GSMUN XXVI
Sponsor Handbook

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School
for Government and International Studies

Model United Nations Club

March 22-23, 2024

GSMUN XXVI

The Governor's School Model United Nations Conference

March 22-23, 2024

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for Government and International Studies

Sponsor Handbook

Dedication

The secretariat of the 26th Governor's School Model United Nations Conference extends its sincerest gratitude to:

The conference's chairs, vice chairs, and crisis staffers, for their late hours spent editing and Zooming and constant willingness to incorporate feedback and make GSMUN a more equitable and effective institution;

Mr. Kyle Smith, Model UN Club Sponsor, for his unwavering support, incredible commitment, and willingness as a first-year sponsor;

Mr. Davide D'Urbino, Model UN Club Coach, for his positive open-mindedness, persistent helpfulness, and unyielding dedication;

Katy Bondy, for her generous time commitment and inspirational remarks;

The wonderful team at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) for their partnership with GSMUN;

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School administration and regional school board for their recognition and support of GSMUN as an institution;

The Maggie L. Walker Governor's School faculty and staff for their support in technology and building logistics;

Shreyas Muthusamy, for his late hours, unabating dedication, and technological ingenuity to develop GSMUN's rubric evaluation system;

Ms. Deborah Snagg and Mr. David Bortz for their patience and invaluable technology expertise;

Ms. Ginger O'Neil and the Governor's School Foundation team for their kindness and unflinching generosity in facilitating GSMUN financial partnerships and logistics;

Ms. Crystal Charity for her willingness and priceless help in facilitating logistics for the conference every year;

Our generous corporate sponsors and community donors for their financial support of the conference and its charitable mission;

The previous GSMUN secretariats that came before us, for building a tradition and foundation of diplomacy, leadership, and collaboration upon which for us to proudly stand;

And our esteemed sponsors, delegates, and guests.
For them—and for you—we are eternally grateful.

The Governor's School Model United Nations Conference
Secretaries-General

Steele Cooper
GSMUN I

Rupali Mishra
GSMUN II

Anna McRerey
GSMUN III

Vrinda Shah
GSMUN IV

Mary Clay Harris
GSMUN V

Jeffrey Federspiel
GSMUN VI

Saul Mutchnick
GSMUN VII

Alice Hseih
GSMUN VIII

Bailey Thomson
GSMUN IX

Matthew Shapiro
GSMUN X

Jessi Merry
GSMUN XI

Nitya Rao
GSMUN XII

Elsa Shultz
GSMUN XIII

Ryan Johnson
GSMUN XIV

Michael Drash
GSMUN XV

Marc Petrine
GSMUN XVI

Matthew King
GSMUN XVII

Sam Schwartzkopf
GSMUN XVIII

John Metz
GSMUN XIX

Robin Schwartzkopf
GSMUN XX

Catherine Qian
GSMUN XXI

Som Mohapatra
GSMUN XXII

Richard Zhai
GSMUN XXIII

Senthil Meyyappan
GSMUN XXIII

Michael Kish
GSMUN XXIV

Annabel Tang
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Rohini Mudinur
GSMUN XXVI

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Chargé d'Affaires

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Director of Specialized Agencies

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Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates, Sponsors, and Guests of GSMUN XXVI:

It is my distinct honor to welcome you to the 26th iteration of the Governor's School Model United Nations conference, to be held March 22-23, 2024 at Maggie Walker Governor's School in Richmond, Virginia.

Over the last 26 years, GSMUN has transformed from a humble conference consisting of only 100 delegates from Richmond to a conference of over 500 delegates, who stem from all across the nation. However, from the very beginning, GSMUN has prided itself on creating an unparalleled experience of debate, diplomacy, and engagement for both veteran and novice delegates alike. This year, GSMUN will be composed of 18 committees, diverse in both region and time period, that range from the rise of the Brazilian Empire to the downfall of Standard Oil. In addition to that, we have also brought back the Ad Hoc committee of the Secretary General, where delegates are tasked with devising solutions without any prior information of the committee, topics, or positions.

All 18 of our committee represent this year's theme - United We Stand. In a world where polarization has reached an all time high, it's important to remember the original goal of the United Nations: global cooperation. At GSMUN, it is our greatest wish that delegates become more effective and compassionate leaders, who, through collaboration, can be the catalyst for positive change in their communities.

Furthermore, a key feature of our conference every year is our charity. I am happy to announce that GSMUN XXVI's charity will be the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS), which is dedicated to fighting leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma through funding cutting-edge cancer research and supporting patients with free information and affordable treatment plans. LLS is a truly brilliant organization whose work and activism has saved millions of lives and has advanced the therapies that are used to treat blood cancer patients today. I sincerely hope that you can help us in our goal of raising $10,000 for LLS.

GSMUN is an organization that I hold very close to my heart. Participating in this conference and being welcomed into such an incredible community has made me a bolder speaker, a better leader, and a kinder individual. I hope this will be the same for each and everyone of you. On behalf of the Secretariat and all staffers, I sincerely want to thank you all. It is your participation and support that has driven and continues to drive this conference. We hope to see you in March.

Sincerely,

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General
GSMUN XXVI

General Information

Conference Policies

Awards and Evaluation Rubrics
At its core, GSMUN is an educational and community-oriented institution that prides itself on building confident and compassionate global leaders through strengthening delegates' speaking, writing, and research skills.

We recognize and acknowledge the subjectivity that often accompanies the decisions regarding delegate awards in the Model United Nations community, as well as the role that chair bias and prejudgment can play in such decisions. We want to create a positive and welcoming conference experience for all delegates regardless of personal background or opinion that emphasizes genuine diplomacy, collaboration, and coalition building—values that can often be lost in competitive Model UN committee rooms. To that end, we have developed a rubric system for evaluating both delegate position papers and holistic committee performance. This will provide an objective, score-based means for committee chairs to decide delegate awards with the aim of increasing equity and transparency in our conference's decision-making process.

Delegate Performance
All delegates will be evaluated on both their in-room committee performance and out-of-committee research using a uniform rubric and will be assigned a score across five categories. The rubric will be returned to delegates by the chairs at the conclusion of the conference. The delegate performance rubric evaluates the following criteria, all given their own weighting percentages:
- In-Room Debate (Moderated Caucuses)
- In-Room Debate (Unmoderated Caucuses)
- Resolutions
- Position Paper
- Diplomacy/Collaboration

Position Paper
Position papers are required for any delegate who wishes to be considered for awards. All position papers will be graded by the committee chairs and assigned a score on the designated rubric, which will be returned to delegates by email at the end of the conference. The position paper rubric evaluates the following criteria, all given their own weighting percentages:
- Overview
- Analysis
- Topic Understanding
- Diction
- Grammar/Spelling
- CMS Formatting

Harassment/Discrimination
Harassment or discrimination of any kind based on race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, or disability is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated at GSMUN. Delegates may report incidents of harassment or discrimination to their committee chairs or anonymously to a secretariat phone number contact distributed during the conference. Delegates

found guilty of this offense may be subject to disqualification from committee awards or removal from the conference.

Plagiarism and Prewriting

GSMUN does not tolerate plagiarism of any form. All position papers must follow the honor code policy of Maggie L. Walker Governor's School and may be subject to plagiarism checks by committee chairs in the grading process. If plagiarism is detected in a delegate's position paper, the committee chair will notify the delegate's sponsor and a designated GSMUN secretariat member. Plagiarism will immediately disqualify delegates from individual committee awards.

Furthermore, GSMUN values a collaborative conference experience where all delegates are given equal opportunities to speak and participate. Thus, prewriting of committee resolutions or directives outside of committee sessions is strictly prohibited. Any delegates found guilty of prewriting may be subject to disqualification from awards.

Technology Code of Conduct

All delegates are responsible for efficiently, ethically, and lawfully using computer resources, which include, but are not limited to, host computers, file servers, workstations, stand-alone computers, laptops, software, data projectors, and internal or external communication networks.

Any student who intentionally damages or destroys Maggie L. Walker Governor's School's hardware and/or software, whether directly or indirectly, shall also be responsible for all costs associated with repair and/or replacement.

Fraudulent, harassing, embarrassing, indecent, profane, obscene, intimidating, or any unlawful material shall not be sent by email or any other form of electronic communication or displayed on or stored in Maggie L. Walker Governor's School's computers and networks. Users encountering or receiving such material must immediately report the incident to the Director of Technology for investigation.

Dress Code

The dress code for GSMUN is Western Business Attire (WBA). This includes but is not limited to button-downs, blazers/formal coats, slacks, ties/bow ties, blouses, formal dresses or skirts, and formal shoes.

Note for Sponsors: Position Papers

An important factor in a delegate's GSMUN experience is the quality of their research before the conference. To encourage a thorough understanding of topics before committee, all GSMUN committees ask for a position paper to be written by each delegation (double delegations should only submit one paper). This position paper should outline general information about the represented country or person and define the delegation's position on each of the committee's topics. Typical position papers are three to four pages, double-spaced.

In order to assist delegates in their research, a list of helpful websites relevant to each committee's topics is located at the end of each background guide. Additionally, a list of more general resources is located in the [Delegate Research Guide](#) section of this Sponsor Handbook or on the [GSMUN XXV conference website](#).

Please note that all delegates are expected to prepare position papers and send them to their chair by email by **5 P.M. on conference day**. Chair emails are found on the website or in their introduction letters at the beginning of each committee's background guide. If delegates are unable to submit their position papers by email, they may bring a hard copy to be collected by chairs during the first committee session. Chairs who receive position papers ahead of time should read through them and send delegates feedback within 48 hours.

Chairs can also be contacted by email regarding any additional questions about their specific committees. They are happy to answer any questions a student may have about research and will respond within 48 hours.

Note: No position paper is required for Ad Hoc.

Keynote Speaker: Katy Bondy

Katy Bondy is the Press Team Lead for the Bureau of International Organizations. She joined the Department of State in 2007. Most recently, she was a Political Officer at the U.S. Mission to the EU where she focused on Ukraine and Russia. In Washington, she served as the Senior UK/Ireland and Senior France desk officer, as well as on the Kosovo desk. She was also the Counselor's Special Assistant for Public Affairs and worked in the Department's Office of Press Relations. Overseas, Katy worked at the U.S. Embassies in Manila, Philippines and Colombo, Sri Lanka, and served shorter stints at the U.S. Embassies in Dhaka, Bangladesh and Belgrade, Serbia. Before joining the Department of State, she worked at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. on the Balkans.

Katy received her BA from Colby College and her MA from The Fletcher School. In her spare time, she enjoys meandering walks, listening to podcasts, and trying new recipes in the kitchen with her husband, who works at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA).

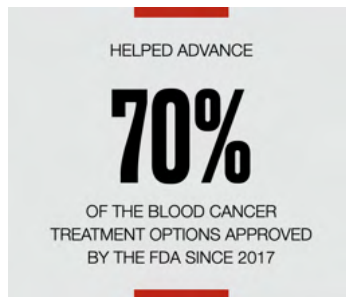# Charity Partner: Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS)

GSMUN is excited to be partnering with LLS this year! We hope that you will support our goal of donating $10,000+ to this incredible organization.

About LLS

Every 3 minutes, someone in America is diagnosed with blood cancer. Today, over 1.5 million Americans live with leukemia and lymphoma. LLS is dedicated to supporting those living with blood cancers such as these, ensuring they can still lead long and fulfilling lives.

A key goal of LLS is ensuring patient access to the best possible healthcare and supporting patients and their families throughout the treatment process. On top of this support for individual patients, LLS advocates for larger legislative change in order to break down barriers to treatment.

LLS' mission is to eradicate blood cancer. The groundbreaking research they advance is working to make this dream a reality: they're currently funding 200 research grants across the world, and saving lives every day.

INVESTED MORE THAN	HELPED ADVANCE	MORE THAN
$1.7B	**70%**	**$234M**
IN CANCER RESEARCH SINCE 1949	OF THE BLOOD CANCER TREATMENT OPTIONS APPROVED BY THE FDA SINCE 2017	PROVIDED IN CO-PAY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Letter from the Director of Charitable Giving

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
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Director of General
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Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized
Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

Dear Delegates, Sponsors, and Guests of GSMUN XXVI:

GSMUN is all about driving change — empowering our delegates to be future leaders who will improve the world, while making an immediate impact in our community through charitable giving. Before this year's committees take delegates around the world and across time, I'd like to draw your attention to a cause that affects us right here and right now. It is my distinct honor as Director of Charitable Giving to officially present the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) as the charity for GSMUN XXVI. Every three minutes, someone in the US is diagnosed with leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma. LLS is dedicated to finding cures to ensure those living with these blood cancers can still lead long and fulfilling lives. Since their inception in 1976, LLS has invested $1.6 billion in groundbreaking cancer research. Since 2017, they've helped advance 70% of blood cancer treatments approved by the FDA.

A key part of LLS' mission is ensuring patient access to the best possible healthcare, especially in underserved communities. In 2021, they gave $241 million in grants to over 42,000 patients, bridging the gaps that block patients from receiving the treatment they need. On top of this support for individual patients, LLS has a network of over 500,000 volunteers who advocate for larger legislative change in order to break down barriers to treatment that patients face. This patient-first focus carries over into their extensive education programs and support resources, which guide patients and their families through the treatment process while providing invaluable support networks.

LLS has a special meaning to GSMUN as we support our beloved school director, Dr. Lowerre, in his fight against lymphoma. This year, GSMUN hopes to donate more than $10,000 to LLS by the end of the conference to support Dr. Lowerre and the 1.5 million other Americans living with leukemia and lymphoma. It's not a goal we can achieve alone. We need your direct support as well as your fundraising efforts to continue the GSMUN tradition of contributing to worthy causes.

We've been working hard to continue our conference's tradition of making impactful donations to our partner charity, and your support from now all the way through the conference weekend will be crucial to our efforts. There are many ways to learn more about LLS, and even more ways to make a difference. At our conference in March, we'll have a representative from LLS speak firsthand about the organization's mission and impact, as well as opportunities for you to give through merch, snack sales, and fundraising incentives. Until then, please head to www.gsmun.net/charity to get involved and donate today.

Thank you all so much for your support,

Sophia Pareti

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving
GSMUN XXVI

Secretariat

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Rohini Mudinur is a senior at Maggie Walker and is absolutely honored to serve as the Secretary-General for the 26 iteration of GSMUN. Previously, she served as a crisis director and chair for GSMUN and attended conferences at William & Mary and Old Dominion. Outside of Model UN, she is the Co-President of National Honor Society and Latin National Honor Society, the Founder for Bonsai Balance Seminars, MLWGS' mental wellness organization, and a member of the We the People team. In her (very limited!) free time, she goes on long runs, sculpts, and obsessively reads Cicero, Dostoevsky, and Fitzgerald. Rohini can't wait to meet all the delegates and make GSMUN XXVI the best one yet!

Devesh Kumar
Director-General
Devesh has been doing model UN since 4th grade, has been a part of GSMUN since 7th grade, and is honored to serve as director-general for this year's GSMUN. Devesh enjoys politics and public speaking through competing at model UN conferences, debating Lincoln-Douglas, and participating in Maggie Walker's We the People team. He also leads the school's programming club as president and engineering club as co-president. He competes in TSA, Quiz Bowl at multiple national tournaments, and robotics up to the international level. Moreover, he enjoys coding and building AIs. In his free time, he enjoys swimming and playing basketball. Devesh can't wait to meet the sponsors and delegates at GSMUN this March!

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-General for External Communications
Aashka is a senior at Maggie Walker who has been involved with Model UN since seventh grade. She has attended various conferences at the University of Virginia and William & Mary and has been a crisis staffer, co-chair, and secretariat member at GSMUN in the past. She is very excited to serve as the Undersecretary-General for External Communications this year! Outside of Model UN, she loves playing tennis, listening to music, baking, and going on runs. She is also co-president of the Maggie Walker Operation Smile chapter and the Future Medical Professionals Club. She cannot wait to meet all the delegates in March!

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-General for Logistics
Nate is a senior at Maggie Walker and is excited to serve as your Undersecretary-General for Logistics. He has six years of Model UN experience, including attending several conferences and serving once as a crisis staffer and twice as chair for past GSMUNs. Outside of Model UN, Nate is an avid member of the Maggie Walker Quiz Bowl team, the We the People team, as well as the Economics and Investment club. In his free time, Nate enjoys playing board games with friends and watching baseball. He is excited to help prepare for an extraordinary conference!

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations
Parth is a senior at Maggie Walker, and has been involved in Model UN since seventh grade, and is delighted to serve as your Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations for the second year in a row! Parth has been involved in GSMUN as last year's USG for Crisis, a chair, and a crisis staffer. His experience spans six continents, as he has served on 12 international conference secretariats and executive boards, chaired at 6 different conferences, attended 33 conferences as a delegate, and created a Model UN Training Programme. In the little time he has after MUN, Parth is the Chief Operations and Projects Officer for FIRST Robotics Competition Team 422, President of the Photography Club, and is involved with the debate team along with TSA. Parth is also an avid member of the Civil Air Patrol, where he is the Command Chief of his Squadron, and is training to be a Private Pilot. He also enjoys chocolate and teddy bears. Before college, Parth plans on taking a gap year to fight dragons in the forests of Scotland. Parth cannot wait to take GSMUN's Crisis Simulations to even greater heights, and is truly excited for GSMUN XXVI!

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires
Sania is a senior at Maggie Walker and has been involved in Model UN since seventh grade, attending conferences at UVA, William and Mary, and numerous local conferences. She has been involved in GSMUN since her freshman year as a vice chair and then a chair. Outside of Model UN, she spends her free time dancing, playing violin, and participating in many clubs at school. At Maggie Walker, Sania is co-captain of the Bhangra team, COO of FIRST Robotics Team 422, and co-president of the Engineering Club! She cannot wait to meet and work with all the delegates and sponsors next March!

Keira Kinnier

Director of General Assemblies

Keira, a junior at Maggie Walker, is excited to be your Director of General Assemblies this year, for GSMUN XXVI. Keira has participated in Model UN since freshman year, attending conferences at William & Mary and Old Dominion. In previous years, Keira has served as a crisis staffer and chair for GSMUN. Keira also serves as Dance Team Captain at Maggie Walker, is a senior editor for the school newspaper, The Jabberwock, and enjoys finding ways to improve her leadership and service skills, having attended a program with the FBI National Academy. Outside of these activities, Keira also enjoys dance, reading and analyzing literature, wandering around book stores, and listening to music; especially every song ever written by Taylor Swift.

Sonia Chornodolsky

Director of Specialized Agencies

Sonia is a Junior at Maggie Walker and is honored to serve as the Director of Specialized Agencies in the 26th iteration of GSMUN. She has been involved in Model UN since seventh grade and finds purpose and joy through participating in and organizing meaningful debate. Previously, she has served as a crisis staffer and as the co-chair of GSMUN's prestigious Ad-Hoc committee. Sonia also serves as the Executive Director of the AcePrep tutoring organization, co-president of the Young Democrats club, deputy editor of the MLWGS Newspaper, the Jabberwock, and is a member of the School Advisory Council and Deadbeats, one of Maggie Walker's A cappella groups. In her free time, Sonia enjoys running on the cross country and track teams, reading modernist literature, and trying new and exciting foods.

Sriyutha Morishetty

Director of Press and Publications

Sriyutha is a junior at Maggie Walker, and has been involved in Model UN since sixth grade. Having previously served as a vice chair and a chair, she is ecstatic to serve as your Director of Press and Publications. She has attended several university and high school level conferences, notably including ones at the University of Virginia, William & Mary, and Old Dominion University. Outside of GSMUN, Sriyutha is the Secretary of the Economics and Investment Club, an Executive Editor on Maggie Walker's publication, The Jabberwock, and a student officer for RampsRVA. In her free time, she enjoys baking, writing short stories, reading classics, and binging TV shows. She is excited to be a part of this enduring legacy, and she is looking forward to making this GSMUN the best one yet!

Shorya Malani
Director of Technology
Shorya is a senior at Maggie Walker and is honored to serve as Director of Tech. He has been involved with GSMUN since 7th grade and the debate that it fosters. At GSMUN he has previously served as a Chair, Vice-Chair, and as a photographer. Outside of MUN, Shorya is an developer creating Fixate, a productivity app while having dabbled in almost everything to do with technology. At Maggie Walker, he created the CLiCC for coding club, is Director of Programming in Robotics, is President of Chess Club, and participates in debate, TSA, and Math Competitions. Outside of school Shorya is an avid event photographer with a focus in portraits. He is excited to part of this amazing team and can't wait to make this the best GSMUN yet.

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving
Sophia, a senior at Maggie Walker, is beyond honored to be serving as Director of Charitable Giving for GSMUN XXVI and can't wait to support this year's charity, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Sophia's Model UN experience spans five years and two continents— alongside crisis staffing and chairing at GSMUN, she founded a Model UN club at her host school and chaired at MUNISS while studying abroad in Germany. When she isn't struggling with Chinese stroke order or German article declensions, Sophia can be found solving the New York Times Crossword, playing the Legend of Zelda, or working with RampsRVA. She can't wait to see all the delegates in March for a great conference!

Conference Sponsors

Mr. Kyle Rogers

Mr. Rogers is the newest faculty member in the Maggie Walker Social Studies Department. Mr. Rogers just completed his Master of Teaching program at VCU, where he also received a bachelor's and master's degree in history. He is a passionate history educator with experience teaching US and world history at Varina High School and Deep Run High School (his alma mater) in Henrico County. Mr. Rogers is excited to assist GSMUN and support its dedicated and impressive members as they develop their research, public speaking, and leadership skills!

Mr. Davide D'Urbino

Mr. D'Urbino is originally from Milano, Italy, but has also lived and studied in Japan and New Zealand. Since 2008, he has been calling Richmond home. At VCU, where he completed bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry, he researched organic polymer synthesis and chemical education extensively. He taught taught chemistry at Clover Hill High School for five years prior to joining Maggie Walker, where he is now in his second year. He is excited to serve as assistant sponsor for Model UN!

Chairs

Rewa Totey and Anish Aruru
Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Aryan Kanduri and Sriram Panchagnula
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Thomas Short and Ethan Roerink
World Trade Organization

Sreemayi Gangireddy and Anusha Rathi
UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)

Arjun Azhagappan and Sanaya Bothra
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Akshaya Ramasamy and Ritvika Palani
World Summit for Children (Novice)

Ally Lichtman and Amogh Saunshimath
Andrew Jackson's Cabinet

Isaiah Hathaway and Isaac Hathaway
The Second Industrial Age

Ira Prakash and Deepanshi Kumar
The World Health Organization (WHO)

Alex Percey and Kushal Gowda
The National Football League Executive Committee

Skylar Schuetze and Darby French
Republic of Ireland 1919

Preston Huyard and Jackson DeHaven
Chilean Constitutional Convention

Gabriel Harding and James Bae
Golden Age of Piracy

Hoda Vohra and Tanvi Palavalas
The Empire of Brazil (Novice)

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
The Emu Wars

Anna Kim and Luna Forlano
Nigerian Civil War: Nigerian Government

Aditya Badhrayan and Maddy Dunaway *Nigerian Civil War : Biafra*

Winston Crane and Brenden Stremler
Ad Hoc Committee of the Secretary-General

Delegate Research Guide

Research and Position Paper Guidelines

Maggie Walker's Model UN Club, in collaboration with Librarian Ms. Wendy DeGroat, has compiled a research guide for delegates. The research guide walks delegates through the research and position paper process and provides links to helpful sources, which streamlines research and gives delegates a foundation for committee preparation.

Position Papers

Position papers are required for any delegate who wishes to be considered for awards. Position papers should be submitted electronically by 5 P.M. on Friday, March 17, to the respective committee's chair email. You can find sample position papers as well as general guidelines in the following pages.

Note: Ad Hoc does not require a position paper. For double delegation committees, only one position paper is required—the two students should collaborate on it together.

Formatting Guidelines
Position papers should be double-spaced and written in size 12-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins. While there is no page requirement or limit, the recommended length is 2–4 pages.

Content
Position papers should consist of the following sections:
- Header: This should include the committee name, delegation, delegate name, and school.
- Overview: This section should provide an overview of the delegation and their role and relevance to the committee.
    - General Assemblies: If representing a country, delegates may include pertinent demographic or historical information, as well as the delegation's current role in international affairs.
    - Specialized Agencies and Crisis Simulations: If representing an individual, delegates may include a brief biography of the individual, notable achievements, and recent actions.
- The following three sections must be included for both topics covered in the committee background guide:
    - Topic Background: This section should be an introduction to the conflict presented in the background guide from the perspective of the delegation. This includes, but is not limited to, a brief history of the issue, recent actions taken by committee members, and potential areas of discussion.
    - Delegate Position: This section should analyze the issue presented in the background guide and detail the delegate's position and view. Delegates should consider their position's general opinion on the issue, as well as current/historic policies they have implemented.

- ○ Potential Solutions: This should be the most substantive portion of the position paper, incorporating ideas and proposals from the perspective of the delegate for resolving the issue presented in the background guide. Solutions should be unique yet realistic, and delegates should have a plan for their proper implementation during committee. Delegates may also address the "Questions to Consider" located in the background guide section of the position paper.

Citations

All sources used in writing the position paper should be cited in a bibliography at the end of the paper in the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS). Footnotes, endnotes, or in-text citations are not required for delegates. Plagiarism will not be tolerated at GSMUN, and position papers may be subject to plagiarism checks at the discretion of the committee chair—a position paper missing citations will lead to a delegate's disqualification from awards.

Note: GSMUN strives to be an educational and welcoming institution, and delegates will not be penalized for minor mistakes in position paper citations. For middle school delegates who are unfamiliar with bibliography citations, links to sources used at the end of the paper are acceptable.

Committee: United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Country: United States of America

Name: Annabel Tang

School: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Topic 1: Addressing the Increase in Racial and Religious Tensions

Topic Background

The current conflict between racial and religious groups in Darfur is one of the most horrendous in the world, and needs immediate action on the part of the United Nations. The Janjaweed, a militant group supported by former President Omar al-Bashir's government, have targeted African farmers with the intent to destroy this ethnic group. The Janjaweed have also destroyed hundreds of villages and communities and wreaked havoc on the area through murders and rapes. In addition, the region of Darfur is facing huge geographical and humanitarian long-term challenges, having to find food, water, and shelter for millions of displaced people. Many of the refugee camps in Darfur are also overcrowded and volatile, and barely provide a source of refuge. Even after the imprisonment of al-Bashir for crimes related to corruption, Sudan still struggles with ethnic conflicts and violence. Additionally, in 2009, 13 international humanitarian aid organizations were expelled and had all operations in the region suspended by Sudan's government, leaving millions of vulnerable people without food, water, and shelter.

Country Position

The United States strongly opposes the actions that the Sudanese government and the Janjaweed have taken against the Darfur people and condemns the crisis in the region as a genocide. The US is prepared to mobilize financial and humanitarian resources in order to support efforts including refugee camps and peacekeeping programs in order to resolve the crisis.

The US also calls upon the Sudanese government to immediately cease any operations occurring in Darfur related to the ethnic cleansing of the Darfur people, and will support economic and governmental penalties if these orders are not obeyed by the government. Additionally, because the US is a major power part of the UNSC, it will play a large role in finding negotiations toward reaching a consensus between the different ethnic groups and stopping violence, most notably including disarming the Janjaweed in order to halt the long history of violence in the region.

Proposed Solutions

There are several actions that the UN Security Council should take to address the crisis in Darfur and to relieve the racial and religious tensions in the area. First, the conflict that has occurred in Darfur for the past 20 years must be formally and unanimously recognized as a genocide by the body of the Security Council, including the United States. Second, the UN Security Council must call upon the Sudanese government, the Janjaweed militia, and the Sudanese President Omar Bashir to immediately cease the movement or exchange of any resources, supplies, and other monetary support involved in the government's commitment of the heinous crimes. The council must also demand that this be completed within a deadline of 100 days, or the country face economic consequences at the behest of the UNSC. Next, the UNSC should provide resources and financial support to establish refugee camps within Sudan as a method to treat the ongoing crisis and the many villages that have been demolished by the conflict. These refugee camps should be up to standard with adequate food and water resources, proper shelter, and adequate community resources for children or those who have lost family members in this conflict. The UNSC should also seek to renovate and improve the refugee camps that have already been established in the country. The monetary support for this project will come from a small percentage of every country's annual revenues that holds membership in the

UNSC. The UN will also deploy peacekeepers to aid in the establishment of these refugee camps and work to provide further resources.

Topic Background

The Sudanese government has committed hundreds of thousands heinous acts against ethnic groups in Sudan throughout the past 20 years, and must be held accountable for its crimes. The Janjaweed, a militant group in Sudan that terrorizes many Southern villages in the country, have essentially been sanctioned by the Sudanese government to run rampant and to commit mass murder and rape without being punished. In response to a pattern of brutal violence in the country, in 2004, the Interior Minister of the Sudanese government appointed 15 decrees in order to address humanitarian aid and ethnic tensions in the Darfur region. These 15 decrees aimed to strengthen civilian security measures, deploy armed forces for Darfur civilians, and exempt humanitarian aid from any incoming tariffs.

Country Position

The United States strongly opposes the actions of the Sudanese government and condemns its role in providing the resources and allowing the Janjaweed to continue to be militarized and attack innocent civilians. The United States also supports the UN Security Council in mobilizing humanitarian and financial resources in order to establish better refugee camps in the region and support the families that have been displaced as a result of the conflict. With regards to the present Sudanese government, the United States also encourages the UNSC to negotiate with the government in order to attempt to establish better relations with ethnic groups in the country. However, if negotiations cannot be reached in this situation, the United States supports the use of economic sanctions or the use of other consequences for the Sudanese government in order to pressure the regime into halting the use of all militarization in the area. Furthermore, if humanitarian aid cannot be provided in the area, the United States supports the

mobilization of global forces allied with the broader UN in order to provide relief for the civilians in South Sudan.

Proposed Solutions

The UNSC must seriously consider developments to its international programs in order to resolve the crisis currently occurring in Darfur. This should first involve placing an ultimatum on the Sudanese government to immediately stop any of its support for the Janjaweed. If this ultimatum is not fulfilled by the government, then the UNSC should be authorized to impose economic sanctions on the President and government of Sudan with the contractual agreement that the sanctions be lifted only in the case of a ceasefire in the region. Additionally, the UN should attempt to prosecute all military officials involved in this genocide under the international court, something that can also be done in conjunction with the UN's legal committee. Furthermore, if humanitarian aid is refused by the government of Sudan or is otherwise deterred by the militant groups, UNSC membership countries should be permitted to directly enter the country and fight against the Janjaweed in order to stop the horrific pattern of ethnic cleansing.

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Committee: American Revolution

Delegate: Edmund Jennings Randolph

Name: Parth Tornekar

School: Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

Background

Esteemed representatives, my name is Edmund Jennings Randolph. I hail from the state of Virginia. A scholar, I was educated at the college of William and Mary, and soon after began my study of law.[1] When the tyranny of British oppression forced my home to act, I went against the orders of my loyalist father and enrolled in the continental army. I served alongside George Washington himself, and even served as part of his headquarters staff. Furthermore, I was a representative of Virginia at the Continental Congress, and later helped write the state's constitution, even becoming Governor of Virginia.[2]

I am well respected by my peers, with both Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson saying, "This young gentleman's abilities, natural and acquired, his extensive connections, and, above all, his desire to serve his country in this arduous struggle, are circumstances that cannot fail to gain him your countenance and protection."[3] When it comes to my beliefs, while I am a strong advocate of centralized government, I do believe that it can be all too easy to tread the line from

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[1] "Biographies of the Secretaries of State: Edmund Jennings Randolph (1753–1813)," Office of the Historian. U.S. Department of State, Accessed April 13, 2022, https://history.state.gov /departmenthistory/people/randolph-edmund-jennings.
[2] Ibid.
[3] Rebecca Sharer, "Edmund Randolph," George Washington's Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Accessed April 14, 2022, https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digit alhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/edmund-randolph.

republic to monarchy. As such, I also believe that there is a need for individual and state rights, but do not have as strong of a belief on a bill of rights.[4]

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[4] "A Biography of Edmund Randolph 1753-1813," American History From Revolution To Reconstruction and Beyond, University of Groningen, Accessed April 14, 2022, https://w ww.let.rug.nl/usa/biographies/edmund-randolph/.

Topic I: Reforming the Articles of Confederation

When addressing the reforms necessary to the Articles of Confederation it is first necessary to address why the articles failed. The most critical reason was the lack of a federal government.[5] This can be seen from as soon as the articles were adopted, as it took 4 long, war filled years for every state to ratify them. Furthermore, the articles, over time, were also shown to be unable to coerce taxes, regulate trade, or even, in any effect, enforce order.[6] Perhaps this can best be seen in Shay's rebellion, when Daniel Shay and his mob attacked the courts. This rebellion took around half a year to quell, which at the time set a dangerous precedent.[7]

To solve this issue, while also balancing the power of the federal government, there are several compromises that can be made. For one, the separation of powers into several branches: executive, legislative, and judicial.[8] This would create a system of checks and balances preventing any branch from gaining too much power. For example, if the legislative branch passes a law that would harm the people, the executive could veto it.

These branches can be further restricted by dividing them. For instance, the legislative branch can be bicameral, a popularly elected lower house and an upper house elected by the lower house.[9] This would split power between the people and politicians, allowing for representation and a bulwark against demagogues. Furthermore, to prevent the executive branch from having a monarch-like head, the executive can be led by a three-man council.[10] This way,

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[5]Ted Brackemyre, "America's First Failure at Government," 18th Century, US History Scene, September 12, 2021. https://ushistoryscene.com/article/articles-of-confederation/.

[6] Ibid.

[7]Rahul Tilva, "Shays' Rebellion," George Washington's Mount Vernon Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Accessed April 14, 2022, https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistor y/digital-encyclopedia/article/shays-rebellion.

[8] "The Virginia Plan." Art and History. United States Senate, March 7, 2022. https://www.senate.g ov/civics/common/generic/Virginia_Plan_item.htm.

[9] Ibid.

[10] "A Biography of Edmund Randolph 1753-1813."

in case of a tyrant, there would be 2 other republican leaders who could check their power. Finally, it is crucial that there is a streamlined process of amendment. The United States will undoubtedly change profoundly with time, and so to address the needs of the future there must be an efficient (meaning non-unanimous) process of amendment.[11] While states rights are important, a single state should not be able to hold back the nation at large.

Because of this complex system of checks, the federal government could be given. broader powers than allowed under the Articles of Confederation. This should at least include the power to regulate taxes and enforce national laws.[12] This would require a strong legislative and executive branch, which would be un-republican, if not for the checks proposed above. Another positive reform would be ending the importation of slaves. There would also be no issue with adding more powers than those mentioned in this paper, provided that they are sufficiently checked.[13]

Some may argue for equal votes for every state. However, this system has already been shown to fail in the Articles of Confederation. Shays' rebellion demonstrated the need for drastic change, not a return to the old. Furthermore, while it is impossible to ignore states rights, individual rights are also important, and giving every state an equal vote would allow the citizens in Rhode Island to have more power per person than the citizens of Virginia.

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[11] Ibid.
[12] "The Virginia Plan."
[13] "A Biography of Edmund Randolph 1753-1813."

Topic II: Construction of a Bill of Rights

On that same line of individual rights, there has also been much debate about whether the new constitution should include a bill of rights, and if so, what it should include. Anti-federalists say that it is necessary to protect individual rights, especially with the potential for "implied powers" (those not specifically enumerated in the constitution). On the other hand, federalists argue that all unmentioned powers would be delegated to the states, and even if there was a bill of rights it would be nothing more than a piece of paper in the face of a tyrant.[14] For example, a federalist might say that even though before the revolution all the delegates were Englishmen and entitled to certain rights under the English Bill of Rights, these were simply violated by the mad King George III.

To uphold personal rights, there should be a bill of rights, for at worst a bill of rights would not harm the nation, and at its best it can be another check on an overly powerful government. Especially if implied powers are ever used, which, despite what federalists say, is a possibility, it would be important to have a fallback. These rights should at least include the rights established in the declaration of independence: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Of course, these are incredibly vague, so to be more specific rights like freedom of speech, assembly, press, petition, habeas corpus (right to trial), etcetera would be incredibly beneficial.

Federalists refute this by saying that a bill of rights would limit the rights of the people to only those enumerated in the bill of rights. While this may be an issue, it can easily be rectified through a strong and efficient process of amendment (as proposed under topic one). This is because the people and states would have the power to add the rights they see as necessary.

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[14] "The Debate over a Bill of Rights" Center for the Study of the American Constitution. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Accessed April 14, 2022, https://csac.history.wisc.edu/ document-collections/constitutional-debates/bill-of-rights.

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Parliamentary Procedure Guide

Parliamentary Procedure

Parliamentary procedure, or "Parli Pro," is a set of rules that keeps order in Model UN committees. While Parli Pro may seem daunting at first, everything becomes much clearer once you are actually in committee. Remember, you can always ask your chair for help!

All of the below rules are derived from modified versions of *Robert's Rules of Order* and other Model United Nations Parliamentary Procedures.

Committee

Functions of the Committee Chairperson
A chairperson shall open and close each session, moderate debate, enforce the rules, recognize speakers, put questions to a vote, and announce rulings. All of these actions are subject to the chair's discretion with the best interests of the committee in mind.

Roll Call
Roll call is the first order of business for any session. It is crucial because a quorum (one-half of the members plus one) is required for a committee to take action on an issue. If a delegation is present, it shall answer either "present" or "present and voting" when the name of its country is called.
- Answering "present" simply means that the delegation is attending the committee session, will vote on all procedural matters, and can vote "yes," "no," or "abstain" on resolutions.
- However, a delegate who answers "present and voting" is obligated to vote on all procedural issues and to either vote "yes" or "no" on all resolutions (no abstentions allowed).
- If a delegate arrives after the opening roll call, they must send a note to the dais informing them of their presence and voting status.

Voting Rights
In General Assemblies, each member state shall have only one vote. Abstentions on a matter may only take place when voting on a resolution or an amendment. All delegations must vote on procedural matters.

Debate

Setting the Agenda
To begin debate on setting a topic, a temporary speakers' list will be created by a delegate's motion. In the event of a delegate making a motion to set the topic, one speaker in favor and one against will address the committee for 30 seconds each. A simple majority sets the topic, and if the motion fails, the speakers' list continues until a topic is selected.

Speakers' List
After a topic is selected, a speakers' list will be created with a set speaking time by a delegate motion. Speakers may comment on the topic, as well as any resolution or amendment pertaining to the topic.

Once a speakers' list is exhausted of all names, debate on the topic will cease, and the committee will move into voting procedures.

Closing and Re-Opening the Speakers' List
A delegate may make a motion at any time either to close or to re-open the speakers' list. When it is closed, debate continues, but no more nations can be added to the list. The list can be reopened at a later time. To do either action, a simple majority vote is required.

Time Limit
A strict time limit shall be placed on all speakers in order to promote the flow of debate. To change the speaking time, a motion may be made on the floor. One speaker for and one against are required, as well as a simple majority vote.

Yielding
A speaker who is discussing a substantive issue may yield their time to the following: points of information from the body, the Chair, or another delegation, who cannot yield that time to another delegation in the room. A yield must be specified by the speaker, and if time is yielded to the Chair, no comments are allowed. Sitting down without yielding is considered a yield to the chair.

Right of Reply
If a delegate feels a remark made was unjustly injurious to them or their delegation, a right of reply may be granted at the Chair's discretion. In order to request this, the delegate must immediately raise their placard explaining how they were insulted. The Chair's ruling may not be appealed.

Points and Motions

Points in Committee
- **Point of Order:** This is made when a member wishes to draw attention to a possible procedural error by the Chair. The point of order and the Chair's ruling must be immediate.
- **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** This is made when a question exists regarding these rules and is used for clarification.
- **Point of Information:** This is a question to a speaker made when the speaker yields to points of information. Once recognized by the Chair, a delegate may ask a concise question; only the answer shall count against the speaker's time limit. If any clarification of the question is needed, it will be made by the Chair, who will ask the questioner.
- **Point of Personal Privilege:** This point may be made if at any time a delegate experiences a personal discomfort that impairs their ability to participate in the proceedings. The Chair will attempt to relieve the cause of discomfort if possible. This is the only point that may interrupt a speaker.

Motions
- **Motion to Open Debate:** If a member wishes to open debate, this motion may be made.
- **Motion to Postpone Debate:** If it becomes necessary to postpone debate on a topic, this motion should be made. To re-open debate, rules regarding the speakers' list will be followed, and the old speakers' list will be used.

- **Motion to Suspend Debate:** This motion can be made at any time at the Chair's unappealing discretion. It is also used to pause debate at the end of committee sessions. It requires a simple majority to pass.
- **Motion to Close Debate:** If a member wishes to close debate and move into voting procedure, this motion may be made. A two-thirds majority is required.
- **Motion for a Moderated Caucus:** The committee may digress from the speakers' list with the Chair moderating. The delegate raising the motion must recommend a total time for the caucus as well as a speaker's time and the subject of debate.
- **Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus:** During debate, this motion may be made at any time. The time limit is set at the discretion of the Chair and will not exceed 30 minutes. The motion will be put to an immediate vote and will require a simple majority to pass. No rules of formal debate will exist at this time, and delegates are free to discuss committee matters with others.
- **Motion for a Round Robin:** Once debate has been opened, some Specialized Agencies and Crisis Simulations start a round robin, which gives every member of the committee time to speak for a time period between 30–90 seconds.

Resolutions and Amendments

Resolutions

All business at the conference is passed in resolution form, which is introduced by one or more members of the committee who wish to sponsor it. For it to be introduced and considered, one-fifth of the members present must place their country's signatures on the resolution. These signatories do not necessarily have to support the resolution, but they do wish to see it considered. More than one resolution may be signed by a delegation. A resolution is called a "working paper" until it has gone through the above steps and has been formally read to the committee. After the paper has been introduced, it is henceforth referred to as a "draft resolution." At the discretion of the Chair, a moderated caucus may be given to the sponsors in order to discuss the resolution and answer questions.

Amendments

An amendment changes a working paper, draft resolution, or resolution by adding, striking out, or substituting a word or phrase in an operative clause.
- A friendly amendment is one agreed on by all sponsors and must be submitted to the Chair with the signatures of all sponsors. After being reviewed by the Chair, the amendment becomes part of the original document.
- An unfriendly amendment is one that is not supported by all of the sponsors. Therefore, it requires the signatures of one-fifth of the members present to be considered. Unfriendly amendments are voted on before the draft resolution to which they correspond and in the order in which they were submitted. An unfriendly amendment requires a two-thirds vote to pass.

Withdrawal of Resolution or Amendment

If all sponsors agree on the withdrawal of an amendment or draft resolution, it will be formally removed from debate and all discussion on the former resolution will immediately cease.

<u>**Voting**</u>

Voting on Procedure
Members present must vote on all procedural matters, meaning no abstentions.

Voting on Resolutions
Resolutions require a simple majority to pass. A member who answers "present and voting" during roll call may not abstain.

Conduct
When voting begins, the chamber will be sealed and silent, and no entry or exit is permitted. All points or motions not pertaining to the vote are out of order.

Resolution Reordering
If multiple draft resolutions exist, they are considered in order of submission. However, a motion for reordering may be made before voting. When it is made, the new order of voting must be stipulated by the member who requests the adjustment. There shall be one speaker for this motion and one against it, and it requires a simple majority to pass.

Dividing the Question
Immediately after debate is closed and before unfriendly amendments are considered, a motion for division may be made. This means that a member wants two or more parts of a draft resolution to be considered separately; these parts shall be specified by the speaker. Two speakers both for and against are required. Once the speakers are finished, a vote on the division shall be made. The motion requires a simple majority to pass. Should it pass, the sections that were divided shall be voted on separately. If there is more than one motion for division, the Chair shall decide their order of consideration.

Parliamentary Procedure for Crisis Simulations

See the standard Parliamentary Procedure guide for general rules.

Crisis Simulations function in a moderated caucus as the default (no vote required) for the purpose of moving debate along quickly. Chairs determine the speakers and speaking time and will not ask for points and motions between speakers. Therefore, delegates must make a point or motion before the Chair calls on the next speaker by raising their placards.

After the Crisis Simulation sets the agenda for the first topic, delegates continuously move between both topics, in accordance with crises. Thus, there is no need to close or postpone debate.

Since resolutions are not used in most Crisis Simulations, the Chair will allow unmoderated caucuses only if absolutely necessary.

Memoranda

A memorandum is a message that is used to communicate with an individual or groups of individuals in a Crisis Simulation and exists in several different forms. Each memorandum should follow the example provided. Although there are no specific clauses for memoranda, the wording of the writing should be diplomatic since other countries' leaders will be reading communiqués and press releases.

Communiqués, directives, and press releases are introduced by the writer after submitting the memorandum to the chair. The chair will ask the writer to give a brief introduction to the memorandum before reading the memorandum to the committee. All memoranda requiring approval by the entire committee can be passed by a simple majority vote.

Information requests are directly sent to the Chair who will forward the message to the appropriate department.

Memorandum	Comments
Communiqués	Sent out to correspond with cabinets of other countries (Example: *see below)*
Press Releases	Can be used to send condolences to the public after failed missions or inform the public of any news Example: *The Pakistani Government would like to offer its condolences to the families impacted by the attack last night in Karachi and inform the public of the undergoing investigation on suspect groups behind the attacks.*

Directives	Used to instruct any groups under the jurisdiction of the agency
	Example: *Move the troops to the border of Pakistan and be ready for any action in case of emergency.*
Information Requests	Sent to respective departments under the jurisdiction of the agency ("home government") for information on current crises or debate topics
	Example: *Has the CIA gathered any new information regarding the mobilization of troops on the Pakistani border?*

Sample Memorandum

Example of a communiqué from Chechnya to the Russian Cabinet:

To: Russian Cabinet
From: Chechnya

Chechnya would like to remind the Russian Cabinet of the demands sent regarding the negotiations. If the demands are not met within an hour, Chechnya will declare its independence from Russia and establish itself as an independent nation.

Resolution Writing Guide

<u>Resolution Introductory Phrases</u>

Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming	Emphasizing	Having examined
Alarmed by	Expecting	Having heard
Approving	Expressing its appreciation for	Having received
Aware of	Expressing its satisfaction of	Having studied
Believing	Fulfilling	Keeping in mind
Bearing in mind	Fully aware of	Noting further
Cognizant of	Fully alarmed by	Noting with regret
Confident	Fully believing	Noting with satisfaction
Declaring	Further deploring	Noting with deep concern
Deeply concerned about	Further recalling	Noting further that
Deeply conscious about	Guided by	Noting with approval
Deeply convinced by	Having adopted	Observing
Deeply disturbed by	Having considered	Realizing
Deeply regretting	Having considered further	
Desiring	Having devoted attention to	

Operative Clauses

Accepts	Emphasizes	Proclaims
Affirms	Encourages	Reaffirms
Approves	Endorses	Recommends
Authorizes	Expresses its appreciation for	Reminds
Calls for	Expresses its hope for	Regrets
Calls upon	Further invites	Resolves
Congratulates	Further proclaims	Solemnly affirms
Confirms	Further reminds	Supports
Considers	Further recommends	Takes note of
Declares accordingly	Further requires	Trusts
Deplores	Further resolves	Urges
Draws attention to	Has resolved	
Designates	Notes	

Disarmament and International Security Committee
Sponsors: Afghanistan, Bolivia, China, Guinea-Bissau, Malaysia, Philippines
Signatories: Yugoslavia, Canada, USA, Luxembourg, Peru, South Africa, Zambia, UK, Germany, Italy, Finland, Mexico
Topic: Disarmament

RESOLUTION 1.2: DISARMAMENT AND TRANSPARENCY

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the need for international compliance and trust while moving toward the eventual goal of disarmament,

Recalling the original goal of the UN to promote a healthy global environment through cooperation,

Believing that participation in the Conventional Arms Register, although voluntary, would benefit the global community,

Noting with concern the lack of a diverse population in the current Conventional Arms Register,

1. <u>Defines</u> conventional arms transfer as a movement of conventional arms from Nation "A" to Nation "B" by sale, trade, or barter;

2. <u>Further defines</u> transparency as the act of making known to the global community clear, concise, and easily understandable information concerning arms;

3. <u>Designates</u> a participatory nation as one that yearly submits to a register by April 30th, declaring what conventional arms it may have traded;

4. <u>Calls</u> for the establishment of incentives for participatory nations in the form of non-military technology; and

5. <u>Refers</u> the designation of incentives to:

    a. Regional bodies,

    b. The Committee on Sustainable Development, and

    c. The Committee on Science and Technology.

Directive Writing Guide

There are two types of directives: public/committee directives and private/personal directives. Public/committee directives are used to take action in committee. They are designed for a faster response to an issue, as opposed to resolutions, which are generally longer and take much more time to write. Private directives are an individual approach to solving issues in committee.

Public Directives

Your goal in a public directive is to *positively* impact the committee by presenting a new idea that addresses the issues at hand. This takes form in **specific** and **measurable** actions and what you expect the result of these actions to be. Sponsors and signatories are required for all public directives, and the number of each is determined at the start of each committee session. Make sure each directive has its own focus and that you are not trying to accomplish all issues with one directive.

Sample Public Directive

Operation Shut Down Tasmania

Sponsors: Minister Hart, Princess Ghan Secretary Gant

Signatories: General Than, Lt. Woomer, Madam Meligone, Secretary Hashni, Cap. Vanty, Sgt. Peppere, Dr. Tam, VP Mebre

1. Relocate 1,000 troops and 27 ships to the Bass Strait cutting off the trade routes with Tasmania.

2. Set up camps across the island to house internally displaced persons from the resulting conflict and route all sanitation, medicine, and food aid provision through our offices.

3. Reach out to the British State Department requesting supplies and medical professionals to combat the Tasmanian Rebels before it becomes a major international health crisis and destabilizes the region.

4. Cooperate with the Australian Government to secure a Hospital in Melbourne to provide emergency care for wounded soldiers and displaced persons of the conflict.

Private Directives

Private directives, also referred to as crisis notes, are the medium in which an individual takes actions that impact committee through their portfolio powers. Portfolio powers are certain powers an individual has that allow them to control certain aspects of committee, such as the Secretary of the Navy having full reign of a nation's military or a Professor of Medicine being able to commission a research team to investigate a new virus.

A crisis note should be addressed to someone—a subordinate, a secretary, a friend, etc.—and you are asking the recipient to carry out your ideas. This note, like a public directive, will have specific and measurable actions that you wish to undertake and what you expect from those actions. Make sure you are **explicit** in your wishes. If your writing is vague, then the Crisis Backroom will interpret it in its own way, which may not align with your visions.

Sample Private Directive

Commission of Research

Dear Dr. Richard Greene,

      In light of the recent development of the new virus in Tasmania, I immediately commission a team of 17 researchers from the University of Cambridge to investigate this virus and research possible treatments. The goal of this team is to find a preventive measure that can be administered to all inhabitants and soldiers. This will be funded by the British Army's Medical Offices. Make sure that this is kept top secret and provide personal security to all members of the research team.

Kindly,

Hart Edwards
Minister of the Sciences

Parliamentary Procedure (Shortened)

<u>**Procedural Motions (No Abtentations)**</u>

Motion	Vote to Pass	Comments
Setting the Agenda	Majority	
Postpone Debate	Majority	
Suspend Debate	2/3	
Close Debate	Majority	
Moderated Caucus	Majority	Subject to Chair's approval
Unmoderated Caucus	Majority	Subject to Chair's approval
Recess	Majority	
Closing Speakers' List	Majority	
Time Limit on Speech	Majority	
Division of Resolution	Majority	
Roll Call Vote		Subject to Chair's approval

Points

Point	Comments
Order	Calls attention to a possible procedural error
Parliamentary Inquiry	An inquiry to the Chair regarding the rules
Information	A question for a speaker
Personal Privilege	Personal discomfort

Resolutions and Amendments (Abstentions Allowed)

Rule	Comments
Resolution	Require signatures from 1/5 of the body
Friendly Amendment	Automatically included with signatures from all sponsors
Unfriendly Amendment	Requires signatures from 1/5 of the body and a 2/3 vote to pass

Comments and Yields

Rule	Comments
Chair	No comments/questions allowed
Points of Information	Yields to questions from the other delegates
Another Delegate	The other delegate may not re-yield the time

Background Guides

Letter from the Undersecretary-General for External Communications

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-General for External Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
Director of General Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates, Sponsors, and Guests,

The 18 background guides for GSMUN XXVI are found on their respective committee pages on the GSMUN website.

