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ANTALYA FEN MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

CC: The Soviet-Afghan War

STUDY GUIDE

AGENDA ITEM:
OPEN AGENDA

UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL:
BAŞAR NACI AÇIKALIN

UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL:
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Table of Contents

- 1.** What Is A Crisis Committee
 - 1.1.** Main Objective
 - 1.2.** Committee Dynamics
 - 1.2.1.** Debate
 - 1.2.2.** Directives
 - 1.2.2.1.** Personal directive
 - 1.2.2.2.** Joint directive
 - 1.2.2.3.** Committee directive
 - 1.2.2.4.** Intelligence directive
 - 1.2.2.5.** Top Secret directive
 - 1.2.2.6.** Press Release
- 2.** Conflict of Ideologies
 - 2.1.** Soviet Union
 - 2.2.** Afghanistan
- 3.** Historical Overview
 - 3.1.** Soviet Effect Over Afghanistan
 - 3.2.** 1973 Revolution
 - 3.3.** Saur Revolution
 - 3.4.** Oppositions to the New Government
- 4.** The War
 - 4.1.** Main Reasons of the War
 - 4.2.** The First Period of the War
 - 4.3.** Soviet Intervention

4.3.1. War Crimes

4.4. War Period With Soviet Forces

4.5. Ending of War

5. Modern War Tactics

5.1 Guerilla and Urban Warfare

5.2 Usage of Heavy Weaponry

5.3 Importance of Logistics

6. Further Research Notes

7. Bibliography

Letter from the Secretary-General

Fellow countrymen and countrywomen;

I, as the Secretary-General of the conference, am deeply honored to welcome you, participants, to AFMUN'25. I owe each of you a gramercy for saving yourselves from the darkness of ignorance by attending such an event.

A thank must also be given to our unrelenting academic and organization teams. Without their labor, the light that we are trying to bring to our generation wouldn't have been ignited.

We live in a twilight world; wars, crimes, famines, genocides, drought, environmental crises, economic collapses, etc. The idea of organizing AFMUN was shaped around these core motivations. Our objective is to show the aforementioned aspects of the world to you, our participants, and to provide a world-class MUN experience that is organized in line with our objectives. During the conference, you will expand your horizons and change the way you see the world. Do not forget; we will illuminate the future together.

Let us bow our heads; the king is returning...

Çağan Taylan ÖZGÜN

Secretary-General of AFMUN

Letters from the Under-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

As your Co-Under Secretary Generals Melikhan Demirkıran and Başar Naci Açıkalın we welcome you all to CC:The Afghan-Soviet War.

We are looking forward to seeing you in the committee. During the preparations of the committee, we have tried so hard to make something worth memorizing! Before the committee we are kindly asking you to read the study guide AT LEAST ONCE. If you have any kind of confusion about the crisis procedure, just don't worry. You will have a detailed workshop before the committee begins. Also, if you have further questions about the committee, you can contact Melikhan via WhatsApp without hesitating.

Melikhan Demirkıran and Başar Naci Açıkalın

Co-Under Secretary Generals

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Letter from the Academic Assistant

Distinguished Delegates,

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome every one of you to this prestigious event.

I, Altan Cengiz, will be your Academic Assistant during this delightful conference. We had a blast writing this study guide with my *dear* Under Secretary General Melikhan Demirkıran. I sadly won't be able to join the first day of the conference but you can always reach me before, during and after the committee for any questions about the guide or the committee via my mail,

altan.cengiz09@gmail.com. I believe during this 3 day long committee, you delegates will solve every crisis thrown at you and assert your dominance through the Afghan Countrysides.

I would like to thank Melikhan for choosing me for this role, this means a lot to me since this will be my first time serving as an Academic Assistant and serving under him is a great source of honor to

me. I would also like to thank Bersun Akkaya since she was with me during my academic journey and she always supported and guided me, without her I would not be writing this letter.

Carpe Diem,

-Altan Cengiz, Academic Assistant
of the Soviet-Afghan War.

1. What is a Crisis Crisis Committee?

Crisis committee is a special type of committee that revolves around given and live crises unlike the traditional General Assembly committee. These given crises are dealt via directives which act like orders to avert it. There aren't any final documents or moderated caucuses, only the free will and the imagination power the delegate driving his/her committee into order or chaos.

1.1 Main Objective

The Delegates main objective in a crisis committee varies highly depending on the agenda item or the format of the given crisis. But generally it is expected from the academic team that the given crisis gets solved by teamwork and collaboration of the whole committee. For this specific committee, the academic team of the committee expects you to.

For this committee, the delegates will be allocated as the commanders and politicians of Afghanistan and the USSR. For Afghan allocations, you will be characters from the PDPA. That means you will have close relations with the USSR. So it can be assumed that your main objective is solving the mujahideen issue. Since this is a crisis committee you will be completely free to use the full authority of your character. About specific rules that will be applied in this committee, they can be listed as:

1. You must cooperate to solve the problems. You each may have different powers but the true power is formed when working together.
2. About technology, you can use all the technologies that were current at that age. If you have intentions to invent new things it should be invented before 2001 realistically.
3. In most of the crisis committees ammunition is accepted as infinite. Since it would make things harder than it should be. However logistics are always considered during the evaluation of directives.

4. In your directives you have to write your allocation,committee date,real time and also RD for us to evaluate it
5. This guide has the purpose of teaching you the topic. The events in the committee will be related to your directives. Since there are no strict obligations stating that directives have to be the same with history,you have the power to change the course of history with your directives of course!
6. Your directives should make sense and be realistic.
7. You will be provided with a cabinet guide that will be introducing your allocations,explaining the numbers of soldiers etc.
8. In the conference there will be a workshop about the procession of the committee. But it is essential for you to learn the topic
9. Reading the guide

1.2 Committee Dynamics

1.2.1 Debate

Even though debate is not an essential part of a crisis committee, it sure helps a lot in the aspect of time efficiency. It is way easier to write directives as a committee in a systemized way rather than everyone writing what they want simultaneously. And in order to organize the work, debating what the committee does to deal with the given crisis is almost a must.

