international community could be extremely important in assisting with peacekeeping and mediation efforts. A fair and open negotiating process might be ensured by the participation of impartial international mediators or peacekeeping forces, which would encourage mutual respect and collaboration between the sides. Setting priorities for reconstruction and humanitarian aid is another important way to find a solution. International cooperation projects can concentrate on aiding impacted areas, attending to urgent needs are pivotal to solving the plot.

### **8. General Overview**

The Biafran War (1967–1970), popularly known as the Nigerian Civil War, is still regarded as a pivotal historical period characterized by intricate socio-political and ethnic dynamics. Ethnic conflicts, economic inequalities, and power rivalries inside Nigeria gave rise to the conflict. In an attempt to secede from Nigeria, Biafra sparked a bloody and protracted conflict. Finding a thorough and long-lasting solution that tackles the conflict's underlying roots is the main task. Promoting negotiated agreements, supporting international mediation, and placing a strong emphasis on reconstruction and humanitarian aid are important factors to take into account. In order to achieve sustainable peace in Nigeria and avert more humanitarian disasters, the international community must play a critical role in promoting communication, guaranteeing

justice, and providing assistance to the impacted areas. The conflict's complexity calls for a nuanced approach.

### 9. Guiding Questions

- What regional perspectives and concerns do neighboring countries bring to the table?
- Are there historical examples of successful diplomatic interventions in similar conflicts that can guide the resolution process?
- How can regional stability be promoted through collaborative efforts among neighboring countries?
- What roles can major international supporters play in facilitating a peaceful resolution?

### 10. Further Reading

"Peacekeeping in Africa: The Evolution of International Responses to Regional Challenges" edited by Gilbert M. Khadiagala

"Biafra: A People Betrayed" by Kurt Vonnegut

"The Nigerian Civil War: Causes, Strategies, and Lessons Learned" by Alexander Madiebo

