

Forum: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)  
Question of: Addressing the usage of chemical weapons in military conflicts  
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# Addressing the usage of chemical weapons in military conflicts



## Definition of Key Terms

**Chemical weapon:** - A Chemical Weapon is a chemical used to cause intentional death or harm through its toxic properties.

**Riot control agents:** - Chemical compounds that temporarily make people unable to function due to irritation to the eye, mouth, throat, lungs, and skin

## Introduction

The use of chemical weapons started with World War I. However in 1925, the Geneva Protocol, which prohibited the use of chemical weapons, was signed. There were still many issues found, such as it did not restrain the development, production, and collection of chemical weapons. Finally in 1993 the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) was utilized to hold stricter rules for chemical weapons. However there are still several nations that produce chemical weapons despite the international efforts to get rid of stockpiles.

## General Overview

### **Use of chemical weapons in warfare**

In World War I, the most popular chemicals used were chlorine, mustard gas, and phosgene. They would put them into standard munitions such as grenades and artillery shells. Causing more damage, since they were discrete. In World War I over one million casualties were caused globally by chemical warfare. It soon became very popular, as it was effective.

Chemical weapons were then employed in the Syrian war, as well as the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Iraq war. During the Cold war, the United States were able to build a very large stockpile of these weapons, however were not able to use them, due to a new agreement to the ban of all chemical weapons.

Currently, chemical weapons are still used, however not in extreme cases. Riot control agents, such as tear gas can be possessed by countries, however can be utilized for the purposes of chemical warfare. Many countries still possess a large number of chemical weapons to attack their enemy, or to protect their own country if needed. This continues the threat of chemical weapons and has led many states to prepare defenses against them.

### **The prohibition of chemical weapons**

After the mass amount of casualties caused by chemical weapons in World War I, the public was outraged, which led to the signing of The Geneva Protocol in 1925. The Protocol was a good initiation, however there were many flaws found, such as member states were still able to develop, produce and create stockpiles for chemical weapons. It was also stated that countries that approved the Protocol were allowed to use the restricted weapons against countries that were not involved in the Protocol or as retaliation, in the kinds of chemical weapons that were used against them.

In Geneva 1992, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), created a new framework, which was then signed in 1993, and utilized in 1997. The CWC, eliminated an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under international control. In order to prepare detailed procedures, the responsibility was given to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which was formally established in 1997. Around 189 nations have joined the CWC, which is around 98% of the world.

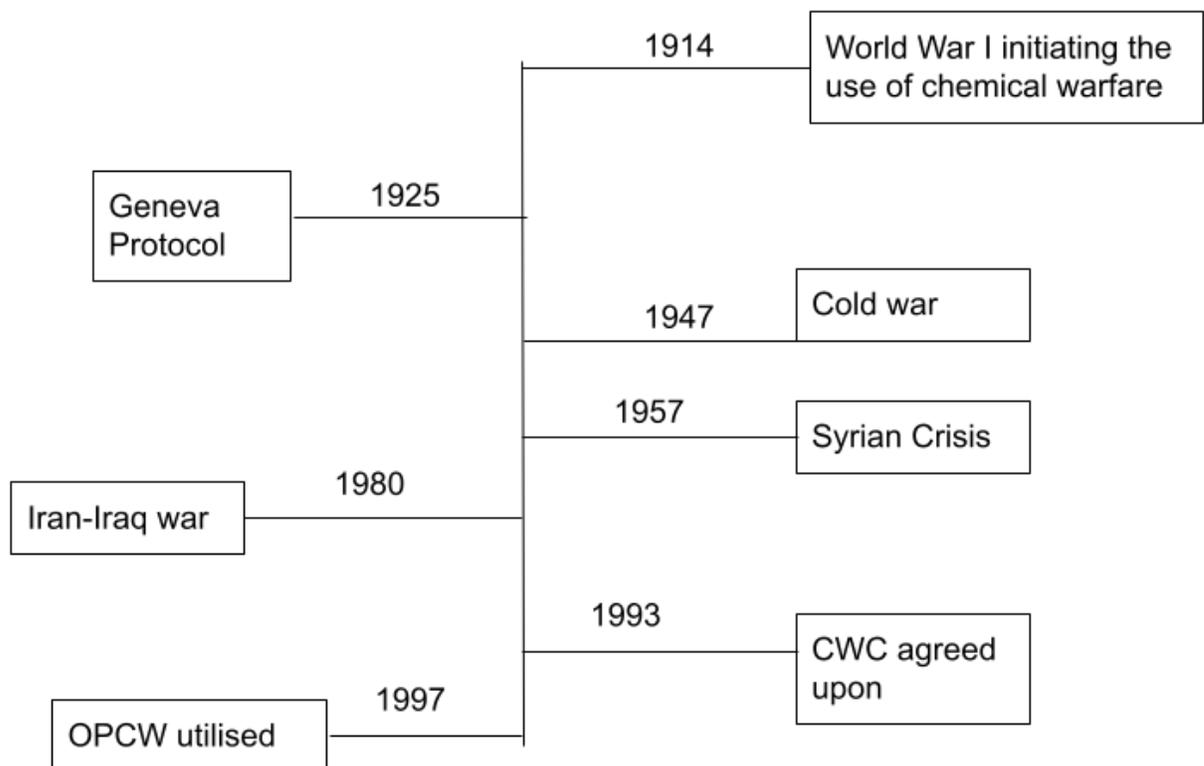
## Major Parties Involved

**CWC** - A treaty that bans chemical weapons, which most nations have approved to.

**OPCW** - An Organization which has the purpose to achieve a world permanently free of chemical weapons, thus to aid international security and stability.

**Albania/India/Iraq/Libya/Syria/USA/Russia/South Korea** - All of these eight countries have declared to still possess chemical weapons when joining the CWC.

## Timeline



## **Possible solutions**

One possible solution will be the creation of a new treaty regarding the prevention of the selling of chemical weapons. Since chemical weapons are a dangerous equipment to have, it is important to keep the trade of these weapons under control. This might mean having more server protocols, regarding online trading. (E.g. the black market)

Lastly another solution might be the promotion of the development towards an educational program. This can raise awareness on the severe consequences of chemical warfare, and thus shock people to the capability of human kind when in possession of these types of weapons.

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