

QTMUN 2024



Creating The Coffee Craze (CCC)

Part Two: Union of Coffee-Producing Countries

DIRECTOR

Isabella Perdigon

VICE DIRECTOR

Willow Teter

MODERATOR

Erica Naito Li

CRISIS ANALYST

Acacia Khanicheh-Peiries

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Equity Disclaimers

Throughout this committee, delegates will be engaging in complex debates and discussions covering a wide array of topics. As UTMUN seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the implications of real-world issues, the content of our committees may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter for the purposes of academia and accuracy. We ask that delegates be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position in an equitable manner, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

This Background Guide and *Creating the Coffee Craze* presents topics that may be distressing to some Delegates, including but not limited to the following:

- Potential involvement of world events linked to specific countries, including WWII, the Cold War, and the Irish Conflict (a.k.a. The Troubles/Northern Ireland Conflict)
- Labour disputes
- Discussions of classism
- Mentions of colonialism
- Mentions of slavery
- Potential discussions of upsetting politics in specific countries.
- Discussions of poverty
- Discussions of Ethiopian famine

Great care will be taken by staff in handling any/all of these topics should they arise.

UTMUN recognizes the sensitivity associated with many of our topics, and we encourage you to be aware of and set healthy boundaries that work for you. This may include: refraining from reading certain parts of the background guide, preparing yourself before reading this background guide, doing some self-care or seeking support after reading the background guide, or anything that can help make you feel more comfortable. We ask that all Delegates remain considerate of the boundaries that other Delegates set.

UTMUN expects that all discussions amongst delegates will remain productive and respectful of one another. If you have any equity concerns or need assistance in setting boundaries or navigating sensitive subject matter or have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org. We want you to feel safe and comfortable at UTMUN!

If you wish to switch committees after having read the content warnings for this committee, please do the following:

a) Fill out the UTMUN 2024 Committee Switch Request Form:

<https://forms.gle/EVfikp6r6ACnBooR6>

Model United Nations at U of T Code of Conduct

The below code of conduct applies to all attendees of UTMUN 2024 for the entire duration of the conference, and any conference-related activities (including but not limited to committee sessions, conference socials, committee breaks, and the opening and closing ceremonies).

1. Harassment and bullying in any form will not be tolerated, the nature of which includes, but is not limited to, discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, religion, sex, age, mental and physical disabilities, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression,

a. Harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, insulting and/or degrading language or remarks; threats and intimidation; and intentional (direct or indirect).

discrimination and/or marginalization of a group and/or individual;

i. The above prohibition on harassment, bullying, and inappropriate behaviour extends to any and all behaviour as well as written and verbal communication during the conference, including notes, conversation both during and outside committees, and general demeanour at all conference events;

ii. UTMUN reserves the right to determine what constitutes bullying and/or inappropriate behaviour toward any individual and/or group;

b. Attendees must not engage in any behaviour that constitutes physical violence or the threat of violence against any groups and/or individuals, including sexual violence and harassment, such as, but not limited to,

i. Unwelcome suggestive or indecent comments about one's appearance;

ii. Nonconsensual sexual contact and/or behaviour between any individuals and/or groups of individuals;

iii. Sexual contact or behaviour between delegates and staff members is strictly forbidden;

2. UTMUN expects all attendees to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times during the conference. Specific expectations, include, but are not limited to,

a. Attendees must, if able, contribute to the general provision of an inclusive conference and refrain from acting in a manner that restricts other attendees' capacity to learn and thrive in an intellectually stimulating environment;

b. Attendees must adhere to the dress code, which is Western business attire;

i. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the attendees' ability to adhere to the previous sub-clause;

ii. Attendees are encouraged to contact Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org with questions or concerns about the dress code or conference accessibility;

- c. Attendees must refrain from the use of cultural appropriation to represent their character and/or country, including the use of cultural dress, false accent, and any behaviour that perpetuates a national or personal stereotype;
- d. Delegates must not use music, audio recordings, graphics, or any other media at any time unless approved and requested to be shared by the Dais and/or the Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha at equity@utmun.org;
- e. Attendees must abide by instructions and/or orders given by conference staff, members;
 - i. Attendees are exempt from this above sub-clause only if the instructions and/or orders given are unreasonable or inappropriate;