The Maggie L Walker Governor's School Model UN Club has been working tirelessly since the summer to develop and extensively research unique and stimulating committee topics in preparation for the conference. Each paper has undergone multiple rounds of editing by chairs and secretariat members to become the final versions seen on the website.

The GSMUN XXVI staffs' dedication to this conference has formed a strong foundation for delegates to engage in exciting and profound debate. I would like to thank the chairs, secretariat, our club sponsor Mr. Rogers, and our club coach Mr. D'Urbino for making this conference possible. These background guides would not be nearly as complete without their substantive and grammatical recommendations, endless patience, and persistent support.

The background guides are meant to be a starting point for position papers and committee debate. They provide an introduction, analyses, and proposed solutions to the topics that will be debated in committee. The "Questions to Consider" portion guides delegates in brainstorming potential solutions, and the "Further Research" section provides links to websites that the chairs found informative in illuminating each topic. We strongly encourage delegates to seek information beyond our background guides for a more comprehensive view of each issue from the perspective of their position. I also encourage all sponsors to inform their delegates of all the resources available to them in the background guides.

Once again, thank you so much for your support in making this conference possible.

Sincerely,

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-General for External Communications
GSMUN XXVI

United We Stand

General Assembly

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Rewa Totey and Anish Aruru
Co-Chairs

Disarmament and International Security Committee

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-General for External Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-General for Logistics

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Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's DISEC Committee! As delegates within the DISEC Committee, you discuss the issues which affect the international security of citizens. Specifically, the focus in this committee will be on European Immigration along with Cybersecurity and Warfare. These two topics' connections are extremely relevant to today's world, so it's your job to combat these issues with innovative solutions. Your chairs are so excited to witness all the discussions and debate in this conference!

Rewa Totey, a sophomore at Maggie Walker, is so honored to be chairing the DISEC Committee this year! Involved as a crisis staffer last year, Rewa's participation in the club and conference extends to her freshman year. At school, Rewa is on the JV Volleyball team, Treasurer of the Bring Change 2 Mind Club, and Assistant Head of Costuming for the Drama Department. Additionally, she loves to be a part of the Bhangra Club's performances! In her free time, Rewa loves playing the piano, baking, listening to music, or volunteering for Jacob's Chance. She cannot wait to meet all the delegates and looks forward to a wonderful and productive committee!

Anish Aruru, a sophomore, is delighted to be a co-chair in the esteemed GSMUN. This is his third year participating in Model UN, with being a crisis staffer last year. Outside of Model UN, Anish participates in the school's sprint team and is in a plethora of clubs such as Robotics, the Badminton club, and Chess club. He loves to go biking and play sports with his friends in his free time. He also enjoys reading and cooking. He is extremely excited to chair such a fantastic and fun committee, and is hoping for a great GSMUN XXVI.

Delegates are expected to discuss the different aspects and solutions for the topics of European immigration as well as Cybersecurity. Delegates must highlight their own country's struggles as well as their needs in order to provide a full picture of their situation to the committee and the chairs. Since DISEC will be a double delegation committee, the chairs strongly encourage the writing of position papers which address the questions mentioned in the background guide itself. Additionally, please note that position papers should be written in size 12 with the Times New Roman font, and all writing must be double spaced. Moreover, Chicago Manual Style citations are required for all information included which is not your own. As a GSMUN delegate, you are required to follow the Maggie Walker Honor Code which mentions that plagiarism will not be tolerated, along with the use of AI mechanisms such as ChatGPT. All position papers should be emailed before 5 pm the day of the conference.

Finally, a huge part of the work here at GSMUN is to impact lives through charity. This year, GSMUN is supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a nonprofit devoted to furthering cancer research while providing support and education to patients. The donations will be collected through the sale of snacks, merch, and many more fun items through GSMUN's charity cart– so be sure to bring money! Please do not hesitate to contact your chairs for any questions or concerns. Your chairs are looking forward to some marvelous debate and cannot wait to meet you all! Best of luck and see you in March for the 26th iteration of GSMUN!!

Your Chairs,

Rewa Totey
gsmunxxvi.disec@gmail.com

Anish Aruru

DISEC Background Guide Draft
Committee Overview

Background

The first of the main committees created, the United Nations' Disarmament & International Security Committee (DISEC) discusses topics relating to the upholding of international peace. The committee was first established in 1978 by a special United Nations General Assembly session. DISEC focuses on addressing issues related to disarmament, global security, and international conflicts.[1]

DISEC is composed of two parts: the Conference of Disarmament (CD) and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC). DISEC is also an institution of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The UNODA, created in January 1998, followed the Secretary-General's second special session on disarmament in 1982. The UNODA focuses on disarmament at all levels such as nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons. Additionally, the commission assists DISEC through its work conducted in the General Assembly for a firm standard of support to further its disarmament efforts.[2]

Through resolutions and policy recommendations, DISEC has significantly influenced the UN's decision-making process, shaping international agreements and treaties aimed at reducing arms proliferation and enhancing global security measures. The committee's actions encourage cooperation among member states, serving as a place for dialogue and collaboration in addressing pressing security concerns. DISEC's impact extends beyond the UN, influencing global perceptions and strategies for maintaining peace, ultimately contributing to the advancement of a safer and more secure world.

Topic I: European Immigration
History of the Issue

The aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, the time period when the production of goods by machine instead of hand was introduced, led to an influx of migrants from within Europe to settle in Britain. Seeking economic opportunities and better wages, many European immigrants supported and advanced the urbanization of Britain. This transition lasted until the 1840s, after which Britain implemented a gradual reduction of restrictions on labor-based mobility.[1] Prior to the first World War, many Europeans freely traveled across nations, motivated by the possibility of better working prospects. However, during the war, many began to view crossing borders without security measures in place as dangerous. Following this concern, European nations introduced passports and visas.[2] Even with cross-border migration resuming after 1918, it occurred on an extremely small scale with numerous restrictions in place.[3] The Cold War also inspired a change in immigration policy, aligning with the economic needs of the region at the time. Specifically, the market and economic conditions controlled many migrants' entry into certain nations.[4]

These constant transformations led to an insecure structure regarding immigration policy in Europe during the 1900s. For instance, families were required to analyze logistics such as travel costs, employment struggles, psychological well-being, and separation from family members. As a result, the idea of the "Investment Theory" developed because wealthier families were more likely to immigrate as they gained more benefits. The specific benefits and sacrifices, especially during World War I, resulted in the formation of strong divisions between the upper, middle, and lower classes within

Europe itself. Additionally, the World War resulted in many escaping from dangerous homelands and unsafe conditions. Over 400,000 Belgians escaped to Holland during the first couple of months in the war and another 200,000 migrated to France following the German invasion. France and the United Kingdom were among the main nations with a growing immigration rate, as many different refugees fled to them for protection. [5]

In the immediate aftermath of World War 1, numerous labor migrations occurred in France, Switzerland, Sweden, England, and Germany, including many individuals residing in Italy and Spain between the years of 1945 to 1955. The International Committee for European Migration (ICEM) was established during this era, aiming to provide assistance to displaced individuals during the war. After its primary purpose expired, the organization evolved into the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 1989, broadening its scope to address diverse migration challenges worldwide.[6] The IOM continues to play a significant role in organizing global campaigns focusing on immigrant rights, healthcare access, climate change, and many more.[7]

The formation of the European Union (EU) in 1993 brought about significant changes to immigration policy, in regards to managing migration across member states. Concerns arose regarding the influx and integration of immigrants into European societies, prompting the Union to impose limitations on the number of immigrants allowed within its borders. However, despite these efforts, issues pertaining to racism and xenophobia persisted, posing challenges to effective immigration control and integration strategies within the Union.[8] Furthermore, The Schengen Agreement, associated with the "Treaty of Amsterdam" due to the strengthening and incorporation of human rights in the Schengen agreement itself, aimed to eliminate internal borders among participating European nations, allowing for unrestricted short-term travel within the region. While the agreements took a step towards regional unity and cooperation, nations such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, and Romania expressed concerns about potential security threats posed by an unregulated influx of immigrants.[9]

Specific historical scenarios illustrate the complex nature of post-war immigration. For instance, Irish and Italian immigration during earlier periods stemmed from religious conflicts, economic hardships, and crises like the Potato Famine.[10] Similarly, Jewish immigration, particularly towards Central and Eastern Europe, was fueled by persecution threats and significantly impacted the geopolitical relations during World War II, affecting global efforts during the period.[11]

Current Status of the Issue

Europe is currently experiencing various socio-political concerns. A primary focus is the ongoing struggle for cultural integration within the region, particularly in light of significant Muslim immigration. The influx of individuals seeking work opportunities has created a cultural dissonance due to the predominant Christian heritage of many European nations. The Charlie Hebedo shooting, a terrorist attack by two Muslim men on January 7th, 2015 in France, was in response to a newspaper's publications of cartoons depicting the Muslim Prophet Muhammad. This attack left 12 people dead and many more injured.[12] Instances of religious violence, such as the Charlie Hebdo attack and similar incidents across European countries, have increased tensions, emphasizing the urgent need for cohesive cultural integration strategies.[13]

Simultaneously, the complex landscape of refugee and asylum policies remains a critical issue. While the 1951 Geneva Convention defines the fundamental right to seek asylum, the establishment of the Common European Asylum System and frameworks like the Dublin Regulation attempt to streamline asylum processes.[14] However, increased border control measures reveal disparities in treatment, notably evident

in the Russo-Ukrainian War. The conflict has triggered the displacement of approximately 8 million individuals, spotlighting differential treatment towards Ukrainian refugees compared to those from non-European nations. Though previously known for their strict asylum policies and view of immigrants, following the Russo-Ukrainian crisis, several European governments and individuals opened their borders and homes. The immediate European response to the Ukrainian immigrant crisis highlighted the double standards regarding Europe's prioritization of humanitarian action.[15]

The influx of Middle Eastern and African immigrants further compounds Europe's challenges. The Syrian Civil War and the subsequent 2011 Refugee Crisis led to several negotiations and discussions between the European Union and neighboring countries like Turkey. The negotiations revolved around the management of the new wave of immigrants now entering those countries.[16] Through this process, many individuals fall victim to human trafficking or endure inhumane conditions while making the journey to Europe.[17] Moreover, the public discourse on immigration policies often targets Muslim-majority countries, contributing to a polarizing narrative surrounding immigration issues. Moreover, the recent Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has triggered extensive European-sponsored evacuation efforts. Over 150,000 Afghan refugees have sought escape from Taliban rule, making the implementation of specialized resettlement programs for Afghan refugees extremely necessary.[18]

The fallout from Brexit caused substantial challenges in Europe. The enforcement of border actions, cessation of "Free Movement," and the emergence of cultural divisions between the UK and the EU have prompted stringent visa and work permit requirements, leading to complications in settlement for EU nationals in the UK.

Analysis and Solutions

The European continent continues to grapple with many challenges surrounding migration, prompting a reevaluation of policies and strategies. The issue of asylum and refugee policies remains prominent, emphasizing the dire need for providing adequate protection to refugees while also strictly adhering to international refugee laws and human rights standards. The urgency to create frameworks to address this humanitarian crisis is evident, with an emphasis on both offering sanctuary to those fleeing persecution and ensuring compliance with global legal statutes.[19] However, labor migration programs are under scrutiny, making it necessary to establish legal pathways for economic opportunities. It is necessary to create systems that benefit both host nations and migrants, recognizing the contribution of migrants to the economy while safeguarding their rights and well-being. Striking this balance is crucial for sustainable and mutually beneficial migration.[20]

In the pursuit of integration and inclusion, Europe's cultural and social agendas place an emphasis on fostering inclusive societies and addressing the impact of diversity.[21] The challenge lies in nurturing environments that celebrate diversity while navigating the potential tensions arising from it. Strategies must focus on harnessing the advantages of diversity while proactively managing its complexities.

Border management and security occupy a prominent position in the discourse, urging for the enhancement of security measures to combat irregular migration. The call for humane border control methods aims to secure borders without compromising human rights or resorting to inhumane practices. Similarly, regional agreements emerge as a potential avenue for managing migration flows effectively. Forming cohesive regional initiatives highlights the significance of cooperation between European nations in addressing migration challenges collectively. These agreements serve as a testament to the

acknowledgment of shared responsibilities and the recognition of the connections regarding migration issues in Europe.

Simultaneously, developmental aid stands as a critical strategy in addressing the root causes of migration. By improving conditions in countries from which a significant number of asylum seekers originate, the high amount of forced migration may be reduced. Providing aid to underdeveloped nations is pivotal in creating environments where individuals are less compelled to seek refuge elsewhere due to dire circumstances.

Questions to Consider:
1. How can international policies be restructured to accommodate modern migration patterns and global humanitarian crises more effectively? What adjustments should be made to existing frameworks to address the challenges faced by migrants and refugees worldwide?
2. Should European countries have to share the responsibilities regarding migration issues? Should more nations be involved in ensuring a proper and connected address of immigration issues?
3. How can labor migration programs be reevaluated to ensure fair and equitable treatment of migrant workers while meeting the economic needs of host nations? What measures should be taken to safeguard the rights and well-being of migrant laborers without compromising the economic contributions they make?
4. Considering recent geopolitical events such as the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and the Russo-Ukrainian War, how can Europe and surrounding nations effectively manage crisis-driven migration? What measures should be taken to assist with the safe resettlement and

integration of displaced populations from these regions?
5. With a focus on the future, how should countries address the root causes of the immigration crisis occurring in Europe, specifically focusing on the conditions of underdeveloped nations?
6. What strategies can be employed to promote inclusive societies in Europe while effectively managing the complexities arising from cultural diversity?

Further Research
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3. https://journalistsresource.org/politics-and-government/france-muslims-terrorism-integration-research-roundup/: A detailed article on the acts of terrorism and their connections with religious tensions. Places special focus on the nation of France and the struggling attempts to blend different religious beliefs within all of Europe.
4. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/migration-management-welcoming-refugees-ukraine_en: Statistics paired with explanations of Europe's management of an influx of

refugees from Ukraine. Focuses on connecting several organizations and countries to assist in the proper supervision of the issue.

Topic II: Cybersecurity & Warfare

In modern warfare, cybersecurity is essential for defense as it protects networks and data from harmful attacks. Defined as the practice of safeguarding computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from malicious attacks, cybersecurity plays a pivotal role in protecting nations from the ever-growing threat of cyber warfare.[22] The significance of warfare cybersecurity is evident; in just the first nine months of 2019, a staggering 7.9 billion records were exposed due to data breaches.[23] Such breaches not only compromise sensitive information but also have the potential to disrupt important infrastructures and national security. To address this escalating challenge, countries are increasingly investing in cybersecurity measures. According to predictions by Kaspersky, a cybersecurity company, global cybersecurity spending was expected to reach $188.3 billion in 2023 and is projected to surpass $260 billion by 2026.[24] As the world becomes more digitally interconnected, people must collaboratively address the complexities of cybersecurity and warfare to ensure the stability and security of nations in the face of cyber threats.

History of the Issue

The history of cybersecurity in warfare is marked by a series of significant milestones and challenges, which have shaped today's defenses against digital threats. In the late 1960s, the US Department of Defense created the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET), one of the first computer networks, which is a collection of interconnected devices.[25] This was the stepping stone to establish the modern-day internet. However, as systems became more interconnected, they also became vulnerable to hacking and cyber espionage. Hacking

incidents have occurred even before personal computers were commonplace. The late 1990s saw a significant increase in hacking because there were no security measures, leading to the development of cyber warfare tactics such as vulnerability scanners, penetration testing, and red teams. The 1990s laid the groundwork for the modern cybersecurity landscape.

Cyber espionage is the covert and unauthorized practice of infiltrating computer systems and networks to gather sensitive information.[26] This practice is typically conducted by governments, intelligence agencies, or cybercriminal organizations. These attacks usually have a covert nature and can occur without the knowledge of the target. Organizations and governments employ various cybersecurity measures to detect and prevent cyber espionage including robust firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and encryption.

Warfare cyber attacks can have serious consequences. The 2018 elections in Russia, for instance, demonstrated how cyber attacks could be employed to influence political processes in foreign nations. Additionally, the Stuxnet attack, a sophisticated computer worm, made headlines for targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, causing significant disruptions to their operations. The NotPetya was a highly destructive and widespread cyberattack that occurred in June 2017 which was a destructive wiper malware disguised as ransomware.[27] This attack also stood out as a notable example of how cyber attacks could inflict widespread economic damage and have a global impact on numerous companies and critical infrastructure of some governments. As technology continues to evolve, so do the threats in the digital realm. Understanding the history and developments of cybersecurity in warfare is essential to solving the problem at hand.

Current Status of the Issue

Cyber warfare involves a wide range of players, including countries and non-state groups, each using their digital skills to pursue

their goals. For example, Russia is notorious for its involvement in state-sponsored cyber attacks, employing its cyber capabilities to pursue various objectives, including political influence, economic espionage, and military advantage. The United States also possesses significant cyber warfare capabilities and has been known to utilize them strategically to gain intelligence on foreign countries. These efforts often involve cyber espionage activities aimed at collecting critical information on potential adversaries and enhancing national security.

The motivations behind state-sponsored cyber attacks are multifaceted and complex. Typically the countries want to acquire valuable information from rival states or competitors. Cyber warfare for these countries serves as a means to achieve political and strategic objectives by exerting influence over foreign governments. Moreover, cyber warfare provides a means for achieving military advantage by targeting critical infrastructure and defense systems of adversaries.

In addition to state actors, non-state entities have also become big participants in cyber warfare. Hacktivist groups, like Anonymous, LulzSec, Syrian Electronic Army, and Telecomix have demonstrated their impact by launching cyber campaigns for various causes, often motivated by ideological or social objectives.[28] These groups utilize their skills to disrupt online services, deface websites, and raise awareness about their causes. Additionally, ransomware groups have gained notoriety for their extortion tactics by encrypting data and demanding hefty ransoms from targeted entities. Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actors engage in sophisticated and prolonged cyber intrusions, primarily for espionage purposes, targeting governments and corporations worldwide.[29] Furthermore, carding and financial fraud networks specialize in stealing financial information and exploiting vulnerabilities in payment systems for illicit gains.

In the world of cybersecurity and warfare, countries are taking various measures to protect themselves and assert their positions. On the defensive side, they use tools like Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS) and create laws that regulate against cybercrime.[30] National Cybersecurity Strategies are also developed to safeguard infrastructure and citizens from cyber threats. Encryption and network security protocols play a crucial role in keeping sensitive information safe from outsiders.

Although defense is very important, countries such as the United States and Russia are also investing in offensive cybersecurity capabilities. Offensive cyber operations let them target and disrupt enemy digital infrastructure, gather intelligence, and influence their decisions. Countries are even developing cyber weapons designed to exploit vulnerabilities in enemy systems and gain military advantages.

Analysis and Solutions

The intersection of cybersecurity and warfare brings significant challenges and implications, demanding careful consideration from the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). One pressing issue is attribution and accountability, as it is difficult to identify the true culprits behind cyber attacks, leading to tensions and mistrust among nations. The role of international law in governing cyber warfare is complex, and ongoing discussions and revisions are necessary to ensure accountability in the digital realm.

Another critical concern is the potential consequences of cyber attacks. When critical infrastructure is targeted, it can cause severe damage, disrupt essential services, and lead to humanitarian crises, endangering civilian lives and well-being. Addressing these challenges requires international cooperation, and comprehensive legal frameworks. By recognizing the impact of cyber attacks and enhancing defensive capabilities, nations can work together for a

safer digital landscape in the context of warfare.

In the face of growing cyber threats in warfare, international cooperation is crucial. Initiatives like the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime have fostered global cybersecurity cooperation and have improved defenses against cybercrime.[31] However, challenges such as differing national interests and attribution issues can hinder progress because every country has their own selfish desires.

The future of cybersecurity and warfare will be transformed by advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing. Quantum Computing is a technology that uses quantum mechanics to solve complex computer problems.[32] AI will play a key role in improving cybersecurity defenses through its ability to quickly detect and respond to cyber threats. However, the use of AI in warfare also raises concerns about accidental escalation and possible vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious people. Quantum Computing, on the other hand, has the potential to enhance encryption and make conventional methods vulnerable. This presents both challenges and opportunities for cybersecurity.

Questions to Consider

1. Should cyber attacks be considered acts of war, and how should they be addressed under international law?
2. What role should the United Nations play in regulating and preventing cyber warfare activities?
3. How can countries balance the need for offensive cyber capabilities for self-defense with the risks of escalation and unintended consequences?
4. Should there be global regulations and standards for the development and deployment of autonomous weapons systems in warfare?
5. How can states effectively attribute cyber attacks to specific actors or nations, and what are the implications for response and accountability?
6. How might the advent of quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence impact current standards and protection methods for cyber attacks?

Further Research

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Endnotes

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General Assembly

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)

Aryan Kanduri and Sriram Panchagnula
Co-Chairs

Special Political and Decolonization Committee

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

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Secretary-General

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Shorya Malani
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Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's 2024 SPECPOL General Assembly Committee. Your chairs, Aryan Kanduri and Sriram Panchagnula, are excited to meet and work with all of you. As delegates in this committee, you are expected to represent your specific countries in the two committee topics presented to you. At the end of the conference, you are to have created resolutions for these issues that would be supported by your fellow delegates. The first topic talks about the dispute of Antarctica and how we can work together to end the dispute and use the continent in a positive way. The second topic talks about the Rohingya refugee crisis and what the international community should do about this. It is up to the delegates to think creatively to present creative solutions to these controversial topics.

Aryan Kanduri, a sophomore at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to be one of your co-chairs for SPECPOL. This is his second year at Maggie Walker, having attended conferences like HIMUNC and ODUMUNC. Outside of MUN, he loves to play chess, play the piano and clarinet, run on the school track team, and travel. He also loves to volunteer at the Healthy Kids Running Series and the Children's Museum. Aryan is forward to meeting and working with all of the delegates, and making this the most thrilling committee!

Sriram is a sophomore at Maggie Walker and is excited to chair for GSMUN XXVI this year! He has been part of MUN for two years but had some prior experiences before then. Previously, Sriram has been part of several conferences, namely William and Mary, and has previously served as a crisis staffer at GSMUN XXV, enjoying his time stirring up and participating in intense debates. He also participates in Robotics and has experience with TSA, math and writing competitions, and basketball. Away from school, you can find Sriram relaxing at home watching movies, reading books, and playing outside. He is excited to be part of such an amazing group and can't wait to see all the wonderful debates next March!

As delegates of this committee, you are expected to be prepared to debate the two topics for this committee and to represent your specific country to find resolutions to these topics. You should use the background guide to start your research, but do not rely on the background guide as your only source of research. Use different sources, and research from the perspective of your country. All delegates will be expected to complete a position paper, simply stating their position on the topics. The paper is to be in Chicago Manual Style (CMS), and is to be in your own words. Plagiarism and unauthorized use of AI will not be tolerated at Maggie Walker and are subject to respective consequences.

An important aspect about our conferences is our determination to make a difference through charity! Make sure to bring money as there will be baked goods, merchandise, and many other exciting things on sale during the conference. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know at gsmunxxvi.specpol@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting and working with everyone at the committee! Best of luck to all of you!

Make sure to turn in your position papers by 5 PM on committee day!

Your Chairs,

Aryan Kanduri
gsmunxxvi.specpol@gmail.com

Sriram Panchagnula

Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL)
Committee Overview

Background

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. It plays a crucial role in addressing a diverse range of global issues related to politics, decolonization, and international security. SPECPOL is responsible for investigating topics that are often contentious and require diplomatic finesse to find mutually agreeable solutions. It serves as a platform for member states to discuss and collaborate on issues such as decolonization, self-determination, human rights, and political stability.[1]

Established in 1993, it was originally created as the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, primarily focusing on decolonization efforts in the aftermath of World War II. Over time, its mandate expanded to encompass a broader spectrum of political and security-related topics. Today, SPECPOL continues to evolve in response to the changing global landscape and the emergence of new political challenges. Its mission remains rooted in promoting international cooperation, peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the advancement of self-determination for colonized peoples.

SPECPOL functions as a vital component of the United Nations, facilitating diplomatic dialogue and negotiation on complex political issues. It is the forum where member states come together to discuss pressing matters that affect global peace and stability. With a rich history and a commitment to addressing diverse topics, SPECPOL remains an essential platform for fostering international cooperation and working towards a more just and equitable world.

Topic I: The Rohingya Crisis
History of the Issue

The Rohingya crisis has unfolded as a tragic tale of violence and discrimination against an ethnic Muslim minority practicing a unique variation of Sunni Islam in Myanmar. The ongoing conflict had led to an unprecedented humanitarian disaster, forcing the Rohingya people to flee their homeland due to extreme violence and denial of basic rights. Despite the Rohingya people's historical presence in the region, the predominantly Buddhist Myanmar government has denied them citizenship and basic rights, labeling them as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.[2] The roots of the crisis can be traced back to Myanmar's discriminatory citizenship laws dating as far back as 1948. Subsequent policies, including a 1982 law that stripped the Rohingya people of their citizenship, exacerbated their vulnerability and marginalization.[3] Specifically, a military junta in 1962 took power and introduced a new law in 1982 that denied the Rohingya people the right to apply for citizenship. There was a follow up several decades later in 2014, where the Rohingya people had to identify as Bengali in their UN-backed national census. This is mostly a result of threats from Buddhists in Myanmar to boycott the census, but is also due to the government calling the Rohingya people "illegal Bengali migrants."[4]

Such exclusionary government-supported policies deliberately keep certain groups of people from accessing rights, citizenship, or opportunity, and have led to a cycle of persecution, culminating in the violent crackdown of 2017. This has caused approximately 3.5 million Rohingya people to be scattered across the world,

whereas prior to August 2017, the majority, around one million, of the Rohingya population in Myanmar were concentrated in the Rakhine State, making up nearly one-third of the region's total population. Almost 700,000 people—half of which are children—were forced to flee and take refuge in Bangladesh as a result of extreme violence and discrimination, including crimes like reported extrajudicial killings, rape, murder, and arson .[5]

Current Status of the Issue

The Rohingya crisis has not only caused the affected community immense suffering but has also disturbed and destabilized the regional tranquility in southern and southeastern Asia. The area suffers from an increased risk of terrorism as well as great amounts of social unrest. Regardless, many countries and nations are still having a difficult time in finding an adequate response to this pressing issue.[6] The overcrowding in refugee camps has resulted in poor living conditions, forcing many to struggle for survival. Overcrowded makeshift shelters offer minimal protection from the elements, leaving families vulnerable to harsh weather extremes. For example, Cyclone Mocha, which hit Rakhine in May, wiped out several camps killing around 150 people.[7] Basic necessities such as clean water, sanitation facilities, and adequate nutrition are severely lacking, exacerbating their already dire circumstances.

Moreover, the healthcare system in these camps is severely deficient. There is an acute shortage of medical facilities, trained personnel, and essential medications. The Rohingya population faces tremendous challenges in accessing healthcare services, leading to untreated illnesses and preventable deaths. The absence of adequate healthcare infrastructure intensifies the already precarious situation these refugees endure daily.

Tragically, rampant diseases run rampant in these overcrowded and unsanitary conditions. Outbreaks of infectious illnesses like cholera, respiratory infections, and diarrheal diseases spread swiftly due to the lack of proper sanitation and healthcare infrastructure.[8] This vicious cycle of poverty, inadequate healthcare, and rampant diseases creates an ongoing crisis for the Rohingya population in these camps.

An overuse of firewood from forests used in cooking in camps, combined with a lack of proper ventilation in the refugee camps, have incited a major disturbance in wildlife contributing to the imbalance of biodiversity and frequent landslides. Furthermore, the crisis has had environmental repercussions, with 3,500 acres of forest land in Bangladesh being burned down due to the heavy concentration of the Rohingya.[9] Deadly monsoons have added to the woes, causing loss of life and injuries among the Rohingya people.[10] Water has been a pressing matter due to the extreme level of demand for water consumption, decreasing the water preservation capacity and affecting the availability of water for both the Rohingyas and local Myanmar residents. The issue of contamination has also arisen as wastes from latrines have mixed with the drinking water both in the camps and pond water, making surface water unusable.[11]

Analysis and Solutions

The international community's reaction to the Rohingya crisis has been mixed. Some nations have taken significant steps to helping the Rohingya people, such as Gambia filing a lawsuit accusing Myanmar of genocide.[12] Additionally, the International Islamic Cooperation (ICC) filed an investigation into Myanmar's past actions towards the Rohingya people while also urging Myanmar to take emergency measures to ensure the safety of the Rohingya.[13]

Other nations like the United States, China, Russia, and India have been less proactive, not giving assistance to the Rohingya people. Part of this is due to their complex relationships with their Muslim

populations, as each state perceives minority groups as potential threats to their national unity, consequently suppressing them. This leads to concerns about the internal treatment of Muslim populations within these countries.[14] China and Russia have even openly expressed that they do not want to increase pressure on Myanmar's government as they agree that Myanmar is only trying to restore national stability. Former United States President Barack Obama removed sanctions on Myanmar in 2016 until former United States President Donald Trump reinstituted them the following year.[15]

The United Nations (UN) sides with the Rohingya people and wants an arms embargo (official ban on the trade of weapons to a particular country or region) and other sanctions to be placed onto Myanmar after they gained knowledge that China, India, and Russia are some of its biggest arms suppliers. In 2018, the UN found enough evidence to declare the crisis a genocide, followed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ordering Myanmar to take all necessary measures to prevent genocidal acts against the Rohingya people.[16]

To address the Rohingya crisis and prevent future outbreaks of violence, a multi-faceted approach is essential. Firstly, the protection and safety of the Rohingya people should be prioritized. A potential way to take a first step in this process is to begin in recovery camps. Camp officials could engage the Rohingya community to improve protection measures including the use of unarmed refugees in night patrols. Officials could also provide safe houses outside of the camps to human rights defenders. Global governments can also provide and facilitate access to higher education for Rohingya refugees through scholarships and online opportunities, expanding livelihood opportunities to the main camps and engaging regional governments toward temporary work opportunities for the Rohingya.[17]

Secondly, the international community could come together and potentially even force Myanmar to stop all anti-Rohingya operations. World leaders could launch investigation teams to document evidence of human rights abuses, holding those responsible accountable. Neighboring countries need to collaborate and pledge support to Myanmar for capturing Rohingya militants, fostering regional cooperation and discussion.

Another critical step toward lasting solutions could be amending the Constitution of Myanmar to recognize stateless people and grant them citizenship status, along with ensuring their religious, legal, social, and economic freedoms.

The Rohingya crisis demands urgent attention from the international community. By addressing the root causes, providing protection and support for refugees, and fostering regional cooperation, it is possible to pave the way for a brighter future for the Rohingya people. A collective effort is needed to ensure that atrocities against the Rohingya community come to an end, and that they are given the opportunity to rebuild their lives with dignity and security. Only then can we hope to prevent such humanitarian disasters in the future and foster a more compassionate and inclusive world.

Questions to Consider
1. How can efforts to document and preserve evidence of human rights abuses be supported, and how can those who were responsible for these abuses be held accountable?
2. What conditions are necessary for the safe repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, and what measures can be taken to ensure the protection and rights of returnees upon repatriation?
3. How can efforts be made to ensure the cultural and social reintegration of Rohingya individuals who return to Myanmar, and what strategies might help rebuild trust between communities?

4. How can future outbreaks of violence and persecution against the Rohingya community be prevented?
5. How can neighboring countries collaborate to address the Rohingya crisis collectively, and in what ways can these diplomatic efforts be enhanced to foster regional - maybe even global - cooperation and discussion on this issue?
6. How can responsible media coverage and information dissemination be used to raise awareness and mobilize support for the Rohingya crisis? How can misinformation and propaganda be countered effectively?

Further Research
1. https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/rohingya-crisis: This is a good holistic overview of the issue and a great first step for research.
2. https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/: This is a look into a more current status of the issue.
3. https://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh-facts: This is a step into looking at the poor living conditions of the Rohingya people, as well as how they have received some aid over the past few years.
4. https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2023/09/25/the-rohingya-crisis-challenges-to-achieving-a-sustainable-solution/: This article shows how attaining solutions may be more challenging as presumed, and offers a good look at the international response to the crisis.
5. https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/06/durable-solutions-rohingya-crisis-myanmar: This is a statement by the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights on potential solutions for the crisis.
6. https://jhumanitarianaction.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41018-02

1-00108-5: This article explores the use of media in the crisis and its overall influence. This is a good place to research the validity of several aspects of the crisis.

Topic II: Dispute and Crisis of Antarctica
History of the Issue

As of today, seven countries lay claim to the continent of Antarctica. These countries include Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom.[18] While the violence has settled a little, there was greater or more violence a century ago when countries would fight for a part of the continent. This led to the creation of the Antarctic Treaty, which states that disputes for the continent must be put aside. Instead, the continent should be used for peaceful purposes only with the promotion of scientific cooperation and research. Many countries lay claim on Antarctica because of its robust quantities of natural resources. It is home to 70% of Earth's freshwater, and it is likely to have oil on the outer parts of the continent.[19]

During the colonial period of Antarctica, nations claimed wedges of the continent. While many countries were taking land, there were countries like the United States, the USSR, and Australia that were exploring the continent without formally asserting land. In the United States of America, the discoverist Richard Byrd's expeditions were disavowed by the U.S. government in 1929. On the Western "Queen Maud Land," Nazi Germany was depositing metal swastikas in the area in 1939. The Queen Maud Land region was held by Norway. There were other countries, notably the United Kingdom and France, that claimed large chunks of land in the Antarctic region.[20]

Around the early-to-mid twentieth century, there were many conflicts between countries over territory on Antarctica. The United Kingdom, France, Germany, Argentina, Chile, and the United States of America were some of the most involved in maintaining and gaining land on Antarctica. Other countries, like the USSR, showed no interest in claiming land, however they were quick to say that they would not endorse any of the other countries' claims on the continent, unless they were to participate in the exploration of Antarctica.

An example of a large conflict between two nations is between Britain and Argentina. The British were worried about a "pro-German" Argentine government taking control of the important Drake Passage, connecting both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, so they decided to take retaliatory measures. The result of this conflict is an increased relationship between Argentina and Chile. Those countries resisted the British warships near their territory by adding more security to their respective claims.

The International Geophysical Year (IGY) was a time period to plan scientific exploration of the Arctic, and mainly, the Antarctic. The IGY was between the years of 1957 and 1958. This proposal was widely supported and would involve the scientific study of the entire Earth, including the Antarctic. Sixty-seven nations were interested in joining the program. This program was created around the time when the Soviets launched the first satellite into space. The members of the IGY made it clear that twelve nations were to conduct fifty explorations on the continent and explore the different means of the continent in a non-political manner. Even so, there were many territories that overlapped with other countries' claimed land, so this resulted in some countries exploring the continent to further their own interests. A renowned historian describes the situation as "Science may be seen as a continuation of politics by other means." As many countries explored the continent for their own political interests instead of science, it ended up becoming the catalyst which would lead to the creation of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959.[21]

Many non-political groups were created to continue scientific research on Antarctica. The most notable was the Special Committee on Antarctic Research, or SCAR. Because of political greed at this time, scientific research on Antarctica dramatically increased in the years following the creation of SCAR. Technological advances from SCAR

facilitated research on, like sonar and seismic waves in Antarctica.[22]

Many countries also came to realize that Antarctica houses resources like different minerals and petroleum. As a result, several environmental groups were concerned that extracting these resources would endanger the nature and wildlife on Antarctica. As a result, the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities, or CRAMRA, was created. This group manages the development of resources in Antarctica and ensures it does not endanger the continent or the wildlife. The reforms from the Convention on the Regulation of Antarctic Mineral Resource Activities were not covered when the Antarctic Treaty was signed. Eventually, the convention lost popularity and resulted in more agreements being created to overturn the CRAMRA protocol in 1990. This included banning mining activities and other resource activities on Antarctica, like nuclear testing, economic expeditions, and military actions.

The Madrid Protocol, also known as the Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty was created in 1991. The protocol is devoted to keeping Antarctica as a peaceful natural reserve, only for science and the welfare of natural life. The agreement also states that the building of infrastructure on the continent is regulated and subject to the Madrid Protocol. An example of what could be subject to the Madrid Protocol is that there is a rule that humans are not allowed on some areas of the continent and that dogs are not allowed on the continent.

Current Status of the Issue

While more agreements regarding the dispute of Antarctica are being signed, there are many countries who claim more territory and are at the verge of another conflict. Countries like China are building infrastructure on other countries' territories and destabilizing the binding agreements and documents. While countries like Russia and China continue to block protection for Antarctica, the continent continues to be a peaceful haven dedicated to scientific research and the preservation of the continent and its occupants. Economic greed like oil minings and extraction of other natural resources may be causes for future conflict amongst countries.

As of 2022, unfortunately, there still is no peace on the continent. Tensions are still on the rise, and unfortunately many analyses predict that there might be conflicts on the continent regarding which country owns what part of the continent, or the entire continent. This is detrimental to the wildlife and the natural resources on Antarctica as this continent is home to one of the largest wildlife groups and a lot of sea life. Any violence that impacts the continent could lead to extinction of the wildlife on the continent.

As the continent is starting to prove unstable for many wildlife groups, many countries still rely on old treaties and still try to put their own economic interests over the future of this deteriorating continent. As of 2023, the ice on the Antarctic continent set a new record low of 398,000 square miles since the continent was first being satellite-recorded in 1979. This is terrible news as Antarctica is a haven for scientific research and advancement. However, some countries in part of the Antarctic Treaty are unwilling to surrender their territorial claim on the continent to help protect the continent and the wildlife.

Analysis and Solutions

Antarctica should have been a peaceful continent, but human and country interference have damaged the continent significantly. However, not all hope is lost! Although there were many successful initiatives dedicated to the future of Antarctica, like the Antarctic treaty that was supported by many countries, there is still quite a lot of controversy regarding this document and its restrictions. One consideration is how to properly work together. If there were to be a creation of an

unbiased scientific group that is not 'ruled' or 'bought' by any country, many participating countries would agree it would lead to a new channel of discoveries for the scientific world and the general public based on prior advancements. As there are countries actively claiming parts of Antarctica, it could be beneficial if those countries surrender their respective claims and allow their territories to be watched by an unbiased group sponsored by all participating nations in the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol. To allow for further exploration on Antarctica, many notable figures introduced the idea to regulate the Antarctic Treaty and the Madrid Protocol to allow for further exploration deep into the continent. Whatever these countries do to try to end the great Antarctic dispute, it is extremely important that the world can let the natural reserves and wildlife be just as it is and make sure that no harm comes toward the wildlife.

As the continent continues to deteriorate in size and landmass, wildlife and all abundant natural resources present on the continent are also deteriorating as well as the continent. In the year of 2023, there are many solutions that might come up as a result of current developments. Some members of the Antarctic Treaty might choose to combat climate change in Antarctica, while some other nations might decide to place economic growth and prosperity as a priority. Many countries might choose this route as Antarctica is home to a large abundance of resources like methane and carbon. Other countries might want to add shipping routes through the Antarctic region, as the region is getting warmer.

Questions to Consider
1. How did the Antarctic Treaty help regulate exploration on Antarctica, and would it be beneficial to amend the treaty to allow for further exploration on the continent?
2. How can participating countries and signatories contribute to continue to work together and, ultimately, protect the nature and wildlife on the continent and advance scientific research?
3. How can future conflict for Antarctica be prevented by allowing countries to work together to achieve bilateral solutions for the benefit of countries and Antarctica?
4. What can individual countries do to promote higher international cooperation and create obligations that every country must help to preserve and use Antarctica for scientific purposes and not political interests?

Further Research
1. https://www.bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/the-antarctic-treaty/: This is a brief explanation of what the Antarctic Treaty is.
2. https://scholarship.law.cornell.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1163&context=cilj: This is an in-depth explanation about the territorial claims and gives some insight to possible solutions.
3. https://www.britannica.com/place/Antarctica/National-rivalries-and-claims: This is a history of the Antarctica dispute and crisis. It talks about the politics involved with this crisis and also some environmental issues.
4. https://www.state.gov/key-topics-office-of-ocean-and-polar-affairs/antarctic/: This is a source by the U.S. Department of State and gives another generic explanation of the Antarctic Region and crisis.
5. https://atlas-report.com/the-geopolitics-of-antarctica-and-the-potential-for-a-future-armed-conflict-on-the-continent/: This is a relatively new source that talks about the politics of the Antarctic Dispute and provides some insight about a potential conflict in the near future.

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General Assembly

World Trade Organization

Thomas Short and Ethan Roerink
Co-Chairs

World Trade Organization

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
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Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to the WTO committee at GSMUN XXVI! Thomas Short and Ethan Roerink, your chairs, are very excited to chair and get to know you all. The topics that you, as a delegate, will debate in this committee cover two critical issues in the present-day international trade landscape. As a delegate, you will need to come up with unique and viable solutions to more adequately enforce intellectual property rights and address agricultural tariffs.

Thomas Short is a sophomore at Maggie Walker and is looking forward to co-chair the WTO committee! This is his third year doing MUN, and his second time helping with GSMUN. Outside of MUN, Thomas likes to play soccer and volleyball, play guitar, and read. He is also a part of the Economics and Investment club and he loves learning about history. Most importantly, Thomas is looking forward to meeting all of you and running a great committee!

Ethan Roerink, a sophomore at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to serve as a co-chair for the WTO committee. This year is his second year participating in Model UN at Maggie Walker. In addition to Model UN, Ethan plays on the Maggie Walker Golf Team and is a member of the Maggie Walker Spanish Club and Economics and Investment Club. Ethan is also the secretary of the First Tee of Greater Richmond Junior Advisory Board, where he helps to run golf events and enjoys teaching younger children how to play golf. He is very excited to help run this committee!

In order to have a good committee, you should come prepared to discuss many facets of international trade and have possible solutions for both committee topics. You should understand intellectual property rights and how they are and should be enforced. In addition, you should have an understanding of tariffs and non-tariff measures, their functions, and their effects on world trade. The committee background guide should be used as a jumping off point for you all to engage in deep and thoughtful research and analysis. This committee will be a double delegation, so each delegation only needs to produce one position paper that is formatted in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, and cited in the Chicago Manual Style (CMS) format. All papers must comply with Maggie Walker's honor code, and thus must not contain any plagiarism or cheating, including the use of Chat-GPT and other AI tools. Your position paper must be emailed to the chairs by 5 PM on the day of the conference.

At GSMUN, a huge part of our mission is charity. The partner charity for GSMUN XXVI is the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a nonprofit organization dedicated to researching cancer and providing support to patients. Many items will be for sale during the conference, with the proceeds going to charity. Bring money to buy baked goods, merchandise, and other goodies! If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to email your chairs at gsmunxxvi.wto@gmail.com. Good luck writing your position papers and we are looking forward to seeing you this March!

Your Chairs,

Thomas Short
gsmunxxvi.wto@gmail.com

Ethan Roerink

World Trade Organization (WTO)
Committee Overview

<u>**Background**</u>

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and assists in negotiating, overseeing, and administering trade agreements, as well as aiding countries in resolving trade disputes. The WTO is composed of 164 members, which represent 98% of international trade.[1] The WTO seeks to facilitate free trade while preventing dangers from reaching consumers and countries themselves.[2] In 1948, twenty-three countries signed the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), the predecessor to the World Trade Organization.[3] GATT had a similar set of rules to the WTO and focused mainly on trade in goods, while the WTO focuses on trade in goods, trade in services, and intellectual property. GATT eventually led to several rounds of further negotiations that discussed topics such as trade barriers, agriculture, and intellectual property rights. The 1986-1994 Uruguay Round negotiations established the WTO on January 1, 1995.[4]

The World Trade Organization covers three main areas: goods, services, and intellectual property. GATT focuses on the global trade in goods, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) covers the global trade in services, and the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) addresses the protection and enforcement of international intellectual property (IP) rights.[5]

The top WTO decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, meeting biannually. Below the Ministerial Conference in the WTO hierarchy is the General Council, which consists mostly of Ambassadors and meets several times each year. It also serves as the Trade Policy Review Body and the Dispute Settlement Body, which focus on transparency within the WTO and resolving

disagreements between WTO members, respectively.[6] The Goods Council, Services Council, and TRIPS Council rank below the General Council and focus on their respective topics, in addition to there being various committees that focus on more specific areas under the specialized councils.[7] Currently, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala serves as the Director-General of the WTO.[8]

<u>**Topic I: Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights**</u>
History of the Issue

The World Trade Organization defines intellectual property rights as rights granted to people for their intangible creations. Typically, IP rights grant the creator exclusive control over their works for a limited time period, allowing the creator to profit from them. The WTO distinguishes two types of IP rights: copyright-related rights and industrial property rights. Copyright-related rights protect literature, artistic works, and recordings. Industrial property rights differentiate products and protect innovation. Sign-protection industrial property rights (trademarks and geographical indications) differentiate brands and products, while the other industrial property rights (patents, industrial designs, and trade secrets) protect innovation.[9]

Over the past century and a half, there have been several significant international intellectual property rights agreements. In 1883, the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property established a general framework for industrial patent and IP protection. Currently, 177 nations are subject to the agreement.[10] Three years later, in 1886, the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works created international copyright protection for works of literature and arts. Currently, more than

180 countries have agreed to the Berne Convention.[11]

The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks is another set of agreements that covers intellectual property rights. It is comprised of two parts: the Madrid Agreement and the Madrid Protocol. The Madrid Agreement was established in 1891 with the purpose of creating a single trademark registration system. However, some concerns existed surrounding potential defects in its structure. Individuals and companies were forced to register in their home nation before the international trademark was established and protected, which was more complicated than an international registration process. There were also trademark fee discrepancies between countries and the Agreement, further complicating the process. Additionally, the trademark examination period was only 12 months, which did not always give countries enough time to fully process the trademark.

These concerns led to the establishment of the Madrid Protocol in 1989.[12] Under the Madrid Protocol, countries are permitted to alter the international trademark registration fees to match their national fees, removing discrepancies. The Madrid Protocol also extends the examination period for trademarks to 18 months to give countries more time to look over the trademark. Despite the Madrid Protocol solving several key issues with the Madrid Agreement, the system is still more complicated than a unified international system could be because individuals and organizations still must register in their home country. Currently, more than 100 countries have adopted the Madrid System.[13]

The Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) went into effect in 1995 following the Uruguay Round of negotiations and protects holders of all forms of intellectual property rights, including copyrights, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, patents, electronic circuit designs, and trade secrets.[14] TRIPS is officially overseen by the WTO and requires all 164 members to enforce international IP rights.[15]

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) was a failed attempt at protecting IP rights. Outside of the WTO, 37 countries negotiated ACTA as a potential extension to TRIPS. ACTA focused on recent developments in the enforcement of IP rights caused by digitalization. When the countries completed negotiations in 2010 and released the official text in 2011, thirty-one countries signed ACTA.[16] However, Japan was the only nation to officially ratify ACTA, and therefore ACTA could not be effective due to the requirement that at least 6 countries ratify it before May 1, 2013.[17]

ACTA was not ratified by most signatories due to several ethical concerns over privacy rights and personal data protection regarding the enforcement of ACTA.[18] ACTA would require online service providers (OSPs) to grant IP right holders the personal information of citizens who have allegedly broken digital IP laws, leading to some individuals claiming that ACTA threatened privacy rights.[19] Others claimed that ACTA posed a great threat to national sovereignty by making it significantly more difficult for countries to establish their own IP policy. In addition, some people believed that ACTA was inherently undemocratic because of its negotiation outside of existing international organizations.[20]

Current Status of the Issue

In recent years, international intellectual property counterfeiting and piracy has seen dramatic increase. In Marq Vision's 2023 State of Brand Protection Report, 74% of companies facing counterfeit versions of their products stated that the volume of counterfeits has increased since COVID.[21] According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the trade of pirated goods increased to 3.3% of world trade in 2016. OECD also states that footwear and clothing accounted for a

significant amount of pirated goods in 2016 (22% and 16%, respectively).[22] Muso, a firm specializing in the research of piracy, found that there were 215 billion visits to piracy websites in 2022, 18% higher than in 2021. According to Muso, film and TV piracy in 2022 were 36% and 9% higher than in 2021—though film piracy was still below pre-pandemic levels. According to Muso, illegal streaming websites are the most common sources of film and TV piracy.[23]

Counterfeiting can negatively affect brands. IncoPro, a company focusing on IP and brand piracy, found that 52% of consumers lost trust in a brand and 64% of consumers lost trust in online marketplaces after purchasing a fake good online.[24] The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation and Policy Center and NERA Economic Consulting estimated that the global movie and TV industries respectively lose 40-97.1 and 39.3-95.4 billion USD in revenue per year to digital piracy.[25]

Many countries struggle with intellectual property enforcement. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2023 International IP Index found that only 23 of the 55 countries in the index had an enforcement score—which represents the amount of IP rights infractions, legal remedies given to IP right holders, and border surveillance—of 50% or higher and only 11 countries in the index had an enforcement score of 75% or higher. The average score in the enforcement category was 50.10%, and ranged from 7.42% to 96%.[26] On March 7, 2022, the Russian Federation issued a decree stating that patent holders from 39 nations considered "unfriendly to Russia" are no longer legally entitled to any profits from the production and sale of their inventions by Russian businesses. This decree effectively allows Russian firms to sell products patented by foreign firms without any legal repercussions. This is likely to result in increased counterfeiting and piracy and reduced enforcement of IP rights.[27]

Digitalization is also expected to further change intellectual property. In the IP Trend Monitor Study 2021, 89% of IP professionals surveyed expect digitalization to change IP management to a large degree or completely. Further digitalization may necessitate a new international IP rights agreement.[28]

Analysis and Solutions

As the global economy continues to digitize and counterfeiting rises, it is imperative that the member-states of the World Trade Organization better enforce international intellectual property rights. There are many different ways in which the WTO can address this growing issue.

A major international IP rights agreement has not been fully established since 1995. With the rise in digitalization since then, existing agreements have become technologically outdated. Technological advancements since 1995 could be addressed by a new WTO-facilitated international IP rights agreement. This agreement could build upon the successes and failures of past agreements, such as the Madrid System, TRIPS, and ACTA. In addition to covering digital IP rights, a new agreement could look for ways to address counterfeiting and piracy. While implementing this solution, however, it is important to consider the ethics of this agreement. National sovereignty, privacy protection, and consumers' rights must be considered.

Sending aid to developing countries, whether financial or educational, could be a viable solution, however, the WTO has pledged in the past that it is not a development organization and therefore cannot offer development assistance. For aid to be sent, it would need to be sent by individual countries or an external organization such as the World Bank.[29] Although sending IP experts and lawyers to less-developed countries to educate and train individuals and organizations how to file and obtain certifications of IP rights may address

the issue, the WTO is unable to directly provide this form of support; it would need to be done through a third party.[30]

The WTO could also run a publicity campaign to spread awareness of counterfeiting and pirating. If more consumers are educated on how to identify fake goods on online marketplaces, they will be less likely to unintentionally purchase a fake good. This will lead to increased trust in brands and online marketplaces, which is beneficial to the global economy. Consumer education could also decrease usage of illegal streaming websites, as individuals may be less tempted to use them once they know the consequences.[31]

Questions to Consider

1. How should international intellectual property rights be best protected and enforced while maintaining national sovereignty?
2. What role could ACTA, TRIPS, and other past agreements play in identifying a solution to best enforce intellectual property rights?
3. How should the WTO respond to developments in the realm of intellectual property since TRIPS was agreed to in 1995?
4. Should a new international intellectual property rights agreement be established? If so, what provisions should it contain, and what provisions should it not contain?
5. Should the WTO establish a press campaign to inform the public about intellectual property rights? If so, what should the campaign focus on?

