



UNSC

Research Report

NISMUNC'22

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UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Topic 1:

Political And Geographical Tension Between China And Taiwan And Hong Kong

Topic 2:

Relocation And Assimilation Of Immigrants Into Europe





Personal Introduction

Chair - Poh Hoh Shan

Hey there delegates! My name is Poh Hoh Shan, and I am your chair for the United Nations Security Council of Nexus International School Model United Nations Conference 2022. NISMUNC 2022 marks my sixth chairing experience in a formal conference. I am currently studying at the University of Malaya.

It is my belief, and my hope, that our generation of youths will be outspoken participants of civil society. Actively participating in activities like Model United Nations helps one gain a global perspective on current affairs, as well as greater insight into how and why the world is how it is. In an ever-increasingly polarised world that seems to be more hostile with each passing day, we need to make sure that we are better informed. We live in interesting times, and if we do not pay close enough attention, the world will pass us by and leave us worse off.

Whether you are a newcomer or a seasoned veteran to Model United Nations, I look forward to your active participation in this committee. Do not be afraid to make mistakes if you're new, because you'll miss a hundred percent of the shots you don't take. Most of my Model United Nations skills were learned through baptism by fire, at conferences against far more experienced and well-versed delegates.

However, you should come prepared. Please do take the time to comb through this research report, as it will contain information pertinent to the topic that will be discussed. Reading only the research report will not be enough. Instead, take this research report as the starting point for your own further research.

Should you have any inquiries with regards to the committee, feel free to contact me. All the best for the upcoming three days!

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Instagram: [@hohshan](#)

LinkedIn: [Poh Hoh Shan](#)



Co-Chair - Leong Qi Zhong

Greetings, delegates. You can call me Chris. I am delighted to be your chair for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). I started my MUN journey approximately 3 years ago, and have been in various positions, be it a delegate, a chair or the member of the secretariat. Since then, my interest and passion for MUN grew dramatically, where I aspire to continuously bring positive impacts to the world around me, however small it may seem. Currently, I am awaiting admission into university, planning to read engineering in the United Kingdom.

I firmly believe that it is more important for delegates to deliver an impact to the council and learn something valuable than to purely pursue awards. Regardless of your proficiency and experience in MUN, he hopes that you treat this as a learning experience.

To new delegates, don't be afraid to speak up. And most importantly, don't be afraid of making mistakes. Rest assured that the Board of Dais will give you a safe environment to try and fail over and over again. Soon, you will rise above and succeed. To experienced delegates, use your experience to your fullest and push yourself to new heights! Don't get comfortable. Use this opportunity to find potential gaps in your understanding of the issue and fill them in!

There are a few things required from you guys:

1. Be diplomatic. Never engage in personal attack.
2. Always approach council sessions with an open heart, with an undying passion to learn. This includes efforts to show adequate research on the topics at hand.
3. Active participation in council sessions.
4. Always relax and have fun!

I look forward to seeing you guys in council. If you have any doubts, feel free to approach me via Instagram ([@seemeburn.01](https://www.instagram.com/@seemeburn.01)) or via E-mail (leong.qizhong@gmail.com). Until then, stay safe and healthy!



Position Paper Formatting Guidelines

This United Nations Security Council committee will be conducted in accordance with the official Malaysian Harvard Model United Nations (HMUN) Rules of Procedure (RoP). You may find the full document on the Malaysian Youth Association of Diplomacy and Policy website (<https://www.my-adp.org/mun-congress>), under '*MUN Resources and Documents*'.

Position papers are **compulsory** in order to be considered for any awards. It provides the council with detailed information on your country's stance and your proposed course of actions, and helps the Board of Dais to paint a comprehensive picture of your position and your research. Failure to submit a position paper may result in automatic award disqualification.

Plagiarism (15% or more) will not be tolerated, and the Executive Board reserves the right to disqualify delegates from any awards for any violations.

A position paper should include the following:

- Brief background of both topics in relation to your country;
- Your country's policies/stances on the issue of the topics;
- Your country's efforts to address the issues;
- Your country's proposed solutions to the issues;
- Your country's expectation from the council or the other member states;
- Bibliography (**using APA 7th Edition citation format**).

The formatting requirements for the position paper are as follows:

- Language: **English only**
- Page size and margin: **A4, normal margin**
- Maximum pages (excluding Bibliography): **3 pages**
- Font and font size: **Arial, size 12**
- Alignment and spacing: **Justified, with 1.15 spacing**
- Formatting allowed: **Bold, Underline, Italics**
- Do not include personal information, and use '**this delegate**' or '**Malaysia**' instead of 'I'.

Position papers are to be emailed to pohhohshan2002@gmail.com and leong.qizhong@gmail.com. The guidelines are as follows:

Document title: NISMUNC22 - UNSC - Country (e.g. NISMUNC22 - UNSC - Malaysia)

Email title: NISMUNC22 PP - Country (e.g. NISMUNC22 PP - Malaysia)

Please send your position paper as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file only. Any submissions which arrive as a Google Document or a Microsoft Word document will be rejected.

The deadline for the position papers is 11:59 GMT+08:00, 19 February 2022. Requests for deadline extensions may be made on a case-by-case basis by contacting the Board of Dais through our emails.



