



A Background Guide for the

ACADEMI INTERNATIONAL 2020

Operation Tigris Liberation

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates!

It is the privilege of the Executive Board of Academi International 2020 to invite you to the third iteration of the Shishukunj Model United Nations Conference.

Academi International 2020 creates a futuristic scenario of palpable tension between nations and the ravageous destruction of the middle east, a dystopian future that yearns for times of peace. Through this committee, delegates will learn to put their best foot forward and infuse all the creativity they can find in their brains as they battle to build a future of long-lasting peace and prosperity. The area of middle east has been a victim of violence for over two centuries. Delegates in this committee will attempt to battle enemies at multiple fronts as they explore the best possible solutions. Also, they will get a unique exposure as they represent a Board of Directors and not a committee or a state-organization.

This study guide, being a guide towards the future, incorporates mixtures of fiction and reality. This study guide is just to give you a basic understanding of how the committee functions and what the future may hold. On this note, we leave you to comprehend the enigma of the future and the intricate management it involves to shape it.

For any queries regarding any matter related to the rules of procedure or content, feel free to contact us at academi@shishukunjmun.com

May the force be with you!

Executive Board

Academi International 2020.

Committee Background

2020. A year ravaged by economic depression and war that threatens to alter the very fabric of the global paradigm. Resurgence of a more deadly Islamic State and an economic depression that has affected the entire world, 2020 is a year that will test the very integrity of humanity.

With the US intervention withdrawn from the Middle East amongst heavy anti-war protests, chaos reigns free as various ethnic groups stake their claim to different areas through the instrument of violence. Despite years of civil war, the Bashar Al-Assad government is still in power because of the integral support of the Russian Federation, resulting in a deadlier IS reigning control over new expanses of land that have given helped it generate significant amounts of revenue. With scattered ethnic groups and other militia which are still fighting with limited US support, Syria is now a reaping ground for destruction.

Academi International was formed by a merger of all previously-independent Private Military Contractors like Tidewater Global Services, Triple Canopy and Constellis among others. This massive rejig brought all PMCs under a single board with all actions of this Corporation being controlled by the Executive Operational Committee, consisting of members which surmount to be the best in what they do.

This committee is not your average run-of-the-mill committee, as it distinguishes itself from its counterparts by being a private company and not any

governmental or regional organization. This committee has varying areas of expertise represented in its Board of Directors: from public relations management to marketing and from military expertise to finance management . However, the Board of Directors is bound by a common overreaching goal of ensuring success and profitability of Operation Tigris Liberation.

Agenda: Operation Tigris Liberation

Operation Tigris Liberation is the multi-billion contract awarded to Academi International to uphold the contract of liberty on the behalf of the United States of America government. The resurgence of ISIS has made middle east the ravaged wasteland of war it was before it's hiatus. Along with the rise of ISIS, the United States also faces the rise of the Russian government in power and wealth as it increases its control over the oil resources of Syria whereas US is facing the effects of an economic recession.

Operation Tigris Liberation mainly entails defeating ISIS or restricting their further activities and toppling the Assad regime and installing a US-favoured government. These two objectives require a large variety of resources which will be the challenge Academi has to overcome through for the success of this Operation. Nevertheless, it remains our motive to exercise minimum casualty and garner maximum profits.

1.1 History of PMCs

The term mercenary was first popularized when Cyrus the Younger led his mercenary army of Ten Thousand in 401 BC against his brother to seize the throne of Persia. Over the course of history, there have been countless conflicts which called for professional expertise. Thus, mercenaries came into existence. They offered their skills and expertise in the art of war to help win the battle for the people who paid for their services. They have undoubtedly affected the world as it is today through their specialized services.

As the modern world came into existence in the latter part of the 19th century, the esteem these private armies had carried, substantially reduced as various national and international leagues outrightly went against them and emphasized the use of state sanctioned armies instead, to usher in times of peace, or war.

Most notable of these attempts was the United Nations Mercenary Convention of 1989 which, in absolute, banned the use of mercenaries for any sort of conflict. Despite the support of a majority that this Convention enjoyed, the major world powers like the United States of America, United Kingdom, India, China, France, Japan and the Russian Federation refused to sign by this convention because of their dependence over PMCs in a variety of scenarios..

As the hue and cry regarding this stance went on increasing, the mercenaries saw themselves a way out of legalization: Consolidating themselves into Private Military Contractors (PMCs).

