

# The Bandung Conference

Background Guide

**GWCIA XXXI**

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# Conference Policies

## Misconduct Policy

GWCIA acknowledges that collegiate Model UN spaces often echo or perpetuate real-world discrimination towards various historically marginalized communities. As such, GWCIA enforces a zero tolerance policy for harassment or discrimination based on race, color, sex, gender, gender identity, sexual identity, national origin, religion, age, disability, or any other identity-based designation. Additionally, GWCIA practices a zero tolerence policy for sexual misconduct of any kind, including sexual harassment and sexual assault. This includes, but is not limited to, inappropriate 1) content in notes passed or documents created during committee sessions, 2) conversations throughout GWCIA, and 3) conduct at The George Washington University campus or at any GWCIA-sponsored programming. If a delegate experiences any kind of discrimination, social discomfort, or sexual misconduct, they are urged to bring it to the attention of any GWCIA secretariat member or report the instance via our anonymous misconduct form, which can be found on our Conduct Policies website page and in each committee room. Any potential cases of discrimination or sexual misconduct will warrant immediate investigation and may result in disqualification from awards and/or dismissal from the conference at the sole discretion of the Secretary-General.

## Technology Policy — General Assembly

Using technology is prohibited in GWCIA general assembly committees, unless a delegate has an approved accommodation. GWCIA will provide delegates with one white legal pad and a pen that they may use to write clauses and contribute to resolutions. Delegates are free to bring their own additional notepads, staplers, Post-Its, or other supplies, as these will not be provided.

## Plagiarism, Pre-Writing & AI Policy

All pre-written, plagiarized, or AI-generated content, which can include working papers, draft resolutions, directives, or crisis notes, is strictly prohibited at GWCIA. Pre-writing constitutes any language or content that was written outside of unmoderated caucuses in General Assemblies and outside of when debate is formally opened in crisis committees. This means that creating content before or after committee sessions or during moderated caucuses in Assemblies & Specialized committees is pre-writing. Writing during USG feedback, announcements, or during guest speakers equally constitutes pre-writing. All dais members and undersecretaries general are specifically instructed to monitor for pre-writing by checking typed and written materials that delegates may have prepared before the conference if potential pre-writing is suspected.
By participating in GWCIA, your delegation acknowledges that they understand this policy and the consequences if it is broken. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, verbatim or near-verbatim copying and pasting from academic sources or other websites. Any delegate found guilty of pre-writing, plagiarism, or flagrant AI usage will be immediately disqualified from any award in their committee. The GWCIA Secretariat reserves the right to search computers and laptops, notebooks and binders, USBs, and any form of electronics for Model UN specific documents in response to allegations. They additionally reserve the

discretion to run any content through an AI detector. In order to report a case of substantive misconduct, please see the anonymous misconduct form on our Conduct Policies page or contact a member of the Secretariat.

## Awards Policy

While GWCIA recognizes that the core value of participating in any Model UN committee is education in international affairs and the development of related skills such as productive collaboration, public speaking, and critical thinking, we also recognize the value of rewarding delegates who are exceptionally prepared and proficient in these skills. At GWCIA, we value delegates who can leverage creativity, diplomacy, substantive knowledge, and critical thinking skills to debate effectively, lead negotiations and blocs, and write comprehensive clauses. We especially look favorably towards delegates who individually develop meaningful solutions to the committee's main issues while keeping in mind the realistic diplomatic dynamics of our world, as well as those delegates who are able to advocate for their solutions and ideas to be adopted. The dais encourages delegates to lead in a manner that uplifts and respects their competitors while also introducing strong, unique solutions that consistently anchor their group's directive or working paper. On the other hand, attempts to undermine the goals of the committee without reason or acting without detailed thought of consequences are discouraged. Any rude, disrespectful, or demeaning conduct towards other delegates' ideas will not be tolerated.

# Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

It is my absolute honor and privilege to welcome you to the GWCIA XXXI Model United Nations Conference! My name is Leeyam Hadar and I am a sophomore at The George Washington University pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in International Affairs and Economics with a minor in German language and literature. Besides competing in conferences with the Model UN team, I am a brother of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, part of the Undergraduate Economics Society and stay involved with GW Hillel. Outside of school, I enjoy bike riding, photography, and sightseeing, especially when the cherry blossoms bloom in the Spring. This is my fourth year competing in Model UN, and I am very excited to chair in GWCIA this December.

I am excited to serve as your chair for the **Bandung Conference** for this year's GWCIA! For many of you, this may be your first time stepping into a committee room, giving a speech on a global stage, or writing a working paper. Please know that every experienced delegate in this room, including myself, started out feeling nervous. Model UN is not about knowing every single fact on day one; it is about curiosity, active research, diplomacy, and working together to build realistic solutions. That being said, this committee will deal with heavy topics such as colonization and human rights, and I expect delegates to debate these topics with great care and respect. Some topics may affect delegates personally, and as such this committee will not tolerate any hateful speech or isolating language in resolutions and speeches.

As you use your diplomatic skills to influence policy changes and inspire thoughtful debate, keep in mind that the goal is not to “win” an argument against another delegate. Rather, use strong speeches and writing skills to influence the discussion surrounding difficult topics and collaborate with other delegates to solve major problems, while also representing your nation’s actual policy ideals. Read our official Background Guide thoroughly, but do not stop there. Look up your country's past votes, domestic laws, and current stance on the topic. Always adhere to parliamentary procedure, address the room and the chair formally, and treat your fellow delegates with respect. We cannot wait to see the diplomacy, creativity, and leadership you bring to the floor.

Warmly,

Leeyam Hadar

leeyam.hadar@gwu.edu
Chair, The Bandung Conference

Reminder: Delegates must CC their advisor on any email sent to the Chair.

# Introduction to Committee

The Bandung Conference took place from April 18th to April 24th, 1955, in Bandung, Indonesia.[1] The conference is considered one of the defining events of the 20th century, marked as one of the founding moments of the **Non-Aligned Movement**, a group of countries that sought to oppose the two great powers of the Cold War.[2] Known at the time as the **Asian–African Conference**, the conference brought together mostly African and Asian countries, many of them newly independent, representing around 54% of the world's population at the time. The conference sought unity between African and Asian countries, seeking to cross the divide between autocracies and democracies, and communist and anti-communist states. The conference went on to define decolonization and the role of the **"third world"** in the Cold War.[3]

Among the attendants were the most important leaders of the developing world. The star-studded cast included Jawaharlal Nehru, the first president of India; Sukarno, the first president of Indonesia; Zhou Enlai, the powerful foreign minister of China; Gamal Abdel Nasser, founding father of Egypt; and many more. This gathering of some of the most influential people in the world at the time creates a perfect setting for this committee. Delegates will navigate between the heavy egos of their characters, the needs of their fledgling countries, and the shadow of the Cold War around them. Set during the conference, the committee will be full of lively debate and innovative solutions to guide the developing world through the most turbulent of times.

