

Unit _____ Chapter _____ Topic/Section _____	
Discussion Notes	Reading Notes
<p>Argentina wanted them</p> <p>They didn't want to go to Argentina</p> <p>Needed a victory</p>	<p>Unexpected war, 30,000 men fought over a group of islands with only 2,000 people.</p> <p><b>Causes:</b></p> <p><u>Long Term:</u>  <i>A Surprise War:</i>            Falklands Islands (British) / the Malvinas (Argentina) was a disputed area between Britain and Argentina controlled by the former. The countries had enjoyed close relations, with Britain being Argentina's largest agricultural consumer, and Argentina was nowhere near the power Britain was. Neither had an economic or strategic reason to capture the islands and the British Empire was already in decline.</p> <p><u>Colonialism:</u>            Back in 1816, The British helped Argentina free itself from Spain and invested heavily. However, although Argentina laid claim to the Falklands in 1820, the British occupied them in 1833, reaching 1,800 settlers in 1885, and giving it colonial status in 1892.</p> <p>When Argentina joined the UN post WWII, they tried to make the Falklands a de-colonialism issue. In 1964 it was brought in front of the UN Committee on Decolonization. Argentina based its claim on papal records from the time of the Spanish Empire. Britain based theirs on effective governance of the islands for over a century and the islanders preference to stay British. The ruling of this committee was to open negotiations that continued up until the war in 1982. The islands population was primarily British, but the Argentinians had always been taught in school that the islands belonged to them whereas the British Secretary of Defense didn't even know where it was. Britain even wanted to give Argentina the islands, but the people there wanted to remain British.</p> <p><u>Short Term:</u>  <i>Economics:</i>            The new military regime in Argentina was economically troubled as they had unsuccessfully tried to cut public sector spending to restore the private sector, only for both to falter. Similarly, there had been riots in Britain because Unemployment had risen above 3 million for the first time since the Great Depression.</p>

Argentina wanted the islands, but the islands didn't want to go to Argentina. Conflict arose because both sides needed a victory.

IB History Reading Notes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Topic/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion Notes

Reading Notes

Both countries had unstable leaders.	<p><i>Politics:</i></p> <p>General Leopoldo Galtieri came to power in Argentina in 1981 through a coup in response to the previous government having murdered thousands of its citizens (The 'Dirty War'). The coup was followed by a series of military Juntas that eventually reached Galtieri. Many internationally saw Galtieri as a fascist dictator and there was internal pressure to find a success to solidify his regime. Margaret Thatcher of Britain likewise lacked political hegemony of her conservative party and was unpopular, needing a victory.</p> <p>To try and ease the island into accepting a turn over, Thatcher had limited aid and ran flights to and from the Falklands through Argentina, but the company of the Falklands was run by a British company that lobbied against a turn over. Support was increased after the Dirty War in Argentina. The war can be arguably said to have been started due to miscommunication. The British thought the Argentines were using military posturing to strengthen their hand at negotiations, which they had done before, and the Argentinians had believed that the British wouldn't respond, which it would have to do because of the political situation.</p> <p><i>Military:</i></p> <p>The military wanted to test British resolve, so they did some naval maneuvers around the Falkland, and the British responded with a submarine and two frigates, which caused the Argentines to back down. Although negotiations had broken down, Britain seemed to have been politically signalling that they would not respond to a military action, as they were trying to shrink the size of their navy.</p> <p><u><i>Immediate:</i></u></p> <p><i>Military / Natives:</i></p> <p>Galtieri had been supported by the navy under the promise that he would invade the Falklands and the British navy had told Thatcher they were capable of retaking the islands. In the economic crisis of the 80s and the political situation of the Cold War, the British navy had come under severe budget cuts. The Argentines first planned to establish a base on an island called South Georgia in project Alpha and then invade the island in Project Azule.</p> <p>The Argentines sent 42 'workers' to Leith in South Georgia. Concerned about the 'workers' and their incompletion, they sent the HMS Endurance back to South Georgia on a trip that would take four days due to bad weather. At the same time the British Press released reports of an imminent war in the Falklands and suggested that nuclear subs would soon be sent. Fearful, the plan was moved up and the invasion was launched.</p>
Britain wanted to give the islands over, but the islanders weren't having it.	
Galtieri thought Britain wouldn't respond.	
Used deception.	
Both countries had unstable leaders. Britain wanted to give the islands over, but the islanders weren't having it. However, Galtieri thought Britain wouldn't respond.	

