Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

Issue: Restoring political stability in post-conflict countries

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INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of recorded history, conflicts have been a vital part of how our world has been shaped up to the present time.p Humanitarian crises and contingencies, Civil Wars have been something so common even in our modern, peace-seeking world. They can be described as a fact of life. The international community's outlook on conflicts drastically changed and was directed towards reserving peace. Not just peace but lasting peace became a critical bullet point in the international community's agenda. However, the knowledge about how global and regional organizations should behave in a situation of a post-conflict region is limited, due to the fact that every post-conflict nation has different needs to be met.

The circumstances that lead to a regional conflict may vary. They can either be fueled by a misunderstanding, something that has been left unaddressed and has been thus worsening throughout the years. Other than that, something that is more usual to happen and develop significantly is an issue concerning territory, ethnic identity, and even political differences. No matter the cause, though vital, the result is usually quite burdening to the region where it takes place. Usually, a conflict, whether it is violent or non-violent, has a tremendous toll on the region's political and economic stability.

From the little knowledge international organizations have acquired is that the term "post-conflict" is, most of the time, misleading. However, international organizations, such the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), along with nations financially able of assisting, such as the United States of America (USA) have been invested in helping these conflict-torn regions, have a smooth transition back to democracy. These organizations, although their many resources have been met with a plethora of challenges. Many post-conflict/post-war regions have shown no willingness for co-operation when it comes to the proposal of a democratic ideal. Although willing to be introduced to democratic instituted, other such nations are halted by more occurrences of

violence fueled by unresolved issues left after the end of the conflict. These challenges have been keeping world leaders busy for decades, and a proper solution has yet to be found.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Conflict[2]

A conflict can be defined as a disagreement between two or more individuals, or it can reach the extent of fighting between two or more nations. The latter definition is the one that is most relevant to the issue at hand. Moreover, a conflict can be distinguished by its being violent or non-violent. For each type of conflict, a definition will be provided in the following sub-headings.

Violent Conflict

A violent conflict is, by definition, a conflict that involves two or more parties using physical force in order to resolve competing claims or interests. While the term is mostly used to describe violent conflict involving non-state actors, in many cases, it may also be representing generally war, in which at least one government is involved. A violent conflict's

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[1] "Conflict Between India and Pakistan." *Global Conflict Tracker*, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan.

[2] "CONFLICT | Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." *Cambridge Dictionary | English Dictionary, Translations & Thesaurus*,

result is most usually collateral damage to the region. It can lead to the destruction of public and private property, thus causing the worsening of primary living conditions, lack of many necessities, and even the loss of lives.

Non-Violent Conflict

This term comes to great use when referring to the exercise of proactive nonaggression in the pursuit of many things that may vary from securing rights, seeking redress, or even agitating against injustice. Since you are already familiar with the consequences of violent conflicts, you will now notice that they significantly differ from the aftermath of non-violent conflict. It mainly affects political stability, thus leading to political corruption or financial distress within the region and has a series of effects that may trouble the region for years to come, depending on the severity of the damage.

Post-Conflict Region

As previously defined, both types of regional conflicts have significant differences but even greater similarities; they sever the living conditions and political stability or public consensus in the regions affected. Said regions are usually in dire need of international assistance since they are in a post-conflict state. Post-conflict regions are generally in terrible condition, seeing as they have undergone a lot of challenges which have, as mentioned, taken their toll on them and depending on the damage caused by the conflict, they may need: humanitarian assistance, financial support, and, in extreme cases, military support, all of which can directly or indirectly be provided by the UN, rendering this issue's only lack that of attention.

