I. About the Joint Crisis Committee (JCC):

The Joint Crisis Committee is unique to Model UN simulations in that it is obviously not a formal committee within the UN, either under the General Assembly or otherwise. Having said though, it is perhaps one of the most challenging committees a delegate will encounter as the simulation is real time and involves delegates sitting in two separate cabinets discussing the same issue but from different points of view. Information will be revealed in increments and delegates will be expected to make decisions on their feet. Information channels between the cabinets will exist so as to hash out the matter in a diplomatic yet fast-paced manner. Delegates may find the following link useful if they are new to the concept of Joint Crisis Committees: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjm4n87A5IQ This guide provides plenty of information on the two possible topics for discussion. However, this should be considered a starting point as the essence of the JCC is thinking and decision-making in real time.

The topics under possible discussion for the JCC are:

i) The Lebanese Civil War and the Taif Accords

ii) Khmer Rouge: the takeover of Cambodia and International Law
II. Brief Background Information on Lebanon and the Importance of the Civil War

Lebanon is a country located on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. It shares its largest land border with Syria. It also shares a border with Israel. Europeans arrived in Lebanon in 1100 and the area saw much fighting between Crusaders and Muslims. About two centuries later, the Mamluks of Egypt drove out the last of the Crusaders. In the 1500’s Lebanon came under Ottoman influence and Turkish rule continued until 1914 when British and French forces defeated the Ottomans. France controlled Lebanon’s affairs from 1923 until 1944 when Lebanon became independent. The decade thereafter saw rapid economic progress however the heterogeneous makeup of Lebanon led to period conflict between Sunnis, Shia’s, the Druze and Christians.

In 1861 thousands of Maronites, a people who have links to the Roman Catholic Church, were massacred by the Druze. The Druze are not traditionally recognized to be Muslims however – they emerged as a new religious community in Egypt among Ismaili Muslims toward the end of the tenth century. The massacre led to the declaration of a Maronite area around Jabal Lubnan with autonomous status. In 1920 under a French mandate an area of Greater Lebanon incorporated this area as well as Muslim coastal region (“Lebanon”).

In 1975, fierce fighting broke out between the factions and the state descended into turmoil. “Assassinations, bombings and kidnappings became routine as numerous factions fought for control.” Complicating this was the involvement of third parties: Palestinian refugees, the Syrian army and UN forces. The economy took a huge hit and the war lasted until 1990 (“Lebanon”). It had implications for the region as a whole given the involvement of external agents.

III. Some Context: The National Pact and a Brief Timeline

Lebanon works according to a confessional system of government where political players’ religions play a key role in what positions they are eligible for. The National Pact in 1943
cemented the current confessional system. It was an agreement between the President and Prime Minister and involved elite Maronites and elite Sunnis. It was agreed that Lebanon would be a neutral, sovereign entity Arab in nature. Secondly, they agreed that “Lebanon would not seek unity with Syria and the Arab World nor special ties to France in particular or the West in general.” Also, a confessional formula for parliamentary representation was worked out in a 6:5 ratio for Christian and Muslims throughout government. This ratio was based on a census done in 1932. “The constitution gave the Maronite president ultimate executive authority while not providing a mechanism for presidential accountability, especially since parliament could question the cabinet, but not the president. Moreover, in addition to the presidency, other key positions in government were held by Maronites… Such positions included the commander-in-chief of the army, the highest Judicial position, the positions of the Director-General of both internal security and intelligence and that of Governor of the Central Bank” (Krayem). All of this led to dissent among other ostensibly underrepresented factions within Lebanon.

Greater Lebanon: 1 September 1920  Independence recognized by France: 22 November 1943
Constitution: 23 May 1926
Independence declared: 8 November 1943
Withdrawal of French forces: 31 December 1946

IV Key Players

Delegates, take note that this section is by no means exhaustive. It is rather a cursory overview of the key players that oversimplifies the dimension of the conflict. Robert Fisk’s Pity the Nation: the Abduction of Lebanon traces the Palestinian-Israeli conflict but contains detailed information about Lebanon and is a readable, albeit long, go-to source.

THE PALESTINIANS

The Arab-Israeli war of 1967 did not directly involve Lebanese forces but Lebanon was affected because the PLO leadership relocated itself to Beirut in 1970. In the decade previous,
Palestinian resistance units had already set themselves up in Lebanon and Palestinian raids into Israel launched from Lebanese soil were common as were Israeli attacks on Palestinians in Lebanon. In the mid-70's several important militant groups were birthed, most importantly Amal, the Shi’a Muslim group and the Muslim Lebanese National Movement (LNM). The Palestinians backed the LNM against the Lebanese establishment which was primarily Maronite Christian and Sunni Muslim. Palestinian players were largely leftist.

SYRIA
The Arab Deterrent Force (ADF) was set up to prevent Palestinian fighters from gaining too much control within Lebanon. The force was predominantly comprised of Syrians. The ADF did not have enough of a presence in southern Lebanon and Palestinian forces, in 1976 moved there exploiting this opportunity. West Beirut was another area outside of ADF control. Syrian troops entered Beirut in 1988 to try to restore order but they were attacked a year later by Lebanese troops.

THE DRUZE
The Druze were backed largely by Syria and often came into clashes with the Christian Lebanese militia. A ceasefire in 1982 was broken repeated despite efforts from third parties to ensure its success.

ISRAEL
Israel supported Christian militias whose aim was to control East Beirut and areas to the north. After Palestinian forays into Israel, Israel invaded southern Lebanon in 1978 and 1982 during which it laid siege to Palestinian and Syrian forces in Beirut, prompting the withdrawal of Palestinian forces.

THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES
The League of Arab states proposed the Taif Accord which involved primarily stipulations for the reduction of Maronite Christian representation in the government. A timetable for militia
disarmament was introduced in 1991 and government elections took place in 1992, though they were boycotted by many Maronite Christian parties. The Amal and Hezbollah parties gained the most seats and Rafiq al-Hariri became Prime Minister and made plans to rebuild the economy.

HEZBOLLAH

Literally the Party of God, Hezbollah is a Lebanese Shi’a political party and militia founded in 1982 with the backing of Iran to help oppose Israel in Southern Lebanon. It launches both guerilla attacks and suicide bombings against Israel. It was responsible for the 1983 bombing of U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut. It has a vast social services network and support from comparatively poor Shia’s in southern Lebanon as well as continued Iranian assistance. Since 1992 it has been led by Hassan Nasrallah and is also aided by Syria (“Hezbollah”). For more on Hezbollah please visit the Council on Foreign Relations link in this document’s Additional Resources section.

V The Tai’f Accord

Delegates are expected to carefully peruse the contents of the Accord, the full text of which can be found at:


Meetings were held in the city after which the agreement takes its name. The civil war officially ended with the signing of the Accord in October 1989. The Lebanese political system was reformed and it was stipulated that the President was to be Maronite while the Prime Minister a Sunni Muslim and the parliament equally divided amongst Christians and Muslims. The presence of Syria within Lebanese borders was also addressed.

The key points of the Accord were as follows.

i) General Principles: affirming Lebanon as a sovereign country Arab in identity.
ii) Political Reforms: laid out the roles of the President, the Prime Minister and the cabinet.

iii) Abolishing political sectarianism: “to achieve it, it is required that efforts be made in accordance with a phased plan. The Chamber of Deputies election the basis of equal sharing by Christians and Muslims shall adopt the proper measures to achieve this objective and to form a national council which is headed by the president of the republic and which includes, in addition to the prime minister and the Chamber of Deputies speaker, political, intellectual, and social notables. The council's task will be to examine and propose the means capable of abolishing sectarianism, to present them to the Chamber of Deputies and the cabinet, and to observe implementation of the phased plan.”

iv) Administrative Decentralism

v) Updating Courts

vi) Updating Parliamentary Election Law

vii) Creating a socioeconomic forum for development

viii) A focus on education and information

ix) Spreading Lebanese sovereignty throughout Lebanon

x) Liberating Lebanon from Israeli Occupation

xi) Fraternal ties with Syria

VI PROBLEMS WITH THE ACCORD

Not all think the Accords were significant. Karam Karam of Conciliation Resources, for example, holds that “arbitrary and partial application of reforms that have been initiated by Lebanese ruling elites under Syrian tutelage between 1990 and 2005 have in fact exacerbated confessional tension and competition, and have generated new imbalances in the post-war political system” (Karam). He argues that the Accord had three flaws.
i) The text was “deliberately ambiguous, thereby paving the way for different interpretations of key issues – eg Lebanese-Syrian relations, decentralisation and deconfessionalisation.”

ii) “The content contradicted the core philosophy of Lebanon’s power sharing formula by paving the way for the establishment of the Troika: this opposes the concept of political participation, as the Troika acts like a private club to exclude anti-establishment groups; let alone the principle of power separation, as Lebanese politics contains no mechanisms for checks and balances, while the justice system remains under political control.” [The troika being a Maronite President, a Shi’a Speaker of Parliament and a Sunni Prime Minister.]

iii) “Implementing Taif has been primarily guided by the urge to stop bloodshed and guarantee sharing of power among warlords, rather than to ensure an effective mechanism for peaceful and well-grounded reconciliation and state-building.”

**VII Beyond the accords**

Throughout the 1990’s clashes between Israeli troops via the South Lebanon Army and Hezbollah continued. In 1996, for example, Israeli forces “launched a sustained attack on the pro-Iranian Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon, with heavy civilian casualties. Fighting continued in southern Lebanon in 1997 and again flared up in early 2000” (“Lebanon”). The SLA collapsed in 2000 when Israel stopped fronting the SLA. In 2006 “Hezbollah launched rocket attacks on Israel from positions in Lebanon. Israel responded with ground and air attacks aimed at Hezbollah forces, which caused extensive civilian casualties and damage to Lebanon's infrastructure” (“Lebanon”).

In 2005 former prime minister Rafik Hariri, a critic of Syria’s presence in Lebanon, was assassinated. Following demonstrations, Syria withdrew its forces in April. More recently, the Syrian unrest has affected Lebanon. Syrian warplanes flew into Lebanon earlier this year firing rockets into northern Lebanon because Beirut had not stopped militants crossing into Syria to
fight the Assad government. Meanwhile Hassan Nasrallah vowed he would be victorious in Syria and elections due in June were put off until November 2014 due to unrest.

**VIII QUESTIONS**

1. What are the drawbacks of confessional politics?
2. What improvements could have been made to the Taif Accords?
3. How does Lebanon see its “fraternal” country Syria now, in light of Syrian unrest?
4. What is the role of Hezbollah in Lebanon?
5. Have the key players changed in the region since the 1990’s?

**VIII Additional Resources**


Al Arabiya’s Timeline: [http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2007/10/18/40501.html](http://www.alarabiya.net/articles/2007/10/18/40501.html)

On Hezbollah: [http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1903301,00.html](http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1903301,00.html)

Israeli View of Hezbollah: [http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Terrorism/hizbollah.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Terrorism/hizbollah.html)


Videos: [http://www.youtube.com/channel/HC1Hk16t9k5XA](http://www.youtube.com/channel/HC1Hk16t9k5XA)

On the Maronites: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6932786.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/6932786.stm)

History of the War: [http://www.ghazi.de/civwar.html](http://www.ghazi.de/civwar.html)
Works Cited