3. Delegates, staff, and all other conference participants are expected to abide by Ontario and Canadian laws and Toronto by-laws, as well as rules and regulations specific to the University of Toronto. This includes, but is not limited to,

- a. Attendees, regardless of their age, are strictly prohibited from being under the influence and/or engaging in the consumption of illicit substances, such as alcohol or illicit substances for the duration of the conference;
- b. Attendees are prohibited from smoking (cigarettes or e-cigarettes, including vapes) on University of Toronto property;
- c. Attendees must refrain from engaging in vandalism and the intentional and/or reckless destruction of any public or private property, including conference spaces, venues, furniture, resources, equipment, and university buildings;
 - i. Neither UTMUN nor any representatives of UTMUN is responsible for damage inflicted by attendees to property on or off University of Toronto campus;
 - ii. Individuals will be held responsible for any damages.

4. The Secretariat reserves the right to impose restrictions on delegates and/or attendees for not adhering to/violating any of the above stipulations. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to,

- a. Suspension from committee, in its entirety or for a specific period of time;
- b. Removal from the conference and/or conference venue(s);
- c. Disqualification from awards;
- d. Disqualification from participation in future conference-related events.

5. UTMUN reserves the right to the final interpretation of this document.

For further clarification on UTMUN's policies regarding equity or conduct, please see this [form](#). For any questions/concerns, or any equity violations that any attendee(s) would like to raise, please contact UTMUN's Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org or fill out this anonymous Equity Contact Form: <https://forms.gle/Psc5Luxp22T3c9Zz8>.

Letter From The Director:

Hello delegates!

I am very pleased to welcome you all to a very special UTMUN 2024 committee: Creating the Coffee Craze (CCC): The Coffee Corporations VS. The Union of Coffee-Producing Countries. I am your director for this committee, Isabella Perdigon, and I hope you all feel as excited for our topics and discussions as I do.

I am a third year student at UofT, majoring in political science and minoring in philosophy and Latin American studies. I started Model UN by staffing in my first year with UTMUN, and my passion for these conferences has only grown since. To be able to direct a conference this year is something I'm so grateful for, especially since the topic is about coffee, my favourite beverage ever. I'd like to now introduce the rest of your Dias. I'm joined by your Vice Director, Willow Teter, a second year studying Economics and Public Policy, your Crisis Analyst, Acacia, a fourth year student studying political science, and your Moderator, Erica, a third year student studying Ethics, Society, and Law, Political Science, and Bioethics.

Now, a little bit about the nature of our committee before we get into the meat of our topics. The CCC is a specialized committee, focused on economic, social, ethical, and practical aspects of the coffee industry. You will get to discover new types of coffee, help uplift the industry, form environmental policies, address the rights of your various workers, tackle worldwide issues, and more. This is a joint committee, meaning there will be two rooms that can influence each other. In one, we have the corporations. In this room, delegates will represent the CEOs and leaders of coffeehouses worldwide. Consequently, they will be tasked with handling matters relating to the corporate happenings of the industry. The other room houses the Union of Coffee-Producing Countries (UCPC). Delegates in this room will represent leaders of countries, and accordingly, they will deal with international concerns of the industry.

There are numerous things happening simultaneously here in the CCC, so it is very important that you take a close look at this guide for more information. It is encouraged you do your own research beyond what is written here, and most importantly, have fun with it! If you have further questions, concerns, or comments, I more than encourage you to reach out by sending a message to the committee email listed at the bottom of this letter. The rest of the CCC staff and I are all looking forward to seeing you in February! Bring your favourite beverage (I, myself, will be bringing a delicious cup of café con leche) and the readiness to kick start the great Coffee Craze!

