

Princeton Interactive Crisis Simulation 2005

Committee Profiles

Region Description

Central Africa is one of the greatest, if not the greatest hot zones or war zones in the world. While disease, famine and extreme levels of poverty are commonplace, most of its inhabitants must endure constant civil war, internal displacements and racial, political and historical rivalries. The great lack of education in the region creates a perfect condition for warlords and chieftains to arise and raise armies that blindly follow orders. Lamentably, the vilest atrocities of the last decade, such as genocide, have been perpetrated in this region. All committees and crises will revolve around this region, creating interlinked causalities and clashes of interest.

Nation Committees

Democratic Republic of Congo
Rwandese Republic
Republic of Burundi
Republic of Congo
Republic of Angola
Republic of Uganda
Republic of South Africa

Non-State Committees

Leadership of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (Forces Democratiques de Liberation du Ruwanda, FDLR)
General Directorate of External Security - Central Africa Mission (Direction Generale de la Securite Exterieur, DGSE - Mission en l'Afrique Centrale)
United Nations Organization Mission in Central Africa (Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en l'Afrique Centrale, MONUC)
Executive Corporate Summit on Trade and Development in Central Africa (TraDeCA)

Committee Descriptions Available on Pages 2 to 7

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National Cabinets

Democratic Republic of Congo

The DRC sits at the epicenter of what can be called Africa's World War. Like many of its regional neighbours, DR Congo has been plagued by civil war, disease and poverty though it has some of the largest mineral deposits in the region. The present fragile peace comes a peace deal ending the five-year battle between President Kabila's government (supported also by Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe), and opposing rebels who back former President Mobutu, and are themselves backed by Uganda and Rwanda. In a region where national boundaries do not contain conflict, the DRC's neighbours also acts as a theatre of conflict between Rwandan Hutu and Tutsi rebels who flew cross to eastern DRC to find refuge.

Rwandese Republic

Rwanda is most notorious for the historic racial tensions between its dominant Tutsi minority and majority Hutu ethnic groups which culminated in Africa's worst genocide in 1994. This brutal massacre appeared to be a coordinated attempt by the Hutus to eliminate the Tutsi population, and claimed the lives of at least 800 000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus before the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) could take control.

Rwanda became intertwined with the DRC as some two million Hutus fled to then-Zaire, including some responsible for the massacres, some of whom also attacked local Tutsis as part of Zairean forces. Rwanda responded by invading refugee camps dominated by Hutu militiamen. With the failure of Laurent Kabila (who seized control of Zaire and renamed it the DR Congo) to banish Hutu extremists, Rwanda began its support of anti-government rebels, and its forces remained in the DRC until late 2002 when a peace deal with Kinshasa was signed.

The first presidential elections since 1994 were held in 2003, and saw President Paul Kagame claim a landslide victory.

Republic of Burundi

Burundi's 10-year civil war began in 1993 with the assassination by Tutsi paratroopers of the country's first-ever democratically elected President, Melchoir Ndadaye – a Hutu – within months of the elections. Two subsequent Hutu Presidents failed, and years of Hutu-Tutsi violence killed an estimated 300 000 people. The main rebel armies include the FNL (Forces of National Liberation) and the FDD (Forces for Defense of Democracy). While the roots of the war are about power and privilege among the Hutu and Tutsi elite, leaders on both sides have opportunistically used ethnic division to incite violence. South Africa has played a large role in brokering deals between the rebels and government, the last of which gave the main rebel group positions in the interim administration, in 2003.

Republic of Congo

After three relatively peaceful but coup-ridden decades of independence, the former French colony experienced the first of two destructive bouts of fighting in 1993 when disputed parliamentary elections led to bloody, ethnically-based fighting between pro-government forces and the opposition.

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A ceasefire agreement followed by the inclusion of some opposition members in the government helped to restore peace. But in 1997 ethnic and political tensions exploded into a full-scale civil war. The army split along ethnic lines, with most northern officers joining President Denis Sassou-Nguesso's side, and most southerners backing the rebels who were supporters of the former President and Prime Minister deposed by Sassou-Nguesso in 1997. With the backing of Angolan troops, the government seized all key rebel positions by 1999, and a ceasefire accord was agreed. However, remnants of the civil war militias, known as Ninjas, continued to fight government forces in the southern Pool region until a peace deal was signed in March 2003.

Economic gain is inextricable from this conflict as the country's offshore oil wealth, which makes it sub-Saharan Africa's fourth biggest crude oil producer and has potential for substantial investment, was a prize which motivated many of warlords.