1.2.1 Directives

Directives are the most fundamental part of a crisis committee. As said previously, directives are something like orders and commands that you write in order to take action during given crises. The directive that's written to different crises may vary as specified as personal, joint, committee etcetera. Now the reasoning behind this spectrum of directives is to organize and make it easier to understand what the written directive is about which will be explained in these sub clauses. The cycle of directives is sort of complicated so to simplify the process:

- 1) A crisis update is given by the Related Authorities
- 2) Delegates start to write directives in order to avert the given crisis
- 3) After the delegates complete their directives, (if not top secret) they hand it to their chairboard for inspection
- 4) Chairboard sends the checked directives to the Related Authorities
- 5) The Related Authorities examine the directives and generates an update as a result.

1.2.1.1 Personal directive

Personal Directive is a directive which an individual delegate writes within their own authority and objectives. Personal directives are one of the most common directives delegates can write. It can be written for many things like training soldiers and writing war doctrines depending on the crisis.

1.2.1.2 Joint directive

Directives written by more than one individual are considered joint directives. Joint directives are written when one needs the authority or the skillset that the crisis requires . it ensures that all representatives are synchronized and reduces the risk of miscommunication. This directive is particularly useful for complex operations or missions where various aspects of planning and execution need to be detailed and strong.

1.2.1.3 Committee directive

This type of directive is to be only written when the committee, as a whole, decides to take action to an ongoing crisis. Committee directives are usually sent against major threats concerning everyone in the committee.

1.2.1.3 Intelligence

Intelligence directives objective is to get information on their allocations ability, equipment, relations etcetera. You can only get specific information that is available to you. You cannot ask for enemy locations and confidential matters.

1.2.1.4 Top Secret

Top Secret is a very special type of directive that gets separated from most. The Chairboard does not hold the right to see a top secret directive making it a powerful weapon that can decide the committee's faith. Top secret directives are directly handed to the admin. The directive should be folded in half covering the text, to-from and any other writing that may lead to the writer. After folding the directive, "Top Secret should be written in the back as a form of specification. The general reason of top secret directives is to keep your "work" hidden from the committee.

1.2.1.5 Press Release

Press Releases are written when one wants to make a declaration, a speech, or a notice. Whether it is to rally up troops or to spread your pro-soviet propaganda through the Afghan countryside, press release is your way to go.

2. Conflict of Ideologies

The Soviet-Afghan War was not just a territorial dispute, the clash of ideologies also played a substantial role in the conflict. The ideological clash between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was deeply religious among other reasons. To fully understand the war it is essential to analyze the morals of both sides.

2.1 Soviet Union

The Soviet Union was into secularism rather than conservative morals. Even at this religious point, the conservative Afghan side and Soviets were in a disagreement. Also it was late 1900's which means the Soviet Union was not living its best time. In order to get rid of this situation, they decided not to lose any other ally. In addition to that because of the Cold War there were tensions between the USSR and USA. To decrease the effects of this, the Soviets had to control the areas close to them. As seen in the map below,



Afghanistan-green area- was too close to the Soviet borders. Having another socialist regime that close to them was like a gift for the Soviets especially in a time like that.

So naturally when the conservative groups in Afghanistan started an uprising towards the new Socialist Government, the Soviets had to intervene. Of course the purpose was not only protecting the socialist regime in Afghanistan, the Soviets had their own goals too...

2.2 Afghanistan

Afghanistan was a country which was developing slowly. Also most of its population adopted a religious and conservative lifestyle. However the country sent some of its generals and politicians to the USSR when they were young. Thus their personnel would get a great education but events got an interesting turn. Those young ones loved socialist ideologies very much. When they returned to Afghanistan they wanted to apply what they had learnt. Which ended up with a coup. After the coup they formed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan which was a socialist regime. But the conservatives did not like the idea of a socialist regime. So the country was divided into two. And as it is guessed the conservatives were supported by the USA

3. Historical Overview

The war had a great past to it. Until everything turned into a war state there was an immense chaos. Which included coups, assassinations and betrayals.

3.1 Soviet Effect Over Afghanistan

In The 1950's Western Countries did not pay required attention to Afghanistan. Also the past problems with Pakistan forced Afghanistan to get closer with the USSR. According to an agreement which was signed in 1950 between the USSR and Afghanistan, the USSR would value the Afghan

merchandise more than the West. Which improved the Afghan economy greatly but made the country even more dependent on the USSR.

The Soviets promised great economical and military investments which was about 100 million dollars. With experts, advisors and military equipment, the Soviets increased their influence over the country.

Other than economical reasons, Afghanistan sent many students to the USSR. They became soldiers, politicians etc. However the education they got in the USSR made the Afghan students adopt socialist ideas. When they finally returned and started to take office in Afghanistan, the Soviet effect grew even further. Also Soviets were aware of the importance of affecting the youth, so in order to influence Afghan youth, they provided scholarships for Afghan students.

Also those students who were educated by Soviets were the main reason for future coups.

3.2 1973 Afghan coup d'état

Afghanistan had been ruled by Mohammed Zahir Shah for about 40 years. Unemployment, poverty and corruption rates were high. People were not happy with the king, Zahir. And there was the planner of the 1973 Afghan coup d'état, Mohammad Daoud Khan. He was the cousin of the king and a powerful politician who held close relations with the Soviets. Before the revolution he took the support of young military officers for land and air forces. In addition to that, King Zahir was in Italy for his treatment in the July of 1973 which was a perfect opportunity for a revolution.