[1] "Bandung Conference | Afro-Asian Solidarity & Impact on Cold War | Britannica," September 24, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/Bandung-Conference.
[2] "Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) | Countries, Founded, Members, & Mission | Britannica," September 24, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Non-Aligned-Movement.
[3] "Third World | Definition & Facts | Britannica Money," Encyclopedia Britannica, September 17, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/money/Third-World.

# Historical Background

## The Cold War in the "Third World"

The Cold War was principally between the two great powers of the time: The United States and the Soviet Union[4]. However, the conflict encompassed the entire world, and every country had its role to play as well as their own interests. Many countries sought a middle ground, not aligning themselves with either power, as to prevent domination. The term "**third world"** comes from its non-alignment with the "first world" (The US and allies) and the "second world" (The USSR and allies.)[5] Following the Korean War, US and USSR rivalry intensified as each country attempted to sway different parts of the world to their side. It is from this tension that other countries sought non-alignment.

### The Cold War in East Asia

Following the fall of the Qing Empire in China in 1912, China was in a state of Civil War between regional warlords, the central Nationalist Government led by Chiang Kai-Shek, and the insurgent Communists led by Mao Zedong. The civil war paused in 1937 as the warring factions united to fight the invasion of Imperial Japan, but following the end of WWII, the **Chinese Civil War** restarted.[6] The Nationalists, crippled by the costs of war, corruption, and distrust of the Chinese people, were defeated by the Communists in 1950. The Nationalists fled to the island of Taiwan, still claiming to be the legitimate government of China. The defeat of the Nationalists sent shock waves across the world, particularly in the US, spreading fears of "domino theory," the idea that Communism would gradually spread to every Asian country.[7] In response, the US sought to intervene decisively against the spread of Communism in East Asia.

In 1950, the **Korean War** began as communist North Korea invaded the South, aiming to claim the entire peninsula. The US acted decisively, organizing a coalition to drive back North Korean forces and counter-attacking into North Korean territory. Fearing the United States would not stop after defeating North Korea, China intervened. The war would end in a stalemate in 1954, with millions dead, minimal border changes, and tensions unresolved.[8]

The Korean War was not the end of conflict between the US and China. In 1954, the **First Taiwan Strait Crisis** began, as the mainland Communist government attempted to seize

[4] "Cold War | Dates, Definition, Timeline, Summary, Era, & Facts | Britannica," September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/Cold-War.
[5] Encycl. Br., "Third World | Definition & Facts | Britannica Money."
[6] "Chinese Civil War | Summary, Causes, & Results | Britannica," August 19, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/Chinese-Civil-War.
[7] "Domino Theory | Definition & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/domino-theory.
[8] "Korean War | Eisenhower Presidential Library," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.eisenhowerlibrary.gov/research/online-documents/korean-war.

control of islands from the Nationalists merely a few miles from the mainland in the Taiwan strait.[9] The United States intervened, sending naval ships, leading to a confrontation that would last until May 1955, unresolved by the time of the Bandung Conference.

### The Cold War in Southeast Asia

Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia were colonies of France before WWII, part of French Indochina. The French attempted to restore control of their colonies following Japanese occupation during the war. Opposing them in Vietnam, however, was the communist League for Independence of Vietnam, otherwise known as Viet Minh, led by Ho Chi Minh. France fought the Viet Minh in the **First Indochina War** from 1946 to 1954, until France was decisively defeated at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu[10]. At the 1954 Geneva Conference, Vietnam was partitioned into a Communist North and non-Communist South, and independence was granted to the Kingdoms of Cambodia and Laos.[11] Tensions were unresolved, however, as South Vietnam refused to recognize the agreement. With a Communist insurgency led by the Viet Cong on the horizon, it is very clear that Vietnam will become a major theatre of the Cold War

Communist insurgency spread to other parts of Southeast Asia. Between 1948 and 1960 the British-backed Federation of Malaya and Malayan Communist Party fought in the **Malayan Emergency**.[12] Communist insurgency also spread to the newly independent Union of Burma, present-day Myanmar, at the same time as an insurgency run by exiled Chinese Nationalists.[13] This growing threat of Communism led western powers to form the **Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO)**, a NATO-like organization led by the US including Thailand, Pakistan, Philippines, Australia, and New Zealand, UK, and France.[14]

Against this rapid alignment of powers were many countries that sought neutrality, the largest of which was Indonesia, led by Sukarno.[15] After securing Indonesian independence from the Netherlands, Sukarno pursued a neutral foreign policy, prioritizing alliances with other emerging powers. Sukarno's desire to lead a non-aligned third world is what eventually led to the

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[9] "Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian," accessed September 30, 2026, https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/taiwan-strait-crises.

[10] "First Indochina War | 1946–1954 | Britannica," June 26, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/First-Indochina-War.

[11] HISTORY com Editors, "Geneva Conference to Resolve Problems in Asia Begins | April 26, 1954," HISTORY, November 13, 2009, https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/april-26/geneva-conference-begins.

[12] "Malayan Emergency Key Facts," Imperial War Museums, accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/cold-war/end-of-empire/malayan-emergency.

[13] "Burmese Civil Wars of 1948–1958 | History | Research Starters | EBSCOhost," EBSCO, accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.ebsco.com/.

[14] "Southeast Asia Treaty Organization | Cold War, Mutual Defense, SEATO | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Southeast-Asia-Treaty-Organization.

[15] "Sukarno | Indonesian Nationalist & 1st President of Indonesia | Britannica," August 17, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Sukarno.

organization of the Bandung Conference later in 1955. Still, Sukarno and Indonesia continue to struggle with decolonization, still feuding with the Netherlands over the status of West Papua.

### The Cold War in South Asia

On August 15, 1947, British influence officially ended on the Indian subcontinent, creating two new states: India and Pakistan. However, the **Partition of India** would be the source of immense strife as well as a major theatre of the Cold War.[16] The division of India led to one of the worst refugee crises in history, with around 20 million displaced, and the beginning of territorial disputes between the two countries, particularly of the region of Kashmir. The two great powers intervened as a result of the conflict.

