



# HISTALYA

MUN 2024

**THE HOUSE OF LORDS 'THATCER'S CABINET'**

AGENDA ITEM:  
OPEN AGENDA

## STUDY GUIDE

**UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL**

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## **I. Letter from the Secretary General**

**It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all participants of HistalyaMun'24, which will be held in Antalya from August 15th to 18th.**

**As we gather for this Model United Nations conference, we anticipate engaging debates, enlightening discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities. Our committees, covering a diverse range of topics about historical events, promise to challenge and inspire delegates, fostering both critical thinking and diplomatic skills.**

**I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizing team and our gracious hosts in Antalya for their dedication and hard work in bringing HistalyaMun'24 to fruition.**

**I am eager to meet each and every one of you in Antalya as we come together for this enriching experience.**

**Sincerely,**

**Metehan Yıldırım  
Secretary-General  
HistalyaMun'24**

## **II. Letter from the Under-Secretary General**

My most esteemed Lords,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to HISTALYAMUN'24 and this committee: The House of Lords. As a profound believer in the ideal of the balance of power in government and an outspoken Anglophile, to do this committee has been a dream. For this opportunity and the patience which they afforded me, I would like to thank our Executive Board.

The House of Lords, and British democracy in general, has always been a source of interest for me. As a nation that houses the longest uninterrupted rule of Parliament and democratic tendencies in history, pre-dating the French Revolution, the inherent democratic culture which permeates English lifestyle and the structures and institutions that has spawned from this culture are worthy of investigation and research.

I have selected a period of much contention in British politics, as well as being rather close to memory. The Second Term of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was when Thatcher had gained the necessary prestige and popular support, as well as support in the parliament, to execute her plans truly and without restraint. So the following years would see Thatcher at her finest and strongest, enacting her plans.

As the House of Lords, you are all tasked with regulating policies and amending them so that the vulgar and brash popular will, oft short sighted, is balanced with the spirit of calm debate and reason. For this reason, the bills you will propose will be defining the future politics of Britain as well as the problems it is facing. I hold great hopes and have the upmost trust in your abilities in this regard.

Kindest Regards,  
Yilmaz Egemen Oflu.

## **Letter from the Academic Assistant**

First of all, I would like to welcome all of you to the House of Lords committee of HISTALYAMUN'24. I am more than honored to be serving you as the Academic Assistant of this committee alongside my Under Secretary General Yilmaz Egemen Oflu. I am proud to be his Academic Assistant. Also I would like to thank Our Executive Board for this conference and this committee.

I am looking forward to meeting every one of you at the conference.

## **III. Introduction to the Committee**

The House of Lords or the House of Peers is the Upper Chamber of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, with the Lower Chamber being the well-known House of Commons. As the name suggests, the House of Lords is composed of Lords, historically being made out of nobles and clergy. For that reason, unlike the Lower House, the Lords of the House are not elected, but inherited or appointed. This archaic and controversially undemocratic institution has been a subject of debate ever since the start of the 20th century. For its supporters, it is one of the cornerstones of the success of their system and a quintessential part of the spirit of Britain. It is the manifestation of the principle of Balance of Powers, acting as the counterbalance against partisan politics of the mass. For its opponents, it is the last holdout of the decrepit aristocracy, the remnants of an age long past clutching whatever power they have remaining to subvert the will of the People and hinder the progress of mankind. Between both of these positions, there lay the reformists. Whatever the opinions may be, it is undoubtedly one of the most important parts of the British Parliamentary system.

The House of Lords is composed of the Lords Temporal and the Lords Spiritual. The Lords Temporal can be divided into two main groups: the Aristocratic Hereditary Peers who

have inherited their seats in the House and the Meritocratic Life Peers, who have either been appointed by the Prime Minister or the Appointments Commission of the House of Lords, often *based* on their expertise. The Lords Spiritual are primarily composed of Anglican Clergy and Bishops, numbering around 26.

Because of their unelected and non-partisan nature, the House of Lords are not required to hold any allegiances to any of the parties nor to the people. For this reason, in the decision-making process, they can offer an objective and cautious look, being able to make long-term decisions that would have disaster in the short term and vice versa. They are able to act without fear of upsetting their party or the people. For this reason, in the debates within the House of Lords, reason and logic appeal more to the members than partisan rhetoric and heated speeches.