Sincerely,

Isabella Perdigon

Director, Creating the Coffee Craze

CCC@utmun.org

Introduction:

Nearly 600 years have passed since the first coffeehouse, Kiva Han, opened up in the Ottoman Empire, and coffee has now become a global favourite, with many coffee chains emerging as part of the past century's increasing globalization. It is 1980, and consumers are adoring the recently emerged but increasingly popular coffee chains, namely, Starbucks, Tim Hortons, Second Cup, and Dunkin' Donuts. That being said, others seek comfort in exquisite local cafés. As leaders of these various-scale caffeinated enterprises, it is up to you to keep your corporation afloat by maintaining the coffee frenzy amidst constantly emerging challenges including the arrival of bubble tea shops and the unionization of all major coffee producers... Will the major coffee chains reign supreme, or will local cafés surpass them and go global?

As this is a joint committee, the coffee chains are not alone in their endeavour. While one room features competing coffee corporations, the other turns an eye to the world of coffee production. The world's coffee producers have banded together to form the Union of Coffee-Producing Countries (UCPC). Many of the union's members hope to improve their economies amidst the Latin American Debt Crisis of 1980, and the union is also wary of the environmental impact of coffee production. While the union solidifies and forms regulations to protect the environment, it is up to individual nations to boost their economies by incentivizing coffee production and forming alliances with the coffee corporations.

As leaders of caffeinated enterprises and coffee producing countries, the fate of the coffee world rests in your hands. Will you successfully collaborate and create a coffee craze, or will you bring centuries of coffee adoration to its doom?

Definitions

Beans

- **Arabica Bean** – The most common coffee bean plant.¹ Arabica is known for having a variety of flavours depending on local breeding and location.² It will be what is majorly used in coffeehouses, as the public enjoys its mild, less caffeinated taste.³ Normal expenses.

¹ "Arabica vs. robusta Coffee- What's the Difference?," Nespresso. <https://coffeebrewster.com/best-coffee-beans/arabica-vs-robusta/>

² Ibid.

³ Monica Chan, "Arabica vs. Robusta- What's the Difference," Bar Talks. <https://bartalks.net/arabica-vs-robusta-whats-the-difference/#:~:text=Robusta%20is%20more%20disease%20and%20insect%20resistant%20than%20Arabica%20because,insecticide%20and%20anti%2Dmicrobial%20agent>

- **Robusta Bean** – Known as the *Coffea Canephora* plant, and is the second most common coffee bean used in the industry.⁴ It is twice as caffeinated as Arabica.⁵ It is easier to produce, making it a cheap alternative for instant coffee.⁶ Slightly cheaper expenses.
- **Liberica Bean** – Takes up a significantly smaller portion of production, as it is not well known.⁷ It is very high maintenance and complex to produce, making it difficult to procure many in good quality/taste.⁸ Its flavour profile is less caffeinated.⁹ Slightly higher expenses.
- **Excelsa Bean** – Similar to nature as the excelsa bean, as it is a variety of liberica.¹⁰ Its woody taste often makes or breaks its reception.¹¹ Slightly cheaper expenses.
- **Gesha Bean** – Most exclusive and sought-after coffee variety.¹² Has been described as having a royal and fruity flavour profile.¹³ It is very difficult to produce.¹⁴ Extremely high expenses.

Production Process^{15 16},

Coffee is processed in two primary ways; either by drying and then hulling (called the dry process) or fermenting and washing (called the wet process). The dry process is generally cheaper and easier to implement, but vulnerable to weather conditions and quality inconsistencies. The wet process produces a consistent quality but takes a substantive amount of water and labor.

Abbreviations

- **UCPC** – Union of Coffee Producing Countries
- **EU** – European Union
- **LAIA** – Latin American Integration Association

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Isabelle Sanmax, "What is excelsa coffee?," Perfect Daily Grind, May 21, 2021. <https://perfectdailygrind.com/2021/05/what-is-excelsa-coffee/>.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "What are Liberica Coffee Beans?," Bean & Bean Coffee, Nov. 29, 2022. <https://beannbeancoffee.com/blogs/beansider/what-are-liberica-coffee-beans#:~:text=Outside%20of%20where%20it's%20grown,as%20much%20as%20specialty%20Arabica.>