India, under its visionary first president, Jawaharlal Nehru, sought a pragmatic foreign policy.[17] His government was one of the first to recognize the People's Republic of China, a partnership attempting to counterbalance US and Soviet influence. Nehru sought Indian economic independence, inspired by Soviet-style economic planning. In 1953, following the death of Stalin, India aligned more closely with the Soviet Union, building military and diplomatic ties, as well as opposing American initiatives such as SEATO.

Pakistan, meanwhile, embraced western support as a means of security against India, developing a deep relationship with the United States.[18] In particular, Pakistan developed deep military ties, receiving US advisors and entering into a mutual defense agreement, as well as joining SEATO.

### The Cold War in the Middle East

Following the defeat of the Arab states in the first Arab-Israeli War, the Middle East was highly destabilized as Arab governments became increasingly unpopular. It is from this environment that one of the principal characters of the region emerged, the Egyptian General Gamal Abdel Nasser.[19] Before the revolution, there was heavy British influence in Egypt, supported by Egypt's infamously corrupt king, Fraouk.[20] In 1952, the Free Officers, led by Nasser and Mohammed Naguib, overthrew the monarchy and established the Republic of Egypt. Nasser later seized control from Naguib in 1954. Nasser promoted **Arab Nationalism**, an ideology seeking to transcend national borders, uniting the Arab world, promoting economic

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[16] "Partition of India | Summary, Cause, Effects, Indian Independence Movement, Pakistan, & Significance | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/Partition-of-India.

[17] "Jawaharlal Nehru | Biography, Significance, Family, Wife, Daughter, Death, & Children's Day | Britannica," September 23, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jawaharlal-Nehru.

[18] "Pakistan - Political Decline, Bureaucratic Ascendancy | Britannica," September 29, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Pakistan/History.

[19] "Gamal Abdel Nasser | Biography & Facts | Britannica," September 24, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gamal-Abdel-Nasser.

[20] "Egypt - Islamic Conquest, Pharaohs, Nile | Britannica," September 28, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Egypt/Cultural-institutions.

self-reliance, and opposing all forms of imperialism.[21] His opposition to imperialism earned him the ire of western powers, who sought to counter his influence across the Arab world. Nasser was tacitly supported by the Soviet Union, but Egypt never formally aligned with the Communist bloc.

Iran was one of the first battlegrounds of the Cold War.[22] During WWII, the UK and Soviet Union occupied Iran and when the UK withdrew in 1946, the Soviet Union refused, creating a diplomatic crisis that ended when pressure from the United States forced a Soviet withdrawal. Great power conflict would continue. In 1951, Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh nationalized the British Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. In 1953, the UK and US organized a coup of Mosaddegh's government, code-named Operation Ajax, installing a western-aligned absolute monarchy led by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.[23]

Seeking to oppose Soviet and anti-Western influence, the Western powers and aligned Middle East governments formed the **Baghdad Pact**, an alliance similar to NATO, in 1954, including Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Pakistan.[24] Additionally, states such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia also began receiving significant support from western powers to counter the growing power of Arab nationalist movements. Israel remains a major ally for the Western Powers, however, it also maintains positive relations with the Soviet Union.[25]

### The Cold War in Africa

The Cold War in Africa is defined by the beginning of **decolonization**.[26] As of the Bandung Conference, many African countries are either close to gaining independence, or actively fighting for it. Much of Africa still remains under the rule of European powers.

Since 1952 in Kenya, part of the British Empire, the **Mau Mau rebellion** has been fought between pro-independence insurgents and the British army.[27] The conflict has shaken the British public to the core and has put pressure on Great Britain to decolonize. In the Gold Coast and Sudan, local governments have already begun pushing for full independence from the British

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[21] "Pan-Arabism | History, Significance, and Rise | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pan-Arabism.
[22] "Iran - Ancient Empire, Persian Culture, Islamic Revolution | Britannica," September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Iran/History.
[23] "1953 Coup in Iran | Coup D'etat, Description & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/1953-coup-in-Iran.
[24] "Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Central-Treaty-Organization.
[25] "Israel - Armistice, Refugees, Conflict | Britannica," September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Israel/History.
[26] "Decolonization | Definition, Examples, & Facts | Britannica," August 7, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/decolonization.
[27] "Mau Mau Rebellion | Summary, Causes, End, Significance, & Legacy | Britannica," September 11, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/Mau-Mau-Rebellion.

Empire. South Africa, however, is a different story. In 1948, the white-led government instituted **Apartheid**[28], establishing rigid racial segregation and disenfranchising its majority black population, including in occupied Southwest Africa, present day Namibia.

In the French Empire, along with Belgium, Portugal, and Spain, independence is an uphill, but inevitable battle. Unlike the British empire, these empires had no intention of giving up their colonies, and did not grant their colonies the same amount of autonomy as the British did. France in particular has fought to keep its colonial empire firmly under its thumb. In 1954, the **Algerian War of Independence** began, inciting a brutal war between the French army and Algerian insurgents, in which both sides committed atrocities.[29] The major exceptions to this rule are Morocco and Tunisia, French protectorates with a large degree of self-rule well on the road to independence. Decolonization in these empires asks the question of how bloodshed can be prevented for the goal of independence.

Previous Conferences, Agreements, and Diplomatic Trends

The first major precursor to the Bandung Conference following WWII was the Indian-organized **Asian Relations Conference** of 1947.[30] Hosted by the then Vice-President of the interim Viceroy's Executive Council, Jawaharlal Nehru; the conference intended to promote solidarity between the countries of Asia. The conference hosted recently independent states, independence movements, as well as representatives from colonial governments. The conference was intended to be apolitical, but found snares over issues of decolonization and territorial issues, including the partition of India, Tibet, Indochina, and Mandatory Palestine. The conference was successful in creating a sense of Asian unity, but its broader attempts and becoming a major organization were unsuccessful, partially from fears of Chinese or Indian domination from minor powers.

In 1949, representatives of Asia met again in New Delhi to discuss Indonesia. At the time,[3132] Indonesia was still fighting against the Netherlands for independence. The New Delhi Conference urged support for Indonesia, condemned the Netherlands, and supported greater efforts by post-colonial Asian states to collaborate with each other, particularly against further

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[28] "Apartheid | South Africa, Laws, Definition, Facts, History, Beginning, & End | Britannica," September 14, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/apartheid.

