

**Model United Nations at UCSD presents**  
On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**General Assembly – Fourth Committee**  
**Special Political and**  
**Decolonization**



**TritonMUN XI**



## Introduction

Greeting Delegates!

I would like to welcome you to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee regarding the South China Sea and South Sudan. My name is Neil Justin Bascos, a first-year Political Science major with a concentration in international relations, and I will be your Chair for this conference. This is the second time I've been involved in organizing a conference for Triton MUN and I am excited to share this experience with all of you. A little bit about me—I love reading. In my spare time, you'll probably find me reading random news articles while listening to music or just bumming around on campus. I'm involved in the LGBTQUIA+ community on campus, as well as various Filipino Organizations. Although I'm relatively new to Model United Nations, I was heavily involved in Speech and Debate in High School, and will draw inspiration from that background when I critique your performance.

As such, like debate, I expect a great deal of contention amongst you delegates. Instead of focusing on what you “expect” the Dais wants to see (i.e. making peace and baking cupcakes with each other as friendly nations), I would rather see you represent the positions of your countries as best you could. If your country is strongly opposed to what other delegates are saying, then I welcome you to challenge the status quo and incite debate rather than just agreeing with them. But to have a strong footing as to what you stand for, I urge you to do your research. Have creative ideas, and back them up with facts and statistics! I want to be inspired by your ingenious and abstract concepts.

My vice-chair, Chao, and I are very excited to host this committee for all of you. We want you all to have fun while educating yourselves on the intricacies of world politics.

Sincerely your Chair,

Justin Bascos

[nbascos@ucsd.edu](mailto:nbascos@ucsd.edu)



Greetings Delegates,

Welcome all to the Triton MUN Conference! My name is Chao Liu and I shall be your vice-chair for the General Assembly on South China Sea and South Sudan. I'm a first-year student in UC San Diego majoring in Political Science with a focus on Comparative Politics. This is my second official year doing MUN, but even so I'm looking forward to it and all that is to come. Outside of MUN I am a Chinese immigrant raised in Sacramento, California. I'm involved with the UCSD CALPIRG chapter and in my spare time you'll probably catch me reading or shooting pool in one of the many student activity centers on campus. I enjoy listening to music so you'll probably always find me plugged into listening to whatever I fancy at the time. Right now I'm getting into old school hip hop but when conference rolls around who knows.

That aside, I have a very positive outlook for this conference and this committee especially since these issues are two of the most pressing in current events. I'm looking forward to dynamic discussion and creative ideas seeing as the topics discussed are multifaceted and complex. I want to see thought provoking moderated caucuses and busy un-moderated caucuses. While it is not expected for delegates to know specific UN resolutions it would be highly smiled upon if they did. Perhaps most importantly I'd like to see the delegates working together. We are simulating the United Nations after all and it wouldn't do well if we ignored the issue and had a second Rwanda on our hands. Having said all that please remember to have fun. Of course most people want to win but do not let competition sour your experience. Have fun, make new friends, and do your best to solve these global issues.

Sincerely your vice-chair,

Chao Jun Liu

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## Topic A: South China Sea

### I. Background

The South China Sea conflict has been a contentious region since the early twentieth century, with the governments of the People's Republic of China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Indonesia and Taiwan as its key players.<sup>1</sup> The dispute encompasses a vast expanse of contested territory including the Spratly Islands, the Paracel Islands, maritime boundaries along north Borneo, the Natuna Islands, west of Palawan, etc. Though sparsely populated, the area is geopolitically significant because of its rich resources. The surrounding countries vying for this territory are doing so in order to gain the economic upper hand. A combination of diverse fishing grounds, potentially abundant oil fields, and vital shipping routes make it prime real estate for any nation who wants to increase its hegemony.<sup>2</sup>

These resource rich waters that these nations lay claim to are now a focus of contention because China threatens the sovereignties and claims of the smaller nations that surround it. It is clear that these smaller nations are economically and militarily outmatched in comparison to China; therefore, if its case does become legitimized, China will dominate the geopolitical landscape of the area. This, then, becomes the concern of western nations, especially the United States, who wants to strengthen its ties to emerging nations within Southeast Asia.<sup>3</sup>

