

KALMUN'26

UNSC Study Guide

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction to the Committee: Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC)**
- 2. Introduction to the Agenda Item**
- 3. Key Terms and Definitions**
- 4. Libya's Historical Background**
 - 4.1. The Coup**
 - 4.2. Muammar Gaddafi's Rule in Libya**
- 5. An overview of the sides**
 - 5.1. First Libyan Civil War**
 - 5.2. Second Libyan Civil War**
- 6. Timeline of the Libyan Crisis (2011-2020)**
 - 6.1. First Libyan Civil War**
 - 6.2. Second Libyan Civil War**
- 7. The Effects of the Crisis**
 - 7.1. Political Effects**
 - 7.2. Humanitarian Effects**
 - 7.3. Economic Effects**
 - 7.4. Regional and International Effects**
- 8. Key Players**
- 9. Questions to be Answered**
- 10. Further Reading and Bibliography**

1. Introduction to the Committee: Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security. Its powers are outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and include establishing peacekeeping operations, imposing international sanctions and authorizing military action. The Council also recommends the admission of new member states to the United Nations General Assembly, approves changes to the Charter, and enacts international sanctions. Under Chapter VII of the Charter, the Council may identify threats to international peace, determine breaches of that peace, and authorize responses up to and including the use of force. It is the only United Nations body with the authority to issue resolutions binding on all member states.

The Security Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The five permanent members each hold veto power over substantive resolutions, which helps them to block and prevent a draft resolution, even an idea from being approved in the committee regardless of the support it had received. However, this veto right does not have a legitimate corresponding role in General Assembly matters or votes, which makes it non-binding and mostly useful in the Security Council. The presidency rotates monthly among all fifteen members in English alphabetical order.

The Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC) is a specialised simulation of the UN Security Council that operates within a specific historical time frame. Unlike the traditional committees that deal with current worldwide problems, the H-UNSC places delegates in a particular historical moment or conflict and expects them to change the course of their nations as well as the world by taking the appropriate actions. The delegates are required to behave strictly according to the political environment, the information available, and the diplomatic alliances that existed then. However, nothing is certain in an H-UNSC committee; new alliances can be formed, unexpected military actions could be staged and the fate of the world can be rewritten.

This Historical United Nations Security Council (H-UNSC) is set on the Libyan Crisis, which was a humanitarian crisis and political and military instability occurred in Libya. Delegates in this committee are expected to understand the effects of the Libyan Crisis all around the world and find the most suitable strategy for their country.

2. Introduction to the Agenda Item: Libyan Crisis

The Libyan Crisis or Libyan Civil War was one of the civil wars that had a long-lasting impact on society. The crisis in Libya resulted in tens of thousands of casualties since the onset violence in early 2011. Furthermore, it has led to two civil wars and foreign military intervention. The incident that triggered the civil war was the forced regime change which occurred when Muammer Gaddafi became the leader of Libya by staging a coup against King Idris in 1969. Muammer Gaddafi's rule lasted 42 years from 1969 to 2011. However, Libyans were not delighted with Muammer Gaddafi's rule as they were feeling oppressed. There were no free elections, equal wealth distribution, and people were living in absolute poverty.

The initial uprisings began with the Arab Spring protests of 2011, which were protests across the Middle East and North Africa. These uprisings inspired Libyans to challenge the current regime and fight for their political and economic freedoms, as well as to end the oppressive regime. The first civil war's aftermath caused violence and instability across the region, which transformed into a new civil war in 2014. This period was also known as a proxy war, which separated the country into two: Eastern Libya and Western Libya. The second war lasted until all parties agreed to a permanent ceasefire and negotiations. The second civil war officially ended on October 23, 2020.

Since March 2022, two different governments have been controlling Libya.

The two sides are:

1- Government of National Unity (GNU), which controls the western part of the country and is led by Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh.

2- Government of National Stability (GNS), which governs the central and eastern part of Libya and is led by Osama Hammad under the rule of the Libyan National Army (LNA) and its commander Khalifa Haftar.

This division undermines security and the rule of law across the region. Delegates taking part in this committee will aim to put an end to the lack of central authority and instability across the region.

