



GA-4
SPECIAL POLITICAL &
DECOLONIZATION
STUDY GUIDE

Letter from the Chairs

Hey there!

Here are your 'lovely' chairs Zera, Beng and Şüşü. We are very excited for this conference. We will try our best to conduct this committee as well as making it entertaining for all of u. Let's give a little info about ourselves .d

We usually hang out together, watch movies and do only a LITTLE bit gossip. Şükriye and Bengisu are seniors while Zehra has already graduated from MPAL .

Model United Nations is indeed one of the best decisions we have ever made, we are vastly honoured to take place in this conference. We wish for this event to be fruitful and to bring us brighter days and a better future. Conscious minds are without doubt what will improve our World. Hope you enjoy your committee, much love!!

Feel free to mail us for any of your questions ☺

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Forum: Special Political and Decolonization

Issue: Remnants of War

Chairs: Zehra Saltan, Bengisu Berre Özgül, Şükriye Nur Torun

Introduction: Each year large numbers of civilians are killed and injured by "explosive remnants of war". These are the unexploded weapons such as artillery shells, mortars, grenades, bombs and rockets, left behind after an armed conflict. In 2003, the international community adopted a treaty to help reduce the human suffering caused by explosive remnants of war and bring rapid assistance to affected communities. Still to these days people of various nations suffer from these remnants. Solutions must be found and responsibility should be taken immediately.

What are explosive remnants of war?

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) is the term used to describe the wide range of explosive ordnance – unexploded or abandoned – that remains in an area after an armed conflict has ended. It includes artillery shells, grenades, mortar shells, submunitions, rockets, missiles and other explosive devices.

Here are some words used frequently for this issue.

Explosive Remnants of War

Explosive remnants of war (ERW) are explosive munitions left behind after a conflict has ended. They include unexploded artillery shells, grenades, mortars, rockets, air-dropped bombs, and cluster munitions. Under the international legal definition, ERW consist of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO), but not mines.

Unexploded Ordnance

Weapons that fail to detonate as intended become unexploded ordnance (UXO). These unstable explosive devices are left behind during and after conflicts and pose dangers similar to landmines.

Abandoned Explosive Ordnance

Abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) is explosive ordnance that has not been used during armed conflict and has been left behind and is no longer under control of the party that left it behind. It may or may not have been primed, fuzed, armed, or otherwise prepared for use.

Socio-Economic Effects of ERW

Landmines don't distinguish between soldier and civilian, farmers at work or children at play. They recognize no ceasefire. For countries recovering from conflict, these devices impede socio-economic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

These devices:

- make agricultural land unusable,
- restrict access to water,
- keep schools from being built and students and teachers from attending classes,
- hinder the construction and maintenance of infrastructure.

More than 65 countries are contaminated with landmines and ERW.

Research published by Landmine Action¹⁰, ICRC and the GICHD¹¹ show that all explosive munitions can cause post-conflict humanitarian problems. In practice, the socio-economic effects of the presence of mines, unexploded munitions and abandoned ordnance all deny safe access to land and other important community resources, and can cause casualties among civilian populations. Mines and other forms of unexploded munition can each constitute serious threats to the safety of civilian populations. In theory, however, they function differently

Explosive remnants of war and mines affect communities in many ways. They pose serious risks to the health and safety of civilian populations in affected countries around the world. But they also pose significant economic risks to these same populations. By ERW 'impact' we refer to all the ways in which it affects people's lives, not just the more obvious risks posed to health and physical safety.

Explosive remnants of war are a global humanitarian concern. Our estimate, based on positive reports or other strong indications of problems caused by the presence of ERW, is that at least 82 countries and 10 territories in most regions of the world appear to be affected.



