



TOPIC A

THE OVERTHROWING OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF
GRENADA

TOPIC B

THE 1961 BERLIN CRISIS

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

**”We strive to reach
excellence, and we
aim to achieve it.”**

On behalf of the Academic Training Committee, I welcome you all into our 2nd Annual Model United Nations Conference at NDU!

My dearest delegates, we live in a fallen world where the voice of reason is lost and the power of freedom is forgotten, where man is often seen to be poisoned by greed and blinded by misery and bloodshed, and where man can be the voice of change, but has failed to do so. But, you delegates, can be different. You have the power of change within you. So be courageous and stand up for what you believe in. Believe in yourself and believe in your country. But most importantly, believe that your voice will be heard.

In the conference, you will be representing a country that may not be your own. You will be representing the voice of a nation that you may not have heard of before. You will be the reason behind which a nation may stand or fall, and with that lies great responsibility. You will have to fight to make your voice heard, and I urge you delegates to keep fighting. Fight life the same way you will fight in that conference. For when you choose to create change, you will make your country proud, and you will make your school proud, because you chose to be THAT change.

I hope that, in return, you will leave the conference with more than just an award. You will leave the conference with everlasting memories, friendships that last a lifetime, and strong determination to handle life the same way you handled your conference.

*Humbly Yours,
Stephanie Sleilati
Head of Academic Training*

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Dear Delegate,

Welcome to the Historical Security Council at NDU MUN. In this committee, we will be running an international system Model United Nations Conference. The UN Security Council is a crisis committee set to meet on critical and international crisis. In this committee we are taking a trip through time back to the year 1983. You are set to be representing your country's position back in the year of the session. Meaning all actions, events or data related to time later than that date cannot be used.

We are here to rewrite history.

Our committee will comprise of you and 14 other delegates. Thirty-five years have passed since the date of the crisis, and the international political, security, economical, and even social statuses have changed greatly. Some of the countries present in our conference do not exist anymore, and most of governments and political regimes have changed or have been replaced. It is of extreme importance to note that research is of utter importance in this committee as you cannot rely on your background information or cultural knowledge. Not only are you faced with the challenge of representing a foreign country, but also, you are to represent that country in a totally different timeframe.

You are provided with a small background guide on both topics in our committee. Please make sure you do your own research as this will not be enough. Moreover, it is of crucial importance you mind the historical date of the session held as information from "the future" will greatly impact your evaluation.

We hope this experience will be what you expect it to be.

*Best of luck,
Boutros Karam
Chair of the Historical Security Council Committee*

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- This guide remains neutral throughout & is not meant to sway public opinion on these sensitive & controversial issues.
- This guide features a panoply of references to back up the material being displayed

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General Overview

A. Introducing the Committee:

The Historical Security Council (HSC) recreates the Security Council during a certain year. It follows the same configuration and possesses the same powers attributed to the members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The UNSC is composed out of 15 members, according to the year in which the Council is set in. Among the SC members, 5 are permanent: Britain, France, the United States of America (USA), Russia (USSR until 1991), and the Republic of China. These members hold the Veto over any decision taken by the Council, and ten are non-permanent members, elected for a 2-year term by the General Assembly.

In 1983, the year during which our SC was set, these 10 non-permanent countries were:
Guyana, Jordan, Malta, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Poland, Togo, and Zaire, and Zimbabwe.

Please note that some of these countries have different names today and only past ones can be used (e.g. Zaire and USSR). It is also recommended for delegates to use the full and official name of their country.

The SC held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, in London. After travelling through many cities such as Addis Ababa, Panama City, and Geneva, it is now set in the UN Headquarters in New York City. It is mandatory that a representative of each member state be present at all times at the UN Headquarters in order for the Council to meet at any time needed.

While other UN organs only make recommendations, the Security Council has the power to take decisions, which binds all member states.

Following the UN main goals, the SC's first aim is to maintain international peace and security. An important objective of the Council is to bring a conflict to an end quickly, fairly, and thoroughly. The UNSC "calls parties to seek a solution via negotiation, arbitration, or other peaceful means" (UN General Assembly, 1970). In case of failure to do so, it has the power to use coercion, notably through the use of the UN peacekeeping troops; and to use sanctions against belligerent countries.

