

Overview

Model Diplomacy is a free classroom simulation of either the U.S. National Security Council (NSC) or the UN Security Council that takes place both online and in the classroom in a blended learning environment. It presents hypothetical situations based on real issues of the past and present. It has several cases that include a migration angle.

Materials

[The Model Diplomacy website](#)

Instructional Plan

Model Diplomacy cases that include a global health angle include:

- Humanitarian Intervention in South Sudan
Rival South Sudanese factions have fought a civil war since the end of 2013, causing mass displacements, tens of thousands of deaths, and widespread hunger. Negotiations between the leaders of these factions are stalled, and South Sudan's dry season approaches, signaling intensified fighting and a humanitarian crisis of potentially historic proportions. The president has asked the NSC for options on whether and how the United States should pursue a humanitarian intervention in or around South Sudan.
- Collapse in Venezuela
After an economic collapse sparks popular protests, the president of Venezuela flees the country. Two members of the ruling party claim the presidency, but neither is able to stabilize the economy or establish full control. Meanwhile, protests continue, factions of the military abandon the government, violence escalates, and drug trafficking and paramilitary activity increase. The NSC meets to weigh the situation, which both poses threats to the United States and offers the chance to improve relations with an influential regional power and major oil exporter. To recommend a course of action, NSC members must consider how to prioritize and pursue the U.S. interests at stake, including economic stabilization, regional security, a stable flow of oil, protection of human rights, and

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restoration of democratic governance and the rule of law.

- Israeli-Palestinian Impasse

A new U.S. president has taken office and directed that a review be undertaken to determine policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States has long promoted a two-state solution, but the prospect of a final settlement of the conflict has become increasingly remote after years of fitful and inconclusive negotiations. The stakes for the United States are significant, though they are clearly the highest for Israelis and Palestinians. NSC members are tasked with debating whether it is in the U.S. interest to try to inject momentum into the peace process and, if so, how. Debating the options requires attention to both the complex history of the conflict and the specific dynamics of the situation today.

- Infectious Disease Outbreak in Colombia

News reports have begun to trickle out of northern Colombia, near the border with Venezuela, about a disease that is spreading fast among nearby farm workers. The Colombian government is working with the Pan American Health Organization, the regional office of the World Health Organization, which is, in turn, pressing the Venezuelan government to allow an assessment team to visit. Fearful that news of the latest outbreak may lead to an influx of refugees, especially from Colombia and Venezuela's urban centers, neighboring countries are moving quietly to secure their borders and to restrict trade and travel with the two countries. The president has called an NSC meeting to discuss a response, particularly regarding whether and how to restrict travel to the United States.