



C'MON MAYOTTE, WHY NOT?: INDEPENDENCE OF COMOROS, 1974

Having existed under French rule for several centuries, the nation of Comoros eventually wished to gain autonomous rule due to a lack of support from the french government. The tensions between Madagascar and the nation of Comoros largely contributed to the wish for independence as a direct result of the competition created by France's rule. In 1974, a referendum was held in which all but one island of Comoros wished to sever ties with France entirely. The population of one island, Mayotte, voted against independence from France. Comoros was granted autonomous rule in 1961, laying the groundwork for an independent nation. Mayotte, however, refused to align, hugging more tightly to the French Republic than ever. Mired with all the difficulties of ruling a new nation, the young nation must navigate complex political and cultural dynamics in order to rule effectively. Comoros is threatened with the rise of a growing socialist movement and Mayotte's overwhelming desire to remain a department of France. In history, Comoros turbulently moved from one transitional government to the next. The African Union eventually had to interject establishing its own government and constitution, a legacy which has remained since. This led to two of the islands, wishing to rejoin France as independent departments. These requests were denied. Ultimately, two states were created: Mayotte under French rule and the nation of Comoros. This will be a continuous crisis committee. We foresee various representatives from the different islands' respective governments undertaking the responsibility of sifting through the turmoil following the first referendum. Despite its severing from the Mayotte, there were heavy relations between the islands in terms of political gain as well as cultural norms. Therefore, the different boards can work together to discuss the importance of relations with France, economic uncertainty, and the establishment of a nation through this committee. One should note that there were several referendums after to see if Mayotte would wish to succeed from France. All of which indicated they would not. Thus, the committee will be rooted in the way the islands navigate political relations with each other and France over the course of their independence while emphasizing the difficulties of building a new nation.

[DOWNLOAD BACKGROUND GUIDE](#)



TIMMY LEE
CHAIR



MARCOS LOPEZ II
CRISIS DIRECTOR



ARTHI MACHERLA
CRISIS DIRECTOR

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

DEVANG LADDHA, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL