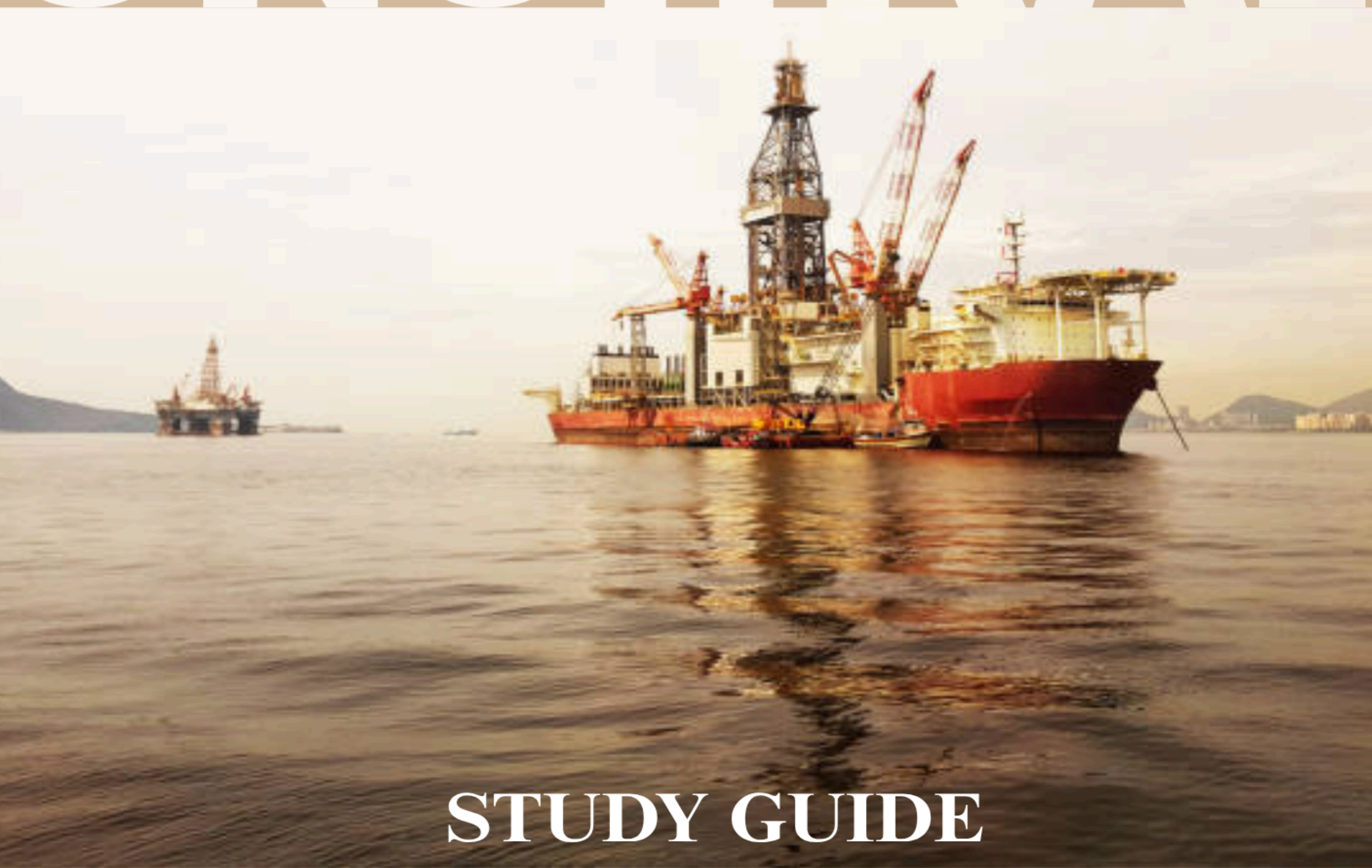
United Nations Commission on International Trade and Law

AGENDA:
Discussing the Implications on the Economy Post-9/11 and the 2003 Iraq War Concerning International Trade and Commercial Laws.

UNCITRAL



STUDY GUIDE

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LETTER FROM THE BUREAU

Dear Delegates,
It is with immense pleasure that we, the Bureau of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, welcome you to the tenth iteration of the Shishukunj Model United Nations. We hope you will have a great experience at the conference. The agenda for our committee is: "Discussing the Implications on the Economy Post-9/11 and the 2003 Iraq War Concerning International Trade and Commercial Laws."

Welcome to the world of post-war international trade; a world where we're not trying to investigate who was responsible for the war, but rather what the war broke. We're the ones responsible for addressing the long-term and immediate impact of the 9/11 attacks and the Second Gulf War, prioritising recovery and emphasizing mechanisms like contract reinforcement and compliance reforms used by businesses, banks and nations to stay afloat, dwelling on geopolitical and trade market shifts around the time. The primary objective is to focus on the nations' recovery and security mechanisms to stabilize the national and international economy.

We want you to keep the freeze date, that is **May 22, 2003**, in mind at all times. **No facts, statistics, or developments beyond this date will be considered.** All arguments, data, and proposed solutions must be framed within this period. The freeze date should be seen as an opportunity to create innovative, rational, and unique solutions for the specific timeframe rather than a limitation.

The guide is provided to you for developing a better understanding of the agenda, kindly do not restrict your creativity to it; it is your passion, curiosity and dedication that will truly drive the committee forward. It is our responsibility as a bureau to support and guide you at each step and make the best out of the 3 days. Kindly do not hesitate to reach out to us even for the slightest doubts!

So, here's *our challenge* to you:
Will you sit back while laws struggle to recover from the aftershocks of war?
Or will *you* be the ones who rewrite the rules- *before the next bomb drops?*
Because when war ends… **UNCITRAL begins.**

With Best Regards,
Fizza Arif, Chairperson
Shreyasi Chelawat, Vice Chairperson
Aryaman Singh Chauhan, Rapporteur

KEY TERMS

Commercial Laws: the rules and regulations that govern business transactions, trade, and commerce, including sales, contracts, and consumer protection, ensuring fair competition and legal remediation

Mandate: the authority to carry out a policy or course of action.

Sanctions: (here) an imposed penalty for disobeying a rule or law

Stocks: a share of ownership in a company, offering proportionate claim over its earnings and assets

Arbitration: the use of an arbitrator (a party officially appointed to resolve an argument) to settle a dispute

Cold War: a period of intense geopolitical tension and rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union and their respective allies from 1947 to 1991 (fought not directly, but indirectly, resulting in an ideological war, an arms race, etc.)

The 2003 Iraq War: The 2003 Iraq War was an invasion by the United States to remove Saddam Hussein from power. The U.S. claimed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). However, no WMDs were found. The war led to the overthrow of Hussein, created widespread instability, and changed international oil trade, diplomacy, and laws.

Liberalisation: elimination of government controls to permit freer trade, foreign investment, and open markets

Contracts: legal agreements among parties that outline obligations in trade, services, or payment

Saddam Hussein: President of Iraq (1979–2003), infamous for his dictatorship, wars in the region, and conduct causing the imposition of world sanctions

Gulf Region: oil-rich region around the Persian Gulf, such as countries like Iraq, Iran, and Saudi Arabia (etc.)

United Nations Security Council (UNSC): principal UN organ that issues binding war, peace, and international sanctions decisions

Compliance Reforms: policy changes to ensure that governments, banks, and companies abide by the rules of trade and security

Money Laundering: illegally disguising the origins of money obtained through criminal activities

The USA PATRIOT Act: enacted after the 9/11 attacks, which expanded the government's ability to monitor and investigate suspected criminals and terrorists

Financial Action Task Force (FATF): an international police force that fights against crimes like money laundering, terrorist financing, etc.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI): takes place when a domestic company or an investor decides to purchase ownership of a foreign company

The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA): The CPA was a temporary governing body established after the 2003 invasion of Iraq by the U.S. for Iraq until the country was stable enough to claim its sovereignty.

