

Dartmouth Model United Nations

# Ukrainian Cabinet

April 6 – 8, 2018





# DARTMOUTH MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

## *Thirteenth Annual Conference • April 6 - 8, 2018*

Dartmouth College • Rockefeller Center • Hanover, NH 03755

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**Scott Okuno**  
*Secretary-General*

January 20, 2018

**Jessica Campanile**  
*Director-General*

Dear Delegates:

**Anjali Peddanna**  
*Chief of Staff*

On behalf of the entire Dartmouth Model United Nations staff, I would like to welcome and thank you for registering for the thirteenth annual Dartmouth Model United Nations conference this April 2018. We have been working relentlessly since the end of last year's conference to provide a better and more worthwhile Model U.N. experience for this winter's delegates. We are optimistic about this winter's conference and Dartmouth Model U.N.'s future.

**Nina Kosowsky**  
*Chargé d'Affaires*

DartMUN is a unique conference. We pair world-class delegations and dais staff members in smaller, more-interactive environments to facilitate an enriching experience for delegates of all skill levels. We believe DartMUN's active, small committees ensure delegates feel comfortable immersing themselves in a competitive but supportive environment that encourages trial by error and participation.

**Anne Pinkney**  
*Undersecretary-General of  
General Assemblies*

Furthermore, DartMUN's well-trained staff is excited to work with your delegates this winter in committee to equip the next generation of college students with the skills to tackle complex global problems.

**Lauren Dusseau**  
*Undersecretary-General of  
Special Committees*

**Soham Basu**  
*Undersecretary-General of  
Current Crisis Committees*

With this said, Model United Nations is only meaningful when delegates are thoroughly prepared. To aid in your research preparation, your committee staff has spent hours researching, writing, and editing this Background Guide. The Background Guide serves as an introduction to your respective committee and an overview of the topics that you will be debating over the course of the conference.

**Sam Zarkower**  
*Undersecretary-General of  
Historical Crisis Committees*

The Background Guide is intended to be a starting point for your research and is not, in itself, an adequate exposure to the complexities of your committee's topics. To be prepared, each delegate should do further research and focus on processing information through the lens of their respective country or position. If you are having trouble digesting all the information, the Background Guide contains relevant discussion questions that break down the topics. Also, as questions or ideas arise, do not be shy in contacting your committee staff via e-mail. Committee staff are knowledgeable and can help you better understand a particular topic or how your country fits into a larger international debate. More often than not, discussing the problem with another person can open up more paradigms and viewpoints that may guide you throughout the brainstorming process.

**Bethany David**  
*Director of  
Technology*

As in years past, all delegates are expected to write a brief position paper before the conference to synthesize all of their preparatory research and analysis. Please see the position paper guidelines on the conference website for specific information about content, format, etc. Committee staff will collect position papers at the beginning of the first committee session on Friday evening, so be sure to bring a hard copy because delegates who do not submit position papers will not be eligible for awards.

**Sam Wilson**  
*Director of  
Finances*

Sincerely,

Scott Okuno  
*Secretary-General*  
DartMUN XIII



*DartMUN is a student run, non-profit,  
all volunteer organization sponsored by  
the Dickey Center for International  
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January 25, 2018

Dear Delegates:

**Scott Okuno**  
*Secretary-General*

**Jessica Campanile**  
*Director-General*

**Anjali Peddanna**  
*Chief of Staff*

**Nina Kosowsky**  
*Chargé d'Affaires*

**Anne Pinkney**  
*Undersecretary-General of  
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**Lauren Dusseau**  
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*Undersecretary-General of  
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**Sam Zarkower**  
*Undersecretary-General of  
Historical Crisis Committees*

**Bethany David**  
*Director of  
Technology*

**Sam Wilson**  
*Director of  
Finances*

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the 2018 Dartmouth College Model UN Ukrainian Cabinet Crisis Committee. My name is Claire Rafson and I will serve as your committee chair. This crisis committee will test your ability to respond quickly, effectively, and analytically delegates must consider that the outcomes of every action taken by this committee may have repercussions that are both positive and negative.

To introduce myself, I am a Junior ('19) here at Dartmouth majoring in History modified with Economics. Beyond my academics, I am a member of Dartmouth's dance team, the Dartmouth Outing Club, and am extremely involved with the Rockefeller Center for Public Policy. In high school I participated primarily in speech and debate, but last year, I had the opportunity to co-chair the future crisis committee. In my free time you can find me hiking or watching reality tv.

