

ENDING THE RAJ

CRISIS COMMITTEE



**Greetings from the Director,**

Hello and welcome to UTMUN 2018!

My name is Shanzae Khan and I will be your Director for 'Ending the Raj.'

As this is a crisis committee, we have a highly skilled crisis team working with us. The Crisis Manager for this committee is Jennifer Ben, our Moderator is Roaa Shoukry and the Crisis Analysts are Laura Quon, Maya Li Preti, Akil Abrar and Aniket Ka. We have been working very hard over the past few months to bring you this committee and will be present during the conference to answer any queries you may have.

I have been involved with Model United Nations (MUNs) for over nine years and this is one of the most interesting committees that I have been given the opportunity to be a part of. I have participated as a Delegate, Vice-Chair, Co-Director, Director and have recently endeavored towards the logistical aspect of MUNs by serving as Director General for Internal Affairs at a recent conference.

Diplomacy and debates are one of the most interesting aspects within this committee, and I hope to help you all with any and all aspects of debate you encounter during the course of this conference. Due to the competitive nature of UTMUN, I would strongly advise you all to read this background guide, submit your position papers on time, and conduct the relevant research required for your character. This will not only help you with your debating and diplomacy skills, but will also ensure that you all have a fun and memorable time within the committee.

Looking forward to seeing you all very soon,

Shanzae S. Khan, Director

**Introduction:**

This committee will take place in British India starting from June 1945. During this time, India was occupied by Britain and was under the rule of King George VI (the ruling monarch of India). India had been occupied by Britain for over 200 years now and there were various calls and movements for independence operating throughout the subcontinent. These calls had started decades prior; however, by 1945 they were increasing in intensity and picking up momentum. Currently, Indian soldiers have been sent off to locations within Europe and Asia to fight for the British army in the Second World War; this has only helped to ignite the calls for independence.

Debate within this committee will focus on the uprisings and rebellions, the process of state building, and intense, diplomatic communications with the powerful leaders of the day. 1945 is a time in India of significant change and unrest. Many philosophical debates were taking place on economic, social, political and geographical grounds. But these debates have substantive consequences; they will decide who has control of the land and resources within the country and under what circumstances. It is up to the delegates within this committee to ensure that they remain true to their characters, recognize the volatile situation they are in and take any and all necessary action to achieve their goals.

History:**Britain's Emergence:**

When the British arrived in India for the very first time in 1608, via their East India Company (EIC), India was ruled by the Mughal Emperors. The Mughal Emperors were the minority Muslim rulers that ruled most of northern India from the early 16th to the mid-18th century (Mughal dynasty, 2017). Although the EIC traded in cotton, silk, tea and opium for most of the 17th century, they began to take control of large amounts of land in 1757 (Szczepanski, 2017), and established a military dominance within the region (Marshall, 2011). It was due to this dominance, combined with the disintegrating power of the Mughal Dynasty, that they eventually overthrew the Mughal Dynasty in 1858 (Szczepanski, 2017), and established themselves as the de facto rulers of India.

1919 to 1945:

By 1919, the British had become deeply entrenched in Indian society with their power, and had implemented far reaching changes and reforms. Many of these changes were beneficial, such as introducing the railway system after the industrial revolution, providing large capital investments into infrastructure, canals and irrigation works, ships, and mining, and integrating India into the world economy (Kaul, 2011). However, many of the reforms targeted core Indian beliefs and values. For example, the British banned Sati, the Hindu practice of burning a woman with her husband when he died. They also introduced a dual policy in education, which discouraged the prevalent system of native education and gave importance to the English language. The effect of these changes, and



the general criticism of Indian customs and traditions, was to create an inferiority complex in the Indian people, which slowly began to give way to the idea of revolt (Holistic Thought, n.d.).

Particularly after 1918, nationalism was on the rise (Trueman, 2015). Even though the Government of India Act was introduced in 1919, giving Indians the right to vote, it was only a very small percentage of the population who actually benefited, roughly five percent (Trueman, 2015). Because the reforms were introduced at a very slow pace and spread even more slowly, they only added fuel to the fire by creating inequality, and various protests and rebellions started breaking out in different parts of the country (Trueman, 2015). The British were resolved to do all they could to quash the rebellions, but things got out of hand in the Massacre of Amritsar, where 379 unarmed protesters were shot dead by British soldiers (Trueman, 2015). Although the officer that commanded the troops was allowed to resign his commission, many Indians felt that he was let off easy and that the British government essentially sanctioned murder (Trueman, 2015). Due to such reasons, Indians began to join various political parties that offered them hope of a better India.