Though the furthest away from the territory, China bases its prerogative on the "Nine-Dotted Line." Published by the Kuomintang government of the Republic of China (now in

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<sup>1</sup> Joel Lovell, "A Game of Shark and Minnow" <http://www.nytimes.com/newsgraphics/2013/10/27/south-china-sea/> (Nov. 20, 2014)

<sup>2</sup> "Roaring on the Seas." New York Times 19 June 2014: A26(L). Global Issues In Context. Web. 23 Nov. 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Stephens, Bret. "The Coming Global Disorder." Commentary 134.3 (2012): 14+. Global Issues In Context. Web. 23 Nov. 2014



Taiwan), and later revised by the People's Republic of China, this is viewed by the Chinese government as a means of historical support for its claims.<sup>4</sup> Nonetheless, the nations encircling the line protest its legitimacy especially since they assert that it infringes upon their territorial jurisdiction. The Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei base their assertions on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which established that “countries can claim exclusive rights to the fish and mineral resources within Exclusive Economic Zones, which can extend 200 nautical miles from a continental shore line or around islands that can support habitation.”<sup>5</sup> Although all parties believe that their claim is lawful, the problem still remains unresolved.

China and Vietnam clash over the Paracel and a myriad of nations to the south of the “Cow’s Tounge” claim various parts of the Spratly Islands.<sup>6</sup> These countries strive to reinforce their claim however they may be able to do so. The Philippines has established a municipality within the area, Vietnam has welcomed partnerships with oil exploration companies and China has used its military to assert its dominance.<sup>7</sup> As such, not a single country within the spat controls the entire region.

Though concentrated within a small area, the South China Sea is an epicenter of economic importance. The Sea itself is an abundant source of food for the Southeast Asian region. For example, Hong Kong’s South China Sea fishing fleet alone comprises of 4,500

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<sup>4</sup> Jeffrey A. Bader, “The U.S. and China’s Nine-Dash Line: Ending the Ambiguity”

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2014/02/06-us-china-nine-dash-line-bader> (Nov. 20, 2014)

<sup>5</sup> Bader, “The U.S. and China’s Nine-Dash Line: Ending the Ambiguity”

<sup>6</sup> Scott Neuman, “Little Islands are Big Trouble in the South China Sea”

<http://www.npr.org/2012/09/07/160745930/little-islands-are-big-trouble-in-the-south-china-sea> (Nov 20, 2014).

<sup>7</sup> Camille Diola “China Bares New Map Covering Kalayaan Islands”

<http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/06/25/1338893/china-bares-new-map-covering-kalayaan-islands> (Nov. 23, 2014)



fishing vessels which employ about 190,000 fishermen—an industry valued at \$270 Million.<sup>8</sup>

Yet, the environmental concerns also alert the international community of what is at stake within this conflict. As military exercises, construction and fortification of territory, and shipping boats travel through the area; the ecosystem of the South China Sea degrades and becomes damaged.

Though one might imagine the governments of these fishermen pursue more environmentally friendly policies, the exact opposite has happened. A study conducted in 2013 has concluded that the atolls and archipelagos within the area “have seen their coral cover decline to 20 percent.”<sup>9</sup>

For example, Indonesia has open access waters, meaning that anyone from anywhere can come and fish there. That has led to fish being caught faster than they can be replenished, and it’s starting to show. Fish are going to become harder to catch and that will lead to food shortages, which is a huge problem when people in the region rely on the sea for 70% of their protein.

The increased shipping activity within the area certainly has not helped the escalation of tension either. As the South China Sea becomes more involved in world trade, the governments of these Southeast Asian nations and China have more incentive to intensify their claims for these territories. As Southeast Asia becomes more industrialized, the need for oil and resources skyrockets. The economic competition within the region especially becomes interesting since about half of all the world’s oil tanker shipments pass through the South China Sea. The protection and preservation of free trade within the region also becomes pressing, with at least 41% of ASEAN trade shipped through the sea.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Dr. Grahan Blackmore, “Fisheries Problem in the South China Sea.”