On 17th of July 1973, the coup happened. At midnight significant points in the capital were seized by Daoud's men. Following radio stations, airport, castle and strategic points were also captured. In the morning it was declared that Monarchy came to an end, a new republic had been established through the radio channels. There were no battles during the revolution since King Zahir was not in the

country at that time. Then Daoud declared himself as the new president of the republic and exiled old-king Zahir to Italy. However Daoud's short regime turned into a kind of dictatorship.

3.3 Saur Revolution

Marxist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was the major leftist organization in the country, founded in 1965. (*People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan | Political Party, Afghanistan | Britannica*, n.d.)

The government of Afghan President Mohammed Daoud Khan came to a violent end in what was called the Saur Revolution when insurgent troops led by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] stormed his Kabul palace on April 27, 1978. Daoud had taken power five years before by overthrowing and exiling his cousin, King Zahir Shah. Though he promised a democratic government, Daoud's administration was characterized by a harsh land reform program and growing suppression, particularly aimed at factions of the PDPA.

The evening of April 27, Radio Afghanistan broadcast that the *Khalq* (people) were overthrowing the Daoud regime. The use of the word *Khalq*, associated with communists in Afghanistan, made clear that the PDPA was leading the coup and controlled the media. Aerial attacks on the palace intensified about midnight. The next morning, the people of Kabul learned that Daoud and most of his family were dead and rebels were in control of the city. (*The Saur Revolution: Prelude to the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan*, n.d.)

It is interesting that neither faction of the PDPA had any perspective and were not expecting a revolution in the near future in Afghanistan. The same was true of the Soviet Union. The revolution was a surprise for the Soviet bureaucracy. The revolution was provoked by the Daoud regime's suppression of the PDPA. It became a simple question of survival for the PDPA. After Mir Akbar Khyber's assassination, the purge against the communists was sped up. The regime arrested party

members, including party leader Nur Muhammad Tarakey at midnight on 26 April. This was a fatal move by the Daud regime.

Next morning a pre-planned operation, specifically designed for use in case of such an event, was initiated by the PDPA. Around 250 tanks and armoured vehicles took part in the coup, and officers who were members of the party took charge of both ground and air forces. By 5:30pm, power was in the hands of the rebels. The arrested party leader was released from jail as a victor. Radio Kabul, as well as Bagram and Kabul airports, were under their control. That evening they announced the victory of the revolution on Radio Kabul.(Khan, 2018)

Also Ted Grant described the Revolution as:

“The coup was precipitated by Daoud's attempt to suppress all opposition. His overthrown regime had been a one-party feudal-bureaucratic regime. The country's small working class had no trade union organisations.

“Had the revolution taken the healthy form of a movement of the masses themselves, the result would have been very different from what actually happened in Afghanistan. The April 1978 coup was based on a movement of the elite of the army and the intellectuals and the top layers of professional middle-class people in the cities.

"They organised the coup first of all as a preventative measure against attempts which were being prepared to exterminate them and their families. They acted from self-preservation, but also with the idea of bringing Afghanistan into the modern world.”



Power was taken in the Saur Revolution through an army coup

3.4 Oppositions to the New Government

Nur Muhammad Taraki became the new president of Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. However PDPA which was a government party supported a highly leftist ideology. Their political stance got the hate of conservative groups within the population. But the main reforms that made everything even worse were felt in October, 1978. These reforms can be listed as:

1. Land Reforms

The PDPA government tried to redistribute lands among the society. According to that the peasants who did not have any lands will have lands belonging to them. The socio-economic system of those years highly disagreed with it. It also harmed the tribal life which made tribes to turn against the government especially in rural areas

2. New Curriculum for schools

PDPA ordered schools to promote Marxist ideology. They used police forces from time to time in order to apply the curriculum. It caused tension especially in rural areas where the people were strict about religion and culture.

3. Political Purge and Arrestments

The April Revolution established PDPA rule in Kabul, which articulated a commitment to egalitarianism, equality, and social justice. But the new government could not focus on social reform, due to considerable opposition, and was forced to concentrate efforts on suppressing challenges from political antagonists. The doctrinaire radical wing of PDPA which assumed power over the government pursued a policy of wiping out any source of dissent in the capital and in the provinces. Massive arrests, purges, and extrajudicial executions angered many traditional leaders, who unified popular resistance against the PDPA regime.(Immanuel Ness,2009)

4. Promotion of Women Education

PDPA encouraged girls to go schools and get a proper education. In urban areas new projects were recognised such as co-educational programs in order to provide education to women. For some groups in the society these projects were seen as unreligious.

5. Removal of Bride Price

Bride Price was a tradition among the tribes. According to that, before you marry,you must pay the bride's family. The amount was often decided by the bride's father. To bring gender equality PDPA abolished Bride Price. But it made the tribe leaders angry. Most of the tribes believed PDPA was damaging their culture.

6. Change of Flag

The national flag was changed by the orders of PDPA



The old flag



The flag designed by PDPA

This change was also seen as an insult to the culture of Afghanistan and religion. Most of the conservative groups believed the colours of the old flag symbolized their religion. When PDPA changed it, they hated it. Also the colour palette of the new flag showed their dependence to Soviets which was hated by rural areas.