The resolutions of the SC can take several forms. Under Chapter IV of the UN Charter, they could be recommendations. Under Chapter VII, they're binding measures. Thus, the UNSC can influence or directly impact situations worldwide.

In the HSC, delegates' aim is to debate about topics that took place in a different time period.

The goal of the HSC is not to completely and radically change the course of history, but to recognize the weight of past and future resolutions, and their effects on the topic at hand. Delegates are not bound to any resolution signed by the past. They should not restrict themselves to existing solutions, instead explore the fresh, alternative options that may have been turned down, or never brought up in the real SC.

Notably, delegates are to use the correct terms and names for countries during this time period rather than their current name, if these names have changed. A successful debate will find the balance between historical realism and innovative solutions.

References to 'future' events will not be permitted. In the UNHSC we want you to rewrite history as you would like to see it play out, and how you think the conflict can be resolved best.

B. Actions of the Committee:

As its name indicates, the UN's goal is to unite nations, and thus was at the time a strong advocate of taking down the Berlin Wall, which served as a barrier between the democratic and communist German grounds.

"Tear down this wall!" is a line from the speech given by President Ronald Reagan who was at the time an activist in the UN, as he urged that the Berlin Wall would be no more.

Moreover, it is worth noting that after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the SC's activism in peacemaking missions and punitive sanctions witnessed a huge rise due to the outbreak of religious, tribal and ethnic conflict across the globe. The world was confronted by an active and powerful Security Council as a result. According to Ban Ki-Moon, 8th Secretary General of the UN: *the Wall's tearing down "changed the course of history and came to symbolize the triumph of ordinary people in their quest for freedom. We owe it to all of those who fought for their fundamental rights and freedoms to never forget their struggle. Their story still inspires today"* (UN News, 2009).

Topic A

The Overthrowing of the Government of Grenada

I. Definition of the Topic:

Since 1979, the situation in Grenada became of great concern to American authorities due to Maurice Bishop, a leftist overtaking power in Grenada and developing relations with Cuba. The situation escalated in 1983, when another Marxist that goes by the name of Bernard Coard, Grenada's deputy prime minister, had Bishop assassinated due to his refusal to share power. Coard then took control over the government, causing protests and violence as the public clashed with the new government. With US citizens in Grenada becoming endangered as a result due to a large number of expats, President Reagan launched an attack of 2000 troops into the island (Brown, 2016). However, they were greeted by Cuban and Grenadian army forces, as well as other complications taking place (the maps the soldiers were using were old tourist maps) (Lacey, 2017). As a result, Reagan sent reinforcement, and by the end of the attack, there were nearly 6000 troops on the island. Coard's government collapsed and he was eventually replaced by someone more acceptable to the U.S government, Hudson Austin.

II. Role of Committee in Current Topic:

In this committee, delegates will be transferred to 1983, with the timeline thereafter open to change. This session is to take place after the US declared its willingness to invade Grenada. Thus the invasion did not yet take place, and delegates are expected to prepare accordingly.

In 1974, Grenada gained independence from the United Kingdom (UK). Following the coup d'état in 1979, the New Jewel Movement¹ (Leftist movement) took power under Maurice Bishop suspending the constitution and detaining a number of political prisoners. Since then, Grenada followed a Marxist regime (Zunes, 2003).

The invasion of Grenada, also known as Operation Urgent Fury, took place in 1983. Grenada is located 160 km north of Venezuela with a population of about 91 000. This operation was a US-led military invasion regrouping the US and Caribbean nations; and risen after years of political tension between Grenada and the US. (Kreisher, 2003).

Few months before the invasion, in March 1983, President Ronald Reagan started issuing warnings about the "Soviet-Cuban militarization" of the Caribbean using as evidences airplane runaways being built and intelligence sources indicating increased Soviet interest in Grenada (Gailey & Weaver Jr., 1983).

¹ Marxist-Leninist vanguard party in of Grenada, established in 1973 and led by Maurice Bishop.

On October 25th 1983, the Reagan Administration quickly decided to launch a military intervention. The US was joined by Barbados, Jamaica and member states of OECS². They deployed their army forces: US Marines, Navy SEALs...

The invasion resulted in a US victory, the arrest and the execution of the previous leader and second prime minister of Grenada Maurice Bishop.

