The Arab League

Chairs: Sibani Polce and Ryan Hou
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Dear Delegates,

My name is Sibani Polce and I’ll be one of your two chairs for HMUNC XI Arab League. Along with my co-chair Ryan Hou, I am very excited to chair this committee. I am a high school sophomore and I am have gotten very involved with MUN this past year. As a member of this committee you will be immersed in current issues in the regions of the Middle East and Northern Africa. The issue(s) on this committee's agenda reflect those faced by the modern day Arab League. Picking this Committee was a smart choice as by the end of it, you will hopefully have a better knowledge of the situation in the Middle East and Northern Africa parts of the world.

It’s my greatest pleasure to welcome you to this year’s HMUNC and I hope we all have a fun, yet serious, time. This year will be my second HMUNC, but my first as a chair; last year I was one of you, a delegate! This year HMUNC will be better than ever and I hope you do enjoy your time in the committee. It will be your job to keep up with the current news and times. Also come prepared with knowledge on your position and that of others; this will be immensely helpful.

Best Wishes,

Sibani Polce
Dear Delegates,

My name is Ryan Hou, and I will also be chairing for HMUNC XI Arab League this year. As a junior in Herricks, I have gained a lot of experience over the past several years participating actively in Model UN Club activities as the Agenda Chair, as well as travelling to Washington DC for WAMUNC as a freshmen. Given plenty of practice, I have become significantly familiar with the routines of MUN sessions, and I hope to impart my experiences to everyone at the conference.

I would assume that a lot of you decided to take part in HMUNC XI to not only earn extra credit for your social studies classes, but more importantly try to win an award to put on your resume. That sounds like a great idea! This evidently leads to the question: how can I receive recognition from the chair? Having participated in HMUNC in the last two years, I can assure you that participation is of utmost necessity for my excellent co-chair Sibani and I to see that you’re qualified. Furthermore, we would be especially excited if you can come up with creative ideas and solutions that aren’t repetitions of other people’s opinions. We also love to see you guys taking stances on particular topics based on your country’s positions, constantly creating proposals and passing bills.

Keeping all of this in mind, I wish you success in the conference today, and I know already that our Arab League conference will be exciting and intriguing!

Best Wishes,

Ryan Hou
How to use the guide:

This background guide is for you to have a better understanding of the topics before going into debate. This guide contains background information, history, current international situations, and useful data that you can use to your advantage in debate and to be well-informed about your positions. Think of this background guide as your lifeline for this committee. In addition to using this guide, it is recommended that you do some outside research on your respective country, making sure to include specific initiatives that are relevant to topics. We do ask that you stay true to the position of the nation you have been assigned. Position papers are a staple of the MUN process. A position paper is a written summary about how your country fits into the discussion of the committee.

Position papers may seem intimidating, especially if you’ve never written one. Position papers in a nutshell should include a brief introduction and a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed in committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions. These papers should only be around one page in length - get right to the point but do not only include only facts or only opinions. You will be required to write two position papers for this committee, one focusing on Syria and one focusing on Yemen. For these you can talk about the refugee crisis, in either or both, but the main topic of your position papers should be Syria and Yemen. Please use of MLA 8 format if citing outside sources while writing your positions papers and you can do so easily through either easybib or noodletools (if you have an account). A favorable position paper should follow this format:
Paragraph 1:

➢ Overall background on your country’s position on the topic

➢ Citations from any major documents such as the UN Charter or other treaties that are relevant to your country’s position and the topic being discussed during committee. (Not required but recommended)

➢ Explain why this issue is controversial to this committee and the global community - examples such as statistics are appropriate here

Paragraph 2:

➢ How the issue affects your country;

➢ How your country's policies correlate to the issue and your country’s justification for these policies;

➢ Quotes from your country’s leader on the issue;

➢ Statistics/examples to backup your country’s position on the issue;

➢ Actions taken by your government in regards to the issue;

➢ Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;

➢ UN actions that your country supported or opposed;

Paragraph 3:

➢ What your country believes should be done to address the issue (what actions would your country like the global community to take to address this issue);

➢ What your country would like to accomplish in the committee’
Notice to all delegates: *In order to receive an award you are required to write 1 position paper which address, analyze, and attempt to bring forth a solution to both issues. However, we ask that you do not exceed a 2 page writing limit if chose to one position paper. Or you can write 2 separate positions papers addressing each issue independently.