MENA REGION: It is the area of the Middle East and North Africa. The following countries are included in the MENA region:- Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Israel, Jordan Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

In order to make commerce easier and more effective, **the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law** (UNCITRAL) was founded in 1966, which is especially there to harmonise international trade laws for everyone, draft model legislations and assist nations with coordinating their legal frameworks.

It promotes collaboration among its 60 member states and more than 100 observer groups, assisting companies in navigating expensive regulations and maintaining cross

UNCITRAL's role grew during the period of the 2003 Iraq War and the 2001 terrorist attacks as new security measures disrupted trade.

By 2003, 32 countries had ratified its 2001 Model Law on Electronic Signatures, which protected digital trade under more stringent guidelines. Online transactions were encouraged by the 1996 Model Law on Electronic Commerce, which was adopted by 50 nations. Despite a 10 to 15% increase in shipping costs, UNCITRAL's efforts reduced trade disputes by 10% worldwide between 2001 and 2003.

FREEZE DATE: MAY 22, 2003

The freeze date for this committee is May 22, 2003- the date the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) voted on Resolution 1483[1]. That resolution approved the United States' and the United Kingdom's ownership over Iraq's oil wealth and economy following the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime. It also ended most of the trade sanctions imposed since 1990 and terminated the Oil-for-Food Programme.

On this day, the United Nations' control over Iraq's oil exports and economic resources was passed to the Development Fund for Iraq, under the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). This change enabled foreign business companies to return to Iraq's market and begin signing new trade, business agreements, contracts and operate. Iraq's oil sector, with its *billions of dollars of oil exports*, had been taken from Iraq and placed in the *hands of foreign occupying powers*. The legal position, however, was unclear since Iraq did not any longer have a functional national government any longer.

But of paramount importance was that it raised many significant questions in respect to ownership and rights: *Who could enter contracts on behalf of Iraq? Who owns the resources of a country during occupation? What is to happen to trade agreements and commercial laws?* These

[1] Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) [on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait] | Refworld

ambiguities highlighted how global trade institutions can be vulnerable during war and occupation.

May 22, 2003, therefore, marks a point where international trade, legal authority, and economic control shifted rapidly in a post-war environment. It illustrates how quickly the international economic order can be transformed, and how legal institutions can be tested if a nation's authority over its economy is surrendered to others.

UNCITRAL MANDATE[2]

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law **(UNCITRAL)** is a committee that was created in 1966 to create model laws and conventions which makes sure that trade practices are smooth and equal for everyone. Its goal is to make international trade easier and fairer for all countries.

By May 22, 2003, the 2001 attacks and the 2003 war in Iraq made trade worse, which made security measures and economic problems worse. This made UNCITRAL's job more important. This committee creates model laws, legislative guides and uniform rules to help countries make their trade rules more similar.

IMPORTANT TREATIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE RELATED TO THE AGENDA

The 3 primary achievements of the UNCITRAL committee are implemented by the committee to harmonize trade laws and make them fairer for every nation. These model laws and conventions solve the problems of cost reductions, trade disputes and promoting fair trade rules for each and every nation.

1. *The 1980 United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) (adopted by 60 countries)*

This convention made sure that uniform rules for selling goods across borders, helped businesses avoid legal conflicts when trade costs rose 10 to 15% due to security measures.

2. *The 1988 United Nations Convention on International Bills of Exchange and International Promissory Notes*

This convention was there to secure payments for trade deals, supporting businesses facing delays from bank checks under The USA PATRIOT Act.

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[2] https://uncitral.un.org/sites/uncitral.un.org/files/media-documents/uncitral/en/annual_report_2003.pdf

3. *The 2001 United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade*

This convention helped businesses get loans by using trade payments as collateral, aiding recovery in markets hit by the Iraq War's oil price spikes.
These treaties gave countries clear rules to keep trade moving despite new challenges.

PAST RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

1. Resolution on the Adoption of the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration (1985)

This resolution was adopted to harmonize and modernize national laws on International commercial arbitration, by providing a comprehensive legal framework to ensure fair trades for all and also provide enforceable arbitral proceedings. It has become a global standard for countries reforming their arbitration laws.

2. Resolution on the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) (1980)

This resolution led to the adoption of the CISG, a uniform international sales law that facilitates cross border trade by providing a consistent legal regime for commercial contracts, reducing legal barriers and uncertainties for international traders.

3. Resolution on the UNCITRAL Model Law on International Credit Transfers (1992)

This resolution adopted the Model Law to promote legal certainty and efficiency in international payment systems, addressing issues such as the rights and obligations of parties involved in credit transfers and the prevention of payment fraud.

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4. Resolution on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services (1994)

This resolution established model provisions to promote transparency, competition, and fairness in public purchasing, buying and sourcing aiming to reduce corruption and increase value for money in government contracts.

5. Resolution on the UNCITRAL Model Law on Cross Border Insolvency (1997)

This resolution introduced the Model Law to address the practical problems arising from insolvencies that is a bridge for multiple jurisdictions. It provides mechanisms for cooperation between courts and insolvency practitioners which also leads to recognition of foreign proceedings and protection of creditors' rights in cross border cases.

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The agenda statement for our committee is: **"Discussing the Implications on the Economy Post 9/11 Attacks and the 2003 Iraq War Concerning International Trade and Commercial Laws".**

The post-World War era gave rise to a period of economic stability. The late 1900s, typically after the '50s, paved the way for incredible financial growth and trade opportunities among countries, increasing trust between nations, leading to peaceful trade agreements with legal rules playing in favour of an international economy. However, the events of 9/11 and the 2003 Iraq War shook the carefully established security of trade, with hefty sanctions, trade barriers among multiple countries and unfulfilled or cancelled contracts, leading to huge economic loss and obstruction in the flow of trade.

Companies operating overseas or across multiple countries saw greater barriers against trade and a lack of security. Investments were frozen and businesses faced lawsuits, leading to great instability in the market. Economic stability, established after years' worth of efforts, now lay in ruins as it became confusing and unpredictable.

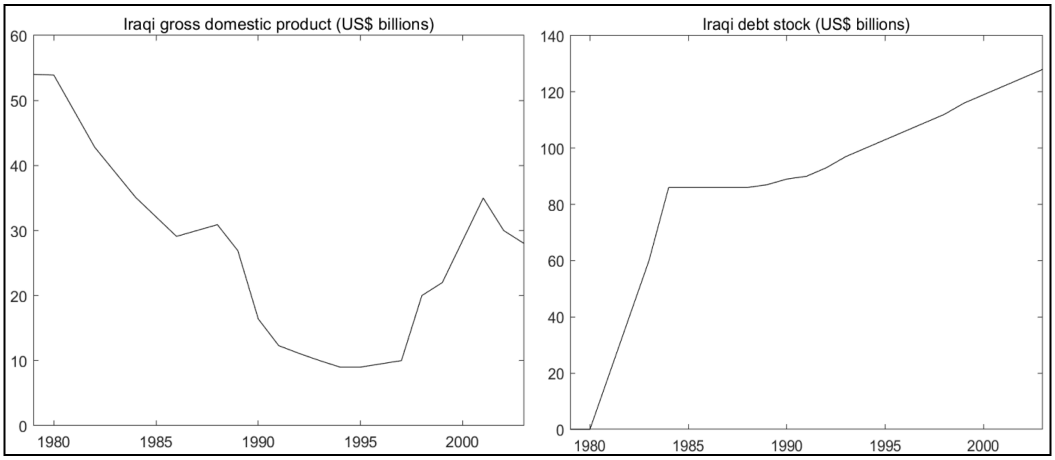
This agenda focuses on understanding how conflict and tensions can affect finance and trade agreements globally. It asks the question, *"What happens when laws made during peace are tested by war?"* Delegates will comprehend how events like the 9/11 attacks and the Second Gulf War led to economic challenges across the globe. The goal is to think about how we can make global trade laws stronger, fairer, and more prepared for future crises.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ECONOMIC AFTERSHOCKS OF THE 1991 GULF WAR

In 1990, Iraq under Saddam Hussein invaded its tiny but oil-rich neighbour, Kuwait. Saddam blamed Kuwait for two things: producing more oil than its quota (which reduced world oil prices and damaged Iraq's economy) and stealing Iraqi oil from the Rumaila oil fields. Two years before (1988), Iraq had just concluded a long and expensive war with Iran and had left itself with great debt ($65–$80 billion)[3]. Saddam perceived Kuwait's oil as a means to end Iraq's economic crisis.