A preliminary government was established: the Revolutionary Military Council with Hudson Austin as Chairman. After that, democratic elections took place in 1984. Since then, Grenada remained a democratic nation.

Since the invasion was set during the Cold War between the US and the USSR, it was of paramount importance to the UNSC in order for them to attain their goal of peacekeeping in the world; noting that in this time period, the world was divided in 2 powerful blocks. More importantly, the operation was not conducted under the will of the UNSC, and mainly caused hundreds of deaths; which led to its condemnation by the UN General Assembly (Bernstein, 1983).

Bearing in mind the context and positions of each country, delegates are asked as HSC members, to re-tackle the issue at hand, by proposing innovative and efficient resolutions. The aim of our debate is to see how the problem could've been resolved in another way, more peacefully and causing fewer victims.

III. Case Studies and Sub-Topics:

1. Governor General Scoon's Rescue Mission

Perhaps a turning point in the Grenada invasion that paved the way for a series of complications and misfortune was the fact that prior to initiating the attack, the US government opted to rescue and evacuate Governor General Scoon, when he got into house-arrest after Coard knew Scoon asked the US and Caribbean countries to depose his regime. The mission was initiated early at 5:30 AM on the 25th of October from Barbados. Unfortunately for the US, the Grenadian forces became aware of the invasion when it landed and took hold of Governor Scoon. Although initially the attacking squad, which was a Seals team, managed to break through the mansion with ease and take hold of the governor, the second stage of the mission which was basically escaping the mansion didn't go according to plan as it was opposed by BTR-60 armored personnel. And as a result, the Seals team and the governor were trapped inside. This turn of events, sparked a warfare that forced Reagan to send reinforcements (Pfarrer, 2003).

² The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

2. Aftermath and Reactions in the US

Once the invasion was over, it sparked a lot of controversy in the US, especially when it comes to the news that was being spread around by the media. Some believed that the US had no business in invading Grenada, while others stated that news surrounding US students taken as hostage was fake. However, TIME magazine did in fact reach a result that indicated a general accepting atmosphere around the invasion. This was supported by the belief that American students were held hostage by the Grenadian forces, similar to what happened in the Iran hostage crisis, where 52 Americans were held hostage for 444 days after the American embassy in Iran was taken over. The findings of this report even led to a change of heart in the case of House Speaker Tip O'Neill regarding the topic from opposition to support (Smith, 1983). However, if that weren't enough controversy, a certain groups' comments went against the findings of the study and actually said that at no time before the invasion did they feel that their lives were endangered nor their rights violated. This resulted in seven congressmen, led by Ted Weiss, democratic member of the United States House of Representatives to propose an unsuccessful resolution to impeach President Reagan. In order to control the aftermath that was caused by these events, a telephone call released by anchor who had spoken with medical students in Grenada during the time of the invasion revealed that these students claimed that they were in fact grateful for the invasion as they believe the invasion had saved their lives.

3. US students taken hostage

The US invasion began 6 days after Bishop's death, on the morning of the 25th of October, 1983.

In fact, Reagan explained that his motivations were mostly based on his concern towards the thousands of U.S. citizens living on the island, of which 650 were students at the St. George's University School of Medicine. However, the students weren't directly in danger by the revolution that was happening there (McQuiston, 1983).

It was stated that *"Not a single American child nor single American national was in any way placed in danger or placed in a hostage situation prior to the invasion."* The Congressional Black Caucus³ denounced the invasion, and 7 democratic congressmen, led by Ted Weiss, introduced an unsuccessful resolution to impeach Ronald Reagan (Magnuson, 1983).

Also, it is of high importance to note that one day before the invasion, families of about 500 of these students asked President Reagan not to step in the Grenadian issue and not military interfere to avoid putting the students in danger.

³ Established on March 30, 1971, the CBC is a political organization composed of the African-American members of the U.S. Congress.

On the same day, US, Canadian and English citizens decide to leave the island.

Queen Elizabeth II, head of the state was secretly informed about the preparations of the intervention. But, Margaret Thatcher, prime minister at the time, was not (Alter, 2014).

In order for the invasion to be considered as "legal", the OECS had to vote unanimously on it. To be able to invade, the prime minister of Dominica, Eugenia Charles, said that she received a message from Paul Scoon, General Governor of Grenada asking for help from the OECS.