Post-Conflict Aid

Post-conflict aid can be defined as the financial, material, or technical assistance provided to a recovering conflict/war-torn region. It can be provided by other nations willing and able to help, or most usually Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), and, of course, the United Nations (UN) and their sub-bodies. The aforementioned assistance can have many forms, such as food, materials necessary for reconstructing public property, vital for a smooth daily life, financial investment. All of these are major catalysts that hep efforts aiming to re-attain sustainable socio-economic development. Last but not least, such
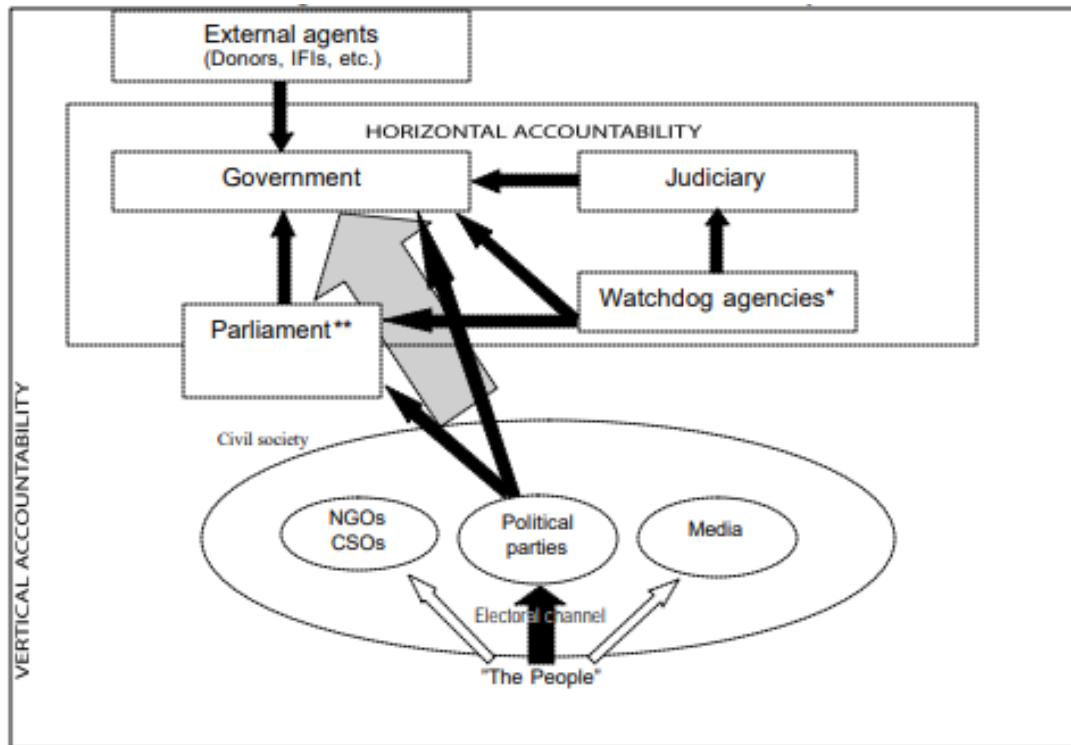
assistance may even reach the re-organization of the region's government, judicial structures, and, generally, justice institutions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The basic concepts of democratic governance

Nations and regions that have been torn by war have obviously been through a lot of challenges. Usually, they have not experienced democracy in a considerable amount of time or, in some cases, at all. That is why many nations in which a democratic government is to be established after, for example, an authoritarian government was in power before, have trouble maintaining a democratic state model. Whether it is in co-operation with another state, the international organization should be clearly aware of how a democratic government should function.

As previously mentioned, a great challenge that international organizations are faced with is whether the elected leaders in the post-conflict nations will obey the democratic model of a state. It is thus a concern for all societies, which aim to overcome past "scars". A prerequisite for a functioning democratic system and good governance is democratic accountability. That accountability can be divided into two categories: *horizontal* and *vertical* accountability. Firstly, let us examine "horizontal accountability." That term is used when referring to the classical tripartite division of state power between the three branches of government, including the range of other public entities created to check the state's abuse or inefficiencies. Secondly, the term "vertical" accountability is used when referring to the institutions that link the person elected by the public to rule, the elected ruler, to the people of a state. That means citizens act directly through voting, for example, or even indirectly through the media. Although these two accountability forms are the most important ones, a third may be added. This third form of accountability is the one imposed by any external agents, such as any type of financial donor.

Graph depicting the institutions of accountability.[3]

The types of post-conflict situations.

