



# The Black Hand

## Study Guide

### Bosco Model

### United Nations

# 2017



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## CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

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Greetings delegates,

I, Aryaman Jain, on behalf of the Executive Board of The Black Hand, welcome you to the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Bosco Model United Nations.

The Middle East is in dire straits. The West has been involved for far too long in trying to solve the complication within the Middle East and has miserably failed to do so; instead, they have successfully worsened the condition of our Holy Land and the citizens within. Far too many people have suffered as a result of the actions taken by the West. We have collectively realized that the West works and functions only for its own interests and together they are exploiting the situation we find ourselves in.

It is time for Islam to unite and face a common enemy – an enemy that is insidious and offers a “helping hand.” We have waited enough and now it is time to take action. However, the action must be taken, taking into consideration our capability to fight the extremism that is widespread in the Middle East without aid from the outsiders. We find ourselves in a crossroad – one road where we are aided by the outsiders to fight against the terrorist organizations, the other where we are aided by our misled Muslim brethren to fight against the insidious outsiders. The steps to be



taken must be considered only after analyzing the timeline of events from June through December. We look forward to three exhilarating days of debate and deliberation coupled with creativity and innovation.

Be there as we make you feel at home,

Regards,

Executive Board of Black Hand,

Bosco Model United Nations 2017.



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## INTRODUCTION

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The Black Hand is an organization formed by the Islamic countries with the intention of finding ways to eradicate extremism from the Middle East and North Africa where it is most prevalent. The group comprises of Ministers of Islamic Countries whose sole intention is the betterment of the Middle East and the promulgation of true Islam in the terror-stricken countries. However, considering the unwarranted and unwanted influence of the West exacerbating the already devastated region of the Middle East, the organization is faced with a dilemma – whether the eradication of terrorism in the Middle East would automatically drive the West away from the Holy Land, or whether the only way to eradicate terrorism is to drive the West away from the Holy Land.



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## HISTORY OF WESTERN INTERVENTION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

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The West is not entirely to blame for the way things are in the Middle East. Particularly, until recently, the United States was hardly at all to blame for the situation there when compared with the colonial European powers. Nonetheless, it is easy to imagine a much more vibrant and prosperous Middle East today if history had taken a different course. It is easy to imagine a much better world had we not come to think of Arabs and Persians as little brown people with a lot of oil.

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## ACTIONS OF US AND ITS ALLIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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**1949:** CIA backs military coup in Syria, ousting elected government.

**1953:** CIA overthrows democratically elected Iranian government, placing the Shah in power. In 1951, Iranian parliament had nationalized the British Anglo-Iranian oil company. This popular move was spearheaded by the reformer, Mossadegh, who was elected prime minister shortly after. Britain and the US organize ruthless economic blockade. Shortly before the coup, the Communist Party calls a 100,000 strong demonstration to protest the US and the Shah. Nine hours of street fighting finally quells popular rebellion against the coup.



**1954:** Iranian oil re-privatized, with US and Britain in control. Popular opposition compels the Shah to rule through a reign of terror unrivalled in the region. US helps fund huge military and police build-up, and trains Savak, the notorious secret police. Amnesty International would write in 1976 that Iran had the “highest rate of death penalties in the world, no valid system of civilian courts and a history of torture which is beyond belief. No country in the world has a worse record in human rights than Iran.”

**1957-58:** Syria and Egypt take steps toward a merger, reflecting revolutionary yearning of the Arab masses to unite against Western imperialism. The US Sixth Fleet is dispatched, and huge arms shipments are delivered to US client regimes. Syria and Egypt claim to uncover “at least eight separate conspiracies to overthrow one or the other government, to assassinate Nasser, and/or prevent the merger of the two countries.” Independent evidence detailing several of these failed plots subsequently emerges.

**1958:** Iraq and Lebanon: Two weeks after 1958 Egypt/Syria merger, the US establishes “Baghdad Pact,” uniting monarchies and puppet regimes against threat of Nasserism and growing Soviet influence. Mass rioting erupts throughout the region. Iraqi troops are ordered into Jordan to put down unrest. Under popular pressure, the army mutinies and instead marches on the royal palace. The hated King, Crown Prince, and Prime Minister are lynched.

The next day, US Marines land in Lebanon and British troops are dispatched to Jordan. A virtual civil war erupts as 14,000 US troops



enter Lebanon at the invitation of the unpopular, CIA-backed government of Chamoun. Lebanese forces manage to put down the rebellion after months of urban clashes. President Eisenhower would later write: “This somber turn of events could, without a vigorous response on our part, result in the complete elimination of Western influence in the Middle East.”