Later on, Scoon alleged that he asked for foreign help, but didn't intend it as a military intervention. The Queen declared that she wasn't informed about any demands of help.

Time magazine wrote that the invasion received "*broad popular support.*"

Most member of a congressional study group concluded that the invasion had been justified, as they believed that US students at the university could have been taken hostage similarly to what happened in 1979 with U.S. diplomats in Iran. Back then, on the 4th of November 1979, 50 Americans working at the US Embassy in Tehran were detained for 444 days; after Iranian students seized the embassy.

After the evacuation of the American students, many of them testified that they weren't directly threatened by the political turmoil in Grenada and believed that their safety was an excuse for the United States to invade Grenada (McFadden, 1983).

But opposed views on this issue were shown as well stating that students were actually in real danger. Some told that bullets were crashing their dormitory rooms.

A student said: "*I don't think I can ever go back to Grenada.*" "*I could never concentrate on my studies. I'm sure that if I were back in class in the lecture hall, I would recall the 24 hours I spent there in terror, with the sound of gunfire and not knowing whether we would get out of there alive*" (McFadden, 1983).

4. Grenada Invasion: A Case of Governmental Censorship

The US invasion of Grenada provides a view on the fact that Americans have been misinformed and denied some important information throughout the invasion (Project Censored, 2015).

i) Before:

On March 1983, President Reagan, warned US citizens about a military airport being built by Cuba in Grenada. In order for him to portray his claim of Grenada being a threat to the US security, he displayed menacing and alarming satellite photographs of the air-port.

But, in reality, the use of the airport was intended for international civil aviation standards by Plessey Airports of the U.K., and was designed for tourism.

ii) *During:*

It was the first time in US history that the government had forbidden press access to this military armed conflict, violating the first amendment which guarantees the freedom of speech and press. For more than 2 days, they censored all the news about the invasion; American news reporters were denied access to the military operations (Havener, 1986). The exclusion of reporters as independent observers would fail to fully inform the American public about the use of military force in the invasion of Grenada.

White House Chief of Staff James A. Baker III said *“that although he did not know of the plan to exclude the press beforehand, he approved of it and would exclude the press again in a similar situation”* (Havener, 1986).

A foreign journalist also said that *“We have just seen the end of 200 years of press freedom in the United States”* (Project Censored, 2015)..

iii) *After:*

The American Civil Liberties Union⁴ complained about the detention and political interrogation of Grenadians, including civilians. This happened after the press left Grenada, leaving it under the rule of the US military.

It was reported that civilians were asked about their political views. Also, some people were expelled from the state, with the only apparent reason for this being based on their political position (Project Censored, 2015). Ron Dorfman, editor of the Quill, published by the Society of Professional Journalists, later was to describe the invasion of Grenada as a “mammoth expedition and it came as no surprise to the Grenadians, the Cubans, or anyone concerned except the American public and the press.” (Project Censored, 2015)

In a free and democratic society, that the US claim to be, this will be an example of governmental censorship.

⁴ The ACLU is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee to everyone in the country.

IV. Additional information:

A. Reports and Analysis given by Organizations

1983 President Reagan's Address to Grenada, U.S. Department of State

B. Treaties and Conventions

- i) 1933 Anti-war Treaty of Non-Aggression and Conciliation of Rio de Janeiro
- ii) 1936 Convention for the Maintenance, Preservation, and Restoration of Peace
- iii) 1948 Charter of the Organization of the American States (OAS): Articles 18, 20, and 21
- iv) 1945 Charter of the UN: Article 2, paragraph 4
- v) 1970 Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the UN
- vi) 1981 Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States

C. Resolutions and Agreements:

- i) 1983 GA Resolution 38/7: The situation in Grenada
- ii) 1983, OECS: With Grenada not participating, the remaining six members of the OECS decided to seek the assistance of friendly states to stabilize the situation in Grenada and establish a peacekeeping force
- iii) 1983: Following the invasion, Grenada requested help from other Commonwealth members. The intervention was opposed by the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, and Canada, among others

