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THE COD WARS

UNITED KINGDOM

NYUMUNC XV

Joint Crisis Committee

Chair

Jeremy Kim

Crisis Director

Matthew Tsai

The Cod Wars:
United Kingdom
Committee Background Guide



Joint Crisis Committee
New York Model United Nations Conference
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Welcome Letters

Meet Your Crisis Director

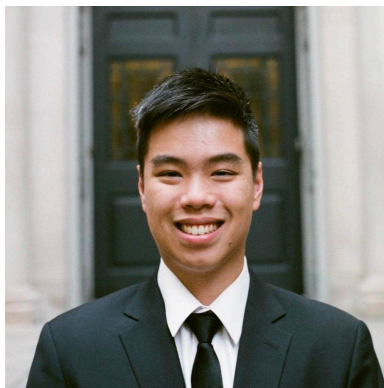
Dear Delegates,

On behalf of everyone here at NYUMUNC XV, welcome to our fifteenth iteration of NYUMUNC, and Cod Wars: United Kingdom in particular. Everyone here is so excited to provide an engaging and exciting committee experience for everyone in attendance.

My name is Matthew Tsai, and it is my honor and pleasure to be your Crisis Director for this committee. I am a senior studying Politics and Linguistics, with a minor in Data Science in the College of Arts and Sciences. As a part of my senior studies, I am writing an undergraduate thesis looking into the causal effects of IRA terrorist attacks on political attitudes. I am originally from Pennsylvania (Go Birds!), and in my free time I enjoy following sports, playing Rogue-Likes, and keeping up to date on International affairs.

I am currently serving as NYU MUN's Club President, and have been a member of the Model UN community since I was a sophomore in high school. Since the beginning, I have always loved crisis committees; this committee marks the fourth time I will be a Crisis Director, and I hope to end my time in Model UN with my best committee yet! As a CD, I feel that it is my role to accommodate a diverse set of backroom arcs and ideas, letting delegates shape the events that take place over the course of the conference. As such, I am looking forward to seeing what innovative and unique ideas you all will bring to the table this weekend!

I hope you all enjoy this conference. We are sincerely looking forward to meeting you all and hopefully having an excellent weekend of crisis. Good luck with your preparations and research. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns about the committee.



Sincerely,

Matthew Tsai

Crisis Director of Cod Wars: UK

Email: mt4337@nyu.edu

Meet Your Crisis Chair

Dear delegates,

Welcome to NYUMUNC XIV, and to the Cod Wars committee!

My name is Younghyun(Jeremy) Kim, and I'm more than honored to serve as your chair for this committee. I'm originally from Seoul, Korea, completed secondary education in Bangkok, Thailand, and now I am a freshman studying Public Policy here at New York University's College of Arts and Science. Outside of MUN, I enjoy going to Broadway shows, operas, taking long walks in Central Park or the botanical gardens, and film photography.

Prior to joining NYU's MUN team, I have been heavily involved in MUN since my first year in high school. Initially dragged into it by upperclassmen who claimed it was "fun" and "totally not a cult", I was soon captivated by the engaging and fun debates, finding possible solutions to major world issues, and most importantly the vibrant and amazing community MUN had to offer. The memories of staying up until 2:00 AM on a call with bloc members, or struggling through organizing conferences with some of the best friends I made through the circuit are undoubtedly some of my favorites. I hope you all enjoy and exciting debate, and leave with some amazing memories!

I look forward to meeting you all, and the creative ideas all of you will bring to this committee! Best of luck in your research, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Best,

Jeremy Kim (He/They)

Head Chair of Cod Wars: UK

Email: yk3044@nyu.edu



Statement of Diversity and Inclusion

Whilst NYUMUNC is committed to maintaining as educational and historically accurate an experience as possible, we recognize that any debate around historical events will incorporate sensitive issues. Delegates are expected to discuss these issues maturely and appropriately. NYUMUNC is committed to promoting a culture of diversity and inclusion in line with NYU's values; in the spirit of this commitment, NYUMUNC will not tolerate any bigoted symbols, statements, or attitudes. Remember that by attending our conference you agree to our Terms and Conditions of Conference Attendance, which we suggest you read over. It is posted on our website and is in your Delegation Guide.

Delegates will not engage in crimes against humanity, including but not limited to genocide, atomic bombings, war crimes, or other serious offenses. Xenophobic statements, actions, or attitudes will not be tolerated. Delegates who violate these guidelines will face repercussions. If you have specific questions that you are not sure about regarding appropriate topics, please don't hesitate to email or ask.

Introduction

Welcome to 1972 United Kingdom! Emerging from the Second World War with a new perspective on public discourse and the future of Britain and her people, Her Majesty Elizabeth II's great nation of isles has navigated a quickly changing global landscape. Since the end of the War, British decolonization has mostly been accomplished, the British welfare project has been underway for several decades, and the British people have become a highly educated, social conscious society. As the Prime Minister Heath's Cabinet of Ministers, you must work collaboratively and effectively to counter the numerous serious and existential challenges that threaten the British way of life and its citizens.