**1963:** Right wing of Iraq’s Ba’ath party leads successful coup with US support, after unsuccessful US assassination attempt against Iraqi leader, Abdul Karim Qassim. The CIA provides Ba’ath party with names of Iraqi communists to murder, and the CP is ruthlessly slaughtered.

**1968:** A counter-coup, in which Saddam Hussein participates, leads to nationalization of Iraqi oil in 1972.

**1973-75:** To destabilize Iraq during a border dispute with Iran, US supports Kurdish rebels with \$16 million in arms, promising to back them in their struggle for autonomy. When Iran and Iraq reach an agreement in 1975 and seal off their border, Iraq proceeds to violently suppress the Kurdish rebellion. US ends support for Kurds and denies them refuge. Henry Kissinger, architect of the ploy, explained, “covert action should not be confused with missionary work.”

**1973, 1978:** A nationalist coup in 1973 brings down the Afghan monarchy. A 1978 coup puts the Stalinist Peoples Democratic Party in power. Afraid of growing Afghan ties to the Soviet Union, US begins covert funding for the reactionary Islamic Fundamentalist rebels. Mujahideen “Freedom Fighters” (according to President Ronald Reagan), are lead by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, whose “followers first



gained attention by throwing acid in the faces of women who refused to wear the veil.” Six months later, the Soviet Union sends in troops to prop-up the Afghan government.

**1979-92:** US gives over \$3 billion in arms and aid to the Mujahideen in Afghanistan. CIA sets up training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan – some of the same “terrorist training camps” the US will bomb in 2001. Osama bin Laden and many other of today’s Islamic Fundamentalist terrorist leaders are direct recipients of US aid and training. By 1992, more than a million Afghan people will have died, three million disabled, and five million made refugees, in total about half the population. The civil war continues to this day.

**1979:** Striking oil workers and students in Iran call for ousting the Shah, sparking a revolutionary uprising. US tells Shah it supports him “without reservation” and urges him to violently crush protest, but Shah is overthrown.

**1980:** Iraq invades Iran. Though antagonistic to both countries, the US intervenes to promote and prolong the conflict, looking to weaken both regimes. US opposes UN resolution condemning Iraq’s invasion, takes Iraq off its list of nations supporting terrorism, and allows US arms transfers to Saddam Hussein. US urges Israel to arm Iran, and in 1985 the US secretly provides arms to Iran directly.

**1982-83:** Heavily funded, armed, and backed by the US, Israel invades Lebanon. Over 17,000 civilians are massacred. US blocks several UN resolutions calling for an Israeli withdrawal. In 1983, US troops also land in Lebanon to intervene in the civil war.





**1984:** Iraq uses chemical weapons on Iran; US subsequently restores diplomatic relations with Iraq. A US Defense Intelligence Agency official involved in aiding Iraq later commented that the Pentagon “wasn’t so horrified by Iraq’s use of gas. It was just another way of killing people.”

**1987:** As Iran gets the upper hand in war with Iraq, the US moves to decisively back Iraq. A massive US armada in Persian Gulf ensures arms deliveries to Iraq. When a US gunship shoots down an Iranian civilian airliner, killing 290 passengers, Vice President Bush says, “I will never apologize for America. I don’t care what the facts are.”

**1985-90:** The US showers Iraq with billions in arms, loans, and aid. After Saddam Hussein uses chemical weapons to murder thousands of the Kurdish opposition in Iraq, the Bush administration continues to license the sale of chemical weapons, and blocks UN initiatives to curb their use.

**1991:** After Iraq invades Kuwait in 1990, US launches Operation Desert Storm – the most aggressive, high-tech military campaign in the history of warfare. Dropping more bomb tonnage than in all of Vietnam or World War Two, the 43 day air campaign kills between 100,000 and 200,000 Iraqis and destroys civilian infrastructure. Fearing a popular revolt and the destabilization of the region, the US refuses to aid previously encouraged uprisings by Kurds and Shi’as in the weeks after the war. US denies the rebels access to captured Iraqi weapons, and allows Iraqi helicopters use of “No-fly Zone” airspace to crush the uprising.



**1990-now:** Severe economic sanctions imposed on Iraq by the UN. By UN estimates, the sanctions have cost over a million lives, half of them children. About 5,000 children die each month, mostly from malnutrition and treatable diseases. From the most economically advanced country in the region before the US attack, Iraq today is among the most destitute.

**1998:** Renewed US and British bombing campaign – called Operation Desert Fox – against Iraq after it exposes US spies among UN weapons inspectors (later admitted by US officials). The UN pulls out inspectors before bombings, which continue to the present on average every other day.