[3] https://nwc.ndu.edu/



Iraq GDP and Debt Stock (US$ billion)[4]

Conquering Kuwait would have placed Iraqi hands on almost *20% of the global oil reserves*, sufficient to seriously threaten even Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer. This stirred global fear. As a countermeasure, the United States brought together a UN-sanctioned coalition of 39 nations and, in 1991, executed **Operation Desert Storm** to oust Iraqi troops from Kuwait. The conflict started with fierce aerial bombings and concluded with a 100-hour ground invasion that effectively pushed Iraq back. **Iraqi troops ignited over 600 Kuwaiti oil wells[5] as they retreated.**

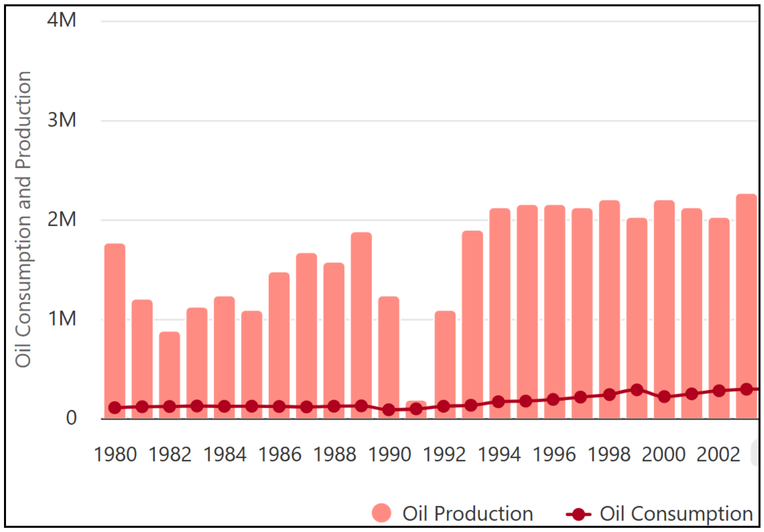
The war had a far-reaching effect that went beyond the war zones. It triggered sharp increases in global oil prices, resulting in increased fuel prices, inflation, and panic among trade markets. The hardest-hit nations were those that relied significantly on imports of oil. The war revealed how easily international trade, particularly energy trade, could be disturbed by political conflict. It also forced many countries to rethink their energy strategies and trade relationships.

The United States established permanent military bases in the Middle East, particularly in Saudi Arabia, which later became a source of tension in the region. These tensions contributed to rising anti-American sentiment, one of the factors that would reappear after the 9/11 attacks a decade later.

On the economic and legal front, the war posed hard issues. Oil delivery contracts from Kuwait were terminated or suspended. Multinational firms incurred massive losses, and insurance for wartime trade risks was no longer certain. This created a gap in international commercial law, one that would still remain during the Iraq War in 2003.

4 https://www.lse.ac.uk/Economic-History/Assets/Documents/WorkingPapers

5 https://cck-law.com/blog/oil-well-fires-in-kuwait/



Kuwait Oil Consumption and Production (barrels per day)[6]

SANCTIONS ON IRAQ BETWEEN 1991 AND 2003

The United Nations imposed some of the strongest sanctions in history after the invasion in August 1990.
Resolution 660[7] banned any sort of commercial activity with Iraq. Although Iraq had entered and lost the Gulf War in 1990, these harsh sanctions would now last longer than ten years. The idea was that the UN would put such pressure on Iraq that it would disarm and meet international standards regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)- whether these weapons existed or not. The main goal of the sanctions was to limit Hussein's government. Yet what followed was the suffering of the average Iraqi as a consequence of destroyed infrastructure and economic meltdown.

The sanctions changed Iraq's economy as the oil-for-food program cut it off from international trade-import of all major goods including industrial equipment and medicines-while creating a new legal framework for global governance.

The Cold War had ended, and also with the dwindling influence of the Soviet Union, the outright veto power no longer paralysed the UN Security Council- being used now in a more complicated manner by the United States and its allies-under the label of international peace and security.
Countries like Russia and France condemned the use of such legal procedures as a smokescreen for military agendas and stated they would not support such political and

[6] https://www.worldometers.info/oil/kuwait-oil/
[7] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/94220?ln=en&v=pdf

legal processes, thereby further derogating the sanctions as unjustifiable against Iraq as they stood.

The legal basis for the United Nations sanctions on Iraq legally obliged the member states of the United Nations to implement the sanctions, even if those sanctions caused humanitarian hardships for civilians. But many wondered whether the sanctions themselves were fair or effective - some would argue that the sanctions, if we are to think of them politically rather than diplomatically, were not fair or effective. Consider the U.S.- led invasion of Iraq in 2003; those states which had both advocated for and enforced sanctions- removed their own sanctions with extraordinary practicality, illustrating that political values and interests drive the action.

Legal sanctions can always hinder and isolate a country, but these effects are harmful to ordinary citizens, while restricting political leaders at best. Iraq's experience demonstrates military-related sanctions can amass and persist, and too frequently devalue our common humanity.

PRE-IRAQ WAR 2003 TRADE

In the efforts of creating a cooperative and just environment, the international agreements and laws have sculpted the global trade system. However, this system began to face serious obstacles in the years leading up to 2003. The ever-increasing cross-border tensions, military activities along with anti-terrorism operations were responsible for interrupting what once was a ‘relatively stable and predictable network of trade’.

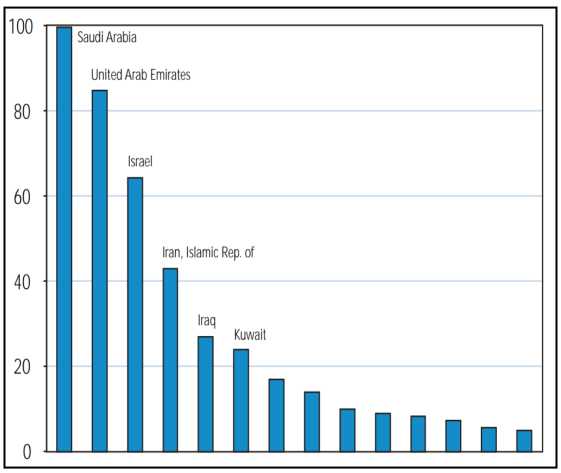
Post the Cold War, a global economic framework was established whose sole focus was cooperation and liberalisation. Institutions such as the World Trade Organisation (WTO) put efforts to promote peace by encouraging globalisation. However, with growing political instability, especially in the Middle East region, these ideals became fragile. With more involvement of politics, international trade policies and national security concerns began to be influenced and threatened, fuelled by the erosion of trust among nations.

Consequently, stricter trade regulations (like sanctions, export restrictions and legal barriers) were introduced by various countries. Businesses operating internationally faced delays, increased inspections, and sudden legal changes. Trade that was once seen as routine had now become risky, especially in politically sensitive regions.