What to do and expect in Committee (the basics):

**Parliamentary Procedure**

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<th>BASIC MODEL UN PROCEDURAL RULES</th>
<th>REQUIRED TO PASS</th>
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<td>A motion to set the speakers time constraints or changes the amount of time each delegate has to speak.</td>
<td>Simple majority vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A motion to open the speakers list allows delegates to sign up to speak. At some conferences a motion to close the speakers list closes the list for the remainder of the session or topic. However, at most Model UN conferences the speakers list can be opened and closed multiple times. This motion requires an immediate vote.</td>
<td>Simple majority vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegates propose a motion to suspend debate for the purpose of holding a caucus. If you move to suspend the meeting, be sure to specify the purpose and the amount of time.</td>
<td>Simple majority vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A motion to adjourn meeting ends the committee session until the next session, which might be the next year’s conference, or after lunch or dinner.</td>
<td>Simple majority vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A motion to adjourn debate (also known as motion to table debate) is not the same as a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rather, it is used to table, or put on hold, all of the work that the committee has completed on a particular topic. At some Model UN conferences you can return to this topic later, while at others the topic cannot be.</td>
<td>Two-thirds majority vote</td>
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A delegate makes a motion to close debate in order to move the committee to a vote, usually when the delegate has made his or her country’s position clear and there are enough draft resolutions on the floor.

A point of order is used when a delegate believes the chair has made an error in the running of the committee. The Delegate should only specify the errors they believe were made in the formal committee procedure, and may not address the topic being discussed.

A point of inquiry (also known as a point of parliamentary procedure) can be made when the floor is open (i.e. when no other delegate is speaking) in order to ask the chairperson a question regarding the rules of procedure.

A delegate may raise a point of personal privilege in order to inform the chairperson of a physical discomfort he or she is experiencing, such as not being able to hear another delegate’s speech.

A delegate raises a point of information in order to pose a question to a speaker during formal debate. The speaker chooses whether or not to yield his or her time to points of information.

A delegate makes an appeal to the chair’s decision when he or she feels the chairperson has incorrectly decided a point or motion. At some conferences, this formal challenge must be made in writing. The appealing delegate speaks and the chairperson defends himself or herself before the vote.

Committee will be fast paced with quick updates from crisis, a fast pace to reaching resolutions, to all issues, and a foundation of instability that needs to be resolved. There are a few
different versions of Committee that you will be in, while participating in HMUNC XI. The following will the most common times during your time in committee.

First is Moderated Caucus, or formal debate. Formal debate includes a specific time for talking on the issue. This also requires a specific speaking time for the delegates. During this debate, Delegates will have the chance to voice their personal opinions (as their countries) to the rest of the League, on the topic at hand.

The other and most common time during committee in the Unmoderated Caucus (unmod for short). During this time, delegates will do many things from working on directives/resolutions to forming alliances within the League. This will be a time in which you can move freely about the room and chat with other delegates, as well as communicate with your chairs, about any questions you may have.
History of the Arab League:

The Arab League, as the name suggests, is the committee that brings together the Arab nations of the world. It is an organization that pursues the goals and interests of these nations while conserving the “unifying factors as common spiritual values, a similar unique history, and a timeless civilization”\(^1\). The League is composed of 22 states, stretching from countries in North Africa to the Middle East. This includes its founders Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan (renamed Jordan), Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and sixteen other members that joined continually over the latter part of the 20th century. Originally founded on March 22, 1945, the Arab League’s purpose is to solve political disputes, develop local economies, and project the influence of its league members beyond their respective regions. However, when the state of Israel was established in 1948, another priority of the League became removing the Jewish state and creating Palestine as an independent nation from that of Israel. Over the years, this has taken the form of economic embargoes as well as military intervention. Even to this day, the Arab League refuses to recognize Israel’s status as a country.

\(^1\) “Introduction to the Arab League.” League of Arab States in Washington, D.C.- USA,
In the present, the Arab League faces numerous issues that need to be resolved. In the past they have sought to fight the ongoing battles of terrorism, their economic instability, national identity, social welfare and the healthy living conditions, each of which achieving certain degrees of success. However, the League has received its fair share of criticisms for its lack of governance, the backing of autocratic and corrupt rulers/governments, and an inefficiency at achieving results.

It is your job as a part of this league to ensure that the league accomplishes its goals and to prove to the world that the League can protect the independence of Arab countries, maintain Arab peace and security, and achieve inter-Arab cooperation in economic, social and cultural issues. While this is certainly a complex issue, understanding the background of it will prove to be useful for all of you to make the League move forward in the future.

**Structure and Organization of the Arab League**

The greatest body in the League is the Council, which is comprised of representatives of member states; each member state in the council has one vote, regardless of size. The council meets twice a year, in March and September, and occasionally holds special sessions at the request of two members. The Council controls and coordinates the activities of the league, often voting to settle the final disputes between members or decide on the future course of actions taken by the League on international issues.

The Council also has seven special committees, which are meant to focus on “close cooperation” regarding the political, economic, communications, cultural, legal, social welfare, and health of the region. Presidency of the Council is rotated among the member states.
While the administrative body of the League is the Council and the specialized ministerial councils, the executive body of the League is the Secretary General. The Secretary General, appointed by two-thirds majority of the League, is responsible for implementing the decisions taken by the Council. He is supported by several Assistant Secretary Generals and a staff crew. Currently, the Secretary-General of the League is Ahmed Aboul Gheit. He also carries on the role of a head diplomat and is the spokesmen for the interests of the League as a whole.