3. Key Words and Definitions

National Transitional Council (NTC): The National Transitional Council (NTC) was a transitional government established in the 2011 Libyan civil war. It was formed by anti-Gaddafi forces in Benghazi with the purpose of acting as the "political face of the revolution". However, it dissolved on 8 August 2012 as part of a planned transition to a democratically elected government

Government of National Accord (GNA): The Government of National Accord (GNA) was a provisional government for Libya, which was established under the terms of the Libyan Political Agreement and it was backed by the United Nations. The Government of National Accord was established in Tripoli in 2015. It fought against the Libyan National Army and attempted to govern the western regions. It was dissolved on 10 March 2021.

Libyan National Army (LNA): Libyan National Army (LNA) is the armed forces of eastern Libya led by Khalifa Haftar. They aimed to expand their control over Libya and challenge the Government of National Accord (GNA).

Government of National Unity (GNU): The Government of National Unity (GNU) is the internationally recognised government of Libya, formed on 10 March 2021 to unify the rival Government of National Accord based in Tripoli and the Second Al-Thani Cabinet, based in Tobruk. Its headquarters are located in western Libya, Tripoli.

Government of National Stability (GNS): The Government of National Stability (GNS) was established in eastern Libya in 2022 as a parallel government to oppose the Government of National Unity (GNU). It was supported by the Libyan National Army (LNA).

Militia: Militias are non-state army groups that include citizens with limited military training. They aim to secure their local area. In the Libyan Civil war some militias often formed alliances with GNA, GNU, GNS or LNA.

Proxy War: Proxy war is a war fought between states that are not themselves officially involved, but provide weaponry, funding and training to expand their control. For example, Turkey and Qatar support GNA/GNU, and the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Russia support LNA/GNS, but indirectly.

Arab Spring: The Arab Spring was a series of pro-democracy anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world in the early 2010s. These protests inspired Libyans to challenge their government and this later escalated into civil war.

Power Vacuum: Power Vacuum is a situation where there is no central authority due to a leader or ruling power dying or being removed or the presence of rival governments and extremist groups in the region.

UN Security Council Resolution 1973: UN Security Council Resolution 1973 was adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 17 March 2011 in response to the First Libyan Civil War to demand an immediate ceasefire and authorize the international community to establish a no-fly zone over Libyan airspace to protect civilians from aircraft attacks.

National Reconciliation: National reconciliation is the term used for establishing national unity in countries with political problems.

The Islamic State Libya Province (ISIS): The Islamic State Libya Province (ISIS) is a militant Islamist group active in Libya, which is also against the Libyan National Army (LNA)

De Facto: De Facto means practices that exist in reality or effect, without explicit recognition by laws or other formal norms. For example, Muammar Gaddafi was the *de facto* leader of Libya.

4. Libya's Historical Background

Libya has been through many transformations throughout history. Before the discovery of significant oil reserves in Libya in 1959, The Kingdom of Libya was one of the poorest countries in the world. However, after the discovery it turned into a wealthy state. Even though oil was a significant source of Libya's economy and it undeniably improved the Libyan government's finances, Libyans were not delighted with their king's rule who was King Idris at that time. The kingdom in King Idris's hand, demonstrated little effort to unite

the country and manage the country's internal affairs. Eventually, this led to the rise of Arab nationalism/socialism in Libya, which was one of the main incidents that started the civil war.

4.1. The Coup

By 1969, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was expecting parts of the Libyan Armed Forces to launch a coup and their expectations turned out to be true. However, the CIA was not the only one that foresaw the coup. The British, who had a major military presence in Libya and close ties with Libya's army high command, also considered a coup inevitable. The British Defence Secretary Denis Healey wrote in his memoir in 1991 that "it was obvious that the monarchy was likely to fall at any moment to an army coup".

There were two main forces who were expected to stage a coup. The first one was the Shelhi brothers and their Black Boots revolutionary group. The second one was Muammar Gaddafi and his Free Officers.

By April 1969, the Shelhi brothers had expanded their control over Libya. Abdul Aziz Shelhi had become the Chief of Staff of the Libyan Army and Omar Shelhi became the royal counselor. In mid-1969, Idris travelled abroad to Turkey and Greece when he heard the rumors about a planned coup by the Shelhi brothers on 5 September 1969. In August 1969, after the rumors and the anti-Idris propaganda started to strengthen, he offered to abdicate the throne. The Gaddafi's Free Officers heard this and recognized 1 September as their chance to overthrow the monarchy before the Shelhi brothers and they initiated "Operation Jerusalem". This coup is also called the 1969 Libyan revolution.