Under the specter of the Cold War, you will have to balance your own interests with those of NATO and the Western World as a whole. Gone are the days of *Pax Britannica*; now, a bipolar global environment constrains Great Britain and her international ambitions. As delegates make important policy decisions on how the United Kingdom approaches domestic unrest, economic uncertainty, international conflict, and social change, she must be wary of how the rest of the world views those decisions.

There are no guarantees in politics. The election of 1974 looms large over Heath's Cabinet; poor political performance may spell the end of the Conservative Government. An explosion of nationalist sentiments in Northern Ireland threatens to bring violence and destruction to a large portion of the United Kingdom. Against the backdrop of these turbulent times, delegates must be careful not to be too heavy handed in their approach to Iceland and her demands, for actions often have unintended consequences. However, Britain must defend her people and her way of life. Fishing, and the cultivation of the sea, have been the lifeblood and cultural heart of this powerful island nation. To dismiss this ridiculous Icelandic claim to

exclusivity is to betray Great Britain; she must be defended. How that is accomplished, and to what extent it is successful, will depend on your actions this weekend.

As individual cabinet members pursue ambitions, create elaborate political schemes, and vie for dominance of the United Kingdom, let us hope that you all aspire to elevate Great Britain and her people to new heights. Whether that be in economics, society, or community, it is our hope that the actions of the individual contribute to the benefit of the whole. May your ambitions shine bright, and your contributions shine brighter!

Committee Mechanics

Committee will begin on September 1st 1972. The Icelandic government has just announced that they have extended their EEZ, or Economic Exclusion Zone, for commercial fishing to 50 miles, effectively crippling British fishing operations in the region.

In this committee, delegates will take the role of the Prime Minister Edward Heath's cabinet. Thus, committee directives will essentially take place of policy papers which will then be passed on to the House of Commons in the form of a bill. Those bills will be discussed by the House of Commons (the backroom), and enacted or failed depending on the results.

Due to numerous physical and technological limitations, communication between the two committees of the JCC will be limited. It will be up to the delegates from both sides of the committee to establish standardized procedures for communication, but below are several suggestions for delegates to consider.

- **Selected Envoys:** One way to gain an understanding of how the other committee is approaching the crisis would be to send an envoy from one committee to the other.

Committee front rooms have the option to pass directives which designate a selected

committee member to be sent to the other room for a predetermined amount of time, building bilateral communication.

- **Cycles of Ambassadors:** Another way to establish shared communication between committees would be the regular organization of ambassador meetings. Each committee would select 1-2 designated ambassadors per session to interact with each other in unmoderated caucus format outside of the respective committee rooms. The meeting will not be recorded, and it is the responsibility of the ambassadors to convey the discussed content.
- **Joint Room Summits:** A final form of communication to consider is the establishing of joint summit meetings to discuss cross-committee initiatives and directives. A summit would allow every delegate to attend, although committees should consider what form of debate would be best used in these summits. Due to the real life difficulty in hosting summits, the frequency and length of these joint sessions would be subject to limited chair discretion.

Background

UK General History

Victorian Era:

Many argue that the formation of the modern-day United Kingdom had its roots during the Victorian Era of UK history, from 1837 to 1901. The Victorian Era was characterized by a liberalization of British politics, a relative peace in global affairs, and a moralist shift in social attitudes.

In the realm of British politics, a series of reform acts expanded the electorate, broadening the people that were eligible to vote for their constituents in Parliament¹. At the same time, the central government in London relaxed its restrictions on colonial trade, and they ended the practice of shipping convicts to Australia. These changes saw a massive liberalization in British politics, shifting the power away from the Royal family and the aristocracy to a new urban middle class.

In the realm of international affairs, the Victorian Era was also called *Pax Britannica*, in large part due to the relative inter-state peace that existed from 1815 to the start of WW1 in 1914. Although the British Empire did fight in the Crimean War (1853 to 1856), this time period was much more peaceful than the eras that preceded and succeeded it. However, it would be a misconception to assume that inter-state peace equated to a lack of violence. Many of Britain's colonies and their peoples fought against the Empire, struggling in their own efforts to gain civil liberties and political freedom. The "Scramble for Africa", a European division of the continent into colonial holdings, also occurred during this era.

Internally, British society and its beliefs were also shaped by the Victorian time period. In particular, British citizens began to feel a moral obligation to raise the living standards of those in society they deemed "less fortunate" than them. Historian Harold Perkin argues that British society 'diminished cruelty to animals, criminals, lunatics, and children (in that order)². These efforts saw the adoption of universal literacy and childhood education, the expansion of civil laws to protect those minority groups, and an increased emphasis, particularly amongst feminist groups, on advancing social justice. However, this philosophy also fortified certain colonial attitudes, especially towards other ethnicities. Evident in certain literary works, the average

¹ "Electoral System | Political Science." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/topic/electoral-system.

² Perkin, Harold. *The Origins of Modern English Society*. Routledge, 2003.

Victorian Brit saw themselves as a “superior race” of people “bringing civilization” to places like India³. This contradiction in British society, that a moral society should help some in need but hold others under colonial rule, would eventually set the stage for decolonization.

