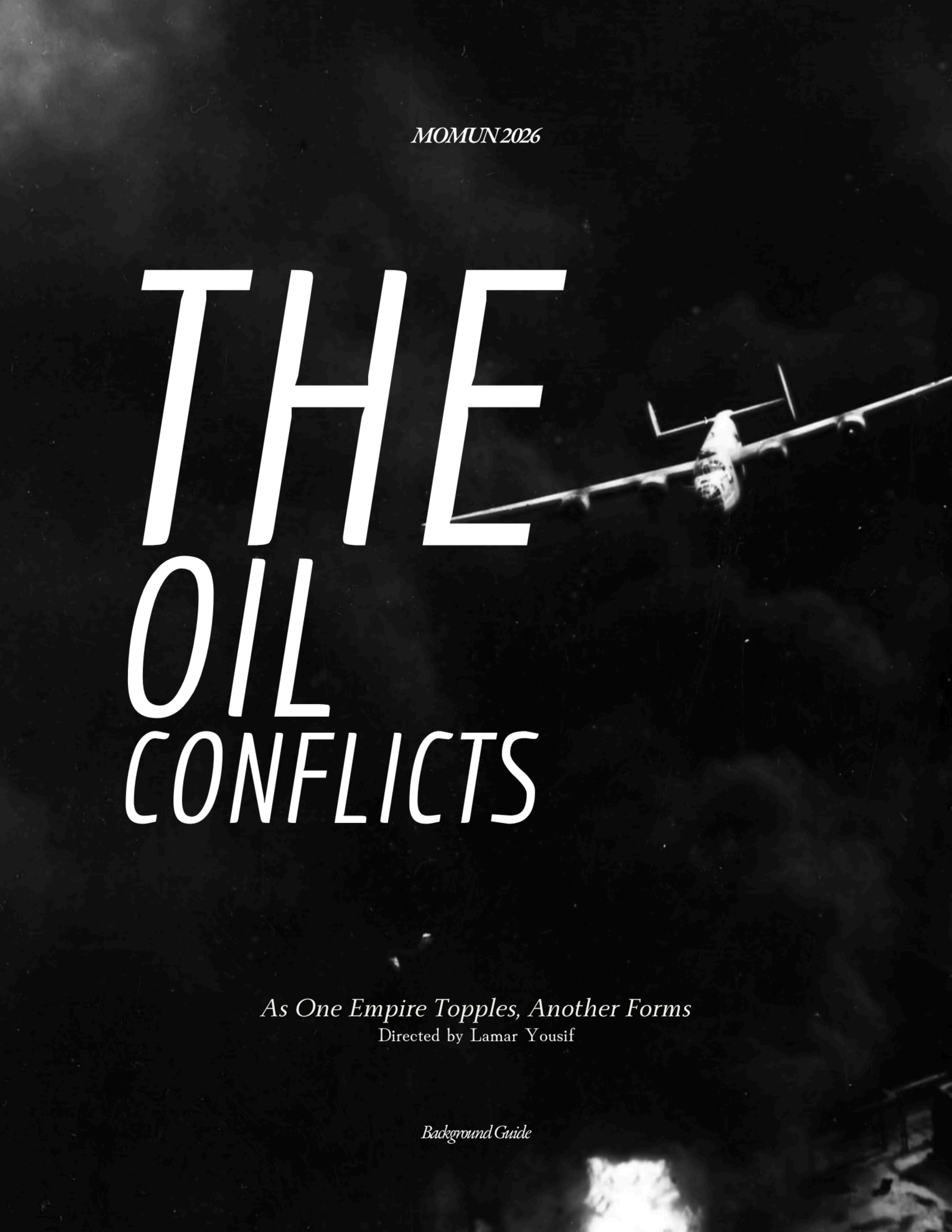

MOMUN 2026

THE OIL CONFLICTS

As One Empire Topples, Another Forms

Directed by Lamar Yousif

Background Guide

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Director's Letter

Hello Delegates!