The future of any society depends on the ability to adapt changes within the system, and as such before initiating any political reform processes, it is fundamental to understand the purpose and objectives of reform. Clarifying the end game will ensure focus and make the process easier, but to succeed the engagement and participation of the people affected is just as critical as the drafting or amendment of legislation. The real goal is inclusion, guaranteeing human rights and liberties as well as creating the hope for a decent life for people. Paving the way for reform requires a very comprehensive process that restores hope, confidence in the system and trust. At the same time, it must create a positive perception amongst people and put an end to policies of marginalisation and exclusion. On a more practical level, for any reform process to be successful it requires the will and political determination, continuous follow-up to implementation, and the imposition of public and direct punishment of public corruption. So, in order not to get lost in the details of laws and legislations that may not have any direct effect on citizens, it is necessary to believe in the need for actions to speak for themselves, separate to the slogans and promises of change. (*Key Factors to Guarantee Successful Reform*, 2021)

However that was not the case in Afghanistan. Nearly most of the reforms were enforced from the government to society leaving no space for society to recognise it. Also the Marxist ideology and Religious factors contradicted most of the time causing civilians to be prejudiced. To solve problems the method that was chosen by the government was basically using force even if it meant military intervention.

With all the issues combined, the opposition to the new government finally formed. They were not an army but guerilla forces. With their great knowledge of the rural areas they quickly took control over the lands they possessed before. Each tribe controlled their own territory. Later those forces would be named as mujahideen.

4. The War

The war has lasted about 10 years with great conflicts. To explain everything clearly we will separate this part as seen in the below.

4.1. Main Reasons of the War

As mentioned before in the historical overview, the war period began with the growing hatred towards the new government. The Leftist ideology that the new government was trying to process basically failed to enter rural areas. As the resistance among the tribes increased, the violence by the government went up too. Planes from the air-force were used to handle the rebellions against the government. However conservative groups continued their weaponized actions even more eagerly, as the government increased the violence towards them.

The conservative groups did a lot of propagandas to invite more people to join them. As they managed to show the government more and more evil the support for them also increased greatly. Those groups used weapons eventually which started the actual war period. With the support of external forces such as the USA, the PDPA was not strong enough to handle the rebellions. The USSR noticed it after the Chindawol Uprising. In late 1979 the Soviets finally decided to take action which led us to the second period of war.

4.2 The First Period of War

The rebels blamed Taraki as being an atheist. With their religious propagandas the support for the mujahideen grew a lot. A lot of people from different Middle-Eastern countries came to Afghanistan just to join the mujahideen groups. Also Pakistan welcomed those forces who wanted to be trained. Some of the mujahideen groups were directly trained by the Pakistani Intelligence Agency. The USA realized their chance to damage the socialist ideology and the USSR,so the USA supported these groups both financially and militarily. There were no American soldiers but they sent weapons to be used against the PDPA regime.

Many of the PDPA's forces were escaping from the battle. Most of them disagreed with leftist ideology and some of them did not want to attack their civilians. Even worse for the PDPA, most of those deserters joined mujahideen groups in order to overthrow the PDPA. Due to the guerilla warfare preferred by mujahideen there were no huge wars between sides,but conflicts even reached the capital city,Kabul.



(representative)

The red parts in the map shows where the mujahideen forces were the most.

Herat Uprising:

On the morning of 15 March 1979, Herat was tense. These men, armed with little more than their bare hands, or with shovels, hammers or pitchforks, faced tanks, lined up to repel any popular onslaught. The uprising began in several locations, with people attacking not only the Iraq Gate, but also the Qandahar and Malek Gates, flooding the narrow streets of the Old City and falling literally upon anyone they could see who might be construed as foreign or Khalqi. Soviet advisors in the city, if found, were killed. The number of those killed varies but a sensible estimate is that a handful of foreign advisors were killed during the uprising. Guns were actually hardly used by the protestors simply because there was almost no military expertise among them; AK-47s were discarded in favour of shovels and other heavy implements. Sayed Abdul Wahab Qatali, builder of Herat's Mujahedin Museum, recalls how he and his fellow protestors, having stormed Herat's citadel, found a cache of weapons and

after a few bemused moments attempting to work out how to load the guns, cast them aside. Fighting took place in the narrow streets of the Old City, at the foot of the citadel and the wide streets of Herat's great avenues running north towards the Gawhar Shad Mausoleum. Some government forces, mostly police and army, fired on the rebels to disperse them, but others simply tore off their government uniforms, burned them and fled the scene. Few were willing to die for the Khalqis; most were more concerned with saving their skin, surviving the mob. The rebels attacked the symbols of Khalqi rule – photos of President Taraki, posters of the party, the newly-adopted red flags – as if they were living beings. Banks, government buildings and Herat's prison were all attacked, too. The fighting lasted until nightfall, despite heavy rain in the afternoon. As dusk settled on Herat, with the government forces still in control of the Friday Mosque and maintaining a semblance of order at key strategic points of the city, the streets were effectively no man's land. Bodies were strewn at the places of the most intense fighting, the three city gates. Eyewitnesses talk of groups of mourners wandering the rain-soaked streets, dressed in black. On 17 March 1979, as Herat's villages and countryside rose up in anger and rebellion and chaos reigned on the streets of the city, news of the unfolding drama reached Herat's 17th Army Division, stationed in Zalmay Kot, a village some two kilometres to the north-east of the city, on the road leading to Badghis. The division was ordered by Kabul to put down the uprising by any means possible and to bring some order to Herat. (مهمان, 2020)

However the division switched sides. Most of its generals were sick of new reforms and supported the mujahideen and attacked the PDPA's forces. To suppress the uprising, PDPA started a huge operation. The city was bombed directly by government forces.

-The city was damaged greatly.

-Many civilians died.

-Many Soldiers died.

-The hatred towards the Government increased.

Chindawol Uprising

In 1979 many rebels were arrested by government forces in the capital, Kabul. To resist the arrest orders, the public attacked the police station and seized it. The streets were full of religious and anti-government slogans. The response from the PDPA was serious. The PDPA went full on the rebels to protect the capital. Just in 4 hours the PDPA suppressed the uprising.