Further Research

1. https://www.wto.org/: The World Trade Organization's website, which provides information about the WTO.
2. https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm1_e.htm:

Provides an overview of the three main areas the WTO focuses on.
3. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel1_e.htm: Provides information about intellectual property rights.
4. https://www.internationalpropertyrightsindex.org/: The International Property Rights Index 2022, which provides information about different countries' degrees of protection for intellectual and physical property rights.
5. https://www.uschamber.com/assets/documents/GIPC_IPIndex2023_Full Report_final.pdf: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce International IP Index 2023 Eleventh Edition, which provides information about the current status of intellectual property rights.
6. https://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/International_Trademark_Law1.html: Provides an overview of the Madrid System.
7. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel2_e.htm: Provides an overview of the TRIPS Agreement.
8. https://sgp.fas.org/crs/misc/R41107.pdf: A Congressional Research Service report on ACTA.

Topic II: Reformation of Agricultural Tariffs
History of the Issue

Tariffs are taxes that are placed on specific goods by a government to accomplish many goals in the landscape of international trade, such as protecting domestic industries, combating dumping measures, raising funds for the government, and growing developing industries. Tariffs accomplish these things by incentivizing consumers to buy domestic products because tariffs placed on foreign exporters force foreign exporters to raise their price. Domestic producers have an advantage because they can charge a lower price for comparable goods.[32] Tariffs are traditionally

higher on agricultural items than on other internationally traded goods.[33]

In addition to tariffs, other trade measures are used to achieve a similar effect. Quotas limit the amount of a good that can be imported to the quota-imposing nation. This means that domestic producers sell more products in that market due to not being restricted in the same ways that foreign producers are. An embargo is a trade measure that countries use to outright ban the trade of a certain good or set of goods with another country. This can be used to fulfill economic goals similar to quotas and tariffs, but it can also be used to fulfill international political goals. A sanction is a trade measure that governments use to hinder another country's economy. This is usually in an effort to impose restrictions on a country that is seen as having unreasonable and aggressive international policies.[34]

Exporting governments use certain tactics to increase the viability of their exporting firms and grow these exporting firms so they can provide jobs that benefit their economy. One of these tactics is called dumping. Dumping is a strategy that can be applied when a foreign exporter first arrives in a domestic market. The foreign exporting firm can drop prices so low that domestic firms cannot compete. This drives all domestic competition out of business and establishes the exporting firm as a monopoly that now has control over the domestic market. This practice can be subsidized by the government in order to incentivize the growth of exporting firms. The government can help pay for the initial losses that the company would have made while the company is dropping the price.[35] An effective counter to this strategy is the implementation of tariffs. Tariffs prevent foreign exporters from dropping the prices too low or else they would lose too much money. Using tariffs in this way is called anti-dumping.[36] Another one of these strategies that increases export revenue is called export subsidies. To implement this strategy, governments

subsidize the exports of certain goods. This lowers the prices of that good in foreign markets due to increased competition and negatively affects foreign producers.[37] Governments are partial to this strategy, as the exporter creates jobs as it grows. Countervailing is a tactic by which governments increase tariffs to negate the benefits of subsidization.[38]

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was an agreement signed in 1947 to reduce global trade barriers and revive global trade after World War II. GATT functioned as a precursor to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and set up the frameworks for many rounds of negotiations.[39]

The Uruguay round was a set of negotiations that lasted from 1986-1994 that covered almost every trade dispute of the time. The Uruguay Round involved 123 countries by the time it was over.[40] One of the many agreements to come out of the negotiations was the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture (URAA) which outlined three main aspects of the international trade of agricultural products: market access, domestic support, and export subsidies. Market access covers trade barriers such as tariffs, quotas, and other non-tariff barriers. Domestic support encompasses the practice of governments subsidizing domestic farmers and incentivizing them to produce more food. Export subsidies cover the strategy of governments subsidizing the export of agricultural products. The URAA provided rules for each of the three aspects in order to reduce international trade barriers and make international trade more fair, and also included a provision that set up further meetings to address the three main aspects of agricultural trade in addition to other problems that may arise in international agricultural negotiations. These conferences were later held in Seattle (1999) and Geneva (2000).[41]

Despite the URAA being the most comprehensive and important international

agricultural policy agreement, there are still new talks and initiatives made to target current issues. The Doha Round was another large round of negotiations that focused on many international trade problems including high agricultural tariffs. Developing nations depend on agricultural exports to support their populations but cannot compete with large agricultural industries supported by subsidies and tariffs. The Doha Round eventually failed to come to any major agreements.[42] The Nairobi Package was another agreement that was made in 2015 that banned the use of export subsidies for agricultural trade. Developed countries removed using export subsidies immediately with the exception of certain agricultural goods, while developing countries were given more leniency.[43]

High tariffs have many effects on farmers and the world as a whole. Tariffs lower the global prices of goods that they are placed on while raising the domestic price. This happens because domestic firms have greater price control due to lower competition. After the tariffs, there is a decreased global demand for the affected goods, so the price is lowered. The lowered price harms poor farmers in developing nations who want to export their crops because the crops sell for less money. If the affected goods are inputs used to make finished products, foreign manufacturers are at an advantage because they have access to the lower global price.[44] Tariffs reduce global trade because they incentivize domestic production and discourage importation.[45]

Tariffs and non-tariff measures can also damage the relationships between countries. A tariff placed on a country's exports might provoke them, and an embargo or sanction could be placed in retaliation upon a country as a result of their international policy, possibly leading to further conflict or a trade war, which is a situation where countries implement trade barriers to harm the other country's economy.[46]

Additionally, high tariffs can lead to poverty for people in the tariff-imposing country. This happens because tariffs increase the domestic price for a good. People who have lower incomes spend a higher percentage of their income on food than those with a higher income. If food prices are higher because of tariffs, then those with a lower income must spend more money on food. This can lead people to poverty, where they remain trapped due to high food prices.[47]

Current Status of the Issue

The mean global agricultural tariff rate is very high compared to the average global tariff rate. In 2014, the average agricultural tariff rate was exceeding 10%, while the average global tariff rate in all sectors was 2.9%.[48] The entities that imposed the highest tariffs were India, Mexico, and a group of the biggest agricultural importing countries.[49] According to the National Agricultural Law Center, agricultural tariffs are higher than other tariffs in 90% of countries. In South Korea, for example, the agricultural tariff rate was 79% while the average non agricultural tariff rate was only 4%.[50]

In addition to the agricultural tariff rate being very high, non-tariff measures also hit the agricultural industry particularly hard. The WTO found that non-tariff measures were more restricting on the agricultural sector than on the manufacturing sector. The WTO also found that non-tariff measures were found to have a higher tariff rate equivalence than 55% of tariffs. Non-tariff measures affect different regions independently. In Mexico, high non-tariff measures on oils and fats led to a 30% increase in price. In Southeast Asia this was a 49% increase and in South Africa a 90% increase.[51]

In modern day international trade, there are two main schools of thought: protectionism and free trade. Protectionism is a trade philosophy where a government uses policies to restrict international trade to boost domestic industry. Tariffs and non-tariff

measures are protectionist tools used to stop foreign competition and protect domestic producers. This has many benefits, such as the creation of more jobs, enhanced national security, stronger domestic firms, and the ability to grow small industries.[52] Protectionism also has many drawbacks, such as higher prices, lower choices for consumers, limited technological advancements, and cultural isolation.[53] On the other hand, free trade is a philosophy where countries are allowed to trade freely with each other and the producers are those that have the lowest opportunity cost. This concept is known as comparative advantage, and leads to faster growth and development as each producer only has to focus on producing one thing. Free trade leads to lower prices everywhere due to increased competition and greater global supply, and allows for weak domestic businesses to be crowded out by strong foreign firms, leading to a greater possibility of unemployment. Free trade also incentivizes multinational firms to go where labor is cheap, leading to unemployment where labor is expensive and exploitation where labor is cheap.[54]

Analysis and Solutions

Global agricultural tariffs continue to remain a problem for people all over the world. The WTO must reach a united stance on agricultural tariffs. There are several viable solutions to target this problem.

One of these solutions is a significant reduction in tariffs and non-tariff measures. A reduction in tariffs and non-tariff measures would lead to an increase in agricultural exports all over the world, with the exception of the EU. The EU would experience a slight decrease in agricultural exports due to lower demands for its meat exports. This change would help almost all nations across the world export more agricultural goods, but it would benefit India, Brazil, Japan, and other leading agricultural importers the most. In addition, all countries around the world would see an increase in imports. Removing tariffs removes the penalties that consumers have to pay to consume imported goods.[55] Another benefit to this solution would be a reduction in prices all across the world. Lower tariffs incentivizes both exportation and importation, which leads to more trade and competition, leading to lower prices. Freer trade also leads to more growth, efficiency, and innovation throughout the world.[56]

The solution of reducing tariffs and non-tariff measures has many merits but also many drawbacks. Liberalization of agricultural trade would lead to a slight decrease in global agricultural output of 0.1%. This would happen because agricultural production would move to areas with the highest comparative advantage. Agricultural production would increase in these regions but decrease in other regions.[57] Another widespread disadvantage to decreasing or removing agricultural trade barriers would be a heightened dependency on global trade. Within a free trade system, countries end up only producing goods that they have the comparative advantage in producing. This means that a country has to depend on trade with others for all other resources.[58] If a food-producing country suddenly was unable to produce food, this would mean widespread food security problems for the whole world.

Another possible solution involves maintaining or increasing agricultural trade barriers. This would have many positive effects on the domestic economies of the countries that impose the trade barriers. Trade barriers protect domestic industries from foreign competition and increase domestic employment. Protecting domestic industries is especially important in agriculture because it increases a country's food security. If the protectimodern-daytry were to stop trading with other countries, it would be able to sustain its population from a food standpoint. This gives it an advantage over countries with free trade policies because the countries that do not produce food would not be able to sustain their populations if placed in the same situation. Another advantage of trade barriers

and strong domestic industries is high employment. High employment increases the economic efficiency and output of a country.[59] Tariffs also give the importing government some extra money to spend on things that can boost the economy, address market failures, or protect national security. Tariffs can give a government incentives to implement protectionist policies.

Similar to the previous solution, this solution also has drawbacks. The biggest drawback are the costs to the consumer. In the country that imposes tariffs, consumers have to deal with less competition. Less competition leads to higher prices and lower quality. The consumers ultimately pay the price of the high tariffs and non-tariff measures.[60] In addition to this, domestic tariffs harm impoverished foreign farmers. These foreign farmers and farming economies need to export their crops in order to make money. Trade barriers drive these exporting farmers out of potentially lucrative markets and force them to lower their prices in markets without as many trade barriers.

Questions to Consider
1. How should the problem of agricultural trade barriers be addressed?
2. How widespread should non-tariff measures be allowed to be? What are the benefits and drawbacks of non-tariff measures?
3. Does using tariffs as anti-dumping or countervailing measures have a positive or negative effect?
4. What effects do dumping and export subsidies have on both domestic and global economies?
5. Does protectionism, free trade, or a combination of the two have a better

effect on the international trade environment?
6. In a world with limited tariffs, how should the problem of weak domestic firms being crowded out by larger, foreign firms be addressed?
7. In a world with high agricultural tariffs, how should the problem of impoverished foreign farmers be addressed?

Further Research
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United We Stand

General Assembly

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)

Sreemayi Gangireddy and Anusha Rathi
Co-Chairs

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to the Personal Forum of Indigenous Issues! Your chairs for this committee are Anusha Rathi and Sreemayi Gangireddy. We are so excited for you to join this magnificent Model UN committee and can't wait to see some productive debate. But first, we'd like to share a little bit about us!

Anusha Rathi is a junior at Maggie Walker and is so thrilled to be your chair for PFII! She has been participating in GSMUN since freshman year and is an active member of the Model UN Club. She absolutely loves learning about international issues, writing about them, and discovering more about the world. Besides Model UN, Anusha is an active player on the Maggie Walker Golf Team, deputy editor of the MW school newspaper, The Jabberwock, and a dedicated member of Technology Student Association (TSA). Anusha is so excited to see what debates you all will come up with in GSMUN XXVI!

Sreemayi Gangireddy is a junior at Maggie Walker, and is thrilled to be one of your co-chairs for the PFII this year! She has participated in GSMUN since sophomore year. She finds debating current issues an incredibly fun and productive way to procrastinate homework! Outside of Model UN, Sreemayi participates in FRC Robotics, is a National Officer for the Technology Student Association (TSA), plays on the MW Girls Basketball team, and writes for the MW school newspaper. In her free time, you can find her playing the viola, listening to Bollywood music or hiking with family! Sreemayi can't wait to get to know each of you delegates at GSMUN XXVI!

As a delegate of the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Issues, we expect that you come prepared with all necessary researched information regarding your country's position on the Economic rights and Societal Inclusion of Indigenous people. This includes preparing solutions to all questions asked in both topics and understanding and analyzing terms discussed in the background guide.

Delegates are expected to prepare a position paper (if they want to be considered for awards). Papers should be formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS), which includes the following: double-spaced, in Times New Roman, 12-point font. Delegates must follow the Maggie Walker honor code, meaning plagiarism will not be tolerated (this includes ChatGPT and other AI mechanisms). Position papers should be submitted before 5pm on conference day. Please state your delegation name and school when submitting to the PFII chair email, gsmunxxvi.pfii@gmail.com. On a fun note, as a part of GSMUN, you will have many fun-filled opportunities to support an incredible cause! This year's partner charity is the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is a nonprofit devoted to furthering cancer research while providing support and education to patients.

Of course, with that being said, remember to bring money with you so you can participate in these fun charity activities! These activities will include incentives in your committee or the snack cart. All money will go towards the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to reach out to your chairs at gsmunxxvi.pfii@gmail.com. We are looking forward to meeting the delegates in PFII—good luck at GSMUN XXVI!

Your Chairs,

Anusha Rathi
gsmunxxvi.pfii@gmail.com

Sreemayi Gangireddy

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)
Committee Overview

Background

Established in 2000, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) plays a crucial role in matters relating to the concerns of the world's indigenous people dealing with economic and social development, culture, education, environment, health, and human rights. The committee followed the first establishment of the International Year for the World's Indigenous People. PFII meets annually for two weeks to discuss issues pertinent to the rights and freedoms of indigenous people.

When discussing topics relevant to indigenous peoples, it is necessary to note that a distinct difference lies between the terms "indigenous" and "native". The United Nations defines indigenous as nations, communities, or peoples who hold a continuous presence in an area, dating prior to invasive or colonial societies. Indigenous groups separate themselves from other factions of people now present on a common territory, using distinctions found in their own culture. Meanwhile, the term "native" may be used within a specific historical context.

Each region throughout the world, including the Americas, Africa, Eurasia, and Oceania, hosts thousands of disadvantaged indigenous groups, each of whom hold their own unique story regarding colonization, loss of land and resources, loss of culture and social identity, and their inability to reach progressive recovery.

Topic I: Economic Rights of Indigenous People
History of the Issue

Colonization has shaped cultures, societies, and economies present in the world today. The practice of colonization within indigenous lands has had a lasting impact on indigenous populations in North America, Africa, Eurasia, and Oceania and is incredibly complex in regards to motives, tactics, and consequences of colonization.

European colonization in North America started during the 15th century, as the idea of the "New World" became increasingly popularized among European powers. Before Europeans arrived, North America was densely populated by Native Americans with each region having its own distinct culture. The colonization of America began when Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492 after his voyage was sponsored by the Spanish Crown. His arrival in the Caribbean marked the beginning of the subsequent colonization of America. The main motive of European colonization in the Americas was wealth and resources, religious expansion, and territorial gains. For wealth, European powers were motivated by the vast amount of precious metals such as gold and steel that the North American region provided. European powers also sought to spread Christianity, with many missionaries accompanying explorers to convert indigenous peoples. Lastly, territorial dominance was among the greatest motives for European colonizers. The desire to gain large pieces of land and strategic trade routes across the North America region became a fierce battle between many European powers.

In Africa, colonization began during the late 19th and early 20th century, a period deemed the "Scramble for Africa." Britain, France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, and Italy all competed to gain territory from Africa, resulting in a severe exploitation of the continent's resources, including gold, ivory, minerals, and people. Similar to North

America, the European powers' motives for colonizing Africa involved the desire for wealth through Africa's rare resources, expansion of Christianity, and territorial dominance. Sub-Saharan Africa, in particular, was subjected to harsh forms of slavery, through involvement in the Transatlanic Slave Trade for more than 400 years , stretching from Africa, Europe, and America, and resulting in millions of deaths. Due to this traumatic history, much of the indigenous population today has been dispersed across the world, unable to restore their past culture.

With its vast expansion of land and diverse culture, Eurasia has witnessed colonization through various different rulers and powers throughout history. One of the very first colonization efforts in Eurasia was the Mongol invasion in the early 13th century, led by Ghengis Khan. This invasion is regarded as the most significant wave of conquest in Eurasian history. The Mongols rapidly expanded through Central Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe and influenced a variety of cultural and economic changes in the region that can still be seen today.[1] The second largest wave of colonization in Eurasia was the Russian expansion from the 16th to the 19th centuriy, where a large number of Siberian indigenous peoples were conquered through the expansion of Russia into Siberia and the Far West.[2] From the 14th century all the way through the 20th century, the Ottoman empire was the largest political entity in present day Middle East and Europe. The empire engaged in significant territorial expansion while also employing their own religious beliefs. Lastly, European imperialist powers conquered a large part of East and Southeast Asia, with their main desire for spices and precious minerals located in India and China.

Finally, the Oceania region experienced great injustice due to European imperialism. European colonizers sought the islands of Oceania particularly for trade routes and territorial expansion. As like other regions, the consequences of colonization on Oceania were profound, as several diseases were introduced and various government structures were introduced and subsequently enforced by European powers.

Current Status of the Issue

The impact of colonization on indigenous people around the world has been long-lasting. Due to forced assimilation into various other cultures other than their own, many indigenous groups have adopted new languages and traditions. Through the acquisition of land, colonists displaced many indigenous groups and deprived them of their own culture and livelihoods. The introduction of various diseases, namely smallpox, had a devastating impact on indigenous groups as their immune system was not used to these new diseases. The introduction of diseases by European colonizers killed off 90% of the indigenous population in the Americas.

The historical injustices that indigenous people faced around the world are still following them today. Indigenous people make up 19% of the extreme poor and are almost three times more likely to be living in poverty than other non-indigenous groups.[3] Their present wealth inequality and disparity comes from the long history of continued depression from a loss of resources and land. From this long and traumatic history, indigenous peoples have experienced a slowed recovery, with increasing poverty. Although indigenous people have a higher employment participation rate than any other group, they also experience poor working conditions and discrimination. Due to discrimination, they earn on average 18% less than their non-indigenous counterparts.[4] Indigenous women, in particular, suffer multiple challenges, as they are most likely to be living in poverty with little to no education. Many of these indigenous women are stuck in family work, taking care of their children.

In the Oceania region, Australia has a prevalent indigenous group, the Aboriginal people, that still resides there today. Before

Europeans fully settled in Australia in 1788, the Aboriginal people had been residing in Australia for 45,000 to 50,000 years. They originally came from Southeast Asia, now Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia, and the Philippines. At this time, the Aboriginal people had successfully adapted to the entire continent, where more than 200 Aboriginal languages were spoken. There may have been as many as 500 of these Aboriginal tribes, each with their own unique entity, land, and culture.[5]

Since the British invasion of Australia in 1788, the Aboriginals have been unable to regain their land and culture. Similarly to the colonization in North America, with colonization came mass waves of disease. The first wave of invasion resulted in thousands of Aboriginals being killed. In just one instance, the native population residing in Australia decreased from an estimated 1 million to 60,000. Until 1992, when the British were finally overruled, the British principle on matters regarding Aboriginal land was that of 'terra nullius'; by stating that the land was "empty" before the British arrived, they were allowing themselves the legal right to take it over.[6] For most of the 20th century, starting from European colonization, Aboriginal people's families have been brutally broken up. The term 'Stolen Generations' was coined for the Aboriginal people who have been taken away from their families due to past government policies.[7] The children were then fostered by white families in hopes of the European desire to spread Christianity.

Today, there are about 500 different types of aboriginal people living in Australia. Although much of the lost land has been given back in reparations, many Aboriginal people still live on the outskirts of Australia, where living conditions are poorer, with the larger wealth disparity resulting in low standards of living. Aboriginal people's infant mortality rate is significantly higher than the average Australian. They also make up for the majority of the prison population in Australia. The Aboriginals still face racist attitudes and experience violence from other white Austrialians. In 2007, a public report detailing sexual abuse and violence against Aboriginal people in Australia sparked large controversy. The Northern Territory National Emergency Response was released later by the Australian government to address the discrimination and inequality that Aboriginals faced.[8]

Analysis and Solutions

Education is an increasingly important aspect in building solutions for the inequality and depression faced by indigenous peoples. Today, indigenous groups across multiple continents have limited access to proper education, or do not complete the standard governmental education requirements. Providing schooling in low income and struggling indigenous group communities is a must to allow accessibility to all groups. Education not only teaches a basic curriculum, but also provides for economic empowerment. Holding sustainable economic opportunities for indigenous groups can allow for more economic inclusion for their communities and greater economic literacy.

Finally, all governments and international organizations should implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ILO Convention No. 169.[9] Although it is crucial to protect all rights of indigenous people, it is also important to respect their cultural values and traditions. Recognizing policies like this will include ensuring access to justice for all indigenous groups around the world.

Through the combination of the UNDRIP and economic education, new opportunities can be produced to encourage the growth of standards of living for indigenous groups across the world. Developmental measures are necessary for the survival and success of these indigenous groups, and it is a necessity for the countries involved in providing these measures to do so in a way that continues to respect and honor the culture and traditions of the indigenous communities.

Questions to Consider
1. How have historical economic injustices affected the status of indigenous people in the region you are representing?
2. How can sustainable economic development be promoted among indigenous groups while still respecting their cultural values and traditional knowledge?
3. In your region, what are the main obstacles hindering indigenous peoples rights to resources, land, and territory?
4. What collaborative efforts amongst nations around the world can be made to ensure that all indigenous people have access to economic opportunities and are involved in decision-making processes related to their rights to land and territory?
5. What efforts can be made to support small indigenous businesses and foster economic self-reliance?

Further Research
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Topic II: Cultural Recognition & Societal Inclusion of Indigenous People
History of the Issue

Indigenous groups and cultures across the globe have long been affected by the changing world order. The well-being of Indigenous peoples is closely tied to their culturally significant traditions. Through the loss of ancestral land and natural resources, the identities, cultures, and general physical and spiritual wellbeing of the marginalized Indigenous people becomes difficult to maintain, especially in such a fast-paced globalized world. Centuries later, the effects of colonization and forced migration patterns have described this cultural connection, both within Indigenous groups and across the global public spectrum.

After centuries of colonial era-forced migration, North American Indigenous groups continue to face cultural disconnect because of their group's diaspora. As colonial leaders bulldozed negotiations with tribal leadership and authority, most Native American tribes were subjected to one-sided, unfair forced land deals, prompting relocation. Thousands of tribes faced internal conflict and declining populations as their people were splintered across the land. Nearly 150 years ago, the U.S government violently relocated 17,000 South Eastern Native Americans to designated "Indian Territory." Nearly 6,000 Cherokees died on the "Trail of Tears."[10] Forced relocation broke the ancestral connection that Indgienous groups held in

high regard. As a result, maintaining their cultural identity and societal strength has become increasingly difficult. Many North American Indigenous groups now struggle to congregate in fast-paced, urbanized settings. Even as they try to reclaim their centers of identity, groups such as the Cherokee, Iroquois, and Lakota face legal challenges post-colonization when trying to retain their ancestral land. In the past, court systems in the United States refused to establish sufficient federal and legal acknowledgment of Indigenous tribe leaders when negotiating such cases.[11] Loss of physical cultural centers, loss of connection to heritage, and disconnect from mainstream governing bodies are all factors continuing to diminish the Indigenous peoples' ability to participate as a surviving, functioning part of today's society. Other North American Indigenous groups face the same issues of cultural disconnect because of more modern obstacles. Over time, Indigenous groups such as the Native Hawaiians and the Eskimos in Alaska have faced the repercussions of major global trends such as tourism and economic investments from mainland companies and the U.S. government.

The plight of Indigenous peoples spans across continents, not solely America, and the plight appears differently in each case. South America and Central America hold a unique history of Indigenous culture and identity as its Indigenous peoples created some of the earliest civilizations in the Americas. Major ancient South American and Central American Indigenous civilizations, such as the Mayan, Aztecs, and Incas, were destroyed by conquistadores in the 1500s. The fall of these Indigenous civilizations put an end to an era of Indigenous advancements made in medicine, science, astronomy, agriculture, mathematics and more. Spanish colonial invaders destroying civilizations led to the loss of records and knowledge of such advancements, debilitating the Indigenous history, and therefore identity. After more than 500 years of colonial rule, violent warfare

continued between Spanish and Portuguese colonial forces and Indigenous groups, and later within newly formed nation-states of Central and South America. A unique difference from North America in this situation is the mixing of cultures and people–colonial-era Central America and South America saw the increase of mulattos, creating a new generation of people with mixed heritage. However, ancient Indigenous traditions were often abandoned as native Americans under Spanish or Portuguese rule were forced to assimilate. Oftentimes, people with partial indigenous and Spanish heritage created their own culture, leaving behind traditional Indigenous roots. Surviving Indigenous groups are now scattered across Mexico and Central America. Latin America is home to over 800 different indigenous peoples, with its countries having their total population be anywhere from 0.5% indigenous to 41% indigenous. The majority of countries have significant percentages of indigenous people, yet most of these groups still struggle to fit in mainstream society. Unfortunately, due to lack of representation in government and a denigrated social status, almost 43% of Indigenous peoples live in poverty, as compared to the 21% of the non-indigenous population in poverty.[12]

In Africa, classifying Indigenous groups in each country varies, as many Indigenous groups faced colonial behavior from fellow African groups, prior to the colonial period.[13] The colonial period reeked havoc on previously established indigenous groups. In South Africa, the various groups of Indigenous communities are known as the In Botswana, the San people are classified as indigenous peoples. Most of these groups were well established in their traditions and cultures prior to colonization, and they faced hardship and violence through colonial invasions and hostile takeovers of their land, by groups including the Bantu-speaking agro-pastoralists or Arab traders.[14] As a result, Indigenous Africans under the colonial government, and then modern governments,

faced the loss of land, increased violence, and systematic exclusion from government and society.[15]

Indigenous groups present in Europe typically live at the edges of society, especially near the Artic. Indigenous groups include the Saami in Norway and Sweden, Greenland Inuits, and Russia's Indigenous peoples. The Sammi are primarily nomadic reindeer herders, the Inuits were known for their hunting techniques, and Russia's forty Indigenous groups are mainly nomadic herders.[16] Most of these groups established themselves over 2000 years ago, but following greater mainstream migrations during the Middle Ages, were either pushed further North or scattered.[17]

Today, few Indigenous groups remain in Europe. As they live on the edges of society, most are subject to even greater social exclusion from the world. By living in the Arctic region, with little to no support on the global stage, Indigenous groups are left to fight the effects of climate change on their own, while simultaneously fighting against their loss of land and loss of natural resources as companies from mainlands continue pushing for energy development in northern European areas.[18] The marginalization of Indigenous groups in the South East Asia region is prevalent. The South East Asia (SEA) region hosts between 4000 and 5000 Indigenous peoples spread across the pacific region.[19] These Indigenous groups not only faced a history of colonization, but also the invasions of dominant ethnic groups, typically from the Asian mainland, who overwhelmed the small, nomadic groups. A few millennia ago, the Neolithic era tribes in South East Asia assimilated to the Imperial influences of Ancient India and Ancient China, while most Indigenous groups who maintained their own culture were scattered across their respective regions.[20] One of the most notable examples of such violence against the SEA Indigenous groups occurred around the 1st millennium CE, when Japanese forces overwhelmed the Ainu, a major Indigenous group, who were

forced to relocate to the northernmost regions of the Japanese archipelago.[21] This dispersion of Indigenous groups has continued across South East Asia. After centuries of imperial expansion, Indigenous groups now face possible extinction after being disregarded by most SEA governments. These pacific nations exists a more occulted example of the Indigenous plight on the world stage. The Oceania Region includes Indigenous groups that are known to be as old as 50,000 years.[22] Major groups include the Australian Aboriginals, Polynesians, Melanesians, and Micronesians.[23] These Indigenous tribes faced the brunt of issues post-colonization. During colonization, there were over 250 Indigenous languages in the Oceania region. Today, only 145 of these Indigenous languages are left, and 111 of these languages are predicted to become extinct in the near future.[24] In the case of Australian Aboriginals, their life expectancy is 10-17 years shorter than the average Australian. Most Indigenous groups continue to face difficulty fitting into societal systems. Through modern development, Indigenous people continue to face the loss of culture and connection. In 2008, it was reported that nearly one in twelve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults were part of the "Stolen Generations," where 8% of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years and over stated that they had been removed from their natural family. In non-remote areas, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were one and a half times more likely than non-Indigenous adults to have a disability or a long-term health condition.[25] Overall, the condition of Indigenous groups in the Oceanic region continues to worsen as societal exclusion of these groups continues.

Current Status of the Issue

Despite progress being made through government action as well as United Nations policymaking, indigenous people around the

world are experiencing extreme inequality via lack of resources and aid.

Many U.N. mandates and initiatives are largely symbolic and set few realistically enforceable benchmarks. The majority of the major steps taken have led to forums that formally meet for a few weeks annually, and spend the rest of their time analyzing and coming up with new proposals. As for the mandates and plans of action, though they are important steps in realizing effective improvement for the lives of Indigenous peoples, they still largely remain stated goals for policies that haven't been solidified or comprehensively implemented by member-nations.

Now, most mandates, including the U.N Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, set forth ideals and simply stated the rights that Indigenous groups are entitled to; actual punishments for violating such rules were not included. Seeing as every country has a different scenario to deal with, including concrete punishments became difficult. Unfortunately, while some Indigenous Issue trends are global and can be addressed directly, Indigenous groups across the world also hold unique issues that are varied in political and socioeconomic situations. Issues vary greatly from continent to continent, and from country to country. Difficulty in addressing Indigenous Issues also stems from the fact that countries' Indigenous peoples are widely dispersed. For example, in the South East Asia Region, Indonesia has the highest percentage of Indigenous peoples, while countries such as Thailand and Cambodia only have an Indigenous make up of 1% of their modern population.[26]

Outside of these developments, the United Nations' progress in raising awareness of the societal issues faced by Indigenous peoples is limited. Even though the steps taken in recent decades are incredibly beneficial in comparison to the centuries of dismal conditions faced by the Indigenous before, a long road to recovery still remains for the Indigenous.

Today, Indigenous populations around the world shrink at an exponential rate. The loss of Indigenous identity continues to contribute to the rapidly more visible problem. As mentioned before, Indigenous groups are often forced to assimilate into mainstream culture or end up living on the outskirts of society. In either case, practicing their unique language, tradition, and cultural practices becomes increasingly difficult, either from societal judgment or lack of population due to displacement. As the practice and memory of such an inherent piece of Indigenous heritage disappears, the loss of culture leads to loss of identity, which then leads to loss of unity as individual groups. This difficulty in congregating will eventually lead to the extinction of those Indigenous peoples. Memory of a group's history and culture and its physical survival often work hand in hand. In the case of Indigenous peoples, this connection is the very reason why survival is becoming increasingly difficult in an urbanized environment.

Analysis and Solutions

As Indigenous Peoples face low representation in mainstream government, they end up losing opportunities to preserve their culture in the modern world. The silence of mainstream governments in addressing the voices of Indigenous issues contributes to the lack of legal and political authority held by Indigenous groups. Today, Southeast Asian countries claim that as no "geographic outsiders" colonized the SEA Indigenous peoples, then decolonization efforts for the Indigenous peoples' are not necessarily applicable.[27] This mindset allows states and nations to circumvent their debt to Indigenous peoples. Oftentimes, federal governments may uphold their economic and political interests above the needs of Indigenous peoples. Through this lack of inclusion in mainstream government, Indigenous people remain disadvantaged societal participants of the globalized system.

Furthermore, the reason for the lack of societal inclusion of Indigenous peoples is because of the next generation's continuation of this global tradition of cultural ignorance. In America, the youth perspective has long been focused on "euro-centric" history, leading to a dwindling memory of Indigenous history. Other countries and regions face similar challenges as their education system focuses on the dominant ethnic group's perspective. In most school systems, students are taught surface level information about Indigenous groups, typically historical events about the colonial era. Colonial history recorded by non-Indigenous migrators often ends up over-writing Indigenous accounts. Curriculums rarely focus on the modern day cultures and traditions of Indigenous tribes. As the youth's understanding of Indigenous is missing, the acceptance and understanding of Indigenous traditions and culture continues to decrease in public places like schools, workplaces, and communities. Overall global lack of education, both in the younger generations through school systems and in the working generations through professional systems, continues to weaken Indigenous groups' ability to maintain their cultural identity. Increasing awareness and advocacy of Indigenous history and culture is necessary for the general public to affect real change. This could be achieved by promoting more mainstream concern for the rights of Indigenous people. Through gaining public support and awareness of indigenous plight, popular support for greater legal, political and economical shifts at the international level may occur. Indigenous advocacy can work through educational reform. Culturally focused Indigenous history can be taught in schools rather than promoting the colonial perspective of Indigenous history. Educational reforms to include Indigenous history will vary across the globe, but the need for such reforms exists in almost every country.

In addition, incorporating coverage of the Indigenous plight in mainstream media could also raise public concern, and in turn, increase government attention towards Indigenous issues. Media campaigns covering land disputes, economic disputes, social and public health crises on and outside Indigenous reservations would do just that. On the local level, promoting conferences, cultural events and community outreach to surrounding Indigenous groups would allow better societal inclusion of Indigenous groups.

Increasing Government recognition of Indigenous peoples and increasing their political representation is crucial towards preventing the extinction of indigenous population. The greater the representation, the more likely the indigenous groups may voice and create solutions to the problems they face. Increasing representation can be done by incorporating election quotas for Indigenous representation in the federal government. In some nations, the constitution outlines electoral clauses that often include some provisions for minorities to be guaranteed representation in some form. Whether that minority representation comes through minorities overtaking certain regional elections, or by working as opposition leaders, systems exist to give the minority a voice. For the indigenous minority, implementing similar systems to provide a guaranteed and equitable representation will need to take place in each nation. Also, seeing as the broad spectrum of Indigenous issues around the globe cannot be directly addressed by one international body, legislative branches of individual nations could work to implement their own PFII system to establish and uphold the necessary policies. In addition to incorporating indigenous voices into mainstream governments, nations also need to be able to address the stature of tribal leadership. Creating clauses within a country's legislative and judicial systems to set precedents for dealing with traditional Indigenous tribal leadership would also allow for greater inclusion of the "outskirts" of

indigenous communities. Now, despite positive reactions from the Indigenous community, these changes may elicit pushback from domestic majorities in some nations. Tactics to ease the negative reactions from the mainstream mindset will vary from country to country.

Finally, nations need to support greater inclusion of Indigenous people in "normal" civil society outside of their tribal lands to ensure the survival of certain Indigenous groups. The biggest flaw with this solution is that inclusion can often be seen as assimilation. In the past, Indigenous groups continue to lose numbers as they assimilate into "civil" society. A difference needs to be established between forced conversion and creating safe environments for Indigenous cultures and traditions to flourish within in modern society. With the right approach, assimilation can be combated. For example, setting certain diversity, equity and inclusion benchmarks for school curriculums to meet would allow students to gain a greater understanding of Indigenous culture and traditions and may create safer environments for Indigenous youth to practice their way of life in a modern society. The implementation of holidays or proclamations structured around celebrating Indigenous culture lets Indigenous groups continue their traditions in urban society. Increasing employment and education opportunities for disadvantaged Indigenous peoples further allows for social inclusion in a modern world. This ensures that Indigenous people are able to continue honoring their culture while having the same rights and opportunities as a "regular" citizen.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the U.N., the PFII specifically, help Indigenous peoples maintain their disappearing populations and identities? How does their language and history tie into this?

2. What is your nation's viewpoint regarding the social and human rights of indigenous groups in society? What is the current global viewpoint on this?

3. How should the violation of Indigenous human rights and societal rights be addressed? Internationally or domestically, and through what systems and benchmarks?

4. To what extent should nations recognize and include Indigenous peoples in their mainstream government? How and why?

5. What specific barriers prevent the mainstream societal inclusion of Indigenous groups, both domestically and globally?

6. How has the global lack of education regarding Indigenous culture and history affected Indigenous groups in "regular" society today? How will this affect future generations?

7. How is the social inclusion of minority Indigenous peoples relevant to the welfare of the global mainstream majority?

Further Research

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General Assembly

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Arjun Azhagappan and Sanaya Bothra
Co-Chairs

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

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Shorya Malani
Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Committee! Our names are Arjun Azhagappan and Sanaya Bothra, and we are thrilled to be your chairs this year. As delegates in the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, you will all convene to tackle the scourges that are the illicit synthetic drug trade and human trafficking of immigrants, for a brighter future. Meeting in March 2024, the committee will focus not only on the rapid influx of synthetic drugs being produced illegally and the abuses immigrants face, but also the humanitarian crises brought upon the global community thus far. The delegates of the UNODC must think creatively and come up with solutions to prevent immigrant trafficking and cut the illicit drug trade while minimizing negative externalities upon those inflicted by addiction or tied to the trade.

Arjun Azhagappan, a senior at Maggie Walker, is ecstatic to be your co-chair this year. This is his fifth year as an avid Model UN delegate and second year at GSMUN. Other than Model UN, Arjun is the President of the Chess Club and is actively involved in several others. Outside of school, Arjun is an enthusiastic chess player, a quantum physics researcher at VCU, and a dedicated martial artist of ten years. He looks forward to witnessing the next generation of visionaries convene to solve the world's most pressing issues!

Sanaya Bothra, a sophomore at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to be your co-chair this year. She has been an enthusiastic Model UN delegate for three years, and this marks her second year at GSMUN. In the previous year, she was vice chair of SOCHUM and intercommittee crisis director of JCC. Outside of school, Sanaya is a tennis player and violist of six years, and a biomagnetics researcher at VCU. She is eager to see what solutions delegates have to offer in tackling the most urgent global problems!

As delegates of this committee, you are expected to come prepared to debate resolutions to the illicit synthetic drug trade and the different aspects causing its prevalence in the world today. You should know the current endeavors being taken by the UNODC to rid this blight along with the trade and terminology outlined within your background guide. The background guide is simply a guide to start your research, and delegates will be expected to complete a position paper, formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS) and pertaining to your position on the committee. At GSMUN, all position papers are expected to follow the Maggie Walker honor code; any and all plagiarism will not be tolerated – especially the use of AI-generated content.

Finally, a large part of GSMUN is our commitment to making a difference through charity. There will be merchandise, baked goods, and many other things on sale during the conference, with all of the proceeds going to our charity for this year: The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. As such, don't forget to bring money! If you have any questions or concerns, or would like feedback on your position papers, feel free to contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.unodc@gmail.com. Make sure you send in your position papers to the UNODC email by 5:00 pm on conference day! We look forward to meeting everyone in committee! See you at GSMUN XXVI and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Arjun Azhagappan
gsmunxxvi.unodc@gmail.com

Sanaya Bothra

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Committee Overview

<u>Background</u>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), founded in 1997 by the United Nations (UN), addresses and combats global challenges relating to illicit drugs, transnational organized crime, human trafficking, terrorism, and corruption. With field offices all over the world, the purpose of the UNODC is "to achieve security and justice for all by making the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism." The current executive director of the office is Ghada Waly, the first woman, Arab, and African to lead the office. The UNODC heavily utilizes democratic negotiation, specifically preventative action and treaties, to execute its lofty goals. From developing more dynamic security systems to preventing the spread of HIV among drug users, the UNODC has the responsibility of maintaining the health and well-being of our nations.

Within the official mandate of the UNODC lies three international conflicts the agency strives to resolve: Transnational Organized Crime, Corruption, and the Drug Trade. Today, delegates will be spearheading change in the first and third components of the overall mandate, tackling the issues of the illicit synthetic drug trade and the human trafficking of immigrants. These are just the latest blights the UNODC has had to address by passing international legislation through democratic procedure – just the most recent of issues in its 25+ years of history, with over 150 nations under its jurisdiction. We hope to see delegates utilize the power of global diplomacy to resolve the issues plaguing our communities.

<u>Topic I: The Illicit Synthetic Drug Trade</u>
History of the Issue

The synthetic drug market (and thereby, its governance) has become a fundamental quagmire of the United Nations, exponentially increasing in severity since 1970. Recently, the presence of synthetic drugs in overdose cases, drug seizures, and related crimes has reached an all-time high, with no signs of receding. In 2021, over 80,000 opioid-related overdoses were reported in the United States alone, with 70,000 of those deaths due in part to synthetic opiates like fentanyl and heroin.

Synthetic drugs, as opposed to their naturally derived counterparts, are formed in laboratories from raw chemicals. Producers of these organic compounds control every aspect of the final product, including purity, potency, and price. Soaring price hikes on synthetic drugs at every stage of the supply chain is an inherent property of the illicit trade. Furthermore, the supply chain for illicit drugs is much shorter with recent advancements in communication and chemical separation technologies. The most severe aspect of the synthetic drug trade is the rapid development of new psychoactive substances (NPS). New natural drugs take years to find in nature, test, and develop for human use. New synthetic drugs, on the other hand, can be synthesized, tested, and refined within a matter of minutes using the latest technology.[1]

Even though the production method of synthetic psychedelics, amphetamines, and barbiturates was discovered in the early 1900s, the first trace of the modern synthetic drug phenomenon began with the advent of the LSD hallucinogen in 1938. Its synthesis was accidental and its mind-altering effects were

only discovered five years later. In the 1950s, the psychedelic effects LSD brought upon its users were exploited by the CIA in Project MK-Ultra, an endeavor to harness the power of mind control. The drug was deemed "too unpredictable to use in the field" and was forgotten until the early 1970s. The drug was brought back to the limelight in the Counterculture movement of the 70s, where the government's concealed activities two decades prior were discovered. The synthetic psychedelic developed a recreational usage and so did many others in the years to come. Recreational drugs subsequently became a blight for governments around the world to address.[2] The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, founded as a part of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946, assisted in outlawing dangerous drugs around the world and continues to do so through annual conferences to this day. The UNC joined the UNODC in 1991 as its governing body.[3]

Designer drugs, as the name suggests, are addictive psychoactive substances that are designed to mimic the effects of illegal drugs while evading classification as one. They tend to be synthetic opioids and amphetamines sold for recreation, the two major contributors to the current synthetic drug crisis. Since 1980, these drugs have grown exponentially in popularity, with modern drugs like MDMA (a type of methamphetamine), fentanyl (a type of opioid), heroin (a type of opioid), and cocaine (a general analgesic) evolving their means of production over time. According to the UNODC, the term "New Psychoactive Substance" refers to any new synthetic drug whose effects are largely unknown and can be synthesized in a wide range of variations by automated processes. Furthermore, most NPS drugs do not fall into an illegal drug category, as the rate at which NPS substances are produced is far greater than that of the potential legislation that can be put forth to illegalize them.[4]

Current Status of the Issue

The global Opioid Epidemic persists, with approximately 53 million people worldwide experiencing opioid use disorders in 2019 according to the World Health Organization. The epidemic has been sustained by the widespread availability of prescription opioids and the illicit production and distribution of substances like heroin and synthetic opioids. The situation has been further complicated by the emergence of potent synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, leading to a substantial rise in the risk of overdose deaths. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported a notable increase in overdose fatalities involving synthetic opioids, particularly fentanyl, in recent years. Moreover, the complexities of the opioid epidemic have been heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating challenges related to accessing treatment, addressing mental health issues, and providing social support.[5]

In 2019, 70000 drug overdose deaths involved opioids, only increasing to over 80000 in 2021. Of those in 2021, over 70000 deaths involved synthetic opioids. Although the overall number of opioid overdose deaths increased by approximately 14%, the percentage of those deaths being related to synthetic opioids is far greater. The opioid epidemic exists predominantly in nations like the United States, Mexico, and several throughout northern Africa, where access to the synthetic opiate drug trade is higher. In these regions, synthetic opioids originate from other nations and are imported for sale. The general illicit synthetic drug trade trends in other nations are a blend of both opiates and amphetamines.

Recently, there has been a major shift in the Asian theater of the drug trade, with the Taliban's ascension to power in Afghanistan. Under Taliban rule, Afghanistan has significantly curtailed its natural opium production. Before the Taliban regained control, Afghanistan stood as the source of

80% of the world's opium. However, the anticipated production levels for 2023 suggest a drastic reduction to less than 20% of its previous output. This sharp decline in Afghanistan's opium production has far-reaching consequences, particularly in the global illicit drug market. The scarcity of Afghan opium is expected to drive up prices for opium, poppy resin, heroin, and related products, rendering them more expensive. This trend has yet to be observed in full force, although it is anticipated. The substantial decrease in Afghanistan's opium supply is expected to create a void in the global narcotics market, which could potentially give birth to further synthetic opiate production.

Amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) are the latest line of synthetic drugs to increase starkly in popularity and are known for their stimulant effects on the central nervous system, leading to a comparable feeling to alcoholic influence although more effective and cheaper. ATS include a variety of drugs, with methamphetamine and ecstasy (MDMA) being the most significant examples. From 2018 to 2019, the quantity of ATS seizures by the UNODC increased by 212%. As such, it has been calculated that approximately 27 million people used ATS that year. Of this staggering 0.5% of the global population, 20 million used MDMA, and 7 million used Methamphetamine and other stimulants.[6]

Illicit synthetic drug trends vary across different regions globally. In North and Central America, there is a prevalence of synthetic opioids and methamphetamine. South America is associated with the production and distribution of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS), hallucinogens, and Ecstasy. Europe sees a notable presence of methamphetamine and Ecstasy. In the Middle East and Northern Africa, Captagon and Tramadol are commonly trafficked. Central Asia is witnessing an extreme expansion in the market for New Psychoactive Substances. South and East Asia are characterized by the dominance of methamphetamine and the growing markets for Amphetamine-type Stimulants. Australia faces issues related to stimulants, methamphetamine, and Ecstasy. These regional distinctions may deem the process of passing specific legislation to outlaw synthetic drugs insurmountable, given pre-existing national laws regarding these substances' legalities.[7]

Legal Framework

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has implemented three key legislative frameworks in an attempt to curb the illicit synthetic drug trade, even before its official creation. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, enacted in 1961 under ECOSOC, marked the first international agreement on synthetic drug restrictions. While it successfully controlled specific narcotic drugs, outlining their legal medical and scientific applications, it failed to account for the emergence of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS). This legislative gap left a significant loophole as traffickers increasingly turned to new and unregulated substances.

The United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, established in 1971 under ECOSOC, aimed to address the rising threat of NPS, making up for their shortcomings a decade prior. These novel NPS substances included amphetamine-type stimulants, barbiturates, and benzodiazepines. However, the treaty's reliance on individual countries to enforce legislation resulted in varying levels of commitment and effectiveness. The decentralized approach left room for inconsistencies and allowed illicit drug trade networks to exploit jurisdictional disparities.

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, administered by the UNODC, focuses on restricting the illicit drug trade through law enforcement and asset seizure. While it successfully established a hierarchy of addictive substances and prevalent precursor chemicals, a notable

loophole in Article Three created ambiguity regarding personal drug possession. The provision deferred to previous legislation, which, at the time, primarily addressed organized drug possession and trafficking. Despite a repeal attempt in 2003, the loophole persists, granting member states discretion over personal drug possession.[8]

Current UNODC Initiatives

In 2021, the UNODC set into motion its Synthetic Drug Strategy – a plan that would help significantly reduce illegal synthetic drug manufacturing and trade over the next four years. The Synthetic Drug Strategy is a four-pronged plan of attack focused on tackling different aspects of the issue; these four are multilateralism and international cooperation, early warning systems, the promotion of science-informed health responses, and trafficking disruption.

Firstly, through "Multilateralism and International Cooperation," the UNODC aims to enhance collaboration and coordination globally. By establishing systems to identify emerging synthetic drug challenges within the United Nations and working closely with other UN agencies and the scientific community, a unified front can be forged to tackle the synthetic drug trade collectively.

The second prong is "Early Warning on the Emerging Synthetic Drug Threats." This involves setting up early detection systems for New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) threats, increasing understanding of synthetic drugs, and encouraging the reporting of information through the UNODC Forensic Early Warning Advisory. By staying ahead of emerging threats, the UNODC can proactively address the evolving landscape of synthetic drug production and trafficking.

The third component focuses on promoting "Science-Informed Health Responses." This includes de-stigmatizing attitudes toward addiction, facilitating access to drug treatment, and engaging in awareness campaigns. By addressing the health aspects of synthetic drug use and addiction, the UNODC aims to reduce demand and encourage individuals to seek guidance in quitting unnecessary drug usage.

Lastly, to "Strengthen Counter Narcotic Capacity and Support International Operations to Disrupt Trafficking," the UNODC emphasizes technological development for identifying and handling synthetic drugs and their precursor chemicals. Targeting the trafficking of precursor chemicals, disrupting online transactions related to synthetic drug trafficking, and gaining the assistance of forensic science services form a multifaceted approach to dismantling the infrastructure of the illicit synthetic drug trade. Through these efforts, the UNODC aims to diminish the impact of synthetic drugs globally and promote a safer, healthier global population.[9]

Analysis and Solutions

Synthetic Drugs persist in the market, and so far, not much legislation has effectively curbed its trade. Several solutions have been proposed, although each comes with its own drawback that renders the methodology inadequate on the global scale.

Chemical tracking is often perceived as a simple solution to cracking the illicit synthetic drug trade, addressing the problem at the beginning of the supply chain. There are several issues with this approach. As aforementioned, new synthetic drugs can be brought into existence in mere minutes using completely new synthesizing procedures. Once one chemical is seized, there are a myriad of other options for these producers to default to. Furthermore, the chemicals from which these drugs are synthesized are bountiful and inexpensive. Figuring out the regions where chemical access is least restricted would prove beneficial, however specific chemical tracking may be ineffective in the long run.[10]

Most synthetic drug trade occurs over the dark web, a region of the internet unable

to be indexed by search engines and ideal for illicit activities. Access to it involves specific software, authorization, system configurations, and pre-existing proxy networks. More importantly, money is often discussed and transferred over the dark web, with up to $1.6 million worth of illicit drugs sold every day. Monitoring such transactions may shed light on where supply chains and distributors are located. However, anonymous transactions, heavily encrypted data, and the sheer quantity of data to parse are the primary issues with this medium of resolution.[11]

Despite the many ways the drug trade cannot be hindered, some techniques have been proposed but are yet to be attempted on a global scale. According to the UNODC's latest Special Points of Interest Drug Report, some possible responses to the synthetic drug phenomenon include first targeting the global trade and then tackling individual markets later by honing in on maritime routes. Ports all over the world are important nodes of the illicit synthetic drug network, so effective control of popular ports may result in the prevention of international trade.[12]

Another proposed method of resolution is alternative development. For those supplying the basic chemicals fueling the synthetic drug economy, it is often the only viable method of staying financially afloat. Alternative development is a method that addresses this issue by undermining the drug trade and providing substitute economic pathways. Once government intervention leaves a region that contributes to the illicit synthetic drug manufacturing, former chemical manufacturers with their new licit livelihoods are disinclined to default back to their illegal money-making methods. This technique, if implemented by the United Nations, would assist nations where overall drug cultivation is a predominant proportion of GDP, such as Afghanistan, Laos, Myanmar, and several South American countries.[13]

Questions to Consider

As a delegate of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, you will be tasked with working with nations across the world to tackle the synthetic drug trade. Consider the following questions as a start to your research:

1. What methods could be employed to strengthen international collaboration and the exchange of information, effectively tackling the international aspect of drug trafficking and organized crime? What obstacles might emerge concerning issues of national sovereignty over the drug trade and mutual trust among participating nations?
2. How might the UNODC proactively respond to the rapid evolution of synthetic drugs facilitated by technological progress? What mechanisms could be implemented to oversee and manage the online and physical aspects of the distribution of these new psychoactive substances (NPS)?
3. In what ways can member states adopt viable strategies to successfully shift communities away from involvement in the illicit supply of drugs' precursor chemicals? How can these programs be thoughtfully structured to ensure their post-intervention sustainability?
4. How should the UNODC's budget be shared among the four spheres of the Synthetic Drug Strategy? For your delegation, which of the four spheres is there the most dire need to address?