World War II:

It was during World War II that the possibility of an end to British rule became clearer. At this time, the Indian National Congress declared that if Britain wanted India's co-operation, it must leave India (GatewayforIndia, n.d.). While the British refused, Indian government officials began resigning from their posts, which put an increasing amount of manpower burden on the British administration (Ibid.).

As the British leaving India was becoming an actual possibility, the Muslim Indians felt the need to establish their own political footing in an area where they felt they would soon become a visible minority. The Muslim League offered support to the British war effort and hundreds of Muslim soldiers signed up to fight alongside the British army in Japan (British India, n.d.). It was during this time that Muslim League introduced the concept of Muslim separatism amongst the array of debates that were going on regarding the future of India (British India, n.d.).

Current Affairs:

Politics:

Over the years, various parties have been created in India that call for different types of reform within the country. We will be looking at the parties which are largest and most prominent in the country.

Indian National Congress:

The Indian National Congress, one of the main vehicles for nationalist activity, argues for a unitary state, with a strong centre and without British rule (How the Partition of India happened – and why its effects are still felt today, 2017). Mahatma Gandhi and



Jawaharlal Nehru are leaders of the Congress who use various means to revolt against British rule. Gandhi started to persuade his followers to use non-violent protests such as sit-down strikes, refusal of work, refusal to pay taxes, etc. (Trueman, 2015). The British were unable to react with strong force, as they knew their gradually declining level of support in the country would make them seem like bullies (Trueman, 2015). Gandhi began his civil disobedience campaign by breaking the law which stated that only the government in India could manufacture salt (Trueman, 2015). He led a 250 mile long salt march to the sea and started to produce his own salt, which eventually led to his arrest. The Indian National Congress aims for a free united India, without British rule, while protecting the rights of minorities.

Muslim League:

Muslims were British India's largest religious minority, at twenty-five percent of its population (Ansari, 2017). It was under imperial rule that they had grown accustomed to having their minority status protected (Ibid.). However, when the call for independence in India started, Muslims began to question whether or not their rights would still be protected. The Muslim League was created in 1906 to represent Indian Muslims and safeguard their rights, as many felt they wanted a separate platform to represent their views (GatewayforIndia, n.d.). Initially, the League was encouraged by the British as it was favourable to their rule (Muslim League, n.d.). But ever since the organization adopted self-government for India as one of its goals in 1913, the British have viewed it as a threat (Muslim League, n.d.). It was during the 1940s that the League wanted a separate nation for Indian Muslims, because it feared that an independent India would be dominated by Hindus (Muslim League, n.d.). Before the British arrived, Muslims had been ruling a significant part of the subcontinent for centuries, and the withdrawal of the British threatened their protected position within a Hindu-majority area. The Muslim League was headed by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who led the struggle to divide India into Hindu and Muslim states, as he felt this would give Muslims the platform to voice their opinions and form a country based on Islamic principles.

Economics:

It must be noted that the economic conditions of India were dependant on how Britain managed the financial affairs of the state. Trade played a huge part in the economy, as India was the perfect market for British goods and services, while also providing resources that were not available in Britain (Kaul, 2011). Furthermore, India provided a huge standing army at no real cost to the British taxpayer (Kaul, 2011). Even though many of the reforms that the British brought were beneficial to the Indian economy, it is important to note that average Indians were left poorer and more prone to famines due to high taxation (Kaul, 2011). The British destabilized cropping patterns and drained Indian revenues in order to pay for an expensive bureaucracy in London, and to finance an army that was beyond India's defence needs (Kaul, 2011). For these reasons and others, India's



economy is in a severely weakened state. At the same time, Britain is not as economically strong as it once was due to its participation in World War II. Britain's weakness creates an opening for a power shift within India, but is it right to take advantage of this opportunity? That will be up to you and your fellow delegates to decide.

