BALMUN'24

GA4: SPECPOL

Under Secretary General: Ömer Kaan SERBES

Academic Assistant:
Tuana TEMİZER

STUDY GUIDE

1. Letter From Secretary General

Most Esteemed Participants,

As the Secretary-General of the conference, it is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the very first edition of BALMUN'24.

The World is changing in various and major impacts. Every single day, another crisis occurs in a different location on Earth. Policies are changing, economies are changing, and even human culture is changing. However, the only thing that does not change is humanity's desire to achieve their own interests. This desire has been the main factor in the establishment of the global system in the past, present, and future.

At this conference, we aimed to show you the real politics, the truth behind the curtains, and provide a full United Nations simulation experience for you. We created eight wonderful committees that contain all the political aspects of the past, present, and future. We are expecting a lot from you to find initiative solutions for crises, successfully cooperate with other ideologies, have lasting reconciliation for the problems which occurred in the World for more than a century...

While academically improving yourselves also, I, as Ceylin Umay Köylü, sincerely hope you have fun during the conference. MUN events brought me amazing friends that I would not have even dreamed of. I wholeheartedly wish you to gain friendships and enjoy every single second of the conference.

We were the past, we are the present and we will be the future. I wish you all to find your importance and purpose in the World.

Yours Faithfully, Secretary-General Ceylin Umay Köylü

2. Letter From Under-Secretary General

Most esteemed delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to BALMUN which will be the first edition of many more to come and also to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. I am Ömer Kaan Serbes and I am currently a senior at Bahçelievler Anatolian High School. I am delighted to serve as the Under-Secretary-General of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in this edition of the BALMUN Conference.

Within just four days, we will discuss, debate and find creative ways to solve the problems which will be in the study guides with the Harvard MUN procedure. The debates will lead us to ideal solutions and the steps which should be taken along the process. I believe that all the delegates are established enough to find amazing solutions and create an effective resolution which will help us in handling the current problems of our world. In order to achieve such things, I want all the delegates to unleash their potentials and work hard through the sessions.

I have prepared this exact study guide with reliable sources and facts only. With care, I have extracted and written the most important details regarding the agenda item and have included multiple perspectives on the issue to achieve neutrality and to make the agenda item more comprehensible. If you have any questions regarding the study guide or the agenda item, feel free to contact me via my email address.

omerkaanserbes@gmail.com

3. Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Committee on Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is a committee that operates within the means of the United Nations General Assembly. The committee is one of the six main committees of the UN General Assembly and is responsible for addressing modern issues such as decolonization, peacekeeping and disarmament. SPECPOL is comprised of delegates from 193 member states of the United Nations who gather to discuss, debate and address the issues which concern the committee.

One of the main topics which is discussed in the SPECPOL Committee is the issue of decolonization. Decolonization is a process which former colonies gain independence against the foreign powers and break free from the colonial status that was set by their former colonizers. SPECPOL plays the mediator role in the process to prevent the rising of tensions between the sides.

In addition to these issues, SPECPOL is also involved in the promotion of peace around our globe which includes actions such as discussing region-specific tasks and operations of peacekeeping, suggesting methods that will build long-term peace and stability and addressing threats against peace that may arise between the conflicted states.

Throughout SPECPOL's history, the committee has always promoted peace in our globe and also supported nations and territories within their borders through their journey towards self-governance. SPECPOL supervises the status of the colonial territories and assists them in their battle for their independence while staying loyal to the principles which are mentioned in the United Nations Charter.

4. Key Terms and Definitions for Agenda Item A

- a. Two-State Solution: A proposed solution for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict which suggests the idea of establishing an independent and separate state between Israel and Palestine which is mainly based on the 1967 lines.
- b. Intifada: Uprisings and revolts against the Israeli occupation by the Palestinians which often include violence.
- c. Gaza Strip: A Palestinian territory along the Mediterranean coast which causes the main conflicts between the sides.
- d. Hamas: A Palestinian political and military organization which controls the Gaza Strip and an organization which is recognized as a terror organization by some of the nations.
- e. Fatah: A Palestinian political party in the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) which governs Palestine (West Bank).
- f. Jerusalem: A city which is considered holy by Jews, Muslims and Christians.
- g. Refugee Camps: Temporary living spaces which are for the Palestinian refugees who often lack basic needs and are left on their own.
- h. The Oslo Accords: Agreements between Israel and the PLO in the 1990s which aimed the establishment of a framework for peace and stability negotiations.
- i. Arab League: A local alliance of Arab states in the Middle East.
- j. Oslo Accords: Agreements in the 1990s which aimed to resolve the conflict by establishing the independent Palestinian Authority.