<sup>9</sup> Adam Minter, “Victims Under the South China Sea.” <http://www.bloombergview.com/articles/2014-11-27/victims-under-the-south-china-sea> (Nov. 26, 2014)

<sup>10</sup> Biana Xu, “South China Sea Tensions” <http://www.cfr.org/china/south-china-sea-tensions/p29790> (Nov. 26, 2014)



## II. United Nations Involvement

The United Nation's involvement in the South China Sea is primarily based on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which established that "countries can claim exclusive rights to the fish and mineral resources within Exclusive Economic Zones, which can extend 200 nautical miles from a continental shore line or around islands that can support habitation." Ever since the South China Sea dispute surfaced, governments around the world have called for international law to be put in to use to resolve the issue. In fact, some countries, like the Philippines, even depend on this agreement as the basis of their territorial claims. The Philippines has even requested that the matter be brought up to the global arena through an international tribunal. Two proper bodies the nations in the dispute can utilize are the International Court of Justice and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.<sup>11</sup> In July 2013, a UN tribunal gathered in The Hague in order to determine the procedural steps to follow after the Philippines contested China's claim to the area. Nonetheless, the matter may take years to be resolved since China continues to withhold its content, and as such the proceeding cannot continue magnanimously.<sup>12</sup> Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hong Lei has said, "China's position that it will not accept or participate in the tribunal case involving the Philippines hasn't changed."<sup>13</sup>

Nonetheless, the Philippines filed their complaints at the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea, a tribunal under the UNCLOS. Though it does not need the consent of both

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<sup>11</sup> "China's Maritime Disputes," <http://www.cfr.org/asia-and-pacific/chinas-maritime-disputes/p31345#/> (Dec. 21, 2014)

<sup>12</sup> Rory Medcalf, "Manila's South China Sea Gambit" <http://thediplomat.com/2013/03/manilas-south-china-sea-gambit/> (Dec. 21, 2014)

<sup>13</sup> Bloomberg News, "China Refuses to Defend its South China Sea Claim to UN Court" <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-06-04/china-refuses-to-defend-its-south-china-sea-claims-to-un-court.html> (Dec. 22, 2014)



parties to proceed, the case will go through the bureaucracy in a slower pace since China refuses to acknowledge the case. Though it may take years for the outcome, the ruling on the deliberations may set precedence for other claims just like it.





## III. Bloc Positions

### **ASEAN Block**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is the premier political and economic organization that is located within Southeast Asia. Though aiming to work as a united body against the continued aggression of China, the group has been split in how they want to deal with the South China Sea Dispute. Parties that are not directly involved within the spat have lobbied in favor of China. Nations such as Laos and Cambodia heavily depend on Chinese investments within their nations, and as such, they favor China over its neighbors within this matter<sup>14</sup>. On the other hand, the primary nations directly in contention with China have consistently negated propositions that would advance China's claims to the Islands. ASEAN member nations want to have multilateral negotiations regarding the matter at hand; however, China is evading such negotiations by favoring unilateral talks between Beijing and the other nations. By dividing the opposition, China believes it can have an outcome more favorable for itself. In 2002, ASEAN and China signed the "Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea." The measure stipulated that the parties would resolve their disputes through peaceful means, with the exercise of self-restraint, negotiations, and friendly consultations amongst each other<sup>15</sup>. Though the declaration eased some tensions at the time, the document was not legally binding, and has thus largely been ignored.