¹⁰ Kashmir Brummel, "Liberica Coffee Beans: What You Need To Know," Home Grounds, Jul. 31, 2023. <https://www.homegrounds.co/ca/liberica-coffee-beans/>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Karla Walker, "Gesha | The Most Exclusive Coffee Variety," Sagebrush Coffee. <https://sagebrushcoffee.com/blogs/education/gesha-the-most-exclusive-coffee-variety.>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Nathan Myhrvold & René Coste, s.v., "Coffee Production," Britannica, April 8, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/coffee-production.>

¹⁶ "The Modernization and Industrialization of Coffee Production in the 20th Century." Coffee Prices. <https://www.coffee-prices.com/the-modernization-and-industrialization-of-coffee-production-in-the-20th-century/>

Historical Background:

Coffee has many fabled origins. In roughly 850 CE, Ethiopian farmer Kaldi tasted the berries on which his goats grazed, and after experiencing their taste and a sense of exhilaration, proclaimed his discovery.¹⁷ In the 15th century, Yemen cultivated plants that may have been brought across the Red Sea.¹⁸ There, monks supposedly brewed the first cup of coffee and used their new energy to pray through the night.¹⁹ Few details of coffee's origin have been completely confirmed, but it was popularized in Arabia.²⁰

It was there that coffee fruit was first parched and boiled to make coffee beans—infertile seeds used to brew coffee.²¹ Until the 17th century, the largest producers of coffee were the Arabian peninsula, and Ethiopia and Yemen were also production hubs.²² The largest consumers were Yemen, Persia, Egypt, Turkey and Syria.²³

Another legend says no coffee was cultivated until an Indian pilgrim to Mecca left with some fertile coffee beans strapped across his abdomen.²⁴ These beans then led to the creation of a competing European coffee trade.²⁵

Coffee's popularity had reached Europe by the beginning of the 17th century. The Dutch founded the first European-owned coffee estate in 1616 in Sri Lanka; the Spanish followed in Central America and the Portuguese in Brazil.²⁶ As its popularity increased, European countries introduced its cultivation to their colonies. Coffee production began taking place in Caribbean, Central and South America, and Asia, providing the supply for Europe's growing coffee craze.²⁷

When coffee reached Venice in 1615, the clergy initially condemned it.²⁸ Pope Clement VIII requested to taste the beverage before deciding whether it should be arriving at a decision.²⁹ He found coffee to be so satisfying that he gave it his approval.³⁰ The first coffeehouse of Europe opened in Venice in 1645. After it opened, coffeehouses became widespread throughout Europe in the following 70 years.³¹

¹⁷ "The History of Coffee," National Coffee Association. <https://www.ncausa.org/about-coffee/history-of-coffee#:~:text=Coffee%20Comes%20to%20Europe&text=The%20local%20clergy%20condemned%20coffee,he%20gave%20it%20papal%20approval>

¹⁸ "Understanding Coffee: The History of Coffee," Nescafe. <https://www.nescafe.com/in/understanding-coffee/coffee-history>

¹⁹ Nathan Myhrvold, "History of coffee," Britannica, May 6, 2021.

²⁰ Tori Avey, "The Caffeinated History of Coffee," PBS. <https://www.pbs.org/food/the-history-kitchen/history-coffee/>.

²¹ "History of Coffee," Nescafe.

²² "The Modernization and Industrialization of Coffee Production in the 20th Century," Coffee Prices.

²³ "History of Coffee," Nescafe.

²⁴ Tori Avey, "Caffeinated History of Coffee."

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ "History of Coffee," Nescafe.

²⁷ "The Modernization and Industrialization of Coffee Production in the 20th Century," Coffee Prices.

²⁸ "History of Coffee," National Coffee Association.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ "History of Coffee," Nescafe.

