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THE DHAKA WAR CABINET



STUDY GUIDE

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1. History and Background

The creation of Pakistan in August 1947 was based on the Two-Nation Theory, which maintained that Muslims of the Indian subcontinent constituted a distinct political nation. Following the Partition of British India, Pakistan consisted of two geographically separated wings: West Pakistan and East Pakistan, with approximately 1,600 kilometres of Indian territory between them. Although both wings shared a Muslim majority, they differed considerably in language, culture, economic conditions and political interests. East Pakistan's population was predominantly Bengali-speaking, with a distinct literary and cultural heritage, whereas West Pakistan contained several linguistic communities and Urdu became closely associated with the central government's national identity.

Despite East Pakistan containing the majority of Pakistan's population, political authority remained concentrated in the western wing, particularly within the military and civil bureaucracy. This imbalance created an enduring contradiction: the state had been established to protect a distinct national identity, yet many Bengalis increasingly felt that their own identity and political interests were being marginalised within it. One of the earliest major sources of conflict was the language question. In 1948, the central government promoted Urdu as Pakistan's sole state language, despite Bengali being spoken by the majority of the country's population.

This decision threatened Bengali representation in education, administration and public life, prompting widespread protests.

On 21 February 1952, police fired on demonstrators in Dhaka demanding recognition for Bengali, killing several protesters. The Language Movement became a defining moment in Bengali nationalism, and Bengali was eventually recognised as a state language under the 1956 Constitution. Economic grievances further intensified resentment. East Pakistan was a major source of foreign exchange through its jute exports, yet many Bengalis believed that development spending, industrial investment and government resources disproportionately favoured West Pakistan.

Bengalis also remained underrepresented in senior military and administrative positions. These inequalities strengthened the perception that East Pakistan contributed substantially to the national economy without receiving an equivalent share of political power or economic benefits.

Political developments during the 1950s and 1960s transformed these grievances into an organised movement for provincial autonomy. The imposition of military rule by General Ayub Khan in 1958 further restricted democratic participation and reinforced concerns about centralised authority. In 1966, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the Awami League, introduced his Six-Point Programme, demanding substantial provincial autonomy, a parliamentary system and greater regional control over taxation and economic affairs.

While supporters viewed the programme as a means of ensuring equality within Pakistan, the central government regarded it as a threat to national unity. The political crisis reached its turning point following the 1970 General Election, in which the Awami League won 160 of East Pakistan's 162 general seats in the National Assembly, securing an

overall parliamentary majority. The result gave Mujibur Rahman a democratic mandate to form the national government. However, disagreements between the Awami League, Yahya Khan's military government and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party prevented an effective transfer of power.

On 1 March 1971, President Yahya Khan postponed the National Assembly session scheduled to convene in Dhaka, triggering widespread protests and a non-cooperation movement across East Pakistan. In his historic speech on 7 March, Mujibur Rahman called for resistance and outlined conditions for a political settlement. Negotiations continued, but no agreement was reached. On the night of 25 March 1971, the Pakistani military launched Operation Searchlight, a crackdown targeting Bengali nationalist organisations, students and other perceived opponents. Mujibur Rahman was arrested, and the military operation transformed the political struggle into an armed conflict. Bengali resistance forces, including the Mukti Bahini, subsequently fought for independence, while millions of civilians were displaced by the violence.

India intervened militarily in December 1971, and Pakistani forces surrendered in Dhaka on 16 December, marking the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent state.

2. Key Terms:

a. Airfield Interdiction:

The tactical grounding of a runway through heavy bombing or physical debris. The primary objective is to disable local

airstrips to freeze all local air power, making it impossible for fighter jets to intercept enemy aircraft. Operationally, this completely cuts off the capital's final line of physical reinforcement, heavy supply drops, or emergency evacuation flights for high-ranking officials.

b. Joint Command Structure

The formal merging of regular army troops and irregular local guerrilla fighters under a single, unified leadership. This framework allows conventional military forces to leverage the rebels' deep terrain knowledge, civilian networks, and unconventional tactics. It ensures that heavy artillery pushes and rapid ground advances are fully coordinated with backroom sabotage operations.

c. Civil Collapse

The tipping point where a regional government entirely shuts down due to its administrative offices being destroyed or its ministers resigning. When the civil bureaucracy breaks, all functioning ministries, public services, and civil courts instantly dissolve. This power vacuum automatically drops the entire city into pure martial law, placing absolute control in the hands of the military command.

