



ARIZONA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

THE HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCE

The Hague Peace Conference of 1907 was a meeting of 44 states with the goal of expanding upon the work that was achieved in the first Hague conference 8 years earlier. Specifically, the goals consisted of finding a means to limit the increase of army size and weapon development as well as establishing the rights of soldiers taken in battle and civilians caught up in conflict, especially at sea. Delegates will represent one of the countries present and will have the opportunity to debate, caucus and write resolutions.

A LIMITATION ON THE FURTHER EXPANSION OF ARMED FORCES AND A REDUCTION IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF NEW ARMAMENTS

The primary reason the Russian Empire called the first Hague Conference was in order to discuss limitation of armaments. Although there were a few steps forward resulting from the conference, it was not nearly what many nations who felt threatened by the political giants of the time deemed to be sufficient and was thus was once again a primary topic of discussion 8 years later. The use of projectiles and explosives dropped from balloons as well as many naval weapons such as submarines were on the Russian list of arms to be disallowed were two of the hotly debated topics, with powers such as the United States and Germany arguing against limitation on armaments. And smaller/ less advanced countries pushing for more regulations on such weapons.

Things to Consider:

1. What kinds of weapons does your country have access to, and what kind of impact would limitations on your country's weapons, troops, and armaments have on your country's international influence?
2. How has your country been affected by expansions of armed forces, and what kinds of impacts would limitations of the armaments of foreign nations have on your country?

Sources to start with:

<https://www.zum.de/whkmla/sp/0910/pillow/pillow1.html>

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Hague_Conferences.aspx

EXPANDING ON THE PROTECTIONS SET BY THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

By 1907, two Geneva Conventions had already taken place along with the Brussels Declaration of 1874. All events laid the groundwork for widely accepted rules which would govern over many aspects of war including the treatment of prisoners and recognition of internationally known symbols which would mark buildings such as hospitals which could not be attacked.

While these ideas have been discussed and treaties have been formed, the Hague Peace Conference is an opportunity to get a majority of the world's powers to agree to a common set of laws to govern war. The goal is for each delegate to bargain for what their country deems to be the most important law.

Questions to Consider

1. What kinds of conflicts has your country been engaged in, in the past? Has your country been accused of war crimes that the country would like to remove from internationally recognized war laws? Has your country been the victim of any heinous action during a previous conflict that it would like to make illegal during war?
2. What kinds of stances on war laws did your country hold during previous Geneva Convention talks?

Sources to start with:

<http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~wggray/Teaching/His300/Handouts/Brussels-1874.html>

<https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/120?OpenDocument>