Welcome to the Oil Conflicts!

My name is Lamar Yousif, and I'm a 9th-grade student at MPC.

It's my first year in Model UN and my first time directing a committee (yay)! I've attended two conferences and staffed at MOoCRISIS, another conference Monarch Park hosts in December. I particularly love doing crisis committees—the chaos and randomness of it all is amazing to experience. The wide range of topics that can be covered is frankly astounding, and I'm very excited to say that my specialized committee was one of my happiest and best ideas. I came up with it while procrastinating an assignment, and I've never had such a good idea since. The political game intrigues me, and I'd love to mix it with the unpredictable nature of a crisis.

A bit about me: I love everything, I'm pretty much "Consumer Final Boss". From the Rookie to Six of Crows to Gacha Life to Undertale, I'm involved in a lot of fandom spaces. I just find everything interesting, which was part of the reason why I decided to write about this committee. I have a certain passion for stories and plots—and many great ones are found in our past. Many say that we can never truly know what happened, as the victors tell their tale and the losers seldom speak. The winners' version of events is discussed as fact in history books, having them become the good guys—the better ones, who eventually were able to come out on top.

And yet, through all the edits and adulterating of the recorded timeline, manipulative plots and tactics are still found among their pages. Betrayals and alliances, scheming figures, transfers of power, an endless amount of resources, and a few thousand creative minds. No one can conceive of how large the world is, but often do people attempt to run it. That's the truth that is never able to be scrubbed. In this committee, I'm excited to see delegates be as selfish as they possibly can. Everything is a means to an end: owned resources, established connections, even the committee itself. Everything could be changed, but the true nature of the tales from those on top of the world always remains. Delegates should take advantage of that.

What I learned in my (admittedly short) time doing Model UN is that it isn't enjoyable unless you're having fun. That's the most important part. Have fun letting history play out. Have fun plotting with people. Have fun benefiting from your decisions. Have fun when things don't go your way. In this committee, anything can be done, and I hope you take advantage of that fact as best you can.

For any committee-specific questions or concerns, please contact either 348406653@tdsb.ca, or mpcmodelun@gmail.com

See you soon,

Lamar Yousif

Equity Statement

MOMUN 2026 has a zero-tolerance policy for equity violations within or outside of the committee. We acknowledge that this committee may touch on controversial issues such as war, environmental degradation, politics, et cetera. Being a historical committee, we acknowledge that general worldviews of the 1900's are very different and more conservative than today, with many beliefs being clear examples of bigotry and discrimination. While most events occurring in the committee will be fictional, this simulation reflects historical, real-world circumstances. Delegates are reminded that only English should be used, and accents or other languages are not allowed during proceedings.

Additionally, we implore delegates to maintain a high degree of respect and decorum. As a reminder, instances of racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, ableism, or any other form of discrimination will not be tolerated and may lead to disqualification from awards or removal from MOMUN 2026, depending on the severity. In committee, delegates may refer to these issues but not defend them in a way applicable to today. Remember, use discretion when speaking; if an action or sentence may insult someone's identity, it's best not said.

Moreover, a basic level of respect and order is expected when interacting with other delegates, pages, staff, faculty facilitators, and all MOCRISIS personnel who make this conference possible.

Glossary

Allied Powers

The military coalition from World War II that formed one of two major sides. Its major players consisted of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, the United States, and France. [1]

ARAMCO

A subsidiary of SoCal to manage the concession rights granted to them in Saudi Arabia. Originally, they were called CASOC, but then rebranded as ARAMCO after separating from the main company. [2]

Axis Powers

The military coalition that started World War II and fought against the Allied Powers. They primarily consisted of Nazi Germany, the Empire of Japan, and the Kingdom of Italy. The Ottoman Empire supported them. [3]

[1] Wikipedia Contributors, "Allies of World War II," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, March 13, 2019), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allies_of_World_War_II.

