

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL:
Russia v. Ukraine



COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
2022

Specialized Body Background Guide

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Letter from the Secretary-General

Welcome, Esteemed Delegates!

My name is Samantha Dalton and it is my absolute honor and privilege to serve as your Secretary-General for COCMUN 2022, and furthermore to present you with this fantasmic conference!

A little about me, I am a sophomore in my last semester at College of the Canyons dual-majoring in Political Science and Legal Studies. Additionally, I am the Head Delegate of COC's very own Model United Nations Team as well as member of a number of clubs and organizations on campus such as the Associated Student Government and Political Science Club. Outside of academia and its relatives, I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time with those that mean the most to me. Amongst these things, I can say that it has truly been a wonderfully crazy experience working with such a talented and ideologically diverse group of individuals in order to ensure that not only we would host this conference but host it in an in-person medium after many long months of Zoom fatigue.

I am truly excited to see the creative solutions delegates will develop and debate over the course of this two-day conference while partaking in the litany of committees presented at COCMUN this spring. With topics ranging from online extremism within the political realm, the everchanging future of Russian-Ukrainian bonds, and an armed conflict fought in a galaxy far far away, this conference is promised to be the best one College of the Canyons has hosted yet. In closing, I would like to take a moment to express a huge thank you to all of our conference attendees for continuing to support our wonderful program, be our guest!

Kindest Regards,

Samantha Dalton, *Secretary-General*

COCMUN, Spring 2022

cocmodelun@gmail.com

Letter from the Under Secretary-General

To all Delegates,

Welcome to COCMUN 2022! After two long years, we can finally welcome all delegations back to the grounds of College of the Canyons to form part of our small, yet richly-developed conference; It is my distinct pleasure to serve as your Under-Secretary General for the following two days.

Our exciting lineup of committees offers a host of topics that will be sure to light up the debate floor for the following days from the depraved depths of online crime, to the evolving Russia-Ukraine conflict, and finally, a civil war raging in a galaxy far, far away. There is no doubt in our mind that this weekend will serve as a platform for exciting discussions and solutions in our General Assembly and Specialized Body, as well as dramatic twists and turns in our crisis committee: Anything and everything can happen for the following days.

At its core, our Model UN program is built on emphasizing diplomacy and collaboration; Similarly, a key aspect of any conference is the relationships built among members of the committee as a way to resolve the issues presented to them. We strongly believe that our conference will be able to give our visiting delegates, as well as our staff, an opportunity to expand those connections and build those relationships through the highs and lows of the debate floor.

All the best and good luck,

Diego Staben, *Under-Secretary-General*

COCMUN, Spring 2022

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Letter from the Crisis Director

Hello Delegates,

It is my distinct honor to present this United Nations Security Council on the ongoing worldly security issues between Russia and Ukraine. This committee will be a fast paced committee with exhilarating twists and turns throughout its entirety. I am very excited to see what ideas and plans delegates participating in this committee will pass in their committee directives, and how they respond to the crisis at hand, especially with the looming veto power in play.

A little about me, I am a sophomore in my last semester at College of the Canyons dual-majoring in Political Science and Legal Studies. Additionally, I am the Head Delegate of COC's very own Model United Nations Team as well as member of a number of clubs and organizations on campus such as the Associated Student Government and Political Science Club. Outside of academia and its relatives, I enjoy traveling, reading, and spending time with those that mean most to me. Amongst these things, I can say that it has truly been a wonderfully crazy experience working with such talented and ideologically diverse group individuals in order to ensure that not only we would host this conference but host it in an in-person medium after many long months of Zoom fatigue.

Although it is a relatively new topic of discussion, and in highly intense committees such as this one, emotions tend to run high. My expectation is that all delegates will treat the topic, the staff, and other delegates' positions with the utmost amount of diplomacy and respect.

Good Luck,

Samantha Dalton, *Crisis Director*

United Nations Security Council

specializedcommitteecocmun@gmail.com

A Letter from the Chair

My name is Brandon Huetter, and I will be your chair for COCMUN's UNSC! I am beyond excited to witness the high caliber discourse of delegates participating in this distinguished body.

As chair, I am naturally the most important person in the room, so here is some information about me! I am a third-year political science student concentrating in international relations with a minor in global studies. I transferred to UCLA from College of Canyons in Fall 2021. My current academic interests include political sociology, developmental economics, and the Catalan language. My hobbies include lifting, cooking, and video games. My current obsessions are Dance Moms (get your finger out of my face!), Wendy Williams (how you doin?), and Megan Thee Stallion (top 0.05 percent listener on Spotify). Please approach me with unsolicited Dance Moms or Wendy Williams references.