Further Research

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2. https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/WDR23_B3_CH1_Synthetic_drugs.pdf: Overview of synthetic drugs, their types, and where they are

prevalent, and general ideas as to how they should be addressed.

3. https://www.unodc.org/res/WDR-2023/WDR23_Exsum_fin_SP.pdf : Regional data on NPS prevalence in nations around the world.

4. https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2023.html: The World Drug Report for 2023, outlining sectors of the drug trade to be addressed in regions across the world.

Topic II: Human Trafficking of Immigrants
History of the Issue

The exploitation of migrants during and after the immigration process has been a long-term issue, continuing to develop into more complex circumstances. Immigrant trafficking can be seen as a modern form of slavery, where immigrants continue to be abused and taken advantage of ceaselessly. In numerous global regions, migrants constitute a substantial portion of the identified trafficking victims: 65% in Western and Southern Europe, 60% in the Middle East, 55% in East Asia and the Pacific, 50% in Central and South-Eastern Europe, and 25% in North America. Globally, 49.6 million people were living in modern slavery in 2021, of which 27.6 million were in forced labor and 22 million in forced marriage.[14]

An early event that may have greatly influenced this ongoing problem is the transatlantic slave trade. Although not considered "immigrant trafficking" in the modern sense, the transatlantic slave trade is an example of large-scale trafficking. Around

10 to 12 million enslaved Africans were transported across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas from the 16th to the 19th century. This could have possibly set the stage for the beginning of the trafficking of immigrants; the slaves representing the immigrants who came to America and got taken advantage of.[15]

After the slave trade, in the late 19th to 20th century, the beginning of Chinese Labor Migration took place. Immigrant trafficking especially emerged in this period. From China, younger, teenage girls were lured into America with the idea of a promising future and life; instead, they got caught in the net of trafficking and spent years in slavery and prostitution.[16]

However, trafficking truly expanded into a global issue during the second World War. World War II caused the displacement of millions and afterward, there was a significant wave of migration. Some migrants faced challenges related to their immigration status and were vulnerable to exploitation. More attention was brought to the issue after war refugees were being taken advantage of and the following addressed this issue: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Refugee Organization (IRO), The Displaced Persons Act of 1948, and the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.[17]

Current Status of the Issue

Around the world, there are numerous reasons which increase the susceptibility of an immigrant to human trafficking; one of which being a lack of immigration status. Victims of trafficking who lack authorization to work or reside in the host country are exposed to an added layer of susceptibility. The fear of being exposed as an undocumented immigrant can serve as a potent tool for traffickers, who typically use the threat of reporting victims to authorities to maintain control and exploit them more easily. Even migrant workers with legal work rights can be at risk of exploitation, often due to their lack of awareness regarding their labor rights. They may face language

barriers or have limited access to legal resources, making it even more challenging for them to assert their rights or seek help when subjected to exploitative working conditions. Avoiding the risks of being overseen by national authorities can be achieved in any location if law enforcement and labor inspectors' controls are limited, corrupted, or focused on migration status rather than labor standards.[18]

Another common factor among many immigrants who experience trafficking is a background of poverty. Almost or at least more than 50% of trafficking victims had a background of economic need as seen in the data chart below.[19]
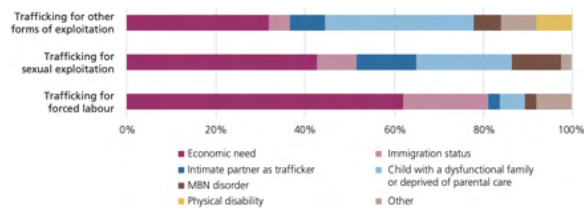
According to the UNODC, poverty and economic vulnerability are primary contributors to trafficking in persons. Additionally, from a global report on trafficking, it is evident that child trafficking has a more pronounced impact on low-income countries, where it is intricately associated with the broader issue of child labor. Based on the same report, the analysis of 233 court cases related to human trafficking, as detailed in the same report, reveals that a significant portion of the victims were in a state of economic vulnerability. This vulnerability was defined by their inability to fulfill fundamental requirements like food, housing, or healthcare. Typically, individuals with lower economic means and fewer skills are more vulnerable to falling for the false promises of employment and wages offered by traffickers, who may deceive and coerce them into situations of trafficking. Human traffickers often target families in extreme poverty, persuading them to send their children to work. They provide upfront funds for purchasing work tools, ensnaring the families in an enduring cycle of debt bondage

while subjecting their children to ongoing exploitation.[20]

Furthermore, strict migration and labor laws can lead to trafficking, as desperate migrants seek alternative, often illicit, routes through smugglers who can later exploit them. In previous cases, states have aimed to assist vulnerable migrants with legal job pathways during labor shortages. However, passport, ID, delays, costs, and post-border trafficking risks pose challenges. Restrictive labor laws for migrants often bind them to specific employers or sponsors. Accessing legal remedies can be challenging, time-consuming, and costly. Exploitative employers capitalize on these obstacles. A specific example is the Kafala System in Kuwait in which each worker is tied to a specific employer as a sponsor. This system generates conditions of vulnerability that facilitate abusive and exploitative work dynamics, results in domestic workers having their documents and mobile phones confiscated, restricts their ability to contact their families or form social connections outside the household, imposes long working hours and exposes them to mistreatment and physical abuse, and leads to hundreds of domestic workers fleeing from their employers annually.[21]

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately brought increases in cases of immigrant trafficking as well. The sharp incline in unemployment rates caused by COVID-19 resulted in increased trafficking, especially in nations facing the most drastic and enduring job losses. Individuals seeking employment from these nations may become more inclined to undertake risky endeavors in the pursuit of better prospects. Furthermore, one of the first studies conducted on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on migrants in Central America suggests that migrants may have been, and continue to be, disproportionately affected by the economic consequences of non-pharmaceutical interventions, as half of respondents had reportedly lost their employment due to the

Pandemic. The pandemic additionally resulted in heightened obstacles for victims in accessing essential services and adversely affected the timely and equitable legal processes. This, in turn, contributed to the accumulation of pending cases and restricted the availability of legal assistance to trafficking victims.[22]

Lastly, the Russia and Ukraine conflict has produced a plethora of immigrants fleeing from Ukraine to surrounding countries. The ongoing humanitarian crisis arising from the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is rapidly transforming into a dire situation of human trafficking. Women and children, who make up the majority of the refugees fleeing this conflict, are especially at risk of exploitation, as highlighted by Pramila Patten, the United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The problem of human trafficking was exacerbated after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Nearly ⅓ of Ukraine's population were forced to flee their home into border countries, becoming refugees. Russian troops were supposedly, using sexual violence as a weapon of war in Ukraine. Specifically, refugee women and children were being exploited. To address part of this issue, in Ukraine, on behalf of the United Nations, Pramila Patten signed a Framework of Cooperation with the Ukrainian government, aimed at supporting efforts to prevent and respond to sexual violence associated with the conflict.[23]

Analysis and Solutions

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) currently collaborates with law enforcement partners to dismantle the global criminal infrastructure involved in human smuggling and trafficking, and non-governmental organizations to locate, rescue, and assist trafficking victims. ICE leverages its legal authorities and expertise, confiscates assets, and diminishes profit incentives, while partnering with U.S. and international allies to combat these networks worldwide. It also employs 350 collateral duty

victim/witness coordinators who cooperate with NGOs to ensure the provision of victim services.[24]

The Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants between Asia and the Middle East (GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East) serves as a collaborative effort between the European Union and UNODC, with implementation by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). This project, funded by the European Union, assists government and civil society entities with targeted, innovative, and adaptable measures including aligning and revising legislation, strengthening capacities, facilitating regional and trans-regional cooperation, extends direct support to victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants by enhancing systems for identification, referral, and protection.[25]

The last address to immigrant trafficking is the Fair Recruitment Initiative, launched by the International Labor Organization (ILO). This initiative further contributes to the prevention of human trafficking. It safeguard the rights of workers, including migrant workers, by addressing abusive and deceptive practices in the recruitment and placement phases, and lowers the expenses associated with labor migration and promotes development.[26]

Although these prevention strategies have proved to be somewhat effective, their impact has the potential to be scaled in greater capacity. Building international agreements to foster collaboration between countries can be utilized to share information, intelligence, and resources to combat trafficking networks. Bilateral and multilateral agreements can be instrumental in facilitating this cooperation. Moreover, establishing and strengthening mechanisms for the protection and support of trafficking victims can make them feel more safe in standing up for themselves and their community. This includes providing shelter, medical care, legal assistance, and psychological support. A cause of human trafficking can be specifically addressed by

encouraging business corporations to adopt responsible supply chain practices to ensure that they are not inadvertently contributing to human trafficking through their operations. Lastly, targeting the root cause itself, the human traffickers, can be done by increasing efforts to identify and apprehend human traffickers. This involves intelligence gathering, undercover operations, and international collaboration to dismantle trafficking networks.

Questions to Consider

1. How do traffickers typically recruit and exploit immigrants, and what are the common tactics they employ? How can this information be used for further prevention?
2. What legal frameworks and international agreements supported by the United Nations exist to combat human trafficking, and how effective have they been in addressing the issue of immigrant trafficking specifically?
3. What role do UNODC and government policies as well as immigration systems play in either exacerbating or mitigating immigrant trafficking?
4. What are the challenges the UNODC faces in identifying and providing assistance to immigrant trafficking victims, particularly in cases involving irregular migration?
5. How can countries enhance cross-border cooperation and information sharing to combat transnational immigrant trafficking networks?

6. What preventive measures can be implemented to reduce the risk of immigrant trafficking, especially in source countries?
7. How can industries that may unknowingly benefit from trafficked labor be engaged in anti-trafficking efforts?
8. What are the long-term impacts of immigrant trafficking on individuals, families, and communities, and how can these be addressed by the UNODC?
9. What strategies can be employed to raise awareness about the issue of immigrant trafficking and promote public engagement and advocacy?

Further Research

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3. https://www.ice.gov/factsheets/human-trafficking: Detailed description of human trafficking and the difference between immigrant smuggling and trafficking
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United We Stand

General Assembly

World Summit for Children (Novice)

Akshaya Ramasamy and Ritvika Palani
Co-Chairs

World Summit for Children

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-General for External Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
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Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's World Summit for Children Committee! Your chairs, Ritvika Palani and Akshaya Ramasamy, are thrilled to meet all of you. As delegates in the World Summit for Children Committee, you will all meet to alleviate the education crisis during the 90s and effects of the Rwandan Genocide on African children. The committee focuses on not only the children of America and Africa but also the prosperity of the youth in other foreign nations. It's the duty of the delegates in this committee to think creatively and come up with solutions to help restore the wellbeing of children around the world.

Ritvika Palani is a junior at Maggie Walker. This is her second year participating in GSMUN, previously acting as a vice chair for UNEP. Besides Model UN, Ritvika is active in the Forensics Club, where she is part of the leadership, and in Bhangra and Jabberwock Clubs. Outside of school, she enjoys playing tennis. Ritvika is looking forward to meeting all the delegates and is really excited for GSMUN XXVI!

Akshaya Ramasamy, a junior at Maggie Walker, is very excited to be a co-chair for the World Summit for Children! This is her fourth year doing Model UN. Outside of Model UN, Akshaya enjoys participating in Jabberwock and Fringe, as part of the executive team. She loves to travel, dance, and hang out with friends and family. She is looking forward to a fantastic committee and is very excited about GSMUN XXVI!

As delegates of this committee, you are expected to come prepared to debate the possible solutions to issues faced by children during the 1990s as well as possible solutions to alleviate the danger and burdens on these children. You should know the causes of these crises as well as the background details of the several events mentioned in your background guide. The background guide is simply a guide to start your research, and delegates will be expected to complete a position paper, formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS) and pertaining to your position on the committee. At GSMUN, all position papers are expected to follow the Maggie Walker honor code; any and all plagiarism will not be tolerated.

Finally, a large part of GSMUN is our commitment to making a difference through charity. There will be merchandise, baked goods, and many other things on sale during the conference, with all of the proceeds going to charity - so don't forget to bring money! If you have any questions or concerns, or would like feedback on your position papers, feel free to contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.children@gmail.com. We are looking forward to meeting everyone in committee! See you at GSMUN XXVI and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Ritvika Palani
gsmunxxvi.children@gmail.com

Akshaya Ramasamy

World Summit for Children
Committee Overview

Background

The World Summit for Children was created in 1990 to safeguard the children of the world and aid them whenever possible. At these meetings, suggestions for children's well-being, protection, and development regarding nutrition, education, children deficiencies, and financial well-being are made. For example, some goals included protection of people from genocide, war crimes, and ethnic cleansing. Years later, following this meeting, it was deemed that substantial progress had been made regarding these goals and to help protect children. Their main priority was to improve the children's environment in which they developed to help provide all necessities and further aid to help improve their quality of life in all aspects.[1]

The main focus of the summit was to improve children's well-being, in an age where international and foreign politics such as wars and genocide were considerably changing the environment for children. Additionally, another crucial goal was to reduce mortality rates and improve children's immunity to diseases. The summit focused on ensuring that children have a safe and productive education, well balanced nutrition, adequate water, and most importantly safety. They also focused on the alleviation of poverty and restimulating the economy in hopes to provide children with the best environment possible. There was a following iteration for this summit in 2002 where they continued to work on issues including child poverty, access to education, and access to healthcare.[2]

Topic I: Poverty and War in Africa
History of the Issue

In the 1990s, Africa was quite divided by numerous wars and genocide including the Mozamican Civil War, the Rwandan genocide, and the Congo Wars. During this time period, children were often the targets of violence from both wars and genocide and this made this time in certain African countries difficult. These countries include Rwanda, Mozambique, Congo, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and more.[3]

The Rwandan genocide was a 100 day genocide involving two ethnic groups, the Hutus and the Tutsis. The ethnic group conflict led to deaths of many and many significant impacts to children in Rwanda including child soldier deaths, poverty, malnourishment, and a poor quality of life. The Congo Wars were as a result of the Rwandan genocide, and caused significant steps back for children including the spread of diseases and inability to combat these diseases.[4] The Mozambican Civil War was between the United States and Mozambique who were being backed up by the Soviet Union. The Mozambique war really highlighted the atrocities being committed by the introduction of many child soldiers into war.[5]

In the 1990s, seventy million Africans were poor. As a result, many children whose families had less financial capabilities also had very low mortality rates, due to a lack of ability to purchase basic necessities.[6] One hardship included less access to healthcare, which is even more detrimental when they are faced with diseases, as they were unable to combat the diseases.

Current Status of the Issue

The Rwandan genocide, in specific, had thirty percent of their children as victims in Western Rwanda. Many minors in Africa were arrested for crimes without a fair trial following the genocide. The estimated number of children detained without a fair trial is 5,000 children, making their ability to have a good future extremely difficult.[7]

The Rwandan genocide caused poverty in Rwanda. Poverty has worsened the lives of many children as it reduces their access to many necessities and facilities. It also can be very traumatic, specifically for children who have watched a relative die from genocide.[8]

War and genocide increased the spread of many diseases to Rwandan children including AIDS and HIV. Additionally, healthcare systems in Rwanda were weak and were unable to combat the huge spread of diseases.[9] The mortality rate was increased as a result due to the increased spread of diseases in addition to the increased number of child soldiers. Another consequence of wars was the spread of famine and malnourishment among African children, specifically in Mozambique, Congo, and Rwanda. This was also due to the large amount of poverty present in Rwanda and other African countries during the 1990s.[10] Many Rwandan children were often deprived of an adequate food supply which significantly affected and deteriorated their health and well-being, which also increased the mortality rate.[11]

Two out of three children in Southern Africa were deprived of at least one of the following: health, protection from HIV and AIDS, nutrition, education, hygiene, and water due to lack of access and poverty.[12] Poverty extends from a lack of money to causing deprivations of many basic needs for children. As a result, this tends to play a huge role in the child's upbringing, overall wellness, and ability to succeed. A solution to this is needed urgently and needs to encompass all aspects of poverty and its effect on children and their overall well-being.[13]

Similar to Rwanda, child soldiers were also common in Mozambique and resulted in the loss of many minors' lives during combat. These children were coerced into becoming soldiers and many of them did not survive the wars.[14]

There has been a spread of deliberate warfare and acts of violence, that tend to be brought upon the children. Additionally,

estimates are made that the majority of deaths from wars are between two groups: women and children. Not only were these children victims of violence but in some cases were forced into committing acts of violence against others in war. Additionally, many women and children were left susceptible to sexual assault, exploitation, hunger, and disease.[15] Countries who experienced loss in a war were also left in huge amounts of debts as a result of war which caused its people to also be left with economic issues and struggles as the country attempted to fix their financial situation.

As a result of war, many diseases spreaded fast among children and a lack of access to healthcare furthered their struggles causing a higher number of children to die. Measles was another very common disease among children which took the lives of many African children as they didn't take vaccines, due to their lack of access and financial abilities.[16]

Analysis and Solutions

These issues are spread greatly on a spectrum ranging from poverty to child soldiers. As a result, plausible solutions need to encompass multiple aspects of these issues and take into consideration funding, enforcement, and implications. A United Nations package to provide more funding for research for vaccines specifically for children to help immunize them from specific diseases would be beneficial. Money would be beneficial as this can help with the development of more effective vaccines and provide more free vaccines for those unable to afford them.

Additionally, employing powerful troops from nations with the resources would be crucial to ensure the safety of children during times of civil unrest. The addition of troops would help push for peace within a state that is under immense amounts of violence. Furthermore, a recommendation to create a binding enforcement in countries experiencing unrest to prevent minors from

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being allowed to be in the military. Moreover, the enforcement of this is crucial and solutions should be created to bind this enforcement and ensure that it is followed through with.

Either funding or packaged by the United Nations aimed to help provide food, water, and other basic necessities to impoverished children in Africa. There should also be more funding by other nations to help increase the access of healthcare for all people who are in need of it.

Questions to Consider
1. How should the UN aim to limit child soldiers in wars to help decrease the number of child deaths? How should the UN aim to decrease the number of child victims in war?
2. Is there a solution to help decrease poverty and its associated deprivations for children? How would it be implemented?
3. How would healthcare be more accessible to children? Specifically, children in low-income households who are more likely to catch diseases?
4. Should more vaccines be available in Africa at lower prices or for free so that they are more accessible to everyone? How would that be ensured?
5. What are the possible pros and cons to make healthcare more accessible and cheaper? Would it be beneficial to everyone or not? Why?
6. Would it be possible to provide more food, water, and basic necessities to all children, specifically those in lower income countries? Would this be a positive for all of Africa or not? And, where would the funding come from?

Further Research
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3. https://academic.oup.com/ije/article/30/3/447/736903: This provides further information on war, malnourishment, and child mortality in Africa specifically in times of poverty and war.
4. https://www.worldvision.org.uk/about/blogs/child-poverty-africa/: This talks about the downside effects of poverty in Africa and the negative effects it has on African children and their development.
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Topic II: Education Crisis
History of the Issue

In many developing countries, school attendance, especially for girls, is far from universal, and many children drop out of school before completing their primary education. Even children that do complete their primary school are not sufficiently educated due to poorly trained, underpaid teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and a lack of basic teaching tools such as textbooks, blackboards, and pens and paper.[17] The problem in many developing countries is that governments lack either the financial resources or the political willingness to meet their citizens' educational needs. In an ideal world, primary education would be universal and publicly financed, and all children would

be able to attend school regardless of their parents' ability or willingness to pay.[18]

The bulk of the world's poor live in East Asia and the Pacific, South Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa. School enrollment in these regions mirrors their economic performance. Countries, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and the Pacific Islands, have found it difficult to improve general learning quality due to a lack of financial resources and political commitment to education.[19] Many children in poor countries drop out of school before graduating. In 1996, the percentage of children of graduating age who actually completed primary school that year was 73 percent in developing countries as a group, but this still represents an improvement as rates were lower in 1990.[20]

Another point of disparity in educational attainment is between different groups within countries. In most low-income countries, children from poor families are much less likely to be in school than children from more affluent families, except in countries like Uzbekistan that have strong universal education. In Pakistan, in the early 1990s, 86 percent of rich children aged 6 through 14 were in school, compared to 37 percent of poor children, making for a large rich-poor gap. The disparity between sexes is even more dramatic. Girls' lack of educational attainment is a primary leading factor for the low education attendance rates in low-income countries. The bias against girls in education is especially seen in South Asia and Africa, specifically due to the instilled inequality between the genders in these continents.[21]

Current Status of the Issue

Many nations, primarily in Sub-saharan Africa, the Pacific, South Asia, and East Asia, have had trouble increasing education access and literacy rates. One of these regions include the Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Ever since the alarming Pacific Island Literacy Level results in 1996, there has been an obvious necessity to improve student performance in this region.

Many countries here are still requiring school fees for basic education, which makes education less accessible for the abundance of lower-income families. Not only access to education, but quality of learning is also a primary issue in the PICs. Many students that are receiving an education here, are being forced to be in the system for a high cost with a handful of tangible benefits. This is due to a lack of proper planning from policy makers in the PICs, which leads to the idea that the governments itself are currently incapable of financially and efficiently supporting a sufficient education for all children in the region.[22]

Although PICs seem to easily adapt to emergency situations, such as frequent natural disasters and upgrading financial systems, which only occurs when there is enough urgency and visibility attached to the issue. The lack of an efficient education system in the PICs is not widely recognized within these governments.[23]

On the other hand, in Afghanistan, the primary issue is the gender divide present within an educational aspect as eighty percent of girls do not attend school in this nation. Due to the Taliban rule, girls are banned from pursuing secondary school and university since it "does not match with Islamic representation." However, this is not an Islamic religious cause, but rather an idea formed by religious extremists.[24] Although primary school is not banned for girls in Afghanistan, seventeen percent are married under the age of fifteen and transportation, which is necessary for travel to school, can be unsafe for girls due to the dangerous environment. Furthermore, there is a lack of funding for all-girl schools, which explains why thirty percent of young girls have not gone to primary school.[25]

Increased rates of child marriage and child labor are consequences of a lack of education for girls, since they have become accustomed to the idea of women not being literate. Additionally, girls are unable to get efficient jobs and live independently within

Afghanistan. This unemployment and salary deficiency is a leading cause for malnutrition and a lack of awareness for hygiene and other health related necessities.[26]

In Bangladesh, which gained its independence twenty years back, citizens are required to receive five years of education, but this exempts rural girls. This is a clear factor for the disparities in education. Another issue in Bangladesh is the lack of available resources, such as teachers, in primary schools, as there is a ratio of fifty four to one. Furthermore, not only is making education accessible an issue, but also assuring that they stay in the learning environment, as there is a dropout rate of fifty percent for girls by the fifth grade.[27]

The government has been attempting to make reforms, but due to insufficient finances and infrastructure, the implementation has not been as effective as many would like. Furthermore, even with these reforms, school is still economically inaccessible to many families. It is to the extent that families must decide whether to pay for food or education, but sometimes the children are too hungry to attend school.[28]

Analysis and Solutions

These issues range from a lack of funding to inequality in developing nations. Due to the urgency of these issues, efficient reforms must be enforced and must solve all aspects of this education crisis. Specifically, improving the gender disparity in education accessibility and ensuring that girls are able to receive a similar education to boys. Furthermore, the lack of a quality of education and keeping children in school is also important to note. Increasing the awareness of the issue will also assist in solving this crisis, as many developing countries' governments fail to address this dilemma since they view it as of less priority.

Decreasing the cost of education within these nations will allow low income families to be able to receive an education, but it is important to ensure that these governments' economies do not fail due to these newfound funding. Additionally, giving more resources to the education sector is crucial as it will improve the quality of learning.[29]

Although improvement of equality can never be entirely achieved, it is important to ensure that girls have access to the same opportunities and levels of education as boys are. This is primarily seen in developing countries and in nations where women are not equal by law. Therefore, it can only be achieved through strong political movements to improve equality in all aspects, but especially in education. Lastly, increasing awareness in nations will provide governments with the will to increase the ultimate quality of education.

Questions to Consider

1. How can developing nations' governments increase funding for education while still ensuring the success of their economy?
2. Why are girls not given an equal education in many nations? How can we ensure that girls have similar levels of literacy as boys? Will this make a difference for the wellbeing of the nation as well?
3. What are possible solutions to increase awareness and priority for this crisis within governments? How will this make a difference for this issue?
4. How can the quality of education be improved? What are necessary measures and resources that will increase academic results?
5. What will decrease the rate of dropout students in these countries? Is this just a developing nation issue or a global problem?

Further Research

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2. https://www.borgenmagazine.com/education-in-developing-countries/: Delving into the multiple ways to improve education in developing countries, this source provides possible general solutions.
3. https://academic.oup.com/book/35237/chapter/299774411: This gives more information on the multiple issues regarding a lack of quality education in underdeveloped countries.
4. https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/issues/issues33/: This provides further information on the importance of educating children and why developing countries fail to provide their citizens with a sufficient education.
5. https://study.com/academy/lesson/education-in-third-world-countries.html: This source is a general guide to the status of education in developing countries and delves into the various issues in the topic.

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Andrew Jackson's Cabinet

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-General for External Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
Director of General Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to Andrew Jackson's Cabinet of GSMUN XXVI! Your chairs, Ally Lichtman and Amogh Saunshimath, are thrilled to meet all of you. As delegates in Andrew Jackson's Cabinet, you will all meet to address the political, social, and economic conflicts of the Jacksonian Era. Taking place in the leadup to the election of 1832, the committee focuses on not only the issues of states' rights, sectionalism, and Native American treatment, but also their ripple effects on Jackson's reelection campaign and American democracy on the road to the Civil War. In Topic 1, delegates will confront the issue of State's Rights head on as they will analyze the effects of the Bank War and Nullification Crisis. Topic 2 requires delegates to think about issues regarding westward expansion and its effects on Native American displacement. It is the duty of the delegates in this committee to think creatively and create solutions to help alleviate the current tensions as well as restore stability and trust in the U.S. government.

Ally Lichtman, a junior at Maggie Walker, is excited to serve as co-chair for Andrew Jackson's Cabinet. She has been involved in Model UN since fifth grade and previously served as a vice chair and co-chair at GSMUN. Aside from Model UN, Ally is co-captain of the Debate Team and organizer for the One Small Step program and Transcribe Team at MLWGS. In her free time, she enjoys playing the viola, reading, and keeping up with current events. Ally looks forward to meeting all the delegates this March!

Amogh Saunshimath, a junior at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to serve as co-chair for Andrew Jackson's Cabinet. He has been involved in Model UN since seventh grade, and he has previously served as crisis director and co-chair at GSMUN. Outside of Model UN, Amogh is a part of the school's robotics team, the Mech Tech Dragons. He also fervently participates in the economics and investment club. Outside of school, he serves as the Director of Technology for the Desi Youth Association. In his free time, Amogh loves to swim, hang out with friends, and volunteer at the science museum. He cannot wait to see all of the delegates in committee this March!

As delegates of this committee, you are expected to come prepared to debate the complex issues of Andrew Jackson's presidency as well as craft possible solutions to conflicts related to domestic policy and foreign relations. You should have a solid understanding of the state of American politics in the early 19th century and be familiar with key legislation, court rulings, and other measures that have been passed by late 1832 relating to both Topic 1 and Topic 2, as outlined in the background guide. However, the background guide is simply a starting point, and delegates will be expected to complete a position paper with additional research pertaining to your position in the committee. Please be aware that while this committee seeks to remain historically accurate in the context of this period, we will not tolerate human rights violations or genocide of any kind. Position papers should be double spaced and formatted in Times New Roman, 12-point font with Chicago Manual Style (CMS) citations. At GSMUN, all position papers are expected to follow the Maggie Walker honor code; any and all plagiarism will not be tolerated. This includes ChatGPT and other AI mechanisms. Please send completed position papers by email to gsmunxxvi.jackson@gmail.com before 5 PM on conference day.

Finally, a large part of GSMUN is our commitment to making a difference through charity. There will be merchandise, baked goods, and many other things on sale during the conference, so don't forget to bring money! All proceeds will go to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a nonprofit dedicated to finding cures and ensuring access to treatments for blood cancer patients. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.jackson@gmail.com. We are looking forward to meeting everyone in the committee! See you at GSMUN XXVI and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Ally Lichtman

Ally Lichtman
gsmunxxvi.jackson@gmail.com

Amogh Saunshimath

Andrew Jackson's Cabinet
Committee Overview

Background

America has been independent for just over half a century, yet the new republic has already seen more than its fair share of political, social, and economic conflict. Though Americans collectively defeated a world power, they now face an internal struggle over slavery, constitutionalism, and political parties. The emergence of sectionalism has highlighted the disparity between regions of this vast country and the diversity of people who inhabit it, which include Native Americans, white settlers, and enslaved people. The vision of the federal government has proven to be at odds with the interests of state governments. The birth of the Second Party System has sparked intense political conflict and given rise to the Jacksonian Presidency, led by a politician who is simultaneously depicted as a tyrant and protector of the common man.[1]

This committee will take place in November of 1832 in the leadup to the presidential election of that year, which will pit Andrew Jackson, the Democratic incumbent, against Henry Clay, the National Republican nominee.[2] Delegates must consider the short and long-term implications of historical events that have already occurred, as well as make quick yet calculated decisions that could change the course of American history as we know it — for better or for worse.

Topic I: States' Rights
History of the Issue

The debate over states' rights is not unique to the Jacksonian Era. Rather, it is rooted in the fundamental constitutional principles established during the ratification debates. At the core of this debate is the concept of federalism, which is defined as the balance of power between the national and state governments.[3] Federalism originated from the conflict between Anti-Federalists, who backed the small local governments outlined in the Articles of Confederation, and Federalists, who promoted the strong central government drafted in the new U.S. Constitution. Ultimately, the Federalists prevailed and the Constitution was ratified in 1789, but the arguments put forth by Anti-Federalists were by no means ignored. While the supreme law of the land would have several provisions limiting the power of individual states, it would also include some sections recognizing their authority. For instance, Article VI — which includes the Supremacy Clause — limits state power by deeming federal law supreme over state law, while the 10th Amendment recognizes state power by reserving any powers not explicitly granted to the central government for the States themselves.[4] These two portions of the Constitution theoretically oppose one another and therefore have been the source of numerous conflicts within the United States.

Although the Constitution presents the legal basis of government, the political conflicts that emerged in the subsequent decades exercised the document and set the precedent for states' rights seen by the Jacksonian Age. In 1798, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison drafted the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions, declaring the Alien and Sedition Acts not only unconstitutional but also null and void in the respective states. These acts restricted immigration and freedom of speech in an attempt to quash political dissent during wartime. Since Jefferson and Madison were the ones to declare the acts unconstitutional, their resolutions only affected Virginia and Kentucky, rather than the entire nation. This furthered states' rights and reduced the power of the central government. Specifically, it set

the precedent for states being able to void the Supremacy Clause, which would later be used to justify nullification in South Carolina.[5]

The Supreme Court, under the leadership of Chief Justice John Marshall, also intervened to solve various disputes over states' rights. In 1816, the Marshall Court took on *Trustees of Dartmouth College v. Woodward*, rejecting an attempt by the New Hampshire state legislature to make Dartmouth College a state university.[6] In 1819, the Court took on *McCulloch v. Maryland*, deciding that Congress had the power to establish the Second National Bank but Maryland did not have the right to tax it.[7] And in 1824, the Court heard *Gibbons v. Ogden*, ruling that Congress, rather than the state of New York, had power over interstate commerce.[8] These landmark rulings in favor of an expansive national government represent the kinds of obstacles that may interfere with Jackson's goal of expanding states' rights.

The combination of legislative and judicial precedent collectively laid the groundwork for the key arguments of the Jackson presidency, which were epitomized by the Webster-Hayne Debates of 1830. These Senate debates pitted Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, who lauded a strong Union, against Robert Hayne of South Carolina, who backed a Confederation of states possessing the right to nullification.[9] In addition to covering specific issues regarding Western expansion, they wrestled with underlying concepts such as the nature of the Union and state power, both of which characterize American politics during this period.

A series of underlying internal and external conflicts provide context for the central issues of Jackson's presidency. At the domestic level, America is experiencing the effects of the Market Revolution, whereby changes in technology are reshaping the commercial economy of the nation. During this period, financial and banking industries are expanding in Northern cities while agriculture is advancing in the ideal growing

conditions on Southern plantations. In particular, the invention of the cotton gin by Eli Whtiney in 1793 revolutionized cotton production by marking the shift from labor-intensive manual processing to rapid machine-based processing. The expansion of the industry in turn fueled a growing demand for slave labor to grow and cultivate cotton, bringing the debate over slavery to the forefront of American politics, especially during Jackson's presidency. Thus, the interdependence between Northern manufacturing and Southern agriculture in the cotton industry has inspired national commercial ties while simultaneously highlighting regional differences across the country. This phenomenon has become known as "King Cotton" because it dominates not only the economy but also politics in the United States.

Another key development of the early 19th century was the growth of the American System. Following the War of 1812, Henry Clay of Kentucky created a plan to regulate American commerce and bind together the Northern, Southern, and Western United States. This plan is the root of Jacksonian debates over internal improvements—whether the federal government should fund projects to build public works like roads and canals—as well as the infamous tariff and national bank.[10] Clay believed these interlocking policies would collectively spur economic growth across the country; for example, he reasoned that the money collected from tariffs could be used to build the roads and canals connecting the states from coast to coast. Although the American System was intended to unify the country, many Southerners opposed it in practice, believing that its policies favored the North and West at the expense of the South. This only furthered Southern resentment and sectional tensions early on in the leadup to the Civil War.

On the issue of foreign relations, some Americans feel they have been ill-treated by both Great Britain and France. They seek

to distance their country from Europe and emphasize their new independence, especially by restricting international trade.[11] Due to tense relations with these countries, the United States has taken actions to limit its economic dependence on them. For example, Thomas Jefferson pushed Congress to pass the Embargo Act of 1807, which limited commerce with Europe to prevent engagement in the Napoleonic Wars. Then, the United States entered the War of 1812 against Great Britain in response to issues like impressment and trade restrictions.[12] While the war strengthened internal trade networks and American national unity, the early growth of sectionalism soon compromised these developments. The combination of economic changes within the country and political tensions with Europe thus creates a complex backdrop for Andrew Jackson's presidency.

Current Status of the Issue

Once again, America is at the brink of war—a Bank War, that is. Clay, the man behind the American System, has pushed early recharter of the Second Bank of the United States, which will otherwise expire in 1836. As of July 1832, both the Senate and House of Representatives passed the Bank Recharter Bill; only the president's signature stood in the way of the bill becoming a law. Yet, that was precisely the issue. Jackson bitterly distrusts the Bank and therefore issued a veto.[13] He sees it as a tool of oppression manipulated in the interest of elites, mirroring the concerns of Anti-Federalists that a powerful national government would serve elite interests. This reinforces Jackson's reputation as protector of the common man. In addition to his deep personal distrust in the Bank, Jackson blames it for the Panic of 1819, a financial crisis triggered by the aftermath of the War of 1812 and failed lending practices that devastated the economy, including the cotton industry, and therefore contributed to the rise to Jacksonian Democracy. It is only a matter of time until the charter expires, so either Nicholas Biddle and proponents of the Bank

will find a way to pressure a recharter, or the Cabinet must swiftly decide how to redistribute deposits. Given that the Bank of the United States drives the American financial system by doing everything from issuing currency to making loans, the organization of the new banking system will play a key role in the future stability of the nation.[14] Significantly, it will define regulations for printing currency and lending money in light of Western land sales, which is essential to preventing another financial panic.

The transition will inevitably be an unstable period for the American financial system. Any major missteps on the part of the executive branch could lead to bank failure and economic recession. This would severely undermine Jackson's authority, potentially putting the entire presidency at risk and jeopardizing the future of Jacksonian Democracy as a political party. The stakes are high.

In addition to the Bank War, Cabinet members must simultaneously grapple with an impending Nullification Crisis. The root of this controversy was the Tariff of 1828, which significantly increased taxes on imports. By making foreign goods more expensive, the tariff pushed Americans to purchase domestic products, which benefited Northerner manufacturers. On the other hand, Southerners strongly opposed the policy, coining it the "Tariff of Abominations." Not only did the tariff increase the cost of manufactured goods, but it also caused Britain to retaliate by importing less American cotton, thereby damaging the Southern export economy.[15] In response, Congress passed the Tariff of 1832, which slightly reduced the rates outlined in the Tariff of 1828. Yet, Southerners are still not satisfied. For example, Vice President John C. Calhoun highlighted his concerns in his *South Carolina Exposition and Protest*, labeling the tariff as unconstitutional and oppressive. His central claim was that the tariff was an abuse of the expressed powers of the federal government, upholding the doctrine of states' rights. He

also emphasized that South Carolina entirely depends on the revenue it earns from selling raw materials like cotton, so the "Tariff of Abominations" would destroy the state. Therefore, on November 24, 1832, the South Carolina legislature adopted the Ordinance of Nullification, declaring the tariff null and void and threatening to secede by February 1833, shortly after the presidential election.[16] Jackson's Cabinet must act immediately, whether by diplomacy or force, to prevent the crisis from getting out of control. It is important to note that South Carolina's decision could set the precedent for other Southern states and trigger the domino effect, leading to a Civil War as early as 1833.

Analysis and Solutions

The first possible solution to the current issues of Jackson's presidency is compromise, which has been repeatedly attempted in America's past. For instance, the Missouri Compromise of 1820 simultaneously admitted Maine as a free state and Missouri as a slave state to preserve the balance of power in Congress, as well as established the Mason-Dixon Line to determine whether slavery would be allowed in future states. To address the Bank War, the government may choose to adopt a dual banking system, in which a system of federal and state banks would coexist, guaranteeing centralization while allowing some local management.[17] In this model, a series of small banks would operate privately across the country but still abide by the federal standards and supervision imposed by the national bank. This would offer a middle ground, easing tensions between supporters and opponents of the Second Bank of the United States. With respect to the Nullification Crisis, politicians could work to devise a Compromise Tariff in order to further reduce the Tariff of 1832 while still serving its primary functions. Congress may also conduct an evaluation to determine which products must rely on protective tariffs and which can be spared, as opposed to taxing all foreign goods. If any

European nation imposes retaliatory tariffs, the U.S. may attempt to strike a deal to remove them and restore friendly relations.

On the flip side, Americans may have to resort to violence and coercion. As February draws closer, Congress may opt to send military troops to put South Carolina in line and prevent conflict from erupting in neighboring states. It might also turn to more severe measures to address violence over slavery. The U.S. government considers secession to be unconstitutional based on the Constitution's promise to make "a more perfect Union," but the violent path to secure this promise involves serious stipulations.

From a domestic standpoint, if South Carolina follows through with secession, Congress may be forced to wield its power to declare war. This would have severe repercussions, leading to disunity and exposing weakness in the new republic. In terms of foreign relations, if any European nation imposes retaliatory tariffs yet refuses to compromise, the U.S. may keep the tariffs in place and thereby set off a trade war. This would send the message that the U.S. will not stand to be pushed around by Europe. However, it could also be detrimental to the U.S. economy, risking another financial panic that would cause thousands of everyday people to lose their jobs and savings and see their lives turned upside down. Finally, it could further incense the South, opening yet another path to war.

Questions to Consider
1. Given the ruling in *McCulloch v. Maryland*, was Jackson right to veto the Bank Recharter Bill? How should the banking system be restructured to ensure stability and prevent another recession?
2. What is the role of the Supreme Court in establishing the scope of federal authority? How might future Supreme Court rulings help resolve issues concerning the tariff and nullification?

3. To what extent should the United States engage in economic activity with Great Britain and other European nations? Can the U.S. risk retaliatory tariffs?

4. In what ways is slavery a source of regional divide, and what steps can be taken to reconcile the diametrically opposed views of slavery in the North and South? To what degree must slavery be considered in possible solutions to the economic and political issues of Jackson's presidency?

5. Is the doctrine of nullification legal? If so, how can the U.S. government prevent states from going too far (i.e. prevent South Carolina from seceding)? If not, can the U.S. government force states to comply with federal laws?

6. How can the United States reconcile its regional differences to unify as a country before it is too late? What is the risk of secession to the American economy and culture?

7. At what point does state sovereignty interfere with the integrity of the Union? Where do we draw the line?

Further Research
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2. https://millercenter.org/president/jackson/domestic-affairs: article from the Miller Center at the University of Virginia, which provides an helpful overview of the various domestic affairs involved in Jackson's presidency.
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beN4qE-e5O8: Crash Course video on the Age of Jackson, which offers

an entertaining summary and analysis of this period in U.S. history.
4. https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/historic-document-library/detail/andrew-jackson-bank-veto-message-1832: excerpt from Jackson's veto message, which provides insight into his view of the national bank and government as a whole.
5. https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/ordnull.asp: transcript of the South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification, which lists the specific provisions of the doctrine and offers a look into opposing perspectives.
6. https://www.oyez.org/: multimedia archive for the Supreme Court of the United States, which provides clear summaries of all cases by search.

Topic II: America Divided and Expansion Beyond
History of the Issue

Sectionalism, at its most basic, is defined as the political favoritism of a certain region and is one of the most prominent problems faced in American politics. It began with the creation of the First Party system after George Washington's presidency. The First Party system was composed of Federalist and Democratic-Republicans, whose disagreements on fundamental principles such as the extent of federal power led to the creation of two major factions. In American politics, the two-party system is when two major political parties control the majority of politics in all three branches, and the US went through multiple variations of the two-party system throughout history. Within the First Party system, the Federalists favored limiting state power, representative rather than direct democracy, and industrialization. Contrary, the Democratic-Republicans strongly believed in greater state power, direct democracy, and focus on the agricultural economy. The dissolution of the Federalist party allowed America to experience an "Era of Good Feelings," a period characterized by a

one-party system and general political harmony.[18] This short-lived era began immediately after the War of 1812 and continued through James Monroe's presidency, and was characterized by optimistic sentiment of a politically unified America under the Democratic-Republicans.[19] However, the tranquility was only surface level, as contradictory views within the single party remained, eventually rising into sectionalism.

One instance of this growing divide was the Missouri Compromise. The 1787 Northwest Ordinance established a standard process for admitting new territory into the union and application for statehood, and maintained an equal number of free and slave states.[20] When Missouri applied for statehood, it seemed as if it would become a slave state, so Democratic-Republican congressman James Tallmadge suggested making Missouri a free state due to his desire to balance the number of slave and free states within the union to avoid further political fighting.[21] This led to a sectional crisis as Northern and Southern politicians were divided on how to proceed because of their regional beliefs. Generally, Southern politicians favored slave states to support their giant agricultural economy while Northerners did not. Fortunately, Democratic-Republican Henry Clay eventually drafted the Missouri compromise stating that Missouri would enter as a slave state while Maine, a territory applying for statehood, would be a free state, with any territory above Missouri's southern border also being admitted as a free state in the future.[22] While the issue was temporarily resolved, this event foreshadowed the end of the Era of Good Feelings.

The Presidential Election of 1824 presents itself with recurring issues of sectionalism. Four candidates entered the election of 1824, all belonging to the same party: Andrew Jackson, John Quicy Adams, Henry Clay, and William Crawford. Despite Jackson winning the popular vote, no one could secure the presidency because the number of candidates running dispersed the number of Electoral votes required.[23] However, Adams made a deal, known as the Corrupt Bargain, with Clay, in which Clay would be Secretary of State if he gave his votes to Adams, allowing him to win the presidency.[24] This political maneuver enraged Jackson, leading to him running for president under the newly founded Democratic party against Adams in 1828 and securing the Presidency.[25] The remaining politicians from the Democratic-Republicans party then evolved into the Whigs, who were initially anti-Jackson and disliked many of pro-expansionist and anti-federalist policies. Sectionalism only increased from this point on as Jackson solidified his support from the South and West due to his military career and background while the Whigs, such as Clay and Adams, gained more condense support in the North.[26] The concentrated regional support defined the views and beliefs of each party as they adopted the views from their supporters. Because of this, the Democrats were overall proponents of slavery while the Whigs weren't. Due to the adoption of their region's beliefs, the Whigs also transitioned from an anti-Jackson party to their own unique party platform which generally advocates for industrialization, centralization, and limiting the expansion of slavery.

Another recurring problem in American politics is geographical expansion and interactions with the Native Americans. America's first major annexation was the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The French Revolution commanded France's attention, leading to the country being unable to maintain its colonies in North America, and slowly losing control over them. Thomas Jefferson, who purchased the French occupied area in the Louisiana Purchase, allowed Americans to greatly expand and settle Westward. However, this also led to more encounters and conflicts with Native Americans as the two groups began to interact more frequently.

Additionally, the Seminole Wars was a conflict between the US and Spanish forces within Florida and demonstrates the tensions between Native Americans and expanding Americans. In 1817, the US claimed West Florida as part of the Louisiana Purchase. At that time, Florida was occupied by the Spanish and Seminole natives even after the US gained independence.[27] Andrew Jackson, who served as a U. S. general at the time, led his troops across the border into Pensacola where they destroyed the Spanish settlement, seized indigenous Seminole land, and forced natives out of the area.[28] This prompted international controversy, and then President James Monroe called for Jackson's restraint, however, US and Spain settled the conflict through the Adams-Onís Treaty, where Spain ceded East Florida to the US.[29] Furthermore, the Seminole Wars provides an example of how expansionism impacts Native Americans, and how many natives were often displaced from their ancestral land. Through the conflict, the US was able to gain more territory from foreign powers.

Current Status of the Issue

Currently, two major problems captivate American politics and need to be addressed immediately and effectively to prevent further division: sectionalism and Native American treatment.

Sectionalism can be an effective tool to ensure that all of the needs of the people are addressed, but it also may lead to worsened division and sectional separation. The Democratic Party is grounded in the West and South whilst Whigs find their support strongest in the North. Each party maintains contradictory beliefs over issues such as the expansion of slavery, the potential citizenship of freedmen, regulation of the economy, and foreign affairs. The beliefs of these parties reflect the sentiments felt by their supporters within their geographical regions, thus allowing for varying viewpoints and for the people to feel thoroughly represented by their party of choice. However,

sectionalism forces politicians to prioritize local interests over bipartisan or national interests which can cause some overarching national issues to go unnoticed. Jackson's cabinet must work to limit this issue before it obscures American politics completely. Otherwise, the U.S. may suffer irreparable division and conflict.

Secondly, the expansion of the United States comes with many consequences, specifically the increasingly negative interactions with Indigenous peoples. Jackson supports the concept of relocating Native Americans further and further westward into desolate lands in order for Americans to easily settle and expand west. The 1830 Indian Removal Act solidified Jackson's power to grant land westward for the Native Americans for their removal from native lands.[30] Many Natives did not oblige peacefully to this relocation and were violently removed. The Cherokee Nation resided in Georgia and had already been pressured to give up their lucrative land, but when gold was discovered in their area in 1829, calls for relocation of the Cherokee intensified.[31] The Cherokee Nation defended themselves by stating the US guaranteed protection through signed treaties in the Supreme Court case *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*, but the Supreme Court dismissed the case, stating it could not make a decision due to lack of evidence.[32] A later related case, 1830's *Worcester v. Georgia*, declared that the Cherokee Nation is a sovereign entity and, therefore, Georgia's relocation policies do not apply.[33] Despite these rulings, the state government did not acknowledge the sovereignty of the Cherokee. Jackson's cabinet must take a firm stance on this issue and how to recognize Native Americans within government before these relations become too hostile.

Analysis and Solutions

Pertaining to the topic of sectionalism, the cabinet should strive to reach a consensus on whether sectionalism should be supported in politics or not. Sectionalism allows

politicians to adequately serve their citizens by listening and advocating for their supporters. However, this also exacerbates the divide between political parties and geographic areas which will lead to a more divided America. If this occurs, the productivity of the government decreases, and politicians will fail to serve the citizens as a whole and only focus on serving their closest supporters. Division between citizens could also occur as politics continue to separate America geographically through sectionalism Taking a stance on sectionalism will allow the cabinet to implement certain measures that encourage or limit sectionalism in politics and can allow the government to adequately fulfill the needs of the people.

For the issue of expansion and Native American treatment, the cabinet must evaluate the impacts of expanding the Union westward and incorporating new land. If the cabinet believes that expansion yields more benefits than costs, it should decide on what course of action should be taken for the Native Americans. The primary goal is to limit the amount of violence and conflicts between westward settlers and Native American tribes, and there are multiple solutions to achieve this. If seizing Native American land is desired, then resettling Native American tribes to a designated area could be used. However, a more peaceful solution could be establishing agreements with the tribes that guarantee their protection and recognize their sovereignty if settlers are allowed to travel through their territory.

Questions to Consider
1. What measures should be implemented to ensure another crisis similar to the Missouri Compromise does not occur?
2. How can executive politicians be held accountable if they act on sectional interests rather than fulfilling national goals?

3. What are more permanent solutions to the issue of expansion of slavery to ensure compromise and avoid divide?
4. Is sectionalism a tool that the government can use to address the people's wants and needs, or is it a dangerous weapon that could destroy American unity?
5. Citing *Worcester v. Georgia*, how should this ruling and similar legislature be enforced?
6. Is it possible for settlers and Native Americans to share the same land equally and peacefully? What are some possible ways to foster peace and equality between settlers and Native Americans?

Further Research
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2. https://www.americanyawp.com/text/12-manifest-destiny/: An online textbook chapter that summarizes events and major themes about American expansion westward.
3. https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/missouri-compromise#:~:text=An%20Act%20to%20authorize%20the,prohibit%20slavery%20in%20certain%20territories: A typed text version of the actual Missouri Compromise.
4. https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2020/10/22/the-1824-presidential-election-and-the-corrupt-bargain/: An article detailing the election of 1824, the "Corrupt Bargain", and major figures within it.
5. https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/whigs-and-democrats: An article that briefly describes the collapse of the Era of Good Feelings and conflicts faced in the Second Party System.

Also contains useful information pertaining to topic 1.

6. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Seminole-Wars: An article that briefly discusses the background and events of the Seminole Wars.

7. https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/indian-treaties: A very brief article that summarizes major Native American treaties and agreements as well as conflicts during the Jacksonian period.

8. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Worcester-v-Georgia: An article that briefly discusses *Worcester v. Georgia* ruling and background behind it.

