

Canada's Intervention in International Conflict 1945 - Present

What are some causes of conflict?

How was the Cold War different?

When should we get involved in another's conflict? When is it “just” to do so?

- Look at cards and organize them into least to most just. Be prepared to defend your choice.

Is there such thing as a “just” conflict?

Peace

Peacekeeping – personal monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas.

Peacemakers – establishing equality to prevent future conflict

Causes of Conflict

To support an ally in its conflict with another country

To resist opposing ideologies (different values, types of government, politics)

To get or keep essential resources (water, diamonds, etc)

To defend against an attack.

To stop abuse of human rights.



The United Nations



The General Assembly

The General Assembly is the central organ. This is where all 201 Member States can gather to discuss the pressing problems of our times, most of which involve many countries or continents and therefore require international cooperation. The General Assembly is not a world government - its resolutions are not legally binding upon Member States.

What is the United Nations?

The actions of the UN are guided by its Charter, which defines the United Nations' purposes as follows:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations; and
- to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights.

The United Nations and Canada's Role

- At the end of WW2 Canada had emerged as a “middle power”
- By 1945 Canada was one of the most prosperous countries in the world with a booming economy
- Canada, a participant at the San Francisco Conference (April 25 to June 26, 1945), is one of the founding members of the United Nations.
- Canada was a strategic ally of both Britain and the US
- Canada also supplied much of the Allies' food, pilot-training and had worked with the US on the atomic bomb
- As a result, Canada held a middle power status on the world stage

Canada as a World Peacekeeper

- Canada has played a crucial role in peacekeeping missions since WW2
- The aim of peacekeepers is to actively keep the peace between nations or regions through international military and non-military efforts.
- Canada has participated in over 30 peacekeeping missions since 1949

Korean War

1950 - 1953

- After WWII, Korea had been divided along the 38th Parallel, with an American influence to the South and Russian to the North.
- American and Soviet troops left Korea in 1948-49 but....
- On June 25, 1950, North Korea invaded South Korea

Korean War

Conflict Continued

- US steps in to help South Korea
- United Nations voted to condemn the mission and requested help from over 40 UN states, including Canada
- Communist China stepped in to aid North Korea
- Armistice was signed on 27 July 1953



Canada and Korea

Canada sends destroyers and a squadron of transport planes as soon as the Korean war begins.

Canada's first brigade departs in November of 1950 and then in January 1951

Over 27,000 Canadians served in the conflict.

And Now....

North Korea is still a communist state and has been a threat to international peace and security.



The DMZ is still the most heavily militarized zone in the world today.

Korean War For What?

- Test of Cold War loyalties
- Questioned Canada's position during Cold War – over 25,000 Canadian Korean War Veterans
- Trial for United Nations
- The “Forgotten War”
- Two Superpowers fighting in another country
- A heavily guarded demilitarized zone (DMZ) still exists today