In terms of Model UN, I first joined my high school team in my junior year. I served as President of my high school team senior year and here at College of the Canyons sophomore year. Some of you may recognize me from last spring's conference as I was Secretary-General! Additionally, last year I acted as an Under-Secretary-General of the General Assembly for NHSMUN, the world's largest high school Model UN Conference. Currently, I am chair of Ad Hoc at LAMUN XVII, on the executive board of LAMUN finance, and compete with our travel team.

In UNSC, we have high expectations for our delegates. Diplomacy is the most important trait I value in my simulations; I cannot stress this point enough. UNSC is an exceedingly unique committee that will require delegates to use their potential veto powers carefully. Utilizing your resources while staying rooted in realism and country policy is essential to prevent gridlock of legislation.

I want to extend the warmest of welcomes to you all to COCMUN! Please do not hesitate to email me if you have questions about the topic, conference, or anything else.

Brandon Huetter, *Chair*

United Nations Security Council

specializedcommitteecocmun@gmail.com

A Letter from the Chair

Honorable Delegates,

I'm so excited to welcome you all to COCMUN 2022! It's amazing to see you all in-person again for this year's conference! My name is Camille Whittaker and I will be your Co-Chair for the United Nations Security Council! I'm currently a sophomore at College of the Canyons, majoring in Political Science. I was born in Atlanta, Georgia but moved here to Santa Clarita, California when I was about 11. This is my first semester on COC's MUN Team, and when I'm not busy with MUN, I like to go swimming, hang out with friends, and go to karaoke bars.

As I'm sure many of you know, the United Nations Security Council is an extremely impactful organ of the United Nations. The binding power delivered by the UNSC and the veto power bestowed upon the P5 countries are among the most interesting and influential aspects of this committee. Like with any issue, it is important to approach the topic of this committee with delicacy, self-awareness, and sensitivity. However, as we will be covering the crisis of the Russia and Ukraine conflict, these principles are made even more important. The purpose of the Model United Nations has been to simulate real-world issues and have delegates utilize critical thinking skills and cooperation to make the world a better place.

With all this in mind, I am so excited to meet all of you and see the creative solutions that you all come up with. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to reach out. Let's meet new people, form new connections, have fun, and most importantly of all, be kind to each other. See you all at COCMUN!

Best Regards,

Camille Whittaker, *Co-Chair*

United Nations Security Council

specializedcommitteecocmun@gmail.com

Sensitivity Statement

Given the nature of the topics discussed in this committee, delegates will be faced with content that can be triggering and disturbing, including but not limited to racism, sexism, homophobia, drug abuse, and sexual abuse.

We understand that there will be some actions taken in committee that may be sensitive to some marginalized groups of people. In light of this, we ask that you stay considerate and aware of any possible insensitive behaviors or speech. **College of the Canyons does not and will not tolerate any form of hate speech in the vein of racism, sexism, homophobia, or any other type of speech rooted in malicious intent.** If delegates are found guilty of any of the aforementioned, they may face disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the conference.

If delegates should have any issues with the topics being discussed within this committee please contact the Secretary-General as soon as possible so that we may address any questions or concerns delegates may have and/or allocate you to another committee.

Committee Specific Rules of Procedure

This is a specialized committee, however considering the length of the conference we will not be expecting resolutions at the end, instead the committee will run solely on Committee Directives meaning that the committee will frequently enter and exit voting bloc throughout the sessions. There will be periodical crisis updates to make the committee sessions interesting and more fast-paced than a General Assembly. There will be no Personal or Joint-Personal Directives and no Comminiques allowed within the committee. All committee directives are expected to be drafted in the same format as a formal United Nations Security Council Resolution. Delegates are also welcome to utilize any of the following as resolutions:

Press Statements: The committee can vote on public statements to make. This may be useful for growing awareness of the issue or challenging the position of other nations. The press release is a strong sign of cooperation by the Security Council who are not always in agreement. Press functions can come in a variety of appearances.

International Declarations: The UNSC has been able to build binding transnational agreements that sometimes include oversight and repercussions. The UNSC works closely with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and at least for our committee has a strong influence over the ICJ. If the UNSC declares something, the UN follows.

Peacekeeping Operations: If the council deems it necessary they do have the command of a physical military force. Most implementations of peacekeeping operations do not involve direct contact but are focused on carrying out the diplomatic mission.

Create Policy: Resolutions can include new policy for the UN, including responses from other organs on the issue at hand.

Official Requests: If the council decides they need more information on something or to interview someone, they can make requests to carry out investigations or to summon some representative.

Sanctions and Embargoes: The council can use economic powers as leverage in getting a country to conform to the expectations of the UN.

Considering that this is a United Nations Security Council, the veto power will be in effect however, each P5 country (United States, United Kingdom, France, China, and the Russian Federation) will only be allowed to utilize their veto power once per committee session to allow for a productive flow of debate.

COCMUN's Rules of Procedure on our [website](#) however, if there are any questions or concerns feel free to email us.