The way international organizations approach their assistance to a post-conflict region is according to the circumstance. This is obvious in many cases, as we have seen that occasionally the people of a post-conflict region have come to a consensus on their own. Still, other times, international interference is necessary.

A World Bank Study from 2003 on development in conflict proved that the same policies could not be implemented in all situations of attempting to re-establish a government in a post-conflict region. The research concluded by proposing three types of policies so as to successfully establish a democratic regime. These policies are the following;

1. Introducing international peacekeeping forces early on in the conflict to avoid its worsening and stabilize the peace,
2. With a gradual form phasing into financial assistance at the beginning of peace, when growth is deemed optimal,

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[3] "Governance Interventions in Post-War Situations: Lessons Learned." *CMI (Chr. Michelsen Institute)*, www.cmi.no/publications/file/1955-governance-interventions-in-post-war-situations.pdf.

3. And lastly, introducing democratic institutions, towards the end of the decade after the conflict.

Many are surprised about how it is feasible to propose a democratic regime that late after a conflict has met its end. The reason behind that is the fact that many nations struggle to have a smooth transition to democracy, so the best way to ensure that type of transition is gradual. The study concludes that before political stability takes place, financial stability must first occur. The World Bank came to the said conclusion after collecting conclusive data. Last but not least, concerning the third part of the policy proposal (iii), the recommendation to introduce democratic institutions late in the sequence of 'post-conflict' measures is supported by the results in post-conflict regions that were given international assistance. One lesson was learned in Bosnia, where early elections were organized, and the results showed that the public still favored some of the extremist movements that divided and burdened the nation in the first place. However, just as mentioned previously, every situation differs from the next. That is what was proven in post-conflict East Timor, where democratic institutions and a democratic regime were introduced directly after the war came to an end. That proves that both conclusions are valid and efficient if applied in the correct situation, with the appropriate circumstances. Said situations need to be recognized early on so the international organizations, the Non-Governmental Organizations and nations willing to help, will not spend humanitarian and financial aid and not assist the people in need.

The following are three post-conflict situations, in which we examine the outcome of the conflict and the outcome of the peace agreement.

(a) Self-enforcing peacebuilding: In this case, the war is fought to a victory. In this case, the defeated party, along with its supporters, are found displaced. As a result, a consensus amongst the people is prevalent, thus making the re-occurrence of violence less probable and making the region's transition towards a democratic future easier. Civil wars that end with successful separation fall in this category, such as the example of East Timor. From that point on, the international community's role and assistance are merely necessary. In a secondary position, seeing the post-conflict nation can aid itself, hence the term "self-enforcing." The introduction to democratic institutions, in this case, is preferred to take place the moment the public consensus is known.

(b) Mediated peacebuilding: In this case, the war's outcome is a standstill, its final result being a compromise. A peace agreement is to be signed, which includes the modalities of the post-conflict transition the state will have to undergo. Considering it has been formed by all

sides of the previously occurring conflict, this peace agreement partly represents their demands, forcing a consensus. However, the fact that a conflict has ended in a standstill constantly raises the question of violence erupting due to the unresolved tension. In that case, the international community is continuously alerted, and its undivided attention is needed in order to maintain the peace, hence the term "mediated case." The introduction to a democratic government should be held following the constant doubt of whether peace will remain. In such a case, it is advised that processes that may lead to government reform, such as elections, may be helpful in a way that they contribute to being a step closer to peace. Examples of such a post-conflict situation are Bosnia, Mozambique, and Cambodia.

(c) Conflictual peacebuilding: In this situation, the war ends with the victory of one side, with the help of military force. However, the peace settlement that is later signed does not incorporate the demands of the defeated party and the populations that are associated with it. Many of the causes that started the conflict in the first place remain unresolved and unaddressed, thus making the threat or violent re-occurrences imminent. Afghanistan (post-Taliban) is a case in point. In this type of post-conflict region, the term itself may be misleading. The unresolved issues should be identified, addressed, and later resolved. These are critical steps in order to move a region in an actual post-conflict state, following political and economic recovery. This is probably the hardest "post-conflict" situation to deal with, as a government is set to be constructed while at the same time, it is ensured for the most part that violent conflicts will relapse.