d. Encirclement Perimeter

A tight ring of troops and mechanized armor drawn around a strategic urban center to isolate it from the outside world. This tactical maneuver blocks all main highway junctions, railway links, and river entry points. It transforms a city into

an isolated island, trapping the defensive garrison inside and forcing them to choose between a brutal urban siege or total surrender.

e. Security Purge

The targeted, systematic roundup and elimination of civilian professionals, doctors, journalists, and academics suspected of backing the enemy. Conducted by specialized internal security units, the goal is to wipe out the intellectual and political leadership of a city right before a territorial transition to prevent future resistance or governance.

f. Asset Requisition

An emergency wartime law allowing the military command to bypass standard civil courts and seize civilian cars, public buildings, and commercial food stocks by force. This protocol is activated when a city faces a prolonged blockade, allowing the army to feed and bunker its troops while leaving the local civilian population with zero freedom of movement and rapidly depleting resources.

g. Isolation of Command

The total loss of radio, telephone, and wire communication between the main command bunker and frontline troops fighting in the outer districts. Caused by a mix of physical wire sabotage, destroyed relays, and electronic jamming, this operational state leaves the high command completely blind to the battle and unable to send orders, resulting in chaotic, uncoordinated actions on the ground.

h. Maritime Blockade

The offensive deployment of heavy warship fleets and carrier strike groups to lock down vital sea lanes and ports. The strategy is used to completely intercept shipping lines and cut off naval supply routes, while simultaneously acting as a massive geopolitical deterrent to scare off foreign navies from intervening in the conflict.

i. Airborne Infiltration

The tactical deployment of paratroopers dropped from aircraft directly behind established enemy front lines. Instead of fighting through heavily fortified roadblocks and river barriers on the ground, these airborne units drop into the rear to capture vital bridges, ferry crossings, and supply junctions, trapping the enemy from behind.

j. Capitulation Campaign

An intense, multi-channel psychological warfare operation designed to break enemy fighting morale before a final ground assault. This involves using high-frequency radio broadcasts and dropping millions of localized leaflets over a besieged city, repeatedly warning the garrison that they are entirely surrounded and face certain annihilation if they do not surrender immediately.

k. Urban Guerrilla Warfare

Decentralized, close-quarters combat carried out by hidden insurgent cells operating inside a heavily patrolled capital city. Relying on hit-and-run tactics, localized bombings, and

targeted assassinations against power grids, security checkpoints, and hotels, these small units destabilize internal security and keep regular soldiers permanently off-balance.

l. Neutral Sanctuary Status

The formal activation of international legal protections over specific diplomatic facilities or hotels under the direct oversight of the Red Cross. This designation transforms a civilian building into a strictly enforced safe zone within the active war theatre, shielding foreign nationals, UN personnel, and non-combatants from artillery strikes, military searches, or arrest.

3. Causes

Political Cause:

In 1970, after the General Elections outcomes were announced and East Pakistan's Sheikh Mujeeb was able to win 160 out of 162 seats; the West Pakistani leaders refused to transfer the power to the East Pakistanis. The Awami League then also began pushing for the acceptance of Sheikh Mujeeb's Six Points that called for a central government that had control over defense and foreign affairs; while the provincial government was to retain regional autonomy.This created further tensions between East and West Pakistan as they feared that the Six Points would weaken the central government's power. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto the leader of the Pakistani Peoples Party argued that the power should be shared between both the political parties.

Social Causes

1. **Linguistic differences:** East and West Pakistan had different languages and cultural traditions. The majority of East Pakistanis spoke Bengali, whereas Urdu was promoted as the national language by the central government. In 1952, protests broke out in East Pakistan when students demanded recognition of Bengali as a state language. Several protesters were killed and tear gas was released on civilian students creating resentment among Bengalis, who felt that their language and cultural identity were being threatened.

2. **Cultural differences:** The people of East Pakistan had a distinct Bengali culture, including their literature, music and traditions, whereas West Pakistan had different cultural influences. Many East Pakistanis believed that the central government was attempting to impose West Pakistani cultural values on them. This created a sense of alienation and widened the social divide between the two wings. For instance, in the 1960s, the government restricted the broadcasting of songs by Rabindranath Tagore, a highly respected Bengali poet and writer, because his work was considered inconsistent with the cultural ideology promoted by the authorities. These restrictions were seen by many Bengalis as an attempt to suppress their cultural heritage.