United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council was founded following the Second World War on October 24, 1945. The Security Council is the highest decision-making body of the United Nations, with the unique capacity to impose binding agreements on member states and use force to restore peace when peaceful means of resolution fail. Under Article 23, Chapter 5 of the UN Charter, the Security Council holds the responsibility to maintain international peace and security. Given the sole power to use force in response to attacks of force, the Security Council serves as the last resort answer to violence within the international community. As arbitrated in the UN Charter, before resorting to intervention the Security Council works to resolve international conflicts through diplomacy. Chapter VII of the Charter gives the Council the power to decide how to resolve conflicts that result in “threats to peace, breaches of the peace, or acts of aggression”.¹

Totalling fifteen members, the Security Council consists of 5 permanent member states and 10 non-permanent member states. Known as the P5, the permanent Security Council members are: the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, and the People's Republic of China. These countries were selected from the Allied forces after the end of World War II and stand as the only nations permitted as nuclear-weapon states (NWS) under the terms of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The non-permanent members are elected for two year terms by a $\frac{2}{3}$ approval from the General Assembly. GA Resolution 1991 (1963) requires that the members elected or broken down as: African Group, three seats; the Asia-Pacific Group, two; the Eastern European Group, one; the Latin American and Caribbean Group, two; and the Western European and Others Groups, two. As of 2019 and for the purposes of COCMUN 2020 the current elected members of the security council are: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia(President), Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, and Viet Nam.²

The UN Security Council requires 9 votes in favor and no against votes from P5 members in order to pass resolutions. The inability of a resolution to pass with any against votes Chapter VII: Action to Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the

United Nations Security Council

Peace, and Acts of Aggression ² UNSC Current Members from the P5 member states is referred to as the veto power of the P5. This structure serves as an attempt to balance power in the Security Council by allowing any P5 member to prevent the adoption of any draft resolution. A P5 member abstention or absence on a substantive vote does not veto it. The majority of Security Council resolutions pass, but at times this has prevented ³ executive actions of the UN that even has major international support. Despite possible claims of undemocratic processes, however, any procedural reform would require the support of the Security Council; it has been consistent since the formation of the United Nations in 1945. In committee any resolution that receives an against vote from a P5 delegate will fail to pass. Because of this procedure delegates will need to formulate resolutions with the intention of working with P5 members. That said, P5 members will not receive any preferential treatment from the Dias. Participating in committee as a P5 Member does *not* guarantee any delegate an award.

If the UN bodies were compared to that of a national government, the Security Council would serve as an executive branch. Where the General Assembly would closely resemble the legislative branch. The chartered authority of the Security Council is unique in its ability to go beyond diplomacy, when it has failed, to stabilize a crisis. However, the Security Council must begin by seeking a resolution to a crisis through an arsenal of diplomatic approaches first. If adopted in resolution format this committee has the capacity to mobilize peacekeeping forces, impose economic embargoes, impose mandatory sanctions, and make press statements. We encourage delegates to use multiple of these approaches in addressing the topic.

Committee Directives require nine yes votes and no P5 no votes. The faster that committee moves along by passing resolutions the more interesting and ad-hoc the situation of the committee becomes. The duration of committee time is limited to four sessions, we expect multiple directives to be passed in each session and to follow each directive up with a crisis update. If the council is unable to pass directives, the crisis will respond by intensifying the necessity for action. To be successful in this committee delegates need to work towards gaining the support of eight other delegates and avoid being vetoed by a P5 Power.

Introduction

The current situation between the Russian Federation and the state of Ukraine has reached a major tipping point as Russian troops are now pouring over the borders of Russia as well as Belarus. Satellite Imagery has shown a massive buildup of the military might of the Russian Federation. The situation in Ukraine has reached dire straits as President Volodymyr Zelensky has been forced to install martial law due to the impending savage attacks on Kyiv and other major Ukrainian cities such as Kharkiv, Odessa, and Mauripol.

Although the Ukrainian forces are withholding the onslaught of attacks from Russian forces it is becoming increasingly clear that it is only a matter of time before Russian troops break through the Ukrainian defenses. In order to bolster the Ukrainian defense, Zelensky has declared that all men within Ukraine aged 18 to 65 are now members of the Ukrainian military. Beyond an increase in manpower, Ukraine has also begun receiving arms shipments from various countries around the world in particular the Baltic States as well as the United States and the United Kingdom. These arms consignments are mostly consisting of the man-portable air-defense (MANPAD) launcher the Stinger as well as the next generation anti-tank launcher the NLAW. Germany along with Finland and Sweden have dispatched thousands of Javelin missile launchers, the most efficient anti-tank launchers in the world. As shipments from around the world continue to pour into Ukraine, evidence of the impact that these weapons have had on the defensive effort can be widely seen as burned-out carcasses of tanks and armored Russian vehicles litter battlefields across the country.