World War 1:

Unfortunately, the era of *Pax Britannica* would come to an end as the entire world would become engulfed in the First World War. Sparked by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, World War 1 pitted the Entente Powers of France, Britain, Russia, and the United States of America, against the Central Powers of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottomans. While the vast majority of the fighting took place on the European continent, the colonial holdings in Africa and Asia saw conflict. German and British territories in South Africa saw fighting, and many men from French territories were conscripted and brought to the Western Front to fight and die⁴.

The end of World War 1 brought with it many huge changes in international politics. First, the Russian Revolution and subsequent rise of the USSR saw the establishment of the first Communist State in world history. At the same time, the destruction of the Ottoman Empire and Austria-Hungarian Empire marked the beginning of the end for the traditional empire, a strong central power which held explicit colonial territories that had their resources extracted.

Interwar Period:

In the British Empire, estimates place the total death count at around 800-900 thousand. Including civilian deaths from the Spanish flu, more than 1 million people lost their lives during the war. The end of the First World War brought the British Empire to its largest size in history.

³ Kipling, Rudyard. *WHITE MAN'S BURDEN*. 2020.

⁴ Koller, Christian. “The Recruitment of Colonial Troops in Africa and Asia and Their Deployment in Europe during the First World War.” *Immigrants & Minorities*, vol. 26, no. 1-2, Mar. 2008, pp. 111–33, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02619280802442639>.

However, the interwar period that followed began to press upon the weaknesses in the British Empire. First, in 1919, Sinn Fein and a pro-independence movement in Ireland began a three year war for independence, ultimately forming the Irish Free State within the United Kingdom that eventually became the modern Republic of Ireland. Similar tensions in India over independence and territorial freedom led to multiple massacres and a growing divide in British politics and society over the British Raj's legitimacy. In 1922, the UK declared support for the complete independence of Egypt, though British troops would remain stationed there until 1936.

The biggest political change during the interwar period took place during the 1926 Imperial Conference, where the parliaments of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Ireland, and Newfoundland obtained unprecedented political freedom from Britain. The establishment of a "British Commonwealth of Nations" asserted that these dominions were free to establish their own laws, foreign policy, and essentially freed them from British legislative control. This conference marked the end of the British Empire from a pragmatic standpoint; while the UK's remaining colonial holdings would not obtain independence until the 1970's, the momentum for decolonization began during the interwar period.

World War 2:

The Second World War brought death and destruction to human society as a whole, but also particularly to the British home isles. A combined 70-85 million people died during the war, representing around 3% of the global population. Just within the British Empire (excluding the dominions), nearly half a million people perished as a result of the fighting. Particularly devastating was the German bombing of the British Isles- nearly 70 thousand civilians were killed as a result of The Blitz, a German bombing campaign from 1940-1941.

The war also brought economic and industrial destruction. Nearly 70% of European industrial infrastructure was destroyed in the 6 year conflict. Estimates of the UK's spending show that nearly a quarter of all British resources were spent fighting the war. If the American Lend-Lease program had not been enacted, the British government would have likely run out of money before the conflict ended.

Socially, the Second World War brought the horrors of war to the homeland. Whereas the First World War was fought in the French countryside, the Second World War was fought throughout Europe, including the skies over London. Children grew up in bomb shelters, families ate military rations, and ultimately the impacts of war were felt by every level of British society.

Post War Era:

After the war, British society looked to the government to provide much needed stability to the United Kingdom. Originally the opposition party to the Conservatives, the Labour Party was able to take advantage of the social conditions to push for the nationalization of certain industries, the establishment of a welfare state, the bolstering of trade unions, and the decolonization of the United Kingdom. While the Conservatives and Labour would trade control of Parliament multiple times after World War 2, the war and its effects had created a "Post War Consensus", bringing with it a broad political effort during this era.

In the realm of industrial reform, several key industries were nationalized; the Bank of England, railways, coal mining, public utilities, and heavy industries were all nationalized when Labour took over immediately following the war. Although the Conservatives would eventually reverse the nationalization of the iron and steel industry, the nationalization of especially declining industries remained a key component of the Post War Consensus.

In the realm of the welfare state, the Post War Consensus created many new social programs. The largest of these programs was the NHS, or National Health Service. The NHS nationalized all the hospitals in the UK, entitled all British citizens to healthcare access, and made medical care free at the point of delivery. Another major program is the UK's National Insurance, a flat rate tax on all British workers that pays for a similarly universal set of social security benefits: flat-rate pensions, sickness benefits, unemployment benefits, and funeral benefits. There are also other means-tested benefits, mostly targeted at people without income and other disadvantaged groups.

The post war era also saw the bolstering of trade unions and their political weight in the United Kingdom. The appointment of Ernest Bevin, cofounder of the Transport and General Workers' Union, to Foreign Secretary represented a broader political and social support for trade unions. The Labour Party, aptly named, stood side by side with union ideals and political goals. As of the 1970's the power of trade unions in the UK has never been stronger.

Finally, the post war period led to the decolonization of the vast majority of the United Kingdom's remaining colonial holdings. In 1947, India declared independence, leading to the partition of India into modern day Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh. By 1966, every British colony on the African mainland had obtained their independence except Namibia, which remained a colony through the 1970s. Decolonization efforts were as varied as could be. Some territories, such as Kenya, separated from the United Kingdom through violent resistance. Other territories petitioned for dominion status and gradually obtained their independence. Ultimately, the diverse experiences of a post-colonial world left Britain and her interests on the global stage an important, but declining, factor.

