

THATCHER'S CABINET(S) (1979-1990)

Open Agenda



STUDY GUIDE

Under-Secretary General: Doğa Çakar
Academic Assistant: Batuhan Akyaşı

HASMUN



Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed Participants and Guests,

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to the fourth edition of the Kadir Has University Model United Nations Conference on behalf of the Kadir Has University Model United Nations Club, Organization Team and the Secretariat. My name is Polat Yamaner, I am a junior student at Kadir Has University, Law Faculty; and I serve you as the Secretary-General of this conference. Having witnessed the last two years of the Conference as a proud participant and an academic team member, I can faithfully state that, HASMUN will, once again, host a formidable experience for you to enhance your skills on different perspectives of the global course of events.

Simulations coursing from historical events to the futuristic concepts, the committees of this year's HASMUN will be met under the theme "*Human Rights: From Respect of the States to the Approbation of the Imperative*". Being one of the few Model UN conferences with a certain theme; this year, we hope to enhance the viewpoint of all the participants, on the fundamental rights and freedoms and human dignity, and its close relation with the international relations, the way of diplomacy, the law, the understanding of security and certainly humanism and humanitarianism.

The Secretariat of HASMUN 2017 had created such committees to actualize our hope, and enabled its participants to have a word from the angles of both international and national institutions. I would like to express my gratitude for their intensive work to all Under-Secretaries-General and Academic Assistants who have expanded their efforts much more than me. Without their contribution to the Conference, the very formation of a Model UN conference would not be even possible.

Apart from the exacting and differentiating dimension of the Academia, as one of the Conferences distinguished for its organizational success, I would to thank to the Director-General of the Conference Mr. Alihan Eyübođlu and his Deputy Ms. Gizem Eşsizođlu for constituting the organizational basis of the conference with their high-level knowledge and skills that they have presented. Lastly, I would like to thank to the Deputy-Secretary General of the Conference, Mr. Kerem Karaçay for not leaving me alone and enduring all of my anxieties.

Finally, as always, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. The entire staff of HASMUN 2017 and I are committed to create a dynamic and enhancing experience for high-school and university students from all around the world.

Sincerely,

Polat Yamaner
Secretary-General of Kadir Has University Model United Nations Conference 2017

Letter from Under-Secretary General,

Dear Participants of Thatcher's Cabinet. I know from heart that most of you will not going to read this section of guide, but unfortunately it is my job to glorify my work, and glorify your prospected gains in this committee. So here we go, First I need to start with thanking section, I really do not think that our esteemed Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General needs my gratitude, I owe them an apology instead of gratitude to them, for delaying "deadlines" in every single time. Besides that, they know they are awesome. Now, we are going to continue with the committee. This committee will not be going to change rest of your lives, but I promise you that, I will do my best to teach you and learn with you about Cold War politics of Britain.

Good Luck, You Will Need That.

Dođa ÇAKAR

THATCHER'S CABINET(S) (1979-1990)

1) British Politics of Post-War Period

a) Era of Decolonization

b) Conservative Party

i) Conservative Governments (1951-64)

c) Labor Party

i) Labor Governments (1964-70)

2) Cold War

3) 1970s

a) Conservative Comeback

b) Labor Party Terms

c) Winter of Discontent (1978-79)

d) Margaret Hilda Thatcher

4) Expectations from Ministers

British Post-War Politics

“I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat”

Winston Churchill

Most dramatic change after World War Two, is the recession of British Empire. Britain. Through the destruction and economic collapse brought by WW2, Britain lost most of its territories in overseas. Due to the devastation, Prime Minister Clement Attlee¹ from Labor Party (1945-1951) initiated a comprehensive transformation to welfare state².



Within this process, Bank of England, railways, heavy industry, coal mining and public utilities become nationalized. However, the economic recovery was slow and Britain was dependent on American loans. Nationalization of steel industry had criticized due to its profitability. Eventually the Conservative Leader, Winston Churchill, retake the Prime Minister's office in 1951. To sum up, this part, most of British politics after the War was about economic recovery and keeping the country stable.