5. Introduction to the Agenda Item A: Israel- Palestine Conflict

"Bridges are built through dialogue, not through weapons." —Nadeem Ahmed

Even the quote mentioned above is enough to understand the ongoing crisis between the sides which is our agenda item.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict which is coming from decades of historical and territorial conflicts is a complex geopolitical crisis. At its core, the conflict revolves around national ideologies and claims for the same land. The Israeli State was established in 1948 which led to the displacement of thousands of Palestinians.

The problem is fired up by certain religious and cultural differences between the sides in Jerusalem which is considered sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims. The controlling of the sacred territories such as the Western Wall and Al-Aqsa Mosque is also effective in further fueling the tensions. There have been numerous attempts for peace but sadly there has been no progress made besides outbreaks between the sides from time to time.

The status of the Palestinian territories such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip, remains a confusion. Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank is an undeniable source of the conflict with Palestinians viewing them as a violation of their territories and an obstacle against the creation of a Palestinian state.

The tensions are tense because of the security concerns with both sides carrying out violence and terrorist attacks, creating a cycle of chaos and hostility.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict still remains as one of the longest and most complex challenges in international diplomacy to this day.

6. Overview of the Agenda Item

a. General

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is primarily rooted in the late 19th century. The Zionist movement revolves around the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the territories of Palestine. The 1917 Balfour Declaration which expresses the support of the British for the idea of a "home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Continuous Jewish immigration during the British Mandate made the tensions rise within the Arab majority of the Palestinian territories.

In 1947 the UN proposed a solution which was to create a separate Jewish and Arab state with Jerusalem as an international and mutual city. While Jewish leaders accepted the plan, Palestinian leaders aggressively opposed it, triggering the Palestinian-Israeli War of 1948-1949. The outcome was the establishment of the State of Israel and the displacement of millions of Palestinians.

The Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973 reshaped the borders and intensified the escalation of the tensions. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem with the construction of settlements deepened hatred and became focal points of the conflict. Despite international peace efforts such as the Oslo Accords in the 1990s, the unresolved status of the problems continued.

b. Sociopolitical

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has had profound and lasting social and political consequences on surrounding communities and the entire Middle East. On a social level, the conflict has led to the displacement of Israeli and Palestinian populations creating a divided community. This lasting state of tension has had impacts on the daily lives and interactions of individuals in the communities.

Additionally, the conflict has changed the governance of Israeli and Palestinian territories. Key issues such as the status of Jerusalem and refugee rights have been at the core of the political discourse, leading the policies of successive governments and prolonging the conflict.

7. Major parties and their views on the conflict

a. Israel

Israel's view on the conflict reflects a complex historical context. Israel asserts their right to exist as a sovereign Jewish state by emphasizing the historical and biblical ties to the territories. The country mentions their assembly in 1948 was a response to legitimate national ideologies and the need for a secure homeland in the aftermath of the Holocaust in the Second World War.

Security concerns are one of the main points of the Israeli discourse, with emphasis placed on protecting their citizens from existential threats. The current experience of wars and conflicts with the neighboring Arab states as well as the acts of terrorism have majorly influenced Israel's approach to the conflict.

Israel advocates direct negotiations with the Palestinian Government to determine the options of a two-state solution, recognizing Israel as a Jewish state and resolving the status of Jerusalem. The country often points to the false actions portrayed by the Palestinian groups such as rocket fire and refusal to recognize Israel. Although internal political diversity means that opinions on specific policies may differ, the overall theme highlights the nation's commitment to security and self-determination.

b. Palestine

The Palestinian view on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is based on their quest for their sovereignty. The Palestinians emphasize historical bonds to the territories and they highlight the displacement and suffering endured by the Palestinian residents during the assembly of the State of Israel in 1948.