The stark difference between mercenaries and PMCs are that PMCs are subject to stricter regulation and international laws, most importantly the International Code of Conduct (ICOC) for Private Security Providers. They are directed by a centralized Board of Directors and answerable to shareholders. PMCs mostly conduct themselves in a more passive manner than traditional mercenaries, and are involved in less of a combatant role. PMCs have expanded themselves in fields of disaster relief and cyber security as well.

Over the course of years, because of various benefits, PMCs enjoy a rich clientele of governments making it an industry with an annual turnover of over 300 billion dollars.

1.2 Academi International

Formerly known as Blackwater Worldwide, Academi International came into existence when its equity holders bought Constellis Holdings in November 2017, thus ushering in an infusion of cash and materials that greatly expanded the assets of Academi. The new coalition now consists of formerly independent PMCs like Triple Canopy, Constellis Ltd., Strategic Social, Tidewater Global Services, National Strategic Protective Services, International Development Solution and the Olive Group.

With an array of personnel at its disposal and an arsenal of the most technologically advanced weaponry, Academi International operates across every continent by providing an entire suite of security services ranging from advisory to security and from training to support,

whatever the need may be. Armed with these rich assets, Academi's clients enjoy a competitive advantage in the energy, aviation and infrastructure industries. Thus, undoubtedly Operation Tigris Liberation is one of the most challenging contracts this corporation has ever got as it challenges the extremities of limits in which Academi can successfully deliver.

1.3 Historic Timeline

History has played a large role in shaping the current situation in Syria today. There have been several events of different ripple effects, that have laid a foundation for unrest, especially looking back towards the end of the Arab Spring.

Delegates should be intimately familiar with the following major events, majority of which could be interpreted as underlying causes of the contemporary conflict.

March 2011: On 18 March, security forces open fire on a protest in Daraa, killing four, in what activists regard as the first deaths of the uprising. Demonstrations spread.

April 2011: Security forces raid a sit-in in Syria's third-largest city, Homs.

June 2011: Police and soldiers in Jisr al-Shughour in north-eastern Syria join the protesters they were ordered to shoot, and the uprising claims control of a town for the first time.

August 2011: President Barack Obama calls on Assad to resign and orders Syrian government assets frozen.

Summer 2012: Fighting spreads to Aleppo, Syria's largest city and its former commercial capital.

August 2012: Kofi Annan quits as UN-Arab League envoy after his attempts to broker a ceasefire fail.

March 2013: After advancing in the north, rebel forces capture Raqqa, the first major population centre controlled by the opposition.

May-June 2013: Backed by thousands of Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, Assad's forces recapture the strategic town of Qusair from rebels, near the border with Lebanon.

August-September 2013: A chemical weapons attack in Damascus kills hundreds.

October 2013: Under international pressure Syria destroys its chemical weapons production equipment. The number of Syrian refugees registered with the UN tops two million.

January 2014: Infighting among rebels spreads.

February 2014: Peace talks led by UN-Arab League mediator Lakhdar Brahimi in Geneva end without a breakthrough.

9 May: Rebels withdraw from the old quarter of Homs in a significant symbolic victory for the government.

13 May: Mr Brahimi resigns as UN-Arab League envoy.

3 June: Syrians in government areas vote in presidential elections. Assad, one of three candidates, overwhelmingly wins with 88.7 per cent.

June: Isis seizes much of northern and western Iraq and declares a self-styled Islamic caliphate.

3 July: Isis takes control of Syria's largest oil field, al-Omar.

19 August: Isis releases video of beheading of American journalist James Foley, the first of five Westerners to be beheaded.

23 September: US-led coalition begins air strikes against Isis targets in Syria.

January 2015: UN estimates Syria's conflict has killed at least 220,000 people and uprooted nearly a third of the prewar population of 23 million from their homes.

26 January: With the help of US-led air strikes, Kurdish fighters take control of Kobani.

3 February: Isis releases a video of captured Jordanian pilot Muath al-Kaseasbeh being burned to death in a cage.

28 March: The north-western city of Idlib falls to Islamist groups led by al-Nusra.

30 September: Russia begins launching air strikes in Syria in support of Assad's forces.

14 November: Seventeen nations meeting in Vienna adopt a timeline for a transition plan in Syria.

18 December: The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2254 endorsing the Vienna road map.

3 February 2016: Indirect peace talks between the Syrian government and

opposition in Geneva collapse after a few days.