On 1 September 1969, a group of about 70 young army officers known as the Free Unionist Officers Movement, who were clearly under Muammar Gaddafi's command, gained control of the government and abolished the Libyan monarchy. The coup was launched at Benghazi; and, within two hours, it was completed. Army units quickly rallied in support of the coup and, within a few days, military control was established in Tripoli and elsewhere throughout the country. Gaddafi's Free Officers took control in the most crucial parts of Libya such as airports, police depots, radio stations, and government offices in Tripoli and Benghazi. Gaddafi also captured the Barqa barracks in Benghazi, Umar Muhayshi took over Tripoli barracks and Jalloud seized the city's anti-aircraft batteries. No deaths or violent incidents related to the coup were reported on any radio channel. Libyans, on the other hand, were enthusiastic about this coup especially the younger people.

The 1969 Libyan Revolution was claimed to be carried out by a twelve-member council which established itself as the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC). The Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) assigned itself as the Libyan government after the coup. In its initial proclamation on 1 September, the RCC declared the country to be a free and sovereign state called the Libyan Arab Republic, which would proceed "in the path of freedom, unity, and social justice, guaranteeing the right of equality to its citizens, and opening before them the doors of honourable work". The RCC told the diplomatic representatives in Libya that the existing treaties and agreements would remain in effect since the coup was not staged from outside the country. Eventually, diplomatic recognition of the new government started to come from countries all across the world.

4.2. Muammar Gaddafi's rule in Libya

Muammar Gaddafi became the de facto leader of Libya on 1 September 1969. He became the leader after he and a group of Libyan Army officers initiated a coup and removed King Idris I from power. This event is called the 1969 Libyan Revolution. At that time King Idris I was in Turkiye to get treatment. The group that removed him, which was called the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC), was headed by Muammar Gaddafi. They got rid of the monarchy and the constitution. Then they created the Libyan Arab Republic. The motto of the Arab Republic was "Unity, Freedom, Socialism".

Muammar Gaddafi implemented a controversial regime system. While he strengthened the country's economy and endorsed the well-being of the Libyans, he strained the foreign affairs of Libya.

After coming to power, with the 1973 oil crisis and consequential rise of the Libyan economy, the RCC government initiated a process of directing funds toward providing education, health care and housing for all. Public education in the country became free and primary education became compulsory for both sexes. Providing housing for all was a task the RCC government was unable to complete. Under Gaddafi, per capita income in the country rose to more than \$11,000 in nominal terms, and to over \$30,000 in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) terms, the 5th highest in Africa. The increase in prosperity was accompanied by a foreign policy hostile to the other Arab states of the region, an anti-West foreign policy, and increased domestic political repression.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Gaddafi openly supported foreign groups like the African National Congress, the Palestine Liberation Organization, the Provisional Irish Republican Army, Polisario Front as well as dictators across Africa such as Idi Amin, Jean-Bédél Bokassa and Mengistu Haile Mariam. In the Middle East, he formed alliances with what the US then referred to as the "Radical camp", composed of Ba'athist Syria, Iran and South Yemen. Gaddafi's government was thought to be secretly supporting and providing aid to terrorist groups. Additionally, Gaddafi organized invasion plans in neighboring states in Africa most importantly Chad in the 1970s and 1980s. These interventions exacerbated Libya's foreign policy with Western states and the Arab world, which later paved the way for the 1986 United States bombing of Libya as well as the support of Ba'athist Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Sudan towards Chad against Gaddafi. Gaddafi, on the other hand, stood back his government's actions. He emphasized the necessity to support anti-imperialist and anti-colonial movements around the world.

Gaddafi's behavior was really different when you compare it to what people in the West and in the world do. Many people said that Gaddafi was not thinking clearly that something was wrong with his mind. People started saying this because of all the controversy surrounding his regime. Eventually people started to question his mental state. Furthermore, his actions have often led to interrogations. François Mitterrand (the former President of France) called him an "unstable man", Ronald Reagan (the former President of United States) dubbed him the "mad dog of the Middle East" and for Anwar al-Sadat (the former president of Egypt), he was literally a "possessed demon".

Libya received extensive aid and technical assistance from the Soviet Union and its allies. Gaddafi particularly aligned his country with the Eastern Bloc and sustained Libya's ties to some pro-American governments in Western Europe by promising access to the lucrative

Libyan energy sector. After the 9/11 attacks, strained relations between Libya and NATO countries were mostly normalised. Eventually, in exchange for nuclear disarmament, sanctions against the country were relaxed.

