



## Fairfield University Model United Nations

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the sixteenth annual FUMUN conference! My name is Kevin Parsons and I am a current sophomore at Fairfield. I am a politics and international studies double major with a minor in Spanish. This is my first time chairing a crisis committee and I look forward to working with all of you. Our goal for FUMUN this year is that you have the opportunity to practice debate skills, public speaking and the art of compromise while exploring the extremely complicated international political stage.

Conor Chmiel, your co-chair for the Falkland Islands crisis committee, is also a sophomore at Fairfield, majoring in both history and politics. This is also his first time chairing a crisis committee and he is very excited to listen to all the debates and proposals.

Our topic, the question of claims to sovereignty in the Falkland Islands, is a complex issue deeply rooted in history and remains controversial to this day. The discussion of this issue will be a tremendous opportunity for international compromise between nations that, historically, have not always had the greatest relationship. The recent discovery of an oil supply near the islands adds a complex economic component to an issue that was, initially, purely about sovereignty and the prestige of the British Empire.

In 1690 the British Navy first recorded the existence of the Falkland Islands, located 300 miles off of the coast of Argentina. In 1765 the British begin to colonize the islands but were forced out by the Spanish in 1770. Argentina then laid claim to the islands as their own in 1820 after the Spanish had left. However, in 1833 the British returned and overtook the Argentine forces. Finally, in 1965, after 132 years of political disputes, the United Nations invited Britain and Argentina to find a peaceful solution. After intense deliberations it was clear that no solution could be reached and in 1982 Argentinian dictator Leopoldo Galtieri invaded the Falkland Islands, overwhelming the small contingent of British troops. Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Britain, sent a large naval force to retake the islands, sparking a brief 74-day war that resulted in the death of 649 Argentinians and 255 British military personnel. The British won the conflict and diplomatic relations were not re-established between the two nations until 1990. The Falkland Islands remain in British hands to this day and the recent discovery of oil has made them much more valuable. Argentina still maintains a claim to the islands, but the British will not leave anytime soon because of the newfound oil. In 2013 a referendum was held on the island and the population voted overwhelmingly to remain under British authority.

The goal of this committee is to objectively analyze both countries claims to sovereignty and reach a conclusion as to the best way to determine who has legitimate sovereignty of the islands. While considering the crisis, it is important to keep in mind that the dispute of sovereignty is still ongoing. Delegates should consider the diplomatic, economic, military, and social aspects of this crisis and their impacts on both the two major parties (Argentina and the United Kingdom) and the international community.

As chairs of the committee, our goal is to get delegates to think critically about this complex political situation and consider new and unexplored opinions. Delegates should consider the historical claims to sovereignty both countries have made, as well as current day developments, such as the discovery of a sizeable oil source, in formulating a resolution to this crisis.

We look forward with great anticipation to hearing your deliberations and conclusions. Attached to this guide are basic reference materials, but we strongly encourage delegates to do their own external, supplemental research. Delegates should not hesitate to contact either of us prior to the conference with questions regarding the topic, parliamentary procedure, or the conference in general. Again, we look forward to seeing you all and wish you the best of luck in your studies and research.

Sincerely,  
Kevin Parsons and Conor Chmiel

Co-chairs, Falkland Islands Crisis Committee FUMUN

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### **Questions to Consider:**

1. Considering the long history of the territorial dispute, what event do you believe carries the most weight in determining whose claim to sovereignty is legitimate?
2. What factors are leading the United Kingdom to want to retain control of the islands, despite them being so far from the British mainland?
3. What factors are leading Argentina to maintain its claim over the Falkland Islands after hundreds of years and a lost military conflict?
4. What are the opinions of neighboring countries, like Chile and Uruguay? How will this impact them?
5. What are the most easily attainable solutions that both nations could agree upon?
6. To what extent does the United States play a role in the history of the conflict considering the fact that the United States supported the Galtieri regime but stood idly by as the United Kingdom invaded the island?

## Sources:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BiDvLshi9CY> - Important only after 2:07
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TV0h-aLrOCg>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Falkland-Islands-War>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18425572>
- <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/falkland-islands-war-ends>
- <https://www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/falklands-war-history-facts-what-happened/>