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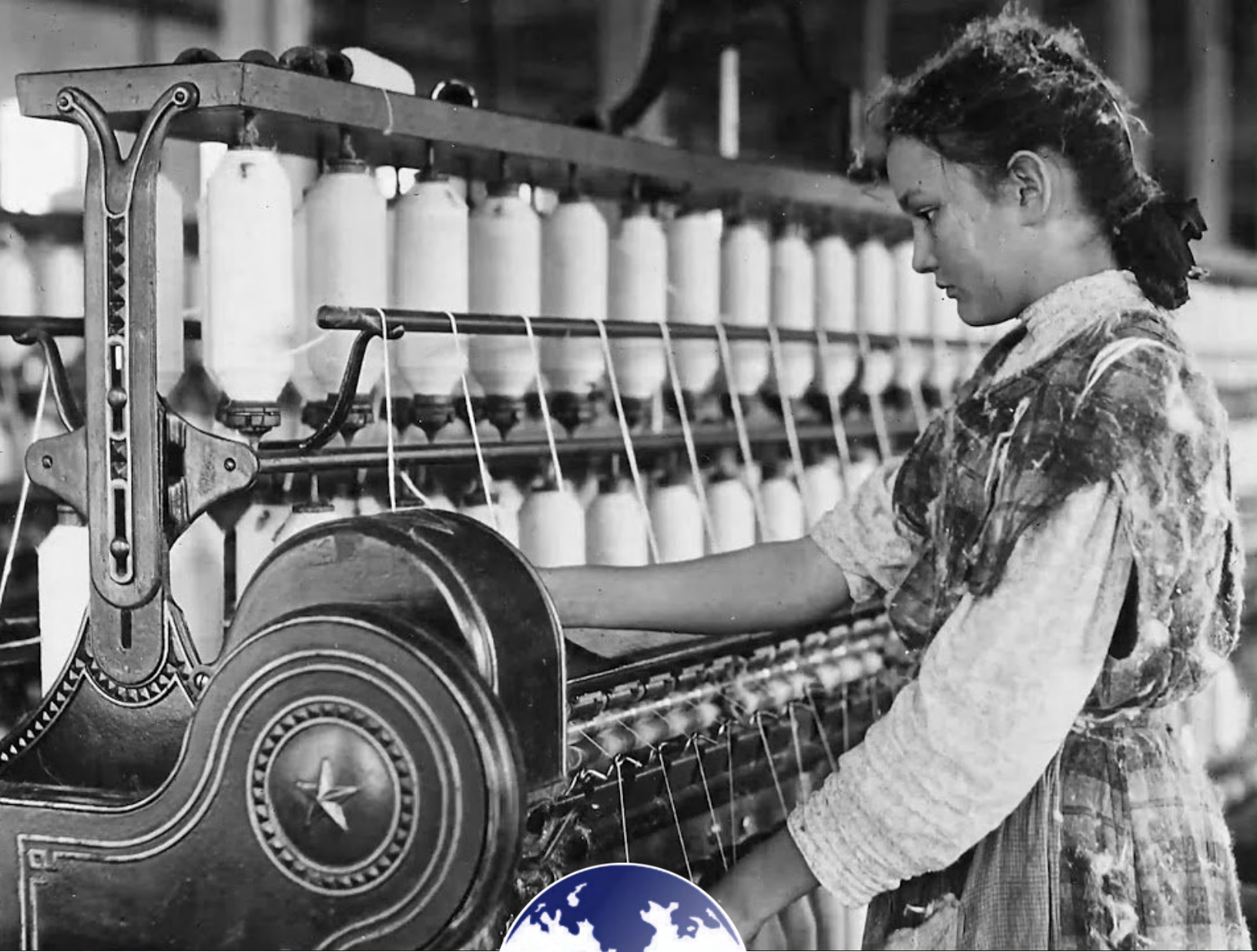
Specialized Agency

The Second Industrial Age

Isaiah Hathaway and Isaac Hathaway
Co-Chairs

The Second Industrial Age

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

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Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
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Parth Tornekar
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Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
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Sonia Chornodolsky
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Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's Second Industrial Revolution Committee! Your Chairs Isaac & Isaiah Hathaway are simply elated at the thought of meeting all of you. As delegates in the Second Industrial Revolution Committee, you will be stepping into a world of smoke, corruption, and greed. As a cobbled-together coalition of farmers, workers, wealthy elite, and politicians you will find a way to crack down on corruption and the large monopolies that dominate the economic landscape. Picking up in the beginnings of the Garfield Administration, this committee will focus on the impact of monopolies and on the festering corruption that lurks beneath the surface of Gilded Age governance. Each delegate is a vital member of this committee and will take part in decisions that will determine the future of America, for better or for worse.

Isaac Hathaway, a junior at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to serve as Co-Chair for the Second Industrial Revolution Committee. This is his second time chairing and also his second time participating in GSMUN. In addition to Model UN, Isaac is an avid member of the Maggie Walker First Robotics Team 422 The Mech Tech Dragons, and the Maggie Walker Quiz Bowl Team. Outside of school, you can find Isaac playing tabletop games, CADing, and 3D printing a myriad of curios.

Isaiah Hathaway, a junior at Maggie Walker, is excited to serve as Co-Chair for the Second Industrial Revolution Committee. This will be Isaiah's second time working at GSMUN, originally as a crisis staffer but now as a chair. Outside of Model UN Isaiah is part of First Robotics Team 422 and the Maggie Walker Quizbowl Team. He also enjoys playing tabletop games, writing short stories, and reading fantasy novels.

As delegates of the Second Industrial Revolution Committee, you are expected to come prepared to debate the multi-faceted issues of corruption and monopolies during the Second Industrial Revolution as well as pose possible solutions to the problems they have created. You should know about the rise of monopolies, their effects, and the controversy surrounding them. It is also important to understand the political climate of 1880s America and the corruption happening within the government. The background guide is simply a guide to start your research, and delegates will be expected to complete a position paper, formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS) and pertaining to your position on the committee. At GSMUN, all position papers are expected to follow the Maggie Walker honor code; any and all plagiarism, including the use of generative AI (such as Chat-GPT, GPT-4, Bard, etc.), will not be tolerated.

Before we go, we would like to acknowledge that a large part of GSMUN is our commitment to making a difference through charity. There will be merchandise, scrumptious baked goods, and many other exciting baubles for sale during the conference, with all proceeds going to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. So don't forget to bring money! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us a gsmunxxvi.industrial@gmail.com. We are overwhelmed with anticipation for this committee and can't wait to see you there!

Your Chairs,

Isaiah Hathaway
gsmunxxvi.industrial@gmail.com

Isaac Hathaway

Second Industrial Revolution
Committee Overview

Background

    Near the end of the eighteenth century, the first piece of British manufacturing equipment came to the United States of America in the form of a water-powered cotton mill. In the following century, new technology and innovation slowly crept into American society until the Civil War, when industrialization drastically boomed.[1] While the First Industrial Revolution had primarily been contained to Britain, by 1880 the process of American industrialization was in full swing, and with it came an era known as the Second Industrial Revolution.

    The Second Industrial Revolution led to rapid urbanization as factories sprung up and provided new jobs to Americans. The developing railroad system allowed travel and transportation to reach new places. Alexander Graham Bell improved communication with the development of the telephone in 1876. Thomas Edison's introduction of electricity to the world through his invention of the lightbulb three years later elongated the workday.[2] For millions of American workers, the Second Industrial Revolution changed everything about their jobs. Instead of farming or working as artisanal craftsmen, many began to work under large corporations.[3] These corporations rapidly grew to an unprecedented size, in turn elevating the status of the men who created them. A new age of technology and progress was ushered in, creating the industrialist pioneers into the wealthiest men the country had ever seen.

    In his 1873 novel contemporary novelist, Mark Twain, labeled this era in American history as the "Gilded Age", indicating how under the facade of wealth and progress, there lies a host of other issues. A main issue of contention was the large wage gap between the wealthy industrialists and the average American.[4] Besides low wages, many American workers also found their new jobs monotonous and laden with dangerous conditions. Cities exponentially grew due to the influx of job-seeking migrants, and the populations increased, the cities struggled with overflowing sewers, rampant disease, and insufficient housing.[5]

    After preserving the union in the Civil War, the Republican party, which was politically dominant, sought to restore America's morality and further develop the country. Although most people favored the Democratic party's economic policy, most northerners were hesitant to vote for them as supporters were labeled as "Copperheads," derogatory term for Northerners who supported the Confederacy in the Civil War.[6] The Republican Party, however, began to factionalize over the issue of patronage, granting political allies jobs as a reward. One faction, Stalwart Republicans, favored traditional machine politics and generally benefited from the system so they desired to keep it around. Meanwhile, the "Half-Breed" Republicans, who were reform-minded, tried to find ways to remove the corrupt system and its supporters.[7]

    The political landscape of the Gilded Age created an environment for the wealthiest men in America to strategically squash their competitors and create monopolies over their respective industries. The evolution of the business model from small businesses to monopolies was a new concept for Americans, largely influencing society, economics, and politics both locally and internationally.[8]

Topic I: Gilded Age Corruption
History of the Issue

The Gilded Age (1877-1900) was an epoch of profound societal transformation in American history. The period was marked by urbanization, rapid industrialization, and a significant shift in America's demographic patterns as a result of westward expansion. A notable feature of the era was its stark juxtaposition between immense industrial progress and systemic corruption. While the surface gleamed with the promise of prosperity and progress, the underbelly was tarnished with widespread corruption, specifically within the political sphere. The rapid rise of industrial capitalism and the subsequent centralization of political power served as catalysts for an escalation in government corruption.[9]

The Spoils System, often viewed as a controversial practice, contributed to a significant amount of the political corruption found in the Gilded Age. The Spoils System became a term popularized by New York Senator William L. Marcy, who defended the practice in an 1832 speech given to the U.S. Senate saying, "to the victor belong the spoils"[10] In essence, the Spoils System represented a form of political patronage where government jobs were dispensed as rewards to loyal party members. Under this system, supporters of the winning party were frequently rewarded with public offices, regardless of their qualifications or competence.[11] The system reached its height during the Gilded Age when appointments with the president could guarantee certain political positions.[12] Critics argued the Spoils System exacerbated corruption by enabling unqualified but politically loyal individuals to occupy important government positions, leading to systemic inefficiency and graft.[13] The system's defenders, however, contended that it was an essential aspect of democracy, maintaining that it provided ordinary citizens with the opportunity to serve in government roles. Despite the controversies surrounding it, the Spoils System was deeply ingrained in American politics throughout the 19th century, significantly contributing to the rampant corruption during the Gilded Age. [14]

Public officials were frequently paid salaries that were insufficient to maintain a comfortable standard of living, especially in developing urban centers. This issue was particularly problematic for lower-ranking officials, whose modest salaries often made them susceptible to bribes and other forms of corruption. Public officials frequently felt the need to exploit their positions for personal gain to offset the low government salaries they received. Therefore, these lower government salaries often served as a point of contention and served as catalysts for corruption.[15]

The practice of assessment fees further intensified corruption within political offices. These fees were charged to officeholders based on their salaries, supposedly to fund party activities and election campaigns. However, these assessments often served as de facto bribes, enabling a system where those who paid the most received preferential treatment in the form of political favors, contracts, and appointments.[16]

The laissez-faire economic philosophy of the era meant minimal government intervention and a largely unregulated business environment. These systemic vulnerabilities to corruption were often exploited with impunity. Even when exposed, these corrupt practices were frequently dismissed as 'business as usual,' a reflection of the societal norms of the time.[17]

Current Status of the Issue

The congressional election of 1882 was unsuccessful for the Republican party which led to the Democrats winning many seats largely campaigned on promises of passing civil service reforms. The disastrous performance convinced many within the Republican party that they needed to support such reforms if they wished to do well in the next election. [22] In the upcoming Lame-Duck

Congress, when one Congress meets after another is elected, many within the Republican party are pushing their party members to pass reform legislation so that they can take credit before they lose control of Congress.[23]

Analysis and Solutions

A myriad of issues are facing those who wish to reform the civil system. The African-American community fears that reforms to the civil service system could lead to a greater increase in systemic racism. This is because certain reform strategies such as merit tests, could allow for a systematic way to force people of color out of the government. Additionally, many marginalized groups see the Spoils System as one of their few ways into the government and fear that if it was taken away they could lose many job opportunities.

Others worry that reforms could decrease party loyalty as removing the Spoils System would lead to fewer benefits for those involved in a political party. This could lead to more factionalism and a decrease in efficiency. However, many acknowledge that some positions, such as cabinet members, should still be appointed.[24]

Questions to Consider

1. How can it be ensured that appointed government officials are selected based on merit and not because of political affiliations or nepotism?
2. How can civil service reforms ensure they do not allow for increased discrimination against minority groups?
3. What regulations are currently in place to prevent corruption within political appointments/federal hirings? Are they effective, why or why not? What checks and balances could be put in place and who would enforce them or any new regulations?
4. Is it possible to create a way for elected officials to encourage and

reward party member loyalty without compromising ethics?
5. Is the Merit-Based System an effective replacement for the Spoils System? Is there an alternative civil service reform system that could be introduced? If so, what government agencies should it pertain to?

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Topic II: Monopolies
History of the Issue

The first large-scale corporations in America emerged within the railroad industry. In 1850, the only business employing more workers than the railroads was the U.S. government. This would herald the rise of non-charter monopolies within the United States. Prior to that, corporations had been state or federally-sponsored and ran exclusively on charters. Charters were contracts between a corporation and federal or state government that entitled the

corporation the right to exist and do business within the government's jurisdiction. They usually came with some stipulations on the corporation intended to force the corporation to maintain social responsibility, something commonly done by mandating they complete public works projects, such as a city sewer. This would theoretically force the corporation to provide for the local community. The charters would be valid for a limited time before they would have to be renewed by the state or federal government, allowing the government to hold the corporation accountable.

Because the government needed to directly approve a corporation's charter, the system became politicized and corrupt as politicians sought to use it for their own gain. Politicians often campaigned to cancel unpopular corporations or those that competed with their own interests. A prominent example of this was Andrew Jackson's presidential campaign which built ending the charter of the Second Bank of the United States into its platform. The charter system made it difficult to form a corporation because the charters would have to pass through the legislature, something which took long periods of time and could be derailed by unfriendly politicians. For these reasons, the United States eventually abandoned the charter system in favor of a general incorporation system. In the new system, any group could form a corporation as long as they met a set of standards produced by the government. As a result, the number of corporations within the United States increased.[26]

The new system of American corporations often included the ability to sell stocks. This new ability contributed to the increase in corporations as it allowed entrepreneurs to gather the necessary capital for their ventures. As these new corporations expanded beyond the local level, they also developed new managerial systems that relied on a large hierarchy of control as opposed to the previously used system of local control.

This new management hierarchy also led to the creation of middleman positions, which formed the link of communication between the corporate owners and their workers, as well as the use of cost accounting procedures. With their new methods of management, freedom, and stock, the corporations of America began to grow in both number and size.[27]

From a market of many small corporations, a few men such as Andrew Carnegie of Carnegie Steel were able to grow their corporations into massive monopolies through vertical and horizontal integration. In vertical integration, a company would seek to control multiple aspects of the supply chain for a product. An example of this would be Pabst Brewing Company, which made beer and owned saloons to distribute it in. Horizontal integration is when a company expands by buying out or merging with a rival company. The corporation Standard Oil was famous for using this method to gain control of around 90% of America's oil production.[28]

Late into the 19th century, an attorney from Standard Oil, Samuel Dodd, had the idea of forming a trust. In the trust, the stockholders of multiple companies would entrust their shares to a board of trustees that would jointly manage the companies. In return, the stockholders would receive a portion of the consolidated earnings.[29] This could help firms avoid competition with each other and make more money in the process. The trust was extremely successful and other firms such as William Henry Vanderbilt's New York Central Railroad began to replicate it.[30]

Protectorate Tariffs, heavy tariffs on imported European manufactured goods, also helped to promote the rise of American Corporations. The tariffs were placed before America had started heavily industrializing, in hopes of protecting fledgling American manufacturers from the already industrialized European market. Since the tariffs on European manufactured goods were so high, most American consumers were forced to buy from domestic manufacturers. As a result,

American corporations had the large consumer base necessary to support their rise and lacked outside competition.[31]

Current Status of the Issue

As the Gilded Age has progressed, some corporations have grown to dominate their industries and become monopolies. One such corporation—Standard Oil—is in control of around 90% of the United States' oil pipelines and refineries.[32] Through the strategies of horizontal integration, vertical integration, and trusts, the monopolies have overcome the competition in their industry.[33]

Many businessmen see competition as a curse leading to instability because control of the market was ununified. This belief leads corporations to seek consolidation either through absorbing opponents or making agreements called cartels where they work with another firm to neutralize competition. Cartels incorporate corporations of the same type who agree to fix prices or divide markets. Cartels dividing markets are commonly used in the railroad industry to split routes between different corporations, a practice which often gives the companies involved a monopoly over their selected area.[34] Large vertical monopolies can use their control over multiple levels of the supply chain to lower the price of a product to levels that competitors can't compete with. This is exemplified by Carnegie Steel which had total control over the raw materials it needed to make its steel, the manufacturing of the steel itself, and the ability to make finished products like railroad rails from the steel. In order to compete with Carnegie Steel, competitors would need to move into more specialized areas or develop an equally connected management system.[35] By eliminating their competition, the monopolies would set their prices and wages at whatever they desired.[36]

Under the new corporations, many American worker's economic status suffered as a result of the new technological inventions. Many jobs once held by skilled laborers are no longer needed as technology increases, allowing these jobs to be fulfilled by unskilled laborers. Most factory workers only make four to five hundred dollars a year when six hundred dollars a year is generally regarded as a minimal salary for reasonable comfort. The low wages often push women and children into working to provide for their families, even though they are usually paid half as much as adult men. In the South, which contained almost no industrialization before the Civil War, mill towns have begun to spring up. Mill towns are essentially controlled by a single holding factory which provides almost all jobs and usually owns the general store.[37]

As the wealth of monopolies increases, so does the wealth of their leaders. This increase in wealth leads some leaders to make significant philanthropic contributions, but some of the population still question these motives.[8] Many people negatively refer to wealthy industrial leaders as Robber-Barons because they believe that "leaders of industry" actively strip money from their workers. One such example is Cornelius Vanderbilt, one of the foremost railroad tycoons. Many Americans believe these extremely wealthy individuals were engaging in unscrupulous business practices, thus leading some to view these leaders negatively.[39]

However, many Americans recognize these wealthy industrial leaders' names not only from their industries but also from their philanthropic endeavors. John D. Rockefeller donated 500 million to charitable causes such as furthering secondary education.[40] Still, the vast majority of Americans, especially southern farmers whose industry had suffered from the Civil War, lived much poorer lives and felt minimal impact from the philanthropic work of the wealthy industrial leaders.[41]

The Southern farmers, whose farms are already struggling, feel even more of an economic burden as the high protectionist tariffs fall on agricultural exports. The production of exported crops is highly concentrated in the South so many

Southerners feel these tariffs are unjustly targeting them and de facto helping the industrialists by allowing the industrialists to sell their products at higher prices. These protective tariffs only apply to the industrial sector of American business, leaving other businesses like farming open to foreign competition. [42]

Some state governments have passed antitrust laws in an attempt to curb the power of monopolies and free up the market. These laws prove to be insufficient because states can't regulate interstate trade, which many of the monopolies aid in. Many supporters of anti-trust legislation look towards Congress to use its constitutional ability to regulate interstate trade.[43]

Analysis and Solutions

Though a large portion of the public supports antitrust laws, there is still debate about how to employ antitrust laws and to what extent the power of the laws should reach. One subject of debate is whether antitrust laws are a part of corporate law or are part of a separate crime-tort model. In a corporate law method, corporations attempting interstate commerce need a federal license similar to in pre-general incorporation law America. In addition, special federal bureaucracies with large swaths of regulatory power have the responsibility of mandating and monitoring the structures of corporations. In a crime-tort model, the antitrust laws would be processed like crimes or torts and have to go through normal courts.[44]

On a larger scale, debates about anti-trust legislation often lead to debates about the monopolies themselves. Their detractors see monopolies as abusing their control over the market to set artificially high prices and create economic instability. They point to a series of recessions that started in 1873 and have continued to return every five to six years. The detractors also argue that the control of monopolies over industry stifles advancement and concentrates the wealth in a few single hands. On the other side of the debate are those who defend monopolies and big businesses. They argue that the monopolies created job opportunities for many of America's unskilled workers and streamlined the process of manufacturing. The defendants claim that punishing the monopolies would be unfair to their leaders as it would be undoing their hard work and progress.[45]

Another issue of debate is what to do with the protective tariffs. The large majority of Democrats and Southern farmers want to remove or lower the tariffs. They see the tariffs as enabling the large monopolies to have higher prices by keeping out foreign competition. The Republicans and some Northern Democrats who support these tariffs view them as a way to protect American industry and help protect American jobs.[46]

The concentration of wealth through monopolies has led to a large wage gap in America, something some Americans see as an issue. While the industrialist families throw lavish parties, ten million other Americans suffer below the poverty line. Some Americans like Henry George have taken to criticizing capitalism itself, claiming that the problems of poverty could be fixed if wealth was distributed instead of concentrated.[47] Southern Democrats propose another solution of reviving the income tax, something used to raise money during the Civil War. By putting a tax on the percent of income made by the wealthy elites they believe that the government could reinvest in helping those less well-off. Many Republicans and supporters of monopolies oppose such bills, seeing it as an unfair burden on those who have been successful.[48] Many industrialists and their supporters claim that such a wealth gap is an example of natural law. Industrialist John D. Rockefeller stated, "The growth of a large business is merely the survival of the fittest, … It is merely the working out of the law of nature and of a law of God."[49] The Industrialists claim the wealthy shouldn't be

punished as their wealth was gained through their own hard work as much as the state of the poor is a result of the poors' own failure. They push the belief that anyone can follow in their footsteps to greatness. The industrialists and their supporters also claim that it is the responsibility of those who have wealth, not the government, to provide for society through philanthropy.[50]

Questions to Consider

1. Has the American economy outgrown protective tariffs on manufactured goods? Should the tariffs be changed and what would make such a policy necessary or unnecessary?
2. Do the wealthy industrialists have a responsibility to provide for the community? Should the federal government enforce policies like an income tax to do this? What is the government's role in the distribution of wealth?
3. What is the most important business practice for the government to regulate or ban? At what point do regulations limit or stifle corporations?
4. What is the greatest benefit of enacting anti-trust legislation and regulating monopolies? What is the greatest negative of doing so?
5. How does urban industrialization increase the divide in social classes? What are the major problems between the farmers, industrial workers, and wealthy industrialists?

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Specialized Agency

World Health Organization (WHO)

Ira Prakash and Deepanshi Kumar
Co-Chairs

World Health Organization

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
Director of General
Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized
Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's World Health Organization committee! Your chairs Ira Prakash and Deepanshi Kumar are excited to meet everyone in the committee. In this committee, you all will explore and understand cutting-edge concepts in gene-editing, AI technology, epidemiology and political corruption in healthcare administrations. Set in 2013, delegates will work together to resolve ethical concerns regarding new technologies in the medical field and respond to the emerging Zika virus outbreak in the Western Pacific. As delegates in WHO, delegates should emphasize the primary goal of promoting the healthcare of individuals around the world.

Ira Prakash, a junior at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to be a co-chair for GSMUN XXVI. At Maggie Walker, she is on the varsity volleyball team, bhangra team, multiple National Honor Societies and is Treasurer for the Future Medical Professionals Club. She has participated in MUN since the beginning of high-school. She loves to teach taekwondo, is on two non-profit boards, and volunteers at St. Francis Medical Center. She has a passion for medical science and is always finding new opportunities to get involved. You can always find Ira on a boba run, trying to get concert tickets or out with her friends. She can't wait for GSMUN XXVI and hopes everyone has a great time!

Deepanshi, a sophomore at Maggie Walker, is very excited to be co-chairing WHO. She has attended more than a dozen model UN conferences and has won multiple awards since she was in fifth grade. Deepanshi has a passion for all things science, especially research. Outside of MUN, she is an active member of the honor council, bhangra team, and Future Medical Professionals. She has been dancing since she was three and is often trying out new baking recipes in her free time. Deepanshi is looking forward to meeting the incredible delegates and hearing some exciting debate!

As delegates of the WHO committee, you are expected to come prepared to debate controversies in developing technologies and issues in the Western Pacific, as well as, creating potential solutions to resolve chaos and restore order to these countries. Your information in your background guide should precede 2013; however, the source dates do not have to precede 2013. You should be aware of ethical concerns, cultural ideologies, and the basics of epidemiology (spread of diseases and prevention methods). Here at Maggie Walker, GSMUN requires that all position papers follow the Maggie Walker honor code; any and all plagiarism will not be tolerated. This includes the use of ChatGPT and any AI mechanisms to aid in the writing process.

After reviewing the background, delegates must research on their own and write a position paper to be considered for awards. Position paper guides can be found on the GSMUN website, but make sure to format the paper in Chicago Manual Style (CMS), clearly explaining the delegate's solutions and analysis. Delegates must type their paper in Times New Roman, 12-point, double spaced font. Position papers must be emailed to the chairs (gsmunxxvi.who @gmail.com) by 5pm on the first day of the conference.

Finally, this year's charity is the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Every year, GSMUN strives to make a difference through our donations towards our charity. There will be baked goods, merchandise and so much more on sale- so don't forget to bring some cash with you for the weekend! Be sure to reach out to your chairs, Ira and Deepanshi, with any questions and concerns for the position paper or the committee details. We are incredibly excited for this committee and the enticing debate on both topics! Looking forward to meeting you at GSMUN XXVI and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Ira Prakash
gsmunxxvi.who@gmail.com

Deepanshi Kumar

World Health Organization (WHO)
Committee Overview

Background

Established on April 7, 1948 in San Francisco, the World Health Organization (WHO) promotes the safety and health of people around the world. The WHO's 194 member states work together to protect communities with ethical research and help prevent the spread of harmful diseases. While their initial priorities were communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and venereal disease, they also focus on women's and children's health, nutrition, and sanitation. The organization has a significant role responding to health emergencies using policies and programs that can be implemented in affected areas.

WHO's executive board consists of 34 members, and its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland. All 194 member states convene as the decision-making body for the World Health Assembly, which determines policies, appoints the Director-General, and follows the agenda given by the executive board. WHO still operates under its 1948 constitution, which outlines the organization's mission to provide healthcare to all people.

Funding for the WHO comes from either assessed contributions or voluntary contributions. Assessed contributions are the mandatory membership dues that member states must pay, although the amount varies due to different GDPs. Voluntary contributions are donations from member states, private organizations, and philanthropic sources.[1] Currently WHO focuses upon relieving the issues brought by the Zika Virus and improving the quality of life in Southeast Asia. The region today faces economical concerns as a result of the ongoing pandemic and struggles to uphold gender equality through corrupt politics. Another pressing issue is the emergence of novel technologies in the medical field, including gene editing and artificial intelligence. WHO is tasked with appropriately regulating and adapting public healthcare to these unfamiliar medical tools.

Topic I: Technology in Medicine: Gene Editing and Artificial Intelligence
History of the Issue

The concept of gene editing originated soon after Rosalind Franklin's discovery of the double helix structure of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) in 1953, and now is a contemporary and revolutionizing technology in the world of medicine. In the 1950s, James Watson and Francis Crick further expanded on knowledge of DNA structure. Thus, scientists began to explore the idea of altering DNA sequences to prevent diseases or change traits in offspring. By the early 1980s, the scientific world began to see genetic modification as the end-all be-all, a perfect way to "fix" human genetic diseases or disorders.

A genetic disorder is caused by a malfunction in genetic sequences, specifically the nitrogenous bases that make up DNA. This malfunction can be a base insertion, deletion, or substitution, among others. Furthermore, the central dogma of biology states that DNA codes for RNA which codes for amino acids that make up proteins. Thus, if there is a malfunction in DNA, then the wrong protein will be created and that protein's function will not be fulfilled efficiently. Early research on gene therapy proved difficult because scientists simply tried to insert a functional version of a certain gene anywhere into the genome, which could not always overpower the malfunctioning gene. Due to this issue, scientists realized they needed to fully correct the genetic malfunctions by cutting DNA strands with

absolute precision. Successful completion of this complex task proved to take decades to accomplish. In 2012, more than 50 years later, Jennifer Doudna, an American chemist, and Emmanuelle Charpentier, a French microbiologist, discovered CRISPR/Cas 9, a piece of transformative technology in the history of gene editing.[2]

Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) can precisely cut genetic sequences in order to either insert or delete information. It works by using a Cas9 enzyme, made up of a Cas protein that trims polynucleotide chains, such as DNA and Ribonucleic Acid (RNA), in the cell. RNA is a one-stranded template of DNA that transports and provides instructions for DNA sequences. Cas9 is a "molecular scissor" that cuts DNA at a specific location with a guiding RNA molecule providing its instructions.[3] Before the widely successful CRISPR technology, other innovations in the field of gene editing were developed. For example, Zinc Finger Nucleases (ZFNs) are made of specific proteins and restriction enzymes that cut the gene sequence at a certain place, which induces a cellular repair mechanism within the cell. This repair mechanism joins cleaved ends of DNA and can result in small changes in the sequence that are known as "gene corrections."[4] Another tool, Transcription Activator-like Effector Nucleases (TALENS), provides a more advanced approach than CRISPR/Cas9 as they can target any area of the genome. They consist of a DNA binding domain with the necessary genetic information and a functional domain that utilizes a restriction enzyme.[5]

Alongside CRISPR technology, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a tool for implementation into clinical practice, improving both accuracy and efficiency. Similar to gene editing, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (AIM) development began in the 1950s with scientists Robert Ledley and Lee Lusted publishing their visionary paper on the topic. In the 1970s, Stanford created the SUMEX-AIM lab among many other important AIM developments in that decade.[6] Chiefly, the use of AI in medicine can create risk assessment models for diseases and mortality based on large sets of data. It can also help with accurate diagnostics through the immediate analysis of CT scans or MRIs and eliminating human error. Lastly, AI can lead to more efficient workflow because data-related tasks that multiple people would take several hours to complete can be easily and quickly accomplished.[7]

Both gene editing and AIM technologies can have incredibly useful applications in real-world medicine. For instance, experimentation with gene editing can be used to find the genetic causes of diseases in animals. Furthermore, it can be used to improve crops, by using engineered traits, for more efficient reproduction. Recent clinical trials in 2014 used gene therapy and editing to resist human cells from HIV. Testing has been performed on other somatic cells as well, which are cells separate from all human reproductive processes.[8] In addition, AI has many useful applications in medicine, as this technology can use algorithms to more efficiently complete data-centered tasks than humans. Once an algorithm has been created with the right instructions, AI can compute and analyze much faster than a human. If the input for a given algorithm is numerical, such as heart rate, AI can determine the chance of an arterial clot. If the input is image-based, such as a biopsy tissue sample, AI can determine if the tissue is cancerous or not.[9]

There have been many recent advancements in CRISPR and AIM, including human clinical trials using CRISPR for the first time. Researchers employed AI to efficiently detect cancerous tissue in real patients.[10] Additionally, gene editing has allowed for new treatments of cancer, such as CAR-T cell therapy as well as novel treatment methods for sickle cell disease, based on the changing of a single gene base in DNA.

Current Status of the Issue

In recent years, the topic of gene editing in medicine has become highly argued, with a focus on the ethics, business, and legal perspectives. Some scientists are concerned that doctors or patients will not be able to differentiate the line between pure treatment and genetic enhancement, no matter how true their intentions may seem. They also find that commercializing gene therapy in the healthcare industry will be challenging, considering the immense liability that healthcare systems and gene therapy companies would have for patient safety. There are certainly risks when altering gene sequence and expression, especially if it is brought to a larger scale. Not only would companies have to be held responsible for the safety and effectiveness of their technologies, but they would likely face lawsuits in the case of any accidents because a mistake in DNA sequencing can cause severe malfunction of cellular systems. Even if these concerns are addressed, there remains the issue that public policy is not currently on the same page with gene editing as the scientific community, causing legal problems. Scientific research and progression in this field has been prevented due to lengthy ethical concerns posed by national governments. Scientists all over the world have created such influential healthcare technologies, but have very little influence in the public policy that determines how gene therapy is regulated.

While there are certainly issues surrounding gene editing, there are also many enticing benefits. New methods of gene editing allow for specific modifications to traits based on the target genome sequence, introducing greater flexibility and choice for patients. Although it is clear how this freedom can also be a risk to society if misused. The most important benefit is that gene therapy can help cure diseases that have plagued humans for centuries and effectively treat patients. [11] For example, CAR T-cell therapy is a type of gene editing that can be used to treat lymphoma or leukemia. Specifically, it uses gene editing to insert a certain gene into cells which allows the cells to fight and kill the cancer.[12]

Recent advancements in AIM have also brought heated debate about the ethics and safety of AI in medicine. A widespread concern is that robotic technology does not always have the same observational and empathetic skills as humans, which means that they still require human surveillance most of the time. Moreover, a rapid increase in AI in healthcare can eventually cause unemployment in the industry, as technology continues to replace humans. The risk of security breaches or cyberattacks also concerns many healthcare workers and patients due to the data-centered nature of AI. While there have not been any large-scale cyber attacks with sensitive patient information thus far, there is certainly a risk as AI use in healthcare increases. While AIM can seem like a gamble, some would say it should be implemented because of its potential to improve patient care. For instance, it would bring significant advancement to disease research, such as the development of new cures and treatments through large-scale analysis of data. Diagnostics and tests can be run through the implementation of machine learning systems into disease data sets, either numerical or image-based. In hospital environments, AI can use input data to create algorithms for urgent needs and patient care. Furthermore, AI can quickly and efficiently run through patient information or other accounting data, allowing for a more streamlined clinic.[13]

An interesting argument that many professionals claim is that AI can make healthcare more equitable and efficient without replacing doctors or clinicians. They argue that clinicians can incorporate AI into their practices without it completely taking over, which, in turn, provides more comfort to patients. For instance, nurses may rely on AI for organizing and retrieving patient information, but they would still collect further data on their own. Doctors may

analyze patients and develop their own diagnoses, but they would then use algorithms to check and reevaluate. Many speakers at MIT's 2023 AI Cures Conference believed that "AI won't be replacing clinicians anytime soon—but clinicians who know how to use AI will eventually replace clinicians who don't incorporate AI into their daily practice."[14]

The United Nations has also made significant efforts to address concerns about the use of novel technologies in medicine. In 1997, UNESCO presented the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights to provide stability in the emerging world of gene editing. It has become a guiding principle for the scientific advancement of gene therapy around the world. The declaration focuses on respecting human dignity and the rights of those involved in gene editing research. It outlines that those patients affected by gene editing must provide consent and a full assessment of the risks and benefits. Genetic data from patients must also be held private and those involved with the gene editing technology should have full liability for any unexpected effects on patients. Cloning is prohibited and the opportunity to use gene therapy should be equal for all, with no discriminatory regulation. Moreover, the declaration called upon member states to increase regulation and to fulfill the purpose of the declaration as gene editing technologies advance.[15]

Analysis and Solutions

There are many ways to integrate gene-editing technology into patient care, one of the most impactful being gene therapy. This specific technology can help fix protein malfunctions by altering the gene at its source. The central dogma of biology states that DNA codes for proteins that are created by cells, and these proteins perform essential cell functions. Thus, proteins must be created correctly and function properly.[16] Gene therapy has thus far only been used widely for eye and muscle disorders, but further application in clinics has been debated.

One of the easiest ways to integrate AI in healthcare is through the use of insurance and patient information algorithms. AI can easily and quickly sort through patient files, medical history, and personal information to provide doctors with the data they need at any given time. This can make patient care more efficient, especially for receptionists or nurses at hospitals. However, there remain many ethical concerns about disclosing this information and data with AI. Increased research and improvement in AI safety could help alleviate this risk. Additionally, AI can be used in surgeries and treatments in hospitals, but the extent of human aid or surveillance varies. Another significant concern of utilizing AI with patient information is AI racism, resulting from systemic racism in the field of healthcare that feeds into algorithms. AI racism could lead to less medical care for minorities and racial groups. Moreover, the risk of discrimination is present in gene editing as well because of how easy it may be to "fix" certain diseases or disorders. This may increase ableism, where there is discrimination towards those with disorders because of the commercialization of gene editing.

Another significant aspect of technologies in medicine is the expansion of research facilities. Thus far, gene editing research has been focused on acquiring greater precision with the target gene sequence. The discovery of ZFNs and CRISPR were huge improvements within this goal, but the future of research remains open.[17] AIM seems to focus on data analytics of patient information, but other possible advancements include applications in cardiology, cancer, and neurology. Future research should have a well-defined focus and strategy to approach existing diseases and cancers.[18]

Prioritizing the use and application of gene editing or AI technology within healthcare systems can be significant to its effect on the industry. Policymakers should consider how to best use these new tools and

allocate available gene editing or AI technology efficiently. Not only must they ensure that these tools are available to all demographics and types of people, but they must also regulate the extent to which novel technology is used to reduce safety risks. It is important to maintain the steady application of gene therapy and AIM into clinics and hospitals, while still satisfying the needs of patients in different countries. Policymakers will also have to grapple with the issue of which cities or areas require these technologies more than others. It is essential to establish AI and gene editing regulations with clear provisions for different types of environments and conditions.

With all these resources in hand, it is important to consider to what extent society should allow technology to be in medicine and healthcare. While AI will help make data analysis easier in healthcare environments, there are still many security concerns for patients. Clinics have already decreased in use due to the use of mobile health (mhealth) tools that have become widespread, through cell phones and smartwatches. This is also beneficial because it allows clinics or hospitals to take care of the more urgent and life-threatening needs with less wait due to mhealth.[19] However, it is important to remember that the algorithms that determine which patients are more urgent could be flawed due to AI racism.

Most policymakers and healthcare professionals agree that AI and gene editing use needs to be regulated, however, more specific provisions are in contention. Establishing regulations that leave room for advancement while still respecting human rights and ethics has proven to be difficult. For instance, safety is a huge concern as one mistake can be monumental when it comes to the human genome. For instance, tampering with a human embryo is a difficult practice to justify. In addition, many are concerned that the wealthier and more privileged will have greater access to gene editing treatments, causing more inequality in society.[20]

While the EU has created legal provisions surrounding AI and more specifically, the protection of data, countries are still concerned. They call for more security of patient and hospital data to allow for more widespread use of AIM. These countries' concerns are valid because AI companies can easily sell hospital data to other pharmaceutical or biotech corporations.[21] Nonetheless, gene therapy and AI certainly have relevant benefits to medicine and healthcare. Gene therapy is a promising technology for curing diseases and treating disorders, while AI can revolutionize the hospital environment. The more AI and gene therapy are allowed to advance through research, the more efficient the medical field can become, although there are many relevant ethical, safety, and data risks that exist.

Questions to Consider
1. How can WHO ensure gene editing and AI access is equitable across all nations? How would these technologies be implemented in developing nations?
2. What role should governments have in future gene editing or AI research and how may scientists work with policymakers to transform their research focuses?
3. How should the WHO address cybersecurity risks with patient data collected through AIM across the world? What regulations or policies should be implemented?
4. To what extent should WHO openly support gene editing research and expansion, and how wary should they be of ethical concerns?
5. How can the WHO address the ethical concerns of technology as a primary tool for medicine, especially to the public?
6. What role should patients have in choosing to use gene therapy, considering the possibilities of genetic enhancement and abuse?

7. To what extent should AI be used by nurses and practitioners in hospitals or clinics, and how strictly should it be supervised by humans?
8. What legal terms, if any, need to be established for maintaining the liability of AI and gene editing companies or manufacturers?
9. Is it safe to implement AI and gene editing into regular hospital routines? If not, what timeline should be followed?
10. How can WHO prevent AI racism and ableism with the growth and expansion of AIM and gene therapy? How can they provide these resources to lower socioeconomic classes?

Further Research
1. https://www.nature.com/articles/532289a: A journal article on gene editing research, specifically with human embryos in Sweden, China, and the UK.
2. https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2016/01/STAT-Harvard-Poll-Jan-2016-Genetic-Technology.pdf: A Harvard study and poll on the public's opinion concerning the use of gene editing.
3. https://news.stanford.edu/2019/11/12/ai-gene-editing-pioneers-discuss-ethics/: An article with insightful discussion of ethics of both AI and gene editing among recent research.
4. https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe2206291: A journal editorial on the overall use and role of artificial intelligence in the medical world.
5. https://www.cuimc.columbia.edu/news/future-gene-editing: An article explaining the possibilities and potential for gene editing in the future.

Topic II: Concerns Arising in Southeast Asia
History of the Issue

Southeast Asia, which includes countries such as Taiwan, Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, and Vietnam constantly face political, financial, and environmental struggles. In the past, the region has been unable to keep up with new additions of technology and rising leaders. The humidity associated with the geographic location attracts mosquitoes and other insects, contributing significantly to the spreading of countless diseases.

In 1947, Zika Virus, referred to as a strain ZIKV, was first discovered in Uganda.[21] Zika Virus is a disease whose symptoms relate to other arbovirus infections, including but not limited to fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle pain, and malaise. The infection is caused by a bite from an affected Aedes species mosquito.[22] The first reported cases were found across Malaysia in 1977. By the beginning of 2013, many ignored the virus and associated it with symptoms of dengue fever, resulting in 73% of inhabitants in the Pacific islands/French Polynesia diagnosed with Zika. Since rape and assault are also ignored problems in Southeast Asia, the virus commonly spread through sexual intercourse, contributing to the 1% of the population that has received ZIKV from prenatal contact. In fetuses, the numbers continue to grow as ZIKV causes microcephaly and other congenital malformations. Most children therefore contract the virus prior to childbirth.[23]

Gender inequality is most commonly associated with health concerns as women's basic necessities are ignored by the political society. Due to the local beliefs of the government, most government officials specializing in health care rely in fate or God's will for the outcome of pregnancies.[24][25] Over 50% of women in the Southeast Asia Region found difficulty in accessing health care between 2005-2007.[26]

The countries in the Southeast Asia region are in turmoil and chaos because they lack the necessary advancements in technology and strong government. Along with women, countless adolescents access health services infrequently ignored by the healthcare system. These groups hope for a better quality of life that is properly regulated in the future and is not restricted by the government. This region strives to obtain resources and support its primary industries because unavailable medical assistance in each country has contributed to the growing mortality rates, inevitably harming the environment and economy. This deficit of knowledge occurs in private small hospitals whose needs the government does not prioritize due to their need for economic growth.

Although Southeast Asia faces an extreme lack of contraceptives, reproductive laws in the Philippines have changed countless times. Regardless, many Filipino women experience unintended pregnancies because abortion is highly stigmatized as most procedures performed are unsafe. About 1,000 women in the country die each year from these complications compared to the tens of thousands of women hospitalized from them. Rural and low-income women most commonly encounter dangerous procedures due to the high cost of medical services. 25 million citizens in the Philippines are of reproductive age and are uneducated on how to access contraception or use them properly by means of less invasive measures. [27]

Additionally, many Indonesian women and girls, especially those from poor and marginalized communities, struggle to achieve reproductive health in the face of discriminatory laws, policies, and practices. Amnesty International News Report says that Indonesian females encounter government restrictions and discriminatory traditions that place reproductive health services beyond their reach by a block and filter method which is imposed on the internet.[28] The law also required a woman to get her husband's

consent to access certain contraception methods, or an abortion in the event that her life is at risk.[29] In Indonesia, women are allowed to marry at the age of 16, and health workers frequently deny the full range of legally available contraceptive services to unmarried or childless married women. The Indonesian government took steps to improve protection for female victims of violence, including authorizing abortion for rape-caused pregnancy, clarifying the legal definition of sexual assault, and increasing penalties for assault. Despite these improvements, they failed to ensure that survivors of rape can access health information and services.

Interviews with dozens of Indonesian women and girls, as well as health workers, highlighted how these restrictions increase unwanted pregnancies and force many women and girls to marry young or drop out of school. About 2 million abortions are performed in Indonesia every year, most of which occur under dangerous conditions. For example, one Indonesian woman became pregnant at 17 and was expelled from school after her boyfriend left her. Traditional healers in her village proceeded with an abortion, however, she developed complications and died two days later from blood loss.[30] Instances affected by Indonesia's law ignore the primary health concerns, signifying the need for reform in the political structure. Indonesia's comprehensive reform effort strives to promote a safer environment in the area for the health and quality of life for their citizens.

Current Status of the Issue

Islands severely contaminated in Southeast Asia have begun to spread towards the Western Pacific, and furthermore South American countries such as Brazil and Columbia. A new discovery emerged recently, stating that Zika virus also triggers other diseases like neuropathy, myelitis, and Guillain Barré syndrome, a rare disorder in which the immune system attacks the peripheral nerves

throughout your body, leaving one paralyzed.[31]

Zika is contaminating Southeast Asia, mostly via travel, leading to the infection of over 81,852 individuals.[32] The income in tropical islands derives from the influx of tourism and therefore, these regions rely heavily on industries to sustain their economy.[33] Without tourism, these economies are severely depleted. Additionally, Indonesia relies on its primary supplies of jewelry, agricultural products, and briquettes to countries like Hong Kong and the United States.[34] Zika virus also causes a loss in productivity because many are unable to work. Unemployment rates are rising and the country is unable to sustain itself in a state of poverty. If struggling to maintain their economy, these countries are unable to implement preventative measures or funds encouraging research.

The overall quality of healthcare decreases as hospitals and clinics are out of supplies and unable to find cures for the virus without support from other countries. The absence of necessary funds and needed medical resources leaves regions and their governments stuck and unable to help their people. Although more than 80% of low income women in the Philippines can not access healthcare, 45% of high-income women also find difficulty.[35] Since seeking healthcare is frowned upon and discouraged by leaders of Southeast Asian countries, current issues about women's right violations make rape and violence more common. Although accessibility to healthcare is not as common in these regions, women and children need more health services. These include counseling and mental health services, interventions to address gender-based violence, and a broad spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care. Women must receive routine check-ups to be able to support the future generation, whereas children are more likely to contract and spread diseases. The corrupt political situation in countries such as the Philippines do not welcome gender

equality, leading to more fetal disorders and bringing more disease/ hardship to Southeast Asia.

In the Philippines, the Catholic Church maintains a strong influence on society, particularly through government officials. The church not only condemns abortion, but forbids the use of modern contraceptives. Despite the religious ideologies, recent legislative developments have been supportive of reproductive health. Many tried to promote the natural methods, unlike current president Benigno S. Aquino III, who endorsed the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Act of 2012.[36] The country has just begun to advance towards modern contraceptive services, counseling, and sex education, particularly for rural and poor Filipinos. This policy is strongly opposed by the church, yet is generally supported by the Philippine public. Now, the implementation of the law is delayed by the Philippines Supreme Court. The Philippines has one of the most restrictive abortion policies in the world, and abortion still remains illegal in all circumstances, including in cases of rape, incest, or fetal impairment. Abortion is considered a criminal offense as the church hierarchy overpowers government officials. The Catholic Church first established power when the Philippines was founded as a Spanish colony. Today, the country is dominated by conservative, Catholic views which have few restrictions of governmental influence on religion. This prominent conservative ideology can jeopardize women's health as it affects the policy agendas placed within the Filipino government.[37]

Gender norms discourage and even prevent the use of sexual and reproductive health services by unmarried young women. Many young rural migrant women in China express how they do not feel supported or receive the opportunity to access contraceptive services. Similarly, in other countries, adolescent girls cited major barriers limiting their access to health care as not

getting permission to go to a health facility, not having access to cash, their unwillingness to go alone and concern that women providers may not be available.

Analysis and Solutions

Preventative measures must be taken to prevent the further spread of Zika, the transmission of which can be reduced by addressing the high percentages of women domestically abused. Stopping the spread to other countries and setting restrictions minimizes the likelihood of transmission from mosquitoes. WHO must find ways to protect its citizens for the greater good. Both short-term and long-term laws could be implemented to ensure the security of its citizens and the prosperity of the nations in Southeast Asia. Severe health reforms are needed to improve the area and stop outbreaks from reaching severity again. The Indonesian Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial Kesehatan (BPJS) social security agency is one of many whose goals are to create programs and coverages.[38] Funds and finances for healthcare access must address the needs of people of lower socioeconomic status.

Considering behaviors to avoid transmission would benefit severely affected areas in Southeast Asia, but it also comes with risks such as mental health issues.[39] The economy must first stabilize to even begin to think about implementing reforms. Public perceptions of risk from Zika virus cause many to frown upon visiting these areas.[40] After the discovery of the virus in Uganda in the mid 1900s, epidemics have occurred in 2007 and now in 2013.[41] Although the government must also be stable to manage upcoming political and medical reform, support must not be lost from other countries and its citizens.

Most economies of Southeast Asian countries rely on foreign investment. For example, due to Indonesia's geographic location, there is an abundance of countless natural resources and a large consumer market of 240 million people.[42] Despite tourism as one of the most important industries, foreign investment is the largest economy in Southeast Asia and is encouraging land purchases for infrastructure. Projects in Indonesia derive funding from company facilitation or commonly foreign direct investment. Direct government control influences the mechanisms for finance outside of Indonesia's industries. The Indonesia Infrastructure Guarantee Fund (IIGF) was established in 2009 to guarantee financial obligations in the country.[43] These governmental guarantees under private projects decrease the bias of government officials and encourage more projects to take place efficiently. The IIGF also attempts to improve transparency between the government and its citizens. Companies in Southeast Asia must get involved to enforce possible public policies. These relationships are easily maintained using standard international commercial principles and reduce the influence of a potentially corrupt government.

Relief programs in Southeast Asia are determined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They are responsible for dealing with financial crises across the globe through packages that are quickly adopted by each government. The fund encourages exports and industrial protection as well to regulate the economy. Some economic recovery programs in these regions include A Future that Works, Advancing Multilateral Partnerships for Economic Development (AMPED), and Response and Recovery Assistance to the Philippines (RRAP).[44] China's booming economy contributes to other Asian economies as it is an important destination for the region's exports.[45] Additionally, Southeast Asian countries have recently set up central banks to provide emergency liquidity.[46] Fiscal stimulus packages are set up within Indonesia, which now, is one of the few countries who has a conservative fiscal policy, allowing for them to decrease the deficit of GDP (Gross Domestic Product).

Questions to Consider

1. How can Southeast Asia receive funding for future reforms in the area?
2. What preventative measures could be taken to stop or slow the Zika Virus outbreak on a worldwide and regional scale?
3. How will the government enforce reform? Will the political systems have to be changed to prevent gender discrimination?
4. How will the Indonesian population ensure equality in healthcare accessibility for citizens? Will this affect social classes differently?
5. How can countries in Southeast Asia implement new relief programs to support their citizens?
6. How will countries in Southeast Asia such as the Philippines take measures to promote womens and equality and educate the population on reproductive measures?

Further Research

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2. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5727043/: This is a national biotechnology article about Zika Virus and its strain. It explains the scientific process and causes of spread in other countries.
3. https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ditctncd20031p5_en.pdf: This is a case study that displays the effects of natural events and its outcomes on the Pacific Islands.
4. https://hbr.org/2013/10/the-strategy-that-will-fix-health-care: This is a Harvard article that describes the healthcare system with its possible advantages. It explains the format of a successful strategy

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Specialized Agency

NFL Executive Committee

Alex Percey and Kushal Gowda
Co-Chairs

NFL Executive Committee

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-
General for Crisis
Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
Director of General
Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized
Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's NFL Executive Committee! Your chairs, Kushal Gowda and Alex Percey, are thrilled to meet all of you! As delegates in this committee, you will work to come up with solutions on pressing issues that the National Football League faces. Covering everything from player salaries and safety, to season length and globalization, we're very excited to see the debate brought up. When debating these issues, it's important to note that changing one piece has an effect on every other topic we'll be discussing, so make sure you're ready to back up your arguments. It's the duty of delegates in this committee to come up with solutions for NFL fans and players, present and future.

Kushal Gowda, a junior, absolutely loves football, and can not wait to co-chair this committee. This is his second year doing Model UN at Maggie Walker, and is excited to continue contributing to GSMUN after serving as a crisis director the previous year. In addition to Model UN, he serves as the State President for Virginia's Technology Student Association. Outside of school Kushal plays concerts in restaurants around Richmond, runs track and plays baseball, and coaches football at Deep Run High School. Kushal loves getting to work with people and is very excited for this committee!

Alex Percey, a senior at Maggie Walker, is excited to chair his first committee for GSMUN. He fell in love with Model UN last year at GSMUN when he was a mock delegate in the Star Wars committee. Outside of Model UN, Alex is a captain and the #1 singles on the Maggie Walker tennis team. He is the president of Maggie Walker's sports club, Dragons on the Field, and the badminton club, while also being the vice president of his school's acapella group, Deadbeats. Alex cannot wait to chair a committee focused on his greatest interest, the NFL!

As delegates of the NFL-EC Committee, you are expected to come ready to discuss the future and expansion of the most successful league in professional sports. You should know the history of NFL season expansion and the previous ground rules set for international games and teams in order to further your point of view on the topics. Information on the mentioned topics can be found in the background guide, but you will want to go much deeper into the vast archives of NFL media and history when completing your position paper. The paper should be formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS), in Times New Roman 12 pt. font, and be reflective of your delegate's position on the committee. Keep your papers adherent to the MLWGS Honor Code, and write your own paper, which means no plagiarism or ChatGPT. Please send your papers to our committee email no later than 5pm the day of the conference.

Finally, a large part of GSMUN is our commitment to making a difference through charity. There will be merchandise, baked goods, t-shirts, and many other things on sale during the conference. All proceeds go to charity, and raising a certain amount of money gives you the chance to mess with your chairs in the last committee session. It's a win-win, so don't forget to bring your money! If you have any questions or concerns, or would like feedback on your position papers, feel free to contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.nfl@gmail.com. We are looking forward to meeting everyone in committee! See you at GSMUN XXVI and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Alex Percey
gsmunxxvi.nfl@gmail.com

Kushal Gowda

NFL Executive Committee
Committee Overview

Background

American football was played professionally for the first time when the Allegheny Athletic Association and the Pittsburgh Athletic Club played each other on November 12, 1892.[1] In 1920, a league based in Canton, OH, called the American Professional Football Association, would be created. The name was changed to the National Football League, often called the NFL, two years later. The top teams in this infant league played 11 games in the regular season, and player safety was minimal. Players wore no pads and were only shielded via a leather helmet. At the time, the game was not very popular and mostly played at the collegiate level. In the 50's, the game grew and was integrated, with star players such as Green Bay Packers receiver Don Hutson, Browns running back Jim Brown, and Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas becoming household names. In 1958, the NFL championship game between the Lions and Colts, dubbed "The Greatest Game Ever Played," brought incredible viewership and popularity to the sport. It was at this moment that the league seemed destined to pass Major League Baseball as the most popular sport in the United States.