The first Libyan Civil War started in 2011 because of the Arab Spring in the Arab world. When the Libyan Civil War began there was no one in charge in Libya. So the Libyan Civil War rebel groups, who were against Gaddafi, formed a committee called the National Transitional Council (NTC) in February 2011 to take charge of the areas that the rebels controlled. The National Transitional Council did not bring peace; it brought fighting. The Libyan government forces and the rebel groups killed a lot of people. Many people got hurt. Because of this, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had to get involved. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) formed a group with countries to help the Libyan Civil War rebels. The International Criminal Court issued a warrant for Gaddafi and the people who worked with him in June 2011.

The Gaddafi government was removed in August when the rebels took Tripoli. The people who still liked Gaddafi in his hometown of Sirte kept fighting for two more months. In September, Gaddafi said that Sirte was the capital of Libya during the Civil war.

The city of Sirte was the place that was still controlled by the people who supported Gaddafi. It fell on 20 October 2011. After that it was not long before Gaddafi was killed. This marked the end of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The Gaddafi government and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya were no longer in power.

From when it was founded in 1969 to 1977, the name of Libya was the Arab Republic. In 1977 the name of Libya was changed to Socialist People's Arab Jamahiriya. The term Jamahiriya was a word that Gaddafi made up. It is usually translated as "state of the masses". The country of Libya was renamed again in 1986 as the Great Socialist Peoples Arab Jamahiriya after the United States bombed Libya that year.

5.An Overview of the Sides

5.1. First Libyan Civil War (2011)

Belligerents

Anti-Gaddafi Forces

Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab
Jamahiriya / Gaddafi Loyalists



Units Involved

National Council
Libyan Army

Transition (NTC)



Libyan Islamic Movement



Libyan Air Force



National Liberation Army (NLA)

5.2. Second Libyan Civil War (2014-2020)

Main belligerent

House of Representatives



Government of National Accord (GNA)



Units Involved

Libyan



Libyan Ground Forces



National Army (LNA)

Others

Shura Council of Egypt
Turkiye
Benghazi Revolutionaries
United Arab Emirates
Syrian National Army
Ba'athist Syria

6. Timeline of the Libyan Crisis (2011-2020)

6.1. First Libyan Civil War

Under Gaddafi, Libya was theoretically a decentralised, direct democracy state with Gaddafi retaining a ceremonial position. Both Gaddafi and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, however, officially denied that he held any power, but said that he was merely a symbolic figurehead. While he was popularly seen as a demagogue in the West, Gaddafi always portrayed himself as a “statesman-philosopher”.

According to several Western media sources, Gaddafi feared a military coup against his government and deliberately kept Libya's military relatively weak. The Libyan Army consisted of about 50,000 personnel. Its most powerful units were four crack brigades of highly equipped and trained soldiers, composed of members of Gaddafi's tribe or members of other tribes loyal to him. Local militias and Revolutionary Committees across the country were also kept well-armed. By contrast, regular military units were poorly trained, and were armed with largely outdated military equipment.

First weeks

By 23 February, Gaddafi was suffering from the resignations and defections of close allies, from the loss of Benghazi, the fall of Tobruk, Bayda, Zawiya, Zuwara, Sabratha, Sorman, and mounting international isolation and pressure. By the end of February, Gaddafi's government had lost control of a significant part of Libya, including the major cities of Misrata and Benghazi, and the important harbours at Ra's Lanuf and Brega. But in early March, Gaddafi's forces pushed the rebels back and eventually reached Benghazi and Misrata. On 10 March, the president of the ICRC Jakob Kellenberger warned of the increase in the intensity of fighting and in the number of casualties arriving at hospitals in Ajdabiya and Misrata.

Foreign military intervention

The United Nations Security Council passed a vital resolution on 26th of February, which had impacts on topics such as freezing the assets of Gaddafi and restricting his circle's ability to travel. This sparked a need for the matter to the International Criminal Court for investigation. Gaddafi's forces rallied in early days of March, and they pushed to the east side to retake some coastal cities before reaching Benghazi. Another United Nations resolution reinforced some states to establish and enforce an anti-flyzone over Libya. They were dedicated to using all of their necessary measures to avoid attacks on civilians, which turned into a bombing campaign by the forces of NATO against Libyan military installations and vehicles. The Gaddafi government then announced a ceasefire, but fighting and bombing continued. Throughout the conflict rebels said no to government offers of a ceasefire and efforts by the African Union to stop the fighting. They did this because the plans did not include removing Gaddafi. The Royal Canadian Navy frigate HMCS Charlottetown was sent to the Mediterranean off the coast of Libya on 2 March 2011. It did not take action right away. Seventeen days later a group of countries started an operation in Libya. This was to follow United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. The resolution was made because of what was happening during the conflict. That day military operations began. US forces and one British submarine fired cruise missiles. The Royal Canadian Air Force, French Air Force, United States Air Force and British Royal Air Force did sorties across Libya. A naval blockade was also set up by the Royal Navy.