Post War Europe:

After the Second World War, the start of the Cold War brought with it a bipolar European community. Standing on the side of America and the First World, the United Kingdom played a pivotal role in the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which guaranteed military protection for European capitalist countries. Alongside NATO, the United Kingdom helped found both the Western European Union and the European Economic Community, two international organizations meant to coordinate European reconstruction. However, their actual role in policy making and international relations remained small; instead, these organizations represent a new hope for European unity, perhaps for someday when the Berlin Wall falls...

Northern Ireland:

Post War Northern Ireland was ravaged by The Troubles. The Troubles in Northern Ireland refers to a period of ethno-nationalist conflict that began in the 1960's. Catholics, who are a minority in Northern Ireland, sought equal rights and an end to discrimination in areas such as housing and employment. However, Protestant political elites failed to sufficiently satisfy their demands. As Catholic groups increased their demonstrations, more of them turned violent, and the predominantly Protestant police force would escalate tensions further.

In August 1969, the British government deployed troops to Northern Ireland to restore order and prevent further violence. Initially intended as a temporary measure, the presence of British soldiers became a long-term and contentious aspect of the conflict. However, a sharp uptick in violence would begin when on January 30, 1972, British soldiers shot and killed 13 unarmed civil rights demonstrators in Derry during what became known as Bloody Sunday. This event intensified anti-British sentiment, and spawned the Provision Irish Republican Army, a paramilitary Irish Nationalist organization that conducted bombings, assassinations, and guerrilla

warfare against the Protestant police and British Army. As of the start of the committee, the British government suspended the Northern Ireland Parliament at Stormont and had introduced direct rule from Westminster over the territory.

UK General Economy

Post War Reconstruction: 1945-1960

The post war British economy is a story of tradeoffs. Immediately following the war, monetary stimulus in the form of the Marshall Plan and other American subsidies were spent attempting to maintain the United Kingdom's colonial grasp. In a desperate effort to improve their economy, British lawmakers pushed British goods to market, forcing a large export surplus in order to pay back the Americans and reduce the UK's dollar deficit. Doing so came at a massive cost- the British public continued to live under rationing orders, and the capital inflow from the Americans went to debt repayment instead of industrial modernization and infrastructure development.

In the long term, the British government's decision not to invest early into modernization efforts stunted their economic growth in many historically British industries compared to the rest of Western Europe. Gone were the days of Great Britain manufacturing the latest industrial goods and innovating heavy industry techniques. In an attempt to recapture the wartime economic effects of directed capital investment and reverse the decline of manufacturing and industries, many of those industries were nationalized with little actual economic success.

Instead, the British economy shifted towards services, particularly in finance and education. The 1950's saw the rise of British institutions, particularly in banking and finance, emerging as networks and spaces for global trade and business. With this shift in British

economics came an improvement in British life across the board. Standards of living, education rates, and household purchasing power all improved as a result.

Deindustrialization and Stagnation: 1960-1972

However, once again this shift in the UK's economic model came at a trade off. The decline of British manufacturing had left a gap in the market, and the emerging European powers on the mainland gladly took over. Despite all the material improvement in the average Briton's life, the economic indicators of productivity swung in the other direction. Italy, France and Spain all experienced massive booms in industrialization. In particular, the French, West German, Japanese, and Italian markets had rebuilt their economies with modern technology and infrastructure, leaving British industry much farther behind than their competitors. This fed a cycle of decline and atrophy, with Britain's global manufacturing footprint more than halving by 1972.

The causes and effects of this deindustrialization are incredibly complex and a topic of conversation still fiercely debated to this day. However, there is no question that for the British economy, deindustrialization was a massive change that brought with it both opportunities and challenges. One effect (or perhaps concurrent change) was the general stagnation of the British economy. The 1960's saw the emergence of a "stop-go" economy, one which had short bursts of high inflation followed by equally short periods of economic growth. This turbulent, but generally positive economy is what the United Kingdom and her people find themselves in during the events of this committee.

Economic Sectors: Manufacturing/ Industry⁵

Despite the comparative decline of British manufacturing compared to its European counterparts, British factories still continued to produce and manufacture a variety of goods. Primary products in the British sector were steel, vehicular components, and other mined goods such as aluminum, coal, and copper. The British manufacturers of the 1970's are best described as having high efficiency but low total output.

Economic Sectors: Finance/ Banking

In the 1960's a relaxing of British laws surrounding mergers allowed the "Big Four" banks to emerge as titans of British banking: HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds Banking Group, and NatWest Group. These banks became massive institutions in the United Kingdom and around the world, holding assets and capital in practically every country. Alongside the macro shift away from manufacturing towards these financial and service-oriented institutions, the UK economy became inextricably linked to the global state of affairs. With this comes both incredible rewards but also potential risks.

