

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 terrorism angle.

Materials

[The Model Diplomacy website](#)

Instructional Plan

Model Diplomacy cases that include a terrorism angle include:

- **Boko Haram in Nigeria**
Boko Haram, a radical Islamist movement, is waging an insurgency against the Nigerian government. Its campaign, estimated to have killed at least twenty thousand people in recent years, threatens the stability of Nigeria, a major oil producer and Africa's most populous country. Following a massive Boko Haram attack in Lagos, Nigeria's president has requested that the United States sell heavy military equipment to the country. The National Security Council needs to advise the president on whether to authorize the sale, which is currently prohibited under U.S. law because of the Nigerian military's reported human rights abuses.
- **Drones in Pakistan**
Since the attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States has pursued a vigorous campaign against terrorist groups, including in Pakistan. When information emerges about the location of al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Pakistan, the United States must decide whether to try to capture or kill him—and if so, how. Grappling with the challenges of both counterterrorism and U.S.-Pakistan ties, this case demands the consideration of drone strikes and other imperfect options in the context of a complex and sometimes dysfunctional relationship.
- **Interrogation Policy**
Two al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants, holding Saudi passports, have attempted a suicide mission against the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. One of the attackers carried out the

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attack, but the other was detained. Intelligence indicates that AQAP intends to carry out further attacks on other U.S. embassies across Europe and the Middle East. The National Security Council (NSC) meets to consider whether the president should authorize enhanced interrogation techniques in an effort to obtain information that could prevent the attacks. In this case, the NSC must weigh the U.S. commitment to international norms against the potential for catastrophic harm.

- 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.