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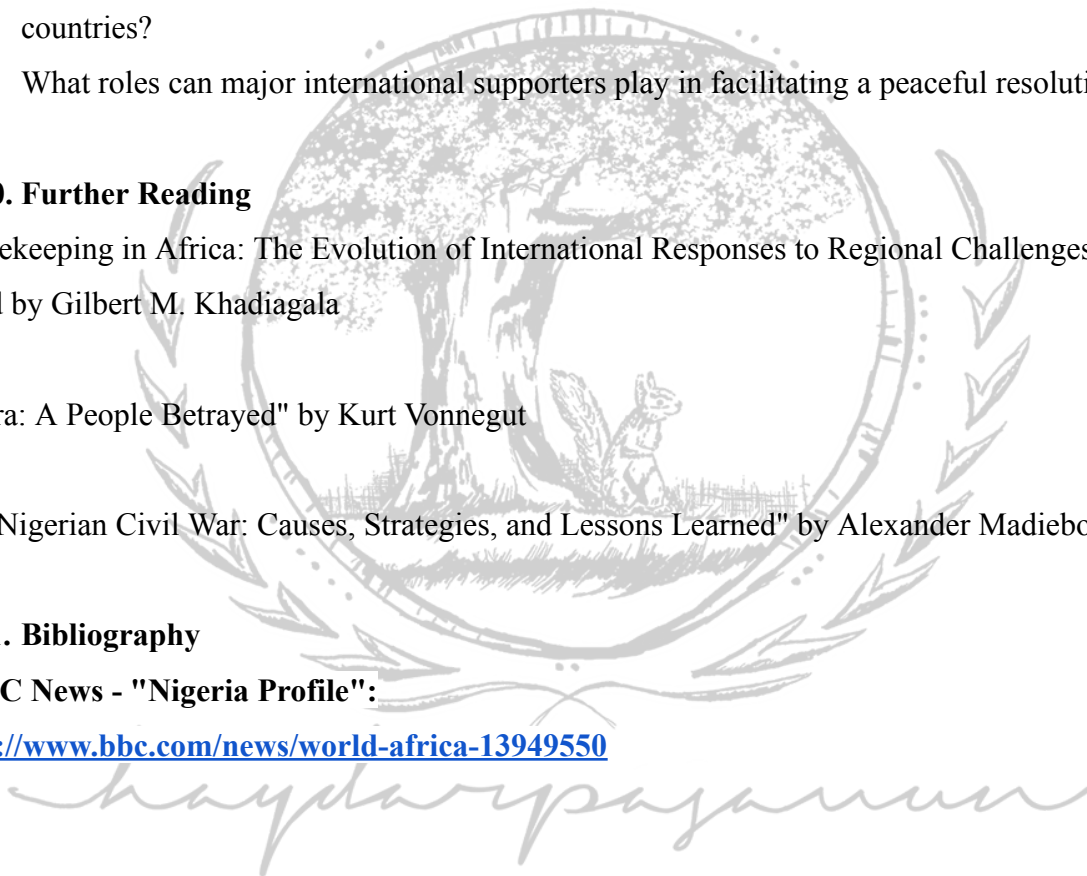
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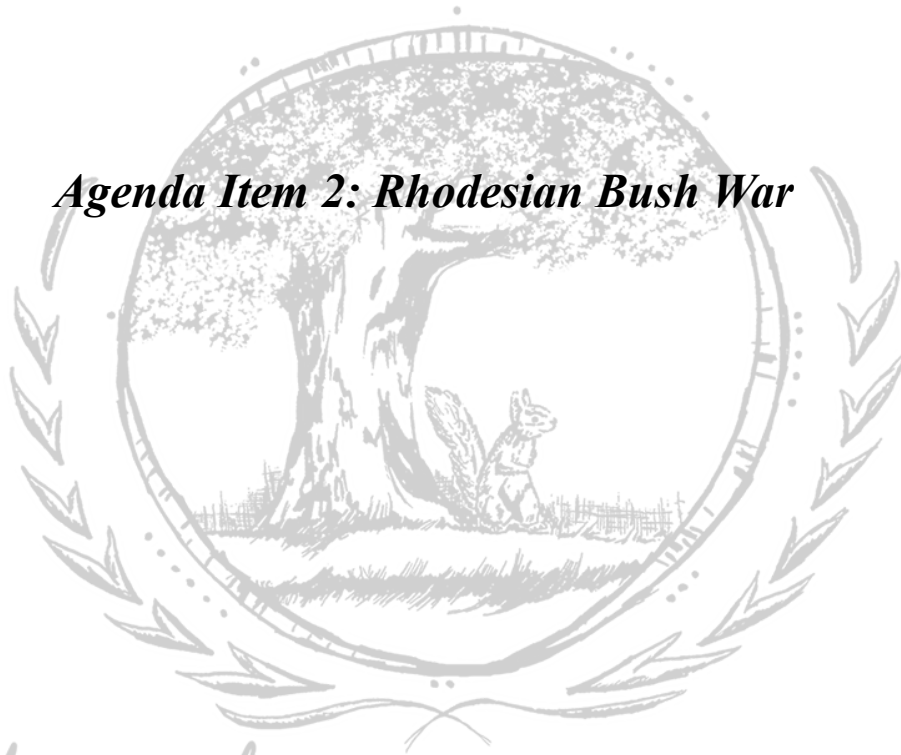
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**HAYDARPAŞAMUN'24**  
**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE**  
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*Agenda Item 2: Rhodesian Bush War*



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## 1. Introduction to the Board

Esteemed Delegates,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all in HaydarpasaMUN'24 as your academic assistant. I'm Nehir Birlik, from Haydarpasa High School, and as it being my first year in our precious academic team, I'm just as excited as you are to attend our 7th edition of HaydarpasaMUN. Together, we will have the chance to delve into the wars given in the agendas and strive to find the best solutions whilst gaining new perspectives on these global issues as well as developing our communication and debating skills. To understand the topic and be fully prepared for our conference, this study guide will be sufficient. Your active participation in the committee will play a big role on finding efficient solutions on these crucial topics. I hope you'll have the greatest time while gaining awareness on major global issues that have had worldwide impacts throughout history. I'm looking forward to welcoming you in person!