Usually, a post-conflict region may easily be identified, with either any of the above three situations. However, every situation is unique, and the organizations combatting it should keep an open perspective on how a situation may develop.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

The Netherlands

The Netherlands have shown great interest in assisting post-conflict regions. As a nation, they have integrated a plan into their International Relations and Security policies, which is composed of many ideas and tactics that are needed when helping a post-conflict region/nation recover. The contents of the said plan vary from addressing social issues to re-establishing financial stability. As a nation, they have taken many actions, such as the Dutch Police Institute training 100 instructors, who, after their very conclusive training, trained about 1,000 Palestinian officials. Their training's main objective was to inform Palestinian

officials in every possible way they can ensure maximum prosperity for Palestinian citizens, while also focusing on the most non-violent ways to prevent any illegal activity.

Dutch police officers were seen with Palestinian members of the Palestinian Police Force during their shared program.[4]

Moreover, the Netherlands' government has expressed its full support to the efforts to strengthen the public prosecution process in Uganda. The aim of that campaign is not restricted to a simple reform with the aim of reducing crime in general, but also the people leading said campaign have emphasized they are trying to improve the living conditions in overcrowded Ugandan prisons and the reduction of the very prominent violence against women. Last but not least, the government of the Netherlands has created the Stability Fund. The Stability Fund raises money to financially support activities of utmost importance, that may lead to a safer environment in a post-conflict region, such as but not limited to demining operations, demobilizing former combatants, providing advisory services and supporting armed forces and police forces.

South Sudan

The South Sudan civil conflict began in 2013 when the largest tribal ethnicity of Sudan, namely the Dinka, and Nuer, the second-largest, found themselves hashing out deeply rooted

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[4] "There Can Be No Palestinian State Without Palestinian Police." *The Irish Times*, 19th May 2018, www.irishtimes.com/opinion/there-can-be-no-palestinian-state-without-palestinian-police-1.3500290.

[5] "There Can Be No Palestinian State Without Palestinian Police." *The Irish Times*, 19th May 2018, www.irishtimes.com/opinion/there-can-be-no-palestinian-state-without-palestinian-police-1.3500290.

tensions, when South Sudan's Dinka President, Salva Kiir, accused former Vice President Reik Machar, a Nuer, of inciting a coup. That resulted in a bloody civil conflict, causing 1.2 million South Sudani citizens to be internally displaced[6].

Kosovo

The Kosovo Conflict dates back to 1998, and it lasted until 1999. The conflict erupted when ethnic Albanians decided to oppose ethnic Serbs and, most importantly, Yugoslavia's government. That opposition was directed towards the abrogation of the province's constitutional autonomy. Many protests supporting the cause broke out, which after developed into the occurrence of sporadic violence in the region. The result was the death of about 30 people and the displacement of 4,000 ethnical Serbs[7]. After 2008, when Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia, many nations, such as the United States of America, recognized Kosovo as a nation, while Serbia did not. After that decision was finalized, many took action to ensure Kosovo's smooth transition from a post-conflict region to an autonomous, self-functioning state. The United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) as well as the North Atlantic Treaty Association (NATO) were all invested in achieving the aforementioned model of Kosovo. Although these international organizations tried to cooperate on this matter, Kosovo is being described at this moment as a failing state, with the unemployment rate reaching 55%[8]Other observers, as well as NATO, have been describing it as a "textbook" success. More violent incidents have been found to take place after 2008, mostly instigated by the Albanian population directed towards the ethnic Serb population in Kosovo, as well as to a member of the United Nations Peacebuilding mission in Kosovo. Kosovo is an example of how the involvement of many international organizations in one issue may result in many unplanned and unwanted consequences, such as wasting a ton of financial and humanitarian resources. As one of the observers of the peacebuilding mission reported, in Kosovo, the European Union was "washing the dishes", while the United Nations Mission in Kosovo was "cooking the dinner". It is, however, important to note that one of the first

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[6] "South Sudan: Post Civil War Instability." *Global Risk Insights*, 19th March. 2019, www.globalriskinsights.com/2019/03/south-sudan-war-peace-deal/.