The modern NFL originally consisted of two separate leagues: the National Football League and the American Football League. The leagues were solely competitors for a few years until they created a championship game named the Super Bowl in 1966 where the winner of each league would compete for a world championship. Between 1966 and 1970, the two merged and created the league we know today.[2] With the merger in place, the teams could finally play against each other in their 14-game regular seasons, instead of just in the Super Bowl. The NFL was seen as the far superior conference previous to the merger, however Joe Namath's famous "guarantee" and victory over the powerhouse Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III gave a greater degree of legitimacy to the AFL teams.

The NFL is now divided into two conferences, the AFC and the NFC. Each conference is further divided, each having respective North, East, South, and West divisions. Each division has four teams, for a league-wide total of 32. Until 2020, each regular season was seventeen weeks long, with each team playing sixteen times. The preceding preseason included four games each year. Each team had one week of rest, called a "bye week," between weeks four and thirteen of their season. The postseason consisted of four Wild Card games, with the top two seeds in each conference receiving a first round bye, followed by four divisional games to determine who would play in the conference championships and the Super Bowl.[3] There was a one week break reserved for the Pro Bowl, a competition for the league's best players from all 32 teams, before the championship.

Unlike Major League Baseball and the National Basketball Association with teams in Toronto and the National Hockey League which has the Montreal Canadiens, Toronto Maple Leafs, Vancouver Canucks, Edmonton Oilers, Calgary Flames, Ottawa Senators, and Winnipeg Jets, there are no international NFL teams. The NFL is known for moving teams around to areas based on interest and revenue. Some examples include the recent relocation of the Chargers and Rams to Los Angeles, and the recent move of the Raiders from Oakland to Las Vegas. However, no international cities have truly been in consideration to host a team up to this point. The NFL does, however, play multiple

international games each season to showcase the league worldwide, which have generated massive interest abroad. In addition, the International Player Pathway Program is a newer program created to bring in a wider NFL community from other nations across the globe.[4] Each roster is given an extra slot for a player from outside of North America, facilitating inclusion of players with rare backgrounds into the game.

Every decade, the 32 team owners and league employees, broadcasting corporations, and the NFL Players Association, a group of former and current players created to campaign for player protection and compensation, draft and vote on a Collective Bargaining Agreement to govern future league activity. Similar to a constitution, this document sets in place ground rules for what the league can and cannot do for the next few years, though in certain circumstances it can be amended. Important league protocols such as the salary cap, the maximum amount of money a team can spend on their players' contracts, were not created until player strikes led to a new CBA or compromises that laid the foundation for them. Sometimes, failures in negotiations can lead to player and personnel lockouts, delaying preseason and sometimes even regular season games. A recent example of development from the previous CBA benefited players with short careers or those that will not immediately receive a contract after the 4th year of their salary. New rules were implemented in 2020 stating that the 5th year contract option, which is a possible offer a team and player can choose if the player wants to stay with their team on their rookie contract, is fully guaranteed. Agreements such as this can be amended when new CBA's are called for, and while the current one is set to last 10 years, a revision can happen at any time. This committee must decide the extent to which the 2020 National Football League CBA must be modified to support necessary changes to the modern game of football. The group of players, executives, representatives, and coaches must come to a consensus on how league policies and guidelines should or should not be changed for international interest and increased revenue while keeping the players, and fans, satisfied.

Topic I: NFL Season Expansion
History of the Issue

In the early years of professional football, teams played roughly 11 games each season. As the game became more regulated, NFL seasons developed into 14 game regular seasons with a championship game between the best two teams. The next alteration to the schedule came in the 1960s when the addition of the Super Bowl altered the playoff structure. In 1978, the NFL expanded the regular season from 14 to 16 games. With this, they added an additional Wild Card game to the playoffs, and shrunk the preseason from 6 to 4 games. The league made this change to balance the risk of injury, but whether or not that worked is complicated as injuries seemed to increase still. Each conference now had 5 teams in the playoffs with the new Wild Card slot added. In 1990, the league added another Wild Card slot, bringing the total of postseason teams to 12,. Since there were more games in each season, new scheduling considerations had to be made. They placed each team in a division, and played each other team in their division twice. They then played all the teams from one other division in their conference, and all teams in one division from the other conference. If the season was to be expanded in the future, more scheduling considerations would have to be made.

As seasons got longer, in 1978, rule-makers made attempts to make the game safer. To combat the possible increase in injuries, the NFL implemented rules such as the 5 yard chuck rule, which required that defenders could not make contact with receivers further than 5 yards from the line of scrimmage. Also, the Deacon Jones rule prohibited defensive pass rushers from hitting offensive lineman's heads. Certain star players, like Steelers cornerback Mel Blount, had to

completely alter their physical playstyles to abide by the new league rules. These changes led to increased passing efficiency and yardage in the years following. Over time, the game developed to feature more quick passing, exemplified by Bill Walsh's West Coast offense that won the San Francisco 49ers four championships in the 1980s. Injuries seemed to decrease on a per-game basis due to the rule changes, and popularity of the sport grew with more flashy offensive plays and the reign of legendary players such as Jerry Rice and Walter Payton. While the rule changes seemed to favor the entertainment value of the sport and help certain positions, such as quarterbacks, others like running backs became less valuable and suffered from the changes. As the NFL continued to crack down on plays that led to injuries by banning lowering the crown of the helmet to initiate contact, both running backs and defensive players spoke out saying that it was "part of the game." Long-time fans of the game cried out that their favorite sport was becoming too soft, sacrificing good defense and tough football for the sake of safety.

Recent Events

In the 2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement, the NFL owners wanted to take the schedule to the next level: an 18-game regular season. Advertising coordinators, executives, and many league personnel advocated for more weeks to increase revenue, up the value of broadcasting deals, and have higher total viewership. With this change could come the chance for additional playoff games for even more football, along with many other appealing opportunities. To avoid some teams having an imbalance of home and away games, some executives proposed neutral site games in the future, maybe even outside the country.

Longer seasons, however, mean a heavier toll on players' bodies. If a team had eighteen games in a season and a week four bye, they could play eighteen consecutive games from week five until the conference championship. This would devastate health, morale, and team performance. Eventually, since CBA's must be agreed upon by the NFLPA and ratified by the players, the total was negotiated down to seventeen regular season games. Retired longtime Cleveland Browns center and NFLPA president JC Tretter echoed a cautionary sentiment about how players must now shift their training focuses. Tretter called it a "body-clock" issue, where players' bodies are used to working until 16 games are completed and expect to take a certain toll, but now they must take more impact from the sudden addition of an extra game. In the same year that the extended season was implemented, the Tennessee Titans set a league record with 86 different players used in games throughout the season, likely due to the extra game.

Current Status of the Issue

In regards to the now extended season, some players wish for compensation for the extra time they may play, while others simply don't want that risk on their bodies. Football is known as an extremely physical and dangerous sport, which is why it only has seventeen games per season compared to the NBA's 82 and the MLB's 162. It is also why NFL teams have the largest rosters of any major sport because teams need multiple replacements, and they may need even more with a longer season. Helping the players along, though, is the largest total payroll of any sports league. In 2023, each NFL team is allowed to spend up to 224 million dollars on their players, a "salary cap" number which increases each year. The salary cap increases each year with the revenue of the league. Available "cap space" is the total salary cap minus how much the team is currently spending and dead money.

No position has a designated amount of the salary cap that they are allowed to take up, however if you spend a good percentage on a player like Joe Burrow, who is getting 55 million per year, it may be hard to build a balanced roster around them. This is

complicated as star players are being paid exponentially more as the years go by while each wants to be the highest paid in their position group when their contract is renewed. There are many ways that teams pay for players. Each player signs a rookie contract after being drafted into the league, which pays a set amount each year with a large signing bonus and a certain amount of "guaranteed" money. After 4 years, a team has the option to add a 5th year to the contract fully guaranteed, to sign the player to another contract, let them be a free agent, or give them the franchise tag. The franchise tag is a contract alternative that can only be used on one player per team that pays that player the average amount of the top five salaries at their position.

Usually, this system smoothly transitions players into new contracts or onto new teams, but recently, that has failed with the running back position. For most positions, when their rookie contract runs out at about 27 years old, they are just reaching their prime. However, with the wear and tear of the running back position, most drop off significantly at age 28. This leads to teams seeing signing an RB to another contract as an unnecessary expense, and even stars like Dalvin Cook find it hard to get any interest in their talents. As the NFL has transitioned into a more pass heavy league with rule changes benefitting quarterbacks, running backs are now seen as the most interchangeable position. Teams used to rely on one ball carrier for 68% of yards two decades ago, but now the top back only gets 47% of a team's rushing yards. The committee approach with lower salary running backs is much more appealing for contending teams, especially knowing that the last 9 Super Bowl winning teams had no pro-bowl RB. Experiencing the devaluation of their role, running backs across the league are speaking out against the contract system, hoping to have a chance at a career past their rookie deal.

Questions to Consider
1. Marketability to fans vs. player safety; which one is more important? Can players and business-focused executives come to a consensus?
2. How many games is too many? Is more games better for the brand?
3. What safety measures can be taken to prevent more player injuries if more games are played?
4. Should roster limits be changed to account for more injured players?
5. How would player salaries be changed to match the physical toll they are asked to take on their bodies? Should each team be required to pay certain positions equal money?
6. How can the salary situation be changed to keep Running Backs valuable?

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Topic II: NFL Global Expansion
History of the Issue
During the 2007 season, NFL games went overseas for the first time. Truth be told, the NFL had made an attempt at opening a league in Europe before, but with only 6 teams, it didn't see much success. *The NFL Europe League* ran from 1989 to 2007, but shut down due to its unprofitability. Fans didn't

want to see the same 6 teams for an entire season with zero change. It didn't truly feel like "NFL football" to them. In 2007, the NFL sent one of their main-stream, official regular season games to a renovated version of *Wembley Stadium* in London to roaring crowds that surpassed expectations. The league noticed tickets selling out in record time, and certain teams gained a British fanbase, which led the NFL to return with those same teams a few years later.[5] The NFL also saw success and even greater sales in Mexico City's *Estadio Azteca* and in Munich's *Allianz Arena.* The NFL game in Germany this year sold out in less than an hour.[6] It is obvious that there is extreme international interest in the sport which previously only experienced popularity in the United States. Fans in England and Mexico have been begging for their own team for years, wanting a piece of the extremely profitable NFL in their countries.

The beginnings of what could be a potential long term solution was the introduction of the NFL Global Markets Program. This program offered NFL teams exclusive marketing rights in different countries. This establishes the idea of foreign countries having an NFL team that has some attachment to them. Recently, the league granted the New Orleans Saints international marketing rights in France, and it will be the first time the NFL has hit the French Sports Market. Other examples include the Buccaneers being granted rights in Germany, as well as Austria and Switzerland – or the Steelers and Jaguars frequently visiting the UK and marketing in Ireland.

Recent Success With International Expansion

With the NFL proving to be a great success in other countries and even other continents, it's worthwhile to also look at the large social and economic impacts an overseas franchise would provide.[7] If NFL franchises moved to or opened new divisions in international nations, local economies would

greatly benefit. In London, each year the three NFL games in contribute 58 million euros to their economy, though this figure pales in comparison to the amount a resident team generates.[8] In the United States, with NFL teams serving as permanent residents to the city, these franchises contribute roughly five billion USD to the local economy per season.[9] It is profitable for cities to host a game, but pales in comparison to having a resident. However, a lot would have to change to accommodate an overseas team. To broadcast all their games, international TV coverage of NFL games would also have to increase and be consistent with other scheduled matchups. Currently, options such as NFL Game Pass are available to viewers in 181 countries, but cable broadcasts are much more rare. Expansion could rapidly increase the number of games shown worldwide, but global television is hard to coordinate with time zone complications. Conversely, there is no question that NFL games and broadcasts provide local citizens with job opportunities and add revenue to the economy. In addition, spreading the game of football is good for the brand, sales, and the future of the sport.

Current Issues Facing Expansion

The CBA limited the NFL to having no more than 10 foreign games each year until 2025, enough to only have one about every other week. In addition, it forbade an NFL team from operating internationally as there are many consequential roadblocks in the process. The concern is with how the team would operate, being an overseas franchise and now having to pay fees to international governments, construction workers, television broadcasters, and legal agencies. Timing of games may have to be changed, and players would experience rough travel adjustments. Many players have voiced how much they love playing in other countries, but it has its drawbacks. Tom Brady was quoted saying that it is a great opportunity and that he is always super excited when playing internationally, but

also that it is a very big challenge jumping time zones.[10]

Even if the matter of getting around the 2019 CBA is handled, it's worth noting that the NFL is a privately owned corporation composed of the 32 member teams' owners. It's not one consistent body, but rather a collective of each team that is present. This raises the question: How can an American-based conglomerate then be expected to operate from an international standpoint, in terms of revenue sharing, marketing, viewership, and geographic distribution? This could lead to foreign investors in teams and complications in executive meetings and groups. New phrasing to define what makes the NFL ownership group would be required before any advancement is made internationally, to ensure a fair distribution of income among NFL team owners. Marketing is currently an exclusive right that is granted under the NFL Global Markets Program, so the program would either need to be cut or entirely reworked in order to allow multiple new NFL teams to market themselves to global audiences. Viewership comes as a result of marketing, but it's also worth noting different nations use different channels to stream games. Local restrictions might apply to who can watch what with a multitude of networks such as Sky Sports, CBS, NBC, Anthem Sports & Entertainment, Star Sports, and Eurosport Network controlling media in different regions.

Questions to Consider

1. As the NFL moves to an international franchise, how should ownership change?
2. How should revenue sharing work if an NFL team is international?
3. If NFL teams move across the globe, how should travel and player recovery standards change? How should time zones be accounted for with deadlines and events? When should these games be placed on a schedule?
4. Should the league move headquarters to a nation with a more beneficial set of economic laws and practices?
5. What should the standards be for a city to host an NFL team?
6. How should league scheduling be determined, given that there's a possibility of teams being nearly 20 hours apart in time-zones?

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Specialized Agency

Republic of Ireland 1919

Skylar Schuetze and Darby French
Co-Chairs

Republic of Ireland 1919

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

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Secretary-General

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Parth Tornekar
Undersecretary-General for Crisis Simulations

Sania Jain
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Keira Kinnier
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Director of Specialized Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

We are so excited to welcome you to the GSMUN XXVI Republic of Ireland 1919 Committee! Your chairs, Darby French and Skylar Schuetze, are thrilled to meet all of you. As delegates on the precipice of the Irish Independence War, you will all meet to discuss the future of Ireland's status as an undivided member of the United Kingdom. Taking place directly following the 1918 Irish elections, the committee will focus not only on the possibility of impending war but also on solutions to growing divisions within the country between Unionists and Nationalists. It is the duty of the delegates in this committee to think creatively and come up with solutions to save a struggling Ireland.

Skylar Schuetze, a senior, can't wait to be a co-chair for the Republic of Ireland 1919 Committee. This is her fourth year in Model UN at Maggie Walker and her first year chairing, previously participating as a member of the Moody Middle School Model UN. Outside of Model UN, Skylar is a dancer, swimmer, and a member of Maggie Walker's We the People team. She is looking forward to meeting all of you and having ad great GSMUN XXVI!

Darby French, a senior, is ecstatic to serve as one of your co-chairs for the Republic of Ireland 1919 committee. This is her second year part of GSMUN, and her first year as a committee chair. In addition to GSMUN, Darby loves hanging out with her three sisters and biking on trails. She is very eager to meet you all and is looking forward to making GSMUN XXVI the best year yet!

As delegates of this committee, you are expected to come prepared to debate the Irish crisis and the different aspects causing these tensions as well as possible solutions to alleviate the crisis. You should know the causes of the tensions as well as the political terms outlined in your background guide. The background guide is simply a guide to start your research, and delegates will be expected to complete a position paper, formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS) and pertaining to your position on the committee. At GSMUN, all position papers are expected to follow the Maggie Walker honor code; any and all plagiarism will not be tolerated. You will be expected to send your position paper by email to the chairs at gsmunxxvi.ireland@gmail.com before 5 PM on conference day.

Finally, an important part of GSMUN is our commitment to making a difference through charity. There will be merchandise, baked goods, and many other things on sale during the conference, with all of the proceeds going to charity - so don't forget to bring money! If you have any questions, concerns, or would like feedback on your position papers, feel free to contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.ireland@gmail.com. We are looking forward to meeting everyone in committee! See you at GSMUN XXVI and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Skylar Schuetze
gsmunxxvi.ireland@gmail.com

Darby French

Republic of Ireland 1919
Committee Overview

<u>Background</u>

In 1918, the reigning party in Ireland, the moderate Irish Parliamentary Party, was defeated in the election by Sinn Féin, a radical nationalist party. Sinn Féin pledged to create an independent Irish state whilst campaigning, and after the election, it became unclear what the future of Ireland in relation to the United Kingdom would look like.[1] Irish nationalists argue that since Sinn Féin won the election, they should move towards independence, while unionists argue that Ireland should remain intertwined with England. As of January 1, 1919, the elected officials have yet to take office, so it is unknown whether they will choose to move forward with independence or remain a part of the English Parliament. Another current issue facing Ireland is the many Home Rule bills that have entered Parliament but have died due to the gridlock between the two opposing parties. One of the northernmost counties in Ireland, Ulster, has remained the passionate leader in the fight against Irish Home Rule and demands to stay under Britain's authority. Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith has been a champion for the amended third Home Rule Bill which would partition the country into two parts; one being the Home Ruled Republic, and the other being six counties and Ulster that remain with Britain. However, the ongoing tensions between the Irish and Ulster paramilitary groups complicate the matter.[2]

The Republic of Ireland 1919 Committee has been formed to proactively consider various possibilities as to the future direction of Ireland. This committee consists of various political figures from a spectrum of ideologies in an effort to come to the best possible solution for all of the people of Ireland. The committee must decide whether to move forward with independence or not

and the consequences for the future of Ireland. It must also deal with the growing support for a partition of Ireland, and decide whether to remain united or divide its land amidst growing tensions.

<u>Topic I: Irish-British Tensions</u>
History of the Issue

England and Ireland have a history of colonialism that spans over eight hundred years, first interacting in the twelfth century with the Anglo-Norman Invasion of Ireland that began in 1169.[3] This invasion, originally under the decree of King Henry II, resulted in a divided Ireland controlled partly by the Normans and partly by the English. This division of Ireland continued until 1348 when the Black Death reached the island and greatly impacted both the larger Norman and English settlements while afflicting far fewer native Irishmen, who tended to live in more rural areas. Following this, Ireland was retaken by its native inhabitants, with English influence shrinking to a small area around Dublin known as the Pale.[4] Ireland remained under Irish control for another two hundred years, until King Henry VIII aimed to regain control of the territory in what became known as the Tudor conquest. The English would finally expand their territory outside of the Pale permanently by 1603 under the rule of Elizabeth I and James I.[5]

Independence movements in Ireland date back to the Tudor conquest. The Desmond Rebellions, two rebellions of Irish aristocrats and feudal lords in response to the growing threat of Protestant English rule, removed the independence of feudal lords from the government. Another example of early Irish independence movements was the Williamite War, a bloody conflict throughout Ireland between the British who attempted to spread control beyond the Pale, and Irish

Catholics who were dissatisfied with further English control. Tensions over not only land control but also religious differences between the Catholic Irish and the Protestant English prompted these movements as well. Discriminatory Penal Laws and an unfair land division system strengthened these tensions and ensured the Protestant Ascendency, in which class differences between poorer Catholics and richer Protestants became extremely clear.[6]

A third Irish rebellion occurred in 1798 when the Society of United Irishmen, inspired and aided by French revolutionaries, launched a series of attacks against English forces in Ireland before eventually being violently suppressed by the English. This failed independence attempt led to the era of Irish-British Unification, beginning with the passage of the Acts of Union in 1800.[7] These acts merged the English and Irish parliaments, adding 4 rotating and 28 permanent Irish House of Lords members and 100 elected Irish House of Commons members. They also worked to unite the divided religions within Ireland through acts such as the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, which repealed the Penal Laws and worked to emancipate Catholics on the island. Though the English Government feigned a united kingdom during this period, underlying tensions remained. The Irish kept a strong sense of resentment toward the English following the British refusal to aid the Irish during the Great Famine of 1845, which contributed to the extinction of Gaelic culture and a sharp increase in Irish poverty levels.[8] The Local Government Act of 1898 best displayed the divisions of the island, giving more power to communities while demonstrating the divide in opinions between the Protestant, unionist north and the Catholic, nationalist south.

Current Status of the Issue

As Ireland moves away from Irish-British Unification, the push for Home Rule on the island is at an all-time high by the 1910s. In 1914, Parliament passed the Government of Ireland Act, giving self-governance to Ireland. However, the outbreak of the Great War suspended it. In response, Irish unionists formed the Ulster Volunteers in opposition, while nationalists formed the National Volunteers in support. Both groups fought valiantly in the war in hopes of swaying English support regarding the act. Ultimately, the two groups were unable to come to a compromise over the issue after the war, and Home Rule was not implemented.[9] A breakaway faction of the National Volunteers, the Irish Volunteers, adamantly opposed any compromises with the Ulster Volunteers, instead demanding full independence. This radical group was responsible for the 6-day conflict with British forces in 1916 known as Easter Rising. This short conflict, though ending in a British victory, marked the first conflict of the ongoing Irish Revolutionary period.[10]

The recent election of 1918 was the most notable election in Irish history thus far. The Irish Parliamentary Party, a nationalist party in power for much of the 19th century in Ireland, was extremely moderate, leading to little progress in Irish Independence. The radical nationalist party, Sinn Féin stood in its first general election after winning a handful of seats the previous year. Surprisingly, Sinn Féin won in a landslide, which has led to uncertainty over the future of Ireland as part of the United Kingdom, due to the party's continued pledges for independence.[11]

Analysis and Solutions

There are three main routes of resolving the issue of Irish independence being considered at this time - the first being the route of independence. In rejecting English sovereignty over Ireland, the island would cease to be represented in Parliament and would have to establish a Dáil, an Irish governing body. This would involve the creation of a constitution and a declaration of full independence from Great Britain. While elections would be held and a legitimate government would be formed, the structure

of this government would be subject to debate. An independent Ireland would also have to gain international recognition and establish formal relations with Great Britain. Another thing to consider with this route is its high likelihood of war. Given their past history, it seems unlikely that England would be willing to allow Ireland its independence without conflict. If both internal and external agreements cannot be reached in Ireland, tensions may spill into violence.

The second main route of action regarding the Irish independence issue would be to begin discussions with Britain rather than immediately declare independence. The two nations could possibly draw an agreement, which may satisfy pacifist pursuits, however, this seems unlikely given the current tensions between Ireland and Britain. Unionist and nationalist Irishmen would have to incur internal discussions alongside talks with Britain, which could lead to a stalemate between uncompromising groups. Though this option could prove fruitless, it's possible that outcomes of peaceful compromise may also create a more stable foundation upon which a new Ireland could be built.

The final route of resolving the question of Irish independence was strengthening ties with Britain rather than declaring independence. Ireland and England have been intertwined for hundreds of years, and breaking these links would be extremely difficult. This option is particularly appealing to unionists, as the economic and social benefits of being a part of the British kingdom are significant.. Though appealing to many, the challenge to implementing this option arises from the overwhelming victory of Sinn Féin, a radical nationalist party, in the recent election. If this route were to be considered, the immense task of appeasing the popular opposition must be undertaken.

Questions to Consider
1. Is the prospect of war inevitable? Are there any concessions Ireland could

make to maintain independence and avoid war?
2. What actions could Ireland take to ensure victory in what would be an unbalanced war against strong British forces?
3. Should the government of Ireland seek to reconcile varying opinions within the country? If so, how should it seek to achieve this?
4. Given their long history together, does Great Britain have a claim to Ireland, or should modern sentiments take precedence over any historically based claims?
5. What role does religion play in the tensions in the British Isles?
6. Is there a possibility that a civil war may break out between the two Irish parties?

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Topic II: The Partitioning of Ireland
History of the Issue

The particular matter of the "Irish Problem" began when Ireland and Great Britain merged in 1801. The religious differences between the two nations had grown since the Anglican-Catholic Church split in 1534. After hundreds of years of English colonization, the vast majority of Northern Ireland was Protestant just like its English counterparts, while the rest of the country maintained a Catholic stronghold.[12] Great Britain saw these theological differences and began to slowly move towards granting Ireland the coveted Home Rule Bill and becoming decentralized.

When the Irish Parliamentary Party won seats in the 1885 general election, they, fortunately, had an alliance with the Liberal Party in the British House of Commons (the body elected by the people who have power over the Prime Minister and their term), creating the perfect conditions for the development of the first Home Rule bill.[13] Prime Minister Gladstone introduced the bill, but a Protestant fraternal organization known as the Orange Order blocked it. The second Home Rule bill was introduced in 1892 but again failed as unionists who opposed the bill formed around major cities across Ireland.[14] In 1909, the United Kingdom was embroiled in a state of turmoil due to the two houses of Parliament fighting; the liberal politicians gained control of the House of Commons while the conservatives won over the House of Lords, and a divided government ensued, leading to tensions arising between both the Houses. The House of Commons threatened to place their Liberal peers in the House of Lords so they could gain a majority and finally win in both Parliamentary houses. The predicament escalated to the point that

Liberals called on the monarch for aid and support (to which George V and George VI pledged). However, the threat never materialized because the Parliament Act of 1911 passed, which stated that the Lords no longer had power over the purse (the ability to tax and spend federal money), and their once unlimited vetoing power was restricted to a 2-year tenure. In the liberals' eyes, the House of Commons triumphed in their new considerable advantage in law-passing ability.

The Ulster Volunteers vehemently opposed the Third Home Rule Bill, introduced in 1912. More specifically, the Ulster Volunteers did not want to be under a Dublin Parliament if the Home Rule dream were to be enacted. In response to the Ulster Volunteers, they established the Irish Volunteers, leading to the Larne and Howth gun-running incidents where both paramilitary groups imported arms en masse from Germany.

The final episode stemming from the Third Bill was the Curragh Incident in Curragh County, a main British Army base.[15] The House of Lords struggled as according to the law, they could not oppose the bill for a third time. The Liberals in the House of Commons watched the situation escalate in Ulster with the Volunteer Force. In 1914, officers with Protestant ties threatened to resign as soon as they caught wind of the plan to put down a rebellion rising in the county. They refused to follow any orders against the Ulster Unionists because they empathized with their cause.[16] Once the public heard of this failed attempt from the government, Westminster officials attempted to hide the story and recanted their previous statements as a "simple misunderstanding." Yet they had already inflicted damage, and the results were detrimental to the Home Rule effort: Irish Nationalists lost faith that the British military would intervene if needed, and the Unionists grew more confident.

Current Status of the Issue

Some parliament members want to exclude Ulster from the Home Rule Act altogether in order to subdue the violence.[17] This would keep the county fully part of the British government, and after six years they would conduct a re-evaluation. Yet, there are some who are repulsed by this notion and are surprised that a lesser version of the bill is even being considered. The Irish Liberals view Home Rule as an inflexible ideology and do not want their state to be split up. The Prime Minister at this time, H. H. Asquith is looking into possible solutions to avoid an all-out Irish Civil War between the two warring "volunteer" groups, which would lead to the complete destruction of the country and further weakening of the already struggling population. One of the viable solutions Asquith is considering would be partitioning Ireland into two sections, and primarily leaving out Ulster from the rest of mid and southern Ireland who wished for an independent government.[18] On July 8, 1918, Sir Edward Carson publicly supported the amended Home Rule bill gridlocked in the House of Lords on the condition that Ulster was temporarily removed. Asquith then wrote up clear compromise terms that identified and temporarily removed six of the Protestant counties near Ulster from the territory that would be governed by the Irish Parliament.[19] However, some countries still did not have clarity about their nationality status, and the extent of this compromise. After making some concessions, some individuals continued to relent but ultimately gave in, such as the amendment granting local autonomy to Ulster.

Nonetheless, the reigning monarch George V called a "Buckingham Palace Conference." Unfortunately, for both sides, this conference achieved nothing for the two opponents. John Redmond, the man who introduced the Third Home Rule Bill, said in 1914 within the House of Commons that both volunteer organizations would defend Ireland in cooperation when the First World War started.[20] However, the Irish Republican Brotherhood soon planned an insurrection following Redmond's declaration. Two years later, the Irish Republicans launched the Easter Rising rebellion which wished to end 'illegitimate' British rule in Ireland.[21]

Analysis and Solutions

At some point, the northeast counties must convene to clarify their position on the amended bill about temporary movement and Ulster's autonomy. There is also the question of whether they are part of Dublin's Parliament region.[22] In an attempt to smooth this issue over, they could call a meeting, which can then decide if the best course of action is to combine them with Ulster and determine if the northeast would be permanently excluded from the region of Dublin's Parliament.[23] If Ulster comes back into the free republic, there is a high percentage that a tremendous conflict will occur like the Irish Republican Brotherhood.[24]

Another option is that Home Rule will be given to the Southern Catholic part of Ireland while Northern Ireland would have a dominion-style relationship with the UK.[25] There is also the opinion that the entirety of the state should be ruled in a dominion style, where a territory or colony has a degree of self-governance while still recognizing the authority of a larger government.[26] This action would grant the country full autonomy and provide it with its own Parliament. But if this course of action were taken, it begs the question of partition reversal, which could mean the backtracking of decades of work done by Liberals in the House of Commons.

There is also the option to form a referendum.[27] This would entail voting on possible solutions decided by the Irish people themselves. The type of solutions on the ballot could range from partition to Home Rule. The referendum option would place power directly back into the hands of the people and local governments.

Questions to Consider
1. Is the Irish problem a thinly veiled British plot to subdue the island?
2. Should England have as much influence regarding the partitioning debate and discussions relating to the surrounding counties?
3. Will a dominion rule satisfy the Irish nationalists? Is there any way the nationalists will be satisfied with the result? Is there any way the Unionists could be fully satisfied?
4. How did the political landscape and social dynamics in Ireland at the time affect the decision to partition the country?
5. Does the referendum option fulfill Britain's sustained goal of decentralization for Ireland?
6. How will the backdrop of World War I influence the future decision-making of the two opponents and their paramilitary groups?
7. How did the experiences and perspectives of ordinary Irish citizens during 1919 contribute to the broader political and social changes unfolding in the country?
8. What option would be best to appease all if not most parties? How would this option be executed?

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Specialized Agency

Chilean Constitutional Convention

Preston Huyard and Jackson DeHaven
Co-Chairs

Chilean Constitutional Convention

Letter from the Chairs

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Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's Chilean Constitutional Convention Committee! In this committee, you will address the political and social conflicts within Chile by drafting a framework for a new constitution. Your positions, the central issues, and the reforms available to you are modeled after Chile's 2021 Constitutional Convention, which held its first session on July 4, 2021, the date our committee will take place. As delegates, it is your responsibility to present creative, thoughtful solutions to ensure a stronger government for Chile.

Jackson DeHaven is a senior at Maggie Walker, and is excited to serve as a chair for the Chilean Constitutional Convention for his third year in Model UN and second year at GSMUN. Outside of Model UN, Jackson competes on Maggie Walker's We the People Team, works as an intern at the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, and works as a tutor. He enjoys playing piano, traveling, and sleeping. He is looking forward to a great committee at GSMUN this year!

Preston, a senior at Maggie Walker, is looking forward to meeting everyone and can't wait to get started with this committee. He has attended Model UN conferences since eighth grade and has since served as a vice chair and co-chair. Besides Model UN, Preston enjoys participating in Spanish Club, the International Language Fair, and the volleyball and swim teams at Maggie Walker. Some of his favorite out-of-school activities are playing volleyball, hanging out with friends, and spending time with his dog. He is really excited to co-chair for this conference and knows all the delegates will be amazing!

This committee requires thorough research and attention to detail. We will be evaluating delegates not just based on rhetorical ability and active participation, but on well-written position papers and thoughtful contributions to the discussion that align with your assigned roles. Because delegates in this committee will work towards establishing a long-lasting framework for Chilean governance, you must have a scholarly understanding of the issues plaguing Chile, the foundational causes of those issues, and the competing theories about how they should be addressed. This background guide is meant as an introduction to your research, and in your position paper we expect to see a multitude of sources with formatting according to the rules of the Chicago Manual of Style (CMS), including footnotes and a works cited page. At GSMUN, position papers are graded objectively and will be checked for any instances of plagiarism, including the use of artificial intelligence, so make sure you are adhering to the Honor Code when constructing your papers.

Finally, a major goal of GSMUN is the money we raise to support charity. This year, GSMUN XXVI is proud to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, and we encourage you to join us in our efforts to make a difference through purchasing items from the merch cart, which will be circulating throughout GSMUN, so please remember to bring money. If you have any questions or concerns, or would like preemptive feedback on your position papers, please feel free to contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.chile@gmail.com. We are looking forward to meeting everyone in committee. See you at GSMUN XXVI, and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Jackson DeHaven
gsmunxxvi.chile@gmail.com

Preston Huyard

Chilean Constitutional Convention
Committee Overview

Background

In 2020, 78% of Chileans voted to rewrite the Constitution. After months of unrest, primarily resulting from economic and social inequality, Chileans blamed structural issues within their government and decided that their constitution no longer met the country's evolving political needs. In 1980, General Pinochet's military dictatorship drafted the existing constitution largely to preserve Pinochet's authoritarian grip on the country as it began to transition toward democracy. These authoritarian origins and their manifestation in government policy bolstered calls for reform, and the constitutional referendum's overwhelming success provided a clear mandate for the Convention.

Chileans elected delegates to the Constitutional Convention in May, who were set to begin their term in July. Delegates ranged from career politicians to school teachers, with varying levels of experience and political involvement. Each represented a fairly small district, but the Convention also reserved seats for Chile's indigenous groups. The indigenous representatives combined with widespread criticism of Sebastian Piñera's right-wing government resulted in a convention a bit farther to the left than the Chilean population.

This Committee begins on July 4, 2021, the date that the delegates to the Convention took office. Delegates will be tasked with creating resolutions about what language will be included in the Constitution itself, and have the freedom to construct whatever sort of constitution they wish. However, whatever the delegates decide must be ratified by the Chilean people, so proposals which fall outside the mainstream of Chilean politics are likely to fail, even if the Convention votes to adopt them. The desire for a Constitution is clear, but it remains to be determined whether the Convention can create a working government that the people will accept.

Topic I: Economic and Social Inequality
History of the Issue

In 1970, Salvador Allende initiated an amendment to the Chilean Constitution that would expropriate the mining industry of the South American nation. Seemingly inconsequential, this marked the beginning of the president's long list of governmental and societal reformations aimed at increasing national profits and nationalization of many industries that were once citizen-owned such as businesses and agriculture.[1] As the first openly Marxist leader in the Western Hemisphere, his leadership and policies concerned anti-communist diplomats on an international scale, specifically members of the Nixon Administration. However, the most direct impacts of his radical presidency were for those living in Chile. After Allende's rule placed pressure on the nation, he lost support of the government and military. Subsequently, the military, backed by the United States government, staged a coup led by Augusto Pinochet Ugarte in 1973, which successfully overthrew the Allende administration and implemented a new regime with Pinochet as leader.[2]

The immediate effects of the Pinochet dictatorship focused on increased government ownership of private industries and aggressive suppression of any oppositionist movements that could threaten the regime. The economy grew to increasingly depend on international activity as opposed to internal industry, rapidly declining the quality of life of many of

Chile's citizens.[3] In September of 1980, the Chilean government drafted a new constitution focused heavily on government dominance over citizen involvement.

Notably, Pinochet included that he would stay in power until 1988, when a referendum would be held to decide whether he would stay in power. He was subsequently voted out of the presidency, but remained the Commander in Chief of the military until 1998. After this, he would become a Senator for life as stated in the 1980 Constitution.[4] The end of his presidency did not mean the end of his rule. Due to the highly militaristic nature of the government immediately following the ratification, Pinochet would extend his heavy influence for decades.

The 1980 Constitution itself placed a heavy emphasis on government control and included many ambiguities and exceptions in order to ensure the promotion of its influence. Article 39 of the Constitution identifies and acknowledges the existence of fundamental rights and liberties that the citizens of Chile held, however, it includes that these rights can be limited in specific circumstances including war, "internal commotion, [and] public emergency and [public] calamity."[5] These terms are left purposefully broad in order to assure their enforcement in a variety of situations. The following articles outline that the state of catastrophe and state of emergency are to be determined and assessed by the President of the Republic. Article 43 states that through either of these declarations, the President holds the power to suspend the rights of movement and assembly, as well as the power to establish additional limitations until the state of catastrophe is lifted.[6]

The military also gained extreme influence over the governmental system, increasing executive power. Consequently, the President of the Republic could dissolve the chambers of Congress or pass legislation without congressional approval.[7] This increased influence of the military, under Pinochet's command, meant increased force used against the public and citizen organizations. Later investigations determined that 3,197 people had either been killed or disappeared under state force in the time period between September 1973 and March 1990.[8]

Current Status of the Issue

Due to the hyperfocus on not only bolstering the economy, but also international economic stimuli as opposed to internal strengthening, a large amount of economic and social inequality persists in Chile today. This monetary disparity exists mostly between the upper class and lower class. However, there are many specific groups along this scale that face other forms of discrimination and unequal opportunities.

In 2018, the World Bank stated that the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in Chile was $25,000, or about half of the overall population earned less than $523 per month, signaling a large monetary imbalance throughout the country.[9] In 2021, the top 10% of Chilean citizens owned over 80% of the overall wealth and nearly half of that wealth was within the top 1% of the population. The average personal wealth of the top 1% was nearly $2.86 million. The bottom 50% of the population actually held a negative percentage of the wealth at -0.6% due to extreme liabilities and debt.[10]

The government recognized this and attempted to address it through the enactment of poverty reduction programs along with the implementation of the free market economy over the last several years. Due to this increased involvement in economic stability, the poverty rate dropped from 7.4% in 2006 to 1.8% in 2017. Chile received much praise for its apparent economic innovation and development. However, the Chilean government's focus on poverty reduction usually leads to decreased attention to the overall inequality, an imbalance that many of these citizens who have recently escaped poverty now experience firsthand.[11]

Economic inequality is not the only disparity that Chilean society faces. Women and girls still suffer from many disadvantages throughout the nation. Women born to poor families in impoverished areas have an average life expectancy 18 years shorter than those who live in more affluent regions.[12] Additionally, while sexual harassment and violence are illegal, and there are some criminal implications for perpetrators (specifically in public), the number of reports of these crimes against women reached well over 17,000 in the first half of 2020.[13] Equal pay for women is also not systematically required or encouraged widely, causing even more inequality economically and socially for many women.[14]

In addition to gender equality, the indigenous communities of Chile are often overlooked or discriminated against. Despite constituting over 10% of the overall Chilean population, many of the citizens who identify as indigenous are living in poverty. There are also many struggles over property rights within the communities, the largest of them being the Mapuche people. Many of these struggles are due to the lack of inclusion of the indigenous population in the constitution or the governmental system.[15]

There are many other marginalized groups including those with disabilities, the LGBTQ community, immigrants, and many more, all stemming from an elitist form of government under Pinochet's highly exclusive and dictatorial reign and constitution. Continued issues of inequality in Chile caused the country's younger population, especially students, to speak out against nationwide inequity. Specifically, in 2011, university and high school students protested over the large difference in price of private vs public universities and the lack of accessibility to education.[16]

Following this in 2019, widespread protests broke out opposing governmental abuse of power, social and economic inequality, and overall difficulties that the Chilean people have endured for decades.

This *Estallido Social* (Social Explosion), as it was called, led to thousands of injuries and many deaths, as well. Additionally, tensions were only risen with suspected human rights violations (torture, sexual violence, widespread arrests, etc.) committed by law enforcement.[17] Quickly after these protests, the Chilean government promised to hold a referendum on whether to hold a new constitutional convention or not. In October 2020, the government approved the formation of a convention to draft a new constitution.[18]

Although a huge step for societal and governmental reformation, many issues directly linked to inequality in Chile continue. The national privatization of water that started under Pinochet's rule remains a prominent complaint among the Chilean population, especially those living in rural areas with even more difficulty in accessing consistent drinking water. Increased pressure from climate change worsens the issue as lakes dry up and agriculture, tourism, and health become threatened.[19] Over the past several years, more than 200,000 citizens lack access to consistent clean drinking water.[20] While this constitutes a smaller proportion than some other developed countries including the United States, this scarcity presents a substantial risk to public health for a large sum of people. There are discussions among the convention representatives involving this issue, but much can be done to ensure clean water access for more Chileans.

The recent COVID-19 impacted Chile gravely, causing an increase in poverty from about 9.8% to 15.5%. While not incredibly high compared to other nations around the world, the existing inequality was only exacerbated by the pandemic. With lockdowns and restrictions, impoverished Chileans' situations worsened.[21] While the nation's economy has mostly recovered, this catastrophe indicates the fragility that economic inequality creates, something that could be addressed in the convention.

Analysis and Solutions

The new constitutional convention is composed of 155 representatives from various parts of Chile and varying demographics, and there are many aspects of the makeup of the new constitutional convention that break tradition. One substantial note is the gender representation in the convention. Of the 155 representatives, 78 are men and 77 are women with 6 members identifying with the LGBTQ community. Additionally, the convention aimed to include representatives of various political ideologies: 37 identify as right-leaning, 25 as left-leaning, 28 identify as part of the left, and the other 65 seats are occupied by independents. The body also consists of representatives from a wide range of occupations spanning from politicians to teachers to journalists.[22]

A crucial part of the makeup of the convention is the 17 reserved seats for the indigenous community with the Mapuche people obtaining 7 of those spots.[23] Elisa Loncon, a member of the Mapuche indigenous community, was elected president of the assembly. All of this inclusion opens the possibility for more representation for the indigenous population of Chile.[24]

On the other hand, the large amount of diversity within the convention could lead to even more issues. Some traditionalist and conservative groups have reservations regarding a supposed surplus of power for some groups represented, specifically the indigenous population. Additionally, the large number of independent representatives could lack sufficient influence compared to larger and more powerful political parties, allowing both conservative and left-wing representatives to overpower smaller groups.[25] The wide range of political ideologies represented in the convention makes clear that compromises will be necessary in order to create a more equal Chile.

With committees on discussion of indigenous territorial rights, gender and sexuality rights, disability rights, and many more progressive issues, many believe the new constitution will provide a framework for a more diverse, inclusive, and safe Chile.[26] The constitution will include other proceedings, as well, but the increased diversity of opinion and experience in the representative body as well as increased discussion of a wider array of topics seems to oppose the more stringent ideologies of Pinochet's rule and constitution, an opposition that the people of Chile have been calling for. With fair discussion and wider representation, it is possible that the new constitutional convention can decrease the economic and social inequality throughout the nation.

Questions to Consider

1. Do the original 1980 Constitution and the rule of Pinochet have more influence over modern social and economic inequality issues or is it more related to modern politics?

2. Is it possible that the makeup and ideological distribution of the constitutional assembly will actually cause more issues and divisiveness? What other tensions might arise? How can these be resolved?

3. How will modernization and globalization affect the indigenous communities of Chile? How can the government reconcile societal change with traditional/historical values?

4. What steps can Chile take to prevent another dictatorship or oppressive government? Likewise, how can the government prevent a one-party monopoly on the Chilean government?

5. In what ways can Chile's constitutional process be supported on an international scale? Can it take influence from other nations' governing documents? How else can global interaction benefit Chile and could this cause more issues?

Topic II: Limiting the Power of Government
History of the Issue

"Long live Chile! Long live the people! Long live the workers!" were the final cries of Chilean president Salvador Allende, who on September 11, 1973 found himself surrounded by his own military.[27] Hours later, Allende committed suicide, and two days later Augusto Pinochet, who led the military coup d'etat, was named president of Chile.[28] While U.S. involvement is unclear, a declassified Department of Defense document characterizes September 11 as a "D-Day" for U.S. interests, following a three-year gap from 1970-1973 which remains classified, leading many to speculate that the United States played a substantial role in Pinochet's rise to power and the demise of a left-wing president who often sided against U.S. foreign policy interests.[29] Pinochet ruled Chile for seven years, using martial law to give legitimacy to his military dictatorship. Once he had fully consolidated power, Pinochet wrote his regime into law, and assembled a group of loyal, right-wing intellectuals to formulate a constitution.[30]

The 1980 Chilean Constitution included protections for individual rights and imposed limitations on the government, but most of these were subject to alteration from the state, rather than fundamental law. For example, the Constitution provides that "No one may be deprived of his personal freedom nor may such be restricted except in the cases and the manner established by the Constitution and the laws," a guarantee of freedom rendered meaningless by granting the state the right to infringe upon it.[31]

The defects in the language of the Constitution were realized by structural elements and political conditions that supported single-party authoritarian rule. The 1980 Constitution granted the president of Chile sweeping powers, with the intention that they would be exercised by Pinochet and his chosen successors. The President is given the right to control Chile's natural resources,[32] to control sessions of Congress,[33] oversee taxation and raise additional revenue,[34] and suspend the constitution and personal freedoms when necessary.[35] Additionally, Presidents are limited to single six-year presidential terms, and though it was popular in elite circles for their deemphasis on reelection, primarily serves to limit the influence of the electorate.[36] Upon the end of their term, presidents receive a lifetime position in the Senate, ensuring their lasting influence while insulating from any form of democratic accountability.[37] These limitations on popular sovereignty make the powers vested in the executive threatening, because the president may exceed even the broad authority imagined by the constitution without any fear of electoral repercussions.

The 1980 Constitution also instituted a binomial system of representation, a process employed only by Chile and Poland that has been subject to much scholarly critique and criticism. The binomial electoral systems granted seats in the legislature to the top two finishers in each district, effectively ensuring that the two dominant coalitions would hold nearly all of the seats. In practice, this meant that Pinochet's dominant party, while representing a minority of citizens, nearly always retained about 50% of legislative seats,

facing a fractured opposition.[38] Constitutional scholars have suggested that this electoral system prevented Chile from transitioning away from authoritarianism towards democracy after the downfall of Pinochet's regime, the legacy of binomialism making it nearly impossible for democracy to flourish.[3]

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Pinochet used his constitutional appointment power and his party's control of the legislature to stack the courts with loyal judges who would continue protecting his interests long after the end of his presidency. The 1980 Constitution granted the Chilean Supreme Court the power of *amparo*, a form of judicial review, but the court repeatedly refused to wield it, instead deferring to military tribunals and government entities in a tacit endorsement of authoritarianism.[40] With hierarchical authority over all national courts, the Pinochet-era Supreme Court accepted bribes and perverted justice through restructuring the queue of cases, preventing many from ever being heard.[41]

With extensive executive powers, a legislative system that ensured Pincohet's party remained dominant in the legislature, and a corrupt and loyal judiciary, Pinochet's power in Chile was near-absolute.[42] Emboldened by the authoritarian constitution,

Pinochet's government engaged in widespread abuses of human rights. The government arrested individuals without charging them, censored the press, banned public meetings, deported political opponents, broke into homes, and murdered leftist journalists.[43] By the time Pinochet left office, the Chilean people had developed a healthy fear of excessive government power, but remained hopeful that the end of the dictatorship could mean a more limited government with respect for the rights of the Chilean people.

Current Status of the Issue

Because the 1980 Constitution was drafted to enshrine the power of Pinochet's right-wing party and grant the dictatorship the latitude to enact whatever policies it saw fit, Chile has been plagued with an unrepresentative government that consistently fails to honor human rights. During *Estadillo Social* (Social Explosion), a wave of protests erupting from a slight rise in Santiago bus fares exposed these deep-rooted problems in the Chilean government. Issues of social and economic inequality formed the impetus for these protests, but it was also driven in part by a resurgence of left-wing political parties. The 1980 Constitution bans political parties which are "contrary to morals, public order, and the security of the state," a policy which Pinochet's regime used to ban Marxist and socialist parties.[44] After the end of the dictatorship, subsequent governments slowly became more permissive of left-wing parties, allowing leftist thought to flourish in the public consciousness. In 2019, with newly legitimate leftist voices critiquing the neoliberal economic policies of Pincohet's successors which failed to prioritize the needs of workers and indigenous people, decades of pent-up rage found voice in the "social explosion."[4]

As the festering authoritarianism of the 1980 Constitution boiled over during *Estadillo Social,* President Sebastian Piñera's policy response to the protests illuminated the ways that a government founded on authoritarian principles poses a constant threat to individual rights. Piñera's government deployed the Carabineros, a military police agency, into the streets of Santiago, resulting in a litany of human rights violations. The Carabineros arbitrarily imprisoned Chilean citizens, beat them, suffocated them, threatened them with electrocution, subjected them to simulated execution as an interrogation tactic, raped them, and killed them.[46] Officials within the Carabineros and Piñera's regime itself were aware of these human rights abuses, but viewed inflicting harm on the Chilean people as a "necessary evil" to protect public order.[47] This institutional position on human rights is widely reflective of authoritarian regimes, which place security and stability above individual rights and are willing to accept extreme brutality to achieve their ends. Chileans may have moved past the authoritarianism of the Pinochet era, but the police violence during *Estadillo Social* reveals that its legacy, enshrined in the 1980 Constitution, remains integral to Chilean government.

Estadillo Social shook Chilean politics to its core. Piñera, a lifelong conservative, apologized for his "lack of vision" and crafted a new policy agenda which attempted to meet many of the protestor's original demands, with expansions in pensions, healthcare, minimum wage, and wealth taxes.[49] The Minister of the Interior and Public Security and director of the Carabineros, Andrés Chadwick, was found guilty by the Chilean Senate of human rights violations, and barred from public office.[50] But these concessions failed to satiate an outraged public thirsting for justice, and on November 7 the Association of Municipalities, a nongovernmental organization representing 330 Chilean municipalities and the entire political

spectrum, called for a constitutional referendum, forcing the government to acquiesce to citizen demands for a constitution.[51] Tasked with rectifying the issues which both caused and emanated from the protests and the government's response, representatives from across Chile convened on July 4, 2021.

Analysis and Solutions

In both Augusto Pinochet's 1973 coup d'etat and Sebastian Piñera's 2019 response to *Estadillo Social*, the military and the police were the means by which the government abused its power. The 1980 Constitution establishes the Armed Forces and Armed Police, but neglects any disciplinary or oversight process,[52] and in some cases authorizes the leaders of the Armed Police to suspend individual rights at their discretion.[53] As a result, constitutionally required warrant procedures and other criminal rights are routinely disregarded through backdating and fabricating paperwork to legitimize arbitrary arrests.[54] The Chilean public increasingly views the police as an unjust force threatening democracy and individual rights, and generally supports reforms to increase accountability within the Carabineros and other police agencies.[55]

There are a number of competing theories regarding the most effective strategies for increasing police accountability. One popular solution is a "tabula rasa" approach in which a policing system is completely eliminated and a new agency is built to take its place, often with differences in personnel, structure, or leadership. This approach has had mixed results, but has generally been positively received for its ability to eradicate problematic agency cultures.[56] Constitutionally, this could be achieved by separating the national military from the domestic police, which are integrated and given similar powers in the 1980 Constitution.[57]

The violation of constitutional rights demonstrates another potential defect in

Chile's current constitution, which is that even when the individual rights it protects are violated, courts have largely been ineffective at checking government agencies and asserting the will of the people.[58] The 1980 Constitution establishes a constitutional court with the power of preventative judicial review, meaning that it may review laws before their passage to ensure compliance with the Constitution and the rights it guarantees.[59] However, because the justices hold their positions for life, many of the court's members were appointed during the Pinochet Era, and have consistently ignored their responsibilities by refusing to hear cases and deliberately countering the will of the people with decisions that are clearly intended to promote the legacy of Pinochet's policies.[60] While this issue may resolve itself as justices resign or die over time, it has prompted criticism of lifetime judicial appointments and calls for judicial term limits.[61]

Questions to Consider

1. What are the primary issues relating to the power of the Chilean government? What checks and balances, if any, should be implemented?
2. What constitutional elements should be changed or implemented to protect the rights of the Chilean people? Which rights are most important?
3. What foundational values should Chile prioritize when rewriting its constitution? How can the Convention guarantee that the government will reflect these values long-term?
4. Are substantive structural changes to the Constitution necessary? Is it tenable to alter the constitution within its existing framework?
5. How should the relationship between domestic police and the Chilean public be improved? Are constitutional reforms needed, or will other forms of oversight resolve this issue?