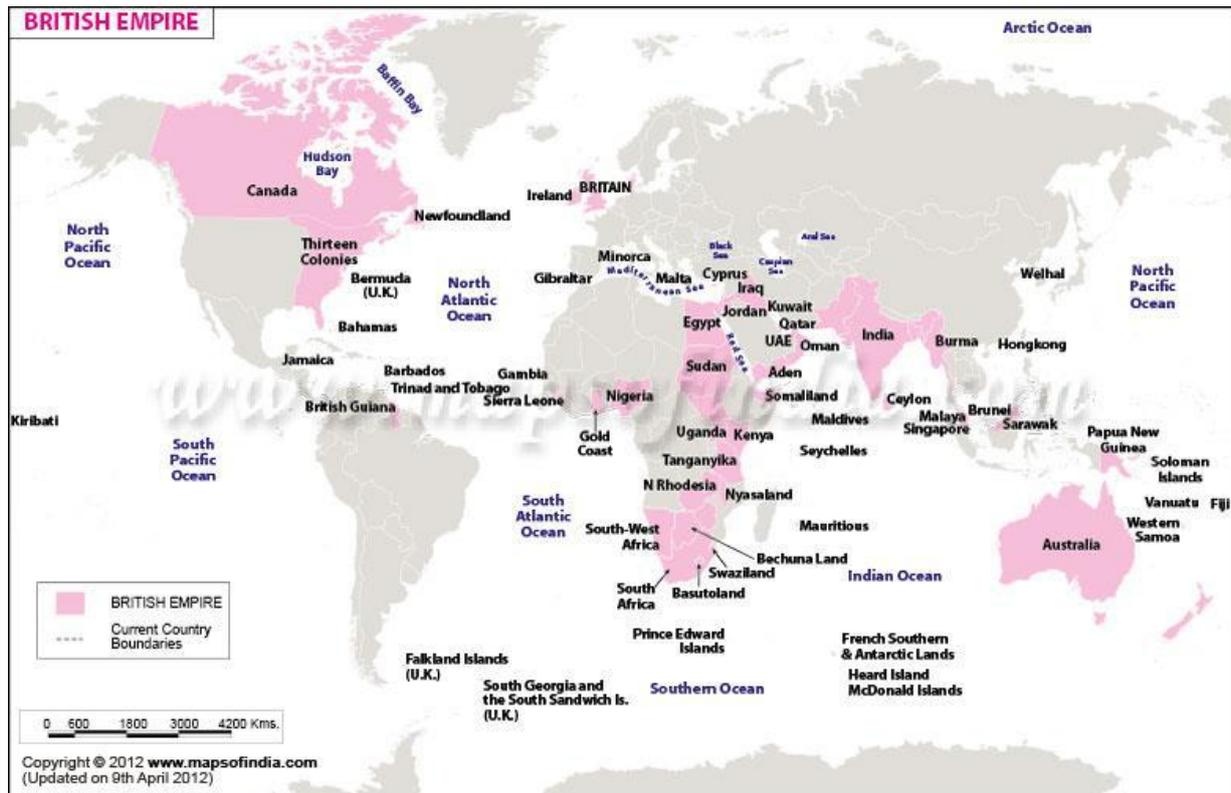
Era of Decolonization

After WW2, India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon declared their independence from British Empire, and Britain has no position to force them otherwise. True demonstration of Britain's weakness happened during the Suez Crisis in 1956. United Kingdom was shadowed by the two faction leaders of Cold War era, and unable to protect its national interest against

¹ Picture

²Welfare State is a form of government which the state held responsible for the protection and promotion of the social and economic well-being of its subjects. In this model, state assumes public responsibility for those cannot provide minimal provisions for good life.

them. Ghana, Malaya, Nigeria and Kenya also became independent during this period.