Coffee production increased to match demand. Brazil's coffee production increased rapidly in the 18th Century.³² Other Central American countries—Guatemala, Honduras, and Costa Rica—became large producers in the mid 19th Century, when coffee became one of their primary exports.³³ In the 20th century, Brazil became the leading producer of coffee globally.³⁴

Production became easier and simpler throughout the late 19th and early 20th Century.³⁵ Inventions like industrial roasting and grinding machines and vacuum-sealed containers for ground roasts changed production.³⁶ New coffee products, like decaffeinated beans made from green coffee beans and instant coffee, transformed the market and diversified the products produced by 1950.³⁷

In the 1960s and 1970s, the Green Revolution took place.³⁸ The Green Revolution describes the dramatic increase in crop production after the introduction of high-yield seed varieties to developing countries.³⁹ One of these crops was coffee.⁴⁰ However, the new varieties required a significant amount of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to produce the desired yields, and these new practices harmed the environment.⁴¹ Poor farmers are also not always able to purchase the fertilizers and pesticides, leading them to produce lower yields than the older, traditional strains.⁴² These strains were adapted to local conditions and had an inherent level of pest and disease resistance.⁴³ Matching traditional practices, like growing coffee in the shade, fell out of use, which led to more deforestation and less biodiversity.⁴⁴

³² "Coffee Production in the 20th Century." Coffee Prices.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Myhrvold and Coste, "Coffee Production."

³⁵ "Coffee Production in the 20th Century," Coffee Prices.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ "Green revolution," Encyclopedia Britannica, August 14, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/event/green-revolution>.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Myhrvold and Coste, "Coffee Production."

⁴¹ "Green revolution," Encyclopedia Britannica.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Myhrvold and Coste, "Coffee Production."

Key Issues:

Weather Preparedness

Coffee production inherently relies on its environment and weather conditions. Optimal conditions are typically warm tropical climates, where there are few pests and diseases and the soil is rich.⁴⁵ Different types of coffee also have different optimal temperatures; for example, Arabica coffee thrives at 64-70°F but can tolerate up to 73°F.⁴⁶ Different coffee kinds may need different conditions. Making sure seed varieties are suited to their environment is crucial, as is ensuring proper farming techniques. Weather is unpredictable and has the potential to cause great crop damage, so countries best be prepared. For example, Brazil was hit with a frost in the 1970s, which led to crop failure and a global soar in coffee prices.⁴⁷

Environmental Protection

Environmental protection is a key aspect of coffee farming. Countries hold a responsibility to their farmers and citizens to protect the environment and must therefore balance the profit coffee can bring with its environmental impact. Policies can be used to reach different sustainability goals. For example, limits on pesticide usage, crop rotation, and water and waste management are crucial to keeping farming eco-friendly.^{48 49 50} Those most affected by environmental degradation are indigenous nations and tribes across Latin America.⁵¹ They are displaced from their homes, and face dangerous environmental conditions.⁵²

Pesticide usage brings up the essential question of whether or not to pursue organic farming. The idea of organic farming originally centered around using animal manure, crop rotation, and cover crops (that provide shade) as pest controls.⁵³ The devastating damage of insecticides was recognized in the 1960s by Rachel Carson.⁵⁴ There has since been a steady increase in the demand for organic food and products, with the prices consistently higher than non-organic counterparts.⁵⁵

⁴⁵ Michon Scott, "Climate & Coffee," NOAA Climate.gov, June 19, 2015. <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/climate-and/climate-coffee>.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ "History of coffee," Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_coffee.

⁴⁸ Freeman L. McEwan, "Pesticides," The Canadian Encyclopedia, s.v., Dec. 16, 2013. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/pesticide>.

⁴⁹ "Crop rotation," Britannica, s.v., Nov. 25, 2018. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/crop-rotation>.

⁵⁰ Lindsay Suddon, "Here's how the agricultural sector can win the war on waste," World Economic Forum, Sept. 17, 2021.

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/09/heres-how-agricultural-sector-win-war-on-waste/>

⁵¹ Ayurella Horn-Muller, "To go or not to go," Axios, Oct. 10, 2022. <https://www.axios.com/2022/10/10/indigenous-people-climate-dilemma-land>.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Raoul Adamchak, "Organic farming," Britannica, s.v., Aug. 25, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/organic-farming>

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

Other farming techniques also impact how environmentally friendly the crop is. One big deciding factor is whether coffee is grown in the shade of other plants. Shade-grown coffee produces more but is also more labor intensive.⁵⁶ However, it has other benefits such as biodiversity, habitat for pest-eating birds, and less soil erosion.⁵⁷ Shade-grown coffee has a superior flavour, which means beans can be sold at a higher price.⁵⁸ The alternative—no shade—is easier and yields larger production.⁵⁹