The Palestinians are supporting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel based on pre-1967 borders. The Palestinians also demand the return of the people who were displaced throughout the conflict. The status of East Jerusalem is also an important point as Palestinians are looking forward to making it the capital of their future sovereign state.

The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as the construction of Israeli settlements are also a major concern for the Palestinians who see these actions as blockages to the establishment of a sovereign Palestinian State. The Palestinians are in

dire need of international recognition and support, seeking a comprehensive solution that addresses the historical injustices and ensures prosperity.

c. USA

The United States has always been a strong ally of Israel because of the shared values and strategic interests in the Middle East. The United States has consistently supported Israel's claims to exist and has provided a vast amount of military, economic and diplomatic support. This support is supported by historical ties and a sense of responsibility following the Holocaust during the 2ndWorld War.

The United States has played an important role in various peacekeeping missions, attempting to be the middleman in the agreements between Israel and Palestine. While advocating for a two-state solution, successive U.S. administrations have often aligned their policies with Israel's security concerns. The United States has also helped facilitating diplomatic agreements between Israel and some Arab states in the region.

However, the US position has been criticized for bias due to their certain support for Israel. Calls for a more balanced approach, considering the rights of the Palestinians, have been recurrent. The United States has expressed their concerns about Israeli activities and called for an end to the violence on both sides.

d. Egypt

Egypt plays a big role in the conflict, with its views shaped by historical, political and regional measures. After signing a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, Egypt officially recognized Israel's claims to exist, making a significant change in regional dynamics. The Egyptian government also mainly emphasizes the importance of stability and peace in the Middle East.

Egypt has participated in diplomatic efforts to mediate between Israel and Palestine for a resolution to the conflict. The country advocates for the creation of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, based on pre-1967 borders. Egypt also supports international initiatives aimed at solving problems such as refugees, settlements and the status of Jerusalem.

Security concerns which include the containment of extremists in the region, are also influencing Egypt's approach to the conflict. Additionally, Egypt seeks to maintain its role as a key player in the Arab world. While recognizing Israel, Egypt also expresses

the need to address Palestinian rights, showing a balanced manner in its regional diplomacy.

e. Iran

Historically, Iran has always been a supporter of the Palestinians and a critic of the Israeli government. The Iranian government has continuously condemned the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people. Iran advocates for the rights of the Palestinian residents, including the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital.

Iran has supported Palestinian groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah as they view them as valid resistance movements against what they see as occupation. Iran's support includes both military and financial backing. However, it's essential to note that Iran's stance can be influenced by strategic geopolitical considerations, including the Irani government's relations with other Middle Eastern countries and global powers.

8. Important Events

1917 - Balfour Declaration:

The British government issued the Balfour Declaration, emphasizing their support for the establishment of a "land for the Jewish people" in Palestine.

1947 - Partition Plan:

The UN proposed a division of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city. The plan was accepted by the Jewish side but got rejected by the Arab side.

1948 - Declaration of the State of Israel:

David Ben-Gurion proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel which angered the Arab states which led to the declaration of war to the newly established State of Israel.

1948-1949 - War of Independence:

The Arab-Israeli War resulted in Israel's victory and led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs.

1967 - Six-Day War:

Israel launched a strike against Egypt, Syria and Jordan resulting in a swift victory. After the war, Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights significantly enlarging their lands.

1973 - Yom Kippur War:

Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday. Although Israel eventually defended against the attack.

1978 - Camp David Accords:

Israel and Egypt signed the Camp David Accords which was brokered by the U.S. President Jimmy Carter. This was the first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab nation.

1987-1993 - First Intifada:

Palestinians in the occupied territories launched protests, strikes and acts of civil disobedience against the Israeli rule. This uprising made the world aware about the conflict in the area.