3

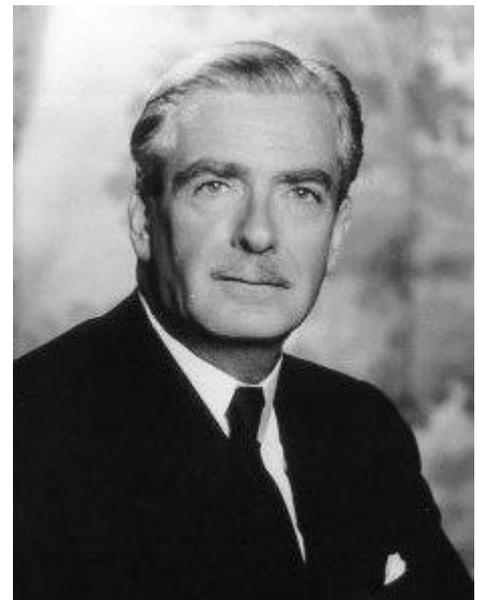
Conservative Party

Conservative and Unionist Party is the oldest political party in the United Kingdom. They claim that they are descendants of Tory Parties of the 17th, 18th and early 19th century. Modern formation of Conservative Party happened in 1830s. Party is known for its support for free market capitalism, free enterprise, fiscal conservatism and restrictions on labor unions.

³ British Empire in its largest extend

Conservative Governments (1951-64)

Winston Churchill reclaimed Prime Ministry in 1951 for his third term of premiership after his service as a head of wartime national government and the short caretaker government of 1945. During this period, he tried to renew the relationship between Britain and United States and established the international position of Great Britain within the post-war order. His domestic policies, on the other hand, clouded by a series of foreign policy crises, which were related to continuing recession of British military power and imperial prestige, In February 1952, King George passed away and her eldest daughter Elizabeth coronated as the Queen of United Kingdom and other Commonwealth Realms. Sir Anthony Eden⁴ followed Churchill as Prime Minister after Churchill's retirement in 1955. Eden known for his wartime services and he was a very popular figure. However, he failed to protect the British national interests in Suez Crisis and bow down American political pressure. He resigned after Suez Crisis.



Harold Macmillan⁵ succeeded him as Prime Minister. He is famous for his economic approach and the resistance to it came from nearly all his treasury ministers. Macmillan wanted to initiate new National Incomes Commission to institute control on income as a part

⁴ Anthony Eden on down left

⁵ Harold Macmillan next page first picture

of his “Growth without Inflation” policy, it utterly failed. Most notable action of his term was the removal of mandatory military service in Britain. Next Prime Minister, Alec Douglas-Home, was not that much notable (so I will not give his picture).



Labor Party

The Labor Party is a center-left political party in the United Kingdom founded as a result of trade union movements in 19th century. Labor Party always acted in a very broad political compass, beginning with Liberalism, through Moderate Socialism, even Social Democrat.

Labor Governments (1964-1970)

In 1964, Labor Party obtained Prime Ministry through Harold Wilson⁶, with a very narrow result. This was not a result, which they could obtain premiership for a full term. In March 1966, Harold Wilson. won the re-election with landslide majority. Wilson’s policies were toward to continuation of modernization, economic stability and equality of opportunity for citizens of United Kingdom. For his overseas politics, Wilson’s main challenge was also the age of decolonization, in specific, Rhodesia and South Africa was falling apart from the Empire too. Additionally, US President Lyndon Johnson was expecting British support for his military campaign in Vietnam. Labor Party decided to not actively support US, because they did not want to face with popular

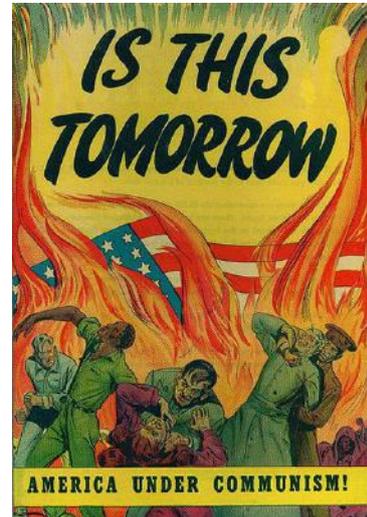


⁶ Second Picture.

anti-war public opinion. United Kingdom's support for Vietnam War was only limited to volunteer troops and military supplies.