Religion:

There are various religions with a significant presence in India. Religion is deeply entrenched within the various cultures and traditions that are practiced by Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, among others. With this said, it is important to note that India's society has not been devoid of religious violence. Intercommunity killings between Hindus and Muslims were a permanent feature of the Indian political scene beginning in the 1900's (Claude, 2007). Whether it was an attack on Muslims by Hindus in the villages of Shahabad, Gaya and Patna, or an attack by Muslims upon Hindus in Kohat, this form of violence was normalized even before calls for independence started (Claude, 2007). Many attribute this tension to the divide and rule philosophy of British colonialism, which strategically empowered minority groups to act as loyal deputies and rule over the majority of the conquered country. However, the killings were not only caused by inter religious tensions; there were various caste and class killings as well, which especially victimized the lowest caste in Hindu tradition, known as the "*Dalit*" or "untouchables" (Claude, 2007). Delegates must keep in mind these sectarian issues while debating and come up with solutions to keep religious violence at bay.

Guiding Questions:

Delegates within this committee will be required to conduct extensive research on their characters as well as consider the following topics of discussion:

1. Independence from Britain:

- a. Do delegates want Britain to leave India? If so, what will the economic, political and social implications of this decision be, and how will the delegates act in order to ensure that they accomplish this in the most peaceful manner?

2. Partition:

- a. Do delegates want India to be split into multiple states? If so, what will the economic, political, social and geographical aspects of the new states(s) look like? This is not a simple question; delegates must consider how the people will be divided, who will get what resources, who will be the rulers/heads of state, what type(s) of government will be established, and many more questions.

3. The International Sphere:

- a. Regardless of the route delegates choose to take, it is important to consider what the position of India will be within the international community. How will relations with other countries be dealt with if Britain is not representing



Indian interests on the international platform? If a new state is created, how and when will it gain recognition as a state by organizations such as the United Nations? Delegates will also have to consider the various treaties they were party to while under British rule, whether or not they want to be a part of them still, or if they want to sign new ones with other countries/organizations. This is particularly important while considering trade, as India still has natural resources and a strategic geographical location which make it an ideal trading partner.

Character List:**Jawaharlal Nehru:**

Nehru is a lawyer in India who joined the Indian National Congress in 1919. He is inspired by Gandhi and follows in his footsteps. He believes in independence from British rule and opposes the Muslim League's insistence of dividing India on the basis of religion. The delegate portraying this character should advocate for a unified India and work towards removing the British from India.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah:

Jinnah is a lawyer in India who initially was part of the Indian National Congress. He joined the Muslim League in 1913 and has been elected its President since 1916. He believes that a separate homeland for Muslims is the only way to secure Muslim traditions and protect their political interests. Jinnah was very suspicious of the British, including the Mountbattens, and seeks to remove their influence from India entirely. This delegate should advocate for a separate homeland for Muslims, while acknowledging that minorities will be protected and given their due rights.

Mahatma Gandhi:

Gandhi is a religious leader in India who has studied law and is part of the Indian National Congress. He is known to carry out non-violent independence movements against British rule and is a believer in Indian independence. He is also an opponent of Jinnah, as he sees the creation of a Muslim state as counterproductive to achieving racial harmony. The delegate portraying this character should lead the struggle for an independent and unified India, free from British rule and inclusive of all religions, sects and cultures.

Allama Iqbal:

Allama Iqbal is a philosopher and poet. He uses his poetry to spread the idea of Islamic nationhood among the Muslims of India, and tells them about the anti-Muslim propaganda of the West. He supports Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his point of view and is a supporter of the Muslim League. The delegate portraying this character should encourage dialogue between Muslims and encourage them to be united in their quest for independence from Britain.

**Sheikh Mujibur Rahman:**

Rahman is a prominent Bengali political figure. In 1940 he joined the 'All India Muslim Students Federation' and was elected councillor for a term of one year. In 1943 he became a member of the 'Bengal Muslim League'. The delegate portraying this character is in favour of partition to create a separate state for Muslims. This delegate will be in favour of the Muslim League and will support Muhammad Ali Jinnah and his close allies.