	Studies (n=54)
Effects	
Direct effects	37 (69%)
Psychological effects*	6 (11%)
Physical effects	38 (70%)
Injury and mortality rates	6 (11%)
Sex of victims	27 (50%)
Age of victims	17 (31%)
Activities at time of injury	10 (19%)
Case fatalities	21 (39%)
Amputations	17 (31%)
Pain	3 (6%)
Blindness	7 (13%)
Reverberating effects	16 (30%)
Effects on displaced populations and returning refugees	4 (7%)
Cost-benefits of mine clearance	7 (13%)
Socioeconomic effects	5 (9%)
Exposure	
AXO	4 (7%)
Landmines	31 (57%)
UXO	7 (13%)
Landmines and UXO	12 (22%)
Data are n (%). AXO=abandoned explosive ordnance. UXO=unexploded ordnance.	
*Post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression.	

Psychological Effects of ERW

The direct psychological effects of landmines or UXO appear high. We identified comorbidity of anxiety and depression in landmine or UXO victims in four studies, more women presented with post-traumatic stress disorder than did men in two studies, and landmine or UXO victims reported a greater prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, or depression than did control groups in two studies. Overall injury and mortality rates caused by landmines or UXO decreased over time across five studies and increased in one. More men were injured or killed by landmines or UXO than were women (0–30.6% of women), the mean ages of

casualties ranged from 18.5 years to 38.1 years, and victims were likely to be doing an activity of economic necessity at the time of injury. The proportion of casualties of landmines or UXO younger than 18 years ranged from 22% to 55% across twelve studies. Landmine or UXO victims who had one or more limbs amputated ranged from 19.5% to 82.6%. Landmines and UXO had a negative effect on internally displaced populations and returning refugees, physical security, economic productivity, child health and educational attainment, food security, and agriculture in studies from seven countries

Post-traumatic stress disorder was more prevalent in the group injured by landmines or UXO (10%) than in the non-injured group (4%) in one study in Laos.

Post-traumatic stress disorder prevalence in landmine or UXO victims was 73.0% in one study and 100% in another, both in Lebanon. More women presented with post-traumatic stress disorder than did men in studies in Laos and Sri

Lanka. Comorbidity of anxiety and depression was identified in four studies. Anxiety and depression prevalence was 71–82%. Anxiety or depression was more prevalent in the group with a disability caused by landmines or UXO (82%) than in the group with a disability not caused by landmines or UXO (79%) in one study in Laos.

What is the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War?

The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War is a new and important treaty of international humanitarian law. It was adopted by States party to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) on 28 November 2003 and is the fifth protocol to that convention. It entered into force on 12 November 2006, and as at 15 October 2007, 35 States were party to the instrument. The protocol provides a systematic framework to minimize the dangers posed to civilian populations by unexploded and abandoned ordnance. This is the first international agreement to require the parties to an armed conflict to clear ERW once the fighting is over. The protocol does not cover anti-personnel and anti-vehicle landmines, as these weapons are regulated by other international agreements.

Under the protocol, each party to an armed conflict has the following obligations:

A. During a conflict

To record information on the explosive ordnance employed or abandoned by its armed forces. The information retained should include the types and approximate number of explosive ordnance used, the location of targeted areas and the method of identifying and safely disposing of the ordnance.

B. After the end of active hostilities

To clear ERW in territory it controls. To provide technical, material or financial assistance to facilitate the removal of ERW resulting from its operations in areas it does not control. This assistance can be provided directly to the party in control of these areas or through third parties such as the United Nations or non-governmental or other organizations.

To take all feasible precautions in the territory it controls to protect civilians from ERW.