Introduction to the Committee

The Security Council is one of the six primary organs created by the United Nations Charter. It gives the Security Council primary responsibility for ensuring international peace and security, and it has the authority to convene whenever peace is threatened. All United Nations members commit to accept and carry out the Security Council's decisions. While other UN committees give recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the authority to make decisions that member states must then carry out under the Charter.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members, of which five are permanent: the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. These major nations, or their successor states, were the victors of World War II. Any substantive resolution, including those on the admission of new member states to the United Nations or nominees for the position of Secretary-General, can be vetoed by permanent members. The other ten members are elected for a two-year term at a regional level. The members of the Security Council take turns at being the Council's president on a monthly basis!¹

When a complaint about a threat to peace is presented to the Council, the first thing it normally does is advise the parties to try to achieve a resolution through peaceful means. The Council may establish principles for such an agreement; conduct an investigation and, in some situations, mediation; dispatch a mission; appoint special envoys; or ask the Secretary-General to utilise his good offices to reach a peaceful resolution to the disagreement.

When a dispute escalates into hostilities, the Council's first priority is to bring the conflict to a close as quickly as possible. In those circumstances, the Council may issue ceasefire directives to help prevent the conflict from escalating; send military observers or a peacekeeping force to help decrease tensions, separate opposing forces, and maintain a calm in which diplomatic agreements can be explored. Beyond that, the Council may impose economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans, as well as cut diplomatic relations, blockade, and even collective military action².

The United Nations Security Council's first meeting was on January 17, 1946, in Church House in Westminster, London. The Security Council has had a permanent home at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City since its first meeting. It also visited a number of locations, including Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, Panama City in Panama, and Geneva in Switzerland. At the UN Headquarters, a representative from each of the Security Council's members must be present at all times so that the Council can meet whenever the need arises.³

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1. United Nations. (n.d.-a). [Functions and Powers | United Nations Security Council](#). Retrieved January 19, 2022.
 2. United Nations. (n.d.-b). [What is the Security Council? | United Nations Security Council](#). Retrieved January 19, 2022.
 3. UN News. (2019, February 28). [FEATURE: From misplaced emblem in London to iconic hall – the UN](#). Retrieved January 19, 2022.



Topic 1: Political And Geographical Tension Between China And Taiwan And Hong Kong

History of Topic

Republic of China (Taiwan)

Following the end of World War II, the Republic of China (ROC) nationalist government, led by the Kuomintang (KMT), seized control of Taiwan in 1945. Many experts have maintained that under the numerous surrender papers and treaties of the time, no official transfer of territorial sovereignty actually took place!¹

The ROC government under Chiang Kai-shek evacuated to Taiwan in 1949 after losing control of mainland China in the Chinese Civil War, and established martial law. For forty years, the KMT dominated Taiwan (together with the islands of Kinmen, Wuqiu, and Matsu on the other side of the Taiwan Strait) as a one-party state, until democratic changes in the 1980s resulted in the country's first-ever direct presidential election in 1996. Taiwan underwent fast industrialization and economic expansion during the postwar period, earning the nickname "Taiwan Miracle" and being dubbed one of the "Four Asian Tigers."²

Ahead of the election, the PRC conducted a series of missile tests in the Taiwan Strait, ostensibly to coerce the Taiwanese population into voting for pro-unification politicians. As a result, US President Bill Clinton dispatched naval forces to the area off Taiwan's southern coast to keep an eye on the situation. This episode is known as the Third Taiwan Strait Crisis. In addition, the People's Republic of China has since passed an anti-secession law that authorises the use of force against Taiwan and the Republic of China government if it declares independence. The ROC previously attempted to apply for membership of the United Nations in 2007 under the name "Taiwan," but was rejected by the General Assembly.³

Hong Kong

On January 25, 1841, Britain conquered Hong Kong during the First Opium War and utilised it as a military staging area. This was legitimised in the Treaty of Nanking, signed on August 29, 1842. The United Kingdom was also granted a perpetual lease over the Kowloon Peninsula, the mainland Chinese territory across the strait from Hong Kong Island, after the Second Opium War in 1860. The British also obtained a 99-year lease for the "New Territories," which included extra mainland territory as well as several outlying islands.⁴

During the Korean War and China's Great Leap Forward, Hong Kong's population grew as a result of refugees from mainland China. Hong Kong evolved from a territory of entrepôt trade to one of industry and manufacturing in the 1950s. Manufacturers were also enticed to relocate to China as a result of China's economic reforms, prompting Hong Kong to expand its commercial and financial sectors.⁵

The Sino-British Joint Declaration was signed on December 19, 1984, by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang, in which Britain pledged to surrender not only the New Territories but also Kowloon and Hong Kong proper when the lease term finished. China promised to implement a "One Country, Two Systems" rule that would allow Hong Kong residents to continue to practise capitalism and political liberties that were prohibited on the



mainland for the next fifty years. The lease expired on July 1, 1997, and the United Kingdom handed over control of Hong Kong and the adjacent areas to the People's Republic of China. Hong Kong's foundational legal document is the Hong Kong Basic Law.⁶

Hong Kong's success as a financial centre has persisted into the twenty-first century. Civil instability and unhappiness with Chinese influence, on the other hand, have become important concerns. The proposed implementation of Article 23 of Hong Kong's Basic Law in 2003 was met with opposition and protests. During the 2014 Hong Kong protests, citizens expressed their dissatisfaction with the electoral system. In 2019, a proposed Hong Kong extradition bill was perceived as yet another attempt by the Communist Party of China to undermine Hong Kong's legal system and human rights, sparking demonstrations once again. As a result, in 2020, the National People's Congress passed a national security law that defined secession, subversion, terrorism, and collusion with foreign organisations as crimes.⁷