[2] Aramco, "Our History," www.aramco.com, 2023, https://www.aramco.com/en/about-us/our-history.

[3] Wikipedia Contributors, "Axis Powers," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, April 9, 2019), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_powers.

Bahrain Petroleum Company

A subsidiary of SoCal, which was the largest split of Jersey Standard. They discovered the first oil well in the Arabian Peninsula. [4]

Company Stake

This refers to ownership or responsibility for a company or organization. Someone having a stake in a business can refer to being a partial owner, owning some of its stocks, or having other stakes such as investment properties or materials.[5]

Dammam No. 7

In exploring Saudi Arabian lands, drilling started at several drilling sites (Dammam No. 1–6). Despite setbacks with the first six wells, CASOC drilled into another area and created a new well called Dammam No. 7. That place produced commercial quantities of oil and became famous as the first discovered in the region.[6]

IPC

The abbreviation for Iraq Petroleum Company. The IPC had a monopoly on the oil production in Iraq and is a major competitor with ARAMCO. [7]

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[4] Wikipedia Contributors, "Bahrain Petroleum Company," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, August 10, 2020), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahrain_Petroleum_Company.

[5] "What Is a Stake in Business? Definition and Who Uses Them," Indeed Career Guide, n.d., https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/what-is-stake-in-business.

[6] Wikipedia Contributors. "Dammam No. 7." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, January 25, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dammam_No._7.

[7] Wikipedia Contributors, "Iraq Petroleum Company," Wikipedia, July 21, 2023, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_Petroleum_Company.

Ottoman-Wahhabi War

A war fought for control over the Arabian Peninsula between the Wahhabis, a religious sect of Islam, and the Ottomans, who ruled the region. [8]

Protectorate

A territory or the person in charge of it that forgoes an independent foreign policy in favour of alliance with a protecting power, normally in order to ensure its defence against regional aggressors.[9]

Sykes-Picot Agreement

A secret treaty between Great Britain, France, Italy, and Russia to divide up the Ottoman Empire's land in the anticipated event of defeating them in WWI. [10]

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[8] Wikipedia Contributors, "Ottoman–Wahhabi War," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, March 29, 2026), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman%E2%80%93Wahhabi_war#.

[9] Wikipedia Contributors, "Protectorate," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, March 23, 2026), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protectorate#.

[10] Wikipedia Contributors, "Sykes–Picot Agreement," Wikipedia (Wikimedia Foundation, November 16, 2019), https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement.

Historical Background

The Prologue: WWI and Its Aftermath

The beginning starts with a few major players, defined by their desperation, motives, and aspirations. Early in World War I, the Allied Powers had agreed to split the profits and land of the Ottoman Empire, which had allied with the Axis Powers and had been perceived as weak, easy to take over, and extremely valuable due to the potential for resources its land held. [11] The Sykes-Picot Agreement had been secretly drafted between Great Britain, France, Russia, and Italy, and following the Allied victory, it was put into action. It stated that the region that the Ottomans had had control over was to be split into several countries, with control given to each of the imperialist nations involved. Great Britain was given much of the Arabian Peninsula, including what is currently Saudi Arabia. [12, 13] It's worth noting that this included all the Allied powers with the sole exception of the USA, which was excluded from the claims in the region. The United States was left to find alternative ways to deal with that setback and compete globally, while the other nations grew stronger using the increased resources they gained through the Middle East.

In the time of slow communication, which made direct and strict control difficult, many empires opted to use different management styles. The common operation of the British Empire with its colonies was to instate and give power to local leaders who were loyally allied with the British to act in their interest.[14] Ibn Saud was of the deposed Al Saud Family, who used to rule much of the Arabian

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[11] Wikipedia Contributors. "Sykes–Picot Agreement." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, January 2, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement#Motivation_and_negotiations.

[12] Wikipedia Contributors. "World War II." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, January 12, 2020. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II#Pre-war_events.

