

Dear delegates,

My name is Annalise Politis and I am delighted to be serving as the director of the United Nations Security Council during the first iteration of ZMUN 2022. Along with my Chair Kevin Yin, we are anticipating thrilling debate, collaborative responses, and of course to make long lasting memories.

Since my first conference in 2019, I fell in love with Model United Nations and spent countless hours honing my debating and public speaking skills. Additionally, Model UN has provided me with friendships that will last a lifetime. From the anxiety of finishing a position paper late at night to passing a resolution paper, MUN never ceases to amaze me. Continuously I have felt a burning passion towards MUN and I am captivated to share my ambitions with you all. Whether this is your first conference or last, I encourage all of you to step outside of your comfort zone.

The topic chosen for this iteration is the on-going Russian Ukraine crisis. In 2014 Russian separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk regions automated themselves from Ukrainian control and proclaimed independence. This occurrence led to an ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia seen in the present day. Vladimir Putin demands an agreement from the United States and NATO that they would never welcome Ukraine as a member state. Further claiming the nation to be a neutral state and a middleman. Russia has called the United Nations to cease all military activity in Eastern Europe, as it threatens their “national security.” Nevertheless Western leaders have rejected those demands and as a consequence a militia of 150,000 troops have been stationed along the shared border. Both acting parties have accused each other of breaching the Minsk agreement which was signed in 2014. Negotiations, policy reform and military development should be taken into consideration when forming solutions. Not only is this crisis a battle for territorial integrity but a clash of ideologies and sovereignty. Delegates it is necessary to take into account that Europe is on the brink of war. One wrong move can spiral peace into chaos. Nuclear weapons, illicit arms, propaganda and destruction only fuels war.

As your director and on behalf of the dias team, we wish you all the best and look forward to seeing you at ZMUN 2022! If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us at (insert email here)

Sincerely,
Annalise Politis
Director of UNSC
ZMUN 2022

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Introduction to MUN

What is Model UN? Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is a political simulation where students role play as delegates to simulate the United Nations¹. This is an extracurricular activity and generally done through MUN conferences which are organized by high schools across Canada. During conferences you are eligible for awards which include best position paper, best new delegate, honorable mention, outstanding delegate and lastly, best delegate, for which you receive a gavel. Through MUN you gain the skills of research, public speaking, debating, collaborating, and writing expertises. Students are to give detailed speeches on their nation's position and offer possible solutions. Additionally, students are recommended to write a position paper on your given topic describing its history, solutions, etc. Position papers are mandatory to be considered for an award.

Recommendations for country selection

When picking a country it is crucial to find one that is the most suitable for you. Consider the following:

- Does my country have the same political views as me?
- Is my country challenging and can I step outside my comfort zone?
- Is my country involved in the topic at hand or would I be rather less involved?
- Is there substantial information about the country's history and actions on the topic at hand?
- Can I feel comfortable to come up with viable solutions and provide overall quality to the debate with this country?
- Can I provide statistics and reliable information to my fellow delegates?

Research tips

Research is arguably the main reason why students are hesitant to join MUN. Primarily due to the lack of availability with information or the sophisticated usage of language can provide confusion to all delegates alike. However, the more research is conducted the more knowledgeable and prepared you will feel! Delegates, you may have heard the phrase "Wikipedia is unreliable." Yet this is far from the truth, Wikipedia is an excellent starting point but should not be used as your only source of information. A great way to obtain more information is by reading the "further reading" section in the background. The background has research already done for you. Although it does not cover your country entirely. Therefore researching areas in culture, economics, politics history and governmental organizations related to the topic can be beneficial during the conference.

Committee Overview

The UNSC or United Nations Security Council, is the most powerful/influential sub-organization within the UN. It's one of the six original councils that were established in 1945. The primary focus of the UNSC is matters of international security. The Security Council has a total of fifteen members at any given time with five permanent members being: China, Russia, The United Kingdom, The United States, and France. The other ten members are voted in, with each one having a two year term.

Topic Overview

As of now Russia has built up tens of thousands of troops along the Ukrainian border as an act of aggression. This potential invasion could become the largest military conflict on European soil in decades. Russia appears to be preparing for war by moving military equipment and medical supplies to the front lines. Currently Russia has implemented an estimated 150,000 troops near Ukraine. There have been diplomatic talks however with Russia and NATO but failed to agree on any resolutions.

Historical Analysis

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, former Soviet states have undergone periods of tensions and hostility. Relations between the two countries have been hostile ever since the Revolution of Dignity and Ukrainians desire to collaborate with the EU and NATO. Russia feared that NATO and the European Union would create a western wall of allied countries by restricting Russia's access to the Black Sea. Furthermore in 2014 Russia reclaimed Crimea and little was done to hold Russia accountable, it could be compared to the Appeasement Crisis in the beginning of World War 2. By early 2022 the Russian and Ukrainian war had killed more than 13,000 people. Western countries are currently in the process of sanctioning Russia. Russia does not seem to be backing down from its plans to invade Ukraine, the diplomatic talks with US and Russia have been useless. Both sides are frustrated as Russia is having no say in the talks, worsening the situation even more.

Timeline

1917- After the Russian Revolution, the Soviet Russians, under the command of Vladimir Lenin, invade Ukraine.

1922- The Union of Soviet Socialist Republic also known as the U.S.S.R. is established with Ukraine as one of its founding members.

1941- Operation Barbarossa, the German invasion of the Soviet Union was launched with Ukraine being one of the most impacted states with the Battle of Kiev.