1993 - Oslo Accords:

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel signed the Oslo Accords, accepting the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state. This led to the official creation of the Palestinian Authority.

2000 - Second Intifada:

The Second Intifada included suicide attacks and uprisings by the Palestinian militants and Israeli military. The operation resulted in significant losses of human life on both sides.

2020 - Abraham Accords:

Israel normalized diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain through the Abraham Accords. This marked a significant shift in regional dynamics and was followed by other Arab countries establishing ties with Israel.

2023 - ???

A war broke out again between the Palestinians (dominated by Hamas) and Israel which was the deadliest act since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

9. Questions to be Answered

- 9.1) How can the territorial disputes between Israel and Palestine including the status of Jerusalem be addressed?
- 9.2) How will the committee maintain international security and stability between the nations in the region?
- 9.3) How can the economic development of the region be revamped?
- 9.4) How can the UN Member States address the current and future humanitarian crises of the region?

10. Further Reading

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/israel-palestine-conflict-timeline-history-explained/

https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/9/whats-the-israel-palestine-conflict-about-a-simple-guide

https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18079996/israel-palestine-conflict-guide-explainer

11.Bibliography

 $\frac{https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict}{conflict}$

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-Palestinian conflict

https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/

 $\underline{https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18080002/israel-palestine-conflict-history-overview-map}$

https://merip.org/palestine-israel-primer/

https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/fact-sheet-israel-and-palestine-conflict-19-october-2023

12.Introduction to The Agenda Item B

The exploitation of atomic energy, while offering incredible possibilities in terms of energy production and technological progress, has also triggered a threat which is atomic radiation. As humanity delves into the complex consequences of this threat, it becomes imperative for us to re-evaluate the bonds between scientific achievements and the effects on humanity and the environment.

The discoveries from atomic radiation range from medicine to environmental sciences. In the medical sector, the deployment of radioactive isotopes has revolutionized diagnosis and treatment, enabling precise imaging and targeted therapies. However accidental exposures to radiation poses serious health risks, with consequences ranging from acute radiation sickness to long-term genetic mutations.

Environmental setbacks are also showing up as atomic radiation can leave a mark on multiple ecosystems. The consequences of nuclear incidents highlight the urgency of radioactive contamination processes as the ecosystems face important threats and biodiversity embroils with radiation-induced mutations.

Furthermore, the diplomatic and geopolitical landscape is also linked to the consequences of atomic radiation. Having a delicate balance between harnessing the benefits of nuclear technology and avoiding the risks associated with its deployment requires international cooperation and global frameworks. As humanity collectively navigates through the complex terrain of atomic radiation, the need for collaboration becomes unavoidable.

13. Key Terms and Definitions for Agenda Item B

a.Ionizing radiation: High-energy waves which are capable of ionizing atoms by removing the bonds between the electrons which can lead to harmful effects on living organisms.

- b. Radiation Exposure: The amount of ionizing radiation absorbed by an organism which is measured in units such as sieverts (Sv) or grays (Gy).
- c. Chernobyl disaster: Catastrophic nuclear accident in 1986 at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, resulting in a release of radioactive materials and widespread environmental contamination.
- d. Bioaccumulation: The gradual accumulation of radioactive substances in living organisms over time, which are particularly at higher trophic levels of the food chain.
- e. Acute Radiation Illness: Severe illnesses which are the results of exposure to high doses of radiation.
- f. Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Japanese cities that suffered atomic bombings in 1945 during World War II which shows the devastating impact of nuclear weapons on civilians.
- g. Nuclear Winter: Theoretical climate cooling effect which could be caused by widespread fires and dust released into the atmosphere following large-scale nuclear war.
- h. Radiological Decontamination: The process of soothing the impact of radioactive contamination through processes such as decontamination, soil treatment etc.

14. Atomic Radiation from Political Perspective

From a political point of view, atomic radiation has consequences that go beyond urgent worries and comprehend a complicated web of diplomatic, environmental, and strategic factors. Following nuclear accidents or crises, the impacted nations frequently come under severe international analysis. Concerns about information clarity and the effectiveness of safety provision are becoming critical factors in determining the course of diplomatic relations

The threat of nuclear weapons dominates discussions on disarmament in international politics. Nations with nuclear weapons must strike a careful balance between upholding international commitments and stopping the spread of atomic weapons.