The principles that must be held important to the Arab League is equality among Member States (countries), to maintain sovereignty of Member States (the right to dictate activities in your own countries), to preserve the principle of non-intervention, peaceful settlement of disputes, and mutual assistance.

For the purpose of this Model UN session, we will be simulating a session at the Council, where all nations of the League is able to participate in the discussion of solving various problems that plagues the the region. Now we will be introducing some of these issues almost universally faced by these Arab nations.

**Current Issues:**

**The Political Instability/Fragility of the Region:**

Many countries in the Arab League suffer from political instability. For many of your governments, this is a result of ever-continuing terrorism, economic shocks, plummeting oil prices, and the identity crisis in the
changing world we live in today. Could it be proven that it’s linked back to colonialism and later the Cold War? Yes. Some states were bolstered to be stable and their counterparts were undermined into becoming unstable. ²

1. Century-old states are more stable today

Older states are more stable

In this map, the countries are divided into three groups, fully formed states by 1900 and most stable: Turkey, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt and Kuwait, some 19th century political precedent: Oman, United Arab Emirates, and Qatar and the last post-1900 state creation and least stable: Libya, Syria, Iraq. Jordan, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

Regime Change since WWII

This map identifies regime changes and political continuity has existed in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, and Qatar. Violent regime changes after World War II occurred in

² Danforth, Nick. "Four maps that explain the chaos of the Middle East." The Washington Post
Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Iran, Syria, Iraq and Israel.

**The Cold War Shadow**

The Cold War shadow still impacts the region in terms of the instability. Pro-Soviet countries like Libya, Syria, and Iraq are unstable currently and Pro-Western countries like Saudi Arabia, Oman, UAE, and Jordan are stable.

In the early 1950’s the tables turned and the Europeans were no longer in control of the region. One prime example was Egypt under its new ruler Gamal Abdel Nasser who championed “Arab socialism” and “Pan-Arab unity”. Soon other Arab leaders took after Nasser and in Libya, Lieutenant Muammar el-Qaddafi took power. In Iraq and Syria “military officers [arose,] espousing the Baathist (“renaissance”) philosophy — a quasi-socialist form of Pan-Arabism.” These states, just like Egypt, rejected Western government influence and were frequently supported by the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Since the end of the Cold War in 1991, most of these countries remained allies of Russia until the Arab Spring, Please note that Egypt and Jordan have made treaties with Israel that has led to their allegiance with the United States over Russia.

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The Arab Spring

In 2011, the world witnessed the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring was a time of uprisings that attempted by the Arab people to overthrow their governments and to bring freedom to their societies in order to live in dignity and democracy. December, 2010, the protests started in Tunisia, and then in 2011 spread to Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. There were many results of the Arab Spring, in not only the affected countries, but others as well. Royal families were able to keep the Arab Spring from leading to regime change such is true for Morocco, and Jordan, as well the Gulf states, such as the UAE⁴.

⁴ BBC Staff. "Arab Spring: 10"
The Arab Spring highlighted the status of the powerhouse, the United States, in the Middle East. To a certain extent, the US lost its foothold within the Middle East. Other results include a greater divide between the Sunni and Shia Muslims, Iraq being a victor, and the kurdish population reaping benefits due to their position within northern Iraq. One result that is worth mentioning is the situation of the Women in these countries, many have been publicly assaulted and abused sexually, especially in Egypt.

Instability in the Arab region of the world can be attributed to many things. The Instability of the region is a result of many things, the Colonial Age, the Cold War, and Changing Regimes are a piece of it. In this league it is our job to restore stability to the region - but there are specific flash points that cause the rest of the region to be unstable.

**Case Study 1: Syria**

Syria has been in a devastating civil war for over six years and its origins can be traced to many of the underlying challenges to stability throughout the region: Sunni-Sh’ia conflict; lack of political representation for large portions of the population (in this case the majority Sunnis) as well as drought and economic inequality. In all the war has taken 400,000 lives and displaced millions more both within Syria and to neighboring countries (Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Iraq). In this league it will be our job to address not only the conflict, but related issues, like the refugee crisis. This also applies to Yemen, our second case study. Not only will you face the issue of civil war reparations but you
will face many issues that branch off of the civil war such as the displacement of millions of people. (Picture)\textsuperscript{5} It is important that one recognizes the Presence of ISIS who is not supported by anyone else, and is simply a terrorist group who operates within Syria and Iraq \textsuperscript{6}. However, insurgent groups in many countries in the region have sworn their allegiance\textsuperscript{6}.

In April of this past year (2016) officials convened in “Geneva… amid cautious optimism that the regime and the opposition may finally be ready to discuss a deal.”\textsuperscript{7} The regime is in no position to be making decisions, which is why the League must. Assad has handed control over other countries, such as Russia and Iran.\textsuperscript{7} The role of Syria in the Arab dominated Middle East has been one to never think twice on. They were involved in helping Lebanon during their fifteen year civil war, and Syria has “acted as spoiler, string-puller or savior in the conflicts that ravaged its neighbors”\textsuperscript{7}.