3. **Discrimination against Bengalis:** East Pakistanis felt that they were underrepresented in the armed forces, civil service and other important government positions. Despite having a larger

population, Bengalis had limited influence in the military and central administration. Key positions even in Dhaka and Bengal were given to West Pakistani officers.This strengthened the belief that West Pakistanis considered themselves superior and were unwilling to treat Bengalis as equal citizens.

Economic Causes

1. **Economic inequality between East and West Pakistan**: Despite East Pakistan having a larger population, it received a smaller share of government expenditure and development funding than West Pakistan. The central government invested heavily in industries, infrastructure and economic development in West Pakistan, particularly in major cities such as Karachi and Lahore. In comparison, East Pakistan remained less industrialised and had fewer development opportunities. This created resentment among East Pakistanis, who believed that the government was deliberately neglecting their economic needs.

2. **Economic grievances strengthened demands for provincial autonomy:** The growing economic disparities encouraged East Pakistani leaders, particularly Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to demand greater control over their region's financial affairs. His Six Points Programme proposed greater provincial autonomy, including provincial control over taxation and revenue collection, as well as separate arrangements for foreign exchange earnings. East Pakistani leaders believed these measures would allow their region to use its resources for its own development. However, the disagreement over economic control added to the existing political

tensions and contributed to the breakdown of relations between East and West Pakistan.

Humanitarian Causes

1. **Theimpactofthe 1970Bholacyclone:** In November 1970, the Bhola cyclone struck East Pakistan, killing an estimated 300,000–500,000 people and leaving millions homeless. It destroyed homes, crops, livestock and fishing boats, leaving many survivors without food, clean water or shelter. The central government was widely criticised for its slow and inadequate relief efforts, while international aid organisations provided assistance to affected communities. Many East Pakistanis believed that the government had neglected their suffering, particularly when compared with the attention and resources devoted to West Pakistan. This increased resentment towards the central government and strengthened demands for greater regional autonomy.

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government and strengthened demands for greater regional autonomy.

3. Impacts

Political Impacts;

- **TotalExecutiveShifttoMilitaryHighCommand:** The sudden dissolution of the Governor's Council at Government House completely strips the region of any civilian bureaucratic authority. Because the civilian ministers and the governor resign en masse under fire, all standard municipal laws, civil codes, and government ministries are instantly suspended. This concentrates absolute executive, legislative, and judicial power into the main bunker at Dhaka Cantonment, turning the military high command into the sole decision-making body for the entire territory.

- **Irreversible Breakdown of State Sovereignty:** The operational alliance of the Mitro Bahini forces creates a permanent split in the political control of the region. By setting up their own competitive administrative zones in the outer sectors as they advance, they successfully run local governments long before the final transition of power. This completely invalidates the legal authority of the central government, making it impossible for the cabinet to enforce laws or maintain political control outside the immediate capital lines.

- **Superpower Naval Escalation and Uncertainty:** The sudden entry of foreign naval carrier strike groups, such as the US Seventh Fleet, into the Bay of Bengal transforms a local civil conflict into a high-stakes international political standoff. This military posturing forces global superpowers and international security councils to heavily debate direct intervention. Inside the cabinet room, this creates severe diplomatic panic and paranoia, as the leadership is left completely guessing whether an international proxy war will erupt or if a foreign ally will step in to save them.

Geographical Impacts

- **Complete Blocking of the River and Delta Networks:** Encirclement tactics and naval blockades completelycutoffDhaka from the crucial maritime pathways of the Bay of Bengal,the Sunderbans, and the massive internal river networksofthePadma and Meghna. Because all water-based transport routesare physically blocked or heavily monitored, a city thathistorically relies on these deltaic waterways for all of its tradeandmovement is turned into an isolated, closed-off military pocketwithzero access to the outside world.

- **Exposure of the Northern Front :** Rear-area paratrooper drops and rapid river-crossing maneuvers completely redraft the tactical map around the capital. By completely bypassing the heavily fortified ground roadblocks and border defense positions that the army spent months building, these airborne attacks allow enemy forces to capture vital ferry checkpoints directly north of the capital. This completely wipes out the city's natural geographic

barriers and leaves its northern approaches totally exposed to a swift ground assault.

- **Long-Term Destruction of Primary Infrastructure Hubs:** Constant airfield bombing and internal urban sabotage permanently damage the physical layout of the capital city.The continuous targeting of Tejgaon Airfield leaves the main runways covered in massive bomb craters, while localized bombingsdrop vital bridge spans and sever the city's electrical grids. These actions leave the capital's primary transport, power, and communication hubs structurally crippled long after the actual fighting ends.

