

Resolving the Suez Crisis: Successful Debate & Diplomacy in the Cold War

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Process Paper

We chose our topic by closely examining major diplomatic turning points from Henry Kissinger's book titled *Diplomacy*, which explains how debate has shaped the world. Moreover, we chose the Suez Canal Crisis for its sharp contrast between the methods of pacifism and militarism used to resolve the crisis. Likewise, our advisor recommended the Suez Crisis due to its relevance to this year's theme, as it revolutionized the international influences of most major powers during the Cold War. There were both successes, as exemplified by U.S. and UN de-escalation, but simultaneously, France and Britain's diplomacy failed spectacularly from their over-use of force.

An array of diverse sources were used to conduct our research, such as government documents, Kissinger's *Diplomacy*, and an interview with Dr. Mercogliano, a professor of history at Campbell University. *Diplomacy* was the foundation of our research, which detailed all of the context, debate, proposals, and lasting effects of the crisis—leaving the U.S. and USSR as the dominant world powers. Furthermore, we watched documentaries that filled in the timeline and provided footage. Finally, online articles, such as from the BBC and IWM, as well as Department of State documents and transcripts filled in details and enriched our understanding.

Using the NHD website builder, we compiled and formatted the images, historical analysis, block quotes, and interview clips using column ratios and image sliders. We also used the Premiere Pro editing software to insert photos and videos over Dr. Mercogliano's remarks. The pictures were collected from various websites and videos, and we used Photoshop to insert titles on photos. Ultimately, our historical analysis was drafted, revised, and then pasted into the website's text boxes, and we utilized the builder's convenient tools to caption the pictures, insert headings, separate sections, and attach the edited interview with Dr. Mercogliano.

In the Suez Crisis of 1956, diplomacy and negotiation proved more effective than violence and brute force, exemplified by the changes of political power in the Middle East and the rest of the world. The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as world powers, while Britain and France faded into the background, losing their superpower statuses. Furthermore, the Suez Crisis reinforced the might of nuclear weaponry in contemporary diplomacy, as demonstrated by the Soviet Union's strength through its threats of nuclear warfare. Additionally,

the United Nations proved able to de-escalate the conflict through peaceful debate and later the use of a Danish peacekeeping force.

The Suez Crisis was a major turning point in history, being the first conflict that was avoided from escalating to nuclear warfare. Under Nasser's leadership, Egypt was able to stand up to imperialistic nations, exposing their weakness after World War II and emphasizing Arab nationalism. The Soviet's assertion of dominance accelerated the United States' involvement in the Middle East, leading to modern-day consequences in the form of wars and political strife, especially involving Israel. Britain and France were permanently stripped of their world power status, minimizing their previous roles as imperialistic nations.