Republic of Angola

Although a growing oil producer - at times the eighth-largest supplier to the United States - Angola is one of the world's poorest countries and its life expectancy is among the lowest on the continent.

For virtually the past quarter century since its independence, Angola has been embroiled in civil war, which played out predominantly between the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and the rebel group Unita, who were bitter rivals as they struggled against Portuguese colonial rule. However the country became a battleground for the Cold War as the Soviet Union and Cuba supported the then-Marxist MPLA, while the US and white-ruled South Africa backed Unita as a bulwark against Soviet interests in Africa.

After 16 years of fighting which killed up to 300,000 people, a peace deal made it possible for elections to be held. But Unita rejected the outcome and resumed the war, in which hundreds of thousands more were killed. The UN intervened after the signing of another peace accord in 1994 by sending in peacekeepers, and also imposed a freeze on bank accounts trading in the unregulated diamond trade – the connection between the “blood diamonds” and the civil war being a source of international concern. However the fighting steadily worsened again and in 1999 the peacekeepers withdrew, leaving behind a country rich in natural resources but littered with landmines and ruins of war.

The prospect of peace only reemerged in February 2002, when the leader of Unita Jonas Savimbi was killed in a gunfight, and a formal ceasefire between rebels and the Angolan army was made possible, after 27 years of conflict.

Republic of Uganda

Uganda is seen to have emerged from civil war and economic catastrophe in the late 1980s to become relatively peaceful and stable. The era which it left behind was notorious for human rights abuses and state-sponsored violence which killed up to half a million people. After the military dictatorship of Idi Amin, and the return to power of Milton Obote, Yoweri Museveni became president in 1986 and brought democratic reforms with him. Being credited with substantially improving Uganda's human rights record, Museveni reduced army and police abuse, introduced Western-backed economic reforms which produced solid annual growth, and proposed that a 17-year ban on multiparty politics be lifted subject to a referendum.

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And yet, Museveni has not been able to end the insurgencies of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army in the north and west of the country which have led to the death, kidnapping and displacement of tens of thousands of people, and has come under criticism for Uganda's military intervention in the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Republic of South Africa

In the aftermath of the country's apartheid regime which came to an end in 1994, diversity is an important feature of South Africa: 11 languages are recognised as official; community leaders include rabbis and chieftains, rugby players and returned exiles; traditional healers ply their trade around the corner from stockbrokers; and housing ranges from mud huts to palatial homes with swimming pools.

The cost of years of conflict, however, will be paid for a long time yet, not least in terms of lawlessness, social disruption and lost education. South Africa faces major problems, perhaps its most significant being the AIDS epidemic taking hold, and growing at rate even more alarming than other developing countries. Tens if not hundreds of thousands of people are infected each year, resulting in staggering numbers of deaths, orphans, and other social problems demanding urgent attention. After three successful national elections and local polls since the end of white rule, a democratic culture may offer some hope for the South African people to participate in the search for solutions.

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Non-Country Committees (NCCs)

Leadership of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda, FDLR)

The FDLR is the primary group of Rwandan Hutu extremist rebels, comprised of members of the Former Armed Forces (the army of the Hutu regime that oversaw the Rwandan genocide in 1994) and Hutu militia, many of whom participated in the genocide that claimed the lives of more than 500,000 Rwandan Tutsis and moderate Hutus. After the Tutsis claimed power in Rwanda in 1994, these Hutu extremists fled to the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where they ultimately formed the FDLR. This group aims to disrupt Tutsi power in Rwanda, and from its bases in eastern DRC it has carried out numerous cross-border raids on Rwandan villages and attacks on the current Rwandan Army. The FDLR also has ties to several of the Burundian Hutu extremist rebels that have participated in that country's civil war. In response to the FDLR's activities, the Rwandan Army has infiltrated parts of eastern DRC and accused the Kabila government of supporting the rebels, exacerbating tensions between Kigali and Kinshasa. The FDLR has therefore played an important role in the ongoing conflicts that comprise "Africa's World War". While a number of the more moderate FDLR rebels have been disarmed and repatriated, many of the group's extremist members remain active in eastern DRC, raising concerns that through their increasing influence the group may become further radicalized and energized...