[13] Wikipedia Contributors. "Civilian Conservation Corps." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, December 4, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilian_Conservation_Corps.

Peninsula before their defeat in the Ottoman-Wahhabi war.[14] He was a rising leader, one who was gaining land, supporters, and power in the region. He and the Ottomans had a complicated relationship, the nature of which resulted in several skirmishes over land and resources, but also bonded them as allies with mutual interests.[15] The British, which had been in correspondence with Ibn Saud, seated him as a British Protectorate and the leader of Saudi Arabia, which had originally been the Hejaz and the Nejd regions.[14, 15, 16]

Politics, History, and Context

In light of WWI, the powers that be were growing a large appreciation and interest in oil. With its low material weight, high energy density, and industrial novelty, many were looking to invest in it. Notable distinguished companies with control over the region included the Iraq Petroleum Company, with its fair share of successes in locating and trading oil, and Standard Oil, the original dominator of the industry before the US's anti-trust laws forced it to dissolve into several companies.[16, 17] Jersey Standard was one such company, which was expanding its sights on foreign oil.

The Bahrain Petroleum Company, a subsidiary of SoCal, had discovered the first oil field in Bahrain.[18] This exploded the interest in the region from certain companies and governments, all major players vying for inclusion in the massive profit potential.

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14 Wikipedia Contributors. "House of Saud." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, October 27, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Saud.

15 Wikipedia Contributors. "Ibn Saud." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, September 7, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Saud.

16 Wikipedia Contributors. "St John Philby." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 1, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_John_Philby.

17 Wikipedia Contributors. "Iraq Petroleum Company." Wikipedia, July 21, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_Petroleum_Company.

18 Wikipedia Contributors. "Saudi Aramco." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 3, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Aramco#Yom_Kippur_War.

In 1925, the Iraq Petroleum Company found a goldmine of oil in Iraq, propelling the company forward and ensuring its authority over the oil market, especially during the Great Depression. As the Middle East was already rumoured to have large reserves of oil, this event only served to intrigue people to look deeper and investigate further. After their success, the IPC then became backed by the British government, which was in the process of transitioning its primary fuel source from coal to oil and intended to gain trading advantages in the region through this investment.[19]

IPC and SoCal had unofficially entered the oil race with their respective, closely timed discoveries of oil to see who could take over the global oil market using the Middle East. Britain had excluded the USA in the Sykes-Picot Agreement in order to have better command over the Arabian Peninsula's oil, but SoCal was threatening that security by giving them an "in" into the blooming oil industry in the area.

The Ottoman Empire was already bankrupt and politically unstable before being split into several administrations under the control of European powers, which only served to weaken it further.[20, 21] In 1932, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was formed by joining the Hejaz and the Nejd, and Ibn Saud was formalized as the leader.[22] Though he cooperated with the British interests and wills, Ibn Saud was also interested in building Saudi Arabia as its own nation through international relations, domestic agreements between peoples, and utilizing the land's resources.[23] Hearing of the potential for oil in the Levant region, Saudi Arabia was quick to engage in negotiations for a concession to search for oil on Saudi Arabian land with SoCal. The IPC, having British interests, had decided to engage in a

[19] Wikipedia Contributors. "Iraq Petroleum Company." Wikipedia, July 21, 2023. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_Petroleum_Company.

[20] Wikipedia Contributors. "Sykes–Picot Agreement." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, January 2, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement#Motivation_and_negotiations.

[21] Zeidan, Adam. "Sykes-Picot Agreement." In Encyclopædia Britannica, November 13, 2018. https://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement.

[22] Wikipedia Contributors. "Ibn Saud." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, September 7, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_Saud.