However, despite its heroic past Syria no longer plays the hero of influence for the region. Instead, it is be an influencer of instability \textsuperscript{7}. Sadly, “Mr. Assad’s negotiators still consider the rebels “terrorists,” while the opposition insists that Mr. Assad, ‘the disease that struck Syria,’ must step aside immediately. The state over whose fate they’re haggling, however, appears beyond salvaging.”\textsuperscript{7}. Syria has been removed from political, and economical debates for years, in 2011 the Arab League

\textsuperscript{5} “Syria's War: Who Is Fighting and Why.”
\textsuperscript{6} Laub, Zachary. ”The Islamic State.” Council of Foreign Relations
\textsuperscript{7} Cambanis, Thanassis. “Syria’s Future: A Black Hole of Instability.”
suspended their membership and imposed economic sanctions upon the country. Gulf states of the Middle East, have aided the opposition for a long time. Due the multiple sanctions placed upon the country, by others (The United States and The European Union) the economy is in disarray. (Picture) No matter who wins the battle for control over Syria, whether it be the opposition backed by the United States, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, or Assad’s regime, backed by Iran and Hezbollah, Syria is in a state of disarray and the cries for help must be answered by the Arab League.

**Recent Developments**

In the recent month there has been drastic changes in the Middle East. Turkey and Russia, have banded together to help Syria and it seems with the Russian help, there is light at the end of the tunnel for Syria. Not only is there a brighter future for Syria, but recently Iraqi forces, have cut off important routes of for the Islamic State (ISIS). The forces that once ruled Mosul, now have no way of escaping, and the forces have also cut off their reach to other cities, and areas that were of importance. Recent developments in the Middle East have shaken them to the core and unexpected things push them forward. In front of all of us there is change, change that no one thought was possible, it’s the time in which the impossible becomes probable.

**Case Study 2: Yemen**

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8 Laub, Zachary, and Jonathan Masters. "Syria's Crisis and the Global Response."

9 Korzun, Peter. "Drastic Changes in the Middle East Happen Unbelievably Fast."
Yemen, a country on the Arabian Peninsula, whose borders touch the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea as well as the Red Sea, is a country facing an internal crisis. Once under attack from a neighbor and fellow Arab State, Saudi Arabia. The Campaign against the country is lead by Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country’s defense minister. For the defense minister, people gossip that Yemen, is his Vietnam. There is reason to believe that Saudi Arabia is conducting such aerial attacks because of security purposes, especially with the two sharing a southern Saudi border. Yemen has yet to solve its issues despite the halted attacks.

Yemen is a divided country, geographically and politically. In terms of geography the country has been divided into the Northeast and Southeast. The Northeast is occupied by the Shiites, and the Southeast by the Sunnis. Not only do these religious divides occur in the geography, but most of the population of Yemen, lives to the West. One of Al Qaeda's branches in the Arabian Peninsula had been in operation since 2009 and the US carried airstrikes on the country for years, in retaliation. Yet when we look back even further there were divisions, and in fact a South Yemen once existed in 1990. Divisions amongst people, countries and politics all played a role in the crisis in Yemen, and for you to solve it you must first understand who is apart of it.

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10 Purple, Matt. "Why Saudi Arabia is Hammering Yemen." The National Interest
11 "MAPPING CHAOS IN YEMEN." The New York Times
There are two sides to the war, the fiercely loyal people to President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and the new movement of the Houthis. The Houthis are a banded together group of rebels who initially arose in 2004 under the control of Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi. As a group they are against Sunni Islam and practice Shiite Islam. Since 2000 they are second deadliest group of rebels/terrorists just below Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). Saudi Arabia, began its airstrikes against the country in hopes of restoring the Yemeni Government run by Mr.Hadi, and driving the rebels out. Long supported, by Saudi Arabia’s number one known enemy Iran. Iran has provided them with training, arms and financing.

However, the US has tried to stop such supply ships. "There is a well-documented history of (Iranian) support for the Houthi, including in various State Department reports — money, weapons — support for a very long time," [said by] State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf. In the past the UN has called for an arms embargo against the group. As a group the Houthis entered Sanaa, a city in midwestern Yemen in September of 2014 and took control of it in January the following year. On the flip side, the loyalists, or those who support the current government, are considered the real power holders in the country internationally, by both the U.N and the U.S.

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12 Jamieson, Alastair. "Who Are Yemen’s Houthis and What Do They Want?"
13 Dorell, Oren. "Iranian Support for …"
14 “Yemen crisis: Who is fighting whom?” BBC
One of the only solutions in the works right now is a shaky cease fire between the Houthis and the government. While this is a temporary solution it cannot be the only solution there is. Any action by either side will explode into another bloodbath that will only end with more families being torn apart. Remember keeping the border between Yemen and its surrounding countries is major. Recently, crossing over Yemeni borders has proved to be difficult, and yet is imperative that the security is restored, since the rebels have previously responded to aerial attacks by launching rockets at Saudi towns on the border.

