



**Mission Viejo High School MUN**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Vox Populi*



My name is Cali Gibbs and I will be your head chair this year at Mission Viejo High School's 34th annual Model United Nations conference. I am a junior at MVHS and have participated in MUN for the past three years. I am involved in many other activities such as lacrosse and CSF. I am really looking forward to meeting everyone and I am excited to see how the committee turns out. If you have any questions regarding this committee, feel free to email me at [mvhsmuncrisis3@gmail.com](mailto:mvhsmuncrisis3@gmail.com).

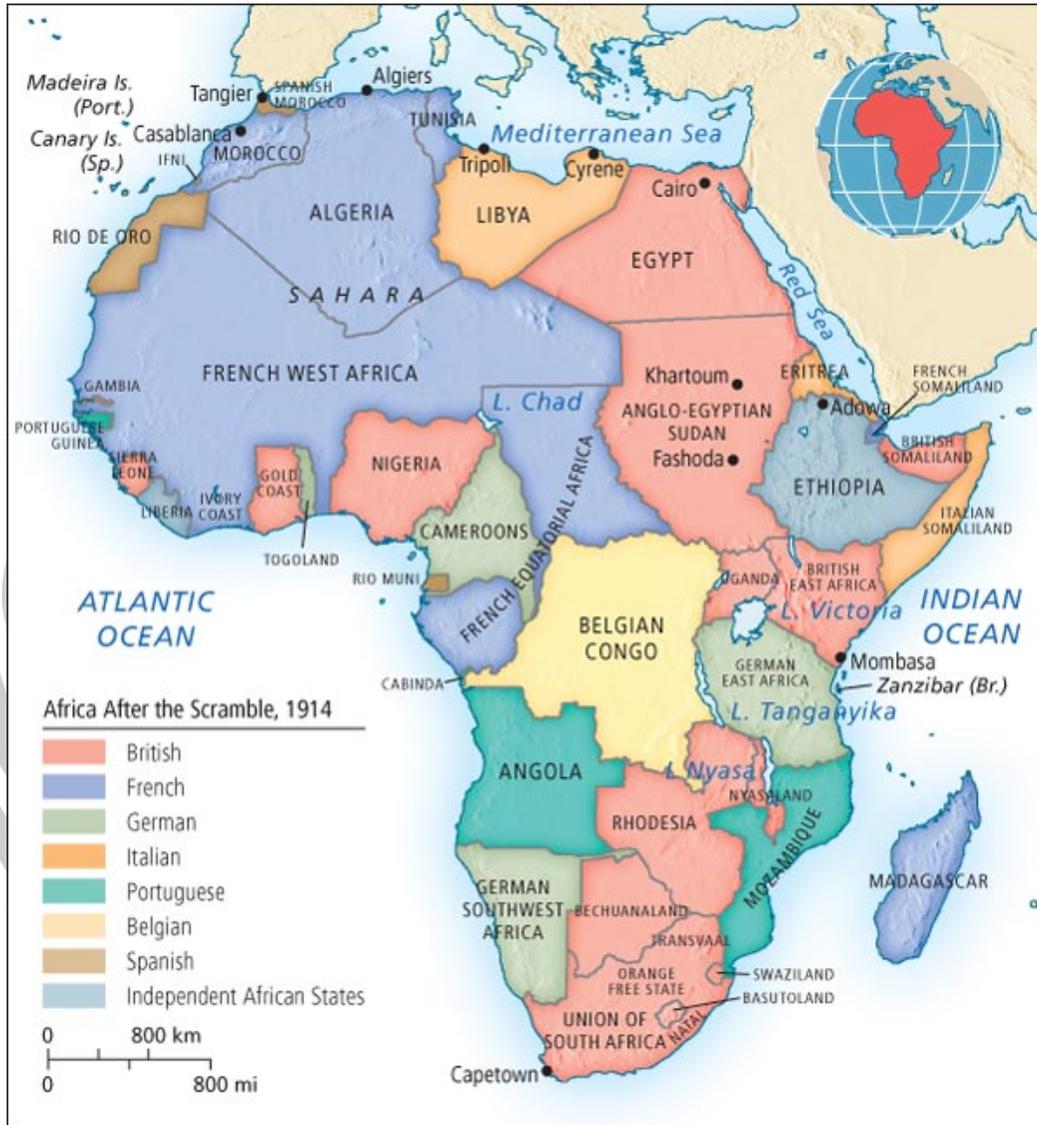
My name is Ryan Tate and I will be your vice chair this year at the Mission Viejo High School's 34th annual home conference. I am a sophomore at MVHS and have been with the MUN program for two years and I will continue until I am a senior. I am currently involved with High School Water Polo and Swim. I am excited for my first time being a chair and look forward to the committee's debate.

### **I. Background of Topic**

The African Scramble was one of the most monumental moments in history. This Scramble for Africa refers to a period of time where European nations set out for conquest in Africa. This event marked the following years of growing colonialism in European nations. The African Scramble all began with King Leopold's wish for international recognition of his supposed property in Congo. This resulted in the European nations coming together at the Berlin conference deciding that effective occupation and significant economic development had to be achieved for imperial claims in Africa to receive international recognition. After this assertion many European powers jumped into action into the African sphere.

Great Britain took a large part of Africa including the east coast along the Nile. France occupied West Africa, Germany took control of Tanzania and Namibia, and Portugal took control of Angola and Mozambique. In the end, almost all of Africa was carved up by the European powers. Ethiopia and Liberia were the only independent states after this rapid imperialistic exertion in the African Scramble.

There were some major causes of the colonization of Africa. Firstly, during this time Industrialization had boomed in Europe. With the growth of the industrial era, European powers sought out for natural resources. This quest for natural resources was one critical cause of European ventures in Africa. Another crucial movement that drove the African Scramble was European competition fueled by colonialism. Once King Leopold took over a small part of Africa, European nations saw this as another European nation gaining the upper hand. This fueled many European nations to colonize Africa, so they wouldn't be left out. Colonialism and nationalism were two other key driving factors of the African Scramble. Ultimately, there were a variety of causes that spurred an event that changed Africa forever: The African Scramble. (Below is Map of Africa in the aftermath of this event)



## II. Country Involvement

In the early 1500s, the Portuguese had a presence in Mozambique and Zanzibar. The Portuguese continued their exploration along the African coasts, building settlements along both the east and west. The Portuguese also created settlements in Angola and Guinea and became interested in the large amounts of gold in Africa and initiated the European slave trade with Africa. Due to the Portuguese expertise in ship-building, Portugal has a slight upper hand in sea travel to the many other European nations. This has allowed Portugal to effectively take over many ports and exert a critical influence on trade.

Although the Portuguese failed to colonize other areas in the nineteenth century, Portugal still had a presence in the settlements originally created from the years of exploration in the 1500s. Due to Portugal's decline in power compared to the rise of other European nations, such as Great Britain and France, Portugal was unable to take control of any other African territory. Also, Portugal didn't have a very large population to exert occupation in African settlements. In



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the end, Great Britain took up most of the east coast of Africa, while the French settled in most of the west. The remaining areas were divided up between other European countries.

### **III. Plan of Action**

Most exploration will be funded by the nobility and or the Portuguese government. Due to superior maritime technology and naval advancements, the voyage to Africa does not stand as an issue for the Portuguese. The Portuguese fleet can be used to conquer coastal lands and take over port cities. Government officials can be sent to the conquered lands to establish organized and governed settlements. Any troops needed for inland exploration and expansion can be sent by the Portuguese fleet. Starting by approaching both the east and west coasts of Africa, Portugal can maintain a grip on both sides of the continent. Claims to land can be made by taking over port city to port city, providing accessibility to the Portuguese fleet at any time in case there is a need for any new supplies and or troops. Ultimately, your solutions should take into account that Portugal doesn't have a high population; however, they could maximize profit by monopolizing the trade in Africa. However, for Portugal to monopolize this area it must act quickly, and seize critical ports at the beginning such as Cape town.

### **IV. Works Cited**

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