D. Effects of the Invasion:

i) *Health:*

Before the invasion, health care was provided free for everyone, however, the quality of life for most islanders became worse in the period following the invasion. Most foreign doctors were arrested by U.S. forces: Not a single pediatrician stayed in this country where 60% of the population was under 25. In addition, psychiatrists were not able to care for 180 mental patients (17 patients and 1 staff member were killed when the U.S. bombed the mental hospital during the invasion) (Zunes, 2003).

ii) *Economy:*

“Investment and tax codes were revised to favor foreign investment, and cooperatives and state enterprises were sold to private interests. Billboards that had inspired the population to work for justice, equality, development, and national sovereignty were quickly replaced by those designed to inspire them to buy American consumer products” (Zunes, 2003).

iii) *Education:*

The literacy rate in Grenada was at 98 %, although US forces expelled foreign teachers (Zunes, 2003).

V. Questions to consider:

1. What was your country's position on the Grenadian civil war during the year 1983?
2. What was your country's political regime during the year 1983?
3. What actions should the SC take in order to contain the Grenadian civil war?
4. What is your country's position on foreign influence in Grenada?
5. Would your country support UN presence on Grenadian soil in order to contain the situation?
6. How did the political tides shift in Grenada after the coup, and which side would your country be supporting?
7. What is the difference between Marxism, Leninism, and Communism?



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Topic B

The 1961 Berlin Crisis

I. Definition of Topic:

As a result of thousands of East Germans fleeing to the democratic West during the early years of the Cold War, it was considered a loophole, and in response, the communist East Germany built the notorious Berlin Wall during the night of August 13, 1961. It served as a barrier between West Germany, under the Federal Republic of Germany, and East Germany, under the German Democratic Republic (GDR). The wall, symbolizing the lack of freedom, persisted until government officials took it down on November 9th, 1989. Germany reunited in 1990.

II. Role of Committee in Current Topic:

In this committee, delegates will be transferred to 1983, with the timeline thereafter open to change.

The Berlin crisis of 1961 was one of the main events deepening the Cold War between the United States of America (US) and the Soviet Union (USSR). It concerned the status of the German capital Berlin and its division into West and East Berlin. This political crisis remained for nearly 30 years, and resulted in the creation of the Berlin Wall on August 13th, 1961 which was the peak incident of the Berlin conflict (The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica, n.d.). This wall became one of the Cold War symbols, especially since it divided Berlin into 2 blocks: on one side the US and their allies, and on the other side, the USSR and its client states. The wall is the most important symbol of a divided Europe by the iron wall.

Many people were victims of the wall, not only by not being able to see their families and friends on the other side of the wall, but also while trying to cross it, resulting in deaths at times.

When Mikhail Gorbachev took office from 1985 to 1991 as General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, he started reforming the union politically and economically directing its policy through a more open way. This is called the Perestroika, meaning reconstructing. It is one of the main reasons which led to the dissolution of the USSR and to the end of the Cold War (Gitomirski). Later on, it resulted in the fall of the Wall in 1989, also called “*The Wall of Shame*” and opened the road to the reunification of the two parts of Berlin.

The HSC aims to find an alternative to the Berlin Wall crisis. It is important to keep in mind that we are set in 1983, and all the decisions taken after 1983 should be kept apart. Members should find new solutions to the issue at hand. In our committee, discussing this historical issue is more than important as the Berlin wall had influenced the world in the past, and its impact is still felt today.

III. History of topic:

1. “Ich Bin Ein Berliner”

Perhaps one of President Kennedy’s most memorable speeches was the one he gave in Berlin, 5 months before he got assassinated. This iconic speech was performed in front of an audience of a staggering 450,000 people and was a turning point during the Cold War.

“*Ich bin ein Berliner*”, meaning “*I am a Berliner*”, is a quote from that historical speech that served to show the support of the US for West Germany, as much as it came as an answer to the Soviet Union, which had shown its support for East Germany and its decision to erect the Berlin Wall.

“Freedom has many difficulties and democracy is not perfect,” he continued. “But we never had to put up a wall to keep our people in”. This sent a clear message to the USSR that the removal of Western allies from West Berlin was impossible, and was a first step towards the wish of the end of the Cold War.