The primary function of the House of Lords is acting as the check of the House of Commons when it comes to legislation, being the main organ for the scrutinizing and detailing of the bills of the House of Commons, being able to delay, amend and at some cases, reject the bills of the House of Commons, despite being severely limited by the Parliament Acts. Despite being the balances of each other, a culture of respect has formed between the two Houses, with unofficial customs and traditions between the two Houses. They are restricted in financial and budget related bills, unable to originate or amend any of them, although the House of Commons, through a sign of courtesy, allows amends with financial implications. They are also unable to reject any bill that has been promised in the Government's election manifesto.

The House of Lords may also raise debates and bills themselves. This allows them to bring attention to topics that have not been brought enough attention to by the public and the politicians. It also allows for them to handle matters seen as unimportant and minor to the House of Commons and Public.

Equally so, the House of Commons checks the bills passed by the House of Lords. For this reason, a bill often gets "ping-ponged" back and forth between the two houses until a compromise is reached.

We would like to remind all delegates that as a *legislative* body, they are not in charge of the *executive* or *judicial* functions of the government. What that you are in charge of creating laws, not enacting them. Commanding or demanding the action of police, firefighters, army or any other government branch is not within the power of the legislative body, but the executive body. If within the committee, there is dire need for action, you may ask the Executive branch with letters but may not assume its roles under any circumstances.

Your objective within this committee and within the House is to pass legislation that will solve problems, in the short or long term, through careful discourse and debate.

Furthermore, you will need to negotiate with the House of Commons if you attempt to pass a bill they will not approve, as well as the Government to allow for the swift enforcement of these laws.

#### **IV. Procedure of the Committee**

The Procedure of the committee shall follow the historic procedure of the House of Lords closely, with minor alterations for convenience.

The Procedure of the House of Lords primarily moves around the introduction, debate and amendment of bills. The bills may be presented by the members of the House of Lords or may be presented by the House of Commons. Sessions of the House are led by the Lord Speaker or the Deputy Lord Speaker. Despite the presence of the two senior peers, they are meant to merely oversee the discussion. They may partake in the debates, but are forced to remain without affiliations and in respect to their position.

The Sovereign shall be present in the House for the State Opening of the Parliament, where she shall outline the agenda of the Parliament. The Lords of the House will be introduced one by one at the start of each session of the House through a roll call and upon meeting a majority, the session shall be started and the floor opened. At this moment, the Lords may ask to put forward a bill for first reading or a debate. The Lords require to stand up whenever they are to make a proposal or speech. They may stand up

and propose without seeking approval of the House, but must show common courtesy and not interrupt any other Lord while they are speaking. The motion, if deemed unfit, can be automatically rejected by the Lord Speaker. The Lord Speaker may accept and entertain as many motions as he deems fit. The order in which motions are voted upon is entirely left to the Lord Speaker.

If the Lords wish to open up a debate, they shall use the following sentence to propose the motion of debate: "That this House takes note of ...". Following this, an exclamation vote shall be held where the Lord Speaker shall ask for all Lords who are content with this motion, who shall reply 'content', and all Lords who are not content shall reply with 'Not Content'. If the Lord Speaker can spot the majority decision by hearing, he shall not proceed with divisional voting. If there is objection or unclarity regarding the majority, then the Lord Speaker shall move on with the divisional voting, which shall be done by the Lords rising from their seats and dividing themselves in two, where the Lord Speaker shall count and make a ruling. The motion passes by simple majority. If the motion does not pass, the floor is once again opened by the Lord Speaker.

If the motion passes, then the debates may proceed. The 'Take note' debates may have a specific time constraint as well as a speaker time constraint, although it is entirely up to the Lord Speaker and the Lords of the chamber. During and after the 'Take note' debates, no positive decision needs to be reached. For this reason, this is the standard method of debate. A motion may be raised by the Lord Speaker or any Lord in the house at any point to put an end to the debate. A similar vote is held between content and not-content and the Lord Speaker proceeds accordingly.