The first predictions of climate change have been published, but have been widely ignored or considered false.⁶⁰ That being said, some countries – namely the United States – have enacted extensive environmental protection laws in the past two decades.⁶¹ Consumers from North America may want to see the eco-friendly policies applied to their products. While it seems bizarre to some, after hearing theories of a phenomenon labeled climate change, consumers wish to use eco-friendly and organic products. That being said, no official certification currently exists to guarantee if a product falls under one of these categories. Will you uphold that this theory of ‘climate change’ is a work of fiction, or will you join the consumers in attempting to switch to eco-friendly coffee production? Beware, whatever choice you make will have consequences. Your policy selection may affect production costs, number of buyers, or something else entirely ...

Workers Rights

There are few protections for coffee farmers currently. They are not guaranteed their costs of production or a consistent rate for their produce, and so their livelihoods are often unsustainable or unsecured.⁶² Countries could explore how a guaranteed minimum payment for coffee affects farmers—perhaps this incentive will lead to greater productivity or more widespread investments in coffee machinery? Protecting their farmers is essential to the countries. As a leader in the Countries side of the CCC, you must remember to put people before profit. Not doing so will lead you down a slippery slope...

⁵⁶ Myhrvold and Coste, “Coffee Production.”

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Kimon Roussopoulos & Lynn Malpas, “Exxon and the 1970s climate predictions that were ignored,” The Guardian, Jan. 18, 2023.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/18/exxon-and-the-1970s-climate-predictions-that-were-ignored>.

⁶¹ Martin H., Belsky, “Environmental Policy Law in the 1980s: Shifting Back the Burden of Proof,” Ecology Law Quarterly Vol. 12, No.1 (1984): 12.

⁶² “Is Fairtrade Coffee Really a Fair Trade,” Easy Jose Coffee. Nov. 24, 2021. <https://easyjosecoffee.co.uk/blogs/news/is-fairtrade-coffee-really-a-fair-trade>.

Another large part of agriculture workers' rights in the 1980s is gender-based. Women had been entering the workforce at a steady rate, yet consistently made less money. Often women work longer hours than men and yet receive less pay, and there exists a global trend of women inheriting debt but not land.⁶³ How will coffee producing countries protect their female farmers?

Latin American Debt Crisis of 1980

As the world walks into a new decade, one of the many issues plaguing the worldwide economy is the Latin American Debt Crisis. Over the past decade, many countries in the area have received foreign funding from the US and the World Bank, mainly Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina.⁶⁴ Originally a response to the large increases in oil prices, the amount borrowed reached up to \$159 billion by the end of the decade.⁶⁵ The increase of investments sent to Latin America began by oil-producing countries wishing to confidently put their money in foreign investments.⁶⁶ The US government had great interest in economic expansion of the world's economy, and were confident about the growing economy of the Latin American countries, so they facilitated these loans.⁶⁷ At first, interest rates were manageable, but since interest rates rose at the beginning of the decade when the world entered a recession, Latin American countries are now finding themselves unable to pay their dues back.⁶⁸

In the late 1970s, many onlookers criticized American banks heavily investing in developing countries, stating that increased loans may threaten the state of the nation's economy.⁶⁹ An important point to note for countries in the UCPC is that if American banks continue to be harmed by the inability for countries to pay back their debt, the US government may need to intervene.⁷⁰

⁶³ International Labor Office Geneva, "Decent work in agriculture: International Workers' Symposium on Decent Work in Agriculture," International Labor Organization Bureau for Workers' Activities, 18 September, 2003, p. 31.

⁶⁴ Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). History of the Eighties: Lessons for the Future. Vol. 1, "An Examination of the Banking Crises of the 1980s and Early 1990s," Washington, DC: FDIC, Ch. 5, p.191.

⁶⁵ Jocelyn Sims, "Latin American Debt Crisis of the 1980s." Federal Reserve History, Nov. 22, 2013. <https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/latin-american-debt-crisis>.