Over the course of the weekend I will be working alongside my Assistant Director, Alice Bennett, as your Committee Director. The success of this conference relies on the preparation of each delegate on the topic of this committee, Ukraine. Our committee will have the power to take substantive military action with real time response by our crisis staff. It is your task to consider all aspects of the crisis and topic at hand, as well as your country's unique position and insight on the matter.

In order to aid in your preparation and make the simulation as meaningful as possible, Alice and I have put together the following background information on Ukraine. This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the committee and an overview of the topics that you will be debating over the course of the conference. The Background Guide is intended to be a starting point for your research and is not, in itself, an adequate exposure to the complexities of our topic. To be prepared, each delegate should do further research and focus on processing information through the lens of

All my best,

Claire Rafson  
[Claire.P.Rafson.19@Dartmouth.edu](mailto:Claire.P.Rafson.19@Dartmouth.edu)



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Dear Delegates,

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Historical Crisis Committees*

**Bethany David**

*Director of  
Technology*

**Sam Wilson**

*Director of  
Finances*

Hello! And welcome to DARTMUN 2018! My name is Alice Bennett, and I'll be serving as your Assistant Committee Director in The Ukrainian Cabinet Crisis this year. We are so excited to watch you all tackle the issues at hand, and hopefully bring about peace in a war-torn, corrupt nation. We expect precise research beyond your background guide, passionate discussion, and overall that you come to committee ready to lay it all on the table. We do not doubt that you will be able to accomplish all of these tasks and more, please feel free to ask us for help at any time, we are here for you!

The Ukrainian Cabinet Crisis Committee has been formed by your Committee Director and I, to give you all a platform upon which you can discuss and potentially solve many of the issues that still plague Ukraine today. We have chosen to address two distinctly different branches of the conflict: Civil Unrest and Economic Uncertainty. These two topics require two very different mindsets and approaches, and with the diverse cast-list we are sure that you will hear from many different points of view before coming to a final decision about anything.

To give you some background on myself, my name is Alice Bennett, and I'm a 20' here at Dartmouth, hopefully majoring in English and minoring in Theater. I live just a few hours away in Providence, Rhode Island, and aside from MUN on campus I am in an acapella group, and manage the Women's Lacrosse team! I love talking about baking, fashion, and philosophy.

All that said, I hope you will consider me someone to come to if you have any questions, comments, or concerns in committee, and please always feel free to reach out, no question is too big or too small! These issues are incredibly relevant and real to this day. I'm so excited to meet all of you and observe how you choose to handle this intense conflict.

Sincerely,

Alice Bennett, AD



DartMUN is a student run, non-profit, all volunteer organization sponsored by the Dickey Center for International Understanding.



### Committee Overview

Model United Nations, or MUN, is a worldwide academic program that promotes understanding of and involvement in international relations and global issues through simulation of the real United Nations. The United Nations is an international organization, often called a peacekeeping body, that ensures active efforts by all 192 member states to the principles of peace, justice, equality, and human dignity.

#### *What are Crisis Committees?*

Crisis Committees are specialized groups at DartMUN that spend most of their time dealing with real-time events that require immediate attention and action. These crises range from terrorist attacks to natural disasters to corruption within a certain organization. Common considerations of crisis committees include: understanding the crisis and its implications, informing/not informing the press and public, undertaking immediate damage-control, reacting to the actions of other groups, and preventing future crises.

### Simulation Overview

#### *Parliamentary Procedure Specific to Crisis Committees (adapted)*

The same parliamentary procedures which are used for GAs and Specials apply to the Crisis Committees. However, Crisis Committees tend to be more informal than other committees, that is, they require a limited use of parliamentary procedure. They are often times more unstructured, and the flow of the committee is heavily dependent on the discretion of the chair. The chair will make

his/her procedural preferences clear at the start of the first committee session.

There may be a speaker's list, yet most committees do without one. There is often no official setting of the agenda, as debate tends to flow between topics and is determined by the pertinent crisis at hand.

In general, discussion occurs through moderated caucuses in which the chair calls upon delegates to speak. Delegates motion for moderated caucuses of a specified length and speaking time and on a specified topic. Many issues may be discussed concurrently and crises introduced by the crisis staff may interrupt discussion. Occasionally, unmoderated caucuses (motioned for by a delegate) are held in which formal debate is suspended and delegates speak at will in groups of their choosing. In voting, a motion for an unmoderated caucus takes precedence over a motion for a moderated caucus. Often, motions are simply passed without voting if there are no competing motions.