I. Key Terms

- a. **UN Charter:** Signed on June 26, 1945, the Charter of the United Nations is the foundational treaty of the United Nations intergovernmental organization.
- b. **Veto Power:** Is the defined authority of the P-5 to eliminate any draft resolution on the floor of the UNSC with one vote against.
- c. **Permanent Member:** The five member states who have been given status of consistent membership within the UNSC.
- d. **Non-Permanent Member:** Pursuant to Article 23 of the UN Charter, ten of the 15 Council members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms on the Security Council.
- e. **Sanctions:** Sanctions are enforcement mechanisms utilized by the security council in order to further their goals. They can take the form of economic sanctions, arms embargoes, travel bans, etc.
- f. **Security Council:** One of the principal organs of the UN, the Security Council has primary responsibility under the UN Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- g. **Peacekeeping Missions:** UN peacekeeping missions are mandated by the Security Council to provide security and political and peacebuilding support to countries in conflict or post-conflict situations. They are guided by the principles of consent of the host country, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defense, defense of the mandate or protection of civilians if so authorized by the Council.

II. Background Information

The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union

Vladimir Lenin, an intellectual and political revolutionary, was inspired by the work and ideologies of Karl Marx and rose to a position of influence within the developing Marxist communities in Russia, expressing discontent for the current government. The execution of Lenin's brother, Aleksandr, after a failed assassination attempt of Aleksandr III further radicalized Lenin's anti-government sentiments.¹ Lenin championed his own communist theory: Marxism-Leninism, which advocated for a "vanguard party's" revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist government by "any means necessary."²

The first instance of large-scale revolutionary action occurred on January 9th, 1905 during the reign of Nicholas II. Dissatisfied with the empire's governmental structure, a group of St. Petersburg workers approached the capital of the empire in order to petition for change. The confrontation ended violently, and left hundreds of the unarmed workers wounded or dead at the hands of the capital's security force.³ This event became known as the "Bloody Sunday Massacre."⁴ In response to this protest, the tsar created a parliament, dubbed the Duma, which promised democracy as a way to assuage the rampant bouts of civil unrest. The Duma functioned alongside the tsar from 1905 until 1917.⁵

Meanwhile, civil unrest only continued to grow, and Russia's loss in the Russo-Japanese war of 1907 and subsequent entrance into the Great War in 1914 only hastened the proliferation of dissatisfaction amongst the Russian people. The country struggled through the war, losing hundreds of thousands of lives until the German army

¹ Biography.com Editors, "Vladimir Lenin," Biography.com (A&E Networks Television, September 21, 2020), <https://www.biography.com/political-figure/vladimir-lenin>.

² "Marxism-Leninism," Marxism-Leninism - New World Encyclopedia, accessed April 21, 2021, <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Marxism-Leninism>.

³ Biography.com Editors, "Vladimir Lenin."

⁴ History.com Editors, "Russian Revolution," History.com (A&E Television Networks, November 9, 2009), <https://www.history.com/topics/russia/russian-revolution>.

⁵ Robert Wilde, "The Duma in Russian History," ThoughtCo, January 8, 2019, <https://www.thoughtco.com/duma-in-russian-history-1221805>.

overran Russian forces in 1915. Though the Russian outlook in the war somewhat improved with the defeat of Austrian forces in the Brusilov Offensive of 1916, Russia's economy, political stability, and food supply were crippled by the war. Throughout Russian involvement in the world conflict, the already dismal quality of life for the common Russian declined as food shortages, disease, and discontent proliferated throughout the country.^{6,7}

Protests, strikes and demonstrations grew more frequent in the streets of Russia as discontentment festered in the poorer classes. On February 23rd 1917, anywhere from 150,000 to 200,000 textile workers in response to dwindling flour supply. Throughout the following days, the demonstration became increasingly political until military action and violence brought anarchy to the streets of Petrograd as the tsar's military struggled to control the crowd. Tsar Nicholas II abdicated the throne on February 27th, attempting to pass control to his brother, Michael, who rejected the throne and thus ended the 300-year reign of the Russian Empire under the Romanov dynasty.⁸

Immediately following the end of tsarist rule, two dueling powers vied for control of Russia. The first was an interim government established by the Constitutional Democratic Party, which aimed to lead the country until a constitutional government could be established. The second power, however, was much more radical. The Petrograd Soviet was composed of Bolsheviks, the radical intelligentsia, and the working class, all of whom advocated for a transition to socialism in Russia. Both groups issued conflicting decrees in a chaotic duel for power until the provisional government established by the Constitutional Democrats proved unable to guarantee rights for the people or provide reparations to the desecrated state of Russia's economy, food supply, and overall state of affairs.⁹

⁶ Charles E. Ziegler, *The History of Russia Second Edition*.