Economic Sectors: Agriculture⁶

In the 1970's, British agriculture enjoyed relative stability. The vast majority of agricultural land remained in the center of the country, with Wheat and Barley dominating the Welsh and English countryside. An industrialization movement in British agriculture saw two major trends happen during this period. First, the number of orchards and other forms of land-intensive farming decreased. This was in large part due to the expansion of industrialized

⁵"Banking in the United Kingdom." *Wikipedia*, 25 Sept. 2023, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banking_in_the_United_Kingdom#20th_century.

⁶Zayed, Yago, and Philip Loft. "Agriculture: Historical Statistics." *Parliament.uk*, 2020, researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/SN03339/SN03339.pdf.

agriculture, particularly in the livestock industry. Domestic production of cattle, sheep, pigs, and chicken all trended upwards during the 1960's and 1970's.

Economic Sectors: Infrastructure/ Energy

Although the scale of British infrastructure development did not reach the levels of modernization seen on the European mainland, the UK government still enacted and financed several large scale infrastructure projects after the Second World War. Immediately following the War, Heathrow Airport was converted from a wartime training and transport air force base into a commercial airport, becoming the center of British air travel. Since its creation, Heathrow Airport has been expanded multiple times, with talks of a new expansion plan called the Malpin Project in the works by 1972⁷.

In 1956, the Calder Hall nuclear power plant was opened, marking the construction of the first ever nuclear power plant in history. In the next decade, the UK would construct another 9 nuclear power plants; nuclear power would come to represent around 25% of the UK's energy production. However, opponents to the nuclear power plant voiced concerns over its environmental and health-related dangers, especially after a fire broke out at the Sellafield power plant only a year after Calder Hall opened.

In 1958, the first British motorway opened in Preston, just North of Manchester. By 1972, A British citizen could drive their car from London to Carlisle, West of New Castle, on these public motorways. While these motorways represent some of the biggest infrastructure projects of the Post War Era, motorways between England and Scotland still remained disconnected in the 1970's, showing that much work still needed to be done.

⁷"Heathrow Airport." *Wikipedia*, 16 Mar. 2024, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heathrow_Airport#Future_expansion_and_plans.

UK Government

A Brief Overview of Parliamentary Government

The Parliament of the United Kingdom is the supreme legislative body of the country. It consists of two houses, the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Technically, the UK is a constitutional monarchy, and the monarch is the head of state.

However, their role in the legislative process is largely ceremonial, and essentially all bills that pass through the House of Commons are enacted as law.

The House of Commons is the body of Members of the House of Commons (MPs) who are elected by the public in general elections. Members of the House of Commons are elected during general elections using a first-past-the-post system. The political party (or coalition) with the majority of seats in the House of Commons forms the government. That coalition or political party will then choose a leader to become the Prime Minister, who acts as the executive and head of government. The opposition parties, whilst unable to directly control the legislative mechanism of the House of Commons, are able to affect Parliament by scrutinizing its actions and proposing alternative policies.

The House of Lords is the upper house and is not elected; its members are appointed. Members of the House of Lords include life peers, bishops, and hereditary peers. The House of Lords revises and reviews legislation proposed by the House of Commons but cannot ultimately block bills.

Bills can be introduced in either the House of Commons or the House of Lords. Both houses debate and scrutinize the bill, proposing amendments if necessary. The bill must pass through multiple stages in both houses, including readings and committee reviews, before it can

become law. If there are disagreements between the two houses, they may go through a process known as "ping-pong," where the bill is sent back and forth until an agreement is reached.

Who's the Prime Minister?

At the time of the committee, the United Kingdom's prime minister was Sir Edward Heath. He began his tenure as the Conservative PM in 1970, championing the cause for British integration into the wider European Community. In 1972, concurrent with the event of the committee, Heath announced plans to enter the European Economic Community (EEC), which would have massive effects on many aspects of British life, including the commercial fishing industry.

While Heath led the Conservative Party, his leadership faced internal challenges from both left and right-wing factions within the party. As a centrist, his leadership led to tensions with more conservative elements of the Party. In 1971, he passed the Industrial Relations Act, which aimed to address concerns about industrial relations, particularly in the context of frequent strikes and labor disputes that characterized the late 1960s. The Act established a legal framework for the recognition of trade unions by employers, introduced regulations governing strikes and other work stoppages, created the National Industrial Relations Court to address labor disputes, and prohibited political strikes. The Act was widely considered anti-worker, and faced opposition from the deeply entrenched and influential trade unions that held immense influence in the Labour Party.

The Election of 1970

The General Election of 1970 in the United Kingdom took place on June 18th, resulting in a significant political shift. The election marked the end of the Labour Party's six-year tenure in government and brought the Conservative Party, led by Edward Heath, into power. The

Labour government, led by Prime Minister Harold Wilson, had faced challenges during its term, including economic difficulties, industrial strikes, and questions about the management of public services. Promising economic reform and stability, Heath and the Conservatives were able to secure 330 of the 624 seats in the House of Commons. However, economic challenges continued under Heath's leadership throughout the early 1970's, calling into question the long term survival of the Conservative government.

Key British Players

Conservative Party:

The Conservative Party, led by Prime Minister Edward Heath, was the ruling party at the time of the committee. As such, the party's policies and decisions, including the decision to join the European Economic Community (EEC), had a significant impact on the legislative landscape of the time.