Action is taken through directives, and there are generally no working papers or resolutions, unless the chair so desires. Notes are used to communicate between delegates while the committee proceeds. They may also be sent to delegates on another committee if it is a JCC. They are often used to work with delegates of similar viewpoints to coordinate actions. Questions can also be sent to the chair (or crisis staff) in a note.

#### *Directives and Notes:*

##### *Directives:*

In order to carry out any action during





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committee, a directive must be sent by an individual, a group of individuals, or the committee as a whole. If it is not on behalf of the entire committee, then the delegate(s) can choose to make the directive private and it will not be revealed to the whole committee. If the chair deems necessary, the directive may need to be introduced by a requisite number of writers. To pass a directive on behalf of the whole committee, a simple majority vote is required. The chair will hold a vote as each directive is introduced.

## *Types of Directives*

There are three types of directives – Action Orders, Communiqués, and Press Releases. Action orders are used to direct troops, agencies, individuals, etc. to take an action that is within the authority of the committee. An individual may only send an action order if it is within his powers (check the background guide for a summary of the characters and their committee roles and powers). A communiqué is used to communicate with foreign governments, other committees of the JCC, or individuals outside the committee. A press release is used to reveal information to the public.

## *Examples of Directives*

### *Action Order:*

Direct Allied forces to invade Normandy, France on June 6th. Paratroopers shall be dropped behind enemy lines on June 4th. Landings shall take place at Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno, and Sword beaches.

-The Allies

## *Communiqué*

To the Emperor of Japan:

We demand an immediate, unconditional surrender by all Japanese forces within 48 hours, or we shall be forced to unleash heretofore unimaginable devastation upon your cities.

- The Allies

## *Press Release*

Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

## *Examples of Notes*

### *To a member of the same committee:*

[Address Section on outside of Note]

To: Franklin D. Roosevelt

From: Winston Churchill

[Message on inside of Note]

We ask that you work with us to increase intelligence efforts directed against our so-called allies, the Soviets, so that we will not be surprised by any actions they take after the war.

- Winston Churchill

### *To a member of another committee in JCC:*

[Address Section on outside of Note]

To: Leaders of Romania, Axis

From: Josef Stalin, Allies

[Message on inside of Note]

Seeing as the defeat of Nazi Germany is near, we would advise you to make a deal with the Soviet Union now or we will show no mercy



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when the time for your defeat arrives.

- Josef Stalin

*To chair/crisis staff:*

[Address Section on outside of Note]

To: Chair/Crisis

From: Winston Churchill

[Message on inside of Note]

What is the current disposition of British forces in the Middle East?

- Winston Churchill

*An Outline of How a Typical Crisis Committee Flows*

» A moderated caucus takes place with delegates outlining their position.

» A delegate motions for a moderated caucus on a specified topic of a specified length with a specified speaking time.

» Delegates discuss actions to take regarding that topic through the moderated caucus and through notes.

» Delegates submit directives to the chair to take an action and motion to introduce the directive.

» Discussion on the directives will proceed through the current moderated caucus and amendments may be proposed and voted on.

» A delegate will motion to vote on a directive and the directive is either passed or rejected.

» A crisis will occur, oftentimes in the middle of debate. The crisis staff will introduce new information or developments through news articles, videos, intelligence reports, etc.

» Discussion will shift informally or through a new moderated caucus to discuss this development.

## Members of Ukrainian Cabinet:

1. *Petro Poroshenko* – The current President of Ukraine. Poroshenko was elected in 2014. Was a major supporter of the anti-government protesters.
2. *Volodymyr Groysman* – The current Prime Minister of Ukraine. Groysman was appointed in 2016 after his successor stepped down among allegations of corruption. Seen by outside observers and Poroshenko's protégé, he has vowed to fight corruption and improve relationships with the European Union.
3. *Alexander Vladimirovich Zakharchenko* - the current head of state and Prime Minister of the self-proclaimed state and the rebel group Donetsk People's Republic, which declared independence from Ukraine on 11 May 2014.
4. *Stepan Kubiv* – The current First Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister of Economic Development and Trade. Before taking on this post, Kubiv served as the chairman of the National Bank of Ukraine.
5. *Vyacheslav Kyrylenko* – One of the leaders of the People's Front party, and Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine for humanitarian matters.
6. *Volodymyr Kistion* – The Vice Prime Minister on Energy, Ecology, and use of Natural Resources.