Further Reading

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2. http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/research/chile-constitution.pdf: This is a PDF of the full text of the 1980 Chilean Constitution, useful for referencing major clauses and structures.
3. https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Countries/CL/Report_Chile_2019_EN.pdf: This UN report provides a thorough account of the human rights violations and gives recommendations for reform.
4. https://theconversation.com/chile-puts-its-constitution-on-the-ballot-after-year-of-civil-unrest-147832: This article discusses the conditions leading to *Estadillo Social* and the driving concerns behind calls for a new constitution.

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Specialized Agency

Golden Age of Piracy

Gabriel Harding and James Bae
Co-Chairs

Golden Age of Piracy

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

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Director of Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Your chairs, Gabriel Harding and James Bae, are excited to welcome you to the Golden Age of Piracy committee for GSMUN XXVI! This committee focuses on the Canton pirate federation in the early 19th century, and its leader, Zheng Yi Sao. Nicknamed the "pirate queen", she led the federation to the peak of its power in China, along with her second-in-command Zhang Bao. The committee begins in July 1809, in the midst of naval battles and the gradual opening of pirate negotiations with the Chinese government. As delegates, you will have to deeply consider the state that the pirate federation is in currently, and make decisions to guide its future.

Gabriel Harding is looking forward to serving as chair for the Golden Age of Piracy committee. This is his second year participating in Maggie Walker Model UN and in GSMUN, having served as a crisis staffer for GSMUN XXV. Outside of GSMUN, he is a violinist, and he also enjoys coding. He is excited to see what discussions come out of this committee, and can't wait for GSMUN XXVI!

James Bae is excited to chair the Golden Age of Piracy Committee. He has participated in Maggie Walker Model UN since his freshman year and was also a crisis staffer for GSMUN XXV. He is also a member of his school's tennis and robotics teams. He is excited to see where debate goes in committee!

Our goals as a committee are to not only have fun considering the military aspect of the issue and engaging in naval battles, but also giving serious consideration to the state that China is in and how piracy is impacting it. To be prepared as a delegate, you should have read the background guide, considered the questions within it for each topic, and have a good understanding of the forces at play within the Golden Age of Piracy. You should also understand how relations within and outside of China affected the power of pirate fleets and how this influenced conversations with the Chinese government.

As a delegate, you will also have to write a position paper about your position within the committee. This should be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, with CMS (Chicago Manual Style) citations. It must follow the Maggie Walker honor code; no plagiarism is allowed, including ChatGPT and other AI tools.. Email your position papers to the chairs before 5 PM on the day of the conference!

Lastly, the chairs would like to remind you that there will be food, merchandise, and other things on sale at the conference. GSMUN is dedicated to assisting communities through charity, and the chosen charity for this conference is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society! All proceeds from items bought will go to charity, so be sure to bring money!

If you have any questions, or would like feedback on your position papers, you can contact your chairs at gsmunxxvi.piracy@gmail.com. Once again, we look forward to seeing this committee unfold. Good luck, we'll see you at GSMUN XXVI!

Your Chairs,

Gabriel Harding
gsmunxxvi.piracy@gmail.com

James Bae

Golden Age of Piracy
Committee Overview

Background

In the early 19th century, Zheng Yi Sao was one of the most notoriously fierce pirates in the South China Sea. During this time, piracy ran rampant in China due to heavy foreign influence and socioeconomic factors, such as widespread poverty and an addiction to opium. The Opium Wars, a set of wars based around China's dependence on the British East India Company, disrupted and distracted the Chinese economy and government, allowing people to more easily partake in illegal activities, such as piracy and smuggling. This allowed piracy to expand and for pirates to gain wealth, power, and reverence. Due to China's decline in influence on the global stage and the excess spending of the government on decadent palaces and other miscellaneous purchases, poverty and social unrest led large masses of unemployed fishermen and sailors to turn to a life of piracy and crime. One of the most influential and powerful pirate fleets was born out of this turmoil. The Canton Pirate Confederation consisted of approximately 1,800 junks, a type of Chinese sailing ship, and was led by Zheng Yi Sao, who was aptly nicknamed the Pirate Empress. Zheng Yi Sao was born in 1775 under the name of Shi Xianggu. She worked in a brothel in Canton when she met Zheng Yi, an infamous pirate, and soon married him.

After becoming his bride, Zheng Yi Sao and Zheng Yi would go on to create a group of powerful pirate fleets. Many pirates had been hired by the Vietnamese government during a revolution, but following the revolution, many pirates were left stranded and without a leader. Sao began her rise to power when she and Zheng Yi established this federation, composed initially of Vietnamese pirates. The fleets were successful in establishing a large-scale racketeering operation targeting villages and fishing fleets along the Chinese coast. After Zheng Yi died in 1807, Zheng Yi Sao was able to claim leadership of the pirate hierarchy. Zheng Yi Sao needed a male leader to secure control over her squadron along with the greater federation, which was similar to many other Chinese social systems at the time and was almost exclusively dominated by men. Despite being a formidable pirate, she did not have the respect of other pirates without her husband beside her. For this position, she chose Cheung Pao, who came to be considered to be an extension of Zheng Yi's family after having been admitted to the fleet 5 years ago by Zheng Yi himself. Cheung Pao was essentially Zheng Yi's apprentice, so he had developed the skill necessary to be a very strong leader within the federation.

Under the leadership of Zheng Yi Sao, the pirates expanded their ventures, planning to take control of the salt trade. After attacking many areas along the coast, Sao eventually gained control over approximately 270 government junks, leaving only a small number outside her control. With jurisdiction over a majority of these trade vessels, the pirates took control of the imperial supply lines, forcing the salt merchants to submit to their demands. In exchange for safe passage to transport their salt, the vessels had to pay a massive sum of money to the pirates, and stations were even created in many towns to collect the taxes more efficiently. Sao had developed a massive financial operation across much of coastal China, and the pirate federation had found great success.

Topic I: Conflicts between Chinese Pirates and other Naval Forces.
History of the Issue

The pirate federation finds its origins in Zheng Qi and his involvement with the Tay Son Dynasty in Vietnam. In 1788, Zheng Qi formed a partnership with Mo Guanfu, another influential pirate. Together, they assisted in the Tay Son Rebellion, an uprising orchestrated by three brothers in Vietnam. At the time, there were multiple separatist states within Vietnam ruled by various families, and the Ngyuen brothers led an army in an attempt to end their rule and unify Vietnam. They succeeded with the help of Zheng Qi and other pirates, and the Tay Son Dynasty was established. Zheng Qi and Mo Guanfu, along with other powerful pirates involved in the turmoil, were given the high ranking military positions of "soldier general" under the Tay Son Dynasty. Mai Youkin was also allied with Zheng Qi, and was granted the influential military position of Qinghai general.

The Tay Son Dynasty granted Zheng Qi 200 foreign ships, as well as extremely skilled troops. However, Zheng Qi became exceedingly prideful in his new position, and he started to become loose in disciplining his men. They began taking advantage of their positions; they terrorized the local townspeople, invaded their houses, and took their wives and daughters. Seeking aid, the locals contacted naval powerhouse Fu Ying, the brother of a former king. Fu Ying gave the order to attack, and in early 1802, Zheng Qi's fleet was almost annihilated while he himself was shot to death by a cannon.[1]

Zheng Qi's younger brother, Zheng Yi, fled with multiple other crewmates. Yi rose to power within the pirate groups, and eventually pirate federation rose again in full force, with their main base of operations set in Canton, on the southeastern coast of China.[2] This pirate federation included many who served the Tay Son Dynasty and were involved in the Rebellion, such as Wu Shier , who had been granted great military influence

due to their service. The power that the federation held allowed them to constantly raid towns along the Chinese coast, and any attempts by the Chinese government to quell them failed. However, in 1802, the Tay Son Dynasty collapsed, and the coalition was plunged into turmoil, with pirates beginning to kill each other. In order to avoid self-destruction, the pirate leaders decided they needed to formally consolidate their power and create order within the pirate group.

In 1805, the heads of each of the pirate gang's fleets signed a document officially declaring them united. Six of these fleets existed within the federation, each designated by the color of their flag—the Red, Blue, Yellow, Green, Black, and White Flag fleets. Within the document formalizing the federation, they established a pirates' code, a strict code of conduct for the federation established by Sao herself.[3] In February of 1805, the Jiaqing Emperor's primary goal as the leader of China was to eradicate the pirates, since they were severely damaging China's trading economy. He called in the high-ranking officer Nayancheng, who was previously appointed as a Special Imperial Commissioner to help deal with rebellion, and had significant experience in military command. The Emperor's hope was that Nayancheng would be capable of finally crushing the pirates. Arriving at Canton, Nayancheng found that there was a severe lack of troops and warships—the Chinese government lacked the infrastructure, and the pirates greatly outnumbered them.

Furthermore, the imperial warships were slow, bulky, and armed with only two to four guns. Despite all of these issues, Nayancheng eventually led a month-long naval campaign against the pirates in Canton. He was able to nominally claim victory, having at least temporarily destroyed the pirate base, but he had barely put a dent in the ranks of the pirate federation—their power remained essentially unchallenged.[4] The pirates maintained a hold on many offshore islands

and eventually gained control of the Pearl River delta and its archipelago, nicknamed the Ladrones (the Pirate Islands). This allowed them to continue raids, illegal activity, and racketeering profit.[5]

Current Status of the Issue

By 1808, Zheng Yi Sao was in control of the Red Flag Fleet and the pirate federation in its entirety. The federation had a strong military grip on the southeastern Chinese coast and on Canton, the main base of pirate operations.[6] There was essentially no military success on the part of the imperial navy; multiple high-ranking officers had been killed, and their fleet had been reduced by over half.[7] The federation had terrified the Cantonese navy to the point where they refused to leave land for fear of the sea's pirates. The resolve of the military continued to worsen, with naval personnel even beginning to sabotage their own ships in an attempt to avoid going out to sea and risking an encounter with the pirates. In early 1808, the pirates killed the commander-in-chief of Chekiang province, and six months later destroyed most of the ships allocated for the defense of Canton, along with a majority of Canton navy itself.[8]

In March 1809, Zheng Yi Sao, as leader of the Red Flag Fleet, defeated the Provincial Commander Sun Quanmao. The Commander had begun a battle with a small group of the federation pirates, and they called for Zheng Yi Sao's help. With the help of Liang Bao, leader of the White Flag Fleet, and Zhang Bao, they were able to decisively defeat Sun Quanmao by outflanking his forces. In July, the Qing Dynasty navy struck back against the pirates, killing Liang Bao and destroying his White Flag Fleet, although the imperial navy lost one of their commanders and 25 junks in the process.[9] Meanwhile, the new governor-general of Canton, Bai Ling, began a plan to convince pirates to defect from the federation through bribes of rewards and amnesties.[10] Throughout 1809, this began to impact the ranks of the pirate federation; but for the time being, the pirates maintained

dominant control over many territories along the Chinese coast.

Analysis and Solutions

The pirate federation has won many battles and has established its military might. The pirates' control over the salt trade and other investments ensures a steady income, and key territories have been secured, at least for now. The imperial navy is still terrified of the pirates, with many troops avoiding conflict with the federation altogether, and imperial victories have been scarce. However, the loss of Liang Bao and his White Flag Fleet has been severely damaging, and the pirate ranks began to diminish with the initiation of government negotiations.

One potential prospect is to fully engage in negotiations with the Chinese government. It is clear that the pirate federation is weakening; while the imperial fleets are still terrified of the federation, an advantageous deal could be secured, ensuring a comfortable future for the federation's pirates. However, there is value in continuing to fight. Currently, the pirates are experiencing the peak of the federation's success, and are almost uncontested within the Pearl River delta. The fact that the Chinese government is negotiating may imply a lack of confidence in engaging with the pirates through naval battles. The federation's decision must take into account the viewpoints of all the crew members, the fleet leaders, and even government and military officials.

Questions to Consider
1. Should negotiations with the Chinese government be embraced fully, approached at a tentative pace, or dismissed entirely?
2. What factors should be considered when deciding if the federation should be allowed time to recover from the loss of the White Flag Fleet? Is it a wise decision, or would it allow the imperial army to strike in a time of weakness?

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of continuing to raid coastal towns and plunder for profit? Will it continue to be sustainable?
4. What are potential solutions to the ever-increasing number of pirates defecting to the imperial government?
5. How can potential conflicts between fleets within the pirate federation be dealt with, if they arise?
6. What measures should be taken if the imperial navy, or another navy, gains power and becomes a threat?

Further Research
1. https://www.jstor.org/stable/4129876 5: An article with insight into Zheng Yi Sao and the operations of the Canton pirate federation as a whole.
2. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2457394 2: An article giving insight into the inner workings of the pirate federation and the people who formed it - specifically page 563 onwards.
3. https://www.worldhistory.org/Zheng _Yi_Sao/: Gives an overarching view of the pirate federation during Zheng Yi Sao's reign.
4. https://library.um.edu.mo/ebooks/b3 5720116.pdf: A primary source from an individual who was captured by the pirates themselves.
5. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2007863 7: This article speaks about piracy as a whole, its causes, and its motivations.

Topic II: Negotiations between Chinese Pirate Groups and the Chinese Government
History of the Issue

By the mid-19th century, China rapidly declined from its position as a global superpower. The population had boomed to an approximate 450 million, more than three times the amount in the year 1500. The Chinese government was spending exorbitant amounts of money and consequently falling into debt. Poverty ran rampant across the country, and many people were turning to crime in an attempt to feed themselves and their families. The government was failing to protect the populace, and subsequently people began to rely on pirates, rather than the government, for protection. Using their increased numbers and influence, pirate groups would control large swaths of land and trade routes, further limiting the government's power while increasing their own. During this time, Vietnam was in the middle of the Tay Son rebellion, a civil war spanning from 1771 until 1802. Vietnam hired and paid pirates very well, encouraging people to turn to piracy in an attempt to feed their families[11]. With their increased numbers, pirate groups were able to control larger areas of land. Zheng Yi Sao's pirate confederation controlled the salt trade within China in the early 1800s. Other pirate groups would collect taxes in exchange for allowing companies, such as the East India company, to do business in their territory without being attacked. This led to powerful international companies beginning to support the pirates. The East India company would move on to having pirates sell opium on their behalf. By working with wealthy organizations that had lots of influence over port towns in China, pirates were able to flourish. Some towns would go so far as to even pay pirates to keep their towns from being burned and their villagers from being slaughtered.[12] The government not only failed to protect its citizens, but failed to hunt down the pirates due to their weak naval forces. China's once strong naval power was much weaker following the burning of their treasure fleet in 1525 and had never fully recovered.[13] Additionally, many pirates had grown up exposed to the sea and seafaring, giving them an advantage due to their experience. This, combined with their comparatively smaller and less bulky ships, made it much easier for pirates to escape from the Chinese government.

Current Status of the Issue

By 1809, Zheng Yi Sao's pirate confederation was made up of approximately 1,800 ships and over 70,000 men. The Chinese government remained weak following rebellions and uprisings throughout the country.[14] European powers also began to challenge China's position as a global superpower in international affairs. The British East India Company slowly began to gain more influence and power in China. The sale of opium had begun to weaken China's port towns due to their reliance on opium and the British East India Company. Opium being smuggled into China led to an increase in the power of pirate groups who would sell it and make the government weaker and less prevalent. Many people began to join pirate groups, hoping to increase their wealth and power, hereby increasing their numbers and weakening the government. Pirates not only had power through their large numbers, but also had control over trade routes. Zheng Yi Sao and her fleet controlled a majority of the salt trade in China.[15]

Chinese pirates had originally been hired by the Vietnamese government in order to help with the Tay Son rebellion.[16] However, after the end of the rebellion, Zheng Yi, husband of Zheng Yi Sao, came forth as the head of a large pirate confederation. After his death in 1807, Zheng Yi Sao took power of the fleet. Her ruthlessness and tactical genius allowed her crew to rise in power and eventually become one of, if not the single, most powerful pirate crews of all time. She created a strict set of rules and was able to escape the government for years. The Chinese government went to America, England, and Portugal in an attempt to put an end to her reign.[17] Many countries sent ships, men, and supplies to the Chinese navy, but despite these countries sending lots of resources and manpower, Zheng Yi Sao continued to thrive. In early 1809, there were attempts to convince pirates to defect from their fleets. Many pirates defected in exchange for safety and positions of power in the Chinese Navy.[18]

This caused the pirates to have to take more extreme measures to maintain their wealth and influence.

Analysis and Solutions

The Chinese government has opened up to negotiate with pirates in an attempt to gain control over their country again. Government officials began to discuss ways to discourage pirates and improve their standing internationally. They started sending messages to pirates asking them to surrender, and in exchange they were offered pardons and safety from other pirates.[19] Some pirates chose to negotiate very aggressively, demanding high positions in the government and the option to keep everything they had stolen. Others chose to surrender unconditionally, simply hoping to be able to survive and live comfortably. The Chinese government is willing to offer money, amnesty and positions of power to pirates in the hopes of gaining skilled officers for their navy. Many pirates went from hiding and fighting the government to being illustrious generals in the navy. However, plenty of pirates also choose to continue fighting the government independently.[20] Those who chose to stay loyal to their crews would continue to control vast areas of land. Individual pirates could defect from their crews, but the crews as a whole must decide whether to tolerate this or to cut off any further negotiations and defections

Questions to Consider
1. How do relationships with other countries affect choices in negotiation?
2. Is it more important to be able to have freedom with the risk of death than to have safety?
3. Should people who try to leave the crew be punished? If so, what should the punishment be? Is it worth the risk of angering the government further by going after former pirates in their employ?

4. Should pirates within the government be used as assets, or should they be denounced as traitors to the federation?
5. How should negotiations be held? In person or through proxies? Should negotiations be civil?
6. How should leaders of fleets react to their pirates leaving?

Further Research

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2. https://globalcapitalism.history.ox.ac.uk/files/case20-chinesepiratespdf: Gives more insight into the history of piracy in China and its interactions with different countries

3. https://www.jstor.org/stable/41298765?read-now=1#page_scan_tab_contents: Goes in depth about Zheng Yi Sao and her rise to power

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Crisis Simulation

The Empire of Brazil (Novice)

Hoda Vohra and Tanvi Palavalas
Co-Chairs

The Empire of Brazil

Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's novice Empire of Brazil Committee! Your chairs are so excited to meet all of you! As delegates in the Empire of Brazil committee, you will delve into the historical context and diplomatic intricacies of this fascinating era. Set in the 19th century, the committee focuses on the Empire of Brazil's political landscape, socio-economic dynamics, and international relations during this period.

Hoda Vohra, one of your co-chairs, is a junior and has been involved in Model UN since sixth grade. She loves public speaking and helping others to foster their public speaking skills. Aside from Model UN, Hoda is a public relations officer for Spanish Club, a member of the Debate Team, a writer for the school's newspaper: the Jabberwock, a part of the school's orchestra alongside the orchestra club: Cantante, and is a member of the cross country team at MLWGS. In her free time, Hoda enjoys playing tennis with friends, running, painting and drawing still life pieces, and baking for her Instagram baking account. She looks forward to meeting everyone and making this one of the best conferences yet!

Tanvi Palavalas is ecstatic to serve as co-chair for the Empire of Brazil! As a junior at Maggie Walker, it is her third year being involved in GSMUN and her sixth year participating in Model UN. Besides honing her public speaking skills and serving as treasurer for Maggie Walker's Model UN club, Tanvi takes part in Maggie Walker's Cross Country, Swim, and Bhangra teams, while writing and taking pictures for the Jabberwock, Maggie Walker's student publication. In her free time, she enjoys making Spotify playlists, driving to Taco Bell, and FaceTiming her friends at inappropriate times. Tanvi can't wait to meet everyone and is looking forward to the 26th iteration of GSMUN!

As delegates of this committee, your preparation should revolve around the historical context, political events, and diplomatic challenges of the Empire of Brazil during the 19th century. Delegates should prepare solutions to the issues proposed by both topics, know and understand the terms associated with both issues and analyze the questions proposed in the background guides. Delegates are expected to prepare a position paper following the guidelines of the Chicago Manual of Style; position papers should be double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font. Delegates should send their position papers prior to the start of the committee to the chair email, gsmunxxvi.brazil@gmail.com. Upholding the Maggie Walker honor code is imperative, and plagiarism will not be tolerated.

When coming to GSMUN, you will quickly pick up that we love giving back to the community! This year's partner charity is the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a nonprofit organization which has been the largest nonprofit funder of blood cancer research since 1949. With that being said, be sure to bring money with you to buy treats and merchandise from GSMUN's charity cart. There may also be incentives in your committee, so be sure to bring money for donations! All proceeds will go towards the Leukemia & Lymphoma society.

For any questions, concerns, or feedback on your position papers, feel free to reach out to your chairs at gsmunxxvi.brazil@gmail.com. We are eagerly anticipating insightful debates and collaborative efforts as we explore the rich history of the Empire of Brazil. See you at GSMUN XXVI, and good luck!

Your Chairs,

Hoda Vohra.
gsmunxxvi.brazil@gmail.com

Tanvi Palavalas

Empire of Brazil
Committee Overview

Background

In the heart of South America, the Empire of Brazil emerges as a central focus of discussion. As this conference delves into the intricate history of this nation, delegates will grapple with the multifaceted challenges faced by Brazil during the late 19th century. This transformative period, characterized by the transition from monarchy to republic, witnessed significant upheaval in both the military and economic spheres.

At the core of this committee's deliberations lies the critical issue of rebuilding the Brazilian military. The late 19th-century shift from monarchy to republic triggered an intense transformation in Brazil's military landscape. Internal divisions, resource constraints, and a lack of cohesive leadership plagued the armed forces during this period. The transition from monarchy to republic brought far-reaching implications for military personnel and civilians alike as they navigated the challenges of a rapidly evolving socio-political environment. Delegates will explore the intricacies of this military transformation and seek comprehensive solutions to address the concerns of militaristic movements while forging a strong and unified Brazilian military.

In tandem with the military transition, the economic redevelopment of Brazil also takes center stage. The shift from monarchy to republic paralleled a fundamental change in the nation's economic foundations. With slavery as the linchpin of the previous economy, characterized by the production of commodities such as coffee and sugar, Brazil faced the monumental task of economic restructuring. Delegates will examine the economic challenges and opportunities that emerged during this period of transition, including issues related to labor, agriculture, and international competition. Crafting viable solutions to propel Brazil toward economic stability and growth will be paramount.

As delegates delve into the historical intricacies of the Empire of Brazil, they must grapple with the complexities of this era, drawing upon their diplomatic skills, historical insights, and innovative thinking to navigate the path to resolution. The committee will explore the nuances of these topics, drawing from historical records, analysis, and creative problem-solving to shed light on the challenges and possibilities that defined this pivotal moment in Brazilian history.

Topic I: Rebuilding the Military
History of the Issue

The late 19th-century transition from monarchy to republic in Brazil brought about a seismic shift in the nation's military landscape, sparking a tumultuous period spanning the 1890s to the early 1900s. The dissolution of the Empire of Brazil plunged the armed forces into chaos, characterized by internal divisions, resource shortages, and a dearth of cohesive leadership. The transition from monarchy to republic had profound implications for both military personnel and civilians, as they grappled with the challenges of a rapidly evolving socio-political environment.

The military's hierarchical structure, which accentuated societal disparities, encountered profound social and economic challenges. Soldiers and officers, often hailing from lower socio-economic backgrounds, endured substandard living conditions and meager wages, exacerbating divisions within the military ranks. This internal rift was further inflamed by various factional movements, each driven by distinct grievances and demands. Notable among these were the

Federalist Revolt (1893-1895) and the Revolta da Armada in 1893, which underscored the fragmented state of the armed forces.[1]

The political instability prevalent in the Brazilian Republic compounded the military's woes. Frequent leadership changes and a lack of a clear vision for the military's role fueled turmoil. Additionally, the decline of the empire led to economic challenges with inadequate funding, equipment, and training opportunities hampering the armed forces' ability to maintain discipline and effectively fulfill their duties. Following the fall of the Empire of Brazil, this period witnessed a tumultuous transformation of the military landscape. The interplay of divisions, socio-economic disparities, and political uncertainties necessitates a comprehensive approach to address militaristic concerns and reconstruct a strong and unified Brazilian military.

Current Status of the Issue

The socioeconomic fabric of the First Republic of Brazil sheds light on the nation's economic foundation. Prior to the Empire of Brazil's demise, the nation's economy revolved around agriculture, a characteristic that persisted at the outset of the First Republic. The elite class, who once held sway over Brazil, regained control only in 1898.[2] Upon their return to power, they resumed the production of resources such as coffee, rubber, sugar, tobacco, and other natural commodities. This small group of aristocrats formed an oligarchy that focused on maximizing resource production, capitalizing on Brazil's status as the source of 75% of the world's coffee supply.[3]

However, Brazil faced stiff international competition, prompting a reduction in export prices to bolster profits. Despite this strategy, the Brazilian economy languished, with the nation's currency depreciating against foreign counterparts, particularly the British pound.[4] The resultant spike in import prices led to reduced consumption, compounding the nation's economic woes. Brazil found itself unable to service its foreign debt, leading to the collapse of numerous banks. The oligarchy's primary goal was resource maximization, facilitated by employing cheap labor, reminiscent of the previous slavery system, to maintain social status and economic support. This approach raised ethical and social concerns.[5]

Analysis and Solutions

In contemplating solutions to the complex challenges surrounding the rebuilding of the Brazilian military during the late 19th century, several pivotal strategies emerge.

Firstly, there exists an urgent imperative to reform the governmental structure. Central to this endeavor is the question of how such reforms would affect both the entrenched land-holding elite, constituting the oligarchy, and the general public, presently serving as a source of cheap labor. The transition towards a more inclusive and representative government offers the potential to redress prevailing social and economic inequalities. Secondly, addressing the issue of cheap labor assumes the utmost importance. To prevent the perpetuation of a system reminiscent of forced labor, Brazil must undertake measures to ensure laborers receive equitable wages and enjoy decent working conditions. This necessitates the enactment of legislation and policies aimed at protecting workers' rights and preserving their dignity. Thirdly, the question of constitutional revisions lingers. Should Brazil contemplate the drafting of a new constitution as a means of rebalancing power? Such a constitutional overhaul holds promise for achieving a fairer distribution of political influence and resources, potentially mitigating existing disparities. Furthermore, Brazil must assess its export strategy. Should the nation persist in its singular focus on coffee as its primary export, or should it explore diversification into other resources? An in-depth examination of the

economic ramifications of concentrating on a solitary agricultural product and its repercussions on economic stability becomes imperative for informed decision-making. Lastly, the circumstances under which Brazil can embark on the reconstruction of its economic infrastructure warrant meticulous scrutiny. Factors contributing to potential risks in this recovery endeavor, as well as the elite class's optimal approach to navigate this intricate process, demand meticulous consideration.

In conclusion, addressing these multifaceted challenges mandates a holistic and deliberative approach, encompassing governmental reform, labor rights, constitutional amendments, export diversification, and judicious economic revitalization.

Questions to Consider
1. How would reforming the government structure affect both sides of the situation: the land-holding elite class forming the oligarchy and the general public who currently serve as cheap labor?
2. In what sense does the idea of cheap labor relate to slavery, and how can this be changed to eliminate enslavement-like policies?
3. Should Brazil consider drafting a new constitution in order to balance power and address social and economic disparities?
4. Should Brazil continue growing and exporting coffee to gain a spot in the economic market or focus on other resources as well? How will focusing on one particular aspect of their agriculture affect their ability to grow as a country?
5. Under what circumstances will it be possible for Brazil to continue building its economic infrastructure? What are the risks of rebuilding, and

how should the elite class approach this?

Further Research
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3. https://www.jstor.org/stable/27868707: Explores the historical evolution of military professionalism and its political implications, providing a critical analysis of the country's military history during this century.
4. https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv51309x.9: Provides an in-depth exploration of Brazil's historical journey toward democracy, offering valuable insights into the nation's political evolution.
5. https://www.jstor.org/stable/90007840: Presents an extensive empirical demonstration of Brazil's integration into the capitalist world-economy from 1550 to approximately 1800.

Topic II: Economic Redevelopment
History of the Issue
The shift between the monarchy to republic in Brazil simultaneously represented the shift in the presence of slavery in the country. Brazil's economy was built on the foundation of slavery. Slaves were the most important part of the economy, stabilizing it by "producing" all the wealth from the plantations. Coffee and sugar were some of the main exports in Brazil's agriculture-based economy. Before coffee became a prevalent export, which was mainly in the later parts of

the 19th century, other natural resources were more prevalent. However, this led to a lack of basic industrialization in the region due to a reliance on slavery. The end of the empire sees a shift with this.[6]

The elite class, which consisted of the land-holders who controlled the production of goods such as sugar, held most of the power. These landholders had the majority of the political power in Brazil, meaning that any changes in the presence of slavery were required to be approved by them. Therefore, slavery was only gradually abolished starting in 1831, when the Brazilian emperor started the abolition only at Great Britain's request. However, the transatlantic slave trade took longer to stop, finally ending in the 1860s. Finally in 1871, The Law of the Free Womb was passed, outlining that the offspring of slaves would be born free. Even so, the children would have to work until they were adults to compensate the slaveholders. With continued lobbying and protests from Brazilian abolitionists, a 1884 law was passed that finally freed enslaved people over 60 years of age. Considering that the majority of slaves didn't live till 60, this law still left the majority of social and political power in the hands of wealthy slave owners. Finally, on May 13, 1888, 700,000 slaves were freed in Brazil, ending the region's torrid relationship with enslavement.

Current Status of the Issue

The social makeup of the First Republic of Brazil explains the way in which the economy was built. Before the end of the Empire of Brazil, Brazil was very agriculture-based. However, the elite that once controlled Brazil did not have power over the Republic again until 1898. Once they took control of Brazil again, the same resources of coffee, rubber, sugar, tobacco, and other natural resources were produced. The small group of aristocratic elite then merged into an oligarchy, focusing on producing and exporting the maximum amount of Brazil's

resources. At one point, 75% of the coffee supplied throughout the world originally came solely from Brazil.

Due to their comparably diminished economy, Brazil would lower the prices of their exports for expanded profit gain. Even with this tactic used, the Brazilian economy plundered. The Brazilian currency was devalued against other currencies such as the British pound.[7] This resulted in a decrease of government revenue because the prices of imports rose greatly while consumption lowered. Brazil, unable to repay foreign debt, was at a standstill as the banks crashed and the people plunged into poverty, forced once again to be a source of cheap labor for the development of improved infrastructure.

With the main focus of maximum output and profit for the oligarchy, the majority of the population became unskilled laborers, leading to mass social inequality, as the wealthy retained their social status while only minimally supporting the economy.[8]

Analysis and Solutions

With the remnants of slavery still fresh in Brazil, it is important to recognize how forced and cheap labor cannot be sustained and how it will eventually lead to riots, rebellion, and the downfall of Brazil's government and society. With much of the elite actively encouraging cheap and low-paid labor, much of the population endures unsafe and unsustainable working conditions. Additionally, racist basis is prevalent, as evident through the voting restrictions placed against citizens of color through literacy tests and grandfather clauses. With the accumulation of wealth by a certain few, social unrest has risen, leading to an increased need of regulation in the workforce. However, with the economy and social climate so fragile, this must be done with consideration and delicacy to prevent outright rebellion. This could be done by centralizing the government, forcing all of the industries under stricter regulations. However, Brazil's government currently is a

representative parliamentary constitutional monarchy. This combined with the voter restrictions placed on Brazil's large minority population has led to inadequate representation and approval in laws and public policy passed.

There is a very easy solution to the immediate economic problems. Because most of Brazil's wealth comes from their exports of coffee, swaying away from the industry could crash that portion of the economy altogether. However, with better treatment of workers comes increased costs of goods, perhaps weakening the hold that Brazil has on international demand and industries.

Questions to Consider
1. How would reforming the government structure affect both sides of the situation: the land-holding elite class forming the oligarchy and the general public who currently serves as the cheap labor?
2. In what sense does the idea of cheap labor relate to slavery and how can this be changed in order for there to be no enslavement-like policies?
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resources as well? How will focusing on one particular aspect of their agriculture affect their ability to grow as a country?
5. Under what circumstances will it be possible for Brazil to continue building its economic infrastructure? What are the risks of rebuilding and how should the elite class approach this?

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Crisis Simulation

The Emu Wars - The Labor Party of Australia

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
Chair

The Emu Wars

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
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Model UN Club Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

 We are pleased to welcome you to GSMUN XXVI's Emu Wars Committee! My name is Imran Aly Rassiwalla, and I am extremely excited and passionate about this committee. I've proposed this committee for the past three years, and am inordinately glad that it finally got support under this administration. I could ask for no better swan-song to my high school chairing career. Although The Emu Wars is an inherently jovial topic, I am willing (and have equipped you all) to add as much depth to the committee as you want.

Alas, dear delegates and sponsors, we have come to the obligatory "bio" of the letter. I am a senior at Maggie Walker who has been a part of Model United Nations since freshman year. At Maggie Walker, I am co-captain of our school's debate team, a member of the One Small Step Organizing Team, President of Japanese National Honor Society, and a representative on the School's Advisory Council. Outside of Maggie Walker, I am Vice-President of Youth Club (a local community service organisation), a member of the Fixate Team, and dabble in improv. My favourite subject is history, and (unsurprisingly) I prefer Crisis Committees. In my spare time, I like to play video games, read, and call my friends.

You may have noticed two abnormalities in your research for this committee. First, the two background guides, and second, the absence of topics. There are, indeed, two background guides, one for Labour and one for the United Australia Party. This, while it may seem confusing and counterintuitive, has several benefits. Let's be honest, reading is hard. Reading 16 pages on a topic you only mildly care about with an obtuse dual-column format? Even moreso. By splitting the background guides on party lines, I have reduced the amount of reading for you to write a satisfactory position paper. You are free to peruse the other guide, and it would enrich your experience (you could even use it as an example of an outside source), but it is by no means a requirement. Second is the lack of topics. I have, for many years, harboured the sentiment that topics have no place in Crisis Committees. They are meant for GAs and (maybe) specialised, but crisis is meant to reflect an ongoing situation, not one that is handicapped by confining debate to a specific sector.

In terms of personal guidelines, first I would recommend drawing a smiley face on the back of your position paper (or just a :) somewhere on the page if you submit digitally) in order to unequivocally receive full credit for your paper. Position papers, reflecting Australia, should be written in British English. I personally prefer first person, but any point of view or combination thereof is permitted. The paper should also be 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with one inch margins and citations in Chicago Manual of Style (CMS). Position papers are bound to Maggie Walker's code of conduct, meaning zero tolerance for any plagiarism. This includes generative Artificial Intelligence. It would be a disservice to yourself and your own enjoyment to let a computer algorithm dictate your behaviour for a weekend, and although (admittedly) I likely wouldn't be able to catch an infraction, you would be disappointing yourself and your potential as a delegate. Please send your paper to the chair by email by 5 pm on the day of the conference, or be ready to turn it in at the start of the conference.

Lastly, but certainly not least, please remember to bring money! We will be selling food and merchandise to raise donations for our charity, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, a global leader in the fight against blood cancer. Work diligently on your research (or don't). If nothing else, make sure to get some rest in these ever increasingly busy times. I look forward to seeing you all in committee!

Your Chair,

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
gsmunxxvi.emu@gmail.com

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY BACKGROUND MANUAL

TWELFTH EDITION

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

JUNE 1, 1932

COLLECTIVE BACKGROUND

When the United Kingdom joined World War I, the British Dominion of Australia was drawn in. Public support for the war was high in Australia, with the government pledging 20,000 troops to the war.[1] However, as the horrors of sluggish trench warfare sullied a supposedly easy victory, more and more Australians opposed the war. In response, the Australian government censored the media, interned Germans, restricted free speech, and suppressed political opposition. Despite this political censorship, by 1916, enlistments had dropped from the high of 35,000 men per a month to a mere 6,000. This was coincided by a wave of strikes that only intensified in 1917.[2] By the time Germany finally surrendered in late 1918, Australia faced over 200,000 casualties in a country numbering only five million, the highest casualty rate of any belligerent in the war.[3] An additional 12,000 Australians would die due to the Spanish Flu pandemic.

At the Paris Peace Conference, Australia demanded both increased independence from the British Crown and that Germany pay for the total cost of the war. The nation achieved both, but only to an extent. Germany would pay Australia five million pounds in reparations, and Australia, while still a dominion, would be considered a full-fledged member of the new League of Nations.[4] Early on, the Australian government worried that this new League would recognise the equality of all races, compromising the government's ability to suppress aboriginal rights, but luckily for the segregated government, they were able to successfully argue against the proposal.[5] Furthermore, Australia gained the German portion of New Guinea and parts of Nauru, a small island in the pacific ocean—Northeast of Australia. As a whole, the conference was a success for Australia, but the Australian people would never forget that their new dominions, wealth, and independence were paid for in blood.

In the words of Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, 1920s Australia was defined by "men, money and markets." With the uncertainties of new technologies, the Bolsheviks of the Soviet Union looming close, and the memory of *The War to End All Wars* still fresh, Australia experienced a turbulent but economically fruitful time.[6] Strikes, movies, steam, communists, agrarians, prohibitionists, and corruption all defined this new era.

The Australian government also instituted a plan for veterans to settle on Australia's vast interior, a prize for their service.[7] Oftentimes, this 'empty' land was occupied by aboriginals, the indigenous peoples of Australia who were systematically oppressed by the British during colonisation and afterward. This land grant initiative would prove mostly unsuccessful, especially for aboriginal veterans.[8] Only three Aboriginal veterans would be granted land, out of over one thousand.[9]

As Australia entered the latter half of the 1920s, its economy was already showing signs of turmoil. Australia's policy of borrowing heavily to complete infrastructure projects and its dependence on exports, led to an economic recession by 1927.[10] Furthermore, the Australian pound was tied to the British pound sterling, which returned to the gold standard in 1925. When a currency, like the British pound, is on the gold standard, its value is directly connected to gold, often creating deflationary pressures that drastically increase the value of the currency.[11] This sudden change in the value of the Australian pound severely damaged the export economy. Therefore, when the New York Stock Exchange crashed in 1929, Australia was wholly unprepared for its economic future.[12]

Both Labor and the United Australia Party collectively shared memories of World War I and the turbulent Twenties. However, from the Great Depression onwards, our

stories would diverge, before crashing into each other today—June 1, 1932.

Welcome honourable Labor MP, to the Emu Wars: Australian Labor Party Background Guide. As a member of the Australian parliament, it is crucial that you understand the recent history of your party. Currently, it has been three years since the Depression started, and our party has been voted out of the majority. Allow me to explain.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY BACKGROUND

Following the economic unrest in Australia, the Nationalist Party, a more pro-war and conservative breakaway of our party, was voted out of office. After twelve years in the opposition, the Labor Party is finally back in power.[13] Our victory was such a landslide that the Nationalist Prime Minister even lost his seat. Unfortunately, we came to power just a couple of days before the Wall Street Crash of 1929. Our party leaders immediately set out to remediate this crisis, ripping Australia off the gold standard and listening to the advice of Sir Otto Niemeyer, a representative of the Bank of England, in order to draft the Melbourne Plan.[14] By raising taxes and cutting pensions, the government would be given more capital to remediate the crisis. It was the traditional approach taken by nations throughout history and stood in contrast to the radical proposals of men like John Maynard Keynes, who suggested that it was possible to spend your way out of a recession.[15]

Unfortunately, some men like Treasurer Ted Theodore bought into Keynes' vision and suggested inflationary spending measures similar to those suggested by Keynes. Some small parts of his philosophy would still make it into the finally adopted plan.[16] Furthermore, New South Wales Labor Premier Jack Lang proposed the "Lang Plan." This populist plan involved reducing interest on government bonds (loans from the government to citizens) to 3%, and for the

government to stop paying its loans altogether.[17] The final plan was signed by all Premiers and the Prime Minister, and, therefore, was dubbed the Premier's Plan. It involved a 20% cut on all spending (including a reduction in wages and pensions), a 22.5% reduction in interest rates that the government paid on internal loans , and tax increases.[18] However, this would not satiate Theodore and Lang. In his own province, Lang would go on to implement the ideologically pure version of his plan, leading to New South Wales defaulting on his debt payments and Lang's removal from office.[19] Although Lang may now be gone, his supporters remain vital to the Labor coalition, and have christened themselves as "Lang Labor." In contrast, Theodore's ideas faced more backlash in Labor, and the Prime Minister soon assumed control of the role of the Treasurer.[20]

Though taking the Australian pound off the gold standard seemed like a good emergency measure, it led to a 30% reduction in the value of the Australian pound, making imports far more expensive.[21] Additionally, the backlash of Lang's dismissal meant that we couldn't afford to lose any more of our coalition. So, begrudgingly, Ted Theodore would return to his post as treasurer, and Labor would be more open to Keynesian economics.[22] Though I noted our earlier disdain for Keynes' philosophy, it has shown some measure of success in the Roosevelt administration of the United States.[23] While the predominant view in our party is still that Keynesian economics would have detrimental long-term effects, we refuse to take it entirely off the table.

This decision, along with the populist elements of the Premier's Plan, frustrate one of our most ideologically conservative members, Joseph Lyons, who threatens to leave the Labor Party to form the United Australia Party. His new party supports only balancing the budget and cutting spending.[24] Due to the Depression, his party may gain power in the most recent 1932 elections, by a

strong margin. By combining both houses, their coalition would control eighty-one seats to our measly thirty.[25]

However, despite their power, all hope is not lost. The United Australia Party, as the ones in power, now have to deal with the responsibility of ending the Depression, or being blamed for its continuance. Furthermore, the United Australia Party has to deal with a new threat that has recently ravaged our farmland.[26] Scientists call them *Dromaius Novaehollandiae*, others call them Emus, but as for me, I call them the Birds from Purgatory.

TOPIC: THE BIRDS FROM PURGATORY

Veterans of the First World War were given land in the interior to settle and farm on. These plots were generally in Western Australia, and weren't actually fertile.[27] After the start of the Depression, with imports declining, soldiers turned into farmers to grow wheat. The government promised to subsidise the crop, but never fulfilled that oath due to external.[28] As the United Australia Party comes to power, farmers are continuously suffering. The price of wheat has fallen dramatically, adding to their distress. Farmers are now threatening to refuse to deliver the wheat, risking all Australian citizens. Additionally, some 20,000 Emus have begun to ravage the farmland in Western Australia.[29] When Emus eat wheat crops, they also knock over the fences, making it easier for smaller fauna to come to eat the remaining crop. Farmers now risk the dissemination of their crops and the destruction of their property.[30] The Emu is also a nasty bird, standing up to seventy-three inches tall and travelling at up to thirty miles per hour.[31]

The threat of independence also looms over the state of Western Australia. By this point, our great country has only existed for a mere thirty years, and regionalism still threatens to fracture us apart. The threat of independence from Western Australia is nothing new, but some, especially the United

Australia Party, worry that this may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.[32] Politicians in the Party, like Sir George Pearce, have even suggested using weapons of war to dispatch of the Emu threat.[33] However, this may just be the lucky break our party has been looking for since the Great Depression fell into our lap a few days after assuming power. If the United Australia Party embarrasses itself in Western Australia, it would assuredly bolster our own power. It is just a matter of figuring out how best to capitalise on these Birds from Purgatory.

Today is June 1, 1932. We stand at the crux of the unknown. The United Australia Party hopes to rework the very fabric of our economy, transitioning from an Agrarian to an Industrial state. Emus continue to ravage the crops in Western Australia day after day. War draws closer and closer. In the rest of the world, Joseph Stalin commands the Soviet Union is attempting to expand outward, threatening our Pacific domains. Germany turns to extremism, and once again we are threatened by the prospect of being drawn into a European conflict due to our status as a dominion.[34] The Great Depression engulfs the entire world. And, in the midst of it all, we stand here. Good luck, members of parliament. Whether young or old, new or experienced, regardless, the future is now in your hands.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS
Economics

Currently, it is the position of the United Australia Party to follow the Premier's Plan exactly: reducing spending, raising taxes, and increasing the interest rate on bonds.[35] For most members of the Australian Labor party, this is a good foundation. However, we diverge in the belief that this alone is not enough. The two policies that most Labor MP's uphold as necessary to supplement the Premier's Plan are defaulting on debts and inflationary spending.

First, we must default on debts. Australia does not have the capital to repay

debts currently without causing mass anguish amongst our people. While it may hurt our credit in the long run and make food more expensive after the Depression, people are currently dying of starvation and wasting away in poverty. The Labor Party, unlike the United Australia Party, supports a measure that will greatly relieve the people in the short term. Not only is this best for the people, it is best for the Party. Incorporating such measures by pausing our debt payments (both domestically and abroad) would allow us to fully reincorporate the breakaway Lang Labor into our coalition, and the relief would give us more political capital that could bring us back to power in the upcoming elections. Additionally, it is important to show that, even if the United Australia Party eventually supports this proposal, it is a Labor proposal first and foremost.

The second measure of borrowing excessively in order to spend our way out of the depression may seem incompatible with both the Premier's Plan and the Lang Plan. Some Labor party members indeed espouse this sentiment, believing that Keynesian economics and Keynesian economics alone can save us from the Depression. Other more moderate members of the Labor party believe in ditching the Lang Plan and creating a compromise between Keynesian principles and the Premier's Plan. This new proposal would involve borrowing heavily, but still cutting some services in order to provide the services most essential to economic recovery and revitalization. Finally, some Labor party members are hopeful that Keynesian economics can be incorporated into both the Lang Plan and Premier's Plan, pausing debt repayment while still borrowing. While this plan may be the least 'grounded' in the traditional sense, if it works it would be the quickest way to pull Australia out of the Great Depression.

At the end of the day, while our party members are divided on how to incorporate the Lang Plan and Keynesian economics into the Premier's Plan, we all seem to agree with Keynes' quote that "difficulty lies not so much in developing new ideas as in escaping from old ones."[36] No matter what path Australia takes in the future, it is clear that the traditional Premier's Plan is not enough to help us escape from this very non-traditional economic Depression.

As for the situation with the Emus, our most popular proposal is to provide economic subsidies to farmers. This is something that still splits the Labor Party, with some believing that we don't have the economic capital to provide subsidies. Furthermore, if the fairly conservative Western Australia did secede from the union, it would arguably be better for our party. With fewer United Australia Party seats, we would be one step closer to the majority, and the capital saved by not providing the subsidies could be crucial in the economic recovery plan we implement when we finally return to power.[37]

However, those who do support subsidies argue that the government would heavily suffer from the loss of Western Australia in terms of capital produced. Though it is not the best farmland, as we switch to a more industrial economy the fertility of land is becoming less and less relevant. Furthermore, urbanisation coincides with liberalisation, making the province invaluable for our party in the long run.[38] In the short term, those who support this proposal also argue that by providing subsidies and promoting it as a Labor initiative, we may be able to win Western Australia, a feat considered by many to be impossible.

Finally, there are those most cynical and conniving members in our party who suggest that the best course of action would be to subtly nudge the United Australia Party to use weapons of war on the Emus, actively "going to war with birds." In an already economically tumultuous period, doing so would surely make the United Australia Party unpopular with the people. However, we can go even further.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What policies can the Labor Party implement from the sideline in order to ensure that we win the next election?
2. How can we win back Lang Labor, and incorporate them into our coalition as they currently stand on the sideline?
3. What is the best way for Australia to escape from the Great Depression? What economic policies should supplement the Premier's Plan?
4. What should we do with the threat of secession and Emu's from the West? Should we seek to gain the favour of Western Australia, or stoke the flames of war?

FURTHER RESEARCH

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiRz52AQlMk&ab_channel=ExtraHistory: Video describing the economic tensions behind the Emu Wars
2. Experience of Nationhood: A classic history textbook describing Australia's history in the 20th century
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4. https://web.archive.org/web/20190721205219/http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/primeministers/scullin/in-office.aspx: A source detailing Australia's Prime Ministers and the split occurring between parties
5. https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/1930-to-1939-Depression-and-Crisis.aspx: Website detailing the Great Depression Era in Australia's Government

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16. Ibid.

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Crisis Simulation

The Emu Wars - United Australia Party

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
Chair

The Emu Wars

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

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Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
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Your Chair,

Imran Aly Rassiwalla
gsmunxxvi.emu@gmail.com

UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY BACKGROUND MANUAL

FIRST EDITION

PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

JUNE 1, 1932

COLLECTIVE BACKGROUND

When the United Kingdom joined World War I, the British Dominion of Australia was drawn in. Public support for the war was high in Australia, with the government pledging 20,000 troops to the war. However, as the horrors of sluggish trench warfare sullied a supposedly easy victory, more and more Australians opposed the war. In response, the Australian government used the war as an excuse to censor the media, intern Germans, restrict free speech, and suppress political opposition.[1] Despite this political censorship, enlistments had dropped from the high of 35,000 men a month to a mere 6,000 by 1916. This was coincided by a wave of strikes that only intensified in 1917.[2] By the time Germany finally surrendered in late 1918, Australia faced over 200,000 casualties in a country numbering only five million–the highest casualty rate of any belligerent in the war.[3] An additional 12,000 Australians would die from the Spanish Flu pandemic.

At the Paris Peace Conference, Australia demanded increased independence from the British crown and that Germany pay for the total cost of the war. The nation achieved both—only to an extent. Germany would pay Australia five million pounds in reparations, and Australia, while still a dominion, would be a full-fledged member of the newly created League of Nations.[4] The segregationist Australian government worried that this new League would recognise the equality of all races, compromising their ability to suppress aboriginal rights.[5] Furthermore, Australia gained the German portion of New Guinea and parts of Nauru, a small island in the pacific ocean—Northeast of Australia. All in all, the conference was a success for Australia, but the Australian people would never forget that their new dominions, wealth, and independence were paid for in blood.

In the words of Prime Minister Stanley Bruce, in the 1920s Australia was defined by "men, money and markets."[6] With the uncertainties of new technologies, the Bolsheviks in the Soviet Union looming close, and the memory of World War I still fresh, Australia experienced a turbulent but economically fruitful time.[7] Strikes, movies, steam, communists, agrarians, prohibitionists, and corruption all defined this new era.

The Australian government also instituted a plan for veterans to settle on Australia's vast interior, a prize for their service.[8] Oftentimes, this 'empty' land was occupied by aboriginals, the indigenous peoples of Australia who were suppressed by the British during the colonisation of Australia.. This land grant initiative would prove mostly unsuccessful, especially for aboriginal veterans.[9] Only three would be granted land out of over one thousand Aboriginal veterans.[10]

As Australia entered the latter half of the 1920s, its economy was already showing signs of turmoil. Australia's policy of borrowing heavily to complete infrastructure projects and dependence heavily on exports to sustain itself led to the economy entering a recession by 1927.[11] Furthermore, the Australian pound was tied to the British pound sterling, which returned to the gold standard in 1925. Having a currency on the gold standard, or with its value directly connected to gold, creates deflationary pressures that increase its value.[12] This sudden change in the value of the Australian pound severely damaged the export economy. Therefore, when the New York Stock Exchange crashed in 1929, Australia was left wholly unprepared.[13]

Both Labor and the United Australia Party shared a collective memory of World War I and the turbulent Twenties. However, from the Great Depression onwards, the stories diverge, before crashing into each other today–June 1, 1932.

Welcome honourable United Australia Party MP, to the Emu Wars: Australian Labor Party Background Guide. As a member of the Australian parliament, it is

crucial that you understand the recent history of your party. Currently, it has been three years since the Depression started, and our party has been voted into the majority. Allow me to explain.