Within debates, all members may rise and make their speech without seeking the Lord Speaker's approval. However, all members must respect basic courtesy and not speak over each other. They must wait for the speech to be over and then rise and state. The Lord Speaker holds the authority to select a speaker in times where friction between the Lords take place.

The second motion for debate is called a 'Resolution' motion. This motion is raised to determine the House's definitive opinion upon a topic. This may be done with an exclamation vote as done with normal motions or a division vote. No further discussion is to be held upon the topic following this vote. This vote may be overruled by the Lord Speaker if he feels that there are some things unsaid. For a resolution to be reached,  $\frac{2}{3}$ 's of the house need to vote in favor.

Upon the proposal of a bill for first reading by one of the Lords or by the Lord Speaker himself, the same voting procedure follows as 'Take note' debates, passing with a simple majority. It must be noted that before the proposal of any motions or bills, they must be sent to the Deputy Lord Speaker through a message paper, detailing the motion or the bill. Unless approved by the Deputy Lord Speaker, this bill may not be presented. When



approved, the Lord Speaker shall call upon the Lord to introduce the name and signatories.

Upon the beginning of the first reading, no debates shall take place and the bill shall be introduced with the name of the bill and its signatories. Questions shall be taken, Each bill must have a short name and a long name which explains what the bill is.

After the completion of the first reading, the Lords may resume debates or may proceed with the Second Reading, which shall be voted upon. If a bill does not pass Second Reading, the bill is automatically failed. This is seen as a major defeat however and most bills pass the Second Reading before being failed. When it comes to House of Commons bills, a Second Reading must be taken eventually, as the bill cannot be rejected by the House of Lords.

In the Second Reading, all Lords will debate upon the bill, its objectives and purpose, and will comment regarding where amendments may be needed. The Second Reading may last as long as the Lord Speaker sees the need to. A simple majority consensus needs to be achieved by the Lords at the end of the debate; Only if a unilateral agreement is not reached, then the Lord Speaker shall hold first an exclamation vote, then -if still not decided- a division vote. If the bill is rejected, it may not be reintroduced in the same session under the same name without any change. If a bill passes, it may move on the process.

After the Second Reading, the Lords may propose to open the bill for the 'Committee Stage'. In these stages, the Lords are free to rise from their seats and move as they talk and work with fellow Lords. The Lord giving the motion must specify whether the Committee Stage will be held in the 'Main Chamber' or the 'Grand Committee'. If the Committee Stage is held in the main chamber, a simple majority vote will be enough to terminate the stage. If the stage is held in the Grand Committee, even a single objection will fail the termination. The purpose of this stage is to write the necessary amendments perceived by the Lords. The amendments must be gathered into a presentable list. This may last as long as it may need, with it ending with a termination by the Lord Speaker or a Lord who raises a motion to do so.

Following the Committee Stage, the Third Reading may be opened where the amendments are presented and debated upon. This is to ensure that all the amendments are cleverly thought out and have no holes left in them and to ensure the final agreement of the house upon the topic. After the document has been brought to a final stage, a resolution vote is taken upon the bill to be finally approved. From this point on, three things can happen. If a bill has originated in the House of Lords, it is then sent to the House of Commons to be reviewed and amended. If a bill has originated in the House of Commons and amendments have been made, the amended bill is sent back to the

House of Commons for further review. If a bill has originated in the House of Commons and has not been amended, this is then sent to the Sovereign for Royal Assent.

The Lords are to follow common etiquette throughout all of these; They shall not converse with each other whilst the House is upon business, nor shall they personally insult or offend anyone, especially other members of the House. They shall not refer to any member of the House in second person 'you', but in third person, such as "The honorable Lord, my noble friend, the noble Earl, the noble Baron, the noble Lord Speaker" and so on. When making a speech, they shall address the House in general, using "My Lords".

At the end of all debates and bills, a motion shall be passed for the Closure of all House activities until the next meeting.

## **V. The Political Situation of the United Kingdom**

Prior to Thatcher's ascension, Britain struggled with a number of issues which included economic stagnation, high inflation, proliferated trade union power, and an overall sense of decline. The Labour Party had fallen to only a minority in the government, which forced the Labour party to make alliances with the minor blocks, such as the Lib-Lab pact. Furthermore, the Labour Government suffered the Winter of Discontent, which saw mass strikes all across the country for increased pay, money which the government simply lacked. The nation was dealing with the effects of post-war socialism as well as a weak economy brought on by excessive government intervention. These circumstances gave Thatcher's political ascent a fertile ground.