[23] Wikipedia Contributors. "St John Philby." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 1, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_John_Philby.

bidding war in order to bar SoCal from potentially gaining claims to the region. If SoCal claimed those rights, then the USA would have a way to use Arabian land for oil. However, many in the IPC weren't convinced of the potential for oil in Saudi Arabian lands, and thus hadn't pursued the concession rights offered as vigorously as SoCal had. Nonetheless, the company still decided to engage in a bidding war for the Saudi Arabian land against SoCal.[23] Many of the current shareholders in ARAMCO with a large amount of capital had decided to invest by this point.

ARAMCO's Origins

Saudi Arabia ended up granting concession rights to SoCal in 1933, which assigned the area to California-Arabian Standard Oil Company, or CASOC, which started searching for oil in the area almost immediately. For five years, CASOC had no luck in the area, finding quite literally nothing. Jersey Standard, the larger company, was having its doubts about CASOC and any possible success it would have. [24]

When CASOC filed to officially split from the larger company, it wasn't a surprise that Jersey Standard streamlined the process in exchange for owning an amount of the stock. CASOC separated from the larger company and became an independent corporation called the Arabian-American Oil Company, or ARAMCO.

However, through the funding from the various investors in the company earlier, CASOC was able to continue funding its operations well into 1938, when it had finally hit gold. Or more accurately, the black gold—oil. Dammam No. 7, what would later be known as the turning point for the oil market, was under the control of ARAMCO and was producing thousands of barrels of oil per week.[24]

Due to rising tensions between countries grappling for power in the pre-WWII-era, the company decided to assert itself as a neutral trading party, supplying just enough oil to all nations to

[24] Wikipedia Contributors. "Saudi Aramco." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 3, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Aramco#Yom_Kippur_War.

keep operations running discreetly. They established low-commitment trading agreements while simultaneously building rapport as a legitimate and capable business. In short, ARAMCO was trading everywhere. It drew the attention of a few prospective groups with ambition and who imagined the growing potential of what the company could be, if it would only apply itself. Thus, over the course of WWII, the ranks and resources of ARAMCO grew ever larger, and the company's liquid assets grew ever bigger as more and more investors poured money into the company to claim a meaningful stake in decisions and profit.

Current State of Affairs

In 1947, the major conflict of WWII had calmed down on all active fronts, and ARAMCO was left with many different owners and many counts of profit gained. The stakeholders had decided to all meet and decide the next course of action. With an infinite number of directions to move in, they have a singular objective: to gain as much influence and resources as they can by maximizing ARAMCO's profits and benefiting financially or using ARAMCO's power in their favour.

As of right now, ARAMCO is able to deal and trade with any organization that has the means to purchase oil, albeit with careful negotiations. In regards to company relations in the oil industry, ARAMCO has no relations, unless stated otherwise. There is no current communication between ARAMCO and the others, and so there isn't any hostility or partiality between them. Other than the few individuals working for the company or who have stock, the larger population either isn't aware of or doesn't care much for ARAMCO and its presence. Any policy changes to the company, any deals that the company will want to make, any action that ARAMCO plans to take in its internal and external workings must have a set-up of actions behind it. For example, if the ARAMCO shareholder board decides to start dealing with IPC, there must have been negotiations between the two before any formal actions can be taken.

The story of the Arabian-American Oil Company may be decided in these papers, but anyone can decide their own story by sticking to their goals. Every one of the people in the discussion room got there by playing the game, so it's only appropriate to continue.

Topic A - *Increasing Profit*

Subtopic 1: Using Acquired Assets and Resources to Produce Profit

A corporation's determination to grow is a topic of debatable ethics, but regardless, it's part of ARAMCO's most focused thoughts. Having given ARAMCO the resources to thrive, it's only natural for the shareholders to now command the prosperity that comes with it. It's in the best interests of these decision-makers to continue allowing ARAMCO to grow, through whatever means necessary within legal boundaries.