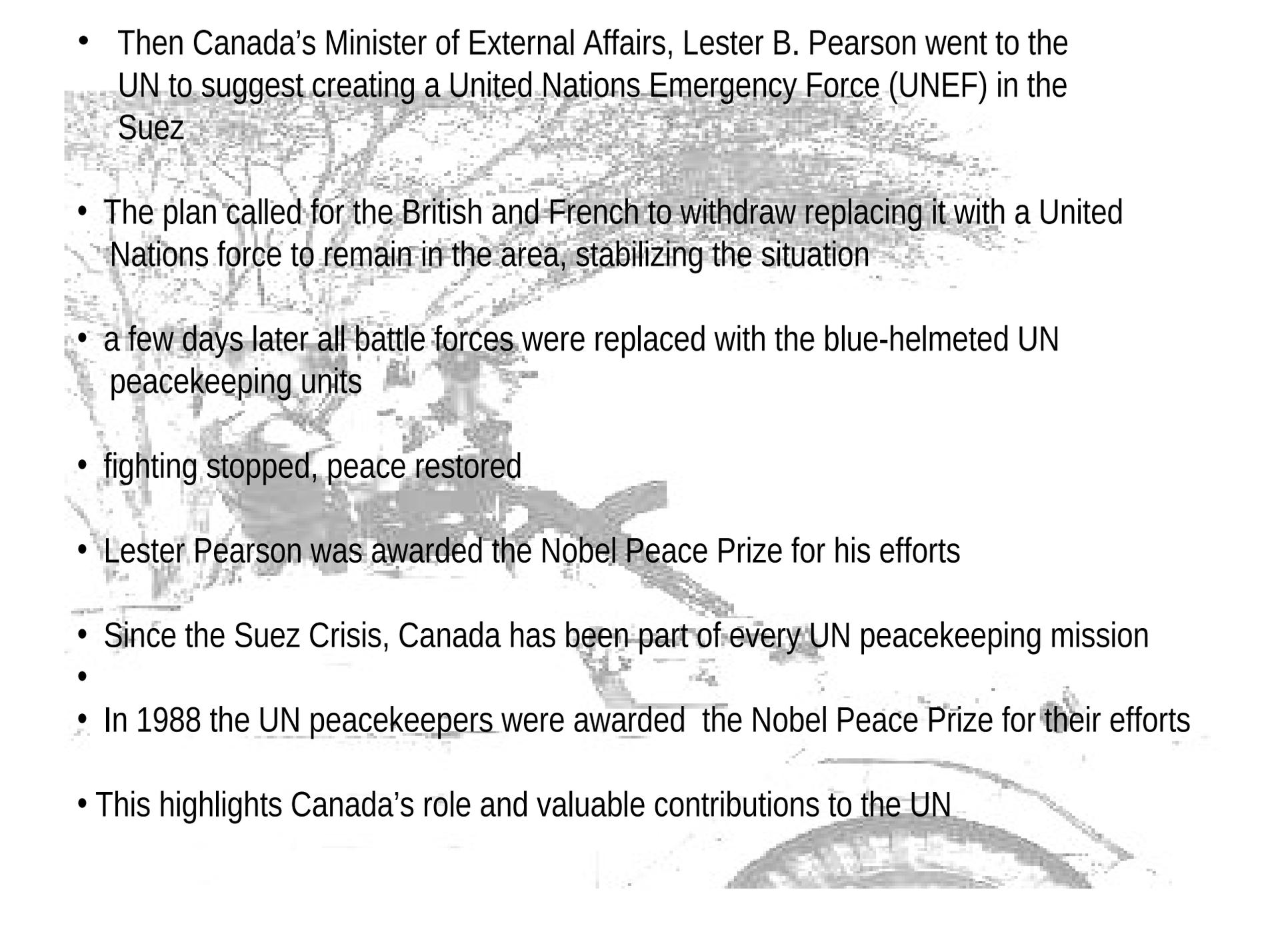
Lester Pearson and the Suez Crisis of 1956

- Egyptian President Nasser seized the Suez Canal, a critical shipping route, removing it from British and French control
- Britain/France saw this as a threat to a vital water link to the East
- Shortly after, France, Britain and Israel attack Egypt to take back the canal

RESULT

- International uproar as Soviets threaten to side with Egypt and attack Britain and France
- The world edges closer to a major war
- Tensions raise between the superpowers



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- Then Canada's Minister of External Affairs, Lester B. Pearson went to the UN to suggest creating a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) in the Suez
 - The plan called for the British and French to withdraw replacing it with a United Nations force to remain in the area, stabilizing the situation
 - a few days later all battle forces were replaced with the blue-helmeted UN peacekeeping units
 - fighting stopped, peace restored
 - Lester Pearson was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts
 - Since the Suez Crisis, Canada has been part of every UN peacekeeping mission
 - In 1988 the UN peacekeepers were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts
 - This highlights Canada's role and valuable contributions to the UN