⁷ Dr. Jonathan Smele, "History - World Wars: War and Revolution in Russia 1914 - 1921," BBC (BBC, March 10, 2011), http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/wwone/eastern_front_01.shtml.

⁸ Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End*, 2nd ed. (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2006), <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=156568&site=ehost-live>.

⁹ Charles E. Ziegler, *The History of Russia Second Edition*.

On October 25th 1917, the intelligentsia's Marxist ideologies, widespread civil unrest and the growing popularity of the Bolshevik party all came to a head in what would become known as the Bolshevik Revolution. Vladimir Lenin rallied his peasant and working class followers under the slogan "Bread, Peace and Land," calling for an end to the provisional government. Led by Lenin, the Bolsheviks seized control over important buildings in the capital and, with the help of Leon Trotsky, took over the Winter Palace, thereby ending the Constitutional Democratic Party's provisional government in a successful and nearly bloodless coup d'état.^{10,11}

Vladimir Lenin now stood at the helm of the newly created Soviet Union. One of his first actions was to begin peace talks with the Central Powers in order to end Russia's disastrous involvement in the Great War.¹² Leon Trotsky, who was appointed to be Commissar of International Affairs, negotiated the Brest-Litovsk Treaty with rival Germany. This March 1918 treaty ceded parts of western Russia and Ukraine to Germany until armistice was reached in November of 1918 and the territories were returned.¹³

Dissenters to Lenin's socialist ideals arose in the form of "the Whites," an anticommunist group. The Whites enjoyed sponsorship from Britain, the United States, Italy, and the rest of the Allies from the Great War. Conversely, "the Reds" constituted the pro-communist movement in Russia. Led by Trotsky, these forces opposed the Whites in a Civil War which lasted from 1918 to 1921.¹⁴

Peasant revolts caused Lenin to instate a new approach to governing the nation in 1921. Rather than perpetuating the War Communism policy of late, Lenin instead crafted a New Economic Policy, which banned factionalism, retained government

¹⁰ Charles E. Ziegler, *The History of Russia Second Edition*.

¹¹ Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End*, 2nd ed.

¹² Alexander Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks in Power : The First Year of Soviet Rule in Petrograd* (Bloomington: Indiana Press, 2007),
<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xna&AN=220613&site=ehost-live>.

¹³ Charles E. Ziegler, *The History of Russia Second Edition*.

¹⁴ "The Civil War and War Communism (1918–21)," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 21, 2021,
<https://www.britannica.com/place/Russia/The-Civil-War-and-War-Communism-1918-21>.

ownership of the economy and all industries, and eventually healed the Soviet Union's economy.¹⁵

In 1922, the Russian territories of Ukraine, Belorussia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia were united as a result of the Red's victory in the Civil War. The Soviet Union drafted an official constitution, and was able to create the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, or USSR in 1922.¹⁶ Vladimir Lenin died two years later in 1924, leaving the young Soviet Union to the hands of an unlikely successor: Joseph Stalin.

Joseph Stalin led the Former Soviet Union as the Secretary-General for nearly a quarter century before his untimely death in March of 1953. During his tenure as the Head of State he led the Soviet Union through World War 2 and created a booming military industrial complex which allowed for the development and creation of the Nuclear Bomb in 1949. The detonation of the nuclear bomb in 1949 showcased the Soviet Union to be the second nuclear power on the world stage. Within Stalinist Russia economic growth due to a booming military sector led to an intense Urbanization within the Soviet Union. Due to this, those that were focused on Agriculture were left well behind the fray due to the heavy migration to urban areas. Although the Soviet Union saw an intense economic growth under Stalin, the ever expanding industrial military complex was not indicative of the well being of the average citizen of the Soviet Union, rather impoverished as the vast majority of those living in the Soviet Union lived in rural areas. Joseph Stalin was in a way the last leader of the Soviet Union to operate without the presence of a ruling Oligarchy.¹⁷

In December of 1991 the Soviet Union came to a formal end. However the collapse of the Soviet Union had been occurring for many years prior to the end in 1991, with the first signaling event being the destruction of the Berlin Wall beginning in 1989. The destruction of the Berlin Wall officially began in 1989 after separating east and west

¹⁵ "The Civil War and War Communism (1918–21),"

¹⁶ Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End*, 2nd ed.

¹⁷ "Joseph Stalin," Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-Stalin>.

Berlin for more than 25 years.¹⁸ During a presidential tour of Europe in 1987 United States President Ronald Reagan gave a speech in West Berlin, in this speech President Reagan famously is quoted as saying “ Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall¹⁹”. This speech due to the weather permitting allowed this speech to be heard by radio as far east as Moscow, the home of The Kremlin. Although the destruction of the Berlin Wall began in 1989, two years after Reagan’s address, it was not completely dismantled until 1994, three years after the official toppling of the Soviet Union. The initial destruction marked the beginning of the complete collapse of the Soviet Union.