[29] "Algerian War of Independence | Brief Summary | Britannica," September 16, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/event/Algerian-War.

[30] Vineet Thakur, "An Asian Drama: The Asian Relations Conference, 1947," *The International History Review* 41, no. 3 (2019): 673–95, https://doi.org/10.1080/07075332.2018.1434809.

[31] "Historical Documents - Office of the Historian," accessed September 30, 2026, https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1949v07p2/d308.

[32] "VOICE OF ASIA GROWS STRONGER IN WORLD; Conference at New Delhi Foreshadows New Role in International Affairs - The New York Times," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.nytimes.com/1949/01/30/archives/voice-of-asia-grows-stronger-in-world-conference-at-new-delhi.html.

colonization. This conference showed the first attempts at solidifying collaboration between Asian states, independently from the great powers.

Another major precursor was the **Colombo Conference of 1954**, attended by the leaders of India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, and Indonesia.[33] In Colombo, the leaders discussed regional security cooperation and promoting decolonization. Creating an independent Asian bloc separate from the two major powers was also discussed, making it an important precursor to the non-aligned movement. It is also at this conference that Sukarno proposed a conference to bring together countries from Africa and Asia, which would become the Bandung Conference.

Bilateral agreements also formed a major backdrop for the Bandung Conference. In 1954, Indian and Chinese signed the **Panchsheel Agreement**, containing the **Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence**[34]. The principles included "mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non aggression, mutual non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and co-operation for mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence." These guiding principles would put India and China, Asia's primary diplomatic powers, on a footing towards more international cooperation, carried into the Bandung Conference.

[33] "The Colombo Conference: Neutrality the Keynote | JSTOR," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.jstor.org/stable/40392744.

[34] "Agreement on Trade and Intercourse with Tibet Region," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents?dtl/7807/Agreement+on+Trade+and+Intercourse+with+Tibet+Region.

# Issues

Decolonization

Opposition to imperialism was the greatest unifying cause of the Bandung Conference. Each country attending the conference has some history of imperialism, and most of them are recently independent, post-colonial nations. Around Asia and Africa, even more independence movements are fighting for the liberation of their countries. This background guide has discussed decolonization broadly, and later will discuss the colonial situation around each of the delegations. It is up to the conference to decide the approach Asia and Africa will use to continue the process of decolonization. As this conference takes place in 1955, this background guide will address decolonization as an ongoing event.

In Asia, decolonization has already been successful, with many newly independent states. However, many European countries have still attempted to hold onto their colonies in various states. Modern-day Malaysia is the largest holdout of British colonial control.[35] The Malay peninsula has been granted self-governance, but not full autonomy, and the colonies in North Borneo remain fully under British control. One of the biggest controversies in decolonization is **West Papua**, the last remaining part of the Dutch East Indies.[36] The Netherlands has attempted to entrench its control of West Papua, supported by regional allies (with the notable exception of the United States). Indonesia has opposed this and has attempted to bring the issue to the United Nations, advocating for West Papua's integration into Indonesia.[37]

Smaller European colonies also persist in Asia. In China, Great Britain and Portugal still maintain control over the ports of Hong Kong and Macau respectively. Portugal also still controls the city of Goa, as well East Timor. British control in Arabia also persists, with South Yemen, Oman, Qatar, the Trucial States (modern UAE), and Kuwait still under British protectorate.

In Africa, much of the continent remains under the control of foreign empires, however that is slowly changing. Violent uprisings in Kenya and Algeria have led to international condemnation of atrocities committed by colonial empires and have tested the British and French public's resolve to conduct colonial wars. At the same time, political campaigns across the continent have continued to advocate for independence. The most progress at this time comes from the two non-independent African delegations at the conference, Sudan and the Gold Coast,

[35] "History of Malaysia | People, Culture, Map, Events, & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Malaysia.
[36] "West Papua | Indonesian Province, History & Culture | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Papua.
[37] "History of Indonesia | People, Culture, Language, & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Indonesia.

both of them self-governing, with governments advocating for their independence.[3839] However, as mentioned before, significant resistance remains in the British, French, and other colonial empires.

One of the biggest topics of discussion will be the situation of South Africa. Although independent, South Africa is ruled by a white government and has recently instituted **Apartheid** in 1948.[40] Apartheid formalized the oppression of Black South Africans by enforcing rigid segregation and forced evictions into "tribal homelands" or Bantustans. Apartheid represents a continuation of colonialism and has received heavy international condemnation.

### The roles of the United States and Soviet Union

One major issue in decolonization comes from the less obvious imperialism coming from the United States and the Soviet Union, despite both countries theoretically promoting anti-imperialism.[41]

The Soviet Union's rule over Central Asia and Eastern Europe can be described as a form of imperialism. The countries in the Warsaw pact lack any significant autonomy, operating as Soviet client states.[42] More relevant for the conference is the treatment of the Muslim communities of Central Asia, including mass deportations, massacres, and the suppression of Islam.

The United States maintains an active colonial empire, although in Asia, it has begun decolonizing. The Philippines have recently been granted independence in 1946[43]. However, the United States still controls many Pacific Islands under UN Mandate. This does not include other US colonial territories in America, such as Puerto Rico and the Panama Canal Zone.

### Neocolonialism

Neocolonialism is another present threat, presenting colonialism in all but name. In Neocolonialism, colonial states are de-facto independent, but are economically and politically reliant on other states, often their former imperial overlord.[44] Countries under neocolonialism often lack control of their own resources and are reliant on richer, more developed countries for

[38] "History of Sudan | Conflict, Ancient, Colonial, Events, People, Dates, Maps, & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Sudan.
[39] "History of Ghana | Founded, Colonization, Location, Events, People, Dates, Map, & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Ghana.
[40] "Apartheid | South Africa, Laws, Definition, Facts, History, Beginning, & End | Britannica."
[41] "Cold War | Dates, Definition, Timeline, Summary, Era, & Facts | Britannica."
[42] "History of Central Asia - Soviet Rule, Ethnic Groups, Geography | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/history-of-Central-Asia-102306/Soviet-rule.
[43] "History of the Philippines | People, Spain, United States, Revolution, Map, & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Philippines.
[44] "Neocolonialism | Definition, Examples, & Facts | Britannica," August 17, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/neocolonialism.

trade due to their resource-oriented economies, maintained through state policies and their place on the international market. Neocolonial states also often have weak governments, oftentimes military dictatorships friendly to their neocolonial overlord. These governments are often maintained through covert operations and secret police, and are responsible for many human rights violations against their own citizens.