22 February: The US and Russia announce a partial ceasefire in Syria will start on 27 February.

9 March: UN's Syria envoy says indirect talks will resume in Geneva on 14 March

March 15, 2016 - Russia starts withdrawing its forces from Syria. A spokeswoman for al-Assad tells CNN that the Russian campaign is winding down after achieving its goals of helping Syrian troops take back territory claimed by terrorists.

September 15, 2016 - Air strikes in Syria, cause the death of 23 people including 9 children, with United States and Russia accusing each other of violating the ceasefire since the 12th of September.

September 17, 2016 - US-led coalition airstrikes near Deir Ezzor Airport intended to target ISIS instead kill 62 Syrian soldiers.

September 20, 2016 - An aid convoy and warehouse of the Syrian Arab Red Crescent are bombed; no one claims responsibility. The strike prompts the UN to halt aid operations in Syria.

September 23-25, 2016 - About 200 airstrikes hit Aleppo during the weekend, with one activist telling CNN it is a level of bombing they have not seen before.

December 13, 2016 - As government forces take control of most of Aleppo from rebel groups, Turkey and Russia broker a ceasefire for eastern Aleppo so that civilians can be evacuated. The UN Security Council holds an emergency

session amid reports of mounting civilian deaths and extrajudicial killings. The ceasefire collapses less than a day after it is implemented.

December 22, 2016 - Syria's state-run media announces government forces have taken full control of Aleppo, ending more than four years of rebel rule there.

February 15, 2017 - A defense official tells CNN that the Defense Department might propose that the US send conventional ground combat forces into northern Syria for the first time to speed up the fight against ISIS. But the official emphasized that any decision is ultimately up to President Donald Trump.

April 4, 2017 - Dozens of civilians are reportedly killed in a suspected chemical attack in the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun. The Russian Defense Ministry claims that gas was released when Syrian forces bombed a chemical munitions depot operated by terrorists. Activists, however, say that Syrians carried out a targeted chemical attack.

April 6, 2017 - The United States launches a military strike on a Syrian government airbase in response to the chemical weapon attack on civilians. On President Trump's orders, US warships launch 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the airbase which, US officials say, was home to the warplanes that carried out the chemical attacks.

May 18, 2017 - ISIS militants strike Akareb, a village near the government-held city of al-Salamiyah. More than 50 people are killed in the attack, according to a report from Syria's state-run media

May 23, 2017- ISIS claims responsibility for a suicide bombing in the city of Manchester which kills 19 and injures 59.

1.4 Futuristic Timeline

July 2017- The alliance battling ISIS launches the biggest ground offensive till date, crippling a majority of ISIS factions, forcing it's retreat in the underground. Seeing its territory depleting, IS has disbanded and went underground. Although it pledges its resurgence, it does not have the resources for an organized attack.

This step has created a power vacuum in IS-held areas with the US-backed rebels and Russia backed- Assad regime contesting for the same. After much resistance from the international community and the UN, Russia and the US have recalled all their military assets which is now seen as a new dawn in the violent history of Syria. The disputed areas are left under the jurisdiction of the UN until a permanent decision can be reached.

Skirmishes between various militant groups and the government is at an all time low and the Syrian government promises to usher in groundbreaking reforms concerning governance, in the hope to better the system.

August 2018- After almost a year of dormancy, IS resurges and launches its biggest offensive yet. The Syrian government and other security agencies, caught off-guard, miserably lose against the stronger and now more determined IS, leading to the IS capturing large areas

with significant oil deposits, in what happens to be a tremendously significant victory. The eastern oil reserve of Deir ez-Zor Governate near Syria's border with Iraq was one of the first to be captured, followed by smaller fields in central part of the country. One of the main captures of the south being the first section of the Arab Gas Pipeline that passes through Syria.

At the same time, the US faces a crisis as an economic recession takes place due to certain policies of the Trump Administration. The US Congress, in light of this domestic crisis, fails to pass a bill that authorizes the President to declare war against the non-state actor, in fear of over-burdening the exchequer.

The Assad government battles the that pushback the potential positive effects of its governance reforms. Hence, it launches a threatening airstrikes campaign that cripples a majority of the IS faction, but also kills its civilians in the process.

March 2019- As IS begins its reign of terror, it initiates a recruitment drive and gains a number of recruits that carry out suicide bombings over major civilian areas, resulting in many civilian casualties.