Looking at its already established luck, it might be wise to capitalize on its established resources. ARAMCO currently owns Dammam No. 7, which has a daily average production rate of 1500 barrels a day.[25] It has quickly become a major player in the natural gas industry. As well as that, it may be on track to become the top oil exporter globally if they play their cards right. Various nations have little access to natural oil, raising demand exponentially and giving room for prices to follow. Shareholders should consider the when, where, who, and what of business. What to offer, what to reserve and keep in storage.

ARAMCO already has the edge when it comes to innovating in the industry, considering the jackpot of oil they're harvesting and the extensive land permissions granted to it by Saudi Arabia. They have the potential to expand the industry, pushing humanity forward past its scientific, economic, and production limits. Having access to so many resources means ARAMCO isn't limited to doing business solely in the primary industry. They may be able to expand into the secondary and tertiary

[25] Wikipedia Contributors. "Saudi Aramco." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 3, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Aramco#Yom_Kippur_War.

industries, as well. Shareholders might look into pushing the boundaries of what it means to be a natural resource company by dipping into the various treasures to be found in other sectors of the economy. How would they take this steadily growing company to an exponentially rising one?

Subtopic 2: How to Deal with Competition in the Oil Industry

Industry competition can be both a hindrance and a blessing. Having a bad company as competition could enforce the public's confidence in ARAMCO, but could also ruin the entire industry's reputation, hurting ARAMCO. On the contrary, better competition can encourage all-around higher quality service in the field, but can also make clients choose companies that aren't ARAMCO. It's a delicate balance to find suitable ways to manage competition in order to reap all its benefits. It is up to the shareholders on how to proceed, knowing all this information. Whether it's creating deals with other companies or seeking to render them obsolete, the highest priority should be ARAMCO.

One viable strategy is to strike truces and deal with opposing companies to benefit off of one another, and hope that ARAMCO's benefit from the deal is greater than the other side's. Stock-holders may decide to look into the copious number of methods to reduce competition within the industry. ARAMCO has already achieved one of them by outbidding the IPC for concession rights in Saudi Arabia. ARAMCO surged to the top oil distributors in one decisive push that gave them access to one of the largest oil wells to exist. Had the IPC pushed for those concessions, ARAMCO would have eventually gone bankrupt and IPC would have reigned unchallenged in the natural gas industry. Another strategy to get rid of competition is simply to focus on being more attractive to consumers than others are. Whether through lowering prices or offering better service, it is a tried-and-true method. Corporations can draw customers by being so much better, and retaining those benefits for customers until competitors can no longer compete due to lack of business. These strategies, along with numerous others, could all be reasonably employed in ARAMCO's favour. It is up to shareholders to decide their dealings with the other companies.

Guiding Questions

- People have varying needs for crude oil and resources to pay for it. Where, when, and who can help generate the most profit with their business transactions?
- What are some ways and circumstances that justify raising prices?
- How can ARAMCO alter market flow to control prices?
- Are there any ways to take advantage of other parts of the economy?
- How can ARAMCO expand its business past oil?
- Where can ARAMCO find more oil?
- What are some things ARAMCO can do to make their business more attractive than others'?
- How can ARAMCO increase its company-owned capital and resources?
- How should ARAMCO behave with its competitors, considering who they are and the pros and cons of each action?

Topic B - *Social and Physical Influence*

Never can an entity on Earth exist independently of others, unaffecting or unaffected. The primary objective of any corporation is to make as much money as possible for as long as possible. An organisation's mere policies and stances can result in rippling global impacts, whether in a negative or positive light. Forming a company means joining factions into one large faction, and with a large amount of resources, comes power, responsibility, and social influence. A company's decisions can affect not only internal components, but also influence other companies and the working class, going as far to potentially establish societal changes at large. The shareholders of this company are not only responsible for their own good, but may also be responsible for the wellbeing of the larger Earth.