By 1955, neocolonialism was beginning to take shape in some countries, particularly in American allies. Iran is one of the biggest examples, with its original democratic government overthrown by the CIA and MI6 and replaced with an absolute monarchy, in order to ensure the flow of oil. Being subject to neocolonialism has already become a major fear within the leadership of Asian and African countries, prompting many to strive for economic independence, as well as internal security.

### Nonalignment

Non-alignment with the major powers is a broad sentiment shared by the delegates of the Bandung Conference.[45][46] However, its implementation has been varied. In a vastly interconnected world, it is difficult to remain fully unaligned. Involvement with the great powers has ranged from receiving tacit material support, such as the relationship between the Soviet Union and Egypt, or explicit alignment, such as with the Soviet Union and China. Similar alignment exists between the different sides of Vietnam, the members of the British Commonwealth, and even Turkish membership in NATO. It is the task of the delegates to decide what non-alignment actually means to the nations of Asia and Africa.

### Non-interference

Non-interference is a major issue in the unity of the gathered nations.[47][48] Despite sharing similar principles, the reality of independence means regional rivalries, territorial disputes, and diplomatic confrontation. The strong role of ideology also creates tensions between countries with differing economic and political systems, such as capitalist states and communist states. Enforcing and promoting non-interference is an important issue for this committee to agree upon.

### Human Rights

The basis for respecting other nations is rooted in the respect a nation has for its people. However, the human rights situation is drastically different for each country.[49][50] The countries represented range from democracies with robust human rights protections to authoritarian

[45] “Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) | Countries, Founded, Members, & Mission | Britannica.”
[46] “Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian,” accessed September 30, 2026, https://history.state.gov/milestones/1953-1960/bandung-conf.
[47] “Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian.”
[48] “Bandung Conference | Afro-Asian Solidarity & Impact on Cold War | Britannica.”
[49] “Milestones in the History of U.S. Foreign Relations - Office of the Historian.”
[50] “Bandung Conference | Afro-Asian Solidarity & Impact on Cold War | Britannica.”

regimes. Many countries also have significant ethnic minorities with varying levels of enfranchisement. Promoting human rights is an objective of many delegates, but effectively enforcing human rights may come at the cost of sovereignty and non-interference. Furthermore, authoritarian states may see it as a threat to their security.

Economics

The Bandung Conference has also made an explicit goal of economic cooperation between the states of Asia and Africa.[5152] As a result of years of imperialism, exploitation, and war, African and Asian countries are disproportionately poorer than their western counterparts. Especially given the threat of neocolonialism, it is up to the committee to create substantive solutions to strengthen the economies of Africa and Asia.

Improving trade relations and sharing resources could be an important tool for promoting economic independence. By replacing western markets with Asian and African markets, wealth can be shared and grown across the trading powers. However, as recently independent nations, trade infrastructure, both physical and political, remains undeveloped.

Technical cooperation is also an important pillar of promoting independence.[53] Asia and Africa do not lack experts in scientific and technical fields, but often lack the means for applying them. By pooling resources and knowledge, Asian and African countries can more easily benefit from new technologies and methods, contributing to their development. To accomplish this, nations can, for example, promote student exchanges or send delegations of technical advisors to other countries.

The free travel of people is also an important issue to consider.[54] For centuries, Africa and Asia have been deeply interconnected, a process that intensified under the rule of colonial empires. This has led to large amounts of inter-regional migration in the two continents. For example, many South Asians moved to work in British Africa, British Malaya, and the Dutch East Indies. There are also very significant Chinese populations across Southeast Asia, especially in Indonesia and Malaysia. With the end of empires, the status of these immigrants is up for re-examination. One idea is to grant these people dual-citizenship. Similarly, there is a significant question on how the exchange of people will continue in a post-independence environment.

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[51] Nabil Ahmed, "We Need to Talk about Bandung," Al Jazeera, accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2026/9/28/we-need-to-talk-about-bandung.

[52] Ricardo Vaz, "The Bandung Spirit," *Tricontinental: Institute for Social Research*, April 8, 2025, https://thetricontinental.org/dossier-the-bandung-spirit/.

[53] dcdmn, "The Bandung Conference," *DECOLONIAL CENTRE*, October 15, 2024, https://decolonialcentre.org/2024/10/15/the-bandung-conference/.

[54] David Mozingo, "The Sino-Indonesian Dual Nationality Treaty," *Memorandum (Institute of Pacific Relations, American Council)* 1, no. 10 (1932): 25–31, https://doi.org/10.2307/3023470.

# Questions to Consider

1. How can Asian and African nations promote closer political, economic, and social ties?
2. How can Asian-African cooperation improve economic development?
    a. How can Asian and African nations improve trade relations?
    b. How can Asian and African nations improve education?
    c. What should Asian and African governments do about expatriate populations, migrant labor, and immigration?
3. How can human rights be promoted across Asia and Africa?
    a. What political and social rights need to be promoted and protected?
    b. How does this interact with principles of non-interference and self-determination?
    c. How can Asian and African governments protect the rights of minorities, both within and outside their borders?
4. To what extent should Asian and African nations pursue neutrality in their foreign relations?
    a. What does it mean to be non-aligned?
    b. How can Asian and African nations prevent domination by any foreign power? Does this include other Asian and African states?
5. How can Asian and African nations resolve continuing disputes regarding decolonization?
    a. Vietnam?
    b. West Papua?
    c. The Gold Coast and Sudan?
    d. Hong Kong and Macau?
    e. Goa?
6. How can Communist and anti-Communist governments and movements across Africa and Asia be reconciled for the cause of Asian-African unity?
    a. In foreign policy?
    b. In domestic policy?
7. How should Asian and African governments approach the Cold War between the US and USSR?
8. How can Asian and African nations resist Neocolonialism?
9. To what extent should Asian and African governments be concerned about regional issues and political developments?
    a. Consider the unique issues facing your country and region. How can other Asian and African countries act?
    b. How does your delegation stand to gain from Asian-African cooperation?