-About 12.000 people arrested due to the uprising.

-4785 people were executed.

-Especially streets were damaged due to the usage of heavy weapons.

Hafizullah Amin's coup.

In July 1979, during the PDPA Politburo meeting, Hafizullah Amin openly blamed Taraki for the government's failures for the first time. This conflict continued as Taraki criticized Emin for favoring his relatives in state affairs. During Taraki's contacts in Moscow, Foreign Minister Shah Wali informed Hafizullah Amin about the developments. Aware of the plans for Emin's removal from office, he attempted to dismiss four Taraki loyal ministers from the cabinet in a bid to act early, but he was unsuccessful. On September 14, Prime Minister Hafizullah Amin summoned him to the Presidential Palace for a meeting... Emin was accompanied to the palace by loyal commando teams and some military forces, who surrounded the palace. Under Emin's orders, Taraki was arrested by

these forces. It was announced through Kabul Radio that Taraki had resigned from his position due to health reasons. Later, on October 9, it was again announced to the public via Kabul Radio that Taraki had passed away due to his illness. Thus, the period of Taraki's leadership, a symbol of the Saur Revolution in Afghanistan, came to a bloody end.(Kubilayhan Erman,2012)

4.3 Soviet Intervention

On a chilly winter day of December 1979 Strong and loud MI-24 noises echoed in the Afghan skies, roaring BMP-1 engines came through the Afghan countryside. These vehicles wandering on Afghan territory were the start of a 9 year occupation that would set the fuse to the Soviet-Afghan War.

4.3.1. Operation Storm-333

On 27th of December, 1979, under a greater operation named “Operation Baikal-79”, took place Operation Storm. The objective of Op. Baikal was to capture and to take control of various military-comms headquarters and jails around Kabul in order to weaken Afghan counter attacks to the Soviet occupation. The Op. Storm’s objective was to infiltrate and take control of the Tajbeg Palace. With the help of KGB security advisors, The General Secretary of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan was moved to the palace way before the assault operation due to “Security Concerns”.

The Palace was guarded by the Afghan Military and with minor resistance, the Soviet Special Forces took control of the palace in just 40 minutes. The tragicomic part of this event was Amin had gotten crossed by almost every man under his command. Even though there is no solid evidence about Amin’s death, it is highly believed that he was neutralized during the assault.



Photograph taken by a Soviet official of the Tajbeg Palace following the operation

The Assault on Tajbeg Palace was the official breakpoint of the occupation. Later that evening, a pro-communist Babrak Karmal was flown to Afghanistan to take leadership after Amin. With the Tajbeg Palace taken with only 15 operative casualties given, Op. Baikal was an overnight success and Kabul was now under the control of the Soviet Union.



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Simultaneously, Soviet forces began to advance with the orders of Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov, "The state frontier of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is to be crossed on the ground and in the air by forces of the 40th Army and the Air Force at 15:00 hrs on 25 December". This was the formal beginning of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan¹.

Soviet Forces began moving on Kushka and Termez borders creating a corridor through the cities as they captured. The Red Army was well experienced with urban warfare and ready for any threats that were standing against them, but there weren't any major complications while taking over cities; but on the countryside, the operation got messier. The Conservative Afghan Militants were not a huge army all together, but when they were in divisions, they could perform short attack runs disrupting the Soviet formations. On the other hand the Soviet Forces were NOT experienced with guerilla warfare at all.

¹ Braithwaite, Rodric (2011). *Afgantsy: The Russians in Afghanistan 1979–1989*. New York: Oxford University Press. p. 86. ISBN 978-0-19-983265-1.

After taking over Major cities and creating a safety corridor for logistics and etcetera, the Red Army began closing on the rocky Afghan countryside. Their advancement on the countryside backfired harshly, your average Soviet soldier was not experienced with guerilla warfare whatsoever.

The Afghan rebels were not organized at all, they did not have a standardized Army. Their uniforms, firepower, and even ideologies differentiated wildly.² There were extremist, radicalists, pro-soviets, middle grounds, anything that you can name, they had it. It wasn't until early 1980's that they united together to stand against the soviets.

The Soviets held the cities, the rebels held the mountains and this struggle went on to be a waiting game. The Rebels were also supported by the majority of the rural population aiding them when resources were scarce which prolonged the waiting period. This game ended when the Soviets started to work their way through the countryside via air. They aimed to cut this aiding to the rebels by depopulating the countryside with bombings and making surviving harder for their people. During this period, as always, civilians were greatly affected from this war and a forced migration took place in 1982. Approximately 2.8 million Afghans have fled from the war to Pakistan, and another 1.5 million have fled to Iran. This refugee crisis grew as the war kept growing.

Around the early 1980s, A new operation that went under the name of "Operation Cyclone" got through, The Op. was created by the United States of America in order to funnel war money to the rebels so that the Soviet Union could lose. This would be an absolute win for the U.S. The Scheme was simple: Pro-Rebel States would send their aids to Pakistan and then Pakistan would distribute the overall funds to the rebel forces. The scheme had a single flaw, Pakistan could distribute the aid to **their** liking disregarding "American Interests". The Fund was big, Consisting an annual budget of approx. 600-700 million U.S Dollars. Pakistan favored extremists groups that went on to create major imbalances that affect Afghanistan to this day.