The Refugee Crisis:

As of today, a major issue plaguing the area is the refugee crisis and the human rights of those people. The countries surrounding Syria suffer from a population influx so great, it is traumatizing. These are people who flee because of the current situation in their home, consisting of rebel groups wanting their president to step down and others such as ISIS. And as it gets worse the number has risen greatly in the surrounding countries. In 2015, the number of refugees from Syria alone reached the one million benchmark and the number people internally displaced increased even more. Countries like Egypt, Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan host an overwhelming 95% of the Syrian refugees, leaving only about

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11 "What's Happening in Syria?" BBC Newsround,
15 "What's Happening in Syria?" BBC Newsround,
16 "UNHCR: Syrian refugees cross four million mark." AL JAZEERA
5% for the rest of the world to host. As of 2015 the Syrian population was displaced by at least 50% and only about 2.6% was offered resettlement globally.

Human Rights Violations:

These people suffer from social injustices and a lack of food. Refugees suffer from the worst kind of violations against humanity today. Specifically, there are two issues have risen out of the refugee crisis in the Middle East. First is the disturbing tendency to close doors to asylum-seekers. The second is the abuse of the little rights refugees possess. These abuses included intolerance, racism, xenophobia, violent aggression, and national and ethnic tension. The crimes committed against these people both at home and abroad are devastating and demonizing. In host countries, the refugees live in horrible conditions. The notion of safe zones as solutions has failed to provide proper protection and aid to asylum seekers. It is said that the United Nations General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, have focused not only on the deplorable revocation of rights for refugees, asylum seekers and the internally displaced, but they have focused on the roots of the violations as well. Not only do they worry about the roots of the issues but they also focus on the restriction of access these refugees and asylum seekers face and the violations of life, liberty and security rights. In most cases the refugees are subjected to abuse and violent attacks.

This crisis is exhausting for both the people and the governments involved. Innocent people suffer from heinous crimes and the governments involved come under overwhelming

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18 "Fact Sheet No.20"
pressure to both provide and secure the refugees in their citizens. If the crisis is not lessened soon, it will only get worse, and it will continue to test the morality and ability of modern civilization.

**Questions To Consider:**

➢ Is there a possible solution for the situations in both countries that would be peaceful?

➢ Is it in the League’s best interest to involve themselves with either one of these conflicts?
  
  ○ Do we (the League) chose to enter only one conflict or both?
  
  ■ If so , which side(s) do we (the League) support?

  ○ What is best for your country, and for the people of your country?

➢ Can your country award support to any affected people or groups of people?
  
  ○ How much and for how long?

➢ Do we want to involve outside powers, such as Western powers like the US and/or Britain?

➢ How do we remove the Houthis without angering their supporters?
  
  ○ Who supports who, regionally (countries) and internationally (the UN and its committees) )?

➢ How can we ensure the safety of refugees?

**Positions**

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19 “Country Profiles.” *BBC News*
The UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) provides a useful and an extensive breakdown on each country and their activities within those countries relating to multiple factors of life. Originally beginning its operations in 1969, it was first named the United Nation Fund for Population Activities, and has been in operation since, despite the name change.\(^\text{20}\)

**Algeria:** Once a colony of France it earned its independence in 1962. Algeria is a country on the Northern area of Africa, and most of the population resides near the northern coast. Algeria borders Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Mali, Niger, and Mauritania as well as the Mediterranean Sea. The Capital of Algeria is Algiers and their current President Abdelaziz Bouteflika took power in 1999. Algeria is also a very religiously dominated country, “Algerian Islamism has deep roots and a long pedigree of resistance, first to French imperialism and later to the authoritarianism fostered by the military regime.”\(^\text{21}\) Algeria has accepted Syrians into their lands, and supplied them with food, water, shelter, and clothing. However, Algeria has produced a certain reluctance in getting involved with the crisis in Yemen.

**Bahrain:** Bahrain is an island country in the Persian Gulf. One the first countries to ever discover oil in the MidEast, however, it hasn’t produced nearly as much as Kuwait and the Saudi Arabia. Bahrain is ruled by a Sunni king, and yet there is great tension between the Shia majority and the Sunni population. Yet, over the past few years, the people have been awarded increased


\(^{21}\) "Islamism in Algeria: A struggle between hope and agony."
freedom of expression and there has been an increase in human rights. Bahrain is also ready to commit ground forces to Syria if need be, in line with a US-led coalition to do so.

Comoros: Comoros is a series of islands off the Southeastern coast of the African Continent. Yet, one of the four major islands is still ruled by France, and another two declared unilateral independence in 1997. Descendants of Arabs, Malay immigrants and African people contribute to the ethnic mix of the country. Despite the ethnic diversity, the country suffers from low production of natural resources, there is also few exports, and money sent from abroad is relied upon heavily. As of 2014, Comoros has not received a single refugee into its borders. Comoros has seen a wave of violence arise due to a recent uptick in the activities of anti-immigration groups. Comoros has been accused for the arbitrary and unlawful deprivation of human life due to politically motivated killings and inhumane detention centers.