**2001:** Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, the US launches a war on Afghanistan, killing over 3,500 people. US led UN occupation of the country props up US puppet regime of Karzai.

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## COUNTRYWISE INTERVENTIONS OF THE WEST

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### **Iran:**

#### **About**

During WWII, American, British, and Soviet troops were stationed in Iran to protect Iranian oil and transfer supplies to the Soviet Union.



However, once the war was over, Stalin's troops remained in parts of northern Iran until U.S. President Harry Truman threatened to forcibly remove them.

## **Influence**

The first major influence the U.S. had on the area was its support in forming the State of Israel, which the United Nations (UN) had opposed; however, the first real action taken in the Middle East was an illegal coup conducted in 1953 by the CIA. True to American fashion, President Eisenhower authorized the CIA to depose Mohammed Mossadegh, the popular prime minister of Iran, even though it was in direct violation of the UN charter which barred member states from taking military action against another, except in self-defense.

## **Consequences**

Mohammed Mossadegh had been elected democratically, and his administration was a progressive one. He introduced numerous social and political reforms, such as social security, rent control, and land reforms; however, he was determined to reduce foreign corporate control over the Iranian economy and, as a result, he nationalized the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, which had been under British control.

This fateful decision incited a swift response from Britain and the U.S., who branded Mossadegh a communist. Mossadegh, in fact, was not an agent of Moscow, nor was he a communist. He was a nationalist who had a clear, democratic plan to progress his country



into an independent nation—much like the Founding Fathers of America.

## **Israel:**

### **About**

The U.S.’s next involvement in the Middle East came in 1956 with the newly developed Israel, who—aided by Britain and France—invaded Egypt after Egypt’s nationalist leader, Gamal Abdel Nasser, nationalized the Suez Canal. Eisenhower was furious that he had not been consulted before the attack, and forced Israel and its cohorts to abandon the invasion.

### **Influence**

Under the Eisenhower Doctrine, the United States pledged to “defend” the Middle East from communism and nationalism, and a year later, Eisenhower dispatched 5,000 troops to Lebanon, a pro-Western, Christian-dominated nation, to protect their government against Nasser’s nationalist front. Although the deployment was brief, it ended with a civil war in Lebanon.



During John F. Kennedy's administration (1961-1963), a "special relationship" with Israel was attempted which failed eventually. Kennedy increased economic aid toward the region.

The next time the U.S. found itself involved in Middle Eastern politics was during the Johnson Administration, when the still newly-formed Israel conducted a series of attacks against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, known as the Six Day War of 1967.

### **Consequences**

Unfortunately, with the Iranian Revolution, Carter's administration also felt the blunt of the Iranian citizens' anger towards the U.S. who, thanks to the CIA's illegal coup in 1953, restored the monarchy in Iran.

The Iranian Revolution culminated in 1978 with the regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, a somewhat modern yet ruthless leader, and it paved the way for the establishment of the Islamic Republic ran by the Shi'a cleric, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who despised democracy all together.

In 1982, as the Lebanese Civil War raged on, and after Israel had been ordered to leave the area by the UN, Israel invaded Lebanon for the second time.

The U.S. continued to support Israel's expansion into occupied territories throughout the Reagan administration, and also supported Saddam Hussein during the eight-year Iran-Iraq War, in the hopes Hussein could destabilize the Iranian regime and defeat the Islamic Revolution.



## **Iraq:**

### **Influence**

Saddam Hussein received support from the U.S. until August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1990 when he invaded Kuwait. President George H.W. Bush immediately deployed U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia in Operation Desert Shield, later known as Operation Desert Storm, when Bush Sr. shifted strategy from defending Saudi Arabia to repelling Iraq from Kuwait .

### **Consequences**

Operation Desert Storm was over after a 38-day air campaign, and 100-hour ground war—Kuwait was liberated. Bush Sr. established “no-fly zones,” but they didn’t keep Hussein from massacring Shiites and Kurds.

## **Somalia:**

### **Influence**

During the last year of his presidency, Bush Sr. launched Operation Restore Hope in which 25,000 U.S. soldiers, along with 10,000 additional soldiers from 24 other nations, were sent to Somalia in 1993 to “halt a famine.” Exactly how the U.S. thought military personnel were supposed to accomplish humanitarian work is beyond this Anon—



supposedly the troops were there “to use all necessary means to establish a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations,” and reports love to state how the mass starvation in Somalia was significantly reduced by March of 1993.

Attacks were conducted on Americans in Somalia after a failed attempt to catch Mohamed Farrah Aidid, the leader of a Somali militia, which resulted in the death of 18 American soldiers, and up to 1,500 militants and civilians. Aidid was never caught. Among those who were conducting the attacks on American soldiers, was Osama Bin Laden.