# Delegations

1. **Republic of Indonesia**

Indonesia is the host of the Bandung Conference and is far from a simple venue for the conference.[55] Led by Sukarno, Indonesia seeks to become a leader of the developing world, described by Sukarno as Newly Emerging Forces (NEFOS.)[56] Indonesia also finds itself at the center of many issues at the conference. At the center of Southeast Asia, Indonesia faces pressure from both Communist and Capitalist forces to align with one. At the same time, Indonesia still struggles with decolonization, feuding with the Netherlands over the last part of the Dutch East Indies. Sukarno has attempted to build his country into a neutral liberal democracy with a self-sustaining economic system.

2. **Republic of India**

Under Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, India has asserted itself as a leader of Asian unity.[57] Promoting Asian unity has been a central part of Indian foreign policy since independence, expressed through large conferences, support to decolonizing states, and bilateral diplomacy.[58] This stance extends to Bandung, partially organized by India. India is positioned to be a major player in the conference, with a large base of wealth, technical knowledge, and power. However, as in previous conferences, smaller countries have been intimidated by Indian-led initiatives.[59] The Indian delegation must be keen to ensure Asian-African unity comes with the equality of all powers, rather than the domination of one or two powers over the other.

3. **Union of Burma** (Myanmar)

Burma gained independence from the British Empire in 1948, becoming a functional yet unstable liberal democracy led by Prime Minister U Nu, the Burmese delegate at Bandung.[60] The country is faced with significant insurgencies by ethnic militias, Communist forces, and exiled Chinese Nationalists. Burma since independence has opposed US interests in the region due to US support for the Chinese Nationalists, refusing to join SEATO, then supporting and organizing the Bandung Conference.[61] Long involved in the process of Asian unity, Burma's priorities in the conference are to strengthen economic and security cooperation.

4. **Islamic Republic of Pakistan**

Having attended the Colombo conference, Pakistan was also one of the organizers of the Bandung Conference.[62] Pakistan supports much of the anti-colonial agenda of the Bandung

[55] dcdmn, "The Bandung Conference."
[56] "Sukarno | Indonesian Nationalist & 1st President of Indonesia | Britannica."
[57] "Jawaharlal Nehru | Biography, Significance, Family, Wife, Daughter, Death, & Children's Day | Britannica."
[58] "Agreement on Trade and Intercourse with Tibet Region."
[59] "Fifty Years Ago: The Asian Relations Conference - Phayul," March 9, 2022, https://web.archive.org/web/20220309170312/http://www.phayul.com/2007/03/16/16010/.
[60] "Myanmar | History, Population, Coup, & Facts | Britannica," accessed September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Myanmar.
[61] dcdmn, "The Bandung Conference."
[62] "Pakistan - Political Decline, Bureaucratic Ascendancy | Britannica."

Conference. Despite their western alignment through initiatives such as SEATO, Pakistan does not oppose traditional western opponents such as China. Rather, Pakistan's position is a response to continued conflicts with India, such as the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan's situation shows why some states chose to align with the great powers, and the efforts of the conference could contribute to Pakistan's security independent of western powers.

5. **Dominion of Ceylon** (Sri Lanka)

Having hosted the Colombo conference, Ceylon is deeply involved in the issue of Asian unity.[63] Despite being nominally independent, Ceylon remains under heavy British influence as a dominion within the Commonwealth. Domestically, Ceylon has pursued anti-communist policies, constraining trade unions, left-wing parties, and universities. Ceylon has charted a neutral foreign policy, maintaining close ties with western countries but refusing to join SEATO. The greatest priority of Ceylon has been building ties with other Asian countries, exemplified by Ceylon's involvement in organizing the Bandung Conference.

6. **People's Republic of China**

Although not part of the Colombo conference, China is one of the most influential nations at the Bandung Conference.[64] Represented by the charismatic foreign minister, Zhou Enlai, China needs to balance its desire for Asian unity with its firm Communist ideology and alignment with the Soviet Union.[65] As a partially recognized state, this conference is also an opportunity to gather support for the People's Republic on the international stage. China is most firm on the issue of non-interference in international affairs, both to prevent issues regarding ideology and territory. China also has a vested interest in Chinese populations abroad, particularly desiring to secure dual-citizenship.

7. **Kingdom of Afghanistan**

Afghanistan has maintained neutrality throughout the early Cold War.[66] Despite being a monarchy, Afghanistan has benefitted from both Soviet and American aid aimed at swaying the country to either side. Afghanistan has used that money for economic and social modernization. Despite maintaining neutrality, Afghanistan has tense relations with its neighbor Pakistan, over its population of ethnic Pashtuns, the main ethnic group of Afghanistan.

8. **Kingdom of Cambodia**

Led by the pragmatic Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia gained independence in 1954 following the Geneva Agreement.[67][68] Since then, Cambodia has pursued a non-aligned stance, aligning closely with India and China and rejecting SEATO. The driving force behind

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[63] "History of Sri Lanka | Summary, Culture, Civil War, & Facts | Britannica," accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Sri-Lanka.

[64] "History of China | Events, People, Dates, Flag, Map, & Facts | Britannica," September 29, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-China.

[65] "Zhou Enlai | Chinese Communist Leader & Premier of China | Britannica," September 10, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/biography/Zhou-Enlai.

[66] "Afghanistan - Arts, Cultural Institutions | Britannica," September 25, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Afghanistan/The-arts-and-cultural-institutions.

[67] Editors, "Geneva Conference to Resolve Problems in Asia Begins | April 26, 1954."

[68] "History of Cambodia | War, Khmer Rouge, Genocide, & Facts | Britannica," accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Cambodia.

Cambodia's foreign policy is fear of Thailand and South Vietnam, both US allies. Sihanouk is a controversial figure, the former king of Cambodia, who recently abdicated in favor of his father to pursue politics and holding Cambodia firmly under his authoritarian control. Cambodia's primary goal in Bandung is to ensure its long-term security, particularly as a neutral power.

**9. Crown Colony of Cyprus**

At the time of Bandung, Cyprus was on its way to independence, still under the rule of the British Empire, represented by Archbishop Makarios III. The biggest question regarding Cyprus is whether it will join Greece after independence, a view pushed by Makarios and much of the island's Greek majority population. This unification is heavily opposed by Turkey and Cyprus' Turkish minority. The Cypriot cause at Bandung is primarily concerned with promoting the self-determination of Greek Cypriots within the greater cause of decolonization.