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7. *Arsen Avakov* – Appointed the Minister of Internal Affairs by Former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, and reappointed by the current Prime Minister following the 2014 Revolution.
8. *Pavlo Klimkin*– The Current Minister of Foreign Affairs and long term public servant. Notably played a central role in negotiating the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement.
9. *Oleksandr Danylyuk* – The current Finance Minister of Ukraine, who is a member of the Independent party.
10. *Stepan Poltorak* – The current Minister of Defence of Ukraine and former commander of the Internal Troops of Ukraine and the National Guard.
11. *Andriy Reva* – The current Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine
12. *Volodymyr Omelyan* – Ukraine’s Minister of Infrastructure.
13. *Ostap Semerak* – Member of the People’s Front party and current Minister of Ecology.
14. *Ihor Nasahyk* – The current Minister of Energy and Coal Mining.
15. *Pavlo Petrenko* – The 14<sup>th</sup> Minister of Justice of Ukraine and member of the People’s Front party.

## The Situation in Ukraine

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### Introduction

Ukraine’s ongoing and most deadly crisis since its post-Soviet independence began as a protest against the government dropping plans to establish closer trade ties with the European Union, and has since sparked a global standoff between Russia and Western powers. The crisis stemmed from more than twenty years of poor governance, a lopsided economy dominated by oligarchs, heavy reliance on Russia and its resources, and sharp differences between Ukraine’s eastern and western halves. After the ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich in February 2014, Russian moves to take control of the Crimean Peninsula signaled Moscow’s intent to widen its area of influence and raised serious questions about the ability of the state’s new leaders to provide stability and a path to meaningful reforms. After the Minsk II Agreement hostilities decreased, but this by no means represented an end to the conflict, and people are still wary of their government. The international community has been watching the crisis closely, and is deeply interested in bringing peace and stability to the region. This committee’s mission will be to mitigate the threats of civil unrest in Ukraine, as well as deal with the imminent economic crises caused by a growing isolation between Ukraine and the world.<sup>1</sup>

### History of the crisis

Crimea is an autonomous republic of Ukraine with its own parliament and laws that permit the use of the Russian language in everyday life

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/14/avdiivka-frontline-ukraine-war-russia-backed-separatists>





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and empower local representatives to levy taxes. But the parliament's acts can be vetoed by the central government in Kiev, which must approve the republic's prime minister. Since the ouster of Yanukovich in February 2014, Crimea's parliament has asserted greater autonomy and voted for a March 16 referendum to decide whether Crimea should become part of Russia or remain a part of Ukraine, but with enhanced local powers.

Occupied for centuries by Muslim Tatars affiliated with the Ottoman Empire, Crimea was conquered in 1783 by Russia's Catherine the Great. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin deported the Tatar population of about two hundred thousand to Central Asia during World War II, and the bulk of them did not return until 1989. Today Tatars constitute about 12 percent of Crimea's population.

The peninsula only became part of Ukraine in 1954 when Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev transferred it from the Russian Soviet Socialist Republic to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in what was seen as a largely symbolic administrative move within the Soviet Union. The majority-Russian residents of Crimea continued to have strong ties with Russia. Following the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the two new countries reached an agreement to permit the Russian Black Sea fleet, a Russian naval unit, to remain based at the Crimean port of Sevastopol.

Yanukovich and then Russian president Dmitry Medvedev signed an agreement in 2010 that extended Russia's lease of Sevastopol until 2042 in exchange for a 30 percent drop in the price of natural gas sold to Ukraine. Russia has eleven thousand forces stationed in Crimea, which were reportedly joined by five thousand Russian troops since the ouster of Yanukovich, although Russians officials have

denied this. Thousands of Ukrainian forces occupy bases on the peninsula currently blocked by what they say are Russian forces. Overall, Russians make up an estimated 59 percent of the population of Crimea and Ukrainians, about 23 percent.

Russia's actions are in breach of international law, including the nonintervention provisions in the UN Charter; the 1997 Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation between Russia and Ukraine, which requires Russia to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity; and the 1994 Budapest Memorandum on Security Assurances. That document states: "The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America reaffirm their commitment to Ukraine, in accordance with the principles of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, to respect the independence and sovereignty and the existing borders of Ukraine." For its part, Russia has rejected charges that it is violating international law and has called for Ukraine to return to the terms of the February 21, 2014 agreement between opposition leaders and Yanukovich that permitted him to stay in office as the head of a national unity government while elections were planned. On May 25, 2014, Ukrainians elected pro-European Petro Poroshenko as the new President of Ukraine. As his first order, President Poroshenko issued a 15-point peace plan to help end the violence in Eastern Ukraine. The plan was not successful as riots continued in the eastern Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In an attempt to create solidarity amongst Western Ukraine and the EU, the EU signed a landmark association pact with Ukraine in June 2014. The agreement bound Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia closely to Western Europe, which angered Russia. Many



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critics opposed this pact because they believed it would split Ukraine in two, while others thought it would help resolve the conflict.

