

# HISTORIC SECURITY COUNCIL



Year of Focus – 1979

## 2019 TOPICS

Situation in Uganda  
Situation in Afghanistan

# 2019 TOPIC: SITUATION IN UGANDA

(YEAR OF FOCUS – 1979)

## Topic Summary and Background:

In 1971, Idi Amin overthrew the government of Uganda in a successful military coup. Amin, once in charge, began to murder his political enemies in Uganda- resulting in the death of 30,000 to 50,000 Ugandans. Milton Obote, the ousted President, and his allies all fled to neighboring Tanzania as political refugees. In 1972, a group of exiles in Tanzania formed a guerilla force to invade Uganda and reclaim the control of government from Idi Amin- this attempt failed. Tanzania was sympathetic to the anti Amin refugees in their country as Amin continued to eliminate his political enemies and closest advisors. As tensions continued to strain between the two nations throughout the 1970s, tensions boiled over in October 1978 with Uganda declaring an invasion of Tanzania on October 30th after several weeks of tensions at the border between the two nations. The Ugandan Invasion proved very successful early on, even getting military support from Libya and its dictator Muammar Gaddafi. However, the more skilled Tanzanian Army eventually recovered with the aid of Soviet rocket launchers and other arms support. In total, Idi Amin's regime is estimated to have killed 100,000-500,000 people.

## Resources

Uganda-Tanzania War: The Ousting from Power of Idi Amin

<https://worldhistory.us/african-history/the-uganda-tanzania-war-the-ousting-from-power-of-idi-amin.php>

How a Bar Fight Sparked the 1979 Uganda Tanzania War

<https://www.pulselive.co.ke/bi/politics/politics-how-a-bar-fight-sparked-the-1979-uganda-tanzania-war-that-brought-to-an-end/694vnlq>

Toppling Amin Tipped African Myths

<https://www.nytimes.com/1979/04/08/archives/toppling-amin-tipped-african-myths-too.html>

Encyclopedia Britannica on Idi Amin

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Idi-Amin>

# 2019 TOPIC: SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

(YEAR OF FOCUS – 1979)

## Topic Summary and Background:

In 1978, the Communist Party of Afghanistan came to power as a result of a coup overthrowing the president and installing the party backed candidate Nur Mohammad Taraki. The new Communist government instituted many new reforms which were unpopular in the more conservative rural parts of that country. Several groups rose in opposition to the new government regime, known as the mujahideen. The communist government violently suppressed these groups- killing thousands of protesters. This led to increasing tensions that resulted in a nation wide guerrilla war between the Communist government and the mujahideen. The mujahideen, anti-communist forces, were backed by the United States due to that nations strong anti-communist sentiments. Adding to the chaos in the region, in September 1979 Nur Mohammad Taraki was assassinated due to inter-party rivalry. Hafizullah Amin, chief minister of foreign affairs for the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, ordered the assassination of President Taraki which did not benefit the nations relationship with other communist nations throughout the world, especially the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government sent an estimated 75,000 troops to Afghanistan in December 1979. Soviet troops upon entering the capital city of Kabul, assassinated President Amin and installed a new president, one much more favorable to the Soviets. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was condemned by much of the international community with Soviet opposition forces being aided by nations within the region and with funding coming largely from the United States.

## Resources

Soviet Invasion Afghanistan

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/soviet-invasion-afghanistan>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Soviet-invasion-of-Afghanistan>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/ztb8y4j/revision/6>