Harold Wilson/ Labour Party:

Harold Wilson was the leader of the Labour Party and had served as Prime Minister from 1964 to 1970. As the opposition party leader, Wilson represents the main opposition force trying to vie for political control of the United Kingdom.

Trades Union Congress (TUC):

The TUC was a national trade union center in the UK. During the 1970s, it played a crucial role in industrial relations, representing the interests of workers and engaging in negotiations with the government on issues such as wages, working conditions, and labor laws.

Confederation of British Industry (CBI):

The CBI is a major business lobbying organization in the UK. It represents the interests of British businesses and played a role in influencing economic policies, especially during a period marked by economic challenges and industrial disputes.

Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU):

The TGWU was one of the largest and most influential trade unions in the United Kingdom. It played a pivotal role in representing the rights and interests of workers across various industries, including transportation, manufacturing, and services. In 1922, the union was formed through the merging of many different trade organizations, including the National Union of British Fishermen.

Fishing and the UK's Relationship with the Sea

As a collection of islands, the United Kingdom has a storied history with fishing and the cultivation of the seas. Throughout British history, its people have used the ocean and its resources to feed its population and economy. In particular, the naval lineage of Great Britain allowed her to fish in distant waters, bringing in stocks from all over the world. As such, British fishing and her communities viewed the high seas as an open resource, one which no country could lay sole claim to. Starting in the 1300's, British fishing vessels began trawling for cod in Icelandic waters; in the 1600's, they began operating in the Grand Banks cod fishery off the coast of Newfoundland. Following the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the British fishing industry became the de facto exporter of fish stocks from deep sea operations.

For much of Britain's fishing history, commercial vessels caught fish in sail trawlers, which kept fish populations stable. Then, in the 1880's, the development of steam power gave way to the steam trawler, whose vastly improved speed and reliability allowed commercial fishing to not only boom but outpace the natural regeneration of wild fish populations. By the

end of the Second World War, British fisheries had exhausted many of their previously bountiful locations, forcing them to fish in further and further waters. This took them to many locations such as the Barents Sea. However, the vast majority of British trawlers headed towards Iceland and its bountiful cod stocks; in 1956, Britain had its largest volume of distant-water catches at 8.5 million tons, largely due to Icelandic expeditions.

However, following the first Cod War and the imposition of a 12 mile exclusive fishing zone around Iceland, British trawlers experienced stagnation. Throughout the 1960's, British fishing expeditions found themselves increasingly restricted and unable to maintain the levels of growth seen immediately following the war. In 1970, the European Economic Community (EEC) drew up the Common Fisheries Policy, which allowed equal access to community waters by all community members after ten years. As Heath and the Conservatives advocate for integration into the EEC, most commercial fishermen considered this against their interests. Feeling constrained by numerous emerging international norms, British fisheries feel that their way of life and commercial practices are being existentially threatened by these developments.

Side of JCC- Iceland Breakdown

Initial Conflict

For centuries, seafood had always been a staple in diet for England as well as many other Northern Atlantic countries. During the end of the 14th century, England saw how the territorial waters around Iceland were especially resourceful for fishing due to its abundance of cod, and seized the economic opportunity to increase their access in the fishing grounds. As a political response, Denmark, who was ruling over Iceland at the time, restricted trade between Iceland and England. This sanction escalated to violence and eventually led to the Anglo-Hanseatic War (1469-1474), where England was fighting to pressure against the trade of the Hanseatic cities located on the southern coast of the Baltic Sea. After five years of conflict, both diplomatic sides eventually came to a consensus and allowed some British ships to have partial fishing rights in Icelandic territory.

Post-World War II

In the aftermath of World War II, there was an increased demand for food sources. Although there had always been disputes over the fishing grounds between Iceland and the United Kingdom, the food shortage post world war quickly exacerbated this crisis. In the spring of 1958, a new Icelandic law was passed, which unilaterally extended its fishing limits 4 to 12 nautical miles across the coastline. This extension implementation directly impacted the British trawling industry, who relied heavily on these fishing grounds and had been traditionally fishing in these waters. The United Kingdom's fishing industry, particularly in regions such as Hull and Grimsby, relied heavily on access to the fishing grounds around Iceland. Twenty British

trawlers, four warships, and a supply vessel, had been regularly operating 12 miles of the coast. Deploying ships off the restricted zones is incredibly expensive. The United Kingdom, led by Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, viewed Iceland's actions as a direct threat to Britain and argued that the principle of freedom of the sea should allow open access to international waters.

However, despite the enforcement of the fishing limit extension, Iceland did not clearly state the repercussions if the British trawlers refuse to voluntarily leave the Icelandic coast. Furthermore, the United Kingdom did not view Iceland as a threat; Iceland did not have a navy and the Icelandic coast guard had only seven ships, each equipped with only one gun that were less than 100 tons. On the contrary, the United Kingdom had a major military advantage. The Royal Navy was known as one of the most renowned navies in the world. Additionally, the United Kingdom had a huge geographical advantage. The Royal Navy could easily reach the Icelandic coast in less than two days.