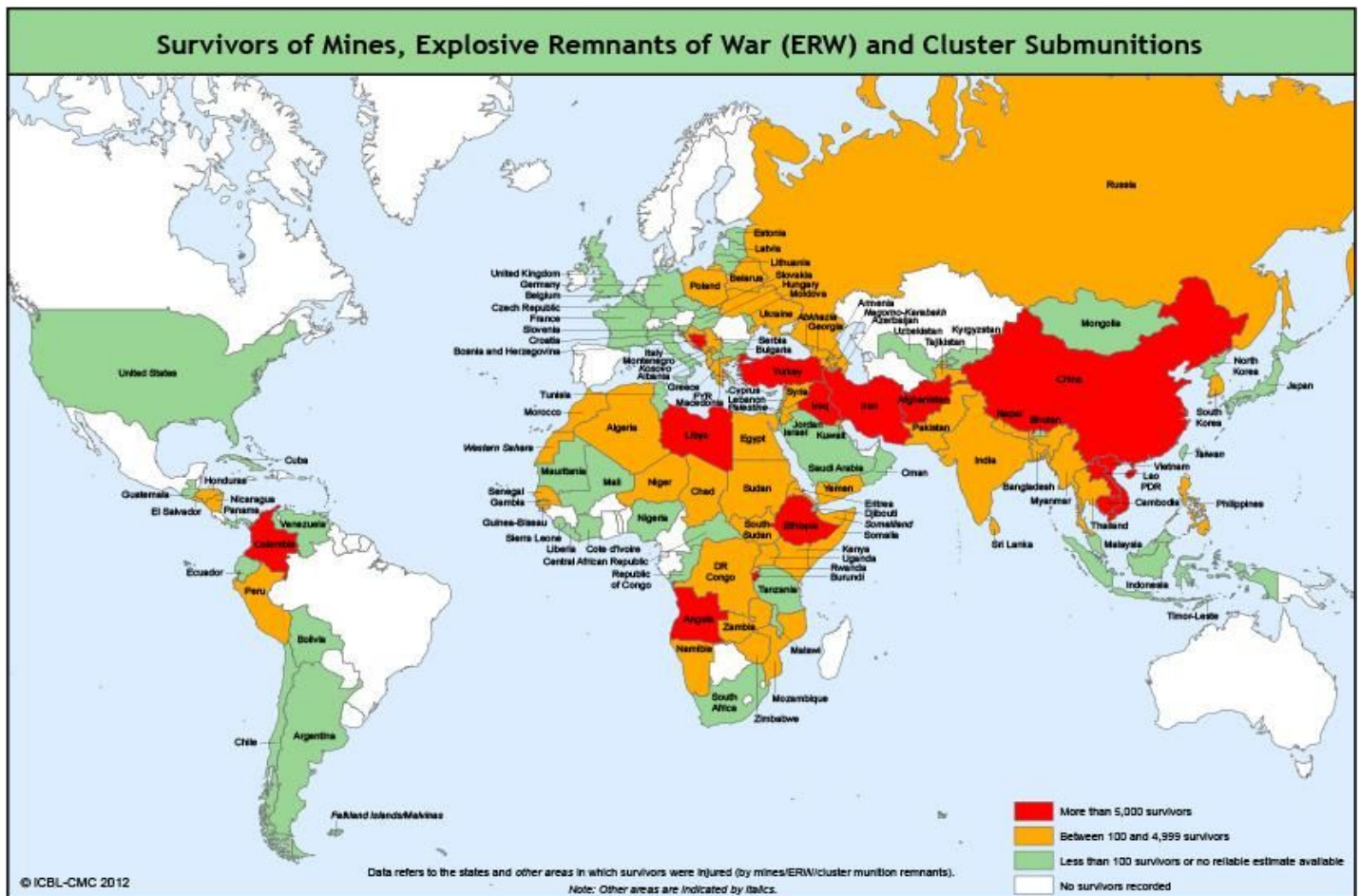
To share the information it has recorded on explosive ordnance used or abandoned by its armed forces with organizations engaged in clearance activities and carrying out programmes to alert civilians to the dangers of these devices.

To protect humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of ERW and, upon request, to provide information on the location of all ERW it is aware of in areas where the requesting organization is operating.

Although the rules of Protocol V apply only to conflicts that occur after its entry into force, States already affected by ERW when they become party are accorded “the right to seek and receive assistance” from other States Parties to address their ERW problem. In parallel, States Parties that are in a position to do so are obliged to help ERW-affected States reduce the threats posed by the weapons and to provide assistance for the marking and clearance of ERW, for risk education and for the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of ERW victims.

The Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War must be ratified by all countries and its provisions implemented as a matter of urgency in order to reduce the number of new victims each year. The spread of weapons capable of delivering huge amounts of explosive ordnance

across great distances means that the problem will become even more acute unless the measures set forth in the protocol are universally applied.