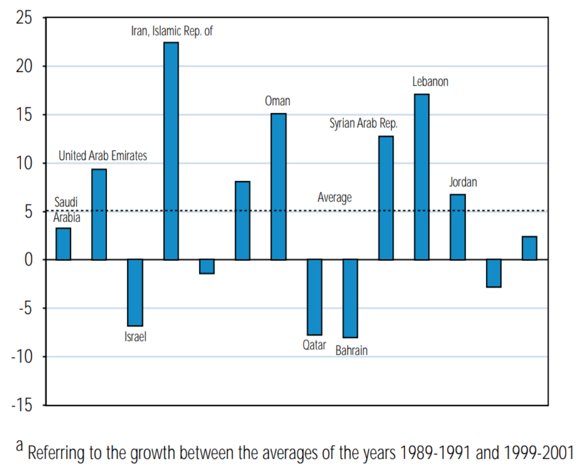
Simultaneously, this situation alerted the government about the exploitation of trade routes and monetary systems for illicit purposes, including terrorist financing; leading to severe examination of shipments, contracts, and banking transactions, especially involving countries in unstable armed zones. The private sector was compelled to adapt quickly, and faced losses and legal uncertainty, quite often.

	1990-95	1995-00	1990-00	1998	1999	2000	2001
Merchandise							
Exports (value)	2	12	6	-22	30	42	-9
Imports (value)	5	5	5	0	3	13	4
Commercial services							
Exports (value)	8	9	8	5	9	16	-7
Imports (value)	3	5	4	-11	1	8	-7

(Trade Developments in the Middle East, 1990-2001)[8]



Merchandise Trade of Middle Eastern Countries, 2001
(**Exports plus imports**, billion dollars)



Merchandise exports of Middle Eastern countries,
(Average annual percentage change in dollar values)

[8] https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2002_e/its2002_e.pdf

TRADE ROUTES AND THE OIL MARKET SHIFTS

OIL DISRUPTIONS AND TRADE SHIFTS

After the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, the global oil market was subjected to severe disturbances. Since Iraq was under international sanctions, Saudi Arabia stepped in to fill the vacuum and took away much of Iraq's market share. This eventually turned oil from being just another source of energy into a political instrument, allowing one to affect economies, alliances, and military decisions with it.

The situation was further complicated after the 9/11 attacks in New York in 2001. Although Saudi Arabia was a global ally of the U.S., trust diminished, since, out of 19, 15 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, which raised serious concerns about the domestic environment of the kingdom and the mobilization of its radical ideologies (although there wasn't any direct involvement of Saudi Government in the attacks but it did shock the U.S. Government along with the public). Outside the Gulf region, the U.S. made attempts to procure oil supplies from alternative sources to secure more reliable supplies.

Another major disruption occurred in the global oil markets as a result of the 2003 Iraq War. Iraqi oil exports were almost completely halted at 1.5–2 million barrels per day[9]. This, coupled with worsening conditions in Venezuela and Nigeria, caused an almost 2-3 million barrels per day decline in global oil supply, thereby creating uncertainty and fear in the international markets.

The war caused extensive damage to critical Iraqi oil infrastructure. Oilfields were attacked; pipelines were looted; power stations were shut down. With the turmoil spreading across the Gulf region, the oil-importing countries started reconsidering their reliance on Middle Eastern oil. Out of panic, many of these countries started looking for other sources and trading routes, such as Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and parts of West Africa.

Being so, this became a great point of change in the geography of global oil trade. Hence, the countries that had been very dependent on Gulf oil began to create new transport routes and pipeline agreements, with trade partnerships building on the new interfaces. This transition not only altered the usual supply chains but also affected international contracts and laws governing

[9] https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/olj/si/si_2_4/si_2_4_lor01.pdf

shipping, as well as regional alliances, thereby causing increased complexity and uncertainty in the energy trade.

OPEC RESPONSES AND SPECULATION

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)[10] is an organization set up for the purpose of managing oil production and prices among the major oil-exporting nations. Some of the prominent members include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, the UAE, Venezuela, and Nigeria. OPEC, thus, works to instill stability in the global oil market, secure fair prices for oil-producing countries, and ensure that production is coordinated such that market disorders do not arise.

Right after the Iraq War in 2003 and the stoppage of Iraqi oil exports, there came a sharp drop in the supplies of oil to the world. Owing to this, and to prevent a total oil crisis, OPEC, largely led by Saudi Arabia, intervened. Saudi Arabia stood as a heroic production-industrial entity, raising production levels to compensate for the missing productive supplies and preventing any sudden price spike in the early stages, and thus demonstrating OPEC's capacity to act in emergencies and to also keep the global oil trade from coming to a halt.

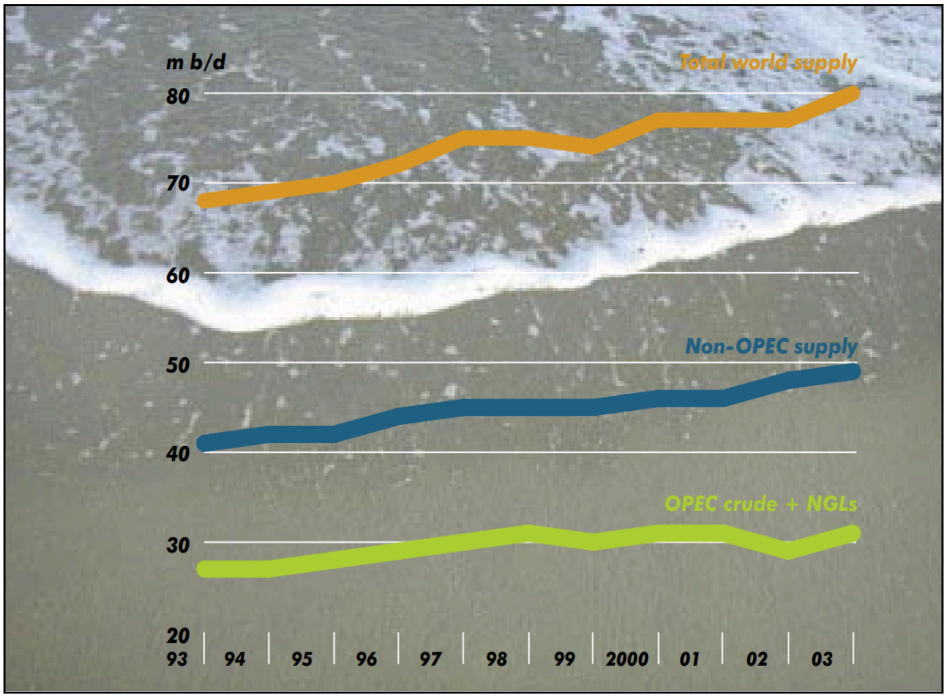
Internal tensions gradually began to surface; Venezuela, for instance, pressured by its already strained economy, wished for higher prices so that it could maximize its earnings from sales. Thus, it did not support increased production as that would lower prices. Conversely, countries such as Nigeria and Algeria viewed low prices as an opportunity and instead wished to increase output to take advantage of the market and derive more revenues.

Growing tensions continued within the group because of this difference in strategic perception. The uncertainty was still higher with speculation about a possible return of Iraq to the oil market. In the scenario where Iraq started exports of oil at full levels, oversupply could flood the market with too much oil, and lead to a price war wherein countries compete on price cuts for protecting their market shares.

While OPEC continued trying to contain these issues by negotiating the new production targets and calling emergency meetings, it found it very hard to enforce its decisions. Most members worked on their own selfish interests, either completely ignoring quotas or exporting far beyond agreed levels. Hence, such internal contradictions made it hard to act in a united way, particularly during crises.

[10] https://www.opec.org/

Still, OPEC members maintained their primary role in stabilizing the global oil trade, as the meetings and decisions within OPEC heavily influenced oil prices, trade flows, and the global economic climate but it showed just how difficult it is to coordinate trade policies for different national economies when each is strongly pulled in a different political-financial direction.



OPEC crude + NGLs and non-OPEC supply, 1993–2003[11]
(m b/d- million barrels per day, NGLs- Natural Gas Liquids)

GLOBAL INFLATION IN ENERGY

When oil supplies fell as a result of wars, sanctions, and ruined infrastructure, particularly when the Iraq War commenced in 2003, there was a fear that spread around the world. Investors did not know if oil would still be available in the same amounts, or if prices would immediately skyrocket. With fear came speculation- where traders traded oil not for consumption, but to profit from future price fluctuations. This led to the oil prices rising rapidly, breaking through *$30 per barrel*[12]*,* reaching nearly $38 per barrel at their peak*,* which was then regarded as a tremendous spike.