### **Eastern Block**

Chinese policy regarding the matter is to deal with the issue one on one with the other

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<sup>14</sup> Patrick Barta "Sea Dispute Upends Asian Summit"

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702303919504577524133983292716> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>15</sup> "Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea" <http://www.asean.org/asean/external-relations/china/item/declaration-on-the-conduct-of-parties-in-the-south-china-sea> (Dec. 22, 2014)



countries. By dividing the opposition and negotiating unilaterally with them, it believes it can have a more favorable outcome in the end. On the other hand, its neighbors, the Republic of Korea and Japan have sided with the international community and the United States to condemn Chinese unilateral actions within the region. The Korean Republic, though interested in forging stronger ties with Beijing, not only because of trade but to check the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, is growing concerned about China's growing dominance<sup>16</sup>. Consequently, Japan is involved with its own maritime dispute with China. The Senkaku Islands are hotly contested property between the two nations, and Japan is moving to block Chinese hegemony whenever it can<sup>17</sup>. Thus, Korea and Japan are forging or strengthening its ties with its Asian neighbors just to do that. The two countries have donated boats, choppers, ships, etc. to some of its Asian military counterparts<sup>18,19,20</sup>.

## **Western Block**

Eager to stop the growing Chinese hegemony in the region, the United States and other western nations have supported the Southeast Asian nations. Its allies around the South China Sea view the United States as its main ally in providing peace, stability and free trade. Many in the area are seeking to establish or reestablish US military bases within the region and are

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<sup>16</sup> Ann Song "Where does South Korea Stand on the South China Sea Dispute" <http://www.internationalpolicydigest.org/2014/07/02/south-korea-stand-south-china-sea-dispute/> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>17</sup> Alexander L. Vuving "Vietnam, the US, and Japan in the South China Sea" <http://thediplomat.com/2014/11/vietnam-the-us-and-japan-in-the-south-china-sea/> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>18</sup> "China Objects to Korea's Warship donation to Philippines" <http://www.philstar.com/headlines/2014/08/11/1356356/china-objects-koreas-warship-donation-philippines/> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>19</sup> Jerry E. Esplanada "Patrol Boats from Japan to start Arriving in 2015" <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/590453/patrol-boats-from-japan-to-start-arriving-in-2015> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>20</sup> Scott Cheney-Peters "Japan to Provide Vietnam Patrol Boats Next Year" <http://news.usni.org/2014/06/02/japan-provide-vietnam-patrol-boats-next-year> (Dec. 22, 2014)



pursuing U.S. backing in order to legitimize their claim<sup>21</sup>. In order to increase its presence within the area, the United States has declared a shift in its foreign policy back to the Asia-Pacific region. The United States has stated their intent to pivot their focus towards the Asia-Pacific; however, its preoccupation of the Middle East and ties with Latin America has prevented it from fully diverting its attention to this region<sup>22</sup>. Because of the vast amount of trade within the region, other western powers have also expressed their concern about the dispute in the area. Australia, New Zealand, the EU have all condemned China's unilateral conduct within the region. However, their actions have all been rhetoric and no serious means have been taken against China<sup>2324</sup>.

## **African Block**

Though Africa is a distant land from the South China Sea, many African nations are largely dependent on Chinese investments for their economic growth. As per UN tradition, they still have a voice on the international dispute. China has been heavily involved in African military, domestic, and economic affairs. Thus African nations largely want to continue enjoying friendly relations with China.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Bonnie S. Glasser "Armed Clash in the South China Sea" <http://www.cfr.org/world/armed-clash-south-china-sea/p27883> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>22</sup> Nicholas Burns, "Why Egypt Matters to the US" <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatches/globalpost-blogs/commentary/why-egypt-matters-to-united-states> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>23</sup> "UK Speaks in support of EU Statement on tensions in South China Sea" <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-speaks-in-support-of-eu-statement-on-tensions-in-south-china-sea> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>24</sup> Michael Wesley "Australia's interests in the South China Sea" <http://nsc.anu.edu.au/documents/occasional-5-brief-9.pdf> (Dec. 22, 2014)

<sup>25</sup> F. Michael Maloof "China's African Influence Expanding" <http://www.wnd.com/2012/08/chinas-african-influence-expanding/> (Dec. 22, 2014)



## IV. Questions to Consider

1. Though international governments have spoken about the de-escalation of tensions within the area, most of their actions have been rhetoric without any palpable actions. Why is this?
2. Considering that China is a large economic power, what would be the implications of challenging this powerhouse, especially if nations heavily depended on China for trade?
3. Many of the countries involved in the dispute are heavily interested in the oil under the South China Sea. If a smaller Southeast Asian country were to have exclusive sovereignty over the territory, how would the power shift affect the geopolitical climate of the area?
4. How would western influence in the Asia-Pacific region politically and economically change should a smaller Southeast Asian nation dominate?
5. How would Chinese national sovereignty be affected should they lose to a Southeast Asian nation?