Social and Humanitarian Impacts

- **Systemic Purges and Civilian Terror:** Aggressive security sweeps conducted by local paramilitary units create deep fear and paranoia across urban neighborhoods like Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur. The targeted tracking, abduction, and elimination of the city's doctors, academics, professors, and journalists leaves a massive, permanent leadership vacuum in civilian society and completely destroys the social fabric.

- **Severe Civilian Panic and Overcrowding of Safe Zones:** Non-stop artillery shelling and aggressive loudspeaker surrender campaigns trigger extreme humanitarian panic across the metropolitan area. This drives hundreds of thousands of terrified

civilians to either run for dangerous border enclaves or flood into the center of the city. As a result, the temporary neutral safe zones run by the Red Cross, such as the Hotel Intercontinental, become dangerously overcrowded with fleeing families, diplomats, and UN personnel seeking protection from the gunfire.

- **Total Lockdown of Daily Civilian Movement:** The implementation of strict martial law protocols, round-the-clock curfews, and heavily armed checkpoints at every major city intersection completely freezes civilian life. All forms of public gathering are strictly banned, free speech is entirely outlawed under strict information censorship laws, and any form of civilian protest or non-compliance is treated as active wartime treason, leaving the population with zero freedom.

Economic Impacts

- **Total Isolation of Trade Routes and Supply Lines:** The maritime blockade completely paralyzes the regional economy by shutting down all shipping lanes and commercial traffic moving through the major ports of Chittagong and Chalna. Because these ports are locked down, all import and export capabilities are entirely severed, instantly stopping the flow of commercial goods, foreign humanitarian aid, and essential industrial supplies from entering the capital. Emergency asset requisition laws allow the military administration to completely bypass standard civil courts and seize civilian property by force. The army routinely takes private vehicles, uses commercial buildings as bunkers, and empties wholesale market warehouses to feed and supply the troops for an

impending siege. While this keeps the military mobile, it completely ruins local shopkeepers and creates massive artificial food shortages and hyperinflation across the city. The deliberate destruction of critical industrial infrastructure—including regional power plants, telephone switching stations, and maritime docks—causes immediate financial paralysis. Because banking institutions are forced to completely close down and the basic infrastructure grid is shattered, the local economy is left facing long-term financial bankruptcy and massive, near-impossible rebuilding costs.

4. STAKEHOLDERS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE CONFLICT

1. EastPakistan (The Bengali Population)

East Pakistan was the eastern wing of Pakistan and contained the majority of the country's population. Its Bengali-speaking population faced growing resentment over political exclusion, economic disparities and attempts to impose Urdu as the sole national language. The Awami League emerged as the principal political representative of Bengali demands for autonomy. Following the party's decisive victory in the 1970 general election, many East Pakistanis expected their electoral mandate to be respected. The postponement of the National Assembly session in March 1971 triggered widespread protests and civil disobedience. Following Operation Searchlight on 25 March, resistance increasingly shifted towards armed struggle. Bengali civilians

experienced widespread violence, displacement and humanitarian suffering. The independence movement ultimately sought to establish Bangladesh as a sovereign state rather than remain under West Pakistani political and military control.

2. **West Pakistan**

West Pakistan was the western wing of the Pakistani state and the centre of its federal government, military leadership and senior bureaucracy. Although Pakistan had been established around a shared Muslim identity, its ruling establishment increasingly struggled to accommodate Bengali demands for political equality. Many West Pakistani leaders feared that the Awami League's Six-Point Programme would weaken central authority and threaten national unity. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party held substantial electoral support in the western wing but did not win a national parliamentary majority. Disagreements over constitutional arrangements and the transfer of power contributed to the political deadlock following the 1970 election. The military government's decision to suppress the Bengali movement instead of reaching a political settlement intensified the crisis. West Pakistan's principal objective became preserving Pakistan's territorial integrity, but the military campaign ultimately failed to prevent East Pakistan's separation.

3. **India**

India became one of the most influential external actors in the Bangladesh Liberation War. The Pakistani military crackdown caused millions of refugees to cross into Indian territory, creating a substantial humanitarian and economic burden. India provided assistance to Bengali resistance forces, including training, logistical support and access to bases near the border. It also supported the Bangladesh independence

movement diplomatically, while seeking to limit Pakistan's regional power. India signed the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation with, the Soviet Union in August 1971, strengthening its strategic position amid possible intervention by other powers. On 3 December, Pakistan launched air attacks against Indian airfields, bringing the conflict into an open interstate war. Indian forces subsequently fought alongside the Mukti Bahini in East Pakistan. The campaign ended with the surrender of Pakistani forces in Dhaka on 16 December 1971, paving the way for Bangladesh's independence.