2. Iron Curtain

Sadly, the effects of the Berlin Wall were not only felt in Berlin. The fact that the Wall was built had a huge impact on the entirety of Europe because it reinforced the Soviet Union’s effort to isolate itself, as well as its satellite states from the rest of Europe and the areas that weren’t under the control of the USSR by forming what was, at the time, called the Iron Curtain (Goldfield et al., 2011). On the East side, were the countries that were connected to the allies of the Soviet Union. This wall would later on become the most notable border of this Iron Curtain, especially its Checkpoint Charlie, which is the best known crossing point and a symbol of the curtain as a whole.

3. Checkpoint Charlie

Currently one of Berlin’s most famous tourist places, Checkpoint Charlie has a lengthy and suspenseful history as an American military refuge in the Cold War.

In early 1947, Checkpoint C, nicknamed ‘Charlie’ by the Western allies, was created as a crossing point between East and West Berlin, which became more important after the Wall was created in 1961. It was one of 3 checkpoints between East and West Germany. However, after the Wall emerged, Checkpoint Charlie was the unique official crossing point for allied military and foreigners between the two parts of the city.

During its existence, Checkpoint Charlie was the location of some serious conflicts between the two sides, and it received recognition as a symbol of division within Berlin, in addition to global politics at large.

One of the most famous disputes between the East and West was Berlin Crisis of 1958-61. Both American and Soviet tanks were lined up and set to fire at each other. It occurred after a clash about to whether

GDR guards could examine travel documents owned by American diplomat, Allan Lightner. The obstacle endured for 6 days and drew international attention.

In 1962, the decease of the 18-year-old East Berliner Peter Fechter took place at the Checkpoint as he attempted to climb over the wall and was shot by GDR guards. US troops couldn't come to his rescue as he bled to death, caught fence wire. This accident was the cause of many protests (Cichanowicz, 2016).

4. Berlin Divided

After WWII and the collapse of Germany, Berlin began to get separated. The German city was divided into four zones of occupation between the superpowers of the time. Repartition agreements arose in 1946 between Soviet and Western zones. In 1947, the West decided then to merge French, British, and American zones (Cold War Museum, n.d.). Combining the Western zones was considered a threat by the Soviet Union, fearing the power that they could have when working all together.

By doing so, the West was trying to revive the German economy. One way to achieve this was by introducing a new currency in the Western zone on June 23rd, 1948. This led the Soviet Union to impose on the following day, the Berlin Blockade. It was one of the first amplifying events of the Cold War which was set on June 24th of 1948. The USSR blocked terrestrial access to Berlin East, stopping the arrival of food supplies among others, to the city's population. In response to that, the Western allies decided to put in place an airlift to ensure the supply of the 2 million Berliners. Later on, the success of the airlift led the USSR to lift the blockade on May 12th 1949.

When US President John F. Kennedy took office in 1961, the Berlin situation heated up. During the Vienna Summit⁵ of the same year, Khrushchev insisted that an agreement on Berlin had to be achieved before the end of the year, or otherwise, he would sign a separate treaty with East Germany (Zubok, 1993). Kennedy made it obvious that Berlin at the time was an important strategic place to the US and that autonomous access to the city had to be preserved at all times.

After the separation of Berlin into 2 parts, many Eastern Germans tried to escape to the West because it granted them more freedoms and rights. American officials estimated the number of East German Refugees going to West Berlin each day to be over 1000, by July 1961. Due to this demographic drain, East Germany backed by the Soviet Union, decided to build on the night of August 12, 1961, a wall with barbed wire entanglements that stretched along the thirty mile line that

⁵ Vienna Summit (June 3-4, 1961): summit meeting held on June 4, 1961, in Vienna, Austria, which gathered U.S. President John F. Kennedy and the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev; and discussed the relationship between both countries.

divided Berlin to prevent its citizens from fleeing to the West. The US did not intervene because the Soviet Union was controlling this region.

The Berlin Wall was the climax of a divided Berlin. The Wall was separating the country not only physically but also morally between a communist east and a capitalist west.

Hence a major outcome of the Berlin crisis was that the Soviet Union would continue to have dominance over its eastern European allies and East Berlin, while the United States and its allies would claim Western Europe, West Germany, and West Berlin within their sphere of influence.

5. The Berlin Blockade

A major clash of the Cold War, the Berlin Blockade presaged upcoming conflict over Berlin.