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<p>Argentina took the islands easily.</p> <p>Margaret Thatcher was in need of a political win so she couldn't afford to back down.</p> <p>Both sides thought the other would back down.</p>	<p>The initial invasion force was comprised of an ex-American tank landing ship, 20 US-built landing vehicles, and 900 troops, supported by two destroyers and frigates. A aircraft carrier and the rest of the Argentinian navy was deployed to the North. On April 2nd 1982 Argentina begin their attack on the capital of Stanley. The locals surrendered in a few hours when they ran out of ammo.</p> <p><i>Failure of Diplomacy:</i></p> <p>War was not guaranteed yet and it looked like the fight would be more trouble than it was worth for the British. However, Margaret Thatcher was worried about whether this would lose her her role as Prime Minister and as the Secretary of Defense was away, she listened to the First Sea Lord, who told her that not only could they retake the islands, but that it was her only choice as British world reputation was at stake. The Secretary of Defense begin immediately to prepare a naval counter-strike force and the new Foreign Secretary and the American Secretary of State begin to work on a peaceful solution.</p> <p>Using its experience in such things, Britain was able to isolate Argentina diplomatically, passed a UN resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of troops from the Falklands, persuaded France to stop supplying them with weapons, and got the EEC to impose an embargo. The Argentinians had banked non some American support due to good relations between the militaries, but the US sided with their closest ally in the Cold War, Britain.</p> <p>The UK hoped that their show of force would lead to Galtieri negotiating. They sent 2 aircraft carriers, 5 destroyers, 11 frigates, and 3 nuclear submarines. The Argentinian response to this was to build up their military forces under the General who had been installed as governor of the islands.</p> <p><i>Brinkmanship:</i></p> <p>Up until the end Argentina thought Britain was bluffing and the British had thought Argentina had gone too far with its posturing. Indeed there was almost a diplomatic solution, but it was too little too late. The British announced a Total Exclusion Zone around the islands and sank an Argentinian Cruiser. The two were now at war.</p> <p>Both sides had been unwilling to compromise. Argentina claimed the invasion had happened without a shot being fired and that British rule was illegitimate and colonial. The UN couldn't send a peace keeping force until both sides had asked them to do so. Britain also used the excuse that no act of aggression should go unpunished.</p>
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Unit _____ Chapter _____ Topic/Section _____	
Discussion Notes	Reading Notes
<p>Each side wanted to establish air control and knew that the British could only take back the islands by land.</p> <p>Despite initial unevenness, the British won the battle in the skies.</p> <p>At sea the British proved navally superior, but were still vulnerable to missiles.</p>	<p><b>Practices:</b>  <u>War Plans:</u>            The Falklands War was a limited war. Although Britain had one of the largest navies in the world, it was only willing to do this at a certain cost, believing the people would not support a war with high casualties. At first it seemed the Argentines had the advantage with short communication and supply lines, time to prepare, and a mainland air force within range. In contrast, the British needed to get there, their fleet was vulnerable to anti-ship missiles, and there was clear dislike and trouble cooperating between the navy and air force within the task force.            The Argentines planned to take the ships out using the air force before troops could be landed. The British planned to gain air and sea superiority before landing troops. The Task Force had two groups: The advanced fleet, who was supposed to establish control of the air and sea, and the secondary group, who carried the ground forces. The new Argentinian governor and commander stationed most of his troops on West Island, Goose Green, and in the Hills west of Stanley as a last line of defense.</p> <p><u>War in the Air:</u>            Britain was at an apparent disadvantage with Argentina having 100 local, well trained, and well armed fighters, while the British only had the 34 they could fit on the aircraft carriers. Not only did they need to establish air control, they needed to defend the fleet and support the ground troops. However, the British had the untested Sea Harrier Planes, capable of taking off and landing vertically, and were armed with the latest in heat seeking missile technology. The British were able to destroy half of Argentina's 134 plane air force. However, the fleet was still vulnerable to attack from mainland attacks.</p> <p><u>War at Sea:</u>            The war at sea relied on missiles and if the carriers were taken out the British would lose. Their ability to wage war was limited by the distance to its nearest base. To the North approached an Argentinian Aircraft Carrier, to the south, a cruiser (the Belgrano) and two destroyers. A submarine, the HMS Conqueror, followed the Belgrano and sank it before it could cross into shallow water where the sub could not follow. This caused the entire fleet to retreat home, where it stayed for fear of the submarines destroying its entire fleet. The British still claimed they were not at war and were merely in hostilities and that they had a right to protect themselves under article 51.</p>