States and other areas with antipersonnel mine contamination as of October 2017

Afghanistan	India	Senegal
Angola	Iran	Serbia
Argentina*	Iraq	Somalia
Armenia	Israel	South Sudan
Azerbaijan	Jordan	Sri Lanka
Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH)	Korea, North	Sudan
Cambodia	Korea, South	Syria
Chad	Kyrgyzstan	Tajikistan
Chile	Lao PDR	Thailand
China	Lebanon	Turkey
Colombia	Libya	Ukraine
Croatia	Mauritania	United Kingdom (UK)*
Cuba	Morocco	Uzbekistan
Cyprus**	Myanmar	Vietnam
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	Niger	Yemen
Ecuador	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Egypt	Oman	<i>Kosovo</i>
Eritrea	Pakistan	<i>Nagorno-Karabakh</i>
Ethiopia	Palestine	<i>Somaliland</i>
Georgia	Peru	<i>Western Sahara</i>
	Russia	

Note: States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty are indicated in **bold**; other areas are indicated by *italics*.
 * Argentina and the UK both claim sovereignty over the Falkland Islands/Malvinas, which still contain mined areas.

** Cyprus states that no areas contaminated by antipersonnel mines remain under Cypriot control.

THE SOLUTIONS

Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War entered into force in 2006, three years after it was agreed at during the Meeting of States Parties of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva. It states that participants in an armed conflict bear responsibility of all explosive remnants of war in territory under their control. This means that such a participant to an armed conflict has to mark, remove and destroy ERW after the cessation of hostilities. It should also record and retain information on the use of ERW and make it available to the party in control of the affected areas. Civilian population should be at all times protected from the risks and effects of ERW.

Cluster Munitions

Based on numerous reports by actors on the ground such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Mennonite Central Committee and Human Rights Watch, starting in the late 90s, the attention to the deadly effects of Cluster Munitions was brought to public attention and a global movement to ban them started to build up.

Despite many more or less successful attempts to deal with Cluster Bombs within the Convention on Conventional Weapons and many national initiatives to set up moratoria and bans, the final push to deal with Cluster Bombs on an

international level was the attack on southern Lebanon by Israel. A year later, a process to ban these weapons outside the CCW started in Oslo and lead to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that entered into force in August 2008. Similar to the Ottawa Convention, it prohibits all use, stockpiling, production and transfer of this weapon and contains articles concerning victim assistance, clearance and stockpile destruction.

Again, civil society – building up on the model of the Ottawa Convention and the ICBL – played a predominant role. The Cluster Munition Coalition is the umbrella organization of all concerned NGOs dealing with Cluster Bombs or victim assistance and has since 2003 coordinated the movement.

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Forum: Special Political and Decolonization

Issue: Violence During The Independence Process

Chairs: Zehra Saltan, Bengisu Berre Özgül, Şükriye Nur Torun


















Introduction: Decolonization, Process by which colonies become independent of the colonizing country. Decolonization was gradual and peaceful for some British colonies largely settled by expatriates but violent for others, where native rebellions were energized by nationalism. After World War II, European countries generally lacked the wealth and political support necessary to suppress faraway revolts; they also faced opposition from the new superpowers, the U.S. and the Soviet Union, both of which had taken positions against colonialism. Korea was freed in 1945 by Japan's defeat in the war. The U.S. relinquished the Philippines in 1946. Britain left India in 1947, Palestine in 1948, and Egypt in 1956; it withdrew from Africa in the 1950s and '60s, from various island protectorates in the 1970s and '80s, and from Hong Kong in 1997. The French left Vietnam in 1954 and gave up its North African colonies by 1962. Portugal gave up its African colonies in the 1970s; Macau was returned to the Chinese in 1999. But these decolonizations were not always peaceful, much violence followed these process. In many countries independence is still a topic of debate

Today, fewer than 2 million people live under colonial rule in the 17 remaining non-self-governing territories. The wave of decolonization, which changed the face of the planet, was born with the UN and represents the world body's first great success.