The United States, still reeling under an economic depression, cannot send any military aid, and is only able to share limited intelligence. However, despite great opposition from both the sides of the aisle of the Congress, the President sends a contingent of 200 armed personnel as a limited intervention force to set a future

roadmap for the US intervention through an Executive Order.

As Assad becomes more dependent on Russia, Russia eventually gains access to Syria's oilfields, resulting in it becoming to the world's strongest nation.

July 2019- IS, taking advantage of the instability of its opposition, attacks Camp Bedrock, the USA base camp, resulting in the complete annihilation of Camp Bedrock. The IS also faces heavy losses on its own side.

Such an incident demands that the United States to intervene, but its economic conditions fail to suffice to these demands. The US government explores other ways to combat the IS.

Feeling similar attacks on its own bases, Russia and Assad step-up the aerial attacks on the IS, but strategically placed personnel, prevent any major loss of life, even though military assets of IS are destroyed to quite and extent.

August 2019- The IS forms a merger of all Islamist terrorist organizations, including Boko Haram, Al-Queda, Lakshar-e-Taiba among others, called Nusrat-e-Mohammed. This increases the influence and power of the IS which is now seen as a grave threat to the stability of the Middle East by the Arab League and the United Nations.

The United States keeps supplying the FSA and the Kurdish troops with intelligence and limited weaponry, to fight against the Syrian government as well as the IS.

The Russian backed Assad regime sees itself fighting multiple fronts at once, as it

sees a reduction in its territory. It fights the rebels on one front, Nusrat-e-Mohammed on another and it's domestic rebellion on the third.

October 2019- The IS spreads to Africa and outer Asian nations as more and more terrorist organizations pledge their alliance to it. Libya, South Sudan, Tunisia, Afghanistan and Morocco are some of the nations where IS is expanding its footprint. This leads to further destruction and sets these nations on the paths of a failed state, given their conditions.

The United States backs the formation of a league of nations that would exclusively battle the IS in various nations.

The Assad regime faces more domestic pressure as people revolt against the government for not implementing the much awaited reforms.

November 2019- The President of the United States of America unveils a multi-billion dollar contract of liberty given to a PMC, Academi International, for upholding the United States' interests in the Middle East.

January 2020- 1000 Academi contractors enter Syria via Turkey, amongst great international hue and cry over the legality of such an action awaiting further orders.

1.5 Allies and Opposition

For the Operation to be transacted, Academi corporators need a number of allies to sustain its activities.

United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Turkey and Israel forms the international community that will give us limited help, non-military in nature, for whatever the purpose may be. Apart from states, non-state actors like the Kurds and FSA will provide local ground assistance to the Academi corporators.

Russia, Iran and the Hezbollah form the group that gives the Assad regime military support. Iraq and Egypt have provided logistical support for the Assad regime in forms of finances and weaponry.

1.6 Mandate of the Operation

The mandate has three major points that the Board of Directors needs to keep in mind while conducting Operation Tigris Liberation.

1. Defeating the IS

This is the primary aim of this Operation. Defeating the resurgent IS is a herculean task that would need a lot of resources, monetary and logistics, for the Academi to have a fighting chance against the IS. Also, it must also be kept in mind that the entire Middle East is a hostile territory and that the IS has local factions that will try to derail the operation.

2. Removing Assad

Being the representative of the United States in Syria, removing Assad is a secondary priority which has to be undertaken in order to install a new democratically- elected government that is committed to the betterment of Syria's future.

3. Acquiring the oil resources

The third priority happens to be a top secret mission sanctioned by the White House to gain strength and usher in an infusion of the valuable asset of oil that can solve its economic crisis. Keep in mind that most of the forces we are battling are behind the oil reserves and that we have to overcome all opposition.

1.7 Character Bios

Since this is a role-playing committee, all delegates are Directors on the Board of Academi International. Thus, they should be well-prepared to represent their respective role.

1. CFO

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for planning all company finances. He is responsible for approving allocation of funds to various departments and also creating Academi's future economic planning. This Operation calls for responsible investment and the CFO is responsible for profitable investments. However, all major investments must be approved by the Board as a whole.

2. COO

The Chief Operating Officer is the point man for co-ordinating between different departments and carrying out minor day to day operations. He is responsible for the daily functioning of the corporation. However, all major actions must be approved by the Board.

3. Head of Marketing

This post is of importance to the corporation. Head of Marketing acts as

chief negotiator for any operation of Academi and is also the corporation's liaison to the Congress as well as the White House. The Head of Marketing is also the chief lobbyist for the company and is influential in the political circles of Washington.