4. **The Mukti Bahini**

The Mukti Bahini, meaning the Liberation Forces, was the principal Bengali armed resistance movement fighting for Bangladesh's independence. Its ranks included Bengali members of the Pakistani military and security services, volunteers, students and other resistance fighters. The movement developed following the military crackdown of March 1971 and operated through guerrilla activities and organised military formations. Its broader objective was to end Pakistani military control and establish an independent Bangladesh. The Mukti Bahini received crucial assistance from India, including training, logistical support and access to territory across the border. It operated alongside the provisional Bangladesh government, established in April 1971, and became central to the independence struggle. Its activities weakened Pakistani control across parts of East Pakistan before India's direct military intervention in December. The collaboration between Bengali resistance forces and Indian troops contributed decisively to Pakistan's defeat.5. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the leader of the Awami League and the most prominent political representative of Bengali nationalism. His Six-Point Programme, introduced in 1966, demanded extensive provincial

autonomy and greater Bengali control over political and economic affairs. In the December 1970 general election, the Awami League won an overall majority in Pakistan's National Assembly, giving Mujib a democratic mandate to lead the government. However, negotiations over the transfer of power failed amid disagreements with Yahya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Mujib's speech on 7 March 1971 called for resistance and outlined conditions for a political settlement. He was arrested during the military crackdown launched on 25 March. Although imprisoned in West Pakistan for much of the war, he remained the central symbolic leader of the independence movement. The provisional Bangladesh government continued to claim legitimacy through the Awami League's electoral victory and Mujib's leadership.

6. **General Yahya Khan and the Pakistani Military**

General Yahya Khan served as Pakistan's president and chief martial law administrator during the events leading to the war. He organised the 1970 general election, which was intended to establish a representative national government. However, the Awami League's parliamentary majority created a constitutional crisis that the military government failed to resolve through negotiations. On 1 March 1971, Yahya postponed the National Assembly session scheduled for Dhaka, provoking widespread demonstrations in East Pakistan. Negotiations with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto continued but did not produce a political settlement. On 25 March, the Pakistani military launched Operation Searchlight, initiating a violent crackdown against Bengali opposition. Yahya's government sought to preserve national unity and prevent East Pakistan's secession through military force. Instead, the operation expanded resistance, worsened the humanitarian crisis and contributed to the eventual military defeat of Pakistan.

7. **Indira Gandhi and the Indian Government**

Indira Gandhi, India's prime minister, played a central role in shaping India's response to the crisis. Her government faced the arrival of millions of refugees from East Pakistan and increasing pressure to address the humanitarian emergency. Gandhi used international diplomatic visits to draw attention to the crisis and seek support for a political resolution. Her government provided assistance to the Bengali independence movement while preparing for the possibility of war with Pakistan. The August 1971 treaty with the Soviet Union strengthened India's strategic position and reduced concerns about diplomatic isolation. Gandhi's government ultimately authorised direct military intervention after Pakistan launched air attacks against India on 3 December. India fought alongside the Mukti Bahini and helped secure the surrender of Pakistani forces in Dhaka. Gandhi's leadership was instrumental in turning India's support forBengali self-determination into decisive military and diplomatic backing for Bangladesh's independence.

8. **The United States**

The United States, under President Richard Nixon and National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger, generally favoured maintaining its relationship with Pakistan during the crisis. Pakistan was an important American partner and played a key role in facilitating secret diplomatic contacts between Washington and Beijing. Consequently, the Nixon administration was reluctant to abandon the Pakistani government despite reports of the military crackdown in East Pakistan. American diplomats stationed in Dhaka expressed serious objections to Washington's policy, most notably in the April 1971 Blood Telegram, which criticised the administration's response. As the war widened in December, the United States supported calls for a ceasefire and deployed

a naval task force, including the USS Enterprise, towards the Bay of Bengal. This deployment was widely interpreted as a signal of support for Pakistan, although the United States did not directly enter the fighting against India. Its position reflected Cold War calculations and its strategic relationship with Pakistan, while attracting considerable criticism over its response to civilian suffering.