Djibouti: Djibouti is an African country that shares its borders with Somalia, Ethiopia, and Eritrea. It also touches the coast of the Gulf of Aden. Ports along the water- and it’s opening to Suez Canal in Egypt-provide both the largest income and employment in this relatively barren country. Due to its relative stability, the country is a hot spot for military bases, and it even hosts the largest American military base in the whole African Continent. Djibouti is home to a fleet of US F-16 fighter jets, stationed there to mainly protect the Americans is the south. One the topic of Yemen, Djibouti has accepted many Yemeni refugees, into the country.
Egypt: Egypt holds the wonders of the Great Pyramids, and is by far the largest Arab States in Northern Africa and the Middle East. Egypt has borders along Libya, Israel and Sudan. Egypt has changed politically- in the early 1950’s their president, Gamal Abdul Nasser was a spokesperson for Arab nationalism, whereas his successor made up with Israel and realigned with the Western powers. Egypt’s economy also heavily relies upon the agricultural business along the Nile River and tourism. Egypt mainly believes that Syria should be able to resolve the issue for themselves, thus keeping the national sovereignty intact.

Iraq: Iraq is a country headed by a Shia-led governments that have held the power since 2003, but they struggle to maintain their grasp on the country. In the country’s history there have been small reprieves from violence throughout the country. Iraq shares its borders with Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. Although they are the third largest oil reserve in the country their economy is shattered from decades of sanctions and conflict. Syria and Iraq are on shaky terms for many reasons, such as the disregard Syria has towards the funneling of insurgents across the border into Iraq. Yet, they try to be diplomatic towards each other. Despite their views on the Syrian crisis they also face a great deal of issues at home. One is the terrorism, or really the terrorist groups like ISIS. ISIS is the terrorist group the arose in the late 2000’s. As a country, Iraq faces a great presence of ISIS, as they have gained control of Mosul, and a great deal of land along the Syrian-Iraqi border. Due to their vast presence in the country the US has led a total of 11, 301 airstrikes in Iraq alone.
Jordan: Jordan is apart of the Hashemite Kingdom and bordered by Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Iran. Though it is small and produces very little natural resources it has played a big role in the crisis of the Middle East. Jordan is placed at the crossroads between the Christian and Muslim holy lands. It holds strong ties with the US and so far is the only other one-besides Egypt- to have made peace with Israel. Similar to Iraq’s stance, ties with Syria are weakening due to the excessive amount of refugees coming into the country. In fact, King Abdullah of Jordan says his country is at "boiling point" because of an influx of hundreds of thousands of have Syrian refugees.

Kuwait: Kuwait is small but powerful. It’s flanked by Middle East Powerhouses such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran. Kuwait sits at the of the gulf and is an oil rich country, because its massive amount of oil it’s one of the world’s richest countries per capita. Kuwait is a conservative Sunni Muslim state who is allied with the US, and yet they are remarkably known for their very open political system. However, there is tension that runs deep between the cabinet and parliament, and there are calls from opposing parties for a radical reform. Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah points out the world’s inaction towards the crisis in Syria would not lead to fruitful results for the Syrian people.

Lebanon: Lebanon is known for its mercantile history and high literacy rate. It is also known for its strategic yet complex location. Located with borders of Syria and Israel, it is a uniquely complex state. Lebanon has a vast ethnic makeup of Shia Muslims, Sunni Muslims, Christians and Druze as the main population groups, and it has also served as a refuge hub for
many minorities of the regions. Syrian refugees now equate to almost 20% of the Lebanese population, and now the Lebanese worry that a domestic conflict will be fought. Previously though, Lebanon has fought a series of proxy wars by aiding different warring groups within the countries. Lebanon is as invested into Syria as Syria is itself. Lebanon itself seems to hold title of a proxy war, being fought between Saudi Arabia and Iran. the two countries respective allies, Hezbollah and the Future Movement have exchanged, ridiculed, and criticized the other side after the other side has made moves in Yemen. Not only, is it a Proxy war for the two countries, but local factions have taken to their verbal battles. Similar to the Yemen crisis, Lebanon has become the fighting grounds for opposition and supports to fight each there rather than at home.

Libya: Geographically speaking, Libya is a desert land filled with oil, much like the rest of Northern Africa. Libya is bordered by Egypt, Tunisia, Chad, Algeria and the Mediterranean Sea. Their former leader, Colonel Gaddafi was executed in 2011, and since then there has been unrest within the country. Gaddafi was toppled after a forty year reign after armed rebel forces were back by Western countries. Libya recently has served as a springboard for an influx of refugees fleeing to Europe, and there have been heightened concerns about an Islamist militant force rising up. In 2011, fighting in the western areas of the country caused a mass population movement in Tunisia. As of December 2015, Libya has a total of 435,000 internally displaced people and around 30,000 refugees within their borders, however due to possible increase in violence these people may move elsewhere. Despite recent success in Libya in terms of defeating ISIS, they still remain, and Libya descends into further chaos. ISIS has regrouped in the country.
despite the loss of Surt. Named a “powder keg” of Northern Africa., and is a great concern to the US as ISIS has mentioned targeting US persons and interests in the future.