From the beginning of the intervention, the coalition of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Italy, Norway, Qatar, Spain, UK and US expanded to 17 states. Newer states mostly enforced the no-fly zone and naval blockade or provided military logistical assistance. The effort was initially largely led by the United States. NATO took control of the arms embargo on 23 March, named Operation Unified Protector. An attempt to unify the military command of the air campaign (while keeping political and strategic control with a small group), first failed due to objections by the French, German, and Turkish governments. On 24 March, NATO agreed to take control of the no-fly zone, while command of targeting ground units remained with coalition forces.

In May 2011, when Gaddafi's forces were still fighting, and the result of the civil war was still uncertain, Putin and Dmitri Medvedev's Russian government recognized the National Transitional Council (NTC) of Libya as a legitimate dialogue partner.

In June 2011, Muammar Gaddafi and his son Saif al-Islam said they were ready to have elections. They said Gaddafi would step down if he lost the elections. Saif al-Islam said these elections could happen within three months. He also said that international observers would ensure fairness. NATO and the rebels did not accept this offer and NATO started bombing Tripoli again.

In July 2011, Saif al-Islam said NATO was bombing the Libyan people. He said they even bombed his family members and their kids. His aim was to undermine people's trust in NATO.

He also stated that NATO offered to drop the ICC charges against him and his father if they accepted a secret deal, an offer they rejected. He criticized the ICC as "a fake court" controlled by the NATO nations.

Many critics back in that time said that NATO's deployments of special forces were "deliberately concealed" from the UN Security Council and that NATO failed to investigate civilian deaths from its bombing campaign and gave "unconvincing" arguments for

promoting regime change in the name of protecting civilians. Some wrote "NATO operations had increasingly extended from preventing attacks by Gaddafi's forces to supporting rebel advances."

In August the rebel forces in Libya started an attack on the coast of Libya that was controlled by the government. They got help from NATO who were bombing the place from the air. The rebel forces were able to take back the land they had lost a month before and they even took the capital city of Tripoli. Muammar Gaddafi was not caught and his supporters kept on fighting.

On 16 September 2011 the United Nations said that the National Transitional Council was the group that represented Libya. This meant that the Gaddafi government was no longer in charge. Muammar Gaddafi tried to run away until 20 October 2011. Eventually, he got caught and killed in the city of Sirte. The National Transitional Council said that Libya was finally free and that the war was over on 23 October 2011.

After the war there were still some people who were fighting against the government. These were the people who used to support Gaddafi. There were also a lot of disagreements between the groups of fighters and the tribes. The biggest problem was that some of the fighters did not want to give up their guns. They were not working well with the government and this was causing trouble. There were protests against these fighters and the government was trying to stop them or make them join the Libyan army. All these problems paved the way for the second civil war in Libya.

6.2. Second Civil War

Libya has struggled to rebuild state institutions since the ouster and subsequent death of former leader Muammar Gaddafi in October 2011. A new authority figure was elected which was named the General National Congress (GNC) in July 2012. The GNC faced a lot of challenges over the next two years. It particularly faced attacks by the Islamist groups. Like in September 2012, it was attacked by Islamist militants in Benghazi. The Islamic groups were mainly disorganized in Libya. And they were one of the main reasons why the country had unending conflicts over everything.

In May 2014, Operation Dignity was launched. It was a campaign conducted by the Libyan National Army (LNA) to attack Islamist militant groups across eastern Libya since they were not seen to stop their harmful actions. Islamist militants were not fools either. They were expecting a movement like this from LNA. To counter this operation they formed a special coalition and named it Libya Dawn.

The fight between LNA and Libya Dawn started at Tripoli's international airport. The two groups had particular control of different areas in Libya. LNA was in charge of Tripoli and much of western Libya while Libya Dawn (Islamist militias) were in charge of Cyrenaica and Benghazi in eastern Libya.

These two groups might seem to have different ideologies and beliefs however their aim was the same which was to take control of Libya. Islamist groups wanted this to spread Islam all around the world while LNA wanted this to preserve their country and its people.