Political decisions are also being influenced by public opinion, which is most of the time quite sensitive because of the concerns pertaining to atomic radiation. The needs of citizens must be met, public safety must be maintained, and citizen concerns must be addressed in a calming way while maintaining a careful balance.

When everything is considered, the political region grounded by atomic radiation requires complex discussions on both national and international level. The interaction of national interests, environmental consequences, and international obligations must be considered carefully, emphasizing the complex and multidimensional role of atomic radiation from a political view.

15. What is an Atomic Bomb

An atom is the basic unit of matter. The nucleus of an atom is made of smaller particles called protons and neutrons. Other atomic particles called electrons surround the nucleus.

Elements are the simplest chemical substances and consist of atoms that all have the same number of protons.

In the 1930s, scientists showed that nuclear energy could be released from an atom, either by splitting the nucleus (fission) or fusing two smaller atoms to form a larger one (fusion).

As the second world war erupted, intense research focused on how to artificially induce nuclear fission by firing a free neutron into an atom of radioactive uranium or plutonium. Through their efforts, scientists found a way to induce a chain reaction within a bomb that would generate an unprecedented amount of energy.

16. The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan. Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the US dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. These remain the only two instances of nuclear weapons being used in warfare to this day.

An atomic bomb causes massive destruction through intense heat, pressure, radiation and radioactive fallout. At the hypocentre (centre of the blast), the heat is so intense, it vaporises people and buildings.

Between 60,000-80,000 people were killed instantly when the bomb detonated over Hiroshima and an estimated 140,000 died from acute effects of the bomb before the end of the year. The death toll increased to over 200,000 people in subsequent decades, as people died from cancers and other diseases linked to radiation poisoning.

In addition to the human toll, almost 63% of Hiroshima's buildings were destroyed and a further 29% damaged by the bomb. The Genbaku (Atomic Bomb) Dome was the only building left standing near the hypocentre. Today, it is preserved at the Peace Memorial Park and the city has been rebuilt around it.

The total death toll in Nagasaki was lower in comparison, as parts of the city were shielded by mountains. Still, at least 75,000 people died there in total.

Nagasaki receives less attention in analysis of the bombings, despite being the last place a nuclear weapon was used in warfare. Hibakusha - the Japanese term for explosion-affected people - continue to campaign for Nagasaki to retain its sad distinction.

17.Important Events

The most prominent example of a "major nuclear accident" is the Chernobyl disaster in 1986, in which reactor core was damaged and significant amounts of radioactivity released. The explosion of the Chernobyl Nuclear Reactor is an example of a radiation disaster that affected the whole world. Radiation clouds moved with the effect of the wind and passed over the northern regions of Europe and Turkey and, as it is known, created many negative effects.

The first nuclear weapon was produced in 1942 in USA, England and Canada under the name of the Manhattan Project, and was used in 1945 in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, causing the death of many people, the disability of many, and genetic disorders in later generations.

Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania USA, March 28, 1979, INES Level 5

The Three Mile Island accident occurred on March 28, 1979 at the reactor No. 2 of the nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. The accident is the most serious accident in commercial nuclear power plants in the history of the USA. As a result of the accident, there were concerns about nuclear security in the public, increasing with the actions of these anti-nuclear activists. The American Nuclear Regulatory Commission established a commission investigating the occurrence of the accident, and as a result, new security measures and serious sanctions were imposed on nuclear power plants.

Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Accident -1986 Soviet Union

On April 26, 1986, during a reactor system test, a sudden increase in power caused an explosion and fire that destroyed the reactor's 4th unit. There was a massive release of radiation to the environment and spread to the western part of the Soviet Union and Europe. As a result of this disaster, approximately 220,000 people had to move from their homes to other places.