## Consequence

In August of 1990, during Bush Sr.’s administration, sanctions had been imposed on Iraq by the Security Council after Iraq invaded Kuwait, and the U.S. refused to lift them until Iraq accounted for all of their “weapons of mass destruction.” We know now that there never were any weapons of mass destruction, but the sanctions imposed had a crippling effect on Iraq’s economy. By 1995, two years into Clinton’s presidency, it had been estimated that as many as 576,000 Iraqi children may have died of malnutrition, and yet, the U.S. did not lift most of the sanctions until May of 2003. Some sanctions persist in part to this day.



## Iraq:

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Key relations	Since US helped dispose Saddam Hussain, their relations remain paramount. US will continue as a crucial support for Iraq. A little strained in 2006 because Iraq criticized Israeli attacks on Hezbollah forces in Lebanon.
Russia	Good relations	Strongly opposed sanctions by UN on Iraq after Persian Gulf War. Strongly opposed Iraq war and refused to provide any military assistance against Iraq. Both condemned Israel's actions in Israel-Gaza conflict. Opposes Kurdish separatism. Russian oil firm won a contract to develop oil fields in Iraq's soil. Later, { Gazprom also won a similar contract – Badra district near Iran's border. }*
UK	Neutral	Sent force to invade Iraq in 2003. Wants to take full advantage of Iraq's growing economy.
France	Neutral	Soured relations when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1991. Bilateral talks have resumed in 2004.
Germany	Neutral	Countered the 2003 invasion plans along with China, Belgium, France, etc. Provided military aid in fighting ISIL.
China		China strongly condemned the 2003 invasion along with Russia, France and Germany. Biggest winner of Iraqi oil contracts.





Italy	Neutral	Sent economic assistance to Iraq during Iraq-Iran war. Was against 2003 invasion.
North Korea	Neutral	Initially relations were cut off after Iran-Iraq war in 1980 but then re-established in 2008.
Turkey	Strained	Clashes between Turkey and PKK(Kurdistan Worker's Party). Had a water dispute with Iraq and Syria earlier.

### Syria:

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Tense	Anti-assad because they say he ordered use of chemical weapons against rebels while assad denies this. Trump ordered missile launch on Syria in response to gas attack.
Russia	Friendly (pro-assad)	Supports Syria in civil war. Fighting IS and to some extent Anti-Assad movements (Backed by the West).
UK France	Militarily Neutral Anti-Assad (therefore wants to improve relations with other anti-assadsunni countries)	Supported Trump's launch of 59 missiles. Wants to improve humanitarian situation and fight terrorism. Has been deploying troops since '11 for the same. Bashar said that Paris attacks were because France was supporting opposition in Syrian Civil War.
Germany	Neutral	Anti-terrorism, for humanitarian relief.
China	Neutral to Friendly	
North Korea	Friendly	NK sold arms to Syria. Has developed Syria's chemical weapons. Have united to fight US.
Turkey	Unfriendly	Water conflict as Turkey has built many dams on river Tigris and Euphrates leading to water shortage in Syria. Condemns Syria for supporting PKK. Is



suffering because of Syrian refugees.

### Israel:

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
Russia	Good ties	2008-visa free travel b/w the 2countries. They have an encrypted communication line.
UK	Neutral on the bad side	
France	Neutral	France will refuse to greet any world leader that doesn't recognise Israel as a state.
Germany	Neutral	Have a military cooperation.
Mexico	Friendly	
China	Friendly	Very strong military support for each other thereby concerning the US. Remain divided on the Palestine issue
Italy	Neutral	Good trade relations. Fight terrorism.
Canada	Friendly	
North Korea	Unfriendly	Does not recognise Israel as a state.
Turkey	Strained	First Muslim country to recognize Israel as a State. Relations severed when Turkey hosted Hamas. Turkey further condemned the Gaza war which further strained the ties. (also Gaza flotilla raid, 2010). The Leviathan gas field is a further source of friction.

### Turkey:

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Uncertain	Strained under Obama. Turkish President says



		a “new era” of relations could be cultivated with Trump admin.
Russia	Uncertain	Initially good relations then a shutdown incident in November 2015 strained their relations for which Turkish Pres. Apologised. Relations have improved after that and Putin says that relations have “fully normalised”.
UK	Friendly	Has been the strongest supporter for Turkey’s membership in EU. Have allied in the Crimean Wars.
France	Neutral	In 2017, Turkish Intelligence MIT was conducting espionage in Germany.
Germany	Neutral	
Mexico	Neutral	Turkish connections were used by Uyghur fighters to go into Syria and the humanitarian Uyghur East Turkistan Education and Solidarity Association (ETESA) which is located in Turkey sent Uyghurs into Syria, endorsed the killing of the pro-China Imam JumaTayir, applauded attacks in China, and posted on its website content from the TIP.
China	Unfriendly	
Italy	Neutral	The recognition of the Armenian Genocide by the Canadian gov. has soured relations.
Canada	Neutral to unfriendly.	