This scenario didn't only impact oil-producing nations. It had a domino effect on the entire world economy, since oil is used ubiquitously- *from filling a car to grocery shopping*. When oil is more

[11] https://www.opec.org/assets/assetdb/annual-report-2003.pdf
[12] https://ciaotest.cc.columbia.edu/olj/si/si_2_4/si_2_4_lor01.pdf

expensive, transport is also more expensive, and it becomes costlier to ship goods from country to country and even within cities. All of this was then transferred to consumers through increasing prices of staple commodities and services. This is referred to as ***inflation***[13], *a broad rise in the prices of goods and services over time.* When inflation occurs, the purchasing power of money decreases, such that individuals are able to purchase less for the same amount of money. In this instance, the increased cost of energy initiated inflation in numerous other sectors, such as food, clothing, electricity, manufacturing, and foreign trade.
Developing nations, especially, took the greatest hit. These nations tend to be very dependent upon imported oil and lack sufficient financial resources. For them, a mere increase in energy prices would result in shortfalls in their budgets, economic slowdowns, and instability. Daily life suddenly became more expensive for millions.

This inflation, fueled by energy, impacted trade deals and legal contracts, particularly those with long-term pricing or delivery obligations. A few deals became prohibitively costly to meet, while some were postponed or renegotiated. International commercial law had to adjust to these issues, particularly in the realm of force majeure clauses, which address unforeseen circumstances affecting the capacity to finish a contract.

Oil Prices 1989-2003[14]

[13] [Inflation: What It Is and How to Control Inflation Rates]
[14] https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/hist/rwtcd.htm

GEOPOLITICS AND TRADE LAW IN THE POST-WAR ERA

ARBITRATION IN CONFLICT ZONES

A society in which trade is a major priority and practised as much as possible is theoretically a society that's better than one which has less scaling of trade. The more overseas trade, the better the economy. It seemed like a profitable option that governments should remove trade barriers and promote free trade.

However, keeping in mind the scene of international conflict, this could not be done. **Arbitration** involves the submission of a conflict between two parties to a third— an arbitrator— who can maintain neutrality and transparency in their decisions.

The conflict led to great instability in international trade and economy, including all aspects like revenue, exports, imports etc. Fluctuation in trade routes and barriers and prevailing instability in the market and economy restricted unbiased resolution in conflicts between parties or nations. In such cases, people were in great need and search for neutral arbitration centres which could be unaffected by the ongoing conflicts and prevent damage to their businesses or trade deals, resulting in the rise of arbitration centres like London, Paris and Singapore.

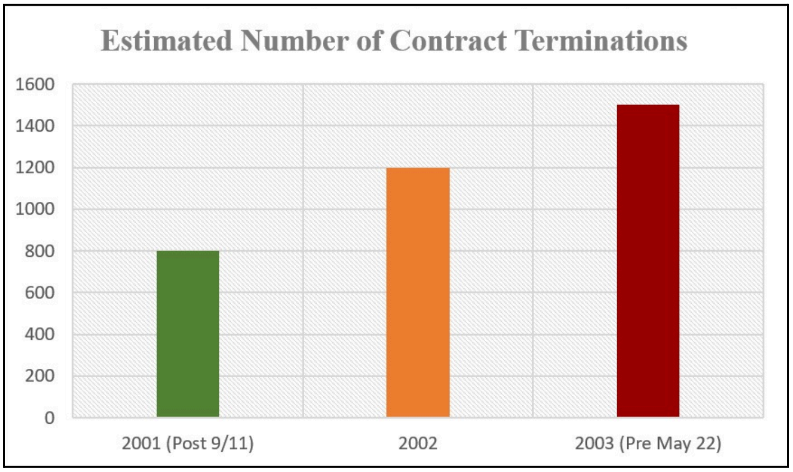
For example; As of 2003, the Suez Canal handled 15,852,000 TEU[15] containers or 18.9% of global container trade. The Suez Canal was a part of a global export trade of 84 million TEU. The Suez Canal reduced shipping distance on key routes by as much as 74% and has helped to increase trade between Europe and Asia significantly.[16]

CONTRACT ENFORCEMENT SHIFTS

The war also meant that many businesses, both from overseas and flourishing ones, in the country who could manage to keep their heads over water, faced immeasurable struggles in contract negotiations and contracts becoming void in nations the companies had previously traded with, but were now considered potential enemies for the country as a whole. A **force majeure** means that a contract becomes unfulfillable because of any unexpected or

[15] TEU: twenty-foot equivalent unit
[16] https://www.cepii.fr/PDF_PUB/wp/2016/wp2016-29.pdf

unprecedented event, sometimes in specific countries, which can lead to complete cancellation or impossible extensions, leading to huge economic losses.



In cases of war, every event can be unpredictable. This means that businesses need to prepare in advance, with policies, even loopholes, which can stop their businesses from failing or completely shutting down. This is known as Contract Reinforcement, which, as the term suggests, is the inclusion of policies or clauses in contracts that can protect the contractor or business from uncertain events and ensure some economic security. In simpler words, it means to add specific policies to contracts to act as loopholes or extra safeguards and protect the business behind them from facing economic loss.

These may include:

- War risk clauses, addressing the risks associated with war, including those to life, property and resources. These clauses can cancel contracts in case of war or instability with certain nations, preventing any further damage.

- Governing law, which specifies the **jurisdiction** (extent of power in making legal decisions) laws that will be used to interpret and enforce the terms of the agreement, specifying which legal system will govern the contract in case of disputes.

- Many termination provisions to eliminate contract fulfillment altogether.

Contract reinforcement also ensures a lot in favour of businesses. Two such provisions strengthened by contract reinforcement are:

1. If contracts are reinforced, businesses can safely, legally and securely continue critical operations. These can include the acts of providing food, energy, medicine etc., even amidst conflict.

2. Contract reinforcement also enforces something called investor confidence. Investment is crucial for and essential to trade and business, reinforcement assures them of their rights and legal protection which remain unaffected by conflict.

In case reinforcement is not practiced, at surface level, it seems that not much would happen. However, its absence may lead to:

- Disruption in the flow of commodities
- Loss of trust held by investors
- Increased cost and risk: Without proper legal protection or compensation, businesses could raise prices to stay afloat. This can lead to inflation, or the aforementioned.

GLOBAL POWER RIVALRIES AND TRADE BLOC REALIGNMENTS

A **Trade Bloc** is a grouping of countries trading with each other under agreements made to reduce trade barriers among themselves to promote flourishment. Trade blocs can be of several types, such as:

- A Preferential Trade Area, i.e. an agreement under which countries agree to lower (though not eliminate) barriers among themselves. Dealings with nonmembers are not taken into consideration, hence member states have laws of their own choosing to trade with non-member countries, e.g. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- Free trade area, i.e. countries eliminate barriers to trade among themselves but maintain independent trade policies when dealing with non-members, e.g. the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- Countries in a Customs Union eliminate trade barriers between themselves, but take on common external barriers against any nonmembers, e.g. the Caribbean Community.
- Common market countries eliminate internal barriers, adopt common external barriers, and allow free flow of resources, e.g. Mercosur.

❖ **Protectionism:** Protectionism involves tariffs (tax on foreign goods, in turn promoting domestic businesses) and import quota (limit on an imported good) both set by the governments of the importing country. Licenses can be made mandatory, with high licensing fees. Safety regulations can also act as trade barriers.