² <https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/papers/2008/P7038.pdf>

The withdrawal of the Soviet military began on 15 May 1988, under the leadership of General of the Army Valentin Varennikov (with General Gromov commanding the 40th Army directly). As agreed, the withdrawal was "front-loaded", with half of the Soviet force leaving by August. The withdrawal was complicated, however, by the rapid deterioration of the situation in Afghanistan. While the United States was not bound by any commitment to stop arms shipments and continued to supply the Afghan mujahideen in Pakistan, the latter was not delivering on its commitment to prevent weaponry and militants from flowing into Afghanistan through the Durand Line. Likewise, the mujahideen also continued their attacks on withdrawing Soviet forces. The Soviet Union repeatedly reported these violations of the Geneva Accords to United Nations monitoring bodies, and even pleaded with the United States to influence the factions that they were supplying. The desire of the Soviet Union to withdraw, however, coupled with the United States' inability to control the behaviour of the mujahideen, meant that the Soviet objections did not yield any results. The following conversation between a Soviet diplomat and a station chief of the Central Intelligence Agency in Islamabad (as told by the latter in a book he co-authored), is cited by Kalinovsky:

Botshan-Kharchenko: You must understand, Mr. Buurdon, that these attacks against our troops as they withdraw must stop.

Bearden: And if they don't?

Botshan-Kharchenko: Then perhaps we will halt our withdrawal. Then what will you do?

Bearden: It is not what I will do, Counselor; it is what the Afghans will do. And I think they will simply keep on fighting and killing your soldiers until you finally just go home.

Botshan-Kharchenko: But you have some control over such matters.

Bearden: No one has control over such matters, Counselor, except the Soviet Union.

Botshan-Kharchenko: Mr. Buurdon, you must still understand that there will be consequences if these attacks continue.

Bearden: I am sure there will be, Counselor.

4.3.1. War Crimes

During these small strifes mentioned previously, The already morale lacked Soldiers who hadn't had the slightest idea of the Soviet Union's intentions were puzzled and tired. We can spectate this perspective through many rapportages ³. With all these questions in their heads, the soldiers also had to deal with the inhumane conditions and the warfare of rebels. Their helicopters getting shot down by small arms fire and finding their friends decapitated on poles, The soviet soldiers lack of morale quickly turned to an urge of revenge. So blinded and enraged, The Red Army also started to commit war crimes, war crimes against humanity, Murdering civils with even the slightest suspicion for aiding a rebel and absolutely scrapping the Geneva Convention. There are numberless horrifying stories that went dark after the war ended.

³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRNPu6H0REE&ab_channel=NotreMonde 38.28

5. Modern War Tactics

In this part we will be explaining how to successfully apply war tactics. You will also see the tactics that had been applied during the Soviet-Afghan War.

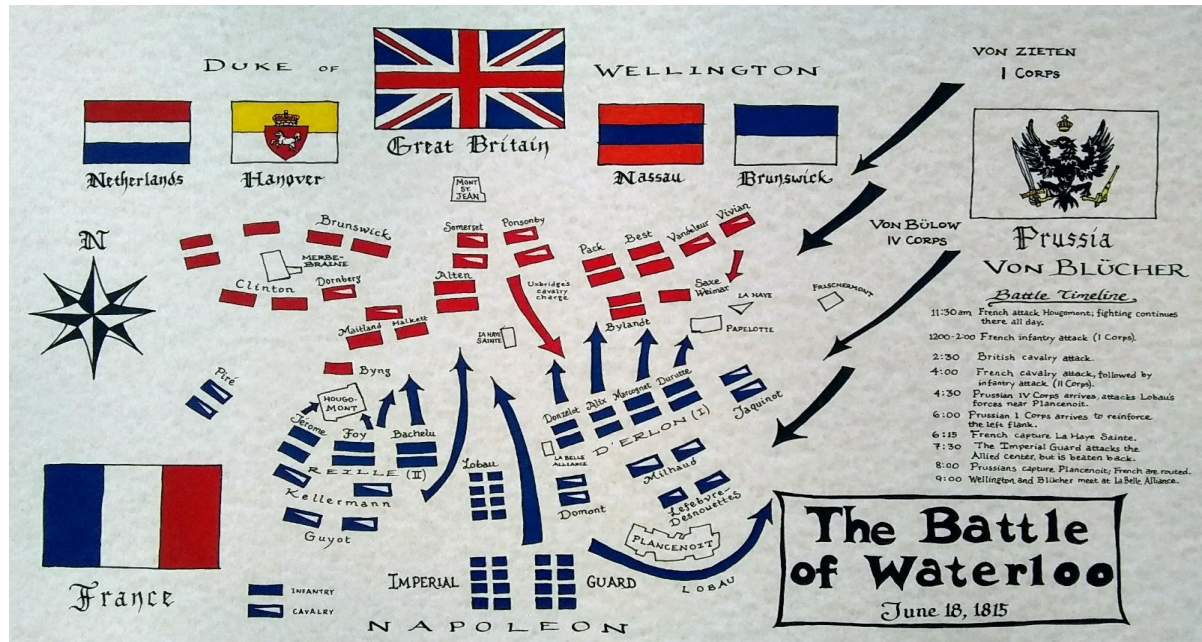
Before we start with more detailed titles, let's begin with more general things.

Modern Warfare refers to the methods and strategies of military conflict that emerged in the 20th century, characterized by advanced technology, total war strategies, and complex geopolitical factors. It includes innovations in weaponry, tactics, and communication that transformed how wars were fought, emphasizing the impact of industrialization and technological advancements on combat effectiveness and strategy. World War I marked the beginning of Modern Warfare with the widespread use of machine guns, tanks, and aircraft that changed traditional battlefields.

The concept of total war became prominent during World War II, as nations engaged in comprehensive mobilization of their economies and populations to support war efforts. Technological advancements during the 20th century led to the development of nuclear weapons, dramatically altering strategies and the nature of warfare. Modern warfare often involves not just military confrontations but also cyber warfare and information warfare as critical components of national security. The evolution of military strategies in modern warfare reflects changes in geopolitical dynamics, where non-state actors and guerrilla tactics increasingly challenge conventional military powers. (*Modern Warfare - (AP European History) - Vocab, Definition, Explanations | Fiveable*, n.d.)