## V. Suggested Sites

<http://thediplomat.com/> - Articles on Foreign Affairs in Asia

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> - The World Factbook

<http://www.reuters.com/> - Reuters: Business and Financial News

<http://rt.com/> - Russian Based International News Provider

<http://america.aljazeera.com/> - Provides unbiased fact-based stories of U.S. and international news

<http://www.ssrn.com/en/> - Social Science Research Network

<http://www.cfr.org/> - Council on Foreign Relations

<http://www.csmonitor.com/> - The Christian Science Monitor



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## Topic B: South Sudan Conflict

### I. Background

To understand the scope of the South Sudan conflict one must first understand the history leading up to the conception of South Sudan as an independent state. During 1956, as the United Sudan gained its freedom, the southern leaders found the independence agreements to be irrespective of Southern interests. These Southern interests included the sovereignty and rights of the Southern ethnic and cultural groups, ranging from differences of religion to language. This in turn led to alternating periods of intense civil war and tenuous peace between the Sudanese government and Southern forces. The first conflict raged from 1955 to 1972 before the Sudanese government granted the south a degree of autonomy. At the ending of this autonomy, civil war arose again, beginning in 1983 before ending in 2005 in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that guaranteed regional autonomy and representation. In total, more than 2 million died and countless more were displaced in these two conflicts. Eventually in 2011 the 10 southern-most states gave a referendum for southern independence, which passed with a resounding 99% yes. And thus South Sudan was formed.<sup>26</sup>

The new South Sudanese government united under the leadership of President Salva Kiir Mayardit, an ethnic Dinka, and Vice President Riek Machar, an ethnic Nuer and, both of whom were former independence fighters. In the beginning this new nation seemed set to grow. Inheriting about 50% of Sudan's oil fields and taking in massive investments from both the

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<sup>26</sup>*Central Intelligence Agency*. Central Intelligence Agency, n.d. Web. 04 Jan. 2015.  
<<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html>>.





United States and China, South Sudan seemed poised to quickly develop.<sup>27</sup> Unfortunately talks with Sudan in 2012 on the sharing of oil revenues broke down, forcing South Sudan to halt oil production, stalling economic growth. Also since independence there have been conflicts along the border of South Sudan and Sudan about legitimate borders and land use. The conflict at hand however began in December 2013 when a power struggle between the president and his deputy led to the dismissal of said deputy and outbreaks of violence between government troops and the rebels. South Sudan, two years after conception, fell into the deplorable state of civil war.<sup>28</sup>

What makes this a pressing issue comes from many different factors, the most important being the composition of troops of both sides. South Sudan is made of many diverse ethnic groups who have very strong ethnic loyalties. With the president and his former deputy coming from separate ethnic groups (coincidentally two of the largest in the country) most of the President's troops are of his Dinka people while most of the rebel troops are of the deputy's Nuer people. In other words this civil war also comes with the undertones of ethnic violence. Militants on both sides have violated basic human rights by specifically targeting people of the opposing ethnicity, even raiding civilian houses to find and execute these 'undesirables.' Most casualties in the conflict, even today, are not soldiers but civilians who are caught in the politics and ethnic violence of the war.

Aside from violating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the conflict persists without an end in sight. Multiple ceasefires have been signed and violated by both sides in quick succession. An example of this is the January 24, 2014 ceasefire that was promptly violated the

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<sup>27</sup>"South Sudan Profile." *BBC News*. N.p., n.d. Web. 03 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>>.

