



LXIV
SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION



Disarmament and International Security Committee

Berkeley Model United Nations



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BMUN 64! My name is Tiffany Gean and I am extremely excited to be the head chair for DISEC this year. I am a graduating senior who is about to complete a degree in Business Administration at UC Berkeley with a focus in International Marketing. It is a great privilege to not only be the Chief of Staff for BMUN 64, but to also spend my 6th and last year of MUN in a position where I can actively spread awareness about specific international issues that I am passionate about. Hopefully you share my passion and are ready for a week full of learning, crises, and critical thinking!

The Disarmament and International Security Committee provides a vital way for nations to maintain international security and peace. With the power to control disarmament and armament regulation, the 1st Committee has a huge power in determining the outcome in a variety of armed conflicts. Recently the issue of international security has become more and more important, with thousands of human lives on the line.

That being said, our two topics will be Extremist Groups in sub-Saharan Africa and the Disarmament of the Arctic Circle. As a business major, I'd really like for delegates to analyze the underlying implications of both topics. For the first topic, I hope delegates will look at the economic side effects of increased military or peacekeeping action. As for the second topic, I'd like delegates to look at the environmental consequences of dividing the Arctic region in certain ways. My main goal for both of these topics is for delegates to not see these problems in one dimension; I'd like for everyone to fully understand the ramifications of their proposals, whether environmentally or economically. Updates for both of these topics can be found in the news on a daily basis, so delegates should double check to make sure their information is still current. Lastly, this committee will heavily be focusing on resolutions, and therefore it is crucial to come prepared with ideas before committee starts.

Because this committee is extremely content-heavy my fantastic vice chairs, Sherry Guo and Michael Pollack, will help run committee throughout the weekend.

Sherry Guo is a second year at UC Berkeley hailing from the Great White North (aka Canada). She hopes to study Public Health and perhaps pursuing medical school afterwards and has been participating in Model United since freshman year of high school. In her free time she loves to explore San Francisco's various neighborhoods as well as hit the ice rinks to do some figure skating. This is her second year in BMUN and she is very excited to meet and learn from all of you!

Michael Pollack is currently a freshman at Cal. It is his first year in BMUN, but his fifth year in MUN overall. He has attended this conference for the last two years as a delegate, and could not be more excited to be on the other side of the dais as a Vice Chair. Above all else, he cannot wait to see all of the incredible policies and solutions that everyone will bring to committee!



Without a doubt, our entire dais is extremely eager to meet you this weekend. Good luck and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tiffany Gean', written over a horizontal line.

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Extremist Groups in Sub-Saharan Africa

Background

Introduction

Comprising of five of Africa's most populous countries, the sub-Saharan region is defined as the 47 regions below the Saharan Desert. However, partially due to the lack of infrastructure and unstable economy, major extremist groups have gained influence in the area. With the massive area in each region it is no surprise that population booms are becoming more prevalent—though Africa itself may not be stable enough for the coming boom. The abundance of empty land and natural resources in the region further support the funding and proliferation of these extremist groups. The coordination of groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab is facilitated by the intense spatial mobility and local network connections that allow these groups to continue to influence surrounding villages and cities. The main goal for the majority of these groups seems to be spreading Sunni Islam, a branch of Islam that is practiced by 80% of the Muslims in the world (Patheos). The group, the Lord's Resistance Army, is the only one out of the four largest extremist groups that focuses instead on spreading fundamentalist Christianity.

The population's diversity and race for religious dominance may be partially attributed to the division of the Africa during the Berlin conference of 1884. As the divisions were made, Europe's western powers completely disregarded Africa's social or cultural reality. This resulted in irregular formations of countries of displaced indigenous people. Without cultural and linguistic cohesion, these disparate groups lacked a sense of community and tension remains to this day (Rosenberg). The hatred for Northern American and European citizens continues to this day through major terrorist groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, ISIS, Al Qaeda, and the Lord's Resistance Army.



Figure 1: The True Size of Africa

(<http://www.economist.com/blogs/dailychart/2010/11/cartography>)



Figure 2: Sub-Saharan Africa

(https://gcps.desire2learn.com/d2l/lor/viewer/viewFile.d2lfile/6605/27261/Unit_3_Map_Skills_SubSaharan_Africa_print.html)

While these groups operated more locally in the past, we've seen a recent increase in regional and more ideologically-oriented attacks on international citizens. In particular, we've seen increased activity from these groups, ranging from the brutal shootings in Paris to high-profile Nigerian village massacres. These groups practice brutal, inhumane killing techniques include recruiting children as young as 10 as sacrificial suicide bombers or using their victims as human shields.

