

HIMUNC VII BACKGROUND GUIDE

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JCC: England



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the seventh iteration of the Henrico Invitational Model United Nations Conference. We want to thank you for joining us this year. As your chairs, we are committed to ensuring that this committee is a welcoming, approachable, and accepting environment for every delegate.

We are pleased to welcome you to the Joint Crisis Committee (JCC) simulation focusing on England's role in addressing two pivotal issues following World War II: "Internal Issues After WWII" and "India: Human Rights, and Civil Rights Movements." This guide will provide you with essential background information and context to help you better understand the historical context, key stakeholders, and possible actions you may take as delegates representing England during this critical period.

The HIMUNC VII Secretariat, chairs, and vice chairs have put a lot of effort into making a committee that is both engaging and engaging. If there are any questions, please refer to the dias below, and email your questions to the chairs, or our Under Secretary-General of Crisis Simulations, Sirjan Kaur. We hope to bring you an exciting and interactive committee, and we cannot wait to see you all at HIMUNC VII.

Best,

JCC: England Dias

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Background

The Anglo-Indian Wars, a series of battles that raged over the Indian subcontinent in the 18th and 19th centuries, were a watershed moment in colonial history.¹ The European colonial powers with the British East India Company as the dominant force put indigenous Indian nations and empires in trouble.

The Indian subcontinent was a patchwork of kingdoms, principalities, and empires in the mid-18th century, many of which had long held power. The Mughal Empire, once a great force, was in decline while European nations vied for supremacy to achieve economic and political dominance. The British East India Company, a trading company that later developed into a de facto colonial state, was in the vanguard of this colonial race. The

convergence of these forces laid the groundwork for the Anglo-Indian Wars.

The Anglo-Indian Wars may be divided into three major stages, each of which was distinguished by separate events that dramatically impacted India's political and geographical environment.

Topic One: Internal Issues After World War II: The Impact of the Anglo-Indian Wars on England

The Anglo-Indian Wars occurred after World War II. These battles' economic, political, and cultural developments led to the expansion of the British Empire and affected colonial India; they also had ramifications for England, notably in their colonial legacy.

Economic Consequences

The expenditure of maintaining a major military presence in India, paying for the Anglo-Indian Wars, and running the enormous colonial bureaucracy was a significant burden on the British economy.

The British East India Company's expansionist objectives required the recruitment and maintenance of a large army. This, of course, was incredibly expensive. The British government's financial resources were stretched by funding these military missions (including the procurement of armaments, supplies, and soldier deployments).

The shift of emphasis and resources to India also had an impact on the local economy of England. Funds that could have been used for domestic development, such as social programs and domestic infrastructure, were diverted to subsidize colonial operations. This diversion of

resources made it difficult to address important domestic concerns, including post-war rebuilding, healthcare, and education.

Political Challenges

The extended Anglo-Indian Wars, as well as the resulting human toll, fueled public anger and criticism towards the British government's colonial policy. Civil society, especially activists, authors, and intellectuals, began to voice concerns about the treatment of Indian subjects and questioned the ethics of British colonialism.

The public's mood was crucial in influencing postwar political decisions in the United Kingdom. The recognition of the economic and human consequences of imperialism, compounded by the Anglo-Indian Wars, spurred a policy change toward decolonization and handing independence to former colonies. The events

in India and the worldwide background of decolonization forced British officials to reevaluate the viability of a vast empire.

Social and cultural effects

British troops' and officials' experiences in India during the Anglo-Indian Wars had a significant impact on their ideas of the British Empire. Some began to doubt the morality and necessity of imperialism after witnessing the sufferings endured by both Indian citizens and the British military. This reflection helped shape a more critical appraisal of Britain's colonial activities and their consequences.

The British presence in India enabled thriving cultural interaction. Soldiers and administrators stationed in India frequently adopted Indian customs and food. This cultural fusion left an indelible mark on England's cultural environment. In the United Kingdom, for example, Indian

cuisine grew popular, resulting in the growth of Indian restaurants and a larger appreciation for Indian spices. This cultural exchange demonstrated the capacity of imperial encounters to shape the cultural identity of the colonial power.