Subtopic 1: The Nuances of Running a Large Company

Two things can be true at once; Saudi Arabia both checks and covets ARAMCO. The government of Saudi gave concession rights concerning their land to ARAMCO, and thus ARAMCO is in somewhat of a precarious position, having accepted a quid-pro-quo-esque deal.[26] Though unlikely and difficult to achieve, it's worth noting that ARAMCO has an implicit interest in helping the country prosper. Yet Saudi Arabia is a country of little resources, having recently been established.[27, 28,]

[26] Wikipedia Contributors. "Saudi Aramco." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 3, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Aramco#Yom_Kippur_War.

[27] Wikipedia Contributors. "Partition of the Ottoman Empire." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, December 29, 2025. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Partition_of_the_Ottoman_Empire#Independence_movements_and_occupations.

[28] Wikipedia Contributors. "Saudi Arabia." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, April 8, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia.

[29] Many things concerning the country are yet to be decided, with many directions they can go in. From diplomatic relations and trade agreements, to domestic policy and societal structures, Saudi Arabia has a lot of room for growth. With all this being said, ARAMCO has the potential to single-handedly run the country's policies and shape its decisions using their economic influence. Additionally, a powerful company such as ARAMCO may set precedents; including societal norms, labour standards, job benefits, et cetera. Oil is already recognised as a potential game-changer for economic standards, and ARAMCO can control a lot of the oil with their discovery in Dammam No. 7. As such, they may be able to command the money flow globally. And where the money goes, everything else follows.

Although ARAMCO is based in Saudi Arabia, at its core, ARAMCO is a worldwide company with the ability to influence other parts of the world, too. To the working class, they represent the elite; to Westerners, they represent Arabian companies; to other countries, they represent the oil industry. They, however, have the ability to do much more. To women, they can represent opportunity; to indigent people, they can represent a hopeful way to earn; to students, they can represent a chance at advancement. This enterprise has the ability to become more than an oil company—it could become a foundation for many parts of life, solidifying its place in society. Furthering opportunities for the underprivileged class is not a short-term goal but a long-term scheme to benefit from the benefits that bloom from it. It's much easier to be a successful company when it has the support of the people as well as the powerful people involved in it. The topic at hand is to develop policies to instate ARAMCO as a necessary part of society, to build a relationship in not only the economic world, but also the social, political, scientific, and historical landscapes.

[29] Wikipedia Contributors. "Saudi Aramco." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, March 3, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Aramco#Yom_Kippur_War.

Subtopic 2: The Effect on the Environment

The world is recognizing oil as a major resource for human development, with the potential to replace coal. However, every barrel comes with consequences. One of the greatest unknowns facing the global oil industry is the finite nature of petroleum itself. No one truly knows how much oil remains underground or how long current reserves will last; no one knows the impact of drilling into the land and reshaping landforms along with their ecosystems; no one knows how it will affect the environment in the short and long-term.[30] Ignorance is bliss, and many oil companies take that to heart. Taking advantage of the lack of awareness and knowledge on the subject, many oil companies are attempting to extract as much as possible while the social climate remains favourable.

Drilling for oil drastically alters the physical landscape. Rigs, pipelines, access roads, and drilling sites quickly transform open land into industrial zones. The process can permanently reshape ecosystems by disturbing soil layers, draining groundwater, and removing vegetation; not to speak of what isn't yet obvious damage. Entire regions that once supported wildlife, agriculture, or nomadic communities become unsuitable for their past uses. [31] Saudi Arabia is using oil to take over the world, the same way it may be taken over by oil itself. [32] In many cases, drilling takes land from Indigenous or local groups, displacing communities whose relationships with the land go back generations. Even when compensation is offered, the cultural, economic, and environmental losses can be irreversible.

[30] Shamasunder, Bhavna, and Jill Johnston. "LA's Long, Troubled History with Urban Oil Drilling Is Nearing an End after Years of Health Concerns." The Conversation, January 27, 2023. https://theconversation.com/las-long-troubled-history-with-urban-oil-drilling-is-nearing-an-end-after-years-of-health-concerns-198650.