9. **The Soviet Union (USSR)**

The Soviet Union became India's principal strategic partner during the crisis and an important counterweight to American and Chinese support for Pakistan. In August 1971, Moscow and New Delhi signed the Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, strengthening their political and strategic relationship. The Soviet government criticised the Pakistani military crackdown and favoured a political settlement that addressed Bengali demands. During the December war, the USSR supported India's position diplomatically and opposed international initiatives it considered unfavourable to India and the independence movement. Its influence in the United Nations Security Council helped prevent resolutions that would have forced India to accept an immediate ceasefire on terms it opposed. Soviet strategic backing also complicated the possibility of wider American or Chinese intervention. Although Soviet policy reflected broader Cold War interests as well as sympathy for Bengali self-determination, its support helped India avoid diplomatic isolation. The USSR subsequently recognised Bangladesh in January 1972.

10. **China**

The People's Republic of China was a close ally of Pakistan and opposed the breakup of the Pakistani state. Relations between China and India had deteriorated following the 1962 Sino-Indian War, making

Beijing wary of India's growing regional influence. China therefore supported Pakistan diplomatically during the 1971 crisis and criticised Indian military intervention. However, China did not launch a military intervention on Pakistan's behalf, and its ability to influence events was constrained by India's military preparedness and the SovietUnion's strategic relationship with New Delhi. Beijing's position was also shaped by the wider Cold War rivalry between China, the Soviet Union and the United States. Following Bangladesh's independence, China withheld recognition and vetoed Bangladesh's application for United Nations membership in 1972. Its stance demonstrated how strategic alliances and concerns about territorial integrity influenced international reactions to the conflict, even as Pakistan's position in East Pakistan deteriorated.

11. **The United Nations (UN)**

The United Nations became an important diplomatic forum during the 1971 crisis, although it failed to prevent the escalation of violence or establish a negotiated settlement before the war ended. The conflict raised concerns over civilian casualties, refugee displacement and the growing risk of war between India and Pakistan. Millions of refugees fled into India, creating a major humanitarian emergency that attracted international attention. Within the Security Council, the United States and other states pressed for ceasefire measures, while the Soviet Union opposed proposals it considered unfavourable to India and the Bengali independence movement. Rival positions among the permanent members limited the Security Council's ability to agree on an effective response. The UN did not deploy a peacekeeping force to resolve the conflict, and Bangladesh was not admitted to the organisation until 1974. Its role therefore consisted primarily of diplomatic debate, humanitarian

engagement and attempts to contain the wider interstate war rather than direct military intervention

5. International Doctrine Articles to Cite

United Nations Charter Articles

- **Article1(2):** Promotion of friendly relations between nations based on equal rights and the self-determination of peoples. It supports the principle that people should be able to determine their political future. In the context of 1971, it is relevant to East Pakistan's demands for political autonomy and self-government.

- **Article 1(3)**: States that the UN aims to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone, without discrimination. It also promotes international cooperation in addressing humanitarian, social and economic problems.

- **Article 2(3)**: This article requires UN member states to settle their international disputes by peaceful means. Their actions should not endanger international peace, security or justice.

- **Article 55**: This article commits the UN to promoting higher living standards, full employment, economic and social progress, and respect for human rights.

- **Article 56**: This article requires UN member states to take joint and separate action, in cooperation with the UN, to achieve the objectives outlined in Article 55. These include promoting human rights, economic development and social progress.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Articles:

- **Article 19:** States that everyonehas theright to hold opinions and expressthemfreely.This includesthe freedom to seek, receive and share information and ideas through different forms of communication, without interference.

- **Article 21:** States that everyone has the right to participate in their country's government, directly or through freely chosen representatives. Government authority should be based on the will of the people, expressed through genuine periodic elections.

- **Article 7:** Establishes that everyone is equal before the law and is entitled to equal protection without discrimination. The law should protect all people equally, regardless of their ethnic, linguistic or cultural background.

- **Article 9**: No one should be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. Any detention or removal of a person must not be unjustified or carried out arbitrarily.