Although the poorly defined regions in Africa is a partial contributor to the conflict in the sub-Saharan, it is also important to consider the various economic factors that proliferate conflict in this area. Unsurprisingly, the uninhabited land in this region is rich in resources, particularly gold, coal, oil, and diamonds. In fact, South Africa alone



holds 35% of the world's gold supply. Botswana holds 22% of the world's diamond supply while Nigeria is the world's 7th largest exporter of coal (Aderibigbe). Despite the abundance of resources however, over 40% of people living in sub-Saharan Africa are still in absolute poverty (Our Africa). To explain this discrepancy, economists have proposed a phenomenon called Dutch disease, or the resource curse. As Africa is extremely rich in resources, the amount of goods that are exported increases every year, thereby causing an inflow of foreign exchange (Lawson-Remer). This causes African currency values to appreciate which then leads to other domestic products becoming less competitive and imports becoming cheaper. As other domestic products other than natural resources are no longer profitable, deindustrialization occurs as companies pull their investment from industries other than resource exploitation (Financial Times). Often the world has seen countries abundant in resource-based industries and corrupt governments fall victim to corruption, exploitation, and violence. In fact, according to the Council on Foreign Relations,

“Natural resource dependence insulates leaders from public pressure and accountability. Troublingly, Freedom House rates only five of the world's 20 top oil-producing countries as "free". In many countries with significant natural resources, important checks on government power, such as a long democratic culture and a vociferous civil society, are in short supply.

In Africa, the top eight oil producers in 2011 were Nigeria, Algeria, Angola, Egypt, Libya, Sudan, the Republic of Congo and Equatorial Guinea. In the last decade, violent conflict or repressive regimes have plagued these countries.

The mix of resource abundance and poor governance is especially lethal in resource-rich Africa. As a share of GDP, sub-Saharan African resource rents are higher than those of any other region in the world, according to the World Bank. Rents are defined as the difference between the value of



production at world prices and the total cost of production for oil, natural gas, minerals, coal, and forests.”

As can be seen, the extremist group may not only stem from religious differences, but economic ones as well. Therefore, in order to properly amend the problem it is also important to consider Africa’s economic situation as well as the lack of transparency of and dependency on natural resource industries. In short, one must consider the effects of an increasing population coupled with lack of infrastructure and productivity growth. To reduce corruption and cut off funding for extremist groups, Africa will need to diversify its industries and reduce its reliance on industries that are volatile and heavily weather sensitive.