After the Yalta Conference⁶, Germany and Berlin were divided into occupation zones, but no arrangements to access Berlin was made. Disputes regarding the Iron Curtain's speech done by Winston Churchill on March 1946 at the UN was seen as emphasizing the deteriorating relationship between the West and the Soviets. In 1947, Germany accused the allies of violating the Potsdam Agreement⁷. Following that, on March 20, 1948, the USSR drew out from the Allied Control Council⁸ administering Berlin.

Thus, all these previous events led the Soviet Union to set a blockade over Berlin on June 24th 1948, attempting to prevent Western access to East Berlin.

Losing Berlin meant losing Germany for the Truman administration. However, since many were reluctant about risking a war over Berlin, the planned military challenge was later rejected. Hence, in response to the Berlin Blockade, Western powers initiated an airlift which lasted for to keep food and supplies flowing to the East and to maintain its connection to the West. 272 000 flights were made into West Berlin. Gaining public empathy, the Soviets blockade had failed, and decided to reopen the borders.

The blockade was lifted on May 12, 1949; since then, each of the US, the United Kingdom, France, and the USSR governed its own sector and had free access to all other sectors. The communist GDR surrounded the "free" city of West Berlin was an incident of the Cold War between the US and the USSR, in which both superpowers claimed dominance over Europe.

6 Yalta Conference (4-11 February 1945), in Crimea: meeting which brought together, US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Joseph Stalin. The conference's aim was to plan for a post-war world and to discuss Germany and Europe's reorganization.

7 The Potsdam Agreement (July 17 to August 2, 1945): agreement between the UK, the US and the USSR; to negotiate the end of World War III, the military occupation and reconstruction of Germany, its borders, and the entire European Theatre of War territory.

8 The Allied Control Council or Allied Control Authority, also referred to as the Four Powers (US, UK, France, USSR), was a military occupation governing body of the Allied Occupation Zones in Germany and Austria after the end of WWII in Europe. The Council had held its final meeting on 2 October 1990, on the eve of the reunification of Germany.

IV. Additional information:

A. Reports and analysis given by organizations

- i) *Crisis Over Berlin: A study produced by the Historical Office, United States Department of State*
- ii) *1958 Code Name – Live Oak, North Atlantic Treaty Organization*

B. Treaties and Conventions

- i) *1955 Warsaw Pact*
- ii) *1961 22nd Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union*

C. Resolutions and Agreements:

- i) *1958 Berlin Ultimatum*
- ii) *1959 NATO Military Planning for Berlin Emergency: LIVE OAK tripartite planning group*
- iii) *1961 Paris Ministerial Consultations on Berlin*

V. Effects of the Berlin Wall:

1. Economy:

People possessing the West German currency, the DM (Deutsche Mark) could get products at a very cheap price in the Eastern part of Berlin.

With the wall, 63 000 East Berliners lost their jobs in the West as trade between West Berlin and East Berlin stopped. As a result, state deficits fastly augmented (Dumont, 2009).

2. Health:

“Each additional euro eastern Germans received in benefits from pensions and public health insurance after reunification accounted for three additional hours of life expectancy” according to the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in 2014. “From the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 through the start of the new millennium, life expectancy in eastern Germany increased substantially, by almost four years. Before the Wall came down the average life expectancy of eastern Germans was just 73.5 years -- considerably lower than the 76 years in West Germany. But by the year 2000, the east-west gap of 2.5 years had shrunk to less than one year. Over the same period, the amount of public spending on social insurance for eastern Germans rose from around 2,100 euros per person per year to around 5,100 euros per person per year”.

3. *Education:*

“Brain drain”: A large number of educated students from Eastern Germany used to flee to West Germany for a better life. (Dumont, 2009).

VI. Questions to Consider:

1. What was the main reason behind the division of Berlin?
2. At the time, what was your country's political regime?
3. Does the creation of this Wall violate human rights?
4. Does the Berlin Wall threaten the sovereignty of Germany?
5. Was the creation of the wall solely due to external pressure?
6. How did the Berlin Wall affect world politics, and strengthen the tension between the two great poles at the time?
7. What solution can be proposed to be implemented in Berlin, and how would it impact world politics?
8. 8 - Did the Berlin Wall minimize the impact of the Cold War or did it catalyze it?
9. If the Berlin Wall did not exist, would it have been possible for another world war to ignite?



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