Fatima Jinnah:

Fatima Jinnah is the sister of Muhammad Ali Jinnah and is in favour of partition to create a new state. She is a social activist who promotes women's health, education and political presence. The delegate portraying this character will support Muhammad Ali Jinnah in his efforts for independence and partition, while also focussing on the socioeconomic well being of the people they affect, especially women. This delegate will attempt to secure a separate homeland for Muslims and will ensure that all minorities are given their due rights in the process.

Viceroy Mountbatten:

Mountbatten is the Viceroy of British India. He has been appointed by the British crown with a mandate to oversee British withdrawal from India. He works towards collaborating with leaders of the Indian National Congress and Muslim League to ensure a fair and easy withdrawal of the British presence, but not all are accepting of his help. This delegate's aim will be to ensure the safe and smooth exit of Britain from India, on terms that remain favorable to the British, while making sure that India remains unified in the aftermath.

Edwina Mountbatten:

Edwina Mountbatten is the wife of Lord Mountbatten. She is the Vicereine of India and is known affectionately by the people as Lady Mountbatten. During World War II she served as President of the London Division of the British Red Cross, so she has extensive experience in charity and relief work. The delegate portraying this character will be deeply concerned with the state of the poor and helpless in India.

Hari Singh:

Hari Singh is the Dogra (Maharajah) ruler of Jammu and Kashmir since 1925. His reign is marked with complex political events and conspiracies. The delegate portraying this character should be a fair ruler to people from all religions in the state - most importantly Hindus and Muslims. While historically he played a neutral role in the debate surrounding Indian unity, note that Singh was eventually forced to take a side when partition took place. This delegate should be in favor of the British leaving India, but the main focus should be on maintaining power and wellbeing in Jammu and Kashmir.

**Tara Singh:**

Tara Singh is an advocate for Sikh rights against the dominant Hindus, Muslims, and British. He believes in increasing the rights and privileges of the Sikh community by working for Sikh religious and political integrity. The delegate portraying this character will be closely involved with Gandhi in his civil disobedience movements, and may remain neutral on whether or not India should partition or remain a unified state. The delegate's main aims should be to preserve, highlight, advocate and fight for the rights of the Sikh community.

Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi:

Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilvi is a Sufi Islamic scholar and reformer. He is a writer, poet, Sufi mystic and jurist. He is deeply religious and believes that India is the homeland for Muslims. Bareilvi is notorious for being an opponent of the Indian independence movement, arguing that the British should continue their rule in India, as their government does not impose any restrictions or prohibitions against any religious group and because their rule has been beneficial for the Indian economy and society. Bareilvi believes that Gandhi is not a credible leader for India as he is not Muslim, and hence will not be able to represent the rights of Muslims.

Parkash Singh:

Parkash Singh is a famous Sikh and a Havildar (Sergeant) in the British Indian Army. He was the recipient of the Victoria Cross during World War Two. The delegate portraying this character may be neutral in the debate of India's independence from Britain, as Singh is technically loyal to both sides. This character has had many close experiences with war, and will therefore caution the committee against actions which could lead to outbreaks of violence or unrest. Nonetheless, in the event of conflict, Singh's understanding of military strategy would prove useful.

Liaquat Ali Khan:

Liaquat Ali Khan is a barrister, democratic political theorist and leading member of the Muslim League. The delegate portraying this character should support Muhammad Ali Jinnah, as Khan is in support of British withdrawal from India and is an advocate of a separate state for Muslims. However, his political philosophy is also slightly Westernized, as he emphasizes belief in democracy and its institutions, especially representation in Parliament.

Bhulabhai Desai:

Bhulabhai Desai is an Indian independence activist, lawyer and supporter of Gandhi. He is an active member within the Indian National Congress and is in support of British removal from India. The delegate portraying this character is in support of a unified India, believing this to be possible if Muslims and Hindus are given equal representation.

**Govind Ballabh Pant**

Govind Ballabh Pant is a lawyer and Hindu activist within the Indian National Congress. He has been a part of Gandhi's salt march and civil disobedience movements for which he has been imprisoned. His views on a separate state for Muslims are basically neutral, and one of his main aims is to establish Hindi as the official language within India. The delegate portraying this character is a supporter of Gandhi and Nehru and should work towards removing the British from India.



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