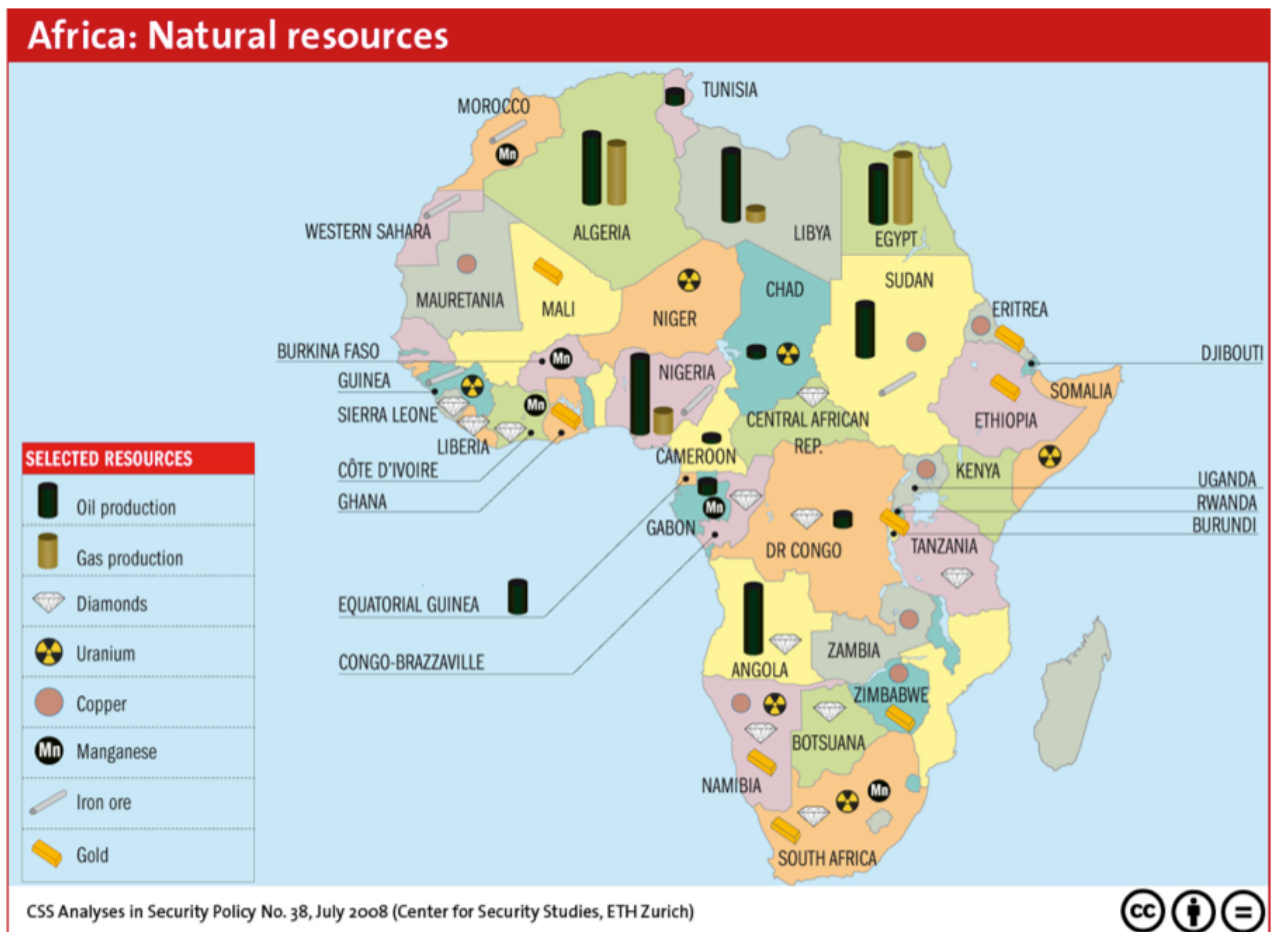
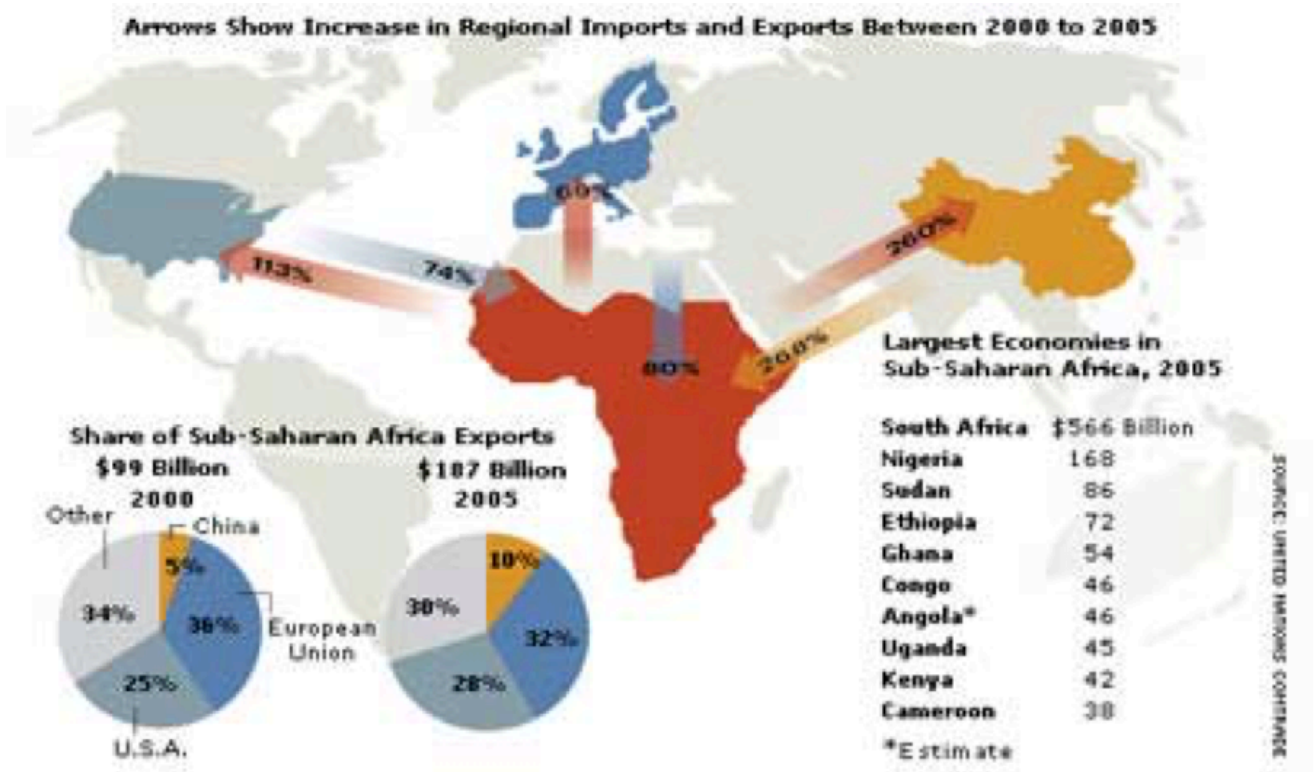