❖ **Free trade** involves no such mandate. However, for security reasons and reasons of conflict previously mentioned, with some countries supporting and some discouraging armed resistance, trade blocs found much realignment and division. Iraq is not a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)[17], of which countries like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and others are a part. Some would think this seeming middle-eastern trade bloc would involve Iraq; however, the country is not an active participant because of its previous invasions into or violations of member countries like the invasion of Kuwait and other strained relations, both politically and economically. Countries like the US and Russia have greatly restricted trade, and certain blocs have had to shift member countries, to establish peace in trade and the stability of international economy, into the position that exists today.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and in the wake of the 2003 Iraq War, global power rivalries intensified and fundamentally altered economic structures of international trade. The United States re-focused its energy partnerships based on bilateral agreements, rejecting multilateralism altogether to ensure access to energy routes, partnership cultivation and, in some cases, regional hegemony. Trade blocs such as the European Union (EU) or Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) reassessed their trading blocs for economic ties that reduced risks from areas historically adding conflict. Simultaneously, developing countries were reflecting on their position in the new reality - some abandoned their positions in favor of stronger economies and offered national support on the basis of some type of security to protect resource reliance. These developments turned trade blocs from being politically neutral to politically driven. Nations began navigating geopolitics playing one bloc against another to establish power and influence allies while isolating rivals.

Formerly it was said that geopolitics (influence of geographical location upon trade, resources and politics) can affect trade bloc arrangements. Since Iraq is an oil exporter and also has oil reserves of great economic value, it would seem that it would be listed among flourishing trade countries. However, as we shall see, this is not the case.

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[17] https://www.grc.net/single-commentary/ (Historical Background)

POST 9/11 TRADE FINANCE SHIFTS

OVERVIEW

On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four planes, crashing two into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon, and one in Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 people died. These attacks had a big impact on global security and economic shifts, especially on trade and commercial law. Governments of nations across the globe now had a newfound fear; it was speculated that financial systems were being used to fund terrorisms and crime. This belief paved the way for major reforms in this sector.

Companies and banks practising overseas trade now had to abide by stricter rules; be it extra, sometimes over-the-top documentation, increased background checks, or more compliance procedures, they were required to go through it all. However, even after being imposed with the best of intentions, these newer, stricter rules seemed to slow down trade. This reduction was seen even more clearly in developing countries, some of which struggled to even meet these new requirements.

Furthermore, to increase economic security even more, many nations began sharing financial information, which helped them blacklist suspicious subjects and work with organizations such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to prevent the illegal flow of money.

It is thus evident that global commerce and its controllers had become more cautious of the economic scene post-9/11.

BANKING AND COMPLIANCE REFORMS

After the 9/11 attacks, it was seen that terrorist groups had been using preexisting, legal banking systems to move money into different accounts. This activity, although suspicious, went unnoticed. Therefore, banks across the world faced an increased pressure towards improving and strengthening security measures. This led to countries introducing something new to the masses- compliance reforms: these refer to new banking rules introduced to control internationally occurring money transfers and overall, trade finance.

Hence, banks were now required to carry out a variety of measures. For instance, the verification of customer IDs became much stronger, through KYC or 'Know Your Customer' checks. Banks were now legally bound to report any and every suspicious happening to national authorities, and were also required to screen their clients and all transactions thoroughly to avoid missing any potential link to terrorism.

As previously mentioned, these laws, though implemented for security, made trade slower; however, showed positive results in many regions. For example, trade contracts, especially in the Middle East and the North of Africa now required more paperwork and legal review before approval, which strengthened security greatly.

After the 9/11 incident , banks realized that effective compliance needs professional trained employees, so by early 2003, financial institutions worldwide began investing heavily in training programs to help staff identify and report suspicious financial activities. These programs especially focused on understanding patterns of money laundering and terrorism financing, such as recognizing accounts or transactions involving high risk countries. Smaller banks, especially in developing countries, struggled to keep up with these demands due to limited budgets. By May 2003, reports from the International Monetary Fund noted that some banks in Asia and Africa faced delays in adopting these training programs, which limited their ability to process international transactions properly for some time.

From 2001 the US Government reported 300,000 Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) with the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a sharp increase from 163,000 in 2000. About 20% of these reports were related to potential terrorism financing, reflecting heightened scrutiny of transactions following 9/11. Banks were required to report transactions as low as $5,000 if deemed suspicious, compared to the previous focus on cash.

Metric	2001	2002	Jan–May 22, 2003
SARs Filed	163,000	283,000	134,000
% Banks with AML[18] Programs	73%	91%	>97%

[18] AML- Anti-Money laundering

Fines (USD, millions)	$12	$28	$20

FinCEN Annual Reports (2001-2003)

By 2003, banks worldwide, including those in the MENA region, spent an estimated $10 billion annually on AML and KYC compliance, a 25% increase from 2001. In the MENA region, major financial hubs like Dubai and Riyadh allocated approximately $500 million in 2002 to upgrade compliance systems, hire staff, and train employees on new regulations.

INVESTMENT

After the attacks, the way people and countries invested money in other nations changed a lot. Foreign Direct Investment, or FDI, is when someone puts money into a business or industry in another country for the long term. After the 9/11 attacks , the investors became picky about where they put their money. They started avoiding places like Afghanistan and Iraq, where wars had affected roads, buildings, and other infrastructure badly.

These areas did not have proper legal systems, which made it hard to trust for investors as they were worried about more attacks that could lead to losing their money. They also feared that there wouldn't be strong laws to protect their investments if something had happened.

Because of this fear revolving around investors, less money flowed into risky regions, whereas countries which are seen as safer and more stable started getting more attention from investors for investments.To deal with these concerns, governments began adding special rules, called "Security Clauses" to investment deals. These rules let countries review or even stop foreign investments if they thought the money could harm their economy or national security. This made investment agreements tougher and gave governments extra protection during uncertain times.

By the time the Iraq War started in 2003, investment decisions weren't just about making a profit anymore; they were heavily influenced by politics, safety concerns, and whether a country had strong, reliable laws. Investors' perceptions of currency risk in foreign investments were shaped by the post 9/11 environment. By May 2003, exchange rate fluctuations were a major worry as world markets responded to geopolitical tensions, such as the Iraq War's prelude. In order to protect themselves from currency devaluation losses, investors started giving priority to nations with stable currencies, such as the European nations. According to BIS data, the proper stability of the euro in comparison to currencies in more volatile regions, for instance, drove an 8% increase in investment flows into European markets in 2002. Some investors began employing currency-limited instruments, like forward contracts, to fix exchange rates for upcoming transactions in order to reduce these risks; with investments linked to trade, where payments were made frequently.

AID

After the 9/11 attacks, countries like the United States and its allies began sending more aid to places facing problems like war or terrorism, especially in the Middle East and South Asia. Countries like Iraq and Afghanistan got a lot of this aid to build roads, schools, hospitals, and even to fix their oil industries.

The main goal of giving aid was to help these places become more stable and free these countries from the problems of violence or terrorism. But this aid also came up with stricter rules than before. The countries giving the money wanted to be sure that the money was used properly and didn't end up with corrupt officials or terrorist groups; to make this happen aid agreements started getting more open and stricter. The countries receiving aid had to clearly show how they spent every dollar for the betterment of their own country, aid contracts also included specific conditions, such as: rules about what the money could be used for, like building schools or fixing water systems, requirements for someone to keep track of how the money was spent, demands for better legal and financial systems to prevent misuse of funds.

This was a big change in how aid worked. It wasn't just about helping out anymore; it was also about making sure countries were safer, followed the law, and managed money responsibly.

The use of NGOs to provide aid increased after 9/11 as governments looked for partners with local knowledge and adaptability. By May 2003, major portions of aid programs in conflict affected areas, especially in the fields of health and education, were being managed by NGOs such as **Médecins Sans Frontières** and **Oxfam**. With funding from Western donors, NGOs were hired to rebuild hospitals in Iraq that had been damaged in the early phases of the 2003 conflict. New oversight requirements, however, accompanied this change. To make sure funds weren't being misused, donors demanded that NGOs submit thorough financial reports and go through audits. Early in 2003, the U.S. government issued regulations requiring aid providing NGOs to keep open accounting records. NGOs' administrative expenses rose as a result, for some reported a 10 to 15% increase.