With the improvement of technology, the weapon industry developed a lot. From bows which required significant mastery and immense strength, Armies came to use guns. Guns had better damage potential, had better range and better chance to hit the target. Even on top of all of them it was easier to

use guns. So instead of open-field battles in which two armies came across and fought until one of the sides lost, modern warfare which included a bigger area than the open-field battle became to be preferred.



An example of open-field Battle

Korean War, June–August 1950



An example of modern warfare

To compare them to each other:

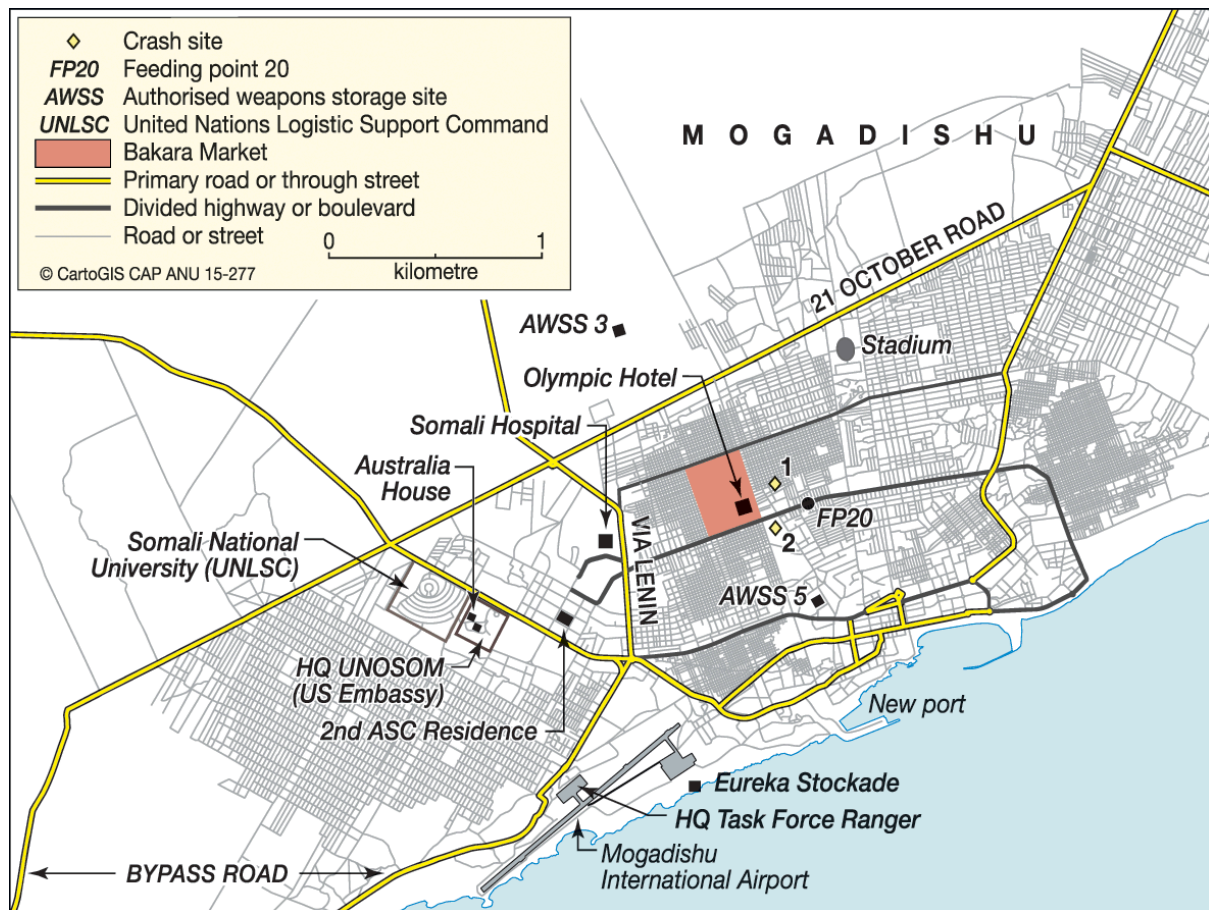
1. Modern warfare includes larger area
2. Modern warfare uses advanced technology of the era
3. Modern warfare generally lasts longer than open-field battles
4. Same amount men are generally more effective in modern warfare
5. Logistics are the key factor to the win in modern warfare most of the time

5.1 Guerilla and Urban Warfare

In this committee you will focus on two main warfares which are:

- Urban warfare(as the defender most of the time you will try to defend your cities)
- Guerilla warfare(as the attacker most of the time you will try to capture rebellions)

Urban Warfare



An example of urban warfare

Modern urban warfare can entail many types of missions along the spectrum of military operations. If one were to develop a scale of urban conflict, on one extreme end would be total war. This is when two combatants, possibly near-peer militaries, wage war in urban terrain with little regard for any humanitarian laws of war or concerns about collateral damage. In total war, tactical nuclear weapons and the complete destruction of cities through aerial bombardment are both possibilities.