6. Crisis Documentation:

a. Private Directives: When collective action is too slow, paralyzed by infighting, or when your objectives require cutthroat secrecy, you must rely on Private Directives. These notes allow you to bypass the cabinet entirely. By communicating directly and confidentially with the Dias, you can exercise your specific portfolio powers, deploy your assigned agencies, spend departmental funds, or activate hidden historical connections to covertly bend the timeline to your will. The success or failure of a private directive is highly volatile and is determined by the Crisis Staff:

i. Precision: The single most common reason for a note being outright rejected by the Crisis Staff is vague writing. To ensure your note is accepted, it must be highly specific, descriptive, and concise, stripping away all unnecessary preambles. You must explicitly detail the Why, How, What, Where, and Who of your operation. A well-written note must actively map out contingencies and anticipate hurdles to insulate your assets from failure.

ii. Temporal and Situational Realism: Historical crisis timelines are dynamic, meaning what was true an hour ago may no longer hold. A successful crisis note requires immense presence of mind and situational awareness. For example, if you send a note to

orchestrate a secret political riot in a sensitive border region, but you fail to account for a recent live update stating that enemy scouting parties or heavy media coverage have flooded that zone, the failure rate of your note spikes exponentially because your instigators will be intercepted and traced directly back to your department.

iii. Logistical Reality and Resource Management: Every historical cabinet portfolio operates with strictly limited, meticulously tracked resources—including manpower, finances, food, or raw wartime materials like weapons and metal. To succeed, your directive must explicitly declare the exact type and volume of resources you are dedicating to the task. Committing a massive portion of your department (such as sending three full infantry regiments rather than one to hold a garrison) can increase your operational success rate, but it threatens to exhaust your resources and leave you logistically crippled for future updates.

v. The Discretion of the Dias: The Dias acts as the ultimate arbiter of historical reality. They will block and reject notes that are too unreal, textually vague, or cause a completely unreasonable disruption to the historical simulation. They favor notes that are reasonable within the fictional world, allowing you to actively co-create the timeline rather than passively responding to updates.

vi. Short-term Directives : Respond to, solve, or exploit the loopholes in the immediate crisis update at hand.

b.

i. Long-term Directives : Lay the foundation for a strategic plan that comes into motion later in the course of the committee.

ii. Common types of directives accepted by the dais include (but are not limited to):

iii. Recruitment directives : Used within the committee to secure political backing or recruit personnel for the committee or the delegate's personal forces.

iv. Military directives: Strategic military actions executed through powers in the committee. These must include precise details regarding the strategy, troop count, and target area.

v. External communications: Shared as Public Service Announcements, or Invitations/Requests to contact any individual or group outside the committee.

vi. Intelligence directives: Actions used to collect data, spread information, or execute disruptions including interceptions of other directives.
vii. Assassinations: Operations requiring exceptional planning and strategy. Repeating poorly planned attempts will result in penalties and downmarking.

c. Joint Private Directives:

i. Joint private directives are highly confidential, written operations submitted to the crisis backroom by two or more delegates pooling their specific character resources, portfolio powers, or intelligence assets. Unlike public directives, Joint Private Directives bypass the committee voting process entirely, allowing a small faction to execute complex, covert strategies—such as orchestrating economic maneuvers, conducting espionage, or moving military forces—away from the oversight of the full body.
ii. They are vital tools for building secret alliances and magnifying individual influence; however, they also introduce significant risk, as any signatory can secretly double-cross their partners by sending a conflicting solo directive to the backroom.

d. Public Directives:

i. In a pure crisis/ historical crisis committee, public directives act as the official, collaborative decrees of the executive body. Because there is no rigid UN Charter or

parliamentary resolution format, these documents are completely to-the-point.

ii. They are designed to exert the immediate, overt force of the government or organization to deal with a sudden crisis update or to put a macro-level strategy into motion. The success of a public directive rests entirely on swift political consensus within the room. Because a public directive represents the visible will of the cabinet, it must be introduced, openly debated, and voted on by the delegates. For a public directive to succeed, you must form rapid alliances to pass the mandate through a majority vote.

iii. Furthermore, because these actions are out in the open, they generally must align with the perceived legality, ethics, or foundational ideology of your faction. However, the structural failure rate of public directives is tied directly to their visibility.

iv. Because public debates expose your grand strategies to the entire room, internal rivals, moles, or opposing historical factions receive immediate, advanced warning. This predictability allows external forces or political enemies within the cabinet to prepare swift counter-measures, severely blunting or entirely neutralizing the directive's real-world impact before the ink even dries.

e. End Game Directives:

i. Endgame Directives are the final operational submissions delivered to the crisis room during the closing sessions of a simulation to resolve a delegate's primary narrative arc. These directives differ from

mid-game actions because they abandon incremental positioning in favour of irreversible structural changes to the committee's geopolitical or institutional framework.