**Mauritania:** Mauritania is one of the newest producers of oil in Africa and it borders the Western Sahara, Mali, Senegal, and Algeria. There is a clear population divide as in the north are Arab-Berber and in the south Black Africans. Mauritania, was cradle of the Almoravid movement, which was the spread of Islam to the other parts of the region. Mauritania is also rich in minerals such as iron and ore. The Western powers see it as the perfect ally for fighting against the Islamist militancy in the Sahel Region. As of April 2016, there are roughly 50,000 refugees, who are of great concern, within the country. There are other populations of refugees as well, but many are in the Mali camp. Mauritanian diplomat Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, made a three day trip to Yemen last October. During this time he spoke and met with several representatives of the General People’s Congress, Ansarallah, Yemeni activists and foreign diplomats. In these meetings he expressed great concern about humanitarian worker access to the women and children who were caught in the crossfire, as well as the need for security and political arrangement to be made quickly.

**Morocco:** Morocco is the most northwestern African country. Morocco has coastlines along the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. It shares borders with the West Sahara and Algeria. Morocco once a French Colony, until 1956 when Sultan Mohammed became King. His successor, his son ruled for 38 long years and advocated for peace in the Middle East. Morocco is a mix of Arab, Berber, European and African influences. As of December 2015, there are
about 4,000 people of concern (a mix of refugees and other displaced people) to the UN, and many refugees within the country are Syrians or Yemenis.

**Oman:** Oman is the oldest independent state in the Arab world and it shares borders with the UAE, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia. Its land also touches the Arabian Sea. Oman fought against the British and Portuguese for influential purposes. However, despite their strong exterior, Oman has had its interior political struggles. In 2011, there were protests for governmental reforms and the following year the government cracked down on internet criticism. In October of this past year, Oman called out for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian crisis, pledging that it in no circumstances wanted to use force to remove the current Syrian Government. Oman and Syria tend to keep in touch with each other and they work side by side despite the situation of Syria right now.

**Palestine:** A population around 11 million Palestinians is split between Palestine and the surrounding Arab regions. Bordered by Israel, Egypt and Syria, Palestine is recognized as a state by the League, but not by much of the world. At the Gaza Strip, which now controlled by Hamas, it touches the Mediterranean Sea and in West Bank they have the West Bank River. To this very day, there are still conflicts over the holy land of Jerusalem. In March of 2015, Palestine wholeheartedly backed the Yemeni government, pledging support to the Arab coalition meant to stop the rebel forces of known as the Houthis.

**Qatar:** Qatar had a history of being one of the poorest countries in the Middle East but now
it is one of the riches. Qatar has borders with the country Saudi Arabia. Qatar uses its income to from heavy gas reserves to further itself country both regionally and globally. Qatar supports groups like Hamas in Gaza and Islamist groups in Egypt and Syria. Not only does Qatar face international criticism for such support of terrorists, but it is also reprimanded for its issues at home, like treatment of migrant workers and how they spend their oil funds. In January, leaders from Yemen and Qatar met and discussed bilateral relations; Qatar pledged to continue to resolve the issue in Yemen, while still remaining loyal to the Yemeni Government.

Saudi Arabia: As a kingdom, Saudi Arabia is a main player in the Arab World. Surrounded by UAE, Oman, Yemen and Iraq, Saudi Arabia has the prestige recognition of the birthplace of Islam and a colossal oil producer. Saudi Arabia is well-known for its support of Wahhabi Islam with practices such as public beheadings and many restrictions on women. Many Western nations are dependent on Saudi Arabia for their oil exports. Saudi Arabia has been known for its strong political and martial stance. Saudi Arabia leads an eight Arab state coalition to restore the power of Mr. Hadi within Yemen, and in hopes of crushing the rebel forces.

Somalia: Once a British Protectorate and an Italian colony, Somalia was created in 1960. It touches the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea. It also borders the countries of Djibouti, Kenya, and Ethiopia. Freedom that ended with President Siad Barre, a military leader who ruled the country for over 20 years, has yet to be restored as after his removal the country collapsed into anarchy and has yet to come out of it. In 2012, an internationally backed government was instilled and took power over the country. Their future has brightened since then, but the new
leaders still face the issues of the Al-Qaeda-aligned Al-Shabab insurgent forces. Somalia and Yemen are separated only by a sea. Somalis first escaped terror in the country and moved to Yemen, and now many of them—and some Yemenis—take passage across the sea back to Somalia as discontent grows there.