The new ceasefire agreement, also known as Minsk II, is similar to the first one but now the Ukrainian government confirms that the rebels have control of the airport. It also states that there needs to be an immediate ceasefire and release of all hostages or prisoners caught during the fighting. Though the government is still in control, the rebels seem to have the upper hand because they have control of large regions such as Donetsk and Luhansk.

## Topic A: Physical Conflict

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The situation, despite the Minsk II agreement, still has no end in sight. The government in Ukraine continues to take steps to restrict media and journalism in the country, back up by the premise that they need to combat Russian anti-Ukraine propaganda. In May of 2016 they banned 17 Russian journalists from entering the country. The conflict has displaced an estimated 2 to 3 million people at this point, with casual violence decimating innocent civilians. There are threats back and forth that Russia will stage another invasion of Ukrainian territories, and the people of the country want answers and politicians who will actually accomplish something. After almost three years of war and roughly 10,000 deaths, Russia's military intervention defines all aspects of political life in Ukraine. Divided by the conflict and crippled by corruption, Ukraine is headed for even greater uncertainty. Trump's professed admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin scares Kiev, as do rumors that the United States may decide to scrap sanctions against Russia. Implementation of the February 2015 Minsk peace agreement is stalled,

effectively bringing Russia closer to two of its goals in the Ukraine conflict: the establishment of permanent pro-Russian political entities in eastern Ukraine, as well as normalization of its annexation of Crimea that started the war in 2014. Western support for President Petro Poroshenko is ebbing due to Kiev's unwillingness or inability to deliver promised economic reform and robust anti-corruption measures.<sup>2</sup> Poroshenko's problems may be compounded if early parliamentary elections are held in 2017, in which pro-Russian parties could gain ground. The support of the people of Ukraine is also ebbing, and defenses need to be put in place in case of a civil uprising like the one which occurred in 2014. Does this entail putting even tighter restrictions on the people of the country, limiting more media access and other freedoms? Or does this entail trying to mitigate the violence at its source, attacking rebel groups and protesters to keep the unrest at bay? In Kiev, pro-Russian separatists have been preparing on the offensive for some time now. The Russians however claim that the Ukrainian military forces have been making unauthorized gains on Russian territory in the Crimea and provoking reactions of the pro-Russian adversaries. It is hard to say who is telling the truth, but one thing is for certain and that is that the battle being fought between two sides of one country is far from over. Diplomats and analysts in Kiev say they believe Russia's current goal is not to take more territory from Ukraine but to push the territories already seized back into Ukraine on terms advantageous to Moscow, giving them a long-term foothold in the country. The Pro-Russian groups and the unhappy nationalists are at ends with each other, and their government.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/ukraine>



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Once Mussolini was in power, he increased Italy's military aggression and invaded Ethiopia. His successful win in Ethiopia in May of 1936 inspired Hitler to ally with Italy. The two countries signed a non-military alliance in October of 1936. In 1939, Italy successfully invaded Albania and signed a full defensive alliance with Germany<sup>3</sup>.

## *Crimea*

Crimea is a peninsula attached to Southern Ukraine. It was part of the Soviet Union until 1991, when Ukraine gained its independence and declared Crimea an autonomous region of the country. The majority of the population of Crimea identifies as Russian and speaks Russian. This has set the nation up for divisiveness, as the ethnically Russian population sides with Russia, isolating themselves from the Ukrainian nationalists. Since then, the topic of Crimea has been a sensitive subject for Ukraine-Russian relations. The peak of the Ukrainian crisis occurred in late February of 2014 when Russian troops marched into Ukraine and annexed the Crimean Peninsula. Russian President Vladimir Putin stated that because of Russia's century-long involvement in Crimea, the territory deserves to be returned to Russia. In March of 2014, the Crimean parliament issued a referendum to support the annexation, and it passed with almost 97% approval by Crimean citizens<sup>4</sup> (though this number is largely disputed by the West). Russian troops entered Crimea until April, and as a result, relations between Moscow and the