Within the Kremlin tensions themselves were rising against those that were high ranking political officials, this evident as in August of 1991 a coup was attempted upon Mikhail Gorbachev, the General Secretary of the Soviet Union. The coup took place while General Secretary Gorbachev was vacationing at a Crimean Resort. The coup was carried out by four members of the inner circle of Gorbachev. The members responsible for the coup were Valery Boldin, Oleg Baklanov, and Oleg Shenin, Gen. Valentin Varennikov. The coup consisted of the four men cutting off outside communication for Gorbachev’s residence and then demanding that he utilize emergency powers to be transferred to the second in command, Gennady Yanayev.²⁰ Overwhelming support for the coup was shown by fellow cabinet members within the Kremlin.²¹ False radio reports were broadcast across the Soviet Union misinforming citizens that a medical emergency had left Gorbachev indisposed and unable to perform his political duties.²² For the surrounding Soviet Republics the coup showcased a weakness within the Soviet Union, although the coup ultimately ended up failing the response of Soviet Republics within the Soviet Union led to the failure and demise of the Soviet Union in 1991 as one after

¹⁸ “Tear down This Wall,” National Archives and Records Administration (National Archives and Records Administration), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2007/summer/berlin.html>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ “Collapse of the Soviet Union,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/the-collapse-of-the-Soviet-Union>.

²¹ Ibid.

²² “Collapse of the Soviet Union,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/event/the-collapse-of-the-Soviet-Union>.

the next, those that were members of the Soviet Union democratically voted to secede from the Soviet Union until only Russia was left as a member.²³

Ukraines Independence from the Russian Federation

In the young nation's history Ukraine has risen from the ashes of the Soviet Union. Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991 Ukraine has celebrated 30 years of independence from the control of the Soviet puppet government that was established throughout the duration of the Soviet Union.²⁴ Ukraine celebrates its independence day August 24th to celebrate the overwhelming decision by the Ukrainian Parliament in which there was a vote to exit the Soviet Union with 92% of the vote going to leaving the Soviet Union.²⁵

Although Ukraine has maintained relatively neutrality as far as their involvement in the European political scape, recent advances from the Russian Federation have pushed the neutral country to request the ability to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).²⁶ By joining NATO western powers such as the United States, The UNited Kingdom, and France would be bound by treaty to militarily support the former Soviet country in the event that a war or armed conflict were to break out.²⁷ Due to the shared border between Russia and Ukraine this has led to tensions rising between the two nations, particularly since the first attempt by Ukraine to join NATO in 1992, due to Ukrainian leadership making the push to join NATO.²⁸ In 2008 Ukraine requested to be granted a membership action plan after President George W. ²⁹Bush voiced support for Ukraine to be granted access and entry to NATO. However, Ukraine was ultimately denied entry after France and Germany eventually chose not to support the membership

²³ Ibid.

²⁴Becky Sullivan, "Russia's at War with Ukraine. Here's How We Got Here," NPR (NPR, February 24, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶Becky Sullivan, "Russia's at War with Ukraine. Here's How We Got Here," NPR (NPR, February 24, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸Becky Sullivan, "Russia's at War with Ukraine. Here's How We Got Here," NPR (NPR, February 24, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>.

²⁹ Ibid.

of Ukraine in NATO after Russia voiced disdain for the invitation to NATO in 2008.³⁰ Ultimately, the primary reason that Russia has shown such severe opposition to Ukraine being granted membership into NATO stems primarily from the fear of western global competitors being allowed to “set up shop” in a country that shares a border with their own. This has led to a response from western powers in recent time to station NATO troops along the border of Poland in order to protect the border of the closest neighboring NATO member state.

The Rise of Vladimir Putin

President Vladimir Putin has not had the typical entrance into the global political sphere, in fact, it was not until 2000 that President Vladimir Putin had been a political figure. Vladimir Putin initially got his start working as a KGB agent for the Soviet Union. After the fall of the Soviet Union Putin gained prominent positions within the Kremlin such as becoming the head of the Federal Security Service under President Boris Yeltsin.³¹ After the first president of the Russian Federation suddenly resigned from office at the end of 1999, Vladimir Putin ran for political office securing 53% of the Russian vote granting him the presidency of Russia.³² Vladimir Putin ran a campaign that was focused on weeding out corruption within the Russian government as well as pushing to create a strong market economy.³³ In order to weed out the corruption that plagued the Russian government, Putin went as far as jailing the oligarchs that were the financiers of many of the projects proposed by the government.³⁴ Putin went as far as shuttering several news sources that were controlled by different oligarchs that utilized their news outlets to sway the public opinion of the Russian citizens.³⁵

³⁰Becky Sullivan, “Russia's at War with Ukraine. Here's How We Got Here,” NPR (NPR, February 24, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>.

³¹“Vladimir Putin,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Putin>.

³²Ibid.

³³“Vladimir Putin,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Putin>.

