



BACKGROUND PAPER:

POL I  
***Over Population and Resource Scarcity in the  
Middle East***

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This committee will be exploring the effects of overpopulation and resource scarcity in an area of the world that has many fundamental theologies and has been host to several wars in the last 30 years. In the last year however, the Middle East has become an area of political protest and attempted reform. How will these political changes influence decisions in an area where water is becoming hard to find? As a member of this conference you will have to decide what actions can be taken to stop the biggest problem the world will face in our lifetimes, and you will need to also make solutions that coincide with the ideology of the governments in the Middle East and the ideology of the protesters.

Overpopulation is the crisis of our generation, as of now figures put the world's population around 6 and a half billion to 7 billion. By the year 2050 it is estimated that the number of human beings will be around 9 billion, some even suggest that this number will be higher and will actually reach eleven billion by 2050. These numbers have taken a projected drop in fertility rates as well. This means that strain will place on all the worlds' resources especially fresh water. Only .03 percent of all the worlds' water is drinkable and in desert climates like most of the Middle East this strain is already felt and will be the hardest hit by the shortage.



Possible solutions to overpopulation and resource scarcity are in abundance, it will be passing these solutions that will be difficult. A one child policy can be incredibly effective at reducing population growth and stopping overpopulation in its tracks. The fundamental governments in the region will probably be opposed this and the U.N can only suggest an idea. For water shortage desalination of ocean water is becoming popular around the world and can provide a large amount of water. Currently Israel leads the Middle East in this method, could a deal be made? Birth control can also be an option but will be highly controversial. Family planning and education are probably the safest choice in terms of government support and can have very positive reviews. One of the big ideas that will be a source of debate will be clean energy incentives. Many countries in the Middle East economies are dependent on oil production and export; this is counterproductive to fighting resource scarcity. The Middle East is also in a position to be devastated by global warming in which fossil fuels are mostly responsible for.

#### Country briefs

NORTH AMERICA: The United States and Canada will have a place in discussing the oil situation and both are obviously huge players on the world stage that can influence other country's decisions. Don't forget the US holds strong ties with Israel. Mexico and the other Central American countries will have precedent to discuss.

Key players: United States and Canada

EUROPE: Most western countries should be highly involved because of the issues most of these countries have with immigrants from the Middle East. Eastern Europe should have the same idea as well there proximity to the Middle East. Europeans also have lots of ground in the oil discussion.

Key players: United Kingdom, France, Germany Greece, Russia.



ASIA: Asian country's border the Middle East and will have a large say in the discussions. Asia is also the most populated continent of the world, giving the Asian powers strength in the discussions. Japan is also a large power in world environmental talks.

Key players: South Korea, china, India, Japan

Africa: This continent is split into northern Africa and sub-Saharan Africa. North Africa has very strong ties to the Middle East especially Egypt with its new government could well be included as a Middle Eastern country and will be a huge player in talking to Israel. Sub Saharan will have precedent for environmental action in deprived areas.

South America: Countries will have precedent in all issues.

#### Great places to find information

CIA WORLD FACTBOOK: provides information on the history, people, government, economy, geography, communications, transportation, military, and transnational issues for 267 world entities.

Their Reference tab includes: maps of the major world regions, as well as Flags of the World, a Physical Map of the World, a Political Map of the World, and a Standard Time Zones of the World map.

United Nations home page: <http://www.un.org/en/>, great place for recent events and U.N history

A good place to find resources is too looking at the references on a Wikipedia page.



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