Best regards,

Nehir Birlik

Academic Assistant



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## 2. Introduction to the Committee

The Security Council, which held its first session on the 17th of January 1946, is among the six main institutions that were established by the United Nations Charter. It is its utmost duty to preserve global peace and security in any possible manner, while promoting notions such as international cooperation and respect for human rights. In terms of organization, the Security Council consists of five permanent members with veto power<sup>1</sup> (the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, France and China) and ten non-permanent members who are granted a seat at the council for a two-year term following a rotating system. The only UN body with the authority to make decisions that all member states must comply with is the UNSC.

## 3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The Rhodesian Bush War, also known as the Second Chimurenga, is a civil conflict that happened in Rhodesia, located on the borders of present-day Zimbabwe. The war lasted from 1964 to 1979 and its history is mostly based on Rhodesia's Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI). Several black nationalist organizations, the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU), fought against the minority white-led government of Rhodesia, led by the time's Prime Minister Ian Smith. The white population consisted of approximately 230,000 people, which was about 5% of a total population of approximately 4.2 million. This agenda's goal is for the delegates to examine the various aspects of the Rhodesian Bush War, including its causes, strategies, and consequences. Delegates are encouraged to look into the history of the war, analyze key events, and find diplomatic solutions to address the complicated issues of the Rhodesian Bush War.



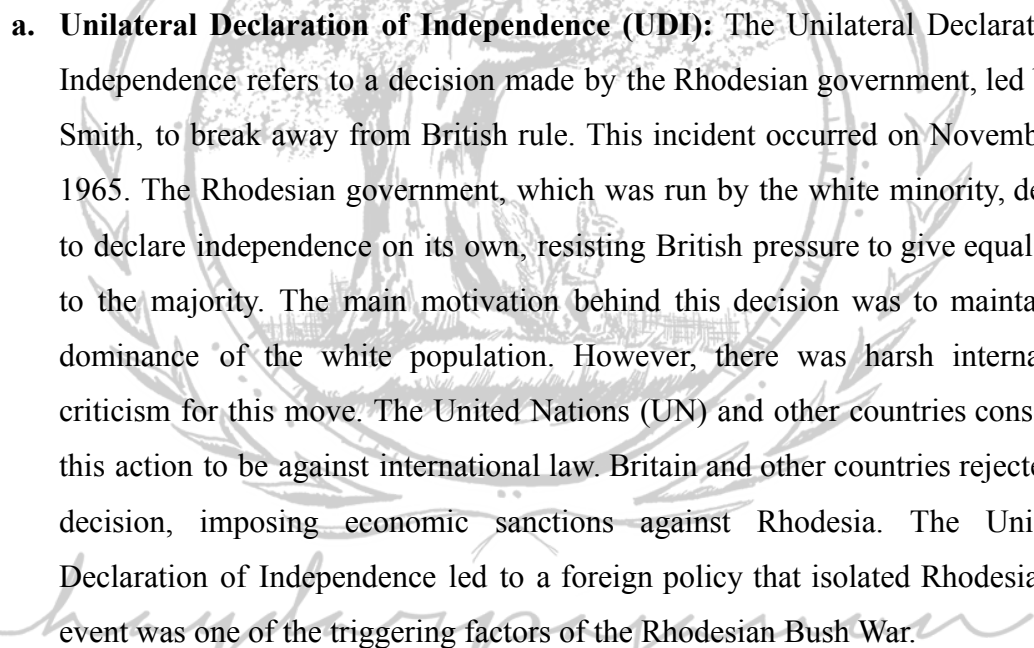
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<sup>1</sup>“Veto Power” is a term used for the legal power to unilaterally oppose an authorization, a judgment, or a law to come into force.

#### 4. General Overview

By the late 1960s and 1970s, Britain's dominance in Africa had decreased significantly. During this period, many African countries fought for independence, opposed colonial rule and gained independence. Britain's colonies in Africa were largely dissolved in this process and independent nations emerged. One of the main colonies affected by these decolonization movements was Rhodesia.