Figure 3: Africa: Natural Resource Map

(<http://www.pearltrees.com/s/pic/or/africa-natural-resources-80423716>)



<http://www.portfolio.com/images/site/editorial/chartistry/sub-saharan-africa-china.gif>

Figure 4: Resource Exports and Imports in Africa

(www.portfolio.com/images/site/editorial/chartistry/sub-saharan-africa-china.gif)



UN Involvement/International Community Actions

The Organization of African Union has had a pledge against terrorism since its 28th meeting in 1992. The Resolution on the Strengthening of Cooperation and Coordination among African States stated the OAU's commitment to fighting against extremism. Eventually, furthered its commitment by releasing the Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism in 1999. Forty states have ratified this convention, which explicitly called for all member states to criminalize all acts of terror. It provided a legal framework to help jurisdiction in addition to persecution (African Union, Peace and Security). In 2002, the AU Plan of Action on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism was adopted and offered practical solutions to counteract terrorism efforts, including increased border security and the establishment of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT). The ACSRT has helped, logistically speaking, by centralizing information and coordinating different counter-terrorism programs (African Union, Peace and Security). Some additional protocols that were adopted include the Dakar Declaration Against Terrorism and the African Model on Counter Terrorism.

The United Nations has publicly condemned all terrorist attacks and have passed resolutions imposing sanctions on terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda. Resolution 1989 adopted in 2011 further emphasizes the importance of coordination and organization among countries as well as intelligence gathering missions and monitoring teams. The UN has also adopted Resolution 1373, a resolution that explicitly prohibits states from aiding terrorism entities, through the acts of providing them aid, finances, or safe havens.

Recently, in response to the recent terrorist attacks on Paris in 2015, the UN Security Council has unanimously passed a resolution that sanctions using violence against the extremist groups Islamic State and al-Nusra Front (Fassihi). The United States and India also reached a deal back in September 2015 to train African peacekeeping troops. Furthermore, every year a training exercise called Flintlock occurs, where elite American, European, and African troops convene to “strengthen security institutions, promote multilateral sharing of information, and develop interoperability among the partner nations of the Trans-Sahara Counter Terrorism Partnership (TSCTP)” (Turse). In



2015, 28 countries participated and trained together with a particular focus on security and counter-terrorism missions (Turse).

A concern about these joint military programs is the possibility of soldiers defecting and joining the very extremist organizations they were trained to fight. Furthermore, with many countries like Chad, it is possible for corrupt government officials to use these military tactics to their own advantage. However retired US lieutenant Andrew Bacevich has a different perspective to these joint military exercises: At root,” he notes of US efforts in Africa, “it’s probably a racist assumption that the white guys are going to be able to teach the ‘lesser breeds’ and somehow lift them up in a military sense” (Turse). Furthermore, an elite battalion known as BIR was reported to have injured and performed violent acts against citizens back in 2012. Chad forces as well as American and Nigerian forces are only some of the troops that have had a record of violence. The question therefore arises whether sending in troops of violent countries actually drives more individuals to the hands of extremist groups.