<sup>3</sup>

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/2WWitaly.htm>

<sup>4</sup> [https://unagb-](https://unagb-mun.wikispaces.com/file/view/Ukraine%20Crisis%20Topic%20Guide.pdf/573922281/Ukraine%20Crisis%20Topic%20Guide.pdf)

[mun.wikispaces.com/file/view/Ukraine%20Crisis%20Topic%20Guide.pdf/573922281/Ukraine%20Crisis%20Topic%20Guide.pdf](https://unagb-mun.wikispaces.com/file/view/Ukraine%20Crisis%20Topic%20Guide.pdf/573922281/Ukraine%20Crisis%20Topic%20Guide.pdf)

West were extremely strained as the EU and the US issued economic sanctions on Russia.<sup>5</sup>

Currently the conflict in Crimea is classified as a "ceasefire", although as stated previously in the guide, this is not exactly the case. People are fighting over everything and anything, including government corruption, the annexation of Crimea, and where the loyalties of their own neighbor's lie. It is your job to come up with further peaceful solutions to the violence, both against and from Russia, as well as between your own people.

## Questions to Consider

1. How can you make peace in a timely manner between your own peoples?
2. How will you address Russia in this situation?
3. Will you require help from other EU countries to remedy this situation?
4. How can you gain back your nation's trust as politicians?

## Topic B: Economic Uncertainty

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Beyond the political unease felt in Ukraine, the country's financial future remains unknown. Two major barriers seem to stand in the way of Ukraine's recovery from the financial crisis brought on by the 2014 revolution. The first being hostile actions taken by the Russian Government to harm the Ukrainian Economy.

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/background-briefing-ukraine-crisis>



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The second, a dispute over both internal and external economic policy.

Ukraine was once on track to become a major gateway between the East and West, connecting Eurasia and beyond in a new “Great Silk Road”.<sup>6</sup> Now, Russian actions threaten to isolate Ukraine from international trade. In August, Russia completed a railway that effectively bypasses Ukraine allowing the Russian government to ship to Belarus, the Baltics, and other southern destinations without passing through Ukraine.<sup>7</sup> In addition to the economic loss of the decrease in trade, this railway cuts off a 26km stretch of Ukrainian railway. Furthering this isolation, Putin has begun to build a \$4 billion 11-mile bridge<sup>8</sup> and \$2 billion highway connecting Russia and Crimea.<sup>9</sup> Russia has further plans for new pipelines that could devastate Ukrainian trade. Currently, almost half of Russian Gas exports to Europe pass through Ukraine, but plans to build “Nord Stream 2,”<sup>10</sup> increasing capacity of a direct pipeline between Russia and Germany would reduce Ukraine’s hold on Russian gas exports. Russia has also begun planning “Turkish Stream” a similar pipeline that would bypass Ukraine, and allow Russia to deliver to Southern Europe and Turkey independently. Russia remains Ukraine’s largest trading partner and investor, and as tensions remain, Ukraine’s economic fate is questionable.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/f57f6b4c-92ed-11e7-bdfa-eda243196c2c>

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2017-03-31/crimea-pays-a-high-price-three-years-after-russian-takeover>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/f57f6b4c-92ed-11e7-bdfa-eda243196c2c>

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Ukrainian economic policy is also currently in question. While economic progress has been made, Ukrainian activist agendas directly conflict with international recommendations for growth. Activist pressure has led Kiev to other tactics: impose sanctions on Russian banks and impose economic blockade on Russian-backed separatist territory. This blockade on separatist territory is projected to slow Ukraine's economic growth to 1.9 percent from the projected 2.8 percent.<sup>11</sup> These economic actions resulting from domestic political pressure have called into question whether Ukraine will receive all of the economic aid promised by the IMF, USA and EU. On the other hand, reforms seen by the international community as promoting stability and progress are seen by the Ukrainian public as a burden placed on civilians by a corrupt government. Ukrainians themselves absorb the majority of the cost of these reforms in the form of price hikes, weakened currency, and pension cuts.<sup>12</sup> Ultimately, a question of policy and corruption emerges. The Ukrainian government must address issues of corruption and reassess economic policy in order to combat civil unrest without further isolating themselves from the international community.

## Questions to Consider

1. How can you maintain foreign support without further increasing internal rebellion?
2. How should you address Russia’s aggressive attempts at isolation?

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.politico.eu/article/russias-latest-victim-in-ukraine-reform-sberbank-bank-vladimir-putin-sanctions/>

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.



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3. How can you decrease corruption and increase Ukrainian confidence?