⁶⁶ "An Examination of the Banking Crises of the 1980s and Early 1990s." p. 192.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ "An Examination of the Banking Crises of the 1980s and Early 1990s." p. 198.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

Debt continues to increase for the countries in the area, and some action has been taken to change the situations. Developed countries have limited their foreign funding, including America's creation of the Interagency Country Exposure Review Committee, made to assess and monitor the international economic involvement of US banks.⁷¹ It remains to be seen how else the LDC will affect the countries in question in the upcoming decade, and what other countries will do as a result.

Famine in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is in the midst of a severe famine caused by a pervasive drought that led to widespread crop failure.⁷² Where crops would otherwise grow, the land remains parched and bare.⁷³ There were two large droughts in the late 1970s, but both 1980 and 1981 produced average or above average crop yields.⁷⁴ In 1983, the first signs of famine were recognizable: farmers lining up at food centers in Tigray.⁷⁵ Despite the prosperous yields of other areas, northern Ethiopia struggled with food insecurity.⁷⁶ It was the absence of short rains—called *belg* in Ethiopia—that led to this famine.⁷⁷ Nearly a fourth of Ethiopia's crops at the time relied on *belg*, making this famine so widespread.⁷⁸

The other rainy season in Ethiopia is *meher*, when rains are more consistent.⁷⁹ Ethiopian coffee is extremely dependent on rain, so the loss of the *belg* rains clearly impacts its production.⁸⁰ While coffee is very profitable, the question of its importance arises during the famine—it cannot be used to feed the starving people, so should its production be prioritized over alternative crops that have a domestic benefit? Or is the economic benefit of coffee trade of more importance?

⁶³ International Labor Office Geneva, "Decent work in agriculture: International Workers' Symposium on Decent Work in Agriculture," International Labor Organization Bureau for Workers' Activities, 18 September, 2003, p. 31.

⁶⁴ Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). History of the Eighties: Lessons for the Future. Vol. 1, "An Examination of the Banking Crises of the 1980s and Early 1990s," Washington, DC: FDIC, Ch. 5, p.191.

⁶⁵ Jocelyn Sims, "Latin American Debt Crisis of the 1980s." Federal Reserve History, Nov. 22, 2013. <https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/latin-american-debt-crisis>.

⁶⁶ "An Examination of the Banking Crises of the 1980s and Early 1990s." p. 192.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ "An Examination of the Banking Crises of the 1980s and Early 1990s." p. 198.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

Seed Varieties

With the green revolution, countries face the decision of whether to continue implementing newer seed varieties that have the potential to yield larger crops under good conditions. However, they are also higher risk—newer varieties lack resistance to local phenomena like rainy seasons and are thus more susceptible to crop failure.⁸¹ Traditional varieties are unlikely to produce a similar quantity, but are adjusted to local conditions. They are therefore less likely to contract pests or fail due to weather conditions. The trade off is clear: high yield varieties can produce 2,300 to 3,400 kilograms per hectare compared to the 500 to 1,000 kilogram per hectare traditional varieties.⁸² Will you choose high risks with high rewards or stick to the tried and true?

Creation of the UCPC

The first International Coffee Organization was established in 1963, where coffee producing and supporting countries all around the world joined to create and publish agreements pertaining to the coffee industry.⁸³ The first Agreement successfully passed in 1962 as a subsidiary of the United Nations, and continued to flourish from there.⁸⁴ More Agreements were passed in 1968, 1972, and 1976.⁸⁵ Negotiations included production quotas, production and diversification policies, and actions to increase consumption.⁸⁶ Due to the stable success of these agreements, the Organization has decided to open a new and improved Union to address the new, wider issues in the coffee industry. Operating under a fresh slate, the Union of Coffee-Producing Countries must now continue the success of what came before.

Existing in a largely unregulated market, coffee-producing countries are joined together to create policies and decisions under the newly formed Union of Coffee-Producing Countries (UCPC). A facet of every good international union includes the cooperation of countries effectively working together for a common cause. Global union federations allow for swift action to be taken on pressing topics quickly, regulating laws, economies, and trade. The union's discussions will focus on the key issues described above and more that may arise during committee. Alongside brainstorming other potential measures, member nations may consider incorporating the following in their solutions: trade agreements, contracts, cross-border businesses endeavours, funding.