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵“Vladimir Putin,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Putin>.

Since Putin took charge of the Russian Federation in 2000 he has since won 3 more terms with a lot of media attention falling on his third and fourth terms due to his “Frenemy” relationship that he has fostered with former United States President Donald Trump alongside his involvement in the war in Crimea.³⁶ In March of 2014, President Vladimir Putin declared that Crimea had always been a part of Russia and has even gone as far as supporting the Russian-backed Ukrainian Separatist movement of those wishing to be Russian citizens rather than Ukrainian citizens.³⁷ On March 18th Vladimir Putin signed a treaty that annexed Crimea to be a part of the Russian Federation and just three days later on March 21st both houses of the Russian Parliament ratified the treaty officially annexing Crimea to become a Russian Territory. ³⁸ Since the annexation of Crimea President Vladimir Putin has since set his sights on neighboring Ukraine.

Rising Tensions

In December of 2021 United States Intelligence began pickin up on traces of Russia building up troops along the Ukrainian border in preparation of an invasion of the former Soviet country.³⁹ The Russian military offensive that United States intelligence has warned of could contain more than 175,000 Russian soldiers. After military exercises took place near the border of Ukraine in spring of 2021 the United States is warning of a military offensive containing twice as many soldiers as were transported to the border in early 2021.⁴⁰ As of late 2021 and early 2022 it is expected that there are more than 100 Russian military battalions waiting for orders from the Kremlin in order to invade Ukraine.⁴¹ As tensions continue to rise and the threat of

³⁶Ibid.

³⁷“Vladimir Putin,” Encyclopædia Britannica (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc.), accessed April 9, 2022, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Putin>.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Shane Harris and Paul Sonne, “Russia Planning Massive Military Offensive against Ukraine Involving 175,000 Troops, U.S. Intelligence Warns,” The Washington Post (WP Company, December 4, 2021), https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/russia-ukraine-invasion/2021/12/03/98a3760e-546b-11ec-8769-2f4ecdf7a2ad_story.html.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹Shane Harris and Paul Sonne, “Russia Planning Massive Military Offensive against Ukraine Involving 175,000 Troops, U.S. Intelligence Warns,” The Washington Post (WP Company, December 4, 2021), https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/russia-ukraine-invasion/2021/12/03/98a3760e-546b-11ec-8769-2f4ecdf7a2ad_story.html.

combat looms over the two nations in 2021 it would mark the first armed conflict to occur within Europe since the ending of World War 2 in 1945.⁴²

As troops continue to build up along the Ukrainian border Russia has begun conducting military drills and exercises in partnership with their close ally Belarus throughout february of 2022.⁴³ On the global political stage these military drills are widely perceived to be an act of aggression and intimidation.⁴⁴ The military exercises taking place in Belarus contain and utilize machines of war such as tanks, war planes, missile launchers, and will even include live fire defensive military exercises. ⁴⁵ As military exercises took place in February of 2022 the general consensus of world leaders globally is that Russia would conduct a hybrid war with Ukraine being that Russia would utilize an air and ground assault of major cities in Ukraine as well as an online hacking bombardment of critical Ukrainian online programs and assets. Throughout the buildup of troops and the duration of military exercises and operations, President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine has become a steadfast symbol of Ukrainian solidarity.

III. Recent Developments

As of April 12th, 2022, It has been 7 weeks since the initial invasion of Ukraine, and troops are continuing to enter the country crossing into the Donetsk region. Currently, the southern port city of Mariupol is under siege by Russian invaders and there are reports surrounding the usage of chemical weapons. Mariupol has become the epicenter of what many are calling the greatest humanitarian crisis to face Europe since the Holocaust. As Russian invaders continue to wage war with Ukraine, the Russian military has become synonymous with war crimes, with evidence of mass civilian graves on the outskirts of major cities and public executions of civilians have become the new norm for those attempting to flee the pressing conflict in Ukraine. The travesties taking

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³Bill Chappell, "Russia Holds a Massive Military Exercise with Belarus, Raising Concerns in Ukraine," NPR (NPR, February 10, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/10/1079888622/russia-military-exercise-belarus-ukraine>.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵Bill Chappell, "Russia Holds a Massive Military Exercise with Belarus, Raising Concerns in Ukraine," NPR (NPR, February 10, 2022), <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/10/1079888622/russia-military-exercise-belarus-ukraine>.

place in Ukraine are too much for the United Nations Security Council to overlook, it is up to members of this committee to take action against those that wish to do away with Ukraine's sovereign national identity.⁴⁶

IV. Past UN Security Council Action

The 2022 invasion of Ukraine is not the first instance of a military conflict involving both Russia and Ukraine, In 2014 Russia began militarily backing a Pro-Russian separatist group in the Ukrainian region of Crimea. The annexation of Crimea in 2014 led to heated tensions within the UN General Assembly itself as well as on the Security Council due to the veto exercised by the Russian Federation on the resolution that outlined the removal of Russian troops and equipment from Crimea. Similarly in 2022 in an emergency meeting that was held upon the invasion of Ukraine on February 25 in which Russia once again utilized its veto power to take action against a resolution with a very similar goal to that of the 2014 vetoed resolution. The inability for the Security Council to take action against the Russian Federation has called for the reevaluation of the governance system set in place by the U.N Charter, and the mechanisms by which the members of the Security Council are chosen.