[7] "Kosovo Conflict." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, www.britannica.com/event/Kosovo-conflict.

[8] Dr. Oya Dursun-Ozkanca, Department of Political Science-Elizabethtown College. "REBUILDING KOSOVO: CO-OPERATION OR COMPETITION BETWEEN THE EU AND NATO?" *Welcome to Archive of European Integration - Archive of European Integration*, www.aei.pitt.edu/33053/1/dursun-ozkanca. oya.pdf.

steps in stabilizing the situation in Kosovo was, conducting democratic elections in search of a full rounded government.

United States of America (USA)

The United States of America are known o be involved in almost every international issue, even if it may not affect them directly. They have a major place in international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), due to their high contributions in funding, thus ensuring them an influential place in decision making concerning international security matters.

North Atlantic Treaty Association (NATO)

The North Atlantic Treaty Association has been involved in a plethora of international issues, especially ones that may concern a nation's sovereignty, under its supervision, or one that may threaten international peace and security. That is why NATO has been more than involved in preserving peace in post-conflict areas, through any means. A great example is the reforms that took place in Afghanistan under the supervision of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the co-operation of its members. Some of many nations shared responsibilities in Afghanistan under the Bonn Agreement of December 2001, and thus, procedures towards a better future in Afghanistan started taking place. Firstly, procedures were laid out to establish a provisional government and a formal government by establishing a constitution and organizing elections. After that, a five-step reform took place starting in 2002. The United States of America supervised a complete reform of the Afghani armed forces. That was followed by disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration plan (DDR) overseen by Japan and partly by the United Nations. Furthermore, Germany reformed the police forces, followed by a judiciary reform by Italy and counter-narcotics by the United Kingdom. However, although these may be deemed successful in the bigger picture, Afghanistan has relapsed into violence, with attacks by the Talibani Army occurring daily.

European Union (EU)

The European Union has been known to be involved in post-conflict resolution missions. Its main objective is usually to restore political stability in these post-conflict areas. Their interventions tend to focus on reforming economic and political frameworks, instead of the key factors that fuel conflicts. They follow a general pattern inspired by the United Nations (UN). Many other issues they usually not tend to are socio-economic exclusion and social identity. The reason for that to focus on establishing democratic governance. Many of the

nations that have been assisted by the European Union in order to stabilize their governance are Cyprus, Palestine, Georgia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC)

The Post-Conflict Research Center (PCRC) is a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), based in Sarajevo of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which primarily aims to raise awareness on multimedia and educational projects. Their projects specifically target people in the Western Balkan area, where they incorporate education curricula in order to help the youth of the post-conflict region. On 12th September 2018, a peace deal was signed by the two opposing tribes, thus giving the impression of a more peaceful future. However, after the peace accord, many citizens are led to believe that the political situation and relationship between the two opposing parties of the conflict have only been getting worse. The two leaders, Kiir and Machar, apart from their clashing opinions and policies, they also were faced with the decision of a US, UK and Norwegian Troika group refusing to co-sign the agreement out of concern for "parties' level of commitment."

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of Event
1989	The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) agrees to launch more than 30 military expeditions to ensure peace in post-conflict areas. At the same time, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decides on three and the European Union (EU) Council on two.
1992	The Civil War in Angola ended, but the international community provided inadequate resources and poor leadership, leading to an utter failure to completely disarm and demobilize the active armies prior to the elections. That resulted in the civil war relapsing because the failed party (UNIMA) leader (Jonas Savimbi) refused to accept his defeat in the elections, causing violence to erupt once more.
1993	After years of conflict and an authoritarian regime in Cambodia, in a post-conflict Cambodia, fear was reduced in the area due to humanitarian organizations' creation. After the United Nations (UN)