In the 1979 general election, Thatcher's Conservative Party won with a resounding victory, owing this to its leadership and the general public discontent with the Labour Party which was in power.

Thatcher's first term was marked by the audacious and sometimes reckless economic reforms that aimed to promote free-market principles, lessening the role of the state in the market. In defiance of the prevailing Keynesian economics consensus, she pursued privatization, deregulation, and strict fiscal control policies.

Thatcher implemented legislation that curtailed union power and imposed stricter regulations after recognizing the influence of strong trade unions. This resulted in conflicts with labor organizations, something which would persevere into her second term.

Thatcher's foreign policy stance was strongly anti-communist, closely aligned with the US, and adamantly defended British sovereignty in Europe. Particularly during the 1982 Falklands War, she had a significant impact on international affairs.

## **VI. Topics of Discussion**

### **A) Privatization**

Although a policy that had been present and promised throughout her first term, Thatcher's program to transfer state-owned companies and enterprises to the private sector only got into full swing following her second term. Thatcher was a firm believer in the free market, believing the competition incentivized growth and innovation. For this reason, throughout her governance, she took decisive politics for it. This proposed program would involve the sale of many government owned enterprises, especially those in transportation (The railways were one of great debate), telecommunications, energy and more. On the list for privatization were British Telecom, British Gas (Otherwise known as BP), British Airways and the coal industry, which would contribute to the labor issues. (See: **B) Strikes and Labour Unions**)

One of the important things is that the government didn't have an infinite amount of money. When states have a company it has to give all of the workers their salary. If they are not profiting, firing employees is not easy because that would mean losing votes but otherwise the state will start to lose money and slowly go bankrupt. But when an individual does this he would not lose anything.

Also State had made profit by selling these companies and paid its debts and finally State's bank took a fresh breath.

The arguments held in the Parliament against privatization most often appealed to examples of companies and enterprises sometimes showing improvement in productivity and efficiency under government control, as was the case with British Steel Corporation. However, examples all abroad showed greater competition resulted in better prices for consumers, with mixed results regarding productivity.

Another concern was the lack of government control that would be otherwise present within the industry. However, regulations have been proposed to ensure a smooth transition. Whether this would include the labour unions or not has been a topic of great debate.

Even though the Government had privatized many companies in the previous term of Thatcher. Following companies are still a matter of topic either to privatize or keep them governmental. Jaguar, Enterprise Oil, British Telecom, British Gas, British Airways, Rolls-Royce, British Airports Authority, British steel, Water and Electricity supplies and so on.

The upsides and downsides of privatization has been largely debated by the parliament, of both the Commons and the House of Lords. Generally, the private industry allows for competition which leads to incentivized efficiency and innovation, and increases investment and expansion. However, it also leads to worries regarding inequality and workers' rights.

## **B) Strikes and Labor Unions**

The UK Miner Strikes are a series of protests held by the Coal Miners of England, particularly Northern England, against the Conservative Government of Thatcher on the decision to close 20 coal mines, thereby leaving countless jobless. Thatcher argued that this move would not only protect the strategic reserves of the Coal of England, but also eliminate an inefficient and unsustainable industry. This however, of course, was not well received by the miners all across the country, considering it an attack on their way of life.

The closing of these mines would naturally lead to unemployment, which would contribute to social inequality and mass poverty. Prosperity would fall as entire communities would be isolated, social dislocation would become rampant and a loss of an entire culture and way of life was at stake.

This, for the government of course, was a test of might against the power of the unions, which long stood in the way of their free market reforms. Hence, the crackdown on these strikes would be harsh. In response to this, however, the opposition and many other activists have roared in solidarity with the miners and supported the strikes. For

this reason, the implementation of proper legislation regarding the state of the Labor Unions was necessary.

The House is to decide whether the Trade Unions are to be recognized and cooperated with, or cracked down on and made to heed.