<sup>28</sup>"South Sudan." - *International Crisis Group*. N.p., n.d. Web. 3 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/africa/horn-of-africa/south-sudan.aspx>>.



next day when government troops advanced on rebel positions.<sup>29</sup> The conflict has uprooted more than 1.5 million people and has disrupted the mostly agrarian economy.<sup>30</sup> Many refugees live in squalid conditions and are in danger every day. Due to disruption of the planting season the near future could bring famine conditions into play, further exacerbating the conflict. Even those refugees who were lucky enough to make it into UN encampments are not safe since both sides do not respect UN authority. This lack of respect is exemplified when a group of militants pretending to be peaceful protesters slipped into a UN base and opened fire on the civilians within.<sup>31</sup>

Against this backdrop of violence a perilous stage is set from which every party involved has no clear idea of what's to happen and what is to come. The UN, many NGOs, and several nations are involved and have a vested interest in this conflict. With no resolution in sight it's the responsibility of the UN to try and bring one to the table lest it degenerates to further violent depths.

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<sup>29</sup>Muchler, Benno. "South Sudanese Rebels Accuse Government of Ignoring Day-Old Cease-Fire." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 24 Jan. 2014. Web. 2 Jan. 2015.

<sup>30</sup>Kushkush, Isma'il. "Food Crisis Worsens in South Sudan as Civil War is Displacing Millions." *The New York Times*. 19 May 2014. Web. 2 Jan. 2015.

<sup>31</sup>"South Sudan: U.N. Base Attacked." *The New York Times*. 17 Apr. 2014. Web. 3 Jan. 2015.



## II. United Nations Involvement

The UN has made efforts to bring about a ceasefire and provide for the refugees but have been paltry in scale.<sup>32</sup> The first two months of civil war saw the UN observing the conflict, which drew criticisms about their ability to prevent atrocities from occurring, especially as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rwandan genocide came on January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The day immediately after, a UN official reported that atrocities were in fact being committed on both sides. Unfortunately as more accounts of violence and war crimes were reported the UN continued its role of observation and relative inaction even as organizations ranging from Doctors without Borders to Amnesty International have criticized the UN peacekeeping operation for their ineffectiveness.

The UN worked under the position that their objectives were nation building until May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014 when the Security Council unanimously passed a resolution to shift its position towards safeguarding civilians until the end of November. However, as civilians continued to flood UN camps and ceasefires were made and subsequently broken the mission was extended indefinitely.<sup>33</sup>

Individual nations within the Security Council have also taken their own measures ranging from sending troops to economic sanctions in order to pressure a ceasefire but nothing has borne fruit yet. Recently on November 26, 2014 the Security Council has upped its commitment by extending its peacekeeping mission to 14,000 members.<sup>34</sup> China troops are scheduled to arrive in South Sudan in January and the US continued to seek economic sanctions

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<sup>32</sup>"Fleeing the Horrors of South Sudan Fighting." - *Features*. N.p., n.d. Web. 05 Jan. 2015.  
<<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2014/11/fleeing-horrors-south-sudan-fighting-2014112793257740419.html>>.

<sup>33</sup>"United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)." *UN News Center*. UN, n.d. Web. 3 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/>>.

<sup>34</sup>"United Nations Official Document." *UN News Center*. UN, 1 Aug. 2014. Web. 3 Jan. 2015.  
<[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A%20FRES%20F68%20F293](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%20FRES%20F68%20F293)>.



against South Sudan until the war is resolved.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>35</sup>Smith, David. "China Urges Immediate End to Conflict in South Sudan." *The Guardian*. The Guardian, 6 Jan. 2014. Web. 3 Jan. 2015.<[http%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fworld%2F2014%2Fjan%2F06%2Fpr-esidents-sudan-south-sudan-meet-juba-discuss-conflict](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/06/pr-esidents-sudan-south-sudan-meet-juba-discuss-conflict)>.



## III. Bloc Positions

### Europe

The nations of Europe have condemned the civil war and the actions taken and are working closely with the UN in hopes of quickly and peacefully resolving the conflict.<sup>36</sup> Many have restricted air travel and some like the UK have evacuated its citizens and some Embassy staff. Some nations have investments within South Sudan and seek to protect those interests, funding and providing troops for the UN peacekeeping operation.