Some other ways in which aid was provided by the international community were-

- U.S. Foreign Aid to Afghanistan: Between September 11, 2001, and May 2003, the United States allocated approximately $500 million dollars in humanitarian and reconstruction aid to Afghanistan. This included $296 million in 2002 alone for emergency relief, food assistance, and rebuilding efforts, such as schools and clinics, to support the post Taliban government. By mid 2003, an additional $200 million was pledged for infrastructure projects, including roads and water systems, to stabilize the country.

- U.S. Aid to Iraq- Pre and Early Post Invasion: Prior to the U.S. led invasion of Iraq in March 2003, the U.S. provided $15 million in humanitarian aid in 2002 to prepare for potential refugee crises. By May 22, 2003, following the invasion, the U.S. had committed $2.5 billion for immediate post war reconstruction, with $1.7 billion earmarked for restoring Iraq's oil infrastructure and $800 million for electricity, water, and healthcare facilities. This was part of a broader strategy to rebuild Iraq's economy and prevent instability.

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the Middle East: FDI money flowing to the Middle East was not proper due to heightened security because of concerns after 9/11. In 2002, the region got $4.2 billion in FDI, a slight decline from $4.5 billion in 2000, reflecting investor caution amid regional instability.
  Countries like Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates saw stable FDI inflows ($1.8 billion and $1.2 billion, respectively, in 2002), while conflict zones like Iraq had negligible FDI due to ongoing uncertainty.

ILLICIT FLOWS

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the financial system faced a new kind of threat: illegal financial flows. These included money derived from activities like drug trafficking, arms smuggling, tax evasion, terror financing etc. The problem was no longer just one of revenue loss or corruption; it was one of how criminals were using the financial system to fund violence and destabilize economies as stated above.

In the 1980s and until the early 2000s, the drug cartels in Latin America and Asia became extremely powerful. These cartels, such as the Medellín and the Cali cartels in Colombia, were earning billions of dollars from selling illegal drugs. But they could not simply deposit the money in a bank account without raising suspicions. Instead, they used a method called money laundering, the process of hiding the origins of illegally obtained money by passing it through legitimate businesses or banks.

By 2003, money laundering was a pressing global problem, with terrorist networks also exploiting the same pathways to hide donations, smuggle funds, and buy arms. The attacks of September 11 had shown how terrorist groups were manipulating global financial systems, banks, charities, and trade, to move money undetected across borders. This forced governments and institutions worldwide to rethink the way that finance was being used.

As a result, trade finance, the system that greases the wheels of global business, fell under intense scrutiny. Governments began tracking bank transfers, investigating suspicious trade transactions, and cooperating through organizations like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to keep financial systems from being exploited.

These reforms had a profound effect on commercial law and trade practices. Banks were required to report suspicious transactions, businesses were requested to supply proof of ownership and supply chains, and tighter legislation was introduced to prevent illegal money from moving across borders. Some trade agreements were delayed or canceled due to fears of hidden financial crimes.

CASE STUDY

OIL FOR FOOD PROGRAM AND SHIFT IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE RELATIONS

In 1997, the United Nations implemented the Oil For Food Programme[19] to reduce the suffering of Iraq because of the sanctions after the 1991 Gulf War.
The deal was simple, Iraq could sell some of its oil, but the money went straight to a UN bank account to buy things like food, medicine, and supplies for schools or hospitals, making sure it didn't end up funding weapons. When the 2003 Iraq War broke out, this program shut down, and the sanctions were lifted, turning Iraq's trade with other countries upside down.

The war smashed Iraq's oil fields, which was caused by broken pipelines and burned wells, affecting its oil exports. The U.S. launched a group[20] called the Coalition Provisional Authority, which wanted to get trade running again by letting foreign companies provide support, but due to constant fighting and messy coordination, things didn't work as planned.

[19] https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/iraq-oil-food-scandal
[20] https://www.eia.gov/international/data/country/IRQ

Nearby countries like Jordan, which sent Iraq tons of goods like vegetables and clothes, also got affected when trade routes were blocked. On the flip side, places like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, exporting oil, made more money as prices spiked, giving them a bigger portion in markets around the world. New trade rules were there to handle Iraq's rebuilding, but the chaos made them tough to follow. The war and the end of the program changed Iraq's trade connections, leaving some countries struggling.

Iraq's government submitted lists of goods to the UN's 661 which were gravely needed, and reviewed contracts to ensure compliance with sanctions. Approved goods included wheat, rice, medical supplies, and equipment for schools, hospitals, and water treatment facilities. By 2003, the program had facilitated $26 billion in oil sales and $17 billion in humanitarian purchases, providing a lifeline to Iraq's population of 27 million, many of whom relied on the government for survival.

Despite its successes, the program faced challenges. Iraq's affected oil infrastructure limited production, and smuggling, often with tacit approval from neighbouring countries like Jordan and Turkey, undermined UN oversight. Corruption allegations surfaced, with claims that Saddam's regime manipulated contracts to favour allies and extract kickbacks. These issues raised the difficulties in Iraq's economy post war.

Table 1. Revenue Generated by Oil-For-Food Program

(Until the eve of the 2003 war)

Phase Number (each phase is six months)	**Volume Sold** (millions of barrels)	**Value of Export** ($billion)	**Average Price per Barrel** ($)
One December 10, 1996 - June 7, 1997 ($2 billion export ceiling)[a]	120	2.15	17.92
Two June 8, 1997 - December 4, 1997	127	2.125	16.73
Three December 5, 1997 - May 29, 1998	182	2.085	11.46
Four May 30, 1998 - November 25, 1998 (Export ceiling raised to $5.2 billion by Resolution 1153)	308	3.027	9.83
Five November 26, 1998 - May 24, 1999	360.8	3.947	10.94
Six May 26, 1999 - December 11, 1999	389.6	7.402	19.00
Seven December 12, 1999 - June 8, 2000 (Export ceiling lifted permanently by Resolution 1284)	343.4	8.302	24.13
Eight June 9, 2000 - December 5, 2000	375.7	9.564	25.50
Nine December 6, 2000 - July 3, 2001	293	5.638	19.24
Ten July 4, 2001 - November 30, 2001	300.2	5.35	17.82
Eleven December 1, 2001 - May 29, 2002	225.9	4.589	20.31
Twelve May 30, 2002 - December 4, 2002	232.7	5.639	24.3
Thirteen (as of February 21, 2003) December 5, 2002 - June 3, 2003	130.5	3.618	27.7
Totals	3,117.3	63.436	

Source: U.N. Office of the Iraq Programme. [http://www.un.org/Depts/oip/].

CONCLUSION

The agenda, "Discussing the Implications on the Economy Post-9/11 Attacks and the 2003 Iraq War Concerning International Trade and Commercial Laws," brings one of the most complicated facets of modern history to the fore- the collusion between global conflict, law, and trade. Beginning as isolated acts of aggression or terror, the acts ended up disrupting international systems of finance, contracts, energy distribution, and legal cooperation across borders. As delegates of UNCITRAL, it is paramount to understand that war does not simply demolish cities or borders; it attacks the very fundament upon which commercial relations in the world are established.

The 1991 Gulf War, followed by sanctions for over a decade, brought about long-term economic instability in Iraq and curtailed the global supply of oil, resulting in unbridled panic and price inflation in the world at large. The attacks on September 11, 2001, however, did permanently change the way countries dealt with trade, finance, and legal cooperation. Anti-terrorism policies gained influence on the provision of financial aid, implementation of banking reforms, and flows of investments, particularly in regions prone to conflicts. The 2003 Iraq War put forth yet another set of complications as far as the law of trade is concerned, particularly questioning who controls a nation's resources during occupation and how trade laws apply when a functional government ceases to exist.

From oil trade disruption to sanction enforcement, and from arbitration in conflict zones to realignments in trade blocs, the economic systems of the world were tested under gigantic pressure. Organizations such as OPEC endeavored to bring about some stability in the global oil markets, whilst institutions such as the WTO, IMF, and UNCITRAL attempted to uphold the rule of law amid political uncertainty.