Current Situation

Republic of China (Taiwan)

Chinese officials warned on December 29, 2021, that if Taiwan moved toward formal independence, they would face severe consequences, and that Taiwan's provocations and outside involvement might worsen the next year. China has increased military and diplomatic pressure in recent years to assert its sovereignty claim. To keep the peace in the region, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council repeated its appeal for equal discussion and has maintained a policy of "not provoking". Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen stated in her New Year message for 2022 that military conflict was not the solution to the Taiwan issue, and that her government would continue to watch the situation in Hong Kong, noting that recent election meddling and the arrests of senior staff at a media outlet were concerning. Taiwan has also purchased American military hardware to boost its battle readiness. It also conducted military drills involving the interception of fighter jets ahead of the Chinese New Year holidays in late January 2022.⁸

Hong Kong

Following the transfer of sovereignty, political disputes have focused on the region's democratic growth and the central government's adherence to the principle of "one country, two systems."⁹ The United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Finland, and Ireland have all suspended bilateral extradition treaties as a result of the central government in Beijing enacting a national security bill in Hong Kong in June 2020. The law, according to the United Kingdom, is a significant breach of the Joint Declaration. Seven pro-democracy lawmakers were arrested by Hong Kong police in October 2020 after a scuffle with pro-Beijing MPs during the Legislative Council in May. They were prosecuted with contempt and interfering with council members, and no pro-Beijing legislators were arrested. In July 2020, the United States withdrew its preferential economic and trade treatment of Hong Kong because it could no longer distinguish Hong Kong from the People's Republic of China. The Hong Kong government has also begun to employ a long-dormant colonial-era sedition statute to charge members of the press with conspiring to print "seditious publications" as of 2022¹⁰.



Major Countries Involved

People's Republic of China (PRC)

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is a unitary one-party socialist republic.¹¹ China is a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a founding member of many multilateral cooperation organisations, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Political dissidents and human rights advocates have accused Chinese authorities of human rights violations, including political persecution and protest suppression. The PRC claims the regions administered by the Republic of China (ROC), a separate political entity currently known as Taiwan, since the Chinese Civil War. One of the most significant diplomatic concepts of the PRC is the One-China policy. The People's Republic of China (PRC) believes that there is only one sovereign state called China, and Taiwan is a part of it, as opposed to the notion that there are two states, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC). The United Kingdom returned Hong Kong to the PRC in 1997. The constitutional principle of "one country, two systems" states that there is only one China, but that Hong Kong and Macao can maintain their own economic and administrative systems separate from the mainland. The PRC has also proposed using the principle in its quest for unification with the ROC. The rise of "wolf warrior" diplomacy, alongside increased national confidence, has resulted in the PRC government becoming increasingly assertive on both the aforementioned sensitive territorial issues.¹²

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)

The United Kingdom (UK) is a constitutional monarchy with a unitary parliamentary democracy. The UK is a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and wields significant economic, cultural, military, scientific, technological, and political clout around the world. Its relationship with Hong Kong is based on its significant commercial interests and political commitments as a signatory to the Sino-British Joint Declaration on the Question of Hong Kong. The United Kingdom believes that, as a co-signatory of the Joint Declaration with the People's Republic of China, it still has an enduring commitment to Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty in 1997. This has previously manifested itself in the form of regular semi-annual reports on Hong Kong to the United Kingdom Parliament, as well as the provision of appropriate service to British National (Overseas) passport holders. The UK supports Taiwan's participation in international organisations where statehood is not required, such as advocating for Taiwan's membership in the World Health Organisation. Several UK Members of Parliament have also referred to Taiwan as a country.¹³

United States of America (USA)

The United States acknowledges China's view that there is only one China and Taiwan is a part of it, but it does not say whether it recognises it. While the US does not support Taiwanese independence, keeping strong, unofficial ties with Taiwan is a top priority. The Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 is an American law that establishes an unofficial relationship between the US and Taiwan and commits the US to assist Taiwan in self-defence. The US insists on a peaceful resolution of cross-Strait disagreements, rejects unilateral changes to the status quo by either side, and encourages both parties to keep talking. Taiwan's membership in international organisations that do not need statehood as a condition of membership is supported by the United States.¹⁴ The United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019, and the Hong Kong Autonomy Act of 2020 all express US policy toward Hong Kong. In Hong Kong, the United States advocates for the protection of



Relevance To The UN

It is possible to argue that the political and geographical tension between China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong are relevant to the purposes and principles of the United Nations as an international organisation. The UN's purposes and principles are listed in Chapter 1 of the United Nations Charter. Only certain crucial segments have been included below.¹⁶



Chapter 1 of the United Nations Charter

Article 1

The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security...
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples...
3. To achieve international co-operation in ... promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all...
- 4....

Article 2

The Organisation and its Members, in pursuit of the Purposes stated in Article 1, shall act in accordance with the following Principles.

- 1....
- 2....
- 3....
4. All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state...
- 5....
- 6....
7. Nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state...



Past International Actions

The following past actions are listed in reverse-chronological order, and include relevant actions including official letters, United Nations resolutions, press statements, and other official actions.