The unending battle between LNA and Libya Dawn in 2014 helped the second civil war.

Eventually, the United Nations had to intervene because both of the parties were unwilling to end the conflict. The United Nations wanted to establish a unity government which was something that had not been seen in Libya for years. And to do that the United Nations encouraged the Tobruk-based House of Representatives (HoR) and the Tripoli-based GNC to have a series of talks. In December 2015, a big step was taken by both of the parties. The both groups agreed to create a Libyan Political Agreement and the UN-supported Government of National Accord (GNA). The aim was to unite Libya and have a proper legitimate authority figure in the nation. However, the GNA faced a lot of obstacles while trying to unite Libya.

All these events inevitably endorsed the political stability in the nation. And immediately Islamist groups wanted to take advantage of this circumstance. They planned an attack to take over the crucial territories in Libya. This time Ansar al-Sharia was participating in the planned attack, too. Ansar al-Sharia is the terrorist group allegedly responsible for the attack on the U.S. consulate in 2012. They have used the country as a hub to coordinate broader regional violence, further complicating efforts to create a unity government.

The Islamist groups' attack succeeded in seizing territories. First, they took control of Benghazi, Derna, and Ajdabiya. The Islamic State's power in Libya peaked in 2016 when it captured the coastal city of Sirte which was formerly the group's most significant stronghold outside of Syria and Iraq. While in control, its members committed numerous human rights abuses for which they now face trial in Libya. In July 2018, LNA recaptured the city of Derna, the last outpost of the Islamic State militants in eastern Libya. However, the group continues to operate throughout the country.

Though the Islamic State was largely defeated in Libya in 2016, the GNA and HoR remained divided on a path to unification.

Foreign states have also taken an interest in Libya. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, and Russia backed LNA and Turkey, Qatar, and Italy supported the UN-backed GNA. Egypt and the UAE have been particularly involved with military support for LNA, as they fear the GNA's connections to political Islam and the Muslim world. Russia also allows the Wagner Group to aid Haftar in exchange for favorable strategic access to ports and other transit centers. Meanwhile, Turkey supports the GNA because of the maritime oil and gas deals they have brokered. The other foreign backers have taken a more subtle approach, providing aid and diplomatic support to their preferred partner. Militarily, Turkey and Egypt have gone the farthest by approving troop deployments, though Russia also has a presence through the Wagner Group, and the UAE has conducted airstrikes for Haftar.

The GNA declared a state of emergency in Libya's capital city of Tripoli in September 2018, less than a week after a UN cease-fire went into effect. Attempts to create a unity government failed as the HoR and the GNA continued to compete for power. Both governing bodies created their own central banks and consolidated control over oil fields.

Meanwhile, rival armed groups, including militias loyal to Haftar and the GNA's security forces, continued fighting over access to and control of Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) and regional oil fields. In December 2018, the NOC closed Libya's largest oil field, El Sharara, due to security concerns; Haftar later declared the field secure and ready to restart operations but cut off all oil fields when fighting resumed.

HoR and LNA launched a campaign to take western Libya and Tripoli with the backing of Egypt, the UAE, France, and Russia on April 3 2019. Meanwhile, GNA requested that Turkey send troops to Tripoli in early 2020 to strengthen the city's defense. Furthermore, GNA was in need of trained military forces and agile soldiers as their soldiers had been fighting actively for years. To win the war they needed to increase the size of their force. Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates provided aircrafts and conducted airstrikes in support of the LNA.

As the war continued, the civilian casualties rose through May 2020. The United Nations persisted in mediation and continued to carry on talks. However, United Nations efforts were mostly in vain as they were making little progress.

GNA forces were much stronger with Turkish support and inevitably, they achieved a breakthrough in June, pushing the LNA back to Sirte. However, LNA and HoR were eager to win the war. Egypt, their ally, warned GNA that they had crossed the "red line" when they pushed the LNA back to Sirte. In July, Egypt deployed troops particularly in Sirte to help prevent the GNA from taking the most crucial part of the city.

In August 2020, GNA declared a one-sided cease-fire due to the harsh conditions. This caused the violence in the nation to decrease. Soon after, the HoR ended an oil blockade, which helped the economic activities to rise again. Shortly after, this paved the way for a nationwide cease-fire signed in October. The 2020 cease-fire established the Joint Military Commission (JMC), which consists of officers from the GNA and LNA equally to work on implementing the cease-fire and other security issues. The JMC made progress compared to other cease-fire attempts, but it still was not enough to achieve a fully peaceful environment and convince the foreign powers to withdraw from the area. Even though it was not able to gain others' trust fully it still helped the violence levels in the nation to be lowered through 2020 and endorsed political dialogue.