V. Bloc Positions

Western Bloc (United States, United Kingdom, France)

The Western Bloc, primarily being made up of NATO members, is against the ongoing conflict within Ukraine. Due to the nature of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the necessity for those that are members to fight a war against any one country that may launch an attack on a member state, the Western Bloc is concerned with Russia pushing further past Ukraine into the NATO member state of Poland. On the global stage Western Countries namely those that are members of the P5 have taken a staunch adversarial stance to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

Eastern Bloc (China)

With the Eastern Bloc consisting of both India and China the overall stance on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is one of neutrality. With both countries being involved in diplomatic talks with members of the Kremlin, both countries have maintained a neutral disposition on the conflict and have utilized the right of abstention when it comes to voting on resolutions within Security Council meetings.⁴⁷

African Bloc

While some African nations, such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Kenya, have expressed their condemnation of Russia's actions in Ukraine, most African countries have largely remained silent and neutral.⁴⁸ In fact, over 23 African nations abstained on the vote to remove Russia from the UN Human Rights Council, with other nine nations outright voting against it. This can be traced to African countries' strong relationship with Moscow, as the former USSR came to the aid of many African nations during the Cold War. Countries in this bloc have to consider their history with Russia, but also their relation to Western nations before taking a stance on the conflict.⁴⁹

Arab League

Arab regions' stance on the conflict has been inconsistent: Starting by failing to condemn Russia's actions and even signaling a pro-Russia stance in the early days of the

⁴⁷Priyanka Shankar, "What India's Position on Russia-Ukraine War Means for Its EU Ties," Russia-Ukraine war News | Al Jazeera (Al Jazeera, March 9, 2022), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/9/what-india-position-russia-ukraine-war-means-european-union-ties>.

⁴⁸Al Jazeera, "Ukraine's ZELENSKYY Requests Address with Africa Union," Russia-Ukraine war News | Al Jazeera (Al Jazeera, April 12, 2022), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/12/ukraines-zelenskyy-requests-address-with-africa-union>.

⁴⁹Stephanie Busari, "Why Some African Countries Are Thinking Twice about Calling out Putin," CNN (Cable News Network, March 23, 2022), <https://www.cnn.com/2022/03/21/africa/africa-leaders-ukraine-response-cmd-intl/index.html>.

invasion, there was a shift from certain Arab nations - Namely, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt - by taking part in the General Assembly's condemnation of Russia.⁵⁰ Countries in the Arab League have strong ties to Western countries but heavily rely on food supplies from Russia. As of April 12th, 2022, the Arab League has offered to mediate a resolution to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, with food shortages in the Middle Eastern region being a driving concern.⁵¹ Though nations in the Arab League have mostly remained neutral in hopes of reaching a swift conclusion, countries in this bloc need to be wary of Arab nations' strong ties and partnerships with Western countries.

Russian Federation

With the Russian Federation being a nation that is granted the right to utilize a veto due to its membership of the Permanent 5, as well as a member state involved in the conflict at hand, the Russian Federation has taken a strong stance against those who seek to interfere in what Russia views as a matter that should not involve the UN. Due to the strong stance being adopted by the Russian Federation it is critical that diplomatic solutions be worked towards rather than utilizing the veto power.

⁵⁰H.A. Hellyer, "How the Arab World Is Responding to the War in Ukraine," Time (Time, March 7, 2022), <https://time.com/6155374/arab-world-reactions-ukraine/>.

⁵¹Rudaw.net, accessed April 13, 2022, <https://www.rudaw.net/english/world/060420221>.

VI. Questions to Consider

- I.** What are effective ways that the UN Security Council can utilize funds and resources to provide aid to those whose basic human rights are being violated?
- II.** Are economic sanctions effective or are they inadvertently financially crippling to innocent civilians within Russia who may not support the conflict?
- III.** How can the UN Security Council work with pre-existing international bodies, such as NATO, to take a holistic approach to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?
- IV.** Should the UN Security Council advise that neighboring nations as well as the global west not intervene militarily in the conflict?
- V.** Should the UN Security Council consider doing away with the Permanent Five members and the Veto Power?

Participating Members

United States

United Kingdom

France

China

Russian Federation

Albania

Brazil

Gabon

Ghana

India

Ireland

Kenya

Mexico

Norway

United Arab Emirates