Republic of China (Taiwan)

Letter dated 27 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In this letter, the Chinese Government stated its position that there is only one China in the world, Taiwan is an inalienable part of China, and the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole legal government of all of China. It argues that Taiwan, as a province of China, is "completely not qualified to join the United Nations".¹⁷

The 1992 Consensus

The 1992 Consensus is the alleged outcome of a conference between semi-official representatives of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC) in 1992. It is recognised for laying the diplomatic groundwork for semi-official cross-strait interactions, which began in the early 1990s and are now a PRC requirement for participation in cross-strait discussion. In the ROC, there remains debate over whether the discussions genuinely resulted in a consensus. The Kuomintang (KMT), a prominent political party in the ROC in charge at the time, sees the consensus as "one China, different interpretations," implying that the ROC and PRC agree on the existence of one China but disagree on what "China" means. According to the PRC, there is only one China (including Taiwan), and the PRC is its single legitimate representative. The DPP, the then-opposition party, challenged this inconsistency. Critics have also pointed out that the word was coined only in April 2000, eight years after the 1992 meetings. In a 2019 address, Taiwan's current president, Tsai Ing-wen, also denied the 1992 Consensus, associating it with the "one country, two systems" principle.¹⁸

United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758

On July 15, 1971, 17 UN members, led by Albania, requested that the question concerning the "Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations" be placed on the provisional agenda of the UN General Assembly's twenty-sixth session. Thus, United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 was passed in reaction to a previous UN General Assembly resolution which mandated a two-thirds vote to modify China's UN representation. The resolution acknowledged the People's Republic of China (PRC) as "the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations" and expelled "the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek" from the UN.¹⁹



Hong Kong

Press Release By Independent UN Human Rights Experts

UN human rights experts expressed deep concern about the arrest of Hong Kong pro-democracy activists, and urged local authorities to refrain from the use of the National Security Law and reconsider its application. They believe that "terrorism and sedition charges are being improperly used to stifle the exercise of fundamental rights, which are protected under international law, including freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of peaceful assembly and the right to participate in public affairs". The experts highlighted the law's fundamental incompatibility with international law and with China's¹⁸human rights obligations. Furthermore, the experts urged the relevant governments to urgently repeal and independently review the National Security Law to ensure it is both human rights and international law compliant.²⁰

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is a multilateral treaty that requires states to respect individuals' civil and political rights, such as the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, electoral rights, and the right to due process and a fair trial. It was enacted by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) on December 16, 1966, and went into effect on March 23, 1976, after the 35th ratification or admission. The Covenant has 173 parties as of September 2019, with six more signatories awaiting ratification, the most notable of which is the People's Republic of China.²¹

Areas of Debate

Mandate and Purposes of the United Nations

The most important area of debate, on which all other areas of debate source their legitimacy from, is whether the United Nations (and the Security Council in particular) has the mandate and authority to discuss the issue of political and geographical tension between China and Taiwan and Hong Kong. All member states of the United Nations have to agree to abide by the United Nations Charter which lays out the UN's authority, but various member states within the Security Council will have different interpretations and priorities of the document itself. Delegates should intently discuss the ability of the United Nations in relation to this topic, as it will affect the potential solutions that can be proposed for both Taiwan and Hong Kong.

With regards to Hong Kong, Article 3[1] of the United Nations Charter calls for member states to encourage "respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms", while Article 2[7] states that "nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorise the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state". While Hong Kong's status as a Special Administrative Region of China is mostly unquestioned, the problem remains on how the Security Council intends to uphold both aforementioned segments of the Charter.

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With regards to the Republic of China (Taiwan), Article 1[2] calls for the United Nations to “develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples”, while Article 2[4] calls for member states to “refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state”. It is relatively clear that most people residing in the areas governed by the government in Taipei do not wish to be governed by the government in Beijing, and that thus unilateral absorption of Taiwan under the mainland government may violate self-determination. However, all member states do have the right to defend their own territorial integrity, of which the PRC government considers Taiwan to be part of its China.

Methods to Reduce Regional Tensions

As of the time of writing, relations between the People’s Republic of China on one side, and the Republic of China (Taiwan) with the United States on the other, have become increasingly tense. The issues include the status of Taiwan and the situation in Hong Kong. The onus thus falls on the United Nations Security Council, being charged with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, to debate and discuss potential actions that could help to reduce the possibility of a full-out armed engagement, whether it be through confidence-building measures between involved parties or support for diplomatic dialogue and a reduction of the presence of arms in the region.

Hong Kong’s Basic Law, the constitutional document of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, reads that “socialist system and policies shall not be practised in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years”. It is this fundamental element that establishes the principle of “one country, two systems”. A potential action is to review the principle, in light of the fact that there remain only 25 years before its expiry, and to explore how it can continue to work in the 21st century. However, one must think of whether the Security Council has the mandate to discuss this internal affair.

The development of a mechanism to resolve the issue plaguing the Taiwan Straits should ideally be a permanent, long-term solution that will prevent future escalation of tensions. Despite having all the trappings of a sovereign state, the Republic of China (Taiwan) is not officially recognised by the United Nations. The threat of invasion (or liberation) by the PRC, combined with the United States’ commitment to defending its allies, has the potential to result in a devastating conflict. Maintaining the status quo, despite not being ideal, must not be discounted either.



Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

It is not necessary for all Questions to be answered in a resolution. However, ideally at least 2 to 3 should be answered.