ii. Delegates utilize endgame directives to deploy their fully accumulated resources, covert networks, and political capital in a singular, high-impact maneuver—such as executing a coup d'état, leaking decisive intelligence to trigger a systemic collapse, or consolidating absolute authority over an institution.

iii. Crisis backrooms evaluate endgame directives with strict attention to timeline constraints, resource viability, and narrative finality.

iv. Because there are no subsequent sessions to fix secondary consequences, the backroom adjudicates these orders with binary outcomes: they either cement a delegate’s strategic objectives or result in total character elimination based on the precision of the planning and the structural defenses built by opposing delegates

f. Press Releases:

i. A press release is a public document issued by your portfolio to the media and the general public. While crisis notes are secret, press releases are completely open and transparent.

ii. Rules of engagement for a press release:

iii. Must be submitted directly to the crisis desk for approval before it impacts the simulation.

iv. Used to sway public opinion, issue official denials, or broadcast a policy shift. It cannot execute secret covert actions.

v. Must be written in a formal, authoritative, and in-character journalistic voice.

vi. The public will react to your statements. Misinformation, poorly timed announcements, or radical declarations can trigger public unrest, market crashes, or diplomatic fallout.

g. Communiques:

i. Communiqués are formal, non-operational diplomatic messages sent from a delegate's portfolio to an external non-player character or organization controlled by the crisis backroom.

ii. Unlike directives, communiqués do not command resources or execute actions; instead, they are used to open diplomatic channels, negotiate treaties, deliver ultimatums, or gather informal political commitments. The primary function of a communiqué is to influence the behavior of external factions or align them with the delegate's objectives before deploying harder portfolio assets.

iii. While they can be sent jointly or individually, their effectiveness depends heavily on tone, diplomatic leverage, and the alignment of interests between the delegate and the non-player character.

iv. If intercepted or leaked, communiqués can carry significant political consequences, as they establish a written, official record of a character's diplomatic positioning outside the committee room.

h. Inquiry Directives:

i. Inquiry Directives are specialized, information-gathering orders submitted to the crisis backroom to uncover specific, unpublicized data, verify intelligence, or map out hidden networks.

ii. Rather than altering the physical state of the simulation, these directives deploy reconnaissance assets, intelligence operatives, audits, or investigative bodies to answer precise questions.

iii. Effective inquiry directives must specify exactly who or what is being investigated, the specific assets being deployed (e.g., wiretaps, financial auditors, or scouts), and the methodology used to secure the data.

iv. The crisis room responds to these submissions with varying degrees of clarity based on the adequacy of the assets used and the security countermeasures of the target.

i. War Plans:

i. War Plans are highly detailed, multi-stage operational directives submitted to the crisis room to execute large-scale, coordinated military or paramilitary actions.

ii. Unlike basic directives that command a single unit to move, a war plan outlines a comprehensive strategic campaign, explicitly detailing troop movements, logistical supply lines, rules of engagement, and contingency measures for potential counter-attacks.

iii. To be adjudicated successfully by the backroom, a war plan must strictly account for the delegate's verified portfolio limitations, including troop numbers,

equipment types, transport timelines, and geographical constraints.

iv. Furthermore, effective war plans include clear operational objectives, intelligence integration from prior inquiries, and defensive positioning to secure captured territory.

v. Because military actions carry the highest risk of resource depletion and character exposure, the backroom evaluates war plans with high scrutiny regarding realism, timing, and the structural defenses of the opposing forces.

j. Special Letterheads:

i. Certain Personalities in the Cabinet would be given letters at a certain point stating certain aims they have to privately achieve by the end of the cabinet,

ii. These letterheads would also come with these personalities being granted special powers.

k. Private Meetings:

i. Delegates may use this procedure to meet with personalities both part of the committee or outside. In case of the personality already being part of the committee both parties would firstly have to give consent and then would be moved to another room for a short period of time.

ii. In the other case, the non-present personality would be simulated/represented by the crisis staff. Both scenarios are preceded by the approval of the crisis staff.

l. Dual Notepad System:

i. The delegates would be using 2 different notepads, one for shorter time intensive/sensitive directives and the

other for longer arcs. Both notepads/diaries would be kept in the committee, never to be taken out.

m. Trials:

i. Delegates under certain extreme situations of treason and doubt may put certain personalities on trial for possible repercussions altering the dynamic of the committee.

ii. The mandate and procedures of the trial will be directed and may be subject to change by the crisis staff.

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7. **Special Rules of Procedure**

[CENSORED]