1945- End of World War Two with the Soviets in control of large portions of Eastern Europe including East Germany.

1946- Winston Churchill gives the Sinews of Peace speech proclaiming that “An iron curtain has descended across the continent”.

1949- Formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in response to Soviet annexation of Eastern countries.

1955- The Warsaw Pact is signed marking the official formation of the Eastern Bloc.

1953- Joseph Stalin dies, Nikita Khrushchev succeeds him allowing more personal freedom.

1990- Mikhail Gorbachev enters office allowing the greatest amount of expressional freedom since Tsar Alexander II.

1991- The communist government of the Soviet Union collapses, Ukraine gains its independence with Leonid Kravchuk as the first democratically elected president.

1994- Ukraine joins NATO’s partnership for peace program along with Russia later on in the same year.

2008- Vladimir Putin openly opposes NATO’s expansion further eastward, also stating that they do not believe Ukraine to be a real independent nation.

2014- Russia annexes Crimea, an area in southern Ukraine. Ukrainian-European Union relations also improve significantly with the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement.

2016- Ukraine joins the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area(DCFTA) forming close relations with the European Union.

April 2021- Russian forces start amassing on the Russian-Ukrainian border along with Crimea.

December 2021- Russia drafts a treaty for the EU and NATO to maintain state security, most notably that Ukraine will never be allowed to join NATO and a stop in its expansion.

February 2022- Russian forces invade Ukraine.

Current situation

Invasion of Ukraine

With the invasion of Ukraine, the Russians have followed through with their threats. The Russians have used their superior cyber warfare techniques to shut down major Ukrainian government websites. They have advanced their troops from the border and from Crimea. They've made astounding progress with Chernobyl being taken on the first day. The Russians have also taken control of the Black Sea and are already in sight of being able to take Kyiv. The invading forces have also been avoiding civilian casualties by mainly striking military targets.

Ukrainian Response

In response there has been a massive influx of Ukrainians hiding out in underground bunkers, subway tunnels, and basements. The ways out of cities that are in immediate threat have also been filled with people trying to escape. The government has issued weapons to anyone who wants one and a curfew has been released in Kyiv. The Ukrainian government has also announced that they were switching to emergency martial law, where the military is in control of the country. The Ukrainian minister of foreign affairs also begged other countries to impose sanctions on Russia, similar to the ones that they have posed themselves.

Possible outcomes

- 1) ***The beginning of World War 3*** : The United Nations declare an all out war against Russia and their allies. This includes stationing troops outside its borders and inflicting heavy sanctions. This includes the usage of ballistic missiles, cyber attacks and possibly nuclear weapons.
- 2) ***Peace for all***: Russia ends their pursuit for Ukraine, however the western powers are not pleased with Russia's actions. If this path is taken , Russia will receive severe punishments for them and their allies. For example charging Russia with breaching international laws and being charged with war crimes. Holding Russia accountable should be top priority if this route is taken.

Bloc Positions

Russian Bloc

President Putin recently revealed his reasons for his attack on Ukraine and NATO's eastward expansion stating "nowhere further to retreat TO do they think we'll just sit idly by?" In 2021 Putin wrote a lengthy piece describing Russians and Ukrainians as "one nation," as well as describing the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Putin does not wish for NATO to expand east as in Putin's eyes it breaches the promise made that there would be no expansion, yet NATO proceeded anyways. Russia's currently in alliance with The Republic of China, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijani. This bloc aims to prevent NATO's expansion into the east and secure total control of Ukraine.

Ukrainian Bloc

Putin has built up more than 100,000 along the border of Ukraine and the US is ready to deploy troops in support. Likewise encouraging the United Kingdom and other NATO allies to do the same to protect Ukraine. Ukraine has been in a partnership with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 1992 with establishing the Ukraine-NATO commission in 1997. This provided a forum for security concerns and created a relationship without any formal membership agreement. A membership with NATO would significantly increase Ukraine's international military backing which allows military action within Ukrainian borders. This would have acted as a firm deterrent to Russia's aggression. Poland, Canada, The United Kingdom and the majority stand behind Ukraine. This bloc aims to diminish the Russian invasion and uphold the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Guiding Questions

1. What allies do Ukraine and Russia have backing them? How will they interfere with the conflict if at all?
2. What is your nation's current military power? What kinds of artillery do they possess? Do they have the capabilities to wage war outside of their nation's borders?
3. What are some other actions that can be done to reduce Russian morale and will to fight a longer conflict? (i.e. heavy international sanctions)
4. How do the military forces compare to each other? Do they require foreign aid to fight in a meaningful conflict against each other?
5. Where does your country stand in this conflict? What are some of the reasons for that decision?
6. What financial impacts are there for your country's decision on where it stands? Are major trading partners involved with the opposing party?
7. Will this conflict only impact the European countries? How likely is your delegation to be affected by this crisis?

8. What is the best way out of this conflict for your nation? What about for the other side? Is there a way to accomplish a meaningful compromise?
9. Where do your civilians stand with this conflict? What are their proposed actions to do with this invasion? Do you have the necessary tools to keep them safe? Is there a need to ask for international assistance in keeping your people safe?

Further reading

- 1) <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>
- 2) <https://www.ctvnews.ca/world/which-countries-have-not-taken-a-side-in-the-russia-ukraine-conflict-1.5796161>
- 3) <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-russia-ukraine-war-live-updates-ukrainian-military-reports-heavy/>
- 4) <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/25/opinion/putin-russia-ukraine.html>

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