This agenda calls on delegates to look at how fragile the scales are in balancing peace and profit. More importantly, it challenges delegates to think about how the current international legal framework can be adopted to provide better alternatives in a time of crisis. From studying historical incidents, subtopics, and case studies, we understand how past treaties have failed and most of the gaps in the current system create an avenue demanding a stronger, fairer, and flexible framework.

Delegates are now challenged to meet this task- not by gazing back, but by using these lessons to create a future in which international commerce can persist even in adversity, and in which laws are strong enough to safeguard commerce, cooperation, and sovereignty, regardless of the situation.

This is not just about rewriting trade law. This is about re-thinking how the world should act when global systems are pushed to the breaking point- and making the global systems and trade law work so that they never do break apart again.

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE DELEGATE

Every delegate is expected to arrive in the spirit of being mature, prepared, and possessing an analytical disposition. This guide has been meticulously prepared to serve as a useful base from which all the participants can be encouraged to lead in conducting more in-depth research into the issues on the agenda so that they might well decide on important matters.

Any proposed solution must be logically valid, practical to implement, and should maintain historical correlation with the committee. While there's a lot of room to be creative in committee: in speeches, resolutions, working papers, chits and during debate, it must be based in **realism** and be **historically accurate** to the **freeze date of May 22, 2003. Any reference to policies, statistics or events that occurred after the freeze date will be invalid and inadmissible for all committee work.** We will follow this rule without exception. Delegates must be diligent in ensuring every argument, proposal and document adheres to the world as it was *before* the freeze date, and *not afterwards*. If a delegate does not follow this premise, it may affect assessment and the quality of deliberation.

Treatment of the representatives for the countries and institutions will be decent and courteous throughout the working sessions. Providing a respectful atmosphere must be embraced by all delegates-in a comfortable-easing working environment for policy making. Though you need to defend the national interest, you must respect international trade law and diplomatic usage.

For all four phases-drafting, negotiation, and everything in between and beyond-the debating will be carried out in the chambers. The delegates must participate actively in the process, express clearly their respective positions, and seek to compromise where appropriate. Personal remarks and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated, whereas constructive criticism will be welcomed.

We believe that the delegates will be committed to working for the proceedings with honesty and dedication, and we look forward to feeling your distinctive opinions reverberate throughout the committee.

FORMATION OF A STRONG INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

International trade and finance have long operated under pre-existing global frameworks and legal conventions aimed at ensuring cooperation and stability. The impact of events such as 9/11 and the Iraq War demonstrated that even the most established systems often failed to function well in times of crisis.

While commercial laws and treaties have been designed to facilitate trade in times of peace, they were certainly not fully ready to confront sudden disruptions such as regime collapse, foreign occupation, or terrorist-related financial crimes. The world observed contracts collapse, foreign investments get frozen, and legal confusion on who theoretically had the authority to represent a country in a foreign-controlled scenario. These real-world events brought dark shadows onto the so-called strength and reliability of our existing trade laws.

The original frameworks - foundations though they are - were imperfect in many ways:

- They did not provide for the attributes of trade under the scenario of a foreign occupation or transition of power,

- Their implementation and the enforcement by many developing countries were being hindered by lack of resources or political strife,

- Cross-border enforcement was even not ensured at times, thus relaxing the stranglehold on accountability,

- Financial criminal activities including money laundering or terrorist financing were left only partially addressed,

- Trade laws tended to forego the examination of long-term socio-economic impacts in conflict-affected regions.

This committee, as under UNCITRAL, would discuss such loopholes and deficiencies. As delegates, you are expected to analyze the effect of these flaws upon international commerce and suggest new sets of legal frameworks aimed at resolving these issues.

Your solutions must be set forth in a **clear manner** that is **enforceable** and that embraces global inclusivity- focussing not only on resolving the ambiguity within the law but also on the preventative side of trade disruptions in times of crises. This is your window of opportunity for enhancing the whole body of global commercial law for economic protection even when certain unstable moments of political turmoil or war take place on the way to post-conflict recovery.

HOW TO RESEARCH

Research is key to successful committee performance, whether you are representing a country or an international organization. A good delegate should know the background of their delegation, their policy, and their position on the agenda with relation to the larger-world situation, **at least prior to the freeze date: May 22, 2003.** Here is a step-by-step guideline for your preparation.

STEP 1: **DELEGATION-SPECIFIC RESEARCH**

Start by looking at whom you represent. This should include:

- Your history and role in international trade, economy, or security
- How you were affected by or involved in 9/11 or the Iraq War
- Your stance on matters of oil trade, sanctions, investment, and financial regulations
- Legal, political, or humanitarian actions taken in the face of world conflicts
- Relationships with other countries or institutions (e.g., allies, partners, areas of interest)

➔ For **countries**, concentrate on national interest, foreign policy, and trade history.
➔ For **organizations**, focus on the mandate, policy, and functions within the global system.

Key Tip: *Always speak in the voice of your delegation, not your own.*

STEP 2: COMMITTEE-SPECIFIC RESEARCH

Your committee is UNCITRAL-the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

It is important that you learn about:

- Functions: Model laws, legal guides, and recommendations for the improvement and implementation of international trade.
- What it does not do: It does not enact laws to enforce them, nor does it intervene in political conflicts, only economic issues.
- The issues covered by the commission: international contracts, international trade law, arbitration, investment law, and legal harmonization,
- Interaction with other organizations: It cooperates with governments, legal institutions, and trade organizations.

Key Tip: *Any solutions can only work within the powers assigned to UNCITRAL; therefore, do not venture into military or political decisions but stick with **commercial laws** and **legal reforms.***

STEP 3: AGENDA-SPECIFIC RESEARCH

The agenda reads: "Discussing the Implications on the Economy Post-9/11 and the 2003 Iraq War Concerning International Trade and Commercial Laws."

This is an economic and legal issue. To understand and respond properly, one needs to study:

- The causes and consequences of 9/11 and the Iraq War concerning global trade, contracts, oil markets, and financial systems,
- The meaning of the freeze date (May 22, 2003) and its relevance on permitted data,
- All sub-topics dealt with in the guide, namely trade routes, sanctions, compliance, aid, energy inflation, contract enforcement, (etc.),
- The role and policy of your delegation on each sub-topic.

The research should revolve around:

➔ The problem,
➔ Its causes and effects, and
➔ Solutions: practical, time-bound and legally sound

Trusted Sources for Research

Some trusted resources and websites recommended for accurate research are:

UN official Site– https://www.un.org/en/
Britannica– https://www.britannica.com/
Best Delegate– https://bestdelegate.com/
CIA World Factbook– https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/
Al Jazeera– https://www.aljazeera.com/
BBC–https://www.bbc.com/
Internet Archive– https://archive.org/
Google Scholar– https://scholar.google.com/
Your Country's Official Government Website

Do not refer to-

Wikipedia,
Wikileaks
Blogs written by people,
Magazine articles
Newspapers which aren't globally recognized

Apart from these websites, you can visit websites of news agencies, and international and national organizations for more research.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- No content after May 22, 2003, shall be accepted into the committee.
- No plagiarism: All speeches, working papers, and chits must be written in your own words.
- No AI-enabled content-generation software shall be admitted, violations will result in strict penalties.
- The arguments should reflect the official policies of your delegation.

MEMORY TRICK:

"Know **WHO** you are, **WHERE** you are, and **WHAT** you are solving."

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

1. What sort of legal or financial reforms should be enacted to make international trade more secure and reliable during times of war or global crisis?

2. What steps has your delegation taken to manage and respond to interruptions in energy or trade?

3. In what ways can international institutions (such as the WTO, IMF, etc.) collaborate to assist nations suffering economic harm resulting from war or sanctions?

4. What role does your delegation play in preventing illicit flows like money laundering or terror financing, especially through trade or banking systems?

5. How is your delegation working to rebuild trust, cooperation, or legal certainty in international trade after economic or political disruptions?

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