- How does the United Nations Security Council have the authority and mandate to intervene with regard to the situation in Hong Kong and Taiwan?
- How can the United Nations Security Council uphold and balance the various purposes of the United Nations as stated in the United Nations Charter?
- What can the United Nations Security Council do in order to uphold international peace and security, in relation to the tensions regarding Hong Kong and Taiwan?
- What sort of de-escalation mechanisms can the United Nations Security Council develop or support to help lower existing tensions regarding Hong Kong and Taiwan?
- What sort of long-term solutions can be established to address the political situation between the governments of the PRC and the ROC (Taiwan)?
- How can the United Nations Security Council potentially aid in upholding the Sino-British Joint Declaration and other relevant discussions regarding Hong Kong, while not overstepping its mandate and respecting state sovereignty?

Links For Further Research

Republic of China (Taiwan)

- [US-China: Could There Be War Over Taiwan? - CNA Insider \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Taiwan vs. China - The rocky road to democracy - DW Documentary \(YouTube\)](#)
- [Why the US Doesn't Support Taiwanese Independence - PolyMatter \(YouTube\)](#)

Hong Kong

- [New Hong Kong: Is The City Still Free? - CNA Insider \(YouTube\)](#)
- [China's Rebel City: The Hong Kong Protests - South China Morning Post \(YouTube\)](#)
- [How Hong Kong Changed Countries - Wendover Productions \(YouTube\)](#)



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Topic 2: Relocation And Assimilation Of Immigrants Into Europe

History of Topic

Population movement has been common throughout all of European history. These movements were generally coupled with war-like invasion, such as (but not limited to):

1. During the invasion of the Western Roman Empire during the 1st Millennium, associated with the movement of Germanic and Hunnic tribes, followed by Slavic tribes.
2. During the Hungarian conquest into the Carpathian Basin
3. The Islamic conquest into Eastern Europe, where the establishment of one of the largest pre-modern empires (Umayyad Empire) drove further migratory movements
4. The Turkic expansion into Eastern Europe
5. Slavic migrations
6. Mongol invasions, where the invasion of the Volga Bulgarians, Hungary and the Kievan Rus caused a westward migration from the Eastern European region

Migratory movements only increased during the World Wars, where ethnic cleansing and genocidal threats caused forced displacement amongst individuals or groups of individuals, such as the Polish population during the Polish invasion by the Germans where millions of Poles were expelled, excluding the slave labourers deported from Poland, and the deportation by the Soviet Union. After WWII, many Germans were expelled from various Central and Eastern European countries due to distrust on the German minorities as potential fifth columns, punishment for the crimes committed by the Nazis, and other potential reasons.

Fast forward to 1985, when the Schengen Agreement was signed, the Schengen area was established, where free travel within the area is permitted for all EU member states and non-members that participated in the agreement. As a result, immigration towards the western European states was observed to have increased and came from former eastern bloc states.

Current Situation

2015 European Migrant Crisis

In 2010, the European continent had already observed an increase in the number of refugees/migrants. Many factors engendered the surge in numbers of refugees entering Europe, which include, but not limited to:

1. Wars in the Middle East (Syria and Iraq)¹
 - a. In response to the Arab Spring protests which grew and escalated into a civil uprising, organised armed insurrection in Syria was observed, with its beginning marked by the formation of the Free Syrian Army (FSA). With the failure of the UN-mediated ceasefire attempt, the insurgency rapidly escalated into a fully-fledged civil war. The situation quickly deteriorated into incoherent violence against civilians and other people, with thousands dead and many more detained.
 - i. See Battle of Damascus and Battle of Aleppo



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- b. Coupled with the rise of Islamist groups around the region, many felt unsafe residing in their home country and started relocating to other regions that are potentially safer.
 - c. By March of 2013, millions of Syrian nationals were internally displaced and fled to nearby countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, etc.
 - d. Conflicts between Iraq and allies between the Islamic State (ISIS and ISIL), coupled with potential crimes against humanity and human rights violation by the Islamic State, thousands of civilians were also displaced.
2. War in Afghanistan
- a. Beginning during the 1973 Afghan coup and Soviet intervention, the people in Afghanistan faced unending civil unrest, fluctuating levels of civil war, food insecurity and chronic poverty, constantly generating a constant amount of refugees entering the European continent.
 - b. The relatively recent increase in refugee numbers were primarily attributed to the Taliban presence and insurgency.
 - c. Prior to the peak of the migrant crisis, many had fled Afghanistan to safer places and to avoid potential Taliban totalitarianism.

While the amount of people entering the EU gradually increased in the first half of the year, with over 200 thousand individuals entering, the climax of the crisis occurred in the second half of the year. In the following three months after Germany and Austria jointly announced that they allow for the application for asylum by the migrants, more than half a million migrants entered Germany for the application of asylum. This overwhelmed many major refugee accommodation centres in Germany and began enacting measures of border controls, while allowing applications of asylum to be filed directly at the Austrian border. This had a domino effect on other European countries, as Austria, Slovakia and other countries started imposing border control measures as well. This caused a dismayed reaction by many EU officials, who stated that this chaotic set of actions imposed contravened with the Schengen agreement and undermined the mutual trust and freedom of movement associated with EU treaties.

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Withdrawal of Troops and the Takeover by the Taliban

In February 2020, the United States, under the Trump administration, and the Taliban signed the *Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan* (hereby **Doha Agreement**) without the presence and participation of the Afghan government, with provisions including: the reduction and withdrawal of NATO forces, prisoner exchange, a pledge to prevent al-Qaeda from operating Taliban-controlled areas, the ending of economic sanctions on the Taliban, etc.