Sliding along the scale, next would come major city attacks during limited, non-nuclear conflict, where at least one combatant follows international humanitarian law and seeks to minimize the impact of the battle on protected populations and sites. This is where the Mosul battle falls on the spectrum. After that would be major urban operations with limited objectives like regime change or eliminating an enemy capability coming from within an urban area, such as short-range rockets or cross-border tunneling operations. Next, would be counterinsurgency operations in urban environments where a

major component of the mission is to separate a small insurgent or enemy force from the rest of the population that could number in the millions. Next would be very specific counterterrorist operations in urban areas. These usually involve intelligence-driven raids requiring speed, surprise, and highly specialized military units. The scale could continue into humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, either as defense support to civil authorities domestically or as part of broader stability and security operations in cities around the world. In simple terms, a city attack is a mission to either kill or capture all hostile forces (an enemy-based mission) in a city or to seize, secure, recapture, or liberate (a terrain-based mission) a city or portion of a city when the enemy is using it as a defensive zone. The city attack operation usually requires a penetration of enemy defenses.

Recent historical examples of city attacks in limited warfare where an attacking force attempted to kill the defenders or seize the city include: (Spencer et al., 2021)

Hue, Vietnam: January 31 1968 to March 3, 1968

Vukovar, Croatia: August 25, 1991 to November 18, 1991

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina: April 5, 1992 to February 29, 1996

Grozny, Chechnya: December 31, 1994 to February 8, 1995

Grozny, Chechnya: December 25, 1999 to February 6, 2000

Fallujah, Iraq: April 4, 2004 to May 1, 2004

Fallujah, Iraq: November 7, 2004 to December 23, 2004 (Spencer et al., 2021)

In urban warfare, the defender side generally has more advantages since the city belongs to them before the battle. They know the city better and are able to use its facilities better. The buildings in the city can act up as fortresses for defender soldiers, the underground can act up as shelters etc. With the advantage of knowing the terrain it is easier for defenders to maneuver while battling. Also all of these situations force the attacker to use explosive force. Meaning, to capture the city you need to bring bigger weapons if there is a defence line there.

Guerilla Warfare

The word "guerrilla" literally translated from Spanish means "small war". Guerrilla warfare is sometimes called "partisan warfare" or "irregular warfare". In general, the words "guerrilla warfare" are used to refer to any military activity conducted irregularly by a relatively small independent force or unit, with or without a military organization, in connection with regular warfare. (Army University Press, n.d.)



An example of guerilla warfare

In guerilla warfare, there are generally a lot of battles as seen in the map. Small, generally uncoordinated groups fight using the advantage of terrain. These groups generally contain the experts of the area which are locals. With the advantage of their knowledge they attack, damage the enemy army and retreat. Since they are smaller than the enemy army, it is easier to move for guerilla groups. Especially in rural areas it becomes much harder to deal with guerilla groups. The reasons can be listed as:

- Experts of the area provides advantage for quick attacks and retreats
- Dealing damage to bigger armies without being fully wiped makes enemy morally unstable
- It is hard to detect guerillas
- With traps set, it can be made even more dangerous for bigger armies.

5.2 Usage of Heavy Weaponry

Examples of heavy weapons systems are tanks, helicopters, fighter planes, submarines and warships. They are defined as larger machines that are used in immediate combat and that integrate different military requirements (movement, fire power, etc.) into one system. (*What Are Heavy Weapons Systems?* | *War and Peace*, n.d.)

You will mostly work with tanks and fighter planes during the committee.

Tanks:

Tanks were a reliable source of power. They could shoot explosive missiles from a great distance. Also some armored types of tanks could provide a shield for infantries. They were like small walking fortresses. With correct placement and right doctrine they were able to dominate the battlefield completely. During this conflict

Fighter Planes:

Planes played a crucial role during the war period. Both for gathering intel and attacking enemy infantry groups. For infantry it was nearly impossible to retaliate to a plane. Plane was faster, stronger and more accurate. In the correct hands, planes can change the future of the war.

Helicopters:

Helicopters were the main vehicle of the Soviet Union for air superiority during the Soviet-Afghan War. They were almost like flying tanks terrorizing the defenseless Afghan Rebels (Before they were equipped with anti-air weapons). The Soviets utilized Helicopters in order to conduct recon missions and to aid ground forces during guerilla faceoffs.

5.3 Importance of Logistics

A wise young man once said that “Half of warfare is logistics”. You can deploy thousands of troops, hundreds of tanks, set up artillery lines that stretch out kilometers; but without the necessary food, fuel and ammunition they are worthless. If you appoint 20 guards to a territory and don't provide them with ammunition, food and equipment, that zone is doomed to be captured. So in summary, logistics are everything in warfare.

The term “logistics” was not commonly used until shortly before World War II, but the concept and understanding of logistics have been around since the earliest days of warfare. In Clausewitz’s words, getting the force to “fight at the right place and the right time” is the true essence of military logistics.

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary defines logistics as “the aspect of military science dealing with the procurement, maintenance, and transportation of military materiel, facilities, and personnel.”

The Joint Chiefs of Staff’s Logistics elaborates on this definition and quotes Rear Admiral Henry E. Eccles’s 1959 statement that “Logistics is the bridge between the economy of the Nation and the tactical operations of its combat forces. Obviously then, the logistics system must be in harmony, both with the economic system of the Nation and with the tactical concepts and environment of the combat forces.” You cannot supply everything to your soldiers while your citizens back home are starving. You have to remember the political aspect of war rather than going through all the tactics.

“Amateurs talk about tactics, but professionals study logistics.”

-General Robert Barrow, USMC

This simple two-sentence statement effectively captures both the complexity and far-reaching implications of military logistics. From the farthest tactical edge to the economic system of the nation, military logistics has far-reaching implications for the nation and the military element of national power and therefore affects every aspect of organizing, training, equipping, deploying, and employing the force.

Logistics is perhaps the most complex and interrelated capability provided by the modern military. Unfortunately, to those unfamiliar with its intellectual and technological breadth, depth, and complexity, it can be considered an assumed capability—something that simply happens—or, worse yet, a “back office” function that is not connected to warfighting capability.

7. Further Research Notes

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