### Egypt:

The relation of the EU with Egypt is of vital strategic importance.

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Friendly	Military aid. Counterterrorism. Have recently strained a bit after Egyptian police raided 17 NGO’s.
Russia	Neutral	They are bettering their ties. Talks of military support in Egypt.



UK	Improving relations	
France	Neutral	
Germany	Neutral	
China	Neutral to Friendly	Bettering its relations with Egypt to formalize a comprehensive strategic partnership with Egypt in light of the relative decline in U.S. influence and power in the region
Italy	Neutral to strained	Largest trade partner in EU. Strained because an Italian PhD student was murdered in Cairo- Italy withdrew its ambassador to Egypt - Egyptian law enforcement then produced conflicting information on the fate of the Italian citizen, which was unacceptable to Italian investigators - threatened with political sanctions unless police leadership and practices undergo significant revisions.
Turkey	Disputed	Good overall relations initially followed by diplomatic crisis which saw the Turkish ambassador being expelled from Cairo.

### **Nigeria:**

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Bilateral	Initially very strained relations (human rights abuse). Now relations have improved after Nigeria lent support to US after September attacks and has made official statements condemning the attacks of Al-Qaeda, etc.
Russia	Friendly	Russia eager to work with new Nigerian govt.
UK	Friendly	
France	Neutral to friendly	
Germany	Friendly	
Mexico	Very good	



	relations	
China	Very friendly	China has supported Nigeria's bid for a seat in UNSC. All types of support are also provided by China.
Turkey	Neutral	

### **Saudi Arabia:**

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Good relations	Overall very good relations. Strained after September 11 attacks.
Russia	Strained	Syrian Civil war caused a rift b/w them and Russia threatened them with WW3.
UK	Friendly	
France	Neutral to Friendly	France aims at improving ties and competes with US as Saudi's closest ally. Provides advanced military tech to Saudi.
Germany	Neutral	
Mexico	Neutral	
China	Friendly	Good economic and humanitarian relations.
	Friendly	Friendly economic relations. Can unite because US cant be trusted anymore.
Turkey		

### **Iran:**

Countries	General Stance	Key Points
USA	Unfriendly	USA is against Iran for its nuclear program and generally everything. Had imposed heavy sanctions on Iran by using IAEA. Is relatively supporting President Rouhani over other candidates because he is more moderate than others. Khamenei said that Iran is not willing to work with US to fight terrorism.
Russia	Very good	General support for all Iran's endeavours



	Friends	except Nuclear program. Is Iran's best ally.
UK	Not very friendly	Previously strained relations. UK Consulate in Iran was attacked. Now reopened. PM of UK says improve relations but with caution.
France	Neutral to unfriendly	Is against Iran's nuclear program. Is against Iran's nuclear program. People believe "tougher sanctions" should be imposed on Iran.
Germany	Neutral	France helped Iran fight terrorists. Very good trade relations.
Mexico	Neutral to Friendly	Is against Iran's nuclear program. Not much history. Both countries maintained quite good relations. Both work together in fighting common problems such as drug trafficking and terrorism.
China		Very strong ally of Iran. Observer nation at SCO. China supports Iran's nuclear program. Good trade relations. Provides military support and aids in military development programs. Iran depends on China's veto in SC against any actions of US.
Italy	Neutral	Iran's best trade partner.
Canada	No diplomatic relations	All diplomatic relations broke off between Iran and Canada. Canada imposed sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program. The current PM is trying to restore relations.
North Korea	Friendly	North Korea assists Iran in its nuclear program. Good trade and social relations.
Turkey	Not very friendly but at the same time not very	Major trade partners. Supports Iran's nuclear program(Sort of) Some discrepancies b/w the 2 nations over Turkey actions through NATO.



unfriendly

Turkey has good relations with Israel so this strains relations a bit but Turkey remains neutral to the Iran-Israel conflict. Shi'a Sunni conflict (Syria).

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- 1) What should be our priority – elimination of terrorism followed by eradication of the Western influence, or vice versa
  - 2) If it is the former, should we continue taking the help of the West or take matters into our own hands
  - 3) If it is the latter, should we use diplomacy to do the same or take the help of our Mislaid Muslim Brethren to eliminate our common enemy