#### 5. Key Terms



**a. Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI):** The Unilateral Declaration of Independence refers to a decision made by the Rhodesian government, led by Ian Smith, to break away from British rule. This incident occurred on November 11, 1965. The Rhodesian government, which was run by the white minority, decided to declare independence on its own, resisting British pressure to give equal rights to the majority. The main motivation behind this decision was to maintain the dominance of the white population. However, there was harsh international criticism for this move. The United Nations (UN) and other countries considered this action to be against international law. Britain and other countries rejected this decision, imposing economic sanctions against Rhodesia. The Unilateral Declaration of Independence led to a foreign policy that isolated Rhodesia. This event was one of the triggering factors of the Rhodesian Bush War.

**b. Black Nationalist Organizations:** During the Rhodesian Bush War (1964–1979), several black nationalist organizations emerged as powerful forces in the struggle against white minority rule in Southern Rhodesia.

**i. ZAPU:** Zimbabwe African People's Union is a political party formed on 17 December 1961 by Joshua Nkomo. It is a political party that supported the majority rule in Rhodesia, from its founding in 1961 until 1980. In



1987, it merged with the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF).

- ii. **ZIPRA:** Shorten for “Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army”. It was the military wing of the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU). It was formed during the 1960s.
  - iii. **ZANU:** Zimbabwe African National Union is a political party formed in 1963 by the disappointed members of ZAPU in response to its moderate policies towards white minority rule in Southern Rhodesia.
  - iv. **ZANLA:** The Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army was the military wing of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). Led by Robert Mugabe, ZANLA became a significant oppositional force in the Zimbabwean Civil War during the 1970s.
- c. **Internal Settlement:** A political agreement reached in March 1978 in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) between the white-minority government led by Prime Minister Ian Smith and certain moderate black political leaders. This agreement was an attempt to find a political solution to the Rhodesian Bush War and to pave the way for a peaceful transition to majority rule.

## 6. History of the Topic

### Unilateral Declaration of Independence (UDI)

The native leaders began to oppose foreign rule after the British South Africa Company conquered the area in the late 19th century. In his "Wind of Change" speech<sup>2</sup>, UK Prime Minister Harold Macmillan announced Britain's new policy to only allow its African colonies to become independent under majority rule. Many white Rhodesians, however,

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<sup>2</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind\\_of\\_Change\\_\(speech\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_of_Change_(speech))

were against the new policy because they were concerned that decolonization and majority rule would lead to chaos as well as the loss of their privileged status and control over the country. Britain's unwillingness to compromise led to Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence (UDI) on 11 November 1965.

### **Britain's Policy**

The main reason behind Britain's new policy of decolonization and the granting of majority rule to their African colonies was mainly because of the global pressure that Britain was facing with the colonists' desire for self-determination and human rights ideals coming to the fore that arose after the II. World War. As well as the global pressures, public opinion in Britain, as well as in other colonial powers, began to change. There was a growing awareness of the injustices of colonial rule, and the public increasingly supported the idea of granting independence to colonies.

### **Cold War**

The Cold War began with World War II in 1945. It is defined as a period of geopolitical tension and ideological conflict between the United States and its allies and the Soviet Union and its allies, covering the period from the end of World War II until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The effects of the Cold War were felt worldwide, and superpowers often advanced their own interests by supporting each other in different conflicts. In South Africa, the broader dynamics of the Cold War influenced conflicts such as the Rhodesia Bush War.

### **Nationalist Movements**

To oppose white-minority government, black nationalist groups such as Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) were formed. These organizations sought independence and black majority rule.

## **Economic Factors**

The White Rhodesians, who controlled most of the economy and land, feared losing their privileges under majority rule. Because of the economic inequalities between the white minority and the black majority, disagreements between the two sides increased. Moreover, Rhodesia faced economic challenges as the Unilateral Declaration of Independence led to economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations.

## **7. Bloc Positions**

During the Rhodesian Bush War, various alliances and the geopolitical situations of different countries affected the course of the war. The impact of neighboring countries was particularly crucial in this war which happened between the Rhodesian government and black nationalist groups, especially the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU).

### **a. South Africa**

Rhodesia's white minority government, led by Prime Minister Ian Smith, received significant support from South Africa as it has been reported that South Africa supported the white minority rulers in Southern Rhodesia. They provided military and economic support to Rhodesia throughout the war.