**10. Republic of Egypt**

Egypt is one of the most influential countries at the Bandung Conference. Led by President Gamal Abdel Nasser, Egypt has positioned itself as a leader of the Arab world as well as a power independent of the United States and Soviet Union.[69] Egypt has been at the center of the struggle for decolonization, having over the past few years conducted land reform, removed British influence from Egypt, and begun state-led economic programs to promote economic independence.[70] Egypt has also led the Arab coalition against Israel. Egypt is well aligned with the goals of Bandung and will seek a broad and encompassing resolution. At this time, Egypt still partially controls Sudan, as well as Gaza, although Sudan is rapidly on a path towards independence.

**11. Ethiopian Empire**

Ethiopia, led by Emperor Haile Selassie, has attempted to rapidly modernize.[71] Since the end of Italian occupation in 1941, Ethiopia has enacted tax reform, land reform, and political reform to end the still feudal structured society, although with limited success. Ethiopia would benefit massively from African-Asian exchanges of knowledge and expertise. Ethiopia is also well positioned to be a leader of African unity, particularly as one of the few countries in Africa to escape full colonization.

**12. Gold Coast** (Ghana)

Given self-governance by the United Kingdom, The Gold Coast is deep in independence negotiations and independence is well on the horizon.[72] Led by Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah, The Gold Coast has positioned itself as the champion of Pan-Africanism, influenced by American and British thinkers. At Bandung, The Gold Coast can be expected to advocate for the cause of decolonization, aiding their own efforts, as well as promoting unity across Africa, particularly with future independent states.

**13. Imperial State of Iran**

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[69] "Gamal Abdel Nasser | Biography & Facts | Britannica."
[70] "Egypt - Islamic Conquest, Pharaohs, Nile | Britannica."
[71] "History of Ethiopia | Established, Christianity, Colonization, & Abyssinia | Britannica," September 25, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Ethiopia.
[72] "History of Ghana | Founded, Colonization, Location, Events, People, Dates, Map, & Facts | Britannica."

In 1905, the British-owned Anglo-Persian Oil Company was given control of Iran's oil reserves, giving the United Kingdom significant control over Iran and its material wealth.[73] In 1951, Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh's government attempted to nationalize Iran's oil, taking control of their own oil supply. However, in 1953, his government was overthrown, supported by the CIA and MI6, and the Shah of Iran, Muhammad Reza Pahlavi, took absolute control. In 1954, foreign control over Iranian oil was entrenched, with America, British, and Dutch companies taking control in a consortium. Iran remains a firm western ally, a key asset for American and British interests in the Middle East. Still, Iran is a developing and rapidly modernizing country, clearly struggling over economic independence.

**14. Kingdom of Iraq**

Since 1953, Iraq has been ruled by King Faisal II as an independent state, however under heavy British influence.[74] Iraq's situation is unstable, with significant tensions within the population, particularly Kurdish and Shia minorities. Iraq has recently become an influential country in the region, as the base of the western-aligned Baghdad Pact.[75] Additionally, Iraq holds some of the largest oil reserves in the world, however, it is controlled by the British. Further cooperation with Asian and African countries may improve Iraq's ability to be economically independent, as well as reinforce Iraq's security.

**15. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**

Jordan was a client state under the British Empire up to its independence in 1946. Jordan's post-independence years have been extremely tumultuous. After defeat in the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Jordan annexed the West Bank and East Jerusalem, holding the territory indefinitely as a 'trustee' until a future settlement. The issue of Palestine is thus extremely important for the Jordanian delegation as unrest brews within Jordan's Palestinian population seeking to establish their own state or return to their homeland. Jordan is also contending with the growing tide of Pan-Arabism, as well as the continued influence of British officials in their government. Similar to other states in the region, Jordan also has a very pastoral economy with limited levels of education and urbanization.[76]

**16. State of Japan**

For Japan, greater Asian and African cooperation serves as a major political and economic opportunity.[77] Unlike most Asian and African states, Japan was not colonized, rather being a colonizer, recently ending occupation of China, Korea, and many pacific islands

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[73] "Iran - Ancient Empire, Persian Culture, Islamic Revolution | Britannica."

[74] "Iraq - Ancient Mesopotamia, Saddam Hussein, War | Britannica," September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Iraq/History.

[75] "Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) | Britannica."

[76] "Jordan - Hashemite Kingdom, Palestine War, Transjordan | Britannica," October 26, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Jordan/History.

[77] "Japan at the Bandung Conference: The Cat Goes to the Mice's Convention: Japan Forum: Vol 7 , No 1 - Get Access," *Japan Forum*, n.d., accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09555809508721525.

following WWII.[78] The Japanese economy is still recovering, but is rapidly growing, and is a major source of investment, technology, and expertise. Additionally, Japan's limited military capabilities means that good relations with other Asian countries could dramatically improve regional security, despite the protection of the United States. At Bandung, Japan has some of the most to give, as well as some of the most to gain of all of the attendees.

**17. Kingdom of Laos**

Laos recently gained independence as a part of the Geneva Agreement, with North and South Vietnam and Cambodia.[79] Laos has pursued a similar policy to Cambodia, maintaining neutrality. Laos faces major threats from instability in Vietnam, as well as a weak government and limited economic development.

**18. Lebanese Republic**

Lebanon gained independence in 1943, during WWII, and became a founding member of the United Nations.[80] Lebanon is organized by the National Pact, an agreement between the major religious groups of Lebanon distributing power in the country. Because of this, Lebanon has faced significant issues in political instability, fueled by ethnic conflict. Lebanon has also been destabilized by the conflict in Palestine, hosting over 100,000 Palestinian refugees. Still, Lebanon has benefitted from its beneficial location and tradition for trade.

**19. Republic of Liberia**

Liberia was one of the first states in Africa to gain independence, having declared independence from the US in 1847.[81] Liberia since then has become a major part of the rubber trade, with significant influence from the American company Firestone. Under President William Tubman, Liberia has pursued the "Open Door Policy," opening the country up to foreign investment, bringing economic prosperity at the cost of economic independence. Liberia has been at the forefront of Pan-Africanism, along with the Gold Coast.

**20. Kingdom of Libya**

Colonized by Italy, Libya gained independence in 1951 under a constitutional monarchy led by King Idris.[82] Libya is a very underdeveloped state, lacking industry as well as agricultural land. Libya is aligned with western powers, hosting American bases and receiving American aid, but also maintains good relations with the Soviet Union. Libya has most recently focused on expanding technical capabilities, sponsoring technical aid programs at the UN, and founding new universities.

**21. Kingdom of Nepal**

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[78] "Japan - Shintoism, Buddhism, Samurai | Britannica," September 26, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan/History.