First Cod War

The United Kingdom officially declared the First Cod War on September 1, 1958 as a response to Iceland's extension of fishing limits. Icelandic coast guardsmen threatened to arrest any British trawlers who trespassed within their new 12-mile limit. In response, the Royal Navy deployed warships and established zones to protect British trawlers and ensure they could safely continue fishing. The United Kingdom considered these regions of water as international waters. The deployment of navy vessels only led to escalated tensions between the two nations. On September 4, 1958, Icelandic offshore patrol vessel ICGV *Ægir* attempted to forcefully remove British trawlers off the Westfjords, but was stopped by *HMS Russell* intervention, leading to the collision of the two vessels. Following this incident, Iceland continued to violently threaten British trawlers to escape the sea. On October 6, 1958, *V/s María Júlía* fired three shots at the

trawler *Kingston Emerald*. On November 12, 1958, V/s *Þór* fired shots at the trawler *Hackness* after claiming that the trawler illegally stowed its nets. *HMS Russell* was then deployed to defend *Hackness*, and *HMS Russell* ordered the Icelandic captain to leave the trawler alone, claiming that their nets were not within the 7.4 km limit recognized by the British government. The captain of V/s *Þór* refused to compromise and attempted to threaten the trawler with gun violence. The *Russell* threatened to sink the Icelandic boat if they fired their shots, and the Icelandic sailors had no choice but to retreat in temporary defeat.

A temporary truce was formed in November 1958, when both nations reached an agreement known as the “Agreement on Measures for the Regulation of Fishing around Iceland.” Under this compromise, Iceland agreed to reduce its fishing limits from 12 to 6 nautical miles seasonally and allowed British trawlers to continue their fishing operations and access some of the valuable fishing grounds around Iceland. The First Cod War officially came to an end in 1961. However, this was far from the end. Little did they know that the violence the United Kingdom had witnessed from the First Cod War was only the tip of the iceberg. The First Cod War would only set a precedent for the future conflicts over fishing rights in international waters.

Non-Cod Concerns

Ultimately, the United Kingdom faced other, more pressing issues in their political discourse. Economic competition from the European mainland caused the sharp decline of British manufacturing. Social unrest in Northern Ireland has exploded into The Troubles. The decolonization movement has led to the massive decline in British influence on world affairs. As the United Kingdom becomes a country in decline, its government is forced to play the difficult and dangerous game of determining what is too much, and what is too little.

Essential Topics to Understand

Pre-Icelandic Independence (~1944)

Prior to the introduction of used steam-powered boats to Iceland's fishing industry, fishing in Iceland had been carried out on a subsistence basis. Small communities of fishermen used handlines and oar-powered boats to feed their families in the coastline, and others sold within the nation. Exports of salted fish were relatively rare, and limited within Europe. On the contrary, nearby nations were utilizing trawlers that allowed for longer fishing expeditions and more returns compared to the average subsistence fisherman. Iceland soon acquired trawlers of their own, vastly increasing the amount of catch and allowing for the growing country to export the surplus.

Despite the increased exports leading to rapid economic growth, Iceland's limited Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 4 miles meant that ships from West Germany, France, Denmark, Belgium, and Britain were free to roam relatively close to Iceland's coast and fish without any restrictions. The irresponsible fishing practices of foreign nations led to the numbers of cod slowly but steadily dwindling, which then exerted heavy pressure on Iceland's fishing industry. While Iceland was dissatisfied with the status quo, due to the political union with Denmark, they were unable to make independent political decisions.

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS 1)

While there were certain rules and laws concerning a country's sovereignty over their territorial seas (3-4 miles from a country's shore), there were no codified set of international laws

regarding the sea. The international community, recognizing this fact, requested the United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC) to discuss and eventually codify the laws of the sea. This was followed by a series of discussions starting in 1949 which prepared four draft conventions for the first UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in 1958:

- The Convention on the Territorial sea and the Contiguous zone;
- The Convention on the High Seas;
- The Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas;
- The Convention on the Continental Shelf.

The conference deemed that the sovereignty of a country may extend up to 12 nautical miles from the country's coastline, and the EEZ shall not extend beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The 'Proto' Cod War

Following Iceland's independence in 1944, Iceland was able to make unilateral decisions regarding policy and national defense. In the aftermath of World War II, there was an increased demand for food sources. Although there had always been disputes over the fishing grounds between Iceland and the United Kingdom, the food shortage post world war quickly exacerbated this crisis. This, alongside Iceland's fishermen realizing the influence of foreign (particularly British) trawlers had a negative impact on their own industry led to the decision to extend the Icelandic fishery zone from 3 to 4 nautical miles. While this was only a marginal increase compared to what is to come, the United Kingdom responded with drastic measures, utilizing sanctions to prevent Icelandic fishing vessels and goods from entering British ports. At the time,

the United Kingdom was Iceland's main export market, which led the U.K. to believe that these measures would lead Iceland to capitulate to its demands. Having lost their largest trade partner, Iceland then turned to the USSR to export their unsold fish, closely followed by the United States and their respective allies in Europe. Doing so meant that the impacts of the British sanctions were thus minimized, eventually leading to the United Kingdom ceding to Iceland's limits.