17 non-self-governing territories

What is a non-self-governing Territorie?

Non-self governing territories are territories that are governed by another country and are rarely allowed representations in the governing country's legislature. According to the United Nations system, the term is used to refer territories whose people are yet to attain the full measure of self-government. Most of these territories are subject to the decolonization process. Chapter 6 of the UN Charter declares that the interests of the people within the non-self governing territories are paramount, with the state in charge of the territory required to submit an annual report on the development of the territory

TERRITORY	ADMINISTERING POWER	AREA (sq.km.) ¹	EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONES ¹	POPULATION ¹
AFRICA				
Western Sahara 	2	266,000	300,653	531,000
ATLANTIC AND CARIBBEAN				
Anguilla 	United Kingdom	96	92,178	15,500
Bermuda 	United Kingdom	57	450,370	62,000
British Virgin Islands 	United Kingdom	153	80,117	28,103
Cayman Islands 	United Kingdom	264	119,137	55,500
Falkland Islands (Malvinas) ³ 	United Kingdom	12,173	550,872	2,500
Montserrat 	United Kingdom	103	7,582	5,000
St. Helena 	United Kingdom	310	1,641,294	5,396
Turks and Caicos Islands 	United Kingdom	948	154,068	31,458
United States Virgin Islands 	United States	352	33,744	106,405
EUROPE				
Gibraltar 	United Kingdom	5.8	n/a	29,752
PACIFIC				
American Samoa 	United States	200	404,391	55,519
French Polynesia 	France	4,000	4,767,242	271,000
Guam 	United States	540	214,059	159,358
New Caledonia 	France	18,575	1,422,543	252,000
Pitcairn 	United Kingdom	35.5	800,000	50
Tokelau 	New Zealand	12.2	318,990	1,411

Non-Self-Governing Territories by Country

The United Kingdom

The UK is in-charge of nine non-self governing territories in Africa, Europe, South America, Oceania, and North America. In Africa, the UK is in charge of the Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha territory. It is situated in South Atlantic and consists of two islands, Saint Helena and Ascension Island, and the Tristan da Cunha archipelago. It covers an area of approximately 120 square miles and has a population of about 5,400 people. In Europe, the UK is in-charge of the territory of Gibraltar which is also claimed by Spain. The territory

is located on the southern Iberian Peninsula, sharing its border with Spain. Gibraltar covers an area of about 2.6 square miles and is home to over 20,000 people.

In South America, the Falkland Island is under the administration of the UK. The 4,700 square mile island is also claimed by Argentina. It comprises of the East and West Falklands and about 776 smaller islands.

The UK administers six non-self governing territories in North America including Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Island, Cayman Island, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Island. None of the territories are disputed by any country.

The country is also in-charge of the Pitcairn Island which is located in the Oceania.

The United States

The US administers three territories, two in Oceania and one in North America.

The unorganized non-self governing the territory of American Samoa is the smallest territory administered by the US. It covers an area of approximately 77 square miles and has a population of about 55,500 people. Guam, also in the Oceania, is administered by the US. It is an unincorporated organized territory with a population over 150,000 people.

The United States Virgin Island is also an unincorporated and organized territory of the US. The island has an area of approximately 136 square miles and a population of 106,000 people.

France

France is in charge of two non-self governing territories, both in the Oceania. The two territories are French Polynesia and New Caledonia. They are some of the largest and most populated non-self governing territories with a combined population of over 500,000 people.

New Zealand

New Zealand's territory of Tokelau is a non-self governing territory located in the Southern Pacific Ocean. It occupies an area of about 5 square miles and a population of about 1,600 people.

