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ACADEMIC FORUM FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS - AUSTRIA

UNITED NATIONS YOUTH AND STUDENT ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA

EISENSTADT - GRAZ - INNSBRUCK - KLAGENFURT - LINZ - SALZBURG - VIENNA

VIMUN

VIENNA INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
11 - 15 August 2013

Abstract:

Historic Council (HISTO)

**“League of Nations 1931: "The Mukden Incident as the Pretext
of the Japanese Imperialistic Intentions in East Asia”**

Introduction

The year is 1931. The entire world is stricken by the financial crisis that is yet to be known as the Great Depression and Adolph Hitler and his "National Socialist German Workers' Party" (NSDAP, also known as the Nazi Party) is slowly rising to power in Germany. Thousands kilometers away lies a disputed far-eastern province of Manchuria that has since the end of the First World War been a political and militarily battleground of Russia, China and Japan. Japan gained the influence in the area after the Russo-Japanese war and Manchuria is soon to become one of the first targets of the Japanese imperialistic intentions.

On the night of 18 September 1931 a bomb explodes on the tracks of the Japanese build railroad in Manchuria, which the Japanese immediately use as a pretext for an armed reaction. They capture the city of Mukden and subsequently invade Manchuria, so that the railroad could be protected. This "Mukden incident" leads to a severe threat for the already unstable and politically divided China. The Japanese therefore with ease gain control over the whole Manchurian area. The Chinese government couldn't prevent the invasion and they reach the League of Nations asking for help and assistance in the aftermath of the invasion.

It is now the task of the League's distinguished delegates to decide how and when will the League respond to the Chinese request.

Will the League investigate the true perpetrator of the Mukden Incident? Was the Japanese invasion of Manchuria unlawful or is the Japanese claim about maintaining peace righteous? Can the League of Nations prevent any further escalations in the area? What will the Japanese invasion mean for the future development in Asia?

Those are some of the many questions that our distinguished delegates have to answer in order to stay true to the League's Covenant and to maintain regional peace in the Far-Eastern area.

The League of Nations

"The Dawn of a New Order" - the words by Polish Prime Minister Ignacy J. Paderewski are a symbol for the idea of the League of Nations (LN, French: Société des Nations, German: Völkerbund). Brought together by the Believe that a new era of international relations was ahead, the League of Nations was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles. An Era of Achievements, such as international peace and security, should have begun.

The origins of the League of Nations, founded at the Paris Peace Conference, can be seen in the concept of a peaceful world community first written by Immanuel Kant in 1775 in his essay "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch".

The founders of the intergovernmental organization hoped to overcome secret treaties and secret diplomacy and establish an organization that would endorse a peaceful world community "by the prescription of open, just and honourable relations between nations" and "by the acceptance of obligations not to resort to war".

The League of Nations is the historical forerunner of the United Nations. It was dissolved after it failed its main goal in 1939: to prevent any further world war, such as the Second World War.