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Nevertheless, despite the peace agreement, insurgent attacks only surged in the aftermath. At the height of the insurgency, Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, was seized by force on 15 August as the Afghan government dissolved, at a speed that surprised the Biden administration. Large-scale evacuation operations took place, with over 122,000 people airlifted abroad.

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The abrupt takeover by the Taliban has brought upon concerns internationally that a major refugee crisis arising from Afghanistan may be imminent, which would drastically increase the numbers of displaced Afghans within and beyond the borders. This year alone, the world has observed the internal displacement of more than 500 thousand people.



While the immediate neighbours of Afghanistan would be the most affected, these refugees could seek refuge in Europe as well, with European countries already on high alert. Nonetheless, the prospect of the crisis spreading to Europe in the near term is relatively slim, due to high cost and the stringent border measures in Europe. The likelihood of this crisis depends on the governmental formation and structure of the Taliban, its rules and its economic situation. The inability and incompetence in any aspect to form an inclusive and nationally acceptable government may cause turbulence, and, coupled with climate change and COVID-19 that exacerbated the humanitarian situation, could trigger a substantial increase in fleeing refugees.

Unlike the 2015 European migrant crisis, currently the world is still battling the COVID-19 pandemic. With the EU's own difficulties in curbing the spread of COVID-19 within its border, the compounded catastrophe of the migration crisis alongside this pandemic carry significantly greater consequences for the stability of EU's various institutions.



Major Blocs and Countries Involved

European Union (EU)⁶

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union made up of 27 countries mostly in Europe. The union has a population of approximately 447 million people. A common system of laws that apply in all member states in those areas where the states have agreed to act as one has been constructed to create an internal single market. EU policies strive to ensure free movement of people, goods, services, and money inside the internal market, pass justice and home affairs laws, and maintain common policies in specific areas.⁷ For travel within the Schengen Area, passport controls have been eliminated. A monetary union, consisting of 19 member states that utilise the euro currency, was founded in 1999 and went into effect in 2002. The EU has been described as a one-of-a-kind political institution (without predecessor or comparison) with federation or confederation features.

More than a million migrants and refugees have crossed into Europe since 2015 – the largest movement of people the continent has seen since the end of the Second World War. This has provoked bitter divisions over the EU's open borders and how to resettle newcomers. In general however, the EU intends to adopt a single asylum and temporary protection policy in order to provide suitable status to all non-EU individuals who require international protection and to ensure that the principle of non-refoulement is upheld. This policy must be in accordance with the Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees of 1951, and its Protocol of 1967. The phrases "asylum" and "refugee" are not defined in the TFEU or the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights, but both clearly allude to the Geneva Convention and its Protocol.⁸

Belarus

Belarus is an Eastern European landlocked country. It is bordered on the east and northeast by Russia, on the south by Ukraine, on the west by Poland, and on the northwest by Lithuania and Latvia. Belarus is Europe's twenty-third most populous country, with a population of 9.3 million people. The Byelorussian SSR was formed during the Russian Civil War and was a Soviet Union constituent republic. Belarus declared independence on August 25, 1991, during the breakup of the Soviet Union. Alexander Lukashenko, Belarus's first president, was elected in the country's first and only free election after independence, and has been in office ever since. Due to widespread human rights violations, Lukashenko's regime has been deemed as autocratic.⁹

President Lukashenko vowed to "flood" the European Union with human traffickers, drug smugglers, and armed migrants around July 7, 2021.¹⁰ Later, Belarusian authorities and state-controlled tourist firms, along with some Middle Eastern airlines, began marketing vacations to Belarus by increasing the number of connections from the Middle East and providing Belarusian visas to those who purchased them, reportedly for hunting purposes. Those that arrived in Belarus were then given instructions on how and where to cross the European Union (EU) border, as well as what to say to border guards on the opposite side. Migrants claim Belarus gave them wire cutters and axes so they could get through border walls and enter the EU.



Relevance to the UN

The United Nations Security Council

Estonia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Eva-Maria Liimets, indicated on August 6, 2021 that the country was ready to discuss the Belarus matter in the UN Security Council. While the country has not yet decided when they will do so, the initial suggested date was September or October 2021, despite the fact that it has been nearly three months since then. France and Ireland also agreed to raise this matter to the Council. Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis has also suggested that the UN construct a "humanitarian corridor" in Belarus to help trapped migrants return to their home countries. They also believe that the UN is the only foreign organisation capable of exerting "internal pressure" on Belarus. Following that meeting of the United Nations Security Council, Estonia, France, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Albania issued a joint statement condemning Belarus' actions in the migration crisis on the Polish border and calling for a "strong international response."¹¹

An excerpt from the statement reads as follows:

"We [...] condemn Belarus' orchestrated instrumentalization of human beings whose lives and wellbeing have been put in jeopardy for political purposes, with the goal of destabilising neighbouring countries and the European Union's external border, and diverting attention away from its own increasing human rights violations."

UNHCR and IOM Site Visit¹²

Representatives from the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organisation for Migration paid a visit to a makeshift camp set up by migrants from Iraq and other countries near the Belarus-Poland border on November 11, 2021. They were there to provide migrants and refugees with humanitarian aid as well as information on alternative solutions to the crisis. The first alternative is for migrants to petition for refugee status in the Republic of Belarus, and the second is for them to return to their home country willingly. However, the IOM's and UN partners' top priorities right now are to continue providing humanitarian aid.

