

Disarmament And International Security Committee

Study Guide

What are WMDs?

Weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) has been a major global security concern for decades. While these weapons are already dangerous in the hands of states, the risks become even more amplified if a non-state actor obtains one. Therefore, preventing the spread of such dangerous weapons is a constant issue at the United Nations. A non-state actor is a broad classification. It can include violent terrorist groups and influential political organizations such as political parties or large multinational corporations. Regardless of its mission, the UN has asserted on several occasions that non-state actors must not be allowed to have WMDs. The UN believes that this is essential to preserve global peace. WMDs put too many lives at stake. In this committee, delegates will consider what restrictions will keep WMDs in safe hands while not restricting the ability of non-state actors to complete their missions, which are not always violent. Delegates should also consider how governments and the UN can monitor the flow of weapons and sales to track WMDs. Delegates have a responsibility to maintain the peace and sovereignty of all states and their involved actors, and their resolutions in this debate will make that future possible.

Persian Gulf War:

Introduction:

Iraq War, also called **the Second Persian Gulf War**, (2003–11), conflict in Iraq that consisted of two phases. The first of these was a brief, conventionally fought the war in March–April 2003, in which a combined force of troops from the United States and Great Britain (with smaller contingents from several other countries) invaded Iraq and rapidly defeated Iraqi military and paramilitary forces. It was followed by a longer second phase in which a U.S.-led occupation of Iraq was opposed by an insurgency. After violence began to decline in 2007, the United States gradually reduced its military presence in Iraq, formally completing its withdrawal in December 2011.

The 2003 conflict:

Iraq War, or Second Persian Gulf War, (2003–11) War in Iraq that consisted of two phases: a brief conflict in 2003 between Iraq and a combined force of troops largely from the U.S. and Great Britain; and subsequent U.S.-led occupation of Iraq and protracted Iraqi armed insurgency against it. The trade embargo and weapons inspection process that the UN imposed on Iraq

following the Persian Gulf War (1990–91) had partly fallen into abeyance by 2001. U.S. President George W. Bush argued that the September 11 attacks on the U.S. in that same year highlighted the threat to U.S. security posed by hostile countries such as Iraq. In November 2002 the UN issued Security Council Resolution 1441 demanding that Iraq readmit weapons inspectors and comply with all previous resolutions. Although inspectors did return to Iraq, Bush and Blair declared in early 2003 (despite objections by many world leaders) that Iraq was continuing to hinder UN inspections and that it still retained proscribed weapons. On March 20 the U.S. and Britain (with smaller troop contingents from other countries) launched a series of air attacks on Iraq, and a ground invasion followed. Iraqi forces were rapidly defeated, and on April 9 U.S. forces took control of the capital, Baghdad. British forces completed their occupation of the southern city of Al-Basrah the same day, and by May 1 the major combat operations of the invasion had been completed. However, the U.S. and other occupying forces were soon embroiled in escalating guerrilla warfare in Iraq that hindered Iraq's recovery and killed thousands of soldiers and tens of thousands of civilians.

Occupation and continued warfare:

The war, long opposed by many throughout the world, also became increasingly unpopular in the U.S. Sectarian fighting and insurgent attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces peaked in 2006 and 2007. In early 2007 the U.S. implemented a strategy that came to be known as the "surge"—temporarily increasing the number of troops in Iraq by more than 20,000 in a bid to stabilize the country. By the end of the year, violence had decreased substantially, although the role of the surge in improving security remained a source of debate. In 2008 the U.S. began to gradually reduce the number of its troops in Iraq, completing its withdrawal in December 2011. Iraq War, also called the Second Persian Gulf War, (2003–11), conflict in Iraq that consisted of two phases. The first of these was a brief, conventionally fought the war in March–April 2003, in which a combined force of troops from the United States and Great Britain (with smaller contingents from several other countries) invaded Iraq and rapidly defeated Iraqi military and paramilitary forces. It was followed by a longer second phase in which a U.S.-led occupation of Iraq was opposed by an insurgency. After violence began to decline in 2007, the United States gradually reduced its military presence in Iraq, formally completing its withdrawal in December 2011.

Research and preparation questions:

1. What are WMDs?
2. What is WMD proliferation?
3. Did Iraq possess WMDs?
4. Was the Iraq war a controversial war or a peacemaker?