UNITED AUSTRALIA PARTY BACKGROUND

The United Australia Party's story, ironically, starts off our mainland. On September 15, 1879. Joseph Lyons was born on the island of Tasmania.[14] The party is owned by Joseph Lyons, and thus, while founded in 1931, it reflects Lyons' unique political philosophy.[15] A school teacher by trade, Lyons desired a modest career and a modest life. When he entered politics, he did so solely at the state level.[16] Throughout his state level political career, Lyons was heavily involved in the unionist movement. He helped found a chapter of the Workers' Political League and campaigned heavily for Labor before taking office himself.[17] Lyons was an exceptional orator and was compelled to fight for the interests he spoke for, leading to him taking a pay cut when he first entered the Tasmanian House of Assembly. Over the next seven years, Lyons would climb the ranks, eventually becoming the leader of the Labor party in Tasmania. Another seven years later, in 1923, Lyons would lead Labour to its first post war victory in the state, becoming Premier of Tasmania.[18]

Lyons was able to represent Tasmania due to his moderation. He established positive relations with both major corporations (whose interests were malaligned with those of the working class) and with the conservative federal government.[19] However, this moderation also frustrated Lyons, and he chose to eventually abandon his state level post for a federal one in 1929. This was Labor's landslide year, driven by the drastic unpopularity of the conservative Nationalist Party. Days later, the worst economic crisis in Australian if not world history would commence—the Great Depression.[20]

After the Depression was sparked, the Labor government split along economic lines on how the crisis could best be remediated. Three major factions arose. There were those who preferred to heed the words of Sir Otto Niemeyer and representatives of the Bank of England, who controlled large swaths of Australia's economy and debt.[21] Together with the Labor government, they drafted the Melbourne Plan, advocating for a traditionalist approach towards economic recovery. The solution was simple: raise taxes and lower spending, a stroke of deflationary genius utilised by nations throughout history.[22]

The other two plans were far more radical. First, there were the supporters of Mr. Keynes, a British economist who advocated for excess inflationary spending in order to stimulate the economy out of depressions. This was the policy advocated for by Labour Treasurer Ted Theodore. Finally, there are the heretics who followed Jack Lang, the premier of New South Wales, and his radical plan. Lang's notorious plan involved reducing interest on government bonds (loans from the government to citizens) to 3%, and for the government to stop paying its loans altogether.[23] Such a radical and senseless plan would solely alienate Australia from the international economic system, ensuring the country stay impoverished forevermore.

The sensible Lyons led the traditionalist deflationary faction. Labor Prime Minister James Scullin's attempt to balance Labour infighting and protection of Ted Theodore led Lyons to leave Labor, joining the opposition. The opposition was split among disparate groups, the County Party (interested in farmers), Nationalist Party (standard centre-right), the Australia Party (a more right wing party led by a spurned Nationalist leader), and now the new Labor defectors. The latter three merged into the United Australia Party, after John Latham, the then leader of the Nationalists, and Joseph Lyons came to an agreement. Either could have led this new party, but Lyons' natural charisma made him the better choice, and

Latham soon conceded. Lyons' charisma, which got him the nickname "Honest Joe," combined with the absolutely deplorable incompetence and infighting within the Labour Party, led the United Australia Party to a victory in the 1931 elections. This victory was marked by such splendour that the United Australia Party has a complete majority in the House, meaning there is no need for negotiation with minority parties. This puts the farmer centric Country party in a precarious position, as they will have to find ways to gain our respect, though we largely aim to pursue the same goals.

With our victory, it seems as if nothing could go wrong. And yet, a spectre looms. Australia, though an industrialising state, remains agrarian. Our crops are being ravaged. It is no army of men, no plague of germs, no crisis of economics. Rather, it is an army, a plague, a crisis of birds. It is the Birds of Purgatory.

TOPIC: THE BIRDS FROM PURGATORY

As mentioned previously, veterans of the First World War were given land in the interior to settle and farm on. These plots were generally in Western Australia, and weren't actually fertile.[24] After the start of the Depression, with imports declining, we urged these soldiers-turned-farmers to grow wheat. We even promised to subsidise the crop, but due to external pressures retracted the oath.[25] As the United Australia Party comes to power, farmers are suffering. The price of wheat has fallen dramatically, adding to their distress. Farmers are now threatening to refuse to deliver the wheat, risking all Australian citizens. Additionally, some 20,000 Emus have begun to ravage the farmland in Western Australia.[26] When Emus eat wheat crops, they also knock over the fences, making it easier for smaller fauna to come to eat the remaining crop. Farmers now risk the dissemination of their crops and the destruction of their property.[27] The Emu is also a nasty bird,

standing up to seventy-three inches tall and travelling at up to thirty miles per hour.[28]

The threat of independence also looms over the state of Western Australia. By this point, our great country has only existed for a mere thirty years, and regionalism still threatens to fracture us apart. The threat of independence from Western Australia is nothing new, but some, especially the United Australia Party, worry that this may be the straw that breaks the camel's back.[29] Politicians in the Party, like Sir George Pearce, have even suggested using weapons of war to dispatch of the Emu threat.[30] It is typical to have some reservations to such an extreme solution, but consider this. The Australian public is demoralised. Beyond the yearning for the economic prosperity left behind in the 1920s, there is a yearning for the glory, the splendour, and the imperial providence that our dominion experienced during the first World War. It is time we make Australia great again, and that starts by brutally eviscerating the Emus.

Today it is June 1, 1932. We stand at the crux of the unknown. Our party is reworking the very fabric of our economy, transitioning from an Agrarian to an Industrial state. The Birds from Purgatory continue to ravage the crops in Western Australia day after day. War draws closer and closer. Stalin has gained control of the Soviet Union and looks to expand outward, threatening our Pacific domains. Germany turns to extremism, and once again we are threatened by the prospect of being drawn into a European conflict due to our status as a Dominion.[31] The Great Depression engulfs the entire world. And, in the midst of it all, we stand here. How we save our people is up to us, but this background manual would be remiss if not to include some commonly held and potential solutions to save our party and our country. Good luck, members of parliament. Whether young or old, new or experienced, regardless, the future is now in your hands.

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

This section will be split into economic and Emu policy, starting with the former and moving into the latter. Currently, it is the position of our Party to follow the Premier's Plan exactly: Reducing spending, raising taxes, and increasing the interest rate on bonds.[32] However, the United Australia Party also has another key aim—industrialization. So many of the sorrows of our economic state, have their roots in our agrarian reliance, even though the Australian soil is remarkably poor. Australia is a state that would be more prosperous if industrialised.[33]

Industrialism is also crucial when considering Japan. Japan, as with our predicament, faces not only a lack of high quality farmland, but a lack of land and resources altogether.[34] Their solution is industrialisation. Japan, in its desire to expand, wishes to expand to and take over Australia. Industrialisation would not only be a way to emulate the Japanese, but also to deter them through building a strong military presence.[35]

Next comes the pressing concern of Emu policy. Should Western Australia actually attempt to secede, it would not only destroy our political base (Western Australians tend to be more conservative) but would also be an embarrassment, dooming our party entirely.[36] It is essential that Western Australia remain under our jurisdiction, therefore, making it imperative that we address the Emu threat.

One possible solution, as suggested earlier by George Pierce, is war against the birds. The advantages of this proposal is its popularity with Western Australians, who are considering using their own arms to fight the bird.[37] However, there are two major problems with this idea. The first is that war is inherently costly. Bullets cost money, which will be redirected from our industrialization and economic recovery efforts. Can we really prioritise the goals of the Western Australians so much? After all, we lead not Western Australia, but all of Australia. The second problem is with the unlikely and yet technically possible scenario that we lose the war against the birds. It would be a humiliation so great it may trigger a Japanese invasion or even an emergency election that throws our party out of power. While this scenario is unlikely, the possibility acts as a detractor from the war approach.

Another solution is the importation of Emu's natural predators: Dingoes and Eagles.[38] Dingoes, which are a type of domesticable dog, would be able to limit the devastation enacted by the Emus. Increasing their population may be the best solution, but it is time-consuming and unknown to work. Importing eagles is the same. Both solutions do far less harm than Emus do to the crops, making them good for the farmers long term. However, they lack a level of flashiness, a level of certainty, that comes from mowing down the Emus with machine guns. It is a boring approach, but still one that can be pursued. Regardless of the method, the Emus must be addressed. Every day, Western Australians face the risk of starvation due to the destruction of their crops by the Emus.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What policies can the United Australia Party implement in order to ensure that we win the next election?
2. How can we win back the seditious Western Australians? What policy should we pursue against their enemy of the Emus?
3. What is the best way for Australia to escape from the Great Depression? What economic policies should supplement the Melbourne/Premier's Plan and industrialization?
4. How can we stop the Japanese threat to our possessions, beyond just relying on British protection of our dominions?

FURTHER RESEARCH

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiRz52AQlMk&ab_channel=ExtraHist

ory: Video describing the economic tensions behind the Emu Wars

2. Experience of Nationhood: A classic history textbook describing Australia's history in the 20th century
3. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Emu-War: A encylopedia source providing fundamental and detailed information regarding the Emu Wars
4. https://web.archive.org/web/20190721205219/http://primeministers.naa. gov.au/primeministers/scullin/in-office.aspx: A source detailing Australia's Prime Ministers and the split occurring between parties
5. https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/about/Pages/1930-to-1939-Depression-and-Crisis.aspx: Website detailing the Great Depression Era in Australia's Government

Endnotes

1.   "Acknowledgement of Traditional Custodians," Australian War Memorial, accessed February 25, 2024, https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/atwar/first-world-war.

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3.   Ibid.

4.   "Overview of Australia's Involvement in the First World War," Department of Veterans' Affairs, accessed February 25, 2024, https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/media-centre/media-backgrounders/overview-australias-involvement-first-world-war.

5.   Stephen Garton and Peter Stanley, *The Great War and Its Aftermath*

6.   Ibid.

7.   Acton Peninsula, "Stanley Bruce," National Museum of Australia, October 31, 2022, https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/stanley-bruce.

8.   Leslie Lloyd Robson, *The Convict Settlers of Australia* (Melbourne, Australia: Melbourne University Press, 1970), 18 & 45.

9.   "The Great Emu War - Battlebirds," Extra History, accessed February 25, 2024, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiRz52AQlMk&ab_channel=ExtraHistory.

10. Ibid.

11. [1] Ibid.

12. *Windows on Our Past : Constructing Australian History* (Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1993).

13. *Australia's Great Depression: How a Nation Shattered by the Great War Survived the Worst Economic Crisis It Has Ever Faced* (Crows Nest, Australia: Allen & Unwin, 2022).

14. "James Scullin," Australia's Prime Ministers, accessed February 25, 2024, https://www.naa.gov.au/explore-collection/australias-prime-ministers/james-scullin.

15. Museum of Australia. "Joseph Lyons." Prime Ministers of Australia, October 31, 2022. https://www.nma.gov.au/explore/features/prime-ministers/joseph-lyons.

16. Ibid.

17. Ibid.

18. Ibid.

19. Ibid.

20. Ibid.

21. Ibid.

22. Mason K. J., *Experience of Nationhood* (Cengage Learning Australia, 2014).

23. Ibid.

24. Ibid.

25. Ibid.

26. "The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,"

27. Ibid.

28. Frank B. Gill, *Ornithology*, Third, 2007.

29. "The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,"

30. "EMU," Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute, accessed February 25, 2024, https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/emu.

31. "The Great Emu War - Battlebirds,"

32. Ibid.

33. "The Holocaust Chronicle," Roots of the Holocaust, accessed February 25, 2024, https://web.archive.org/web/20150101004701/http:/www.holocaustchronicle.org/StaticPages/50.html.

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36. Ibid.

37. Ibid.

38. "EMU," Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute

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Crisis Simulation

JCC: Nigerian Civil War - Nigerian Government

Anna Kim and Luna Forlano
Co-Chairs

Nigerian Government

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

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Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
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Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
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Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

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Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI Nigerian Civil War - Nigerian Government JCC Committee! Your chairs, Luna Forlano and Anna Kim, are so excited to meet all of you. As delegates in the Nigerian Government Crisis Committee you will need to solve the upcoming issue of the Nigerian Civil War. With clashing ethnic groups, and areas of Nigeria breaking apart, as delegates you must decide whether peace or war is the answer.

Luna is ecstatic to be participating in her third year of the GSMUN team! She can not wait for the conference, and to meet all the delegates! Outside of Model UN, Luna enjoys all things music and spending time outside. She is a part of numerous clubs at Maggie Walker including Spanish and Italian Club, the Jabberwock, and is also a co-president of the school's acapella group. Luna is so excited for an amazing GSMUN!!

Anna Kim, a junior at Maggie Walker, is thrilled to be a chair for the Nigerian Civil War - Nigerian Government committee! She has been involved with Model UN since freshman year and can't wait for GSMUN XXVI and everything it brings. Outside of Model UN, Anna spends her time playing tennis in and out of school, being part of the orchestra, rock climbing with friends, and more! She can not wait to meet all of the delegates and is excited for a fun committee!

Within this committee, you will be tackling the topics of whether or not the Nigerian Government will be able to secure unity amongst the nation, and the extent to which foreign nations will be able to intervene with the conflict. It is important to research and understand the issues that led to the split of the nation and the state at which Biafra is in after they declared independence from the Nigerian Government. For your position paper, you are expected to use Chicago Manual Style citations, Times New Roman font 12-point, and double spacing. You are required to follow the Maggie Walker honor code. Plagiarism will not be tolerated on any level. Please send your position papers by email to gsmunxxvi.nigeria@gmail.com before 5pm on conference day.

Additionally, our amazing charity this year is Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. There will be snacks, T-shirts, incentives, and more to raise donations for this charity. Be sure to bring cash in order to participate in helping this cause!! Not only will you get to debate interesting topics, but also make a difference in our community!!

Your Chairs,

Anna Kim
gsmunxxvi.nigeria@gmail.com

Luna Forlano

JCC: Nigerian Civil War - Nigerian Government

Committee Overview

Topic I: Securing Unity
History of the Issue

On October 1, 1960, Nigeria officially became an independent nation, free from colonization.[1] With a relatively smooth transition and a population of over 56 million people from 20 tribes, there was promising potential for the strengthening of the nation. Nigeria had an active parliament with a thriving economy based on cocoa and palm oil. The country was segmented into three distinct regions: north, east, and west.[2] The Hausa Fulani people controlled the north, the Igbo people controlled the east, and the Yorbua people controlled the west. Each geographical region contributed a political party, mainly based on their ethnic composition, into the national Federation. With the north dominating seventy-five percent of the country's land area and making up sixty percent of the country's population, there was a major power imbalance and arguments ignited.[3] Regional stresses, including ethnic competition and economic imbalances, conquered Nigeria, resulting in overthrow attempts, power struggles, and military issues, which soon escalated into greater conflict within Nigeria.

One of the first hints of trouble was the 1962 census. This census proved to be only the start of government mistrust in Nigeria. The census covered the entire country and took place in May of 1960. A large amount of public attention surrounded it because of the government continuing to stress the importance of the census. The census soon turned into a political, rather than statistical, affair. The results of the census, especially regarding population proportions, were fervently debated within the three regional sections in the Federation. In 1963, a recount occurred due to the mass hysteria, but some still believe that due to the rushed process, it was inaccurate.[4]

In 1964, the Northern Peoples Congress (NPC) held an election that caused upheaval in Nigeria. This election spurred the fragile creation of two new political parties: the United Progressive Grand Alliance (UPGA) and the Nigerian National Alliance (NNA). The UPGA was controlled primarily by the Eastern region and the NNA in the northern region. A two-party system was delicately introduced into Nigeria. The Parliament dissolved, and the two parties quickly developed campaigns for upcoming elections. Campaigns, instead of being based on democratic values, became entrenched with threats and accusations, again threatening national unity. The party winner of the 1964 election, according to the results, was the NNA. The results produced from the election directly countered facts and expectations of the people.[5]

On January 15, 1966 a coup led by Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu, a Igbo nation officer, amplified the flaws in the governmental system, leading to the death of many northern officers. The leaders of the coup quickly seized power. However, a counter-coup led by Aguiyi-Ironsi, who imposed a unitary style of government, soon occurred. After that, in July 1966, Yakubu Gowon, Ironsi's chief of staff, became head of state following another revenge coup, resulting in the killing of Aguiyi-Ironsi and many other Igbo leaders.[6] From here, northern soldiers and northern civilians began to systematically kill Igbo people. In September 1966, the pogrom continued with

thirty thousand Eastern Nigerians dying at the hands of their Northern brethren.[7]

As a new leader, Gowon attempted to solve the ethnic tensions occuring in Nigeria, but struggled to find a long-lasting peace. For his final attempt to solve the growing conflict, he declared a state of emergency and split Nigeria's regions into twelve states. Soon following, on May 30, 1967, the Eastern region declared itself an independent state under the name Biafra, led by Lieutenant Colonel Chukumeka Odumegwu Ojukwu. Division and separation are growing at an exponential rate in Nigeria.[8]

Current Status of the Issue

With Biafra claiming independence, the government of Nigeria must find a way to ensure unity and prevent Biafra from success. Biafra seceded from Nigeria due to disagreements between Northern and Eastern Nigeria regarding human rights and privileges. Under the federation system of government the Eastern region felt underrepresented due to the northern dominance. Due to population shifts and high amounts of violence, Easterners no longer felt safe to live within the confinements of Nigeria. The massacres and unwelcomeness pushed for the development of the secession of Biafra.[9]

The regional, rather than national, focus regarding the two most formative political parties in Nigeria, created ruptures in the governmental system. This impending division was long awaited, but Nigeria faces issues on how to deal with the conflict and prevent the secession of Biafra. Threats of war and violence are not uncommon, and the unity of Nigeria is becoming increasingly important to prevent the outbreak of war.

Ojukwu is often visiting UNN, one of the few south-eastern universities, and is preparing the students for succession and conflict.[10] With a strong leader like Ojukwu, the Nigerian government is finding the challenge of unity increasingly difficult. Tensions between Biafra and the Nigerian government are high, and it is the job of this committee to solve the current crisis, or else danger could be in store for more than Nigeria.

Analysis and Solutions

There have been multiple attempts to solve the issues of division and separation in Nigeria, but little attempts have been successful. On August 9, 1966 military governor representatives came together in Lagos to brainstorm solutions, yet once compromises were reached there was no form of implementation. In September, 1966 the *Ad Hoc* Constitutional Conference delegates who represented all parts of the Federation met to create an association that would best suit Nigeria's needs.[11] However, this conference was dismissed by the current head of the Lagos government. It became increasingly difficult for the Supreme Military Council to meet in Nigeria since all Military Governors could not agree on a suitable location.

Finally in January 1967, the council met in Aburi, Ghana to discuss the fate of Nigeria. The meeting was extremely unsuccessful since the Lagos government would not implement the Aburi accords. Additionally, all decisions adopted by the Lagos government were without any response from the East.[12] The failure of Gowon's regime became clear in his inability to implement the Aburi accords.

Lieutenant Colonel Gowon was continuously pressured to give reparations, mainly by Ojukwu, to the Eastern region of Nigeria in compensation for the pogrom and massacre they faced in 1966. He refused to do so, leading some to believe he hoped Eastern Nigeria would fall into economic collapse.

With Biafra's announcement of succession comes multiple threats. Western leader Chief Awolowo declared he would soon follow. Biafra will have difficulty managing their minority groups and rebellious internal threats.[13] If Nigeria is successful in preventing the secession of Biafra and future conflict, major changes will have to occur in its

governmental structure in order to maintain long term peace and prosperity. If peaceful meetings have not worked in the past, there is debate whether they will work in the future, and if conflict can not be avoided. Although, it is our duty in the United Nations to ensure peace and prosperity for all and confidently find a successful solution to the issues of division in Nigeria.

Questions to Consider
1. How can the Nigerian government keep unity in their country and respond to Biafra's claim of independence?
2. What structure of government will unite the dividing regions of Nigeria?
3. What are the flaws in the current system of government?
4. How can you ensure unity in the long term, and not just the moment at hand?
5. Why have peacemaking attempts failed in the past?

Further Research
1. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-51094093: Interesting first person account of events during and before the war.
2. https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/frus/nixon/e5/c15646.htm: Good primary sources regarding the conflict.
3. https://www.britannica.com/topic/Nigerian-civil-war: An overview of the lead-up and impact of the war.
4. https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nigerian_Civil_War: Another detailed overview of the issue.

Topic II: International Relations Regarding the Conflict
History of the Issue
Up until 1960, the British held control over Nigeria, exploiting the country by obtaining their resources such as cocoa, palm oil, and rubber.[14] After Nigeria gained independence from Britain and conflict arose within the regions of the country, other foreign nations including France, the Soviet Union, and other African countries became involved by providing weapons and supplies to Nigeria, and showing support to either side of the conflict.[15]

During British colonization, Nigeria was not only economically exploited but also socially modified through modifications in government, education, and religion. The British implemented indirect rule into the local government of Nigeria, putting the power into the hands of European officers who served as Governor-Generals of Nigeria. Regarding education, the British implemented Western teachings and the English language. The most prominent change the British instilled in Nigeria was through Christianity. The British divided Nigeria into different groups to keep under control and ensured their separation.[16] With the new social bearings from the British developing in the different regions at varying rates, the pre-existing religious and social disputes between the regions of Nigeria were heightened.

While the British mostly sided with the Nigerian government, the French sided with Biafra. Even though the French did not recognize Biafra as a sovereign nation, they continued to provide aid, weapons, and mercenaries. The French was incentivized to participate via the creation of oil drilling contracts for the *Société Anonyme Française de Recherches et d'Exploitation de Pétrolières* (SAFRAP) with Nigeria.[17]

As the Cold War continued, foreign superpowers formed rivalries that manifested itself into involvement within Nigeria. The Soviet Union and the United States wished to spread their ideologies by competing for influence over newly independent countries including Nigeria. The Soviet Union supported the Nigerian government as they respected their goals to maintain unity within their country. They continued to provide assistance and air supplies to Nigeria, sparking

diplomatic relations between the two nations.[18] On the other hand, the United States also valued their economic ties to the Nigerian government, but the public support emphasized Biafra. Although President Lyndon B. Johnson attempted to stay neutral, the overwhelming voice of the public pushed the United States in support of Biafra.[19]

Additional foreign countries including Israel, Egypt, and Tanzania were also involved in the conflict. As a nation also recently freed from colonial rule, Israel shared a sense of nationalism with Nigeria, fostering diplomatic relations. During the war, Israel provided military and agricultural assistance to the Nigerian government to further strengthen their ties.[20] The Organization of African Unity (OAU), created in the 1960s to promote the development of all of the newly independent African nations, showed overwhelming support for the Nigerian government and its attempts to preserve unity.[21] However, other African countries like Tanzania and Gabon showed support for Biafra.

Current Status of the Issue

With foreign involvement, issues such as sovereignty concerns, humanitarian crises, and diplomatic tensions can arise. As Nigeria has just stepped away from British control, working with powerful foreign nations could lead to questions regarding the sovereignty of Nigeria. Particularly since the Biafra situation is an internal issue, external help may not be appreciated and could actually lead to worsening consequences. Disputes between outside nations may affect and possibly further escalate the issues occurring within Nigeria, creating more instability within an already unstable and ununified nation.

Through the copious amount of military aid and supplies issued by these foreign nations, advancement of troops and violent outbreaks are bound to occur. Through these outbreaks of violence, the humanitarian struggles within Nigeria will worsen, leading to more lives lost, more citizens displaced, and more human rights

violated. Furthermore, as many of the relations between Nigeria and foreign nations strengthen, others are weakening, threatening the weak stability Nigeria currently has. Additionally, there is also the threat that many of these outside nations may just see Nigeria as another economical investment, intending to further exploit the nation's rich resources.

Analysis and Solutions

The extent of foreign involvement in the Nigerian Civil War must be reviewed in order to create an optimal environment for the Nigerian government to function. Involvement from these foreign powers can be limited to ensure that sovereignty, humanitarianism, and diplomacy are sustained within Nigeria. With too much foreign involvement, Nigeria may be heavily influenced and the conflict may extend to nations outside of the country. To prevent further issues from arising within the conflict of achieving unity, foreign involvement must be regulated and addressed.

The OAU also has a voice in protecting the development of Nigeria as a newly independent nation, and in support of the Nigerian government's aspirations for unity. Created to mediate and resolve conflicts among nations, such as the Morocco-Mauritania Border Conflict, the OAU often interlinks to further mediate conflicts. The OAU also strives for political unity, decolonization, economic stability and cooperation, nation security, and shows solidarity and support for all African nations.[22] With the resources and authority held by the OAU, it is crucial to think about how it can work to resolve the conflict at hand.

Questions to Consider:
1. How does foreign involvement affect both the Nigerian government and Biafra?
2. Can unity be preserved within Nigeria with foreign involvement? To what extent of foreign involvement?

3. Does foreign involvement give either the Nigerian government or Biafra an upper hand?
4. What specific humanitarian crises or diplomatic tensions have occurred because of foreign involvement?
5. What are the intentions of each foreign nation when becoming involved in the Nigerian Civil War?

Further Research
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United We Stand

Crisis Simulation

JCC: Nigerian Civil War - Biafra

Aditya Badhrayan and Maddy Dunaway
Co-Chairs

Biafra

Letter from the Chairs

GSMUN XXVI
United We Stand

Rohini Mudinur
Secretary-General

Devesh Kumar
Director-General

Aashka Shah
Undersecretary-
General for External
Communications

Nate Stewart
Undersecretary-
General for Logistics

Parth Tornekar
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General for Crisis
Simulations

Sania Jain
Chargé d'Affaires

Keira Kinnier
Director of General
Assemblies

Sonia Chornodolsky
Director of Specialized
Agencies

Sriyutha Morishetty
Director of Press and
Publications

Shorya Malani
Director of
Technology

Sophia Pareti
Director of Charitable
Giving

Mr. Kyle Rogers
Model UN Club
Sponsor

Mr. Davide D'Urbino
Model UN Club
Coach

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's Nigerian Civil War: Biafra Committee! Aditya Badhrayan and Maddy Dunaway, your chairs, are ecstatic to meet everyone this year. As delegates in this committee, you will be working throughout the conference to help ensure the secession of Biafra and its victory in the Nigerian Civil War. As this is a joint-crisis committee, you will be working against the committee representing the Nigerian government's side of the civil war, as rebels in the and we cannot wait to see all of your unique ideas, thoughts, and agendas. Remember, there is no need to stick to history, so we encourage all of you to come up with creative solutions.

Aditya Badhrayan, a junior, is one of your co-chairs and cannot wait to be a part of GSMUN XXVI. Aditya started MUN in 9th grade and has attended conferences for the past three years, winning awards at college conferences such as ODUMUNC and WMHSMUN. Aditya is the treasurer of the MUN club, lead manager of his robotics team, and president of his school's TSA chapter. In his free time, Aditya likes to hang out with his friends, binge-watch Netflix, and try to get better at the violin. Maddy Dunaway is also a junior, and your other co-chair. Maddy has been participating in GSMUN since her freshman year and has participated in conferences such as ODUMUNC, VAMUN, WMHSMUN, and more throughout her time in the club. Outside of MUN, Maddy is interested in global history and Arabic. Maddy is also class secretary, Arabic honors society vice-president, and working to get her archeology technician certification. Outside of school, she enjoys rock climbing, listening to music, and reading.

All delegates are expected to come prepared to participate in the committee. Delegates should have potential solutions in mind when they enter the committee room. In addition, each delegate is expected to write a position paper pertaining to their position in preparation for debate. All papers are expected to follow the Maggie Walker honor code, and any plagiarism will not be tolerated. The position paper must be formatted in Chicago Manual Style (CMS), double-spaced, and in Times New Roman 12-point font. Papers must be submitted by 5 PM conference day.

Another important aspect of GSMUN is its charity work. This year's charity, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, seeks to provide support, assistance, and fund research for patients suffering from blood cancer. The conference will be selling snacks and merchandise, so please bring money if you'd like to purchase anything in support of our charity! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact gsmunxxvi.biafra@gmail.com. Your chairs cannot wait to see all of your unique ideas come to life. Good luck at GSMUN XXVI!

Your Chairs,

Aditya Badhrayan
gsmunxxvi.biafra@gmail.com

Maddy Dunaway

JCC: Nigerian Civil War - Biafra
Committee Overview

<u>Topic I: Military and Political Crisis</u>
History of the Issue

The Nigerian Civil War, which lasted from 1976 to 1970, was a destructive conflict involving the country of Nigeria and the secessionist state Biafra. The creation of the state of Biafra was primarily driven from Igbo nationalism, a ethnic group that mainly inhabited the area[1]. Located in the Eastern portion of Nigeria, the Igbo began to express strong resistance to what seemed to them as a growing encroachment of the values of its neighboring tribes—the Yoruba of the West and Hausa Fulani of the North[2].

Although there were more than 300 ethnic groups within the nation of Nigeria, the Yoruba, Hausa Fulani, and the Igbo were the largest and most dominant, but were nearly separate civilizations with varying cultures and political practices[3]. The Hausa Fulani functioned with an hierarchical, feudal-like system of government with Islamic roots, practicing strict conservativism [4]. However, the Igbo, a minority compared to the Hausa, practiced more liberal values, with a democratic system of government and emphasis on global trade and innovation[5]. At a time of vast global development, the Igbo began to excel in commerce and development, causing resentment from the Hausa Fulani and Yoruba, who primarily practiced isolationism[6].

As the Igbo grew wealthy, and the East began to rise as a beacon of Nigerian economic success, Hausan and Yoruba resentment grew tenfold[5]. Specifically, the Igbos were favored by the colonial powers that still influenced the nation, proving to be a major factor of dislike within Nigeria[6]. In addition, the Hausa wished to maintain their dominance over the Igbo, as they had during the colonial period under the British. However, the Igbo soon began to realize that their dependence on the Nigerian nation was unneeded[7]. The rise of ethnic tensions began to escalate with open displays of hatred, the first one at the city of Jos, where over 300 Igbo people including women and children were murdered, and many more injured by Hausa Fulani troops[8]. Soonafter, cities such as Kano became rife with similar hate crimes against the Igbo[9].

Following a briefly instituted government by General Aguiyi-Ironsi in early 1966, Igbo massacres began to increase as Yakubu Gowan, a northerner, took over the government[10]. By September 1966, more than 15,000 Igbos were murdered, and many others had been tortured, harassed, and tormented from Hausa Fulani forces[11].

Stemming from this hatred, the idea of "Biafra" arose, which would be a state solely dedicated to the Igbo people, protecting them from violence and in the name of law and order[12]. Spearheaded by Chukwuemeka Ojukwu and officials such as the Chief Justice of Eastern Nigeria, the concept of Biafra as a home for the Igbos grew exponentially in popularity[13]. By the end of 1966, the East's desire for secession led to negotiations taking place[14].

Early 1967 saw a series of discussions and debates between leaders of all regions but largely amongst leaders of the North and the East, headed by Yakubu Gowon and Odumegwu Ojukwu respectively[15]. All of these negotiations remained futile, as members of both parties failed to compromise or institute measures that would negate a possible secession. With all else failing, Ojukwu, authorized by the consultative assembly of Eastern Nigeria, declared the region as a sovereign nation under the name of Biafra[16].

Current Status of the Issue

With the rest of Nigeria failing to acknowledge this new state, conflict escalated, causing Biafra to assess its military standpoint[17]. Specifically, General Okujwu immediately began to develop the Biafran Armed Forces (BAF) with three branches: the army, navy, and airforce. With a defense unit of over 3,000 people, Okujwu was successful in recruiting people from across the parastate for the cause, but it was minute compared to the over 85,000 people present in the Nigerian Armed Forces.[18] With the East historically not having their own defense measures and having a minority population, the Igbo began to ask for international aid. However, although humanitarian aid was provided, no official support arrived from any foreign nation, requiring Biafra to resort to black markets for weaponry and technology[19]. In addition, at an operational standpoint, the members of the Biafran Army began to consider membership as a way of obtaining a higher social status, thus failing to perform well on the battlefield[20].

In March of 1967, Nigeria imposed a blockade on all resources to Biafra, crippling the secessionist state[21]. With Biafra being landlocked, it depended on Nigeria for food, medicine, and essential supplies. When these supplies were snatched away, intense harm to the Igbo began. However, what was most damaging to the military, was the embargo on oil. Oil exploration was handled by the Shell BP-Petroleum Development Company. However, the federal government of Nigeria prevented Shell from conducting any more oil exploration activities in the Eastern region, halting supply of fuel and diesel for any of their military equipment[23]. While oil tankers were still allowed across the border, it provided nowhere near the amount of fuel needed, crippling the BAF in just the first weeks of conflict[24].

Analysis and Solutions

The crises faced by Biafra can be divided up into two distinct segments—internal development and external influences. Specifically, in terms of internal development, resources must be allocated on building up the BAF at an operational level, including more training, rigorous discipline, and less emphasis on the social aspects of the army. In addition, Biafra must find a path to obtain the technology needed for this war from international sources that can provide reliable and efficient weaponry. Because nations such as the United Kingdom and France have provided extensive humanitarian aid, Biafra may be able to utilize these countries for aid in their fight against Nigeria, especially due to Nigeria's violation of human rights with the institution of the blockade.

In terms of external influence, Biafra must resume negotiations with Nigeria in order to remove the blockade. Due to the limited nature of the BAF, a new outlook must be found into how Biafra can compromise with Nigeria to prevent harm to their nation. Furthermore, appealing to the United Nations and other global platforms to garner defensive support is another viable option within this conflict.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the BAF rebuild morale and strength at an operational standpoint?
2. Through what military techniques can Biafra defend their state, especially utilizing their limited population?
3. How can Biafra regain their access to oil and fuel in wake of the embargo?
4. What values and assets are Biafra willing to utilize as compromise during negotiation?
5. How can Biafra re-evaluate their political structure to focus on efficiency instead of social status?
6. Through what means is Biafra able to garner military support from nations such as the United Kingdom?
7. Considering the landlocked location of Biafra, to what other African nations is the parastate able to request aid from, and through what means?

Further Research
1. <u>On Biafra; JSTOR:</u> Provides general history of the Biafran conflict.
2. <u>Biafra and the Nigerian Civil War; JSTOR</u>: Provides military information and history to the Biafran Armed Forces.
3. <u>Biafra's War 1967-1970: A Tribal Conflict in Nigeria That Left a Million Dead</u>: Helps provide societal and hierarchical nuances of the Biafran Force during the Nigerian Civil War.
4. <u>Biafra- Britannice</u>: provides a broad introduction to Biafra and a good foundation for beginning research

Topic II: The Humanitarian Struggle
History of the Issue

The Nigerian Civil War, which raged from 1967 to 1970, was a devastating conflict that unfolded due to deep-seated historical, ethnic, and political divisions. During the "Scramble for Africa," in which various European countries vied for control of territory throughout Africa, Nigeria was created as a result of solely European economic interests with little consideration of ethnic and religious tensions. Therefore, Nigeria is composed of over 300 ethnic groups, with the majority being the Hausa-Fulani in the North, the Igbo (pronounced Ivo) in the southwest, and the Yoruba in the southeast. With these ethnic groups came inherently different values, religions, and beliefs. The North was heavily influenced by their history as a part of the Sokoto Caliphate, led by Uthman Don Fodio, and had received primarily Muslim education throughout the rural region by the Yan Tara movement, led by Nana Asmaa'u. Therefore, the region was known for its strict religious conservatism, and belief in a hierarchical, feudal-like structure of governance.[25]

At the heart of this conflict was the secession of the southeastern region of Nigeria, predominantly inhabited by the Igbo people. The Igbo practice Christianity, a democratic style of governance, and place a high value on work ethic and pursuit of achieved success.[26] During Nigeria's colonization by the British beginning in 1914, the country was led indirectly with the Hausa-Fulani placed in places of authority, despite the overall better education of the South. This action by the British was meant to ensure the country stayed fractioned and lessened the attempts for rebellion or independence. Due to the Hausa-Fulani's role in government, the Igbo people had long felt marginalized and oppressed by the dominant northern elite, who held sway over the country's political and economic affairs.[26]

Frustrated by this marginalization and its perpetuation by the British, the southern regions sought autonomy as a means of self-determination and were the primary leaders of Nigeria's independence movement. Their efforts culminated in the Declaration of Independence on October 1, 1960, with a new Constitution granting their freedom from British rule.[27]

However, many Northern elites were hesitant to support the independence movement due to concerns about losing their status established by the British. Following Nigeria's Declaration of Independence, Northern leaders demanded that the new nation maintain its colonial political structure as a condition of their cooperation and support. This ardent stance led to further mistrust between the Northern and Southern regions, despite their combined pursuit of independence.[28]

The Nigerian state was then divided into three geopolitical regions in 1960; a large Northern region, and two smaller Eastern and Western regions in the South, representing the new government's perpetuation of the ingrained divisions between the Yoruba, Hausa-Fulani, and the Igbo. Throughout the development of Nigeria's parliamentary system, populations voted primarily based on ethnicity and religion, and political parties developed based on ethnic interests as well. As a result, many of Nigeria's political parties

lack concrete political agendas and struggle to be defined as conservative or liberal.[29]

In 1966, Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwu, an Igbo officer in the Nigerian Army, led a coup against the Nigerian government. The coup resulted in the assassination of several political leaders, but was ultimately unsuccessful in taking the power of the government. There were many conspiracy theories in the North, suggesting that the coup was to put General Aguiyi-Ironsi in power, transferring control of the military to Igbo leadership. This theory was supported by the fact that four out of five of the coup plotters were Igbo, and none of those killed in the coup were of Igbo descent. In July of 1966, a counter-coup led by Northern army officers successfully assassinated and overthrew General Aguiyi-Ironsi, replacing him with northerner Yakubu Gowon.[30]

In the three months following the counter-coup, violence was prevalent between ethnic groups throughout the country. An estimated 8,000 to 30,000 South Easterners living in the North to find work were attacked, killed, and robbed by local mobs. Over 1 million of these Southeastern Igbo fled back to their homeland.[31]

During this time, Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, the military governor of the Eastern regions of Nigeria became far more vocal in his criticisms of the government's failure to protect the Southeastern regions. General Yakubu Gowon and Colonel Ojukwu met in Aburi, Ghana, in January 1967 to discuss the escalating tension demands.[32]

Current Status of the Issue

As the Nigerian Civil War unfolded, a host of pressing humanitarian issues emerged, shedding light on the dire situation faced by the civilian population.

The Nigerian government imposed a crippling blockade on Biafra, severely restricting the flow of essential goods and humanitarian aid into the region. This blockade led to widespread famine and starvation, with particularly devastating consequences for children. The civilian population found itself caught in the crossfire of conflict, resulting in a dire humanitarian crisis.[33]

Despite these challenges, humanitarian organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) worked tirelessly to deliver essential medical supplies and food aid to Biafra. These efforts provided much-needed healthcare services and saved countless lives. However, they operated under the shadow of the prolonged blockade and the ongoing conflict, which posed significant challenges in reaching remote and besieged areas, where some regions received limited or no aid, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.[34]

The war also triggered mass displacement, forcing countless Biafran civilians to flee their homes. Overcrowded and under-resourced refugee camps in Biafra faced dire living conditions, with limited access to necessities such as food, water, and medical care. The crisis was exacerbated by severe malnutrition, leading to widespread cases of kwashiorkor and marasmus (diseases caused by severe malnutrition) among Biafran children. Limited medical supplies and facilities worsened the situation. The United Nations attempted to broker a humanitarian corridor to facilitate aid delivery, but this endeavor was hampered by political complexities and resistance from the Nigerian government, resulting in a limited impact on alleviating conditions in the refugee camps.[35]

Allegations of war crimes by Nigerian forces further escalated the humanitarian crisis. Reports of indiscriminate bombings and attacks on civilian populations, including markets and refugee camps, raised serious concerns about the conduct of Nigerian forces. In response, Biafran counter-accusations further complicated the conflict, and limited international investigations struggled to gain traction due to

the intricate web of political complexities and the dynamics of the Cold War.[36]

Analysis and Solutions

The Nigerian government's blockade posed a formidable obstacle to delivering humanitarian assistance to Biafra, exacerbating the population's suffering. International organizations like the Red Cross and UNICEF played pivotal roles in coordinating aid efforts but faced immense hurdles due to the complexity of the conflict and the government's resistance.

Various diplomatic efforts were made to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict, including mediation attempts by third parties such as the Organization of African Unity. However, deep-rooted ethnic tensions and political power struggles within Nigeria presented formidable obstacles to achieving lasting peace.

The international media played a crucial role in raising awareness about the humanitarian catastrophe in Biafra. Global media coverage shed light on the dire conditions and influenced public opinion and government actions. Some nations, swayed by public pressure and humanitarian concerns, advocated for intervention or aid, while others supported the Nigerian government, driven by geopolitical interests.[37]

After the cessation of hostilities, efforts were initiated to rebuild infrastructure, provide social services, and reintegrate former combatants into society. These comprehensive post-war rehabilitation initiatives focused on education, healthcare, and economic opportunities as part of broader economic and social development efforts in the regions affected by the conflict.

Questions to Consider

1. How did the international community respond to the humanitarian crisis in Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War?
2. How did the mass displacement and refugee crisis impact the region and what measures were taken to address it?
3. What role did allegations of war crimes play in shaping the international response to the Biafran crisis?
4. How did epidemics and healthcare challenges exacerbate the humanitarian situation in Biafra, and what efforts were made to address them?
5. What diplomatic efforts were made to resolve the conflict and how effective were they in alleviating the humanitarian crisis?
6. How did media coverage and public opinion influence the handling of the Biafra crisis by the international community?
7. What were the key priorities and strategies for rebuilding and reconstructing Biafra after the war?

Further Research

1. An Honest Explanation of the Nigerian Civil War: Provides a detailed and unbiased overview of the causes and complexities of both sides of the war.
2. Remembering Nigeria's Biafra war that many prefer to forget - BBC News: An overview of the war itself, including personal testimonies from both sides and an accurate timeline of major events.
3. Fifty years after the Biafra War, a turning point for humanitarian assistance - World | ReliefWeb: Discusses the humanitarian long-term results of the war.
4. Humanitarian Aid and the Biafra War: Lessons not Learned on JSTOR: Details the military impact of relief operations, and the dark side of humanitarian aid.
5. 2 Biafra's legacy: Detailed exploration of the role of the Nigerian Civil War

on NGOs, and the politics behind
humanitarian aid.

Endnotes

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22. Warren, Godfrey B., 70

23. Ibid, 71.

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Conference Logistics

Conference Location

GSMUN will be held at the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies. Maggie Walker is located at:

1000 N. Lombardy St.
Richmond, VA 23220

Free parking will be available at the student parking lot, located on N. Lombardy St. next to the I-95 overpass. Please enter through the main entrance (the large stairs leading up to the school).

Conference Schedule and Room Assignments

Friday, March 22, 2024

5:00–6:00 P.M.	Registration	Foyer (second floor)
6:00–6:30 P.M.	Opening Ceremonies	Auditorium
6:30–9:30 P.M.	Committee Session I	
	DISEC	Forum
	SPECPOL	124
	WTO	Student Commons
	PFII	303
	UNODC	136
	World Summit for Children	210
	Andrew Jackson's Cabinet	204
	The Second Industrial Age	200
	WHO	106
	NFL	105
	Republic of Ireland 1919	201
	Chilean Constitutional Convention	107
	Golden Age of Piracy (Novice)	104
	The Empire of Brazil (Novice)	238
	The Emu Wars	244
	Nigerian Civil War: Nigerian Government	232
	Nigerian Civil War: Biafra	230
	Ad Hoc	237
7:30–7:45 P.M.	Sponsor Meeting	Sponsor Lounge (153)

Saturday, March 23, 2024

8:30–9:00 A.M.	Breakfast (provided)	Cafeteria/Commons
9:00–9:30 A.M.	Charity Speaker	Auditorium
9:30–12:00 P.M.	Committee Session II	
12:00–1:00 P.M.	Lunch	Assigned station
1:00–2:00 P.M.	Keynote Speaker: Katy Bondy	Auditorium
2:00–4:00 P.M.	Committee Session III	
4:00–4:30 P.M.	Refreshment Break (snack provided)	Assigned station
4:30–6:00 P.M.	Committee Session IV/Fun MUN	
6:30–7:30 P.M.	Closing Ceremonies	Auditorium

Maggie L. Walker Governor's School

1000 N. Lombardy Street
Richmond, VA 23220

3rd Floor

- 301A
- 301
- 302
- 300A
- 300
- 303 — **PFII**
- 304
- E
- 305
- 306
- 307
- Senior Commons 308
- 309
- W
- 313 Senior Commons
- R
- 314 Tech Room 317
- 318 Senior Commons
- M
- 312 315 Forum — **DISEC**
- 316 319
- 310
- 311
- 310A
- 338 337 336
- 339 335
- 332B 334
- 328 331
- Senior Commons
- 327 330
- 329
- R
- 320 326
- 321
- 322
- Sr Guidance
- 323
- 324
- 325 R

Room Labels
- R = Unisex Restroom
- M = Men's Restroom
- W = Women's Restroom
- O = P.E. Office
- E = Elevator

2nd Floor

- 202
- 201 — **Ireland**
- 200 — **Second Industrial Age**
- 203
- 204 — **Andrew Jackson**
- Gym 246
- 245A
- Auditorium 245
- 205
- E
- M
- 206
- 20 9
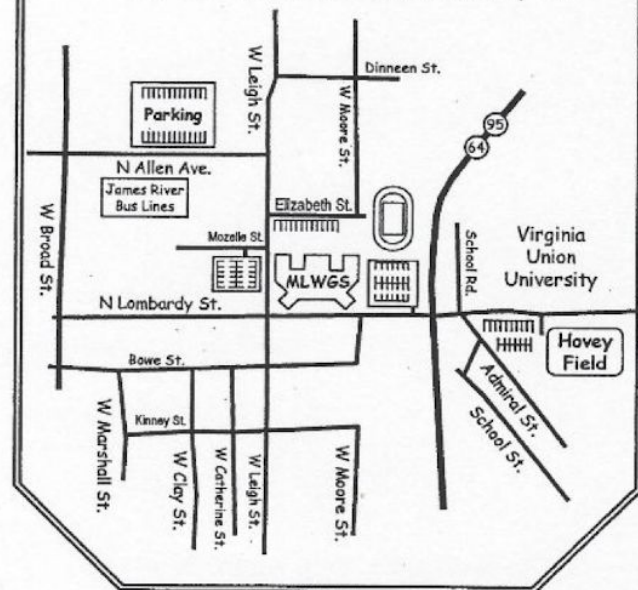- 208
- R
- W 221 220
- 227 228
- M 234A
- 248 247
- 243 242
- 244 — **Emu Wars**
- 241
- 240
- 239
- 238 — **Brazil**
- 237 — **Ad Hoc**
- 234
- W
- 236
- 235
- R
- 210 — **World Summit**
- 211
- 215 214
- 213 214
- 212
- Front Entrance
- 225 226
- Office
- 218 219
- 229
- 230 — **JCC: Biafra**
- 231
- 232 — **JCC: Nigeria**
- 233
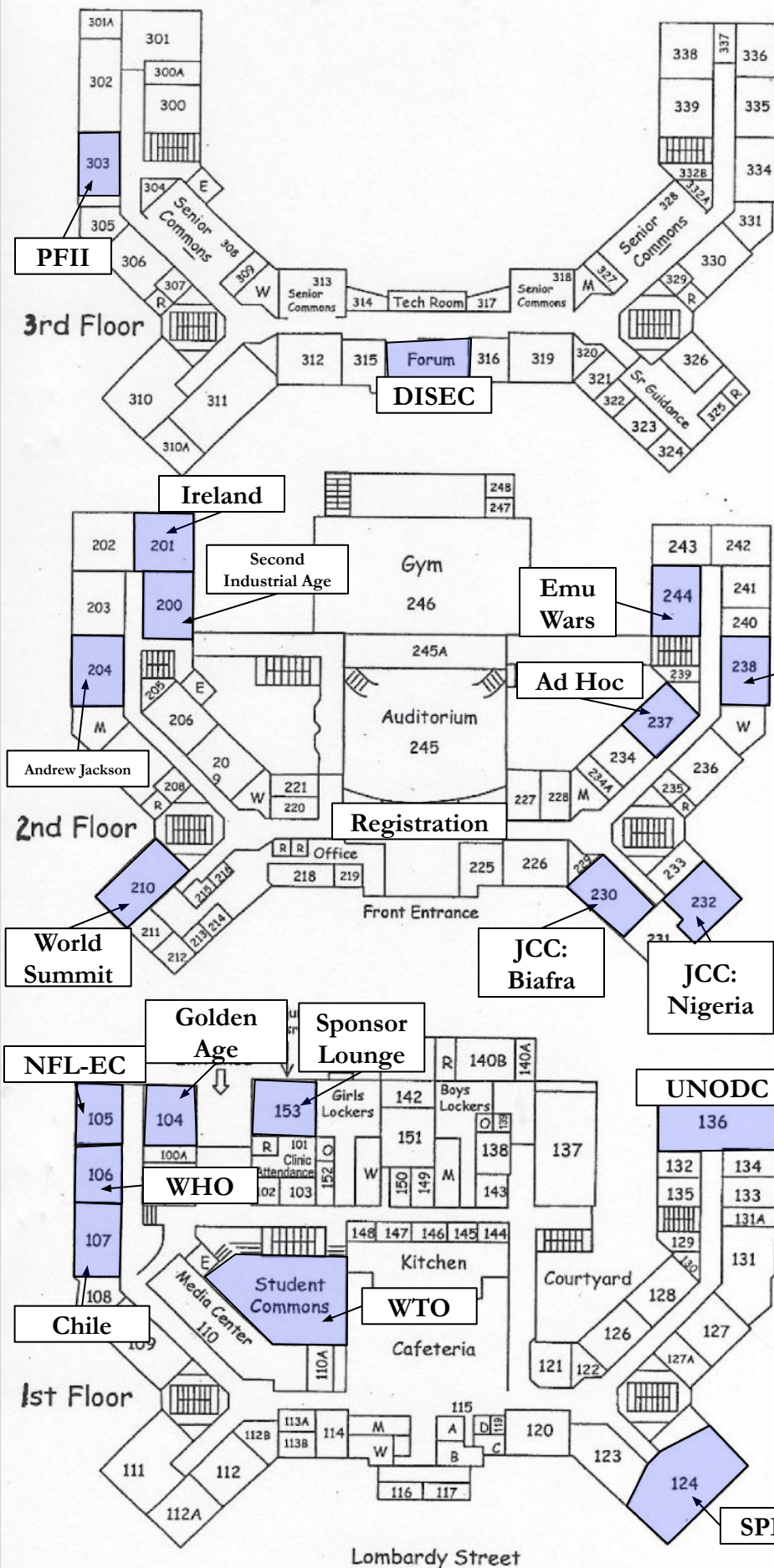
Parking Options
Elizabeth Street (small lot)
MLWGS lot off Lombardy St.
CD King Building lot off Mozelle St.
(gated lot across Leigh St. from school)
James River Bus Lines lot off Allen Ave.
(across from JRBL building)
VUU Hovey Field lot off Lombardy St.

1st Floor

- 105 — **NFL-EC**
- 104 — **Golden Age**
- 153 — **Sponsor Lounge**
- R 140B 140A
- Girls Lockers 142
- Boys Lockers
- 106 — **WHO**
- 107
- 108
- 109
- 110 Media Center
- 110A
- E
- Student Commons — **WTO**
- Kitchen
- Cafeteria
- 148 147 146 145 144
- 100A
- R 101 Clinic Attendance
- 02 103
- 152
- 151
- 150 149
- 138
- 143
- 137
- Courtyard
- 136 — **UNODC**
- 132 134
- 135 133
- 131A
- 129
- 130 131
- 128
- 126 127
- 121 122
- 127A
- Chile — 105/107 area
- 111
- 112B 113A 113B
- 114
- M
- W
- 115 A D B C
- 116 117
- 120
- 123
- 124 — **SPECPOL**
- 112
- 112A

Lombardy Street

304

RWP
11/2004

Governor's School Model United Nations Conference XXVI

March 22-23, 2024