4. Head of Public Relations

In the recent times, considering the political situation, the image of Academi has taken a hit. Public opinion is divided regarding Academi, and it is vital to maintain a strong public image to ensure continued funding and support. Overseeing branding and media relations is the job for the PR head.

5. General Counsel

Operation Tigris Liberation has raised serious questions regarding the legality of a PMC in such a conflict. Also since the United States government is committed to bring in reforms in PMCs to constrain their operating power, a strong defense is important to the Corporation.

6. Head of Human Resources

The Head of Human Resources is responsible for finding effective recruits with required expertise to do a particular job, as well as managing intra-company disputes. He is also responsible for maintaining a guideline entailing the ethics of the contractors in the area and enforcing them when need may be.

7. Director of Oil and Gas

This post is of great importance to Operation Tigris Liberation as Syria has rich oil fields which Academi contractors have to defend. With all forces vying to

gain as many oilfields as possible, ensuring that there is no "extracurricular" mission which the US may have been planning is important to the mission of this Operation.

8. Head of Intelligence

With this department coming out in 2018, it remains highly secretive. The Intelligence wing is a syndicate of former CIA, NSA, MOSSAD and RAW analysts who provide the Corporation with on-ground information. They also have contacts in foreign governments. This post is vital as all future planning is done on basis of reports given by the Intelligence wing.

9. Chief of Special Forces

The Chief of Special Forces the most elite of the elite soldiers who are greatly trained in unconventional warfare and are a huge asset for Academi. Specialized in urban warfare, these soldiers are of much importance to Academi.

10. Head of International Security

He is the head of the wing responsible for providing infrastructural support and all logistical support to international missions. This wing has a special department pertaining to disaster relief and is also responsible for maintaining clarity in communication between relevant parties and launching of new communication satellites.

11. Head of Ground Transportation and Aviation.

Such a large-scale operation calls for immense vehicular and aerial support. Academi enjoys the privilege being the

only private company having an entire fleet of newly-inducted 24 warplanes and 2 C-130 Globetrotter and an upcoming fleet of drones. The Head of Ground Transportation and Aviation is the head of this department which handles all the development and movement of military vehicles.

12. R&D

With a plethora of new innovations coming up in the weaponry sector, Academi must ensure that it is not undermined due to its small force, with the help of higher quality of weaponry. Research and Development brings out new advancements in technology that can win us the Syrian Campaign.

1.8 Questions that should be answered

Through the directives which the committee passes, they should be responsive to the crisis update at hand, but they should carry the underlying tone in achieving our key objectives. The pertinent questions of defeating ISIS, removing the Assad government, acquiring the oil assets and preventing the spread of ISIS in neighbouring campaigns must be kept in mind by the Board of Directors for Academi International.

1.9 Conclusion

Operation Tigris Liberation is the biggest project Academi has undertaken till date, and its success is vital to the survival of the PMCs. The future is unpredictable, so take caution, because all actions you take will shape the new world. This being said, being a business, our primary aim remains

to incorporate maximum profitability with minimum casualty.

1.10 Rules of Procedure

Being an unconventional committee, it does not follow the standard rules of procedure. The procedural structure is not much stressed upon.

The committee has no sort of Speaker's List but remains in a constant state of moderated caucus by which all points of the agenda are discussed upon. Being a continuous crisis committee, the Executive Board will release upto 3-4 crisis updates per committee session and ideally a moderated caucus is exercised on every crisis update. Another method of debating is the Round Robin. When a delegate raises the motion for a Round Robin, every delegate has to mandatorily make a speech on the topic at hand upto the time of two minutes. The delegate who initiated the motion is the first speaker and others follow suit in a clockwise manner.

The committee has no formal documentation, but every crisis update has to be responded by a committee directive that follows no format and only has solution entailed as pointers. The directive is passed with a two-third majority and lays the groundwork for future crisis updates.

Being a role-playing committee, each delegate portfolio has special powers under them which they can exercise through the Crisis Notes. Crisis Notes is a feature exclusive to the crisis committees that allow the delegates to interact with figures outside the committee as well as order feasible action orders which they

may not like to make public in the committee.

Over the weeks till the conference, the Executive Board for Constellis International shall be releasing a number of crisis updates, pertinent to our topic. All delegates are required to read the crisis updates thoroughly for better understanding of the topic. All crisis updates will be released on the website.

1.11 Bibliography

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