Goiania, Brazil, September 13, 1987, INES Level 5: Accident With Wide Results

A radioactive device, "Cesium-137", was stolen and the radioactive material inside this device began to spread. As a result of this event, many people experienced serious radiation exposure. People who saw the radioactive material thought it was a valuable substance and tried to sell its parts. This caused the radiation to spread and more people to suffer. After the incident, decontamination studies were carried out in the area and the affected areas were cleaned.

Costa Rican Radiotherapy Accident, August-September 1996

The Costa Rican radiotherapy accident occurred in the radiotherapy unit at the San Juan de Dios Hospital in San Jose. On August 22, 1996, the Co-60 source was replaced and dose rates were incorrectly calculated in calibration.

Istanbul İkitelli Accident, December 1998, INES Level 3, Serious Incident

A similar Goiania accident took place in Istanbul in December 1998. Radiotherapy resources kept in a warehouse were sold to scrap dealers with the change of hands of the warehouse. While trying to remove the head of the radiotherapy unit with Co-60 in the scrappers, they were exposed to high doses of radiation.

Fukushima Daiichi, Japan, March 11, 2011, INES Level 7 (Major Accident)

On March 11, 2011, there was an earthquake with a magnitude 9 on the east coast of Japan that created a tsunami. The earthquake and tsunami caused serious damage to the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant on the northeast coast of Japan. The Fukushima accident is the nuclear accident with the most serious consequences after the Chernobyl accident. The United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation and the World Health Organization calculated the lifelong effective dose in people around Fukushima.

18. Denuclearization

Nuclear weapons are depicted as so inhumane as to justify global prohibition of their production, retention or use. Any future nuclear warfare is predicted to have far more severe humanitarian and environmental consequences than the 1945 strikes on Japan.

Denuclearization advocacy has also been taken up globally in recent years. In 2017, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to ICAN - the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons — which successfully lobbied the UN General Assembly to hold a conference to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

The text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted by 122 states in 2017. States that wish to become parties to the treaty must commit to the total

elimination of nuclear weapons. As of today, 60 states have signed the treaty, and of those, 13 have ratified it. Thirty-seven more ratifications are needed to make the treaty binding.

However, none of the nine nuclear powers (United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) support the ban.

Australia's refusal to endorse the ban is tied to this political reality. It is one of 30 "nuclear-weapon-endorsing-states" who rely on the nuclear "protection" of allies. The government argues for a "building blocks" approach instead, favouring incremental steps towards nuclear disarmament.

However, the global nuclear weapons stockpile still stands at over 14,000 warheads, despite decades of disarmament efforts. 92% of these weapons are held by the US and Russia. The people of Japan, very recently, have had legitimate cause to fear the nuclear threat posed by North Korea.

19. Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The United States and the Soviet Union took the lead in negotiating an international agreement to halt the further spread of nuclear weapons in 1968.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (also called the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT) went into effect in 1970. It separated the world's countries into two groups—nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states.

Nuclear weapons states included the five countries that were known to possess nuclear weapons at the time—the United States, the U.S.S.R., Great Britain, France and China.

According to the treaty, nuclear weapons states agreed not to use nuclear weapons or help non-nuclear states acquire nuclear weapons. They also agreed to gradually reduce their stockpiles of nuclear weapons with the eventual goal of total disarmament. Non-nuclear weapons states agreed not to acquire or develop nuclear weapons.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, there were still thousands of nuclear weapons scattered across Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Many of the weapons were located in Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine. These weapons were deactivated and returned to Russia.

20. Questions to be Answered

- 20.1) How can countries reduce atomic radiation?
- 20.2) How can this polemic between countries be resolved?
- 20.3) What are the effects of atomic radiations on social economic life?
- 20.4) The effects of atomic radiations on social economic life?
- 20.5) What are the long term affects of atomic radiation?
- 20.6) What can countries do to reduce the long-term negative effects of atomic radiation?
 - 20.7) Should atomic weapons be illegalized?

21.Bibliography

https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/atomic-bomb-history

https://theconversation.com/world-politics-explainer-the-atomic-bombings-of-hiroshima

https://ahf.nuclearmuseum.org/ahf/history/trinity-test-1945/