Becoming a Territory

A list of the non-self governing territories has been maintained by the General Assembly since 1946. Currently, there are 17 non-self governing territories spread across all the continents except Asia. The territories are administered mainly by the UK, the US, France, New Zealand, and Morocco. A territory can be removed from the list when it attains independence or is granted internal self-rule. Other territories can also be added to the list if the administering joins the UN or if the General Assembly reassesses the status of a territory



The Socio-Economic Impact of Colonialism

The main arguments regarding the economic impact of colonialism are the 'drain of wealth', expropriation (mainly of land), the control over production and trade, the exploitation of natural resources, and the improvement of infrastructure. Whether colonization is openly acknowledged or not, there is no doubt that it has played, and continues to play, a huge part in the state of the global community. Although the physical manifestations of colonization, like the loss of natural and human resources are recognized and considered in the development discourse, the unseen psychological effects of colonization are not given the attention due. These unseen effects translate into sovereignty issues which eventually show up on the development platform, and are longer-lasting and more disastrous than they might seem. Currently, 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) remain to be decolonized. They are: (Africa) Western Sahara; (Atlantic and Caribbean) Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands (BVI), Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Montserrat, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, and US Virgin Islands; (Europe) Gibraltar; and (Pacific) American Samoa, French Polynesia, Guam, New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau.

Committee Chair Walton Alfonso Webson recalled that following the adoption of the SDGs, the Committee had stressed the importance of fostering economic and social sustainable development of the Territories. He said that conclusions from the last seminar acknowledged that climate change had exposed many of the Territories to even greater environmental and economic vulnerability. He called for efforts to continue strengthening administrative capacity, good governance and economic sustainability.

The Psychological Impact of Colonialism

Psychology's engagement with colonialism and colonial discourse has been twofold. On the one hand, there are emerging efforts within psychology to examine the hypothesis that the legacy of colonialism continues to matter in the psychology of the formerly colonized. Research projects that can be understood in this context include research on internalized oppression and colonial mentality. On the other hand, there have been discussions of colonial legacies to the practice and study of psychology in formerly colonized states. This discussion has pointed to the practice of Western-centered psychologies in former colonies and has given rise to countermovements in the form of indigenous psychologies. We see these projects as moving the discipline of psychology in a productive direction. At the same time, we shall also note that some of these efforts to indigenize local psychology risk essentializing indigenous cultures by relying too heavily on the East–West binary framework to distinguish their efforts from those of the mainstream psychology

European colonial powers invaded then dominated a large part of the world from the Renaissance to the middle of the twentieth century. Across this long history and numerous geographical settings, colonialism took various forms, was associated with diverse practices, and was justified by different ideologies. However, it created unprecedented situations of encounters between the original inhabitants of the colonized countries and European colonizers, locking them in “the most complex and traumatic relationship in human history”. This long traumatic relationship had a tremendous influence on the psychologies of both the colonized and the colonizers, deeply affecting their views of the world, of the other peoples, and of themselves. This influence did not cease once independence treaties were signed, as the colonial experience continues to impregnate the cultures and identities of both formerly colonizing and formerly colonized peoples. As a consequence, colonialism still affects their current interactions, be it in the context of international relations or in that of contacts between majority members and immigrants or indigenous peoples in Western countries.



Possible Solutions

One of the most important steps that should be taken is to allow NSGTs to have a presence in the United Nations by allocating certain representatives who will bridge the gap between the people living in NSGTs and the international community. From there onwards, a dialogue should be initiated between the NSGT representatives, their administering power and any other country involved. These discussions should not only tackle the process of decolonization but should also look into the rights and wishes of the people living in NSGT; whether it would be more beneficial for them to be granted independence or for them to willingly, through voting, choose to remain dependent on the country of administering power

One of the things that may help NSGTs pursue self determination is greater press coverage. Most people are unaware of the injustices beared by the 2 million people living NSGTs, and thus the administering governments are uninhibited in preventing the self determination of these territories. Increasing the amount of coverage on this issue can provide affected citizens with a platform to voice their desires. Otherwise, outside powers may continue to control regions for their own benefit, which is directly against the UN's ideals of equality and democracy. Another solution may be providing NSGTs with aid in establishing their own independent governments, for instance by organizing referendums and using various forms of pressure on the administrating states. The UN, as an organization that promotes human rights, should place more importance of ridding the world of colonialism which is exploitative by nature