	organized elections successfully took place, the United Nations (UN) and international forces departed. That departure was the start of the coup against the royal party in power, thus re-establishing the authoritarian regime and returning t a time of political intimidation.
1994	After a civil crisis in South Africa, following the establishment of a democratic constitution, this is one of the many success stories, where peaceful elections were held with widespread participation and legitimacy.
1994	In the same year as the resolution of the South African civil crisis, the civil crisis in Mozambique ended peacefully through a consensus. The conflict occurred between two opposing political parties; FRELIMO and RENAMO. After some time, a peace agreement was signed, and a joint parliament was created. Through voting, it was decided that only FRELIMO candidates would elect the President of Mozambique, and the members of the Parliament would only make up candidates of RENAMO.
1994	Another success story of re-establishing political stability in a post-conflict zone arose in 1994 in El Salvador. There the United Nations monitored a successful demobilization process, as well as achieving a relative demilitarization of politics in the nation. That was followed by the creation of a plethora of humanitarian organizations and the signing of peace accords. All of these resulted in a well-constructed and effective political transformation.
1996-1997	After the Dayton Agreement (1995) was deemed controversial, it was decided to proceed with elections in Bosnia Herzegovina. During these elections, electoral fraud and voter intimidation were very prominent, causing the process of re-establishing a government to be extremely hard.
2000-2002	In that period, Kosovo was faced with the strong presence of multinational and United Nations (UN) peacekeeping forces. After those elections that were deemed fair took place. Kosovo was effectively governed as a United Nations protectorate with increasing

	resentment by many government-elected officials and the general public, thus raising the fear of violence reoccurring.

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

- **S/RES/2406**, 15 March 2018[9]

  This was a Security Council resolution extending the United Nations Mission in South Sudan's (UNMISS) mandate for one year.

- **S/RES/2011/43**, 29th July 2011[10]

  This Economic and Social Council Resolution declares the United Nations' support to the Republic of South Sudan.

The United Nations have been involved in most, if not all, of the peacekeeping missions that aim to re-establish a government and a smooth living for the citizens of post-conflict regions. Many of these missions being in; Cambodia, Bosnia Herzegovina, South Africa, Kosovo, Somalia etc. Some have been successful and have reclaimed autonomy, others needed to be supervised, and some relapsed into violence after the departure of the United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping Troops.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

As this issue does not refer to a specific area, it can be described as very general. Throughout this Study Guide, as you have probably already noticed, there have been many mentions of ways other nations, International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations have assisted conflict-torn or conflict-recovering nations to establish a government that would lead them towards a peaceful future. Up until now the United Nations (UN), the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), have shown co-operation with each other. However, many of the attempts, such as the one in Kosovo and Afghanistan, have obviously failed to a degree. Another example could be Haiti

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[9] "S/RES/2406(2018) - E - S/RES/2406(2018)." *ESubscription to United Nations Documents*, www.undocs.org/S/RES/2406(2018).

[10] "ACABQ Reports | ACABQ." *Welcome to the United Nations*, www.un.org/ga/acabq/documents/all?type%5B%5D=report&session%5B%5D=65&keys=S%2FRES%2F2011%2F43.

and Somalia. It is up to the delegates now to come to a consensus on long-term solutions that will help post-conflict regions not relapse further into violence, as it is common after a reform has taken place.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

In this Study Guide, there have been mentions of ways conflict can be identified. By identifying the type of conflict, it is undoubtedly easier to presume how it may escalate. Whether that is smoothly with no violent outbursts, or with the constant fear of a violent future. Either way, it is always an advantage to have some outlook on the future because it gives the organization or nation in charge an objective to their future actions. As you have noticed, many nations may not welcome international assistance the way other nations will. For that reason, you should find a way to approach every nation by the way they respond. After that, your response as delegates should follow. You should not forget what your objective is, political stability. In order to re-establish that many factors are needed. These factors contribute to the prosperity of a nation's people. These factors may vary from economic stability to healthcare and the feeling of safety from another conflict, which is successful through the existence of a police body, and representation in the government.

 Every conflict ends differently. The way it ends is determined by how it is approached, with what means. Whether humanitarian, financial aid, etc. is needed, is up to you to identify. Finally, it is essential to keep in mind that the center of a thriving nation is a functioning government.

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