[79] "History of Laos | War, Map, Flag, & Facts | Britannica," accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Laos.

[80] "History of Lebanon | Religion, Civil War, Israel, Hezbollah, & Flag | Britannica," accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Lebanon.

[81] "History of Liberia | Events, People, Dates, Map, & Facts | Britannica," August 6, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Liberia.

[82] "Libya | History, People, Map, & Government | Britannica," September 24, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Libya.

The recent history of Nepal has been extremely unstable. Although never colonized, Nepal is extremely intertwined with its neighbor of India as well as the British Empire. The past few years have been marked by political unrest leading to democratization, with the empowerment of Nepal's parliament and the establishment of constitutional monarchy in 1951. At the time of Bandung, Nepal was in desperate need of political stability and economic modernization.[83]

**22. Philippines**

The Philippines gained independence from the United States in 1946.[84] The Philippines has maintained a close relationship with the US, hosting US military bases and receiving development aid. The priority of the Philippines has been the reconstruction of the economy following Japanese occupation. The Philippines has also taken a firm anti-communist stance, supporting initiatives such as SEATO.[85]

**23. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

In 1932, Prince Faisal declared the unification of Arabia under the house of Saud.[86] Saudi Arabia has historically been a rural and undeveloped country, relying heavily on revenues from Pilgrimages to Mecca and Medina. However, in 1938, oil was discovered, and in 1941, the US-controlled Arabian-American Oil Company (ARAMCO) took control of Saudi oil fields. Since then, Saudi Arabia's oil wealth has allowed the country to develop rapidly, although heavily dependent on the United States. Saudi Arabia faces many new challenges, including controlling government corruption and managing the flow of foreign workers, migrating to work in the oil industry.

**24. Anglo-Egyptian Sudan**

Ruled jointly by Egyptian and British authorities, Sudan began its path towards independence in 1953, when an agreement was reached to give Sudan self-government.[87] In 1954, Egypt and the UK signed an agreement granting Sudan independence by January 1, 1956, in a few months' time from the Bandung Conference. Since then, Sudan has had its own parliament and chief executive. Sudan is a rural and remote state with a lot to benefit from increased international cooperation. In particular, Asian and African help could be vital for ensuring the new country's stable transition to independence.

**25. Syrian Republic**

Occupied for a long period of time by the Ottoman Empire, Syria became a French mandate in 1920, before gaining independence in 1946.[88] Syria since independence has been very tumultuous. Defeat in the war against Israel led to military coup in 1949, followed by an

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[83] "History of Nepal | Events, People, & Facts | Britannica," October 23, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Nepal.
[84] "History of the Philippines | People, Spain, United States, Revolution, Map, & Facts | Britannica."
[85] "Southeast Asia Treaty Organization | Cold War, Mutual Defense, SEATO | Britannica."
[86] "Saudi Arabia - Culture, Traditions, Customs | Britannica," September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Saudi-Arabia/Daily-life-and-social-customs.
[87] "History of Sudan | Conflict, Ancient, Colonial, Events, People, Dates, Maps, & Facts | Britannica."
[88] "Syria | Map, Civil War, Rebels, Religion, & History | Britannica," September 30, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Syria.

anti-dictatorial coup in 1954. Syria has struggled with a weak government and a weak economy. Syria has also seen the rise of Arab Nationalism and socialist movements, as well as tensions with ethnic minorities. Syria is in desperate need of political stability, economic development, and reform.

**26. Kingdom of Thailand**

Thailand was never colonized by a European power, but still saw the loss of territory and economic concessions.[89] Since 1932, Thailand has been a constitutional monarchy, although ruled by a military dictatorship under Plaek Phibunsongkhram, or Phibun. Thailand has aligned itself with the United States, embarking on anti-communist campaigns domestically and joining SEATO.

**27. Republic of Turkey**

Turkey is the only NATO state attending the Bandung Conference. Since independence, Turkey has been rapidly modernizing, developing industry and intellectual capabilities.[90] Turkey has a very healthy democracy, recently undergoing a peaceful transition of power in 1950. Turkey's position at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, caught between multiple theatres of the Cold War, makes ensuring its security a very important task.

**28. Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North)**

North Vietnam gained independence from France after the Geneva Agreement.[91] It is ruled by the Communist Party of Vietnam as a centralized, one-party socialist state.[92] North Vietnam faces significant economic and security issues. North Vietnam is in the middle of sweeping economic changes, implementing Communist policies such as land reform, as well as recovering from the war. Perhaps the most important issue facing Vietnam is the rival anti-communist government in the South. North Vietnam refuses to recognize South Vietnam, and a military confrontation seems to be on the horizon. At Bandung, North Vietnam will seek recognition from other Asian and African countries, as well as political and economic cooperation.

**29. Republic of Vietnam (South)**

South Vietnam gained independence from France after the Geneva Agreement, although the government did not sign it.[93] South Vietnam is an authoritarian state, descending from the French-aligned Vietnamese government, and a firm Western ally representing the anti-communist forces of Vietnam. Like their northern counterpart, South Vietnam also struggles with economic development, particularly as economic issues motivate a looming Communist insurgency. South Vietnam does not recognize the Communist northern government and military confrontation is on the horizon. South Vietnam struggles with recognition in much of the developing world and will seek further legitimacy of Bandung.

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[89] "History of Thailand | People, Culture, Coups, & Facts | Britannica," accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Thailand.

[90] "Turkey - Ottoman Empire, Geography, Culture | Britannica," September 28, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Turkey/History.

[91] Editors, "Geneva Conference to Resolve Problems in Asia Begins | April 26, 1954."

[92] "History of Vietnam | People, Culture, Vietnam War, Maps, & Facts | Britannica," accessed October 1, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Vietnam.

[93] "History of Vietnam | People, Culture, Vietnam War, Maps, & Facts | Britannica."

### 30. Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen

Yemen is currently an authoritarian monarchy, led by Ahmad bin Yahya.[94] Yemen has remained neutral in the Cold War, but is aligned with Egypt and the Arab Nationalists. Yemen currently disputes the British Aden protectorate, seeking to make it a part of Yemen. Yemen has been a major advocate of Pan-Arabist causes, including the cause of Palestine, including Palestinian representatives in its delegation. Economically, Yemen's economy is very rural and underdeveloped and has much to gain from economic modernization.

[94] "Yemen - The Age of Imperialism | Britannica," September 26, 2026, https://www.britannica.com/place/Yemen/History.

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