### The Americas

All nations within North America have expressed their deep concern regarding the conflict and each individual nation has taken a different approach in responding to the conflict. Canada has taken steps to come back to the world stage by establishing an embassy in war torn South Sudan and officially naming them one of Canada's 25 developmental priorities.<sup>37</sup> Mexico has expressed concern while doing little else while the USA has been on the forefront within the UN in trying to resolve the conflict. With a vested interest in both the oil and protecting their embassy the US have done everything from sending in troops to pushing for economic sanctions. Working both independently and with the UN the US wishes to see the conflict resolved as soon as possible. Latin American nations have condemned the conflict and have actively worked within the UN to try and resolve the conflict. Individual nations have supplied either troops or funding and seek a quick peace.

### Asia

Several nations in Asia have a vested interest in South Sudanese oil and thus have worked

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<sup>36</sup>"United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)." *UN News Center*. UN, n.d. Web. 3 Jan. 2015. <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/>>.

<sup>37</sup> "South Sudan." *Government of Canada, Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada. Deputy Minister of International Development Geographic Programs Branch*. Web. 3 Jan. 2015.



together with the UN by supplying peacekeeping forces either for joint action or independent purposes. Those with interests are looking to stabilize the nation so that their investments and interests are not destroyed and have taken actions both independently and with the UN to ensure this. All Asian nations have advised all their nationals to leave the war torn nation and most have condemned the conflict. While some nations show more interest than others many are working with the UN by providing the necessary funding for peacekeeping operations or supplying manpower.<sup>38</sup>

## **Africa and the Middle East**

The African nations, all condemning the civil war, are taking a diverse array of actions in response to said conflict. Some like Uganda have threatened invasion should a ceasefire not be reached while others like Egypt are providing humanitarian aid.<sup>39</sup> The nations directly bordering South Sudan are currently being burdened by fleeing refugees that they may or may not be able to adequately provide for. Another issue concerning the nations surrounding the area is that the ethnic violence occurring in South Sudan may spread over to them as well since those same ethnic groups can be found in their nation. The Middle East remains ambivalent about the conflict. They have, for a lack of better words, gone along with UN actions but have supplied neither troops nor funding for the peacekeeping operations.

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<sup>38</sup>Smith, David. "China Urges Immediate End to Conflict in South Sudan." *The Guardian*. The Guardian, 6 Jan. 2014. Web. 3 Jan. 2015.  
<<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jan/06/presidents-sudan-south-sudan-meet-juba-discuss-conflict>>.

<sup>39</sup>"Destroying Itself from within." *The Economist*. The Economist Newspaper, 04 Jan. 2014. Web. 4 Jan. 2015.  
<<http://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21592637-despite-desperate-peacemaking-efforts-outlook-south-sudan>>.



## IV. Questions to Consider

1. Are UN actions currently adequate or do they need to be broadened or shrunk?
2. Critics attack the UN for its lack of response even as militants have, on occasion, opened fire on UN camps. Should the UN do more and could this possibly be a repeat of the Rwandan genocide?
3. While the Security Council has unanimously agreed on a peacekeeping mission individual nations are still taking independent actions. Are these independent actions necessary and welcome or do they exacerbate the conflict? Remember that many nations have a vested interest on the events that are occurring.
4. Ceasefire after ceasefire has been made and subsequently broken. What other actions may be taken to try and broker peace or bring both parties to the table?
5. Some side effects of war are devastation of the land and the people as seen by the refugee situation and a possible food crisis. What actions should be taken to these both these issues as well as the other instances of collateral damage?
6. Both sides of the conflict have been accused of war crimes, ethnic violence, and use of internationally banned weapons. What can be done about this?



## V. Suggested Sites

<http://www.reuters.com/> - Reuters: Business and Financial News

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/south-sudan> - The Latest World News on South Sudan

<http://www.economist.com/> - World News, Politics, Economics, and Business

<http://www.bbc.com/news/> - International News and Current Affairs

<https://www.cia.gov/index.html> - The CIA Homepage

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/293](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/293) - General Assembly

Resolution Financing the UN Mission in South Sudan

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/> - UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan





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<[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A%2FRES%2F68%2F293](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A%2FRES%2F68%2F293)>.

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