First Cod War

Despite having expanded their fishery zone to 4 miles, it only had a small impact in combating the decline in fish numbers. Recognizing the need for stronger measures, Iceland preemptively adopted the clauses discussed in UNCLOS 1, adopting the 12 mile zone by the end of August 1958 despite unilateral NATO opposition. Iceland then threatened to arrest any violators of the declared limit and with their lack of a proper navy, policed their waters with their coastal guard of 7 ships. The United Kingdom, however, chose to ignore this decision due to their own heavy reliance on Icelandic waters for commercial fishing, declaring that their trawlers would fish under Royal Navy protection. The Royal Navy established three zones of patrol: near the Westfjords, north of Horn, and southeast of Iceland, deploying four warships to escort their trawlers if need be.

The deployment of the Royal Navy soon led to escalated tensions between the two countries. The first recorded clash was on September 2, a day after Iceland's declaration of the new limit when Iceland Coast Guard vessels *María Júlía* and *Pór* halted and boarded a British trawler, *Northern Foam*, in the Westfjords threatening to arrest the crew on board. However, due to the arrival of the HMS Eastbourne the Iceland coast guard was unable to make the arrest, and

the trawler was free to go. On September 4, 1958, Icelandic offshore patrol vessel ICGV *Ægir* attempted to forcefully remove British trawlers off the Westfjords, but was stopped by *HMS Russell* intervention, leading to the collision of the two vessels. Following this incident, Iceland continued to violently threaten British trawlers to escape the sea. On October 6, 1958, V/s *María Júlía* fired three shots at the trawler *Kingston Emerald*. On November 12, 1958, V/s *Þór* fired shots at the trawler *Hackness* after claiming that the trawler illegally stowed its nets. *HMS Russell* was then deployed to defend *Hackness*, and *HMS Russell* ordered the Icelandic captain to leave the trawler alone, claiming that their nets were not within the 7.4 km limit recognized by the British government. The captain of V/s *Þór* refused to compromise and attempted to threaten the trawler with gun violence. The *Russell* threatened to sink the Icelandic boat if they fired their shots, and the Icelandic sailors had no choice but to retreat in temporary defeat.

While actual clashes on sea were rare, due to the Royal Navy working in formation to block off patrol boats from reaching the trawlers, tension continued off-shore. This included Icelandic people rallying in front of the British embassy during a visit from the UK ambassador in 1961 and the ambassador taunting the enraged public back. Iceland also realized that their strategies to limit British trawlers were serving to be ineffective, as their lack of navy hindered their ability to patrol and enforce their own boundary, and turned to utilizing political pressure instead.

Iceland was a strategic location for NATO, especially during the cold war. Apart from their willingness to contribute to host US military bases, their geographic location meant that they had access to the GI-UK gap, maritime channels between Greenland, Iceland, and the UK connecting the Norwegian Sea with the North Atlantic, which the Soviet Union could use as

naval passage for their submarines. Recognizing this fact, Iceland suggested that further British non-compliance with the 12-mile limit may lead to their withdrawal from NATO. The combined effect of this threat, alongside rising expenses of Royal Navy patrols for the trawlers led the UK to accept Iceland's limits. Following this cession, a deal was brokered between UK and Iceland that allowed British trawlers to fish in allocated zones in specific seasons for the following three years. Furthermore, any disagreements the two countries may have in the matter of fishing zones were agreed to be sent to the International Court of Justice, concluding the First Cod War.

Questions to Consider

- How can the United Kingdom stabilize its economy?
- What role should the United Kingdom play in international affairs?
- How can the United Kingdom defend its interests in Iceland without angering the global community?
- How important is the United Kingdom's allegiance to the Western World?
- What should the United Kingdom do about its remaining colonial holdings?
- How can the United Kingdom modernize its manufacturing and infrastructure?
- How can the United Kingdom resolve, or at least lessen, the violence in Northern Ireland?
- What is the role of the State in welfare programs and other socio-economic initiatives?
- Is it the responsibility of the government to protect British customs and ways of life as it pertains to commerce and business?
- What rights do the British, and fishers in general, have in comparison to the rights of nations?

Character List

*Note that this does not guarantee the characters presence during the conference! Expect the unexpected always!

1. **Anthony Barber:** *Chancellor of the Exchequer*
2. **John Davies:** *Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster*
3. **Gordon Campbell:** *Secretary of State for Scotland*
4. **Peter Thomas:** *Secretary of State for Wales*
5. **William Whitelaw:** *Secretary of State for Northern Ireland*
6. **Alec Douglas-Home:** *Foreign Secretary*
7. **Robert Carr:** *Home Secretary*
8. **Peter Carrington:** *Secretary of State for Defence*
9. **Antony Buck:** *Under-Secretary of State for the Navy*
10. **Margaret Thatcher:** *Secretary of State for Education and Science*
11. **Keith Joseph:** *Secretary of State for Health and Social Services*
12. **Maurice Macmillan:** *Secretary of State for Employment*
13. **Patrick Jenkin:** *Secretary to the Treasury*
14. **Peter Walker:** *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry*
15. **Davis Eccles:** *Paymaster General*
16. **Joseph Godber:** *Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food*
17. **Geoffrey Howe:** *Minister of Trade and Consumer Affairs*
18. **Paul Channon:** *Minister for Housing and Construction*

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Committee Background Guide

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