### **b. Neighboring Countries**

Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Botswana played significant roles in supporting black nationalist movements. These neighboring countries provided bases, training camps and logistical support to ZANU and ZAPU. This support contributed to the effectiveness of the rebellion against Rhodesian forces.

### c. ZANU and China

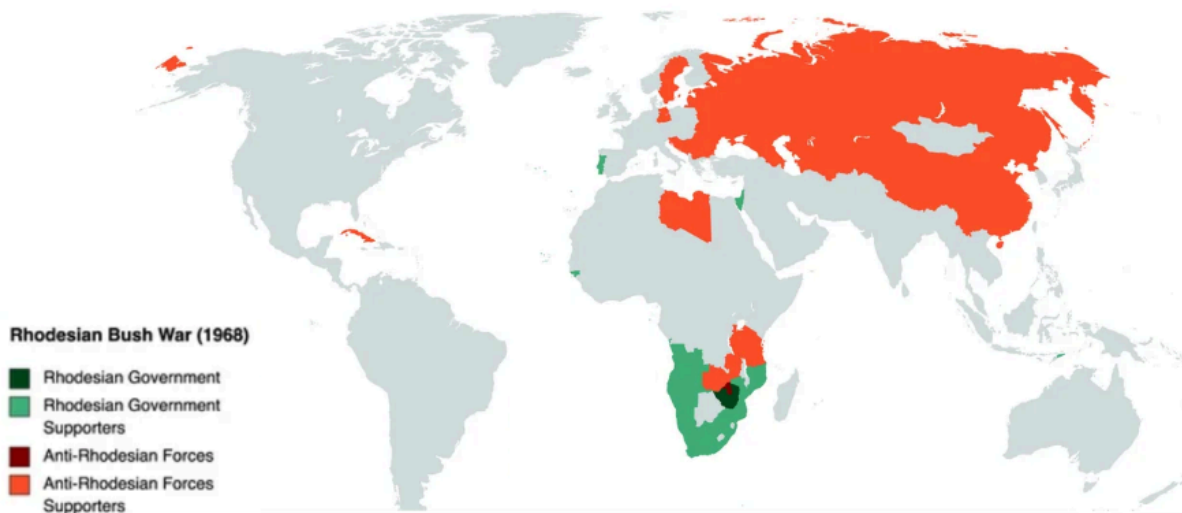
China provided significant support to ZANU, such as military training and weapons, in the fight against the Rhodesian government. This support was part of China's broader strategy of supporting anti-colonial and anti-imperialist movements during the Cold War.

### d. ZAPU and the Soviet Bloc

ZAPU's intercourse with the Soviet Union was stronger than other Eastern Bloc countries. The Soviet Union provided military, training and diplomatic support to ZAPU. The Cold War dynamics influenced these alliances, with ZAPU aligning itself with socialist and communist powers.

### e. USA and Western Countries

While not being directly involved in supporting the Rhodesian government, Western countries, including the United States and the United Kingdom, maintained diplomatic pressure on Rhodesia to end the minority rule. Economic sanctions were imposed on Rhodesia by these countries.



## 8. Possible Solutions

Considering the fact that decolonization, racism, political power struggles, and economic inequalities are the main causes of war, what can be the factors that play a role in the emergence of these problems, how they affect the course of the war, and the aftermath? Delegates examining these main problems in depth and focusing on them will speed up the process of writing the resolution paper.

## 9. Guiding Questions

- What were the key events leading up to the Rhodesian Bush War, and how did they contribute to the conflict?
- How did the decolonization process in Africa influence the Rhodesian situation?
- What were the main political, economic, and social factors that fueled the war?
- How did racial tensions and the issue of minority rule play a role in the conflict?
- What precautions can member states take to prevent a similar conflict from happening again?

## 10. Further Reading

- ❖ [https://web.archive.org/web/20170929045651/http://www3.canisius.edu/~diciocoj/MUN\\_2015\\_HSC\\_Southern\\_Rhodesia.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20170929045651/http://www3.canisius.edu/~diciocoj/MUN_2015_HSC_Southern_Rhodesia.pdf)
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