

M A S M U N

Urgency for Justice



SPECPOL

Guide

Index

Committee Description	2
Topic 1: The Colonization of South Africa	
Description	3
Failed Solutions	3
Proposed Solutions	4
Questions to Answer	4
Useful Resources	5
Risk of the Militarization of the South China Sea	
Description	6
Failed Solutions	6
Proposed Solutions	8
Questions to Answer	9
Useful Resources	9

Committee Description

SPECPOL, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, is established to address prominent political issues and decolonization-related topics within the second half of the twentieth century. SPECPOL primarily deals with a wide set of political issues that have taken place all over the globe; however, the fundamental key in this committee lies in the wide range of concerns delegates must comprehend beforehand, including: the effects of decolonization and global politics on the people, the impacts of fluctuating economies, environments, and societies. Indeed, delegates will debate about the effects of those issues and what policies must be put in place to stop them from escalating or creating more implications.

Topic Description

The Colonization of South Africa

South Africa was formally colonized in 1652. Apart from the European colonization being executed from the south of the continent; South Africa experienced a movement and intrusion of individual groups from the north. The imposition of European colonial control on the South African communities resulted in a rapid series of changes. Indeed, the pace with which change happened distinguished the colonial era from preceding times in South Africa. Of course, not all cultures were revolutionized in the same way. For long periods of time, some people resisted the pressures of colonial encroachment, slavery, and forced labor. Others, like the Khoikhoi villages of the south-western Cape, vanished in a matter of decades.

An Attempted Solution that has failed

1. In 2019, the South African government launched the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (NAP).
 - During 2020, South Africa continued to experience incidents of xenophobic violence and discrimination against non-nationals despite the government's launch of NAP. Law enforcement officials often responded with indifference or provided inadequate remedies to xenophobic attacks. Refugees and asylum seekers faced

barriers to protection. This included a newly enacted law restricting access to asylum and a huge government backlog in processing claims and appeals.

Proposed Solutions

- Condemn governments, non-state actors and laws that encourage xenophobia and discrimination
- Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures
- Ensure that all men and women have equal rights to economic resources as well as basic services
- Increase the level of in-state cooperation through legalized events, entertainment means and advertisements
- Create programs to protect all individuals in conflict zones, such as providing them with safety, security and means of communications.

Questions to Answer

- What laws can be implemented to solve the problem?
- What can the citizens do to protect each-other and their own rights?
- How can the laws be implemented in a way that doesn't put the citizens' safety in jeopardy?
- What is the government's role in solving the issue?
- Are there any efforts being put in place to solve the problem at hand?

- Why did previous solutions fail?
- What is the primary reason behind the paramount increase of the conflict?

Useful Resources

- http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_arttext&pid=S0259-94222017000300062#:~:text=South%20Africa%20was%20officially%20colonised,people%20groups%20from%20the%20north.
- <https://southafrica.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jan/04/a-crisis-of-faith-in-south-africa-people-have-given-up-on-the-state>
- <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/southern-africa/south-africa>
- <https://theconversation.com/south-africa-faces-a-slowly-worsening-chronic-fiscal-crisis-172247>

Topic Description

Risk of the Militarization of the South China Sea

In recent years, ownership of the South China Sea has emerged as a key issue in Asian foreign policy. China, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, and the Philippines all have territorial claims to South China Sea islands. According to international sea regulations established by the United Nations in 1981, the borders of sovereign states contain a "exclusive economic zone" (EEC) that extends 200 nautical miles from the shoreline. Despite this, China asserts sovereignty over the South China Sea all the way to Malaysia by specifically asserting historical ownership of the zone. On the other hand, Vietnam, the Philippines, and others are seeking to evade international law by creating minor settlements on islands in order to legitimate their claims to the sea and oppose China's aggressive military expansion.

An Attempted solution that has Failed

1. The Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGS)²¹² and the Code for Unplanned Encounters (CUES) provide clear steering and sailing rules as well as guidelines for lights, shapes, sounds and signals. All of the countries involved in the South China Sea tensions are parties to the COLREGs, which were adopted on 20 October 1972, and entered into force on 15 July 1977

- There exists numerous limitations to the (CORLEGS), including:
 - a) The COLREGs, for example, are binding on parties but the instrument itself does not contain any provisions relating to its enforcement.
 - b) It is a voluntary code. The CUES states in no uncertain terms that “it does not constitute an international agreement or treaty, and as such, is not legally binding under international law.” Thus, even though all naval ships are encouraged to observe the CUES, there is no real guarantee that the counterpart ship will likewise observe its provisions. China has in fact stated that “it won’t necessarily observe the new code of conduct for navies”
 - c) Unlike the COLREGs, CUES only applies to naval ships. South China Sea maritime incidents tend to be mixed encounters between naval ships, civilian law enforcements vessels, and fishing boats. Because CUES is not applicable to many of these encounters, its usefulness in the SCS is limited
 - d) It only applies to international waters. The CUES may have limited usefulness in the South China Sea since a significant number

of encounters occur in disputed waters. In particular, countries that claim all or part of the Spratlys have controversial interpretations of what constitutes “international waters”.

- e) It is underspecified. – Although the CUES provides naval authorities with guidelines and instructions in case of unplanned encounters, it fails to stipulate critical details (for example: ships are required to provide “warnings” of dangerous activities but are not told when these warnings should be issued²²⁴). It still leaves room for ambiguity and possible conflict.

Proposed solutions

- Present means for open and transparent negotiation to take place between the parties involved like China, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Malaysia.
- Establishing multilateral and sustainable cooperation mechanism that bring all parties pragmatic interests.
- Offer means to build up cooperation between the countries using economic sectors like trade, tourism, and economic dependency.
- ASEAN members should put forth plans to establish effective and stable cooperation of maritime rescue

operations when needed to de-escalate the tensions around the region.

Questions to answer

- What laws can be implemented to solve the problem to avoid escalating the South Sea Conflict into an extreme regional war?
- Do international media and news outlets have a role in the escalation of the South Sea Conflict?
- How can new laws be implemented in a way that proceeds to gain the acceptance of all parties?
- How is ASEAN aiming to solve the issue, and are the proposed solutions offering any benefits?
- What role does culture play in the escalation of the South Sea Conflict?
- Are there any efforts being put in place to solve the problem, if so what parties are leading them and is there prominent improvement in the conflict at hand?
- Why did previous solutions fail?
- What is the response of international powers like Russia, United States... regarding the South Sea Conflict?

Useful Resources

- <https://www.xeneta.com/blog/south-china-sea-dispute>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53397673>
- <https://projects.voanews.com/south-china-sea/>

M A S M U N

Urgency for Justice

- <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/territorial-disputes-south-china-sea>
- <https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202105/1223160.shtml>