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter** \_\_\_\_\_ **Topic/Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Notes**

**Reading Notes**



Unit _____ Chapter _____ Topic/Section _____	
Discussion Notes	Reading Notes
<p>Reinforcements destroyed.</p> <p>Plan to attack the hills and move in</p> <p>Two hard fought battles led to victory.</p> <p>A limited war meant little impact but propaganda was still in effect.</p>	<p><u>Stanley:</u> Two ships carrying 500 reinforcements were bombed. They were supposed to disembark in darkness, but delays and miscommunication led to the troops being on board in broad daylight (49 Dead, 115 Wounded, 336 Unharmed). The British landed and deployed 9,000 men into the hills west of Stanley to fight the 10,000 Argentines. The plan had two stages. On the first night the troops would sweep from north to south in a three pronged attack, the hardest target would be Mt. Longdon. The second night the troops would move inward, coming 3 km from Stanley, the hardest part would be Mt. Tumbledown.</p> <p>The Battle of Longdon started on June 11th at 8pm. There were high casualties because the british got trapped in alleyways of rock. The Argentines were so desperate they fired artillery on their own positions, but the British took the mountain. Now the British moved on to the second part of the plan. The inexperienced 2nd battalion was tasked with taking Mt. Tumbledown. Tumbledown was defended by the elite 5th marines, heavily armed and dug into the rocks and caves. The Argentinians outnumbered the British two-to-one. After three hours the advanced had been halted, but 30 guardsmen climbed to higher ground to fire on the enemy position and the remnants of the enemy were being destroyed by morning. The British surrounded Stanley on June 14th and the broken will of the Argentinians forced them to surrender.</p> <p><u>War Abroad:</u> <u>Homefront:</u> As a limited war life at home changed little. No bombings, no blockades, only Argentina conscripted. It was rather tame. Socially however there was discrimination towards the British in Argentina and anything tide with them or their language was shunned. The media in both countries was centered and there was unreliable satellite technology to transmit back to Britain. The British media had a better idea of what was happening than the Argentinian counterpart but both sides still used racism and pumped out propaganda.</p>
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<p>The UN tried and failed to limit the conflict.</p> <p>The US was of great help to Britain.</p> <p>The British were the better military, had allies, and were lucky.</p> <p>The Argentines were the worse military, had no allies, and made bad decisions.</p>	<p><i>Role of the UN:</i> The UN acted to limit the conflict. First through pre-war negotiation. As was said the UN passed a resolution condemning the invasion, but not committing to it. Initially, Britain was supported by the UN, but after the sinking of the Belgrano, that began to change. A resolution was brought to the Security Council for a cease fire, to which Britain had to use its veto and was supported by the US, though the US ambassador later said she wished she had gone with an abstaining vote.</p> <p><i>Role of the US:</i> Galtieri underestimated the importance of Latin America to the Cold War in thinking he'd have American support. The US gave strategic support to the British (including to attack before Winter), allowed Britain to use Ascension Island during the war, and provided them with supplies such as airplane fuel and missiles.</p> <p><b>Reasons for Outcome:</b></p> <p><u>British Advantages:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better trained for the cold and amphibious conditions and well informed of the terrain.</li> <li>• US support. France, wanting a strong ally and relationship with Britain, stopped the sale of arms to Argentina and the sympathetic Perú, helped train British pilots, helped in the UN, and applied pressure to other countries against Argentina. They also had success in the UN.</li> <li>• They won the war of attrition. Losses of men were 14 to 1. The British also had higher morale.</li> <li>• They were lucky. Particularly in bluffing and the Argentinians not realizing they were almost out of ammo and starving.</li> </ul> <p><u>Argentine Disadvantages:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally not well trained and lacked confidence.</li> <li>• The Non-Commissioned Officers were socially removed from those they commanded. Conscripted soldiers only served for a year, were under trained, and were used to tropical environment of home.</li> <li>• Bad Planning. Left their best at home in case Chile invaded. Put more troops into the garrisons than they could feed. They also had bad strategy, such as attacking battleships and not supply ships, and the leaders made bad calls, like attacking before the defense spending cuts.</li> <li>• They had people who supported their claim, but no ally stepped in to support the invasion</li> </ul>