Questions to consider

1. How did the Anglo-Indian Wars' economic pressure affect England's ability to handle critical internal economic difficulties and postwar reconstruction, and what could have been done differently to relieve this issue?
2. What particular financial tactics and policies did the British government use to support its colonial activities in India, and what other techniques might have been taken to limit the negative impacts on the British economy as a whole?

3. In what ways did rising popular dissatisfaction with British colonial practices result in real changes in postwar England's political environment relating to decolonization?
4. How did British troops' experiences in India during the Anglo-Indian Wars shape conceptions of the British Empire, its global position, and moral obligations? How may these findings have impacted later imperial policies?
5. What aspects of Indian rituals and food were accepted by the British in India, and how did this cultural exchange shape England's cultural environment?

**Topic Two: India's Path to Independence:
England's Role and the Impact on
International Relations**

Following World War II, England found itself in charge of a huge colonial empire, including India, where the public was thinking about an uprising for independence. England's post-war responsibilities included rebuilding its economy and dealing with internal issues, all while administering its colonial holdings.

The Anglo-Indian Wars laid the groundwork for the difficulties England would encounter in handling India's drive for independence.

England's Colonial Administration

Economic exploitation and political control were hallmarks of England's colonial administration in India. During World War II, resource exploitation and the deployment of Indian troops in the war effort worsened England's economic difficulties.

Policies such as the divide-and-rule approach were designed to preserve control by exploiting existing divides among Indian tribes.

The rising prominence of the Indian National Congress, which was actively pursuing India's independence, posed several threats to England's rule over India.

The administrative problems of managing a varied and huge colony with different linguistic, religious, and cultural communities were substantial.

Mahatma Gandhi rose to fame during India's freedom fight, calling for nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience.

His encounters with British colonial authorities, which included debates and protests, hindered England's reaction to the increasing movement for Indian independence. These encounters challenged England's efforts to keep control over India

and drove a reconsideration of colonial policy.

Recognizing the enormous support for the civil rights movement, England responded to Gandhi's campaigns with a mix of concessions and repression.

The Salt March and Quit India Movement revealed England's difficulties in coping with widespread mobilization and civil disobedience.

Human Rights and Colonial Interests in Balance

A balance arose as human rights issues gained prominence both domestically and internationally. While domestic opponents raised serious moral problems about the ethics of colonial rule, international pressure for human rights increased.

Violations of human rights such as censorship, political persecution, and

economic exploitation were common in this setting, which was closely related to British colonial control in India. The violations drew criticism from both domestic and foreign sources.

England's experiences in India during this period left a permanent imprint on how it conducted decolonization and human rights advocacy throughout its many colonies. The importance of international pressures calling for self-determination and upholding human rights as a worldwide norm cannot be overstated. They wielded considerable power, eventually challenging and altering England's imperial goals.

In light of this, it is clear that international pressure had a significant role in determining England's post-war colonial strategy. This pressure not only shaped England's approach towards its colonies, but it also obscured some internal issues and critics at times. The tension between

worldwide aspirations for self-determination, human rights, and England's colonial goals was a unique aspect of the country's postwar colonial strategy.

International Impact and England's Role

Recognizing the increased worldwide interest in the Indian independence movement, England sought international diplomacy actively in response.

During this time, the UN played an important role in resolving decolonization issues, putting pressure on England to grant India independence.

The historical events of England's participation in India's battle for independence have left a lasting impact on England's perspective of its colonial past and approach to international affairs.

Questions to consider

1. How did the economic strain resulting from World War II impact England's capacity to sustain its colonial administration in India, and what were the repercussions for India's economy during this period?
2. What were the fundamental components of England's "divide-and-rule" strategy in India, and how did it shape the dynamics among different Indian communities at that time?
3. To what degree did Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance influence England's strategy in responding to the Indian independence movement, and what specific measures did England undertake in this context?
4. How did Gandhi's interactions with British colonial authorities, encompassing negotiations and protests, influence England's approach to his leadership in the civil rights movement within India?
5. What were the major human rights violations linked to British colonial rule in India during this historical era, and how did these violations impact the Indian population?
6. In managing the Indian independence movement, how did England engage in international diplomacy, and what were the consequences and implications of this diplomatic engagement for its colonial policies in India?

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