Cold War (1947-)⁷

Cold War is a reference to a post-war period of high tension between the powers in Eastern Bloc under the leadership of Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) and Western Bloc under the leadership of USA. Term "cold" is used, because this tension never escalated into a large-scale war between these two blocks. Entire world's foreign policy (of course including United Kingdom) cannot be think separated from the ideological tensions between USA and USSR.



1970s

Conservative Comeback

Conservative Party returned to power with the Premiership of Sir Edward



Heath, between 1970-74. Sir Heath's premiership is regarded as the bloodiest years of Northern Ireland Troubles. He was the prime minister during the Bloody Sunday in 1972, 14 unarmed men were killed by British soldiers during a banned civil rights march in Derry. He always disclaimed that he authorized the usage of deadly force. Heath also took United Kingdom into the European Economic Community on 1 January 1973 with the support of

⁷ Cold War ends in 1991 with the dissolution of USSR, however you are on 1979

majority in House of Commons. On the other hand, he had to face with internal economic problems such is unstoppable rise of inflation, and utterly growing strong trade unions.

Energy shortages due to Oil Crisis also stroke the British Industry. He could not manage to maintain power in the House of Commons and eventually resigned.

Labor Party Terms

Harold Wilson, returned to power on 4 March 1974 to form a government, without the support of majority. He tried to re-negotiate the terms of Britain as a member of European Economic Community for better terms. Wilson was also not successful to end economic crisis, Unemployment exceeded 1 million citizen and inflation skyrocketed to 24% percent⁸.

Wilson announced his resignation on 16 March 1976 but his successor James Callaghan with his minority government also not successful to deal with increasing economic crisis.

Winter of Discontent (1978-79)

This term refers to the 1978-79 winter in the United Kingdom. Public sector trade unions demanded larger pay rises, during the Callaghan Government's fight against rising inflation.

The term itself comes from a Shakespeare's play *Richard III* 's opening line "*Now is the winter of our discontent, made glorious summer by this sun of York*" .

In the summer before the Winter of Discontent, Callaghan called elections in order to restore his power and end the minority government phase. However, Margaret Thatcher won the election and that call, was the last mistake of Callaghan.

⁸ Philip Ziegler, *Wilson: The Authorised Life* (1993).

Margaret Hilda Thatcher

Where there is discord, may we bring harmony,

Where there is error, may we bring truth,

Where there is doubt, may we bring faith,

and where there is despair, may we bring hope.

— *Margaret Thatcher,*

She was born as Margaret Hilda Roberts on 13 October 1925. She studied chemistry at Oxford University. Margaret Roberts became President of Oxford University Conservative Association in 1946. When she applied for a job in Imperial Chemical Industries, she was rejected with maybe the most descriptive and accurate comment about her. “headstrong, obstinate and dangerously self-opinionated”. Her political career began in 1951 general elections, she was nominated as Conservative candidate for Darlford seat in the Parliament. She was considered as not good at public speaking by local party office in those years. In 1959, she was elected as MP. Her first office in Cabinet was offered by Edward Heath in 1970, as the Secretary of State for Education and Science. Her first act, a bit controversial, was cutting of public spending on school administrations. Thatcher focused on academic needs of schools rather than public projects such as “free milk for schoolchildren aged seven to eleven”. After the Heath’s fall from government, she was elected as the Leader of Conservative Party, subsequently Leader of Opposition. She furiously criticized welfare state model and advocated less government, lower taxes, and more freedom for business and



consumers. In 1976, Soviet army journal Red Star (Krasnaya Zvezda) referred her as “Iron Lady” when she harshly blamed Soviet Union for seeking “world dominance” in her speech called “Britain Awake”. In 1979, 4th of May, she became the Prime Minister.

Expectations from Ministers

Dear Participants, as you read the guide, you notice that I will only give you the basic concept of the time, and base politics of Britain within that time. Anything “may” happen after 1979, is under your responsibility. We are going to expect from you that, to adapt the political conditions of the time, ability to use authority and problem solving through a fast-phased crisis situations. Most important of all, you need to act collectively when it necessary, rather than trying to show off your individual traits (I am sure you are all capable of handling British politics, but We are more interested in your collaborative work).