フラグ: (Note for Delegates: Be aware of the split that occurred in 2011. Sudan does not represent South Sudan) Sudan is bordered, by Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, Eritrea, and Ethiopia. One of the major developments in this once large African country was the partition in 2011, in which residents of the South voted for independence. Since then the North (Sudan) and South Sudan have been fighting causing detrimental repercussions to the people. In 2012, Sudan saw no peaceful solution to the situation in Syria. Then in 2015, the country received a healthy sum of 2.2 Billion dollars for joining the Saudi and Qatari led coalition in Yemen.

フラグ: Syria has a past of conquerors, from the Romans to the Turks and the Mongols. They have been plagued by unrest for many years now. Once a French territory, Syria gained independence in 1946. The country is bordered by Lebanon, Iraq, Israel, and Jordan. Bashar al-Assad and his close knit circle have held onto power, but since 2011, civil war has gripped the country. The crisis in Syria has gotten both regional and international powers involved. As the first part to this league’s main focus on instability in the region, staying current with all recent developments and news is advised.
Tunisia: Home to the ancient city of Carthage and the great Hannibal, modern Tunisia was made a hub for the Mediterranean and was finally freed from the French in 1956. After that, it was lead by Habib Bourguiba, who founded the country on secular ideas, one of which was the emancipation of women. He ruled for three decades. Richer than its neighbors of Algeria and Libya, its agricultural sector is well-off, employing most of their workforce, while consistent tourism also brings in a large amount of revenue. Tunisia and Syria are in political silence right now, but there are Tunisian officers located in Syria, who are making conversation with Syrian officials.

United Arab Emirates: The UAE shares its borders with Saudi Arabia and Oman. The UAE has worked up it's way up the rungs of the Arab world ladder. Once seven separate states, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Qaiwain, the UAE has taken on a major role in the Arab world. Currently, they are an authoritarian government, who has very liberal practices. Practices such as the fact the government receives no income tax, no federal-level corporate tax, and the country’s GDP is only 19% taxing. The country also earn revenue from a great amount of tourism and trading. The government has also, opened voting to a greater population mass, after protests in 2011. The UAE has no conversations with Iran, probably due to their close relations with Saudi Arabia. The UAE has dedicated troops to Yemen, and as of June 2016, decided to pull them from the fighting. However, the troops were to remain there as a way to combat terrorism.
Yemen: Despite its history of being a crossroad for the African, Middle East and Asian worlds, Yemen is still a very new state. There are tensions between the North and the South of the country, and the tensions remerged in 2009, as the Houthis popped up and caused the deaths and displacements of many. Past President Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to resign due to many protests after the Arab Spring occurred in Tunisia and Egypt. Now, Yemen is a popular military base for Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, adding to its current instability. As the second piece to this leagues focus on instability, staying up to date with the crisis in Yemen, is advised.

**Terms and Diagrams:**

*Arab Nationalism:* Is a nationalist ideology celebrating the glories of Arab civilization, the language and literature of the Arabs, and calling for rejuvenation and political union in the Arab world.

*Pan-Arabism:* Also known simply as Arabism, this ideology focuses on the unification of North African and West Asian Countries. It is also closely related to Arab Nationalism.
Diagrams 1 & 2: Populations of Arab States as of 2015. Djibouti and Comoros have less than 1 million people, thus they are not imputed on the chart, and Palestine is not a recognized country by the world so there is no designated population for Palestine.

Diagrams 3 & 4: The population total for the Arab world is 392 billion people, and the previous charts were the breakdown of how many people are in each country. “Total population is based on the de facto definition of population, which counts all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. The values shown are midyear estimates.” Life expectancy in the region is about 71 years. “Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a newborn infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life.”

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Diagrams 5 & 6: The Gross Enrollment Ratio is the “total enrollment in primary education, regardless of age, expressed as a percentage of the population of official primary education age. GER can exceed 100% due to the inclusion of over-aged and under-aged students because of early or late school entrance and grade repetition.” For the Arab World the rate is about 97%. The GNI per capita is the “is the gross national income, converted to U.S. dollars using the World Bank Atlas method, divided by the midyear population. GNI is the sum of value added by all resident producers plus any product taxes (less subsidies) not included in the valuation of output plus net receipts of primary income (compensation of employees and property income) from abroad. GNI, calculated in national currency, is usually converted to U.S. dollars at official exchange rates for comparisons across economies ...” For the Arab world this is about $7,085.44 dollars.
Diagram 7 & 8: Gross Domestic Product, commonly known for it’s shorthand name GDP at “purchaser's prices is the sum of gross value added by all resident producers in the economy plus any product taxes and minus any subsidies not included in the value of the products. It is calculated without making deductions for depreciation of fabricated assets or for depletion and degradation of natural resources. Data are in current U.S. dollars. Dollar figures for GDP are converted from domestic currencies using single year official exchange rates. For a few countries where the official exchange rate does not reflect the rate effectively applied to actual foreign exchange transactions, an alternative conversion factor is used.” The GDP for the Arab world as of 2015, is 2.6 Trillion dollars.
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