The United Nations and its efforts to encourage dialogue helped establish a roadmap for parliamentary and presidential elections to be held on December 24, 2021. Until that date, a new provisional government needed to be formed to control the country. Because of that, the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum (LPDF) formed a provisional government called the Government of National Unity (GNU) in March 2021 to unify the GNA and HoR and prepare for the national elections.

The HoR almost unanimously approved the new government's cabinet and the eastern-based parliament assigned power to the new GNU.

However, on the election day something unexpected happened: the HoR passed a no-confidence motion against the GNU. Dbeibah called on Libyans to protest the HoR decision and did not keep his promise not to run in the election. What is more, he declared his candidacy along with Haftar and Gaddafi's son, who are the other prominent candidates. However, as the tensions and the suspicion rose over candidate eligibility and the power of parliament, the High National Electoral Commission indefinitely postponed the election. Dbeibah's action not only affected the election but also undermined the unity between two groups and strengthened the national instability.

In March 2022, the HoR approved a new cabinet with Fathi Bashagha as prime minister, effectively setting up a rival government based in Sirte.

The formation of rival governments reappeared in the struggles for control over territory and resources.

In March 2022, Haftar's forces seized the GNU Benghazi headquarters and cut off access to oil and gas fields to deprive the GNU of revenue since it refused to give Bashagha access to state funds for his government's budget. With no prospect of a political solution and the HoR facing protests, Bashagha entered Tripoli and tried to install his government. He failed, and fighting broke out in the capital between rival government forces in August following months of skirmishes.

7. The Effects of the Libyan Civil War

Both of the civil wars caused devastating damage and losses in Libya. Many people were displaced or killed, the economy was disrupted, political instability increased. Furthermore, all these effects are still present today. Libya still has divided factions and governments. Militants still continue to control several regions and foreign influence is still present. Foreign powers refused to step away from the region mainly because they wanted to take advantage of Libya's oil revenues and strategic location.

Here are the main effects of the Libyan Civil War detailed:

Political Effects

Libya had had a disrupted political system since Muhammed Gaddafi. After Gaddafi was overthrown, the political crisis got more threatening than ever. The main issue was that Libya did not have a strong central government; instead it was governed by different rival governments, militias and Islamist groups at the same time. This ultimately caused the political institutions to collapse and lose their authority significantly. It was very difficult to establish law, order, and national unity without a proper government controlling the country. Furthermore, foreign interference such as Turkey, Russia, France made it even more difficult to solve the divisions between governments as they were each supporting different groups.

Humanitarian Effects

The Libyan Civil War created harsh conditions for civilians. Thousands of civilians were killed or injured. The lucky ones were forced to leave their homes otherwise they would have died of airstrikes, armed clashes or starvation. Many civilians were not able to find healthcare, education, food, clean water, and electricity because hospitals, schools, and infrastructure were heavily damaged during the conflict. The infrastructure completely collapsed and the war didn't seem to stop. Civilians had no choice but to evacuate their homes or even leave their families.

Large numbers of refugees and migrants attempted to escape Libya through the Mediterranean Sea. The countries that were close to the Mediterranean Sea were concerned about this heavy flow of migration.

Economic Effects

Libya's economy was also affected in the civil war. Many people's living conditions were damaged and the economic growth rate declined significantly. Because its economy was dependent on oil production and exports, the country's economy collapsed. During the war, many oil fields, ports, and pipelines were damaged or controlled by militias. Since the country had lost its most valuable economic resource the national income decreased and

poverty increased significantly. What's more, foreign investment declined and reconstruction became extremely difficult due to continuing instability.

Regional and International Effects

This conflict had broader consequences in the world. It not only affected Libya but also neighboring countries and the foreign countries that intervened in the war. The national security was threatened due to high levels of violence, terrorism and human trafficking spread across the region. Egypt and Tunisia were obliged to accept refugees which threatened their border security while European countries faced increasing migration across the Mediterranean.