⁸¹ "Green revolution." Britannica.

⁸² Myhrvold and Coste, "Coffee Production."

⁸³ International Coffee Organization. "History." https://www.ico.org/icohistory_e.asp?section=About_Us/.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

While the UCPC was founded with the intention of banding together the world's coffee producers, other countries have also been invited. Coffee supporters, as they're called, were extended an invitation to partake in the union to further encourage unity around the world for the coffee industry.

Worldwide corporations do not remain separate from this conversation. Just as your actions influence them, they can help support or impact decisions that countries make. The creation of the UCPC is meant to support and uplift the entirety of the industry; all will have a voice in its future.

State of Affairs

As we turn into a new decade, many people in the coffee industry are excited about what lies in our future. After all, we now enter the formidable days of the coffee industry. New issues and products entering the scene requires countries to take special attention to all that is going on. One slip-up could cause the doom of the industry before it's even gotten its feet wet.

The year is 1980. First and foremost, the creation of the Union of Coffee-Producing Countries signals the promising outlook of our future. Countries worldwide have realized the profitability of coffee and wish to make ethical and practical decisions as we delve deeper. Next, the industry as a whole is showing signs of change. Specialty coffee is becoming richer and more desirable. Consumption methods are changing. For the union, this means new ethical and environmental conversations must be had about the state of our world in relation to the coffee industry. Additionally, with the increase in production, faulty labour practices are being brought to light. While the larger public has yet to express their advocacy for workers' rights, these ongoing issues certainly bring into question the morality of countries and where they wish to go with their business model. Countries also have to face other global economic and social issues, like the Latin American Debt Crisis and the Ethiopian famine, both of which require policies to be written and action to be taken. And, as always, climate change and environmental disasters loom as a threat above the entire industry.

With all these issues plaguing it, the global coffee industry is at the mercy of a great many players and scenarios. How will you act? Will your actions bring the coffee industry to unprecedented glory or will you bring this centuries-old delicacy to its doom ...

Mechanics

- **Trade and Cooperation Agreements:** Here, delegates have opportunities to form alliances with other countries within the Union and with corporations. Within the Union, all countries can form trade agreements and alliances to further their agenda. With corporations, countries can fund promotions and work together to push a newly discovered coffee bean, for example. Joint public directives can also be used to change production practices, saving you from environmental disasters. Delegates are encouraged to work together; doing so may significantly boost your industry! There is no backroom for this committee, so delegates are encouraged to declare these agreements in debate.

For Coffee Producers: While supporting countries cannot produce their own coffee, they can take actions to ensure their industry remains profitable. All delegates are encouraged to support the production in other countries through agreements, or find ways to boost local interest in coffee drinks.

- **Research and Development:** Producing countries may choose to research to create new varieties of coffee to further their industry. Countries then have the option to enter alliances with coffee chains in order to promote selling these new coffee beans. These countries could also approach coffee chains for funding for their research. These declarations are done through debate, and crisis updates will reflect these actions. The starter beans available for production are those listed in “Menu” and its varieties specific to your locality.
- **Coffee Industry Ranking:** At the beginning of each committee session, the Dias will release a ranking of all the countries in the Union, based on how robust or involved their national coffee industry is. This ranking is a culmination of many things that pertain to a country’s coffee industry including involvement, quality/number of producers, production diversity, cooperation, labour treatment, strength of their coffee scene and more. This ranking will incentivize delegates to engage more with the worldwide industry and cooperate with countries and corporations.
- **Susceptibility Measurement:** Each coffee-producing country is varyingly susceptible to natural disasters and other unforeseen circumstances. This is measured in the susceptibility measurement, where every country receives a ranking from 1 to 5 of their susceptibility. This number depends on numerous factors: how suited a country’s climate is to coffee growth, seed varieties, and production practices. Delegates will need to keep an eye out for environmental concerns depending on what their score is. This number will not be updated individually.

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