[31] Wikipedia Contributors. "History of Environmental Pollution." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, February 6, 2026. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_environmental_pollution#Early_20th_century.

[32] Wikipedia Contributors. "House of Saud." Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation, October 27, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Saud.

Unfortunately, it's impossible to be completely careful and mindful of the environment while also turning the maximum profit. Just as it's possible that extracting natural gas is bad for the Earth, it's also entirely possible that it has no long-term effects. While it may be important to consider environmental sustainability when drilling for oil, it would greatly reduce profits for something unconfirmed to have any real, lasting impacts. Shareholders must carefully weigh these environmental costs against their larger goals. While ARAMCO's primary objective is profit, its long-term sustainability depends on the stability of the environment it operates within.

Guiding Questions

- How can ARAMCO build a good relationship with the public?
- How can ARAMCO influence social conditions and trends in their favour?
- Considering the current political climate, how, if at all, should ARAMCO address it?
- Where does ARAMCO stand in current civil movements?
- To what degree should ARAMCO expose itself to the public past market relations? Should it focus purely on being a natural resource extraction company, or should it try to control public relations? If so, how?
- Should ARAMCO be concerned about the environmental effects oil drilling may have?
- Natives have lived on the land for years before ARAMCO gained drilling rights there. How can they solidify their claim without angering the local population?
- How can ARAMCO use the blurry lines and near-zero regulations concerning oil drilling to their advantage?
- How can ARAMCO guarantee their business can sustain itself for several dozens of years to come?
- In case of setbacks or backlash with oil extraction, what are some contingency measures ARAMCO can have in place?

Crisis Mechanics

Hello Delegates! This specific committee has some special crisis mechanics, and I'd be happy to explain them to you, so you're well-prepared on the day of the conference.

- This is a political committee, and the world of politics is quite large. As such, it's understandable that some delegates would want to achieve their goals in this committee through roundabout ways, including through contacting characters not represented in this committee. Because of this, you can send backroom notes to these figures, but only for communication, networking, or informational purposes. You will not be allowed to take any actions. For example, back rooms will allow you to write a letter to someone to contact them, but will not allow you to appear in public with them or host a party to meet them. You should describe in detail how you are going to find and contact any person you want to communicate with, as well as what you are going to do and display to them to get a satisfying response.
- In order to take actions through the backrooms, delegates must write Joint Private Directives. This essentially means that any crisis notes must involve at least 3 people in depth, using their power or resources to help achieve the outcome. Delegates can send, or be involved in, a total of **three of these directives per committee session.**
- As outlined in the character guide, certain people have more shares of ARAMCO than others do. Percentage of shares, in this committee, corresponds to voting power. Using directives, delegates can trade shares, for any reason, by writing it out in a clause.
- As you were emailed about, all characters have secret initiatives. Completing your secret initiative is a priority, but additionally, finding out others' goals will grant you a special prize to use in committee. If you feel like you've found out someone's secret goal, send it in a note to Crisis. Be careful, though—if you get it wrong, you will be penalised.

Additional Research

Due to the nature of this committee, it's highly recommended that you research and look more at the main ideas covered in this document. Having a large knowledge base to draw on is of utmost importance to being successful in your role as a delegate, through resolution writing and debating.

Though it isn't necessary to know, it may be useful to have some surface knowledge about relevant history. That being said, here are some topics to research that may be useful.

- ARAMCO's History (Note - keep in mind that though the background guide is very similar to the actual history, the background guide has a preemption on any contradictions between the two versions).
- General History of World War 2
- Standard Oil Company of New Jersey
- Iraq Petroleum Company
- Sykes-Picot Agreement
- Partition of the Ottoman Empire
- The House of Saud's history
- The Open Door Policy and its effects of trading worldwide
- The Discovery of Greenhouse Gases
- Corporate Lobbying
- World War I and Canadian Women's rights
- International Relations of countries within the Middle East
- Industrial Business Strategies
- Red Line Agreement

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