Press Release by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights^{13,14}

The UN Human Rights Office has called on governments to resolve the awful condition of migrants and refugees at the Belarus-Poland border as soon as possible, in accordance with their obligations under international human rights and refugee law. Migrants were allegedly beaten or threatened by Belarussian security officers, as well as being forced to cross the border, given instructions on when and where to cross, and barred from leaving the border region to return to Minsk, according to the news release. Several interviewees claimed that Belarusian security agents extorted exorbitant food and water prices. Belarus was also urged to conduct thorough investigations and put an end to such activities immediately, according to the office.



Past International Actions

Regional

European Union

In September 2015, in response to the European migrant crisis, the European Union Justice and Home Affairs Council adopted several decisions on the attempt to address the migrant crisis, such as, but not limited to:

1. Relocating 120,000 asylum seekers from the frontier states such as Italy, Greece and Hungary to other EU countries (passed by qualified majority)
2. The establishment of a permanent crisis relocation mechanism under the Dublin regulation.¹⁵

However, the Visegrad Group (or V4, consisting of 4 countries - Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia) remained opposed to the obligatory quotes for migrant relocation, arguing that it should be at the discretion of the respective national government with regards to such matters. These countries want the EU to protect its external borders and prevent migratory pressures, rather than the distribution of asylum seekers. The European Court of Justice dismissed legal actions brought against the redistribution system and upheld the mandatory quota. Even with the judgement and the European Commission's threats to sanction members that are unable to fulfil the requirement, these countries remained defiant. Nevertheless, the idea was scrapped in 2020.¹⁶

The European Commission, in 2016, began reforming the Common European Asylum System (CEAS), which attempts to create a simple, yet just policy for asylum seekers that can handle normal times and times of heightened pressure.¹⁷

International

UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants 2016 and the New York Declaration

In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly held a high-level summit with the objective to address large movements of refugees and the formulation of a more coordinated and humane approach towards immigration and asylum policies.¹⁸

The Summit culminated in the agreement of an outcome document called the New York Declaration, with the following commitments (but not limited to):

1. The implementation of a more comprehensive refugee response, based on a new framework that sets out the responsibility of the States whenever there is a appreciable scale of refugee movement
2. The improvement of the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance to affected countries, including through innovative multilateral financial solutions
3. Supporting the countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants.
4. The strengthening of global governance of migration through collaboration with the International Organisation for Migration (IoM) and bringing it into the UN system.



Besides that, the declaration also includes concrete plans for how to build on these commitments:

1. The negotiations leading to the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration in 2018.
2. The development of guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations.
3. The achievement of a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting the world's refugees.¹⁹

Global Compact on Refugees 2018

On the 17th of December, 2018, the UNGA affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees, a framework for a more equitable and predictable burden-sharing system, as it recognises that a sustainable solution to refugee situations requires international cooperation. While the global compact is not legally-binding, it serves as the guiding ambition and solidarity beacon for the international community in addressing these issues.

The key objectives expressly codified in the compact include:

1. Enhance refugee self-reliance
2. Expand access to third country solutions
3. Ease pressures on host countries
4. Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

For more information, please refer to the Global Compact on Refugees.²⁰



Areas of Debate

Integration v. Assimilation

The term “assimilation” and “integration”, though commonly used in the day-to-day language, do not have consistent definitions agreed upon by all member states. The approximate definition of the terms are:

1. Assimilation: An individual decision (either voluntarily or forced) to adapt into the generally accepted ways and views of the majority community, with the expectation of giving up one's distinctive collective identities and cultural practices
2. Integration: The process in which a minority community adopt the basic values and principles of the majority community (such as values of equality, etc.), while maintaining their distinctive identities and practices

Without the consensus on the definition, this makes the formulation of national and regional integration policies difficult.

Another aspect of debate is the balance between the non-interference on cultural views and practice of the minority community and upholding important liberal democratic norms that may contravene their beliefs and practices. Liberal democracies are often reluctant to be assertive in requiring the minorities to embrace the values of the majority culture. Pushed to the extreme, the absolute non-interference and toleration usually leads to “the politics of indifference”, which can lead to the formation of parallel societies that can sometimes embrace illiberal practices, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriages. These types of societies which lack cohesion are called pluralist multicultural societies, or pluriculturalism.

On the other hand, the total expectation for the minority community to adopt the views and practices of the majority communities will ultimately lead to the erasure and extinction of those cultures. In some cases, the complete adoption of the practice may not even prevent the discrimination and persecution by the dominant community²¹.

Delegates should discuss the definition of integration and assimilation, as well as the ideal method in determining the optimal balance between the upholding of important societal norms, such as equality, and the preservation of valued culture.

Regional Transnational Security

Many governmental officials in Europe, especially opponents of immigration, widely publicised and used the crimes committed by immigrants in the time during the refugee crisis, as the impetus of more restrictive anti-immigration laws. While it is true that there are some correlation between immigration and crimes worldwide, and certainly the European continent, there are two issues at play here:



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1. Much of the empirical research on the correlation does not address the issue of causality, i.e. who caused it. This is important because correlation does not always equate to causation, and if left unaddressed and covered by the media, this can paint a bad image on the issue of immigration and immigrants who may not have engaged in those nefarious activities.
 2. It can be said that the correlation between immigration and crimes is as much crimes against immigrants as crimes committed by immigrants.