8. Key Players

In the first Libyan Civil War, the foreign powers didn't hold much power as there was nothing that interested or attracted them. But when the Second Libyan Civil War started things got really serious because this time the battle was harsher and Islamist groups also wanted to control Libya. The foreign powers were concerned about this widespread civil war and they needed to ensure that this war didn't come closer to their territories. Furthermore, Islamist groups were also their biggest concerns. Because if Islamist groups took over Libya, they would be more powerful than ever and threaten the entire Arab world.

Turkey

Turkey was one of the biggest supporters of the Government of National Accord (GNA) not because they had connections with each other but shared similar economic and geopolitical interests. The two countries had strong trading ties. Turkey mostly saw the war in Libya as an opportunity to expand its dominance in the region and decrease the impact of rival powers like Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Even when the conflict got overwhelming, Turkey was one of the only stakeholders that remained to have a diplomatic presence in Libya.

The GNA received both military and logistical assistance from Turkey. Turkey's getting involved in the war created a big advantage for GNA as Turkey's military force was agile and strong. Targets belonging to the LNA were attacked by Turkish drones, while Turkish military advisors assisted in the training and equipping of GNA personnel.



The United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates supported the Libyan National Army (LNA) in the second Libyan War. The main reason for this collaboration is that the United Arab Emirates was concerned about the power of Islamist groups and how they are widely spread as well as a desire to influence other countries to restore balance, such as Turkey and Qatar.

The United Arab Emirates assisted the Libyan National Army with financial and military support, including funds for weaponry and



training. The United Arab Emirates sent its own troops to Libya in order to provide support for the Libyan National Army.

Egypt

Egypt also supported the Libyan National Army. Egypt's fears were similar to those of the United Arab Emirates which were about Islamist radicalism. Egypt wanted to prevent the conflict from spreading to the territory that belonged to Egypt. Furthermore, Egypt was concerned about the GNA's connections to the Muslim Brotherhood. Egypt mostly considered them as a terrorist group. That is why Egypt provided financial assistance, military assistance, and training to the LNA. Egypt's forces played a crucial role in countering the GNA along with Turkey's forces.



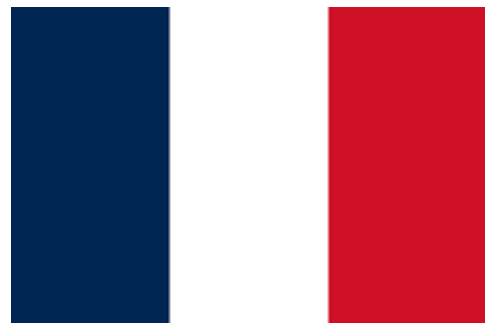
Russia

Russia also supported the Libyan National Army (LNA). Russia's collaboration with LNA was driven by aligned economic and geopolitical goals. However, Russia also had another aim which was to secure access to Libya's oil deposits. All these interests combined Russia had a great interest in providing military assets to the Libyan National Army. Russia assisted the Libyan National Army in the form of weaponry and mercenaries. Russian private military contractors such as the Wagner Group have been sent to Libya to provide support for the Libyan National Army. By professional training, arms, and other forms of logistical support, the Wagner Group was an essential figure in the Libyan National Army's military resources.



France

France also supported the Libyan National Army (LNA) in the second Libyan Civil War. France was driven by the desire to prevent the Islamist extremism from spreading and balance Turkey's influence in the region. France's involvement in the conflict was controversial because it contradicted its support for the Government of National Accord (GNA) and its commitment to the United Nations-backed peace process.



9. Questions to be Answered

1. To what extent should the international community intervene in the internal affairs of Libya in order to protect civilians while still respecting national sovereignty?
2. How effective was the implementation of the no-fly zone authorized by the United Nations Security Council, and did it contribute to stability or further escalation of the conflict?
3. How can the spread of weapons, militias, and extremist organizations from Libya into neighboring regions be prevented, and what impact does this have on regional security in North Africa and the Middle East?
4. What role should regional actors such as Turkey, Qatar, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates play in resolving the conflict, and how have their interventions affected the balance of power in Libya?
5. How could humanitarian aid, refugee protection, and civilian evacuation efforts have been coordinated more effectively during the Libyan Civil War?
6. How can Libya rebuild stable political institutions, national unity, and economic security after years of civil war and foreign intervention?
7. How can the international community balance counterterrorism operations, oil security, and humanitarian concerns without worsening instability or prolonging the conflict in Libya?
8. What measures should be taken to ensure accountability for war crimes, human rights violations, and attacks against civilians committed by both government and opposition forces?

10. Further Reading and Bibliography

Articles to Read

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Videos to Watch

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