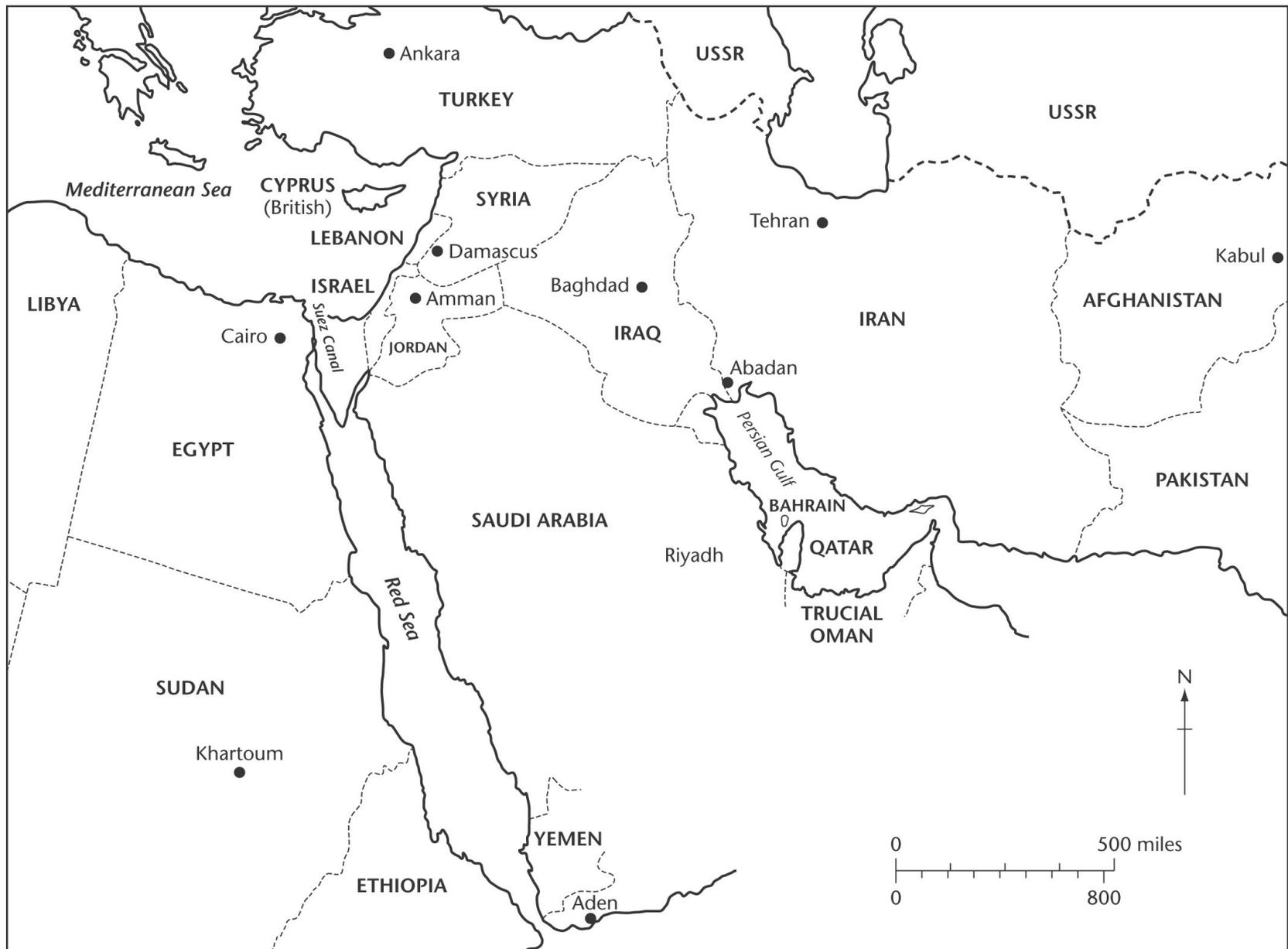


This mosaic is called "The Golden Rule". Rockwell wanted to illustrate how the Golden Rule was a common theme of all the major religions of the world, and depicted people of every race, creed and color with dignity and respect. The mosaic contains the inscription "Do unto Others as You Would Have Them Do unto You".

Norman Rockwell Mosaic



THE MIDDLE EAST



From Young, J. *The Foreign Policy of Churchill's Peacetime Administration 1951-1955*, first edition (Leicester University Press 1998). By kind permission of Continuum Publishing Group.