Among the immigrants were bad actors who actually committed nefarious acts of criminality. This can be attributed to individuals from extremist groups, such as the Islamic State, travelling along the migratory flow into Europe. The November 2015 Paris attacks, where six distinct attacks were launched in Stade de France, multiple restaurants, and the Bataclan theatre sparked a public debate on asylum policy and the grave and urgent need for counterterrorism measures. Sexual assaults, violence, child radicalisation and trafficking of fake documents for ISIL has been observed even well beyond the migration crisis.

Delegates should discuss how immigration policies can be crafted that can both address the transnational security aspect without necessarily undermining the humanity of those policies.

Burden Sharing and the Redistribution of Migrants

Whether the opposition from the V4 countries in their refusal to participate in the migrant redistribution and mandatory quotas is wrong is out of the scope of this section, however their opposition raises key issues that may have to be addressed.

The Eastern Europeans were under Soviet control, with their sovereignty and freedoms repressed, unlike Western Europe. These countries have been through intensive reforms politically and economically, which results in an overall beneficial yet locally unequal outcome. Hence, not only do they tend to be more nationalist and concerned about maintaining sovereignty, they are also vulnerable to public pressures and populism. Coupled with the fact that they had not had colonies outside Europe, they do not have the same urgency as the Western Europeans.

The means and metrics in which the burden is shared between member states is also a point of contention. Whether based on population, GDP or other metrics, it has to be proportionate to the nation's ability to house the migrants. If the member state, due to certain circumstances, is unable to adequately house the migrants, this would not only jeopardise the safety and human rights of these migrants, but it would also negatively impact the public perception of the ruling government.

Delegates should discuss whether the redistribution of migrants is a feasible and effective solution, and if so, whether it is a long-term solution.

The use of migration as a weapon



The 2015 European migrant crisis and the 2021 Belarus-EU Border crisis demonstrated that the weaponisation of migration can really have a substantially negative impact on the region itself. After the suspension of Turkey's EU accession talks in 2016 due to Turkey's allegedly antidemocratic response to the coup attempt, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had threatened to flood the European continent with migrants, and over the years President Erdoğan had used this as a means to extort the EU.

Many argue that this is ethically unsound as the migrants are being used as pawns for the bigger scheme or intention to overwhelm a particular country or region, and causing political and economical unrest.

Migration as a weapon becomes part of the military arsenal of many states and non-state actors to increase their influence and to achieve their objectives. There are many categories amongst the migration as a weapon:²²

1. Infiltration

- a. Operations among unsuspected, unaware and innocent refugees

2. Coercive

- a. Threatening the use of migration and the flooding of refugees as a means to induce changes in behaviour or to gain concession

b. Example:

- i. Since many asylum seekers and refugees use the Turkish route as a pathway between Syria and EU, and essentially Turkey acts as a faucet controlling the migrant flow into the EU, the Turkish President can extort the EU into changes in behaviour in terms of economic aid and other aspects.

3. Dispossessive

- a. A means to appropriate resources, or even territory, from a target group posing an ethnic, political, or economic threat

4. Exportive

- a. A means to solidify power or to destabilise the adversary politically

5. Fifth Column

- a. The dispatchment of migrants to a target territory with the intent to undermine a target government as a long term strategy

6. Economic

- a. A state or non-state actor creates the relocation and movement of migrants via legislation or the manipulation of bordering state politics for an economic purpose

Delegates have to discuss the ethical implications of these practices, and the potential methods of reducing, or even preventing the occurrence of these practices, in accordance with the mandate and powers of the United Nations Security Council..

Immigration and Mass Media

The mass media plays a salient role in the narrative of immigration in general, by way of setting agendas and framing national debates. Hence, it is important for delegates to analyse the



method the media portrays the national issues, since they provide the information needed for the citizens to make sense of the world around them, thereby influencing the public reaction and criticism towards immigration policies that may not be popular or favourable to the citizens.

According to the UNHCR Report, there are wide variations in which the press from different countries address issues on asylum and immigration. For example, Sweden, whose press system was the most positive towards issues of migration and refugees, featured few examples where refugees were framed as a threat, many humanitarian themes, and strong advocacy of a more humane and liberal asylum and immigration policy in the European Union. Compare and contrast, the United Kingdom, specifically, the right wing press expressed aggressive hostility towards refugees. Regarding the EU's response to the migration crisis, many had seen it as inadequate, and yet the EU is still defined as the key institution responsible for solving the crisis.

The media coverage on asylum and immigration issues can affect the politicisation of those issues. The more the issue gets politicised, the more it pulls in political actors from both incumbent and challenging parties, while consensus normally produces coverage more focused on the governing part(ies). In the EU, the controversial nature of immigration issues has directly and indirectly caused the reduction in policies that are explicitly pro-refugee.²³



Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

It is not necessary for all Questions to be answered in a resolution. However, ideally at least 2 to 3 should be answered.

1. How should the difference between integration and assimilation be defined legally so as to balance liberal and conservative concerns during legislation of immigration policies?
2. How should the integration and immigration policies be formulated that can address concerns about national and regional transnational security?
3. What are the potential migratory pressures that may arise in the future which require further scrutiny?
4. Is burden sharing/the redistribution of migrants an effective regional solution to surges in international migration?
5. What is the stance of the UNSC in the use of migration as a weapon or means of warfare?
6. What is the role of mass media in shaping the governmental and regional formulation of policies?
7. How can the United Nations Security Council assist the European Union and its allies in future migratory pressures, under the mandate of the UNSC?



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