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**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Unit** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chapter** \_\_\_\_\_ **Topic/Section** \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Notes**

**Reading Notes**

<p>Argentina went democratic</p> <p>Britain saw renewed prosperity.</p> <p>The Cold War Superpowers took notice of Britain's competence and the UN's ineffectiveness.</p>	<p><b>Results:</b> 700 Argentines, 252 British, 3 islanders dead. The war ended with no peace treaty. The war did show that weaker nations could challenge stronger one's and that the world hadn't earned the lesson to not use war to distract from domestic issues. It also showed how misunderstandings could lead to war.</p> <p><u>Argentina:</u> Galtieri was removed from power 3 days latter and military rule ended. The regime lifted he barriers to political parties and a democracy was formed. Galtieri and nine of his colleagues were later put on trial. They restored relations with Britain and are now partnered in searching for oil in the South-West Atlantic. They still want the Falklands, but will pursue diplomatic means (unlikely to get it). Several veterans have committed suicide over the Falklands.</p> <p><u>Britain:</u> Thatcher's government was strengthened and the Conservative Party regained control and with larger majorities. Those who had been against the war were removed and the conservatives held power for 15 years. The was a surge in nationalism and support for the military, however this did not change the course of British war policy (build up of tanks and nuclear weapons while the navy was reduced). Also, right after the war, the IRA exploded two bombs, so attention shifted to that. Positivity however increased and the economy begin to recover, leading to growth and recovery. Despite this widespread positivity, many soldiers suffered from PTSD and alcoholism. To this day the Falklands are still a source of cultural pride and is heavily defended.</p> <p><u>USSR &amp; USA:</u> The USSR realized that Britain was more militarily capable than they had thought. This could be argue to be the start of the US getting involved in the affairs of other countries again after Vietnam. The US later sent marines to Lebanon and their forces invaded Grenada.</p> <p><u>Falklands Islanders:</u> The 19th century way of life of the islands was shattered. The population grew with increased military presence (2:1 Civilian:Soldier Ratio), more shipping services led to less isolation, new tourism industry, and the exclusion zone there has given the locals profitable fishing rights. However, there is still tension over the Argentinian claim.</p> <p><u>The UN:</u> Undermined them because Britain had refused help, not been without blame, and ignored the Charter for benefit.</p>
<p>Argentina went democratic and Britain saw renewed prosperity. The Cold War Superpowers took notice of Britain's competence and the UN's ineffectiveness.</p>	

IB Historian Reading Notes

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Topic/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Historian and School

Viewpoint

Anderson	The British removing the HMS endurance was a major factor in the Argentines launching their invasion when they did.
Woodward, leader of the Task Force	It had been a clean war fought between two small groups of trained fighters that respected the rules of engagement.
Critchley (Conservative MP)	It was against a second class enemy, away from the homeland, and without fear of homeland retaliation.
Menendez (Governor under Argentinian Rule)	The surrender was respectful and they even removed the term unconditional from the surrender, but that didn't change the fact that it was heartbreaking to sign.
Escude	The chances of Argentina regaining the Falklands through diplomacy went from slim to zero.
Sheehan	Undermined them because Britain had refused help, not been without blame, and ignored the Charter for benefit.