### **C) The Troubles in Northern Ireland**

The Troubles, otherwise known as the Northern Ireland Conflict, is a period of ethno-religious instability and violence between the Irish Republicans, mostly made up of Catholics, who wished to join with Ireland and the Ulster Loyalists, mostly Protestants, who wished to stay with the United Kingdom.

- **History of Ireland**

Since the 11th century British rulers were wishing to invade Ireland and eventually they did so. When British forces conquered all of the island they faced riots and resistances in the region. They had a different religion and culture, much to the dismay of the English overlords. To handle this issue Britishs decided Anglicize the region. In the 17th century Britishs started to seize lands of the Native Irish population and gave these lands to loyal settlers in order to settle Ireland and assimilate it to the Protestant culture, failing in almost everywhere but Northern Ireland, where Scottish and Welsh settlers saw success especially in the area of Ulster.

After the Great war, Ireland declared its independence on the island against war exhausted Britain in the 1920s. They had some conflicts with the British Forces. That's when the Ireland Republic Army (IRA) was first established. Then they signed a treaty that says Ireland will be a free state apart from the United Kingdom but still will be part of Great Britain. But after 2 days Northern Ireland declared itself as part of the United Kingdom. It was sure that the issue was not settled down and there were always some "Troubles".

With the movements of decolonization in the 1960s England was losing all of its colonies and Irish found hope to "liberate" Northern Ireland. Since the 60s these conflicts have been increasing its violence and continuing to increase. These days conflicts are at its peak.

- **Socio-Economic situations in Northern Ireland**

The Catholics still formed a slim majority in Northern Ireland, especially around the rural areas, whilst the Protestants held the urban areas and areas near the coast. In those days discrimination against Irish Catholics was rampant. Most of the large businesses were run by the Protestant loyalists who only gave jobs to Protestants and did not hire Catholics for jobs while unemployment was a real problem. The courts and police forces consisted mostly of Protestants which treated Protestants more favorably. Another important thing is housing. People only had to vote in local elections only if they had a property. As expected, wealthier Protestants had more property than Catholics. Also Council homes were often appointed by Protestant councilors to Protestant families. So there were some inequalities. With all these civil rights movements started to break out.

- **Irish Republican and Ulsterian Loyalist forces**

In the beginning most of the Catholics were wanting reforms. In 1972 Nearly 5 thousand Catholics were on a civil rights march. In this march 13 people were killed by police. This day will be remembered as Bloody Sunday. After that day Reform was not a choice for most Catholics. Now they were seeking a revolution. Because of the perceived feeling of oppression and a desire to unite with the Republic of Ireland, from the late 60's to the 80's, the Irish Nationalists and Republicans, supported by remnants of the Irish Republican Army and other guerrilla organizations began a resistance that would involve protests, bombings, riots, hunger strikes and guerrilla campaigns for a wide revolution.

In retaliation, the Ulster loyalists would also militarize, forming groups such as the Ulster Defense Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force. These groups' main objective

is to resist Republicans and keep Ulster as part of the UK. These organizations were not related to the government at the beginning.

- **Troubles Under the Control of Thatcher**

Thatcher's government, starting from 1979, had been to reinstate order to Northern Ireland, which included giving support to the local security forces and deploying the military to combat terrorism. However, the mishandling of the situation by the government, by taking the sides of the Loyalists in conflicts and clashes caused the situation to escalate, and the trust in the government by the Catholic to diminish greatly.

One of the defining moments to the Troubles had been the Hunger Strikes of 1981, which resulted in the death of 10 people. This strike, initiated by the Republican prisoners, aimed to press their demands down on the government of the United Kingdom. The uncompromising Thatcher refused to cave into the demands of the protestors, She said "Crime is crime is crime. It is not political." However as time passed and sympathy arose, this caused much scrutiny to fall upon the government.

Still today the dose of violence is increasing and more people are getting harmed by Troubles. They are continuously bombing bars and cafes. They are attacking civil people.

The House of Lords must decide then how to deal with this issue: to go the road of compromise, sit down with the rebels and negotiate a new Ireland, to negotiate with the Republic of Ireland and initiate a united crackdown, or perhaps to strengthen the Army and the hold of Britain over the province by passing bills for further activity in the region.