The Leadership of the FDLR plans, coordinates and oversees all of the group's activities, and uses any means necessary to further the group's primary objectives: the overthrow of the Tutsi regime in Rwanda and the establishment of Hutu dominance within the country. Many fear that the goals of the FDLR's most extreme members extend even further, to re-instating the genocide that devastated the region in 1994. The FDLR Leadership also directs support to other Hutu extremist groups, manages relations with non-governmental groups in the region that are sympathetic to the FDLR's goals, and organizes efforts to obtain supplies, funding, recruits and intelligence to aid the group's operations. Through these activities, the FDLR is poised to exert a significant influence over the political and social landscape of the Great Lakes Region.

In including this group in the simulation, PICSim is in no way endorsing or promoting terrorism or genocide; rather, the intent is to demonstrate the important influence that non-state actors such as the FDLR continue to have in Central Africa, and further participants' understanding of the variety of interests and challenges represented in the ongoing conflicts in this region.

General Directorate for External Security – Central Africa Mission (Direction Generale de la Sécurité Extérieure - Mission en l'Afrique Centrale, DGSE)

The General Directorate for External Security is the primary foreign intelligence arm of the French Republic. France has long held substantial interests in central Africa, but cannot visibly or overtly exercise influence or apply pressure to the Central African states, given international political realities. France is also increasingly concerned with the primacy of US power, and in an effort to counter US dominion, is exploring options of more effectively exercising covert influence and power to further French interests. The DGSE therefore

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began planning for a special Central African Task Force in early 2004, to be made operational by November 2004. The task force will be allowed considerably more autonomy and decentralized operational flexibility than most DGSE units and operations, and will also be composed of a more diverse and versatile group of DGSE officers, both civilian and military, covering areas from signals intelligence to aerial surveillance to commercial espionage to political assassination. The desire is to see if a covert unit freed of central management but operating under carefully designed parameters and resource constraints can be more effective in assuring French interests in an unstable but exploitable region. The DGSE Mission is therefore tasked with intelligence collection and analysis, but also the planning and conduct of operations. These operations may include espionage, covert action, or full-fledged covert military force to support French political, security, and commercial interests, both in the near- and long-term. The task force must remain covert from both central African parties as well as Western intelligence agencies with conflicting interests. The success or failure of this task force could have spectacular or catastrophic results for French foreign policy and status within the EU. Vive la France!

United Nations Organization Mission in Central Africa (Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en l'Afrique Centrale, MONUAC)

MONUAC was created by the Security Council in July 2004 to coordinate and supervise all humanitarian efforts in the Central African region. MONUAC oversees humanitarian assistance efforts such as food and medical supply provision, coordinates the movements of all UN peacekeeping troops in the region, directs refugee affairs (the construction and maintenance of refugee camps, including security issues within and outside of the camps, adequate food and medical supplies and staff) and efforts to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs), oversees all UNAIDS programmes in the region, and undertakes any emergency measures needed in the event of a developing humanitarian crisis or armed conflict. Members of MONUAC will include representatives from various UN agencies operating within Central Africa and liaisons with UN voting bodies.

Executive Corporate Summit on Trade & Development in Central Africa (ECS)

In late summer of 2004, rumors began circulating around the world's major financial and commercial centers of an unusually structured coalition of special interests regarding Central Africa. Since the earliest bazaars and trade guilds, even in a competitive global marketplace, collusion among economic power-players has been reality - for the lure of greater profit or to face the threat of a new enemy. It appears, however, that a much more significant and focused effort has been underway to coordinate these special interests in the Central African region. The Washington Post recently broke a story that a meeting called The Executive Summit on Trade and Development in Central Africa will be convening for the first time in February 2005 in Lagos, Nigeria.

The composition of the summit appears to be geared towards corporate interests in the region (multinational, domestic, and freelance entrepreneurs) with an agenda towards strengthening cooperation on challenges such as business security, infrastructure development, competition and division of resources, and negotiations with regional governments and interested powers. The attendees will apparently include several major diamond and mining interests, wall street financiers, pharmaceutical executives, media

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moguls, arms dealers, several gentlemen of influence (financial and political) from key Western power circles, and certain controversial entrepreneurs, recently retired from the now disbanded and defunct South African Defense Forces.

Many believe that the Summit's true motivation is the control of resources in mineral-rich Central Africa, and the forging of a network of alliances within the tenuous political framework of the region to better exert influence and control. Unsurprisingly, spokesmen for the companies expected to naturally participate have denied the existence of any organized effort or formal meeting, but instead insist that their executives will be congregating in Lagos merely for a friendly retreat with some of their fellow captains of industry, and that the possibility of some highly informal discussions on business practices and commercial policy does exist.