Case Studies

Boko Haram

A group that was founded by charismatic preacher Mohammed Yusuf back in 2003, Boko Haram translates directly to “western education is forbidden” or “western fraud”. In 2009, Yusuf organized a raid that ended in his death; however, in 2012 his deputy Abubakar Shekau stepped up as the leader of the extremist group. The main goal of this group is to take over Nigeria and create an entirely Islamic state. A faction of Boko Haram, Ansaru, specifically kidnaps foreigners and has been known to execute its hostages. In 2012 Ansaru claimed “it would continue to kidnap French citizens until France ended its ban on the Islamic veil for women and abandoned its plans to intervene militarily in northern Mali” (Zenn). What brought Boko Haram to the forefront of national attention however, was the infamous incident back in 2013 where the group kidnapped 276 Nigerian schoolgirls. Shekau claimed the girls have been sold off, and almost 3 years later, over 200 girls are still missing. Amnesty International states that children have continued to be abducted in the region and have UNICEF has reported over 800,000 children being displaced due to the violent conflicts that have broken out in Nigeria. Although there has been accusations that the group is politically sponsored, there is no evidence. It is believed that the group is primarily funded through kidnappings, illegal trade, and bank robberies (Smith). Although not an ally, Boko Haram has been known to have connections with Al-Qaeda and to have participated in illegal weapons trade with the organization. The Nigerian government responded in 2013 with violent raids that have dredged up accusations of human rights abuses and unlawful killings (Smith).

Al-Qaeda

Most infamously known for its attack on US’s Pentagon and World Trade Center back in September 2011, Al-Qaeda is an organization that was formerly led by Osama bin Laden. Although the execution of bin Laden in 2011 severely weakened the group, Al-Qaeda reportedly regrouped and plans a violent comeback (ABC). Bin Laden’s top advisor, Al-Zawahiri, has taken over as leader of the group and plans to pursue his



agenda of wiping out all American influence in Muslim countries, particularly in Northern Africa though it has recently expanded to sub-Saharan Africa regions, Kenya being the “most frequent target” of such acts of terror. The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) also started as a sub-faction of Al-Qaeda, though the two groups severed ties in 2014 due to ideological differences. The most recent attack perpetrated by Al-Qaeda was back a year ago where gunmen shot down 12 people in the Paris office of *Charlie Hebdo*, in response to the magazine’s publication of the Prophet Muhammad which is considered an insult to Islam (Al Jazeera).

Al Shabaab

Formerly known as the militant wing of the Somali Council of Islamic Courts, Al-Shabaab has taken over most of Southern Somalia. This group was formerly a subgroup of Al-Qaeda’s and in 2012, Al Shabaab has pledged obedience to Al-Qaeda’s al-Zawahiri (BBC). Al-Shabaab, like many other terrorist groups in the region, practices Sunni Islam and aims to completely overthrow the government of Somalia as well as punish any countries that have tried to intervene in the conflict. In fact, Al-Shabaab has claimed responsibility for the 2011 shootings in a Kenyan mall as well as the 2010 suicide bombings in Uganda. Both acts were carried out in response to Kenya and Uganda’s role in sending military forces to Somalia. Al Shabaab’s goal is to deter tourists from visiting these areas in order to weaken their economies. As of now, many rebels still rule areas in Somali and practice Shariah law, which includes stonings, amputations, and torturous deaths as punishments for various misdeeds. It has taken over port areas, which allows the group to fund itself through duties and export taxes.



Questions to Consider

- 1) How does your resolution take into account the vast cultural differences among the people?
- 2) Besides addressing the effects of terrorism, what are some ways to prevent it from occurring, whether economically or socially?
- 3) Why do people join extremist groups? How can countries better provide support to dissuade additional recruits?
- 4) Is the resource curse a valid reason for the propagation of terrorism in Africa? If so, how can it be mitigated?



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Demilitarization of the Arctic Circle

Background

Introduction

The Arctic, a region that is defined as north of the Arctic Circle (66° 33' North latitude), is becoming increasingly important as countries race to assert claims over the 14 million square kilometer region. This region includes all surrounding lands and seas as well as the mostly-frozen Arctic Ocean, though sea ice in the Arctic has been recorded at an all-time low as of 2012. With tensions rising as countries continue to increase their military presence in the area, the threat of an Arctic War is increasingly imminent.

Arctic states, or countries that are adjacent to the Arctic Ocean, include Russia, Denmark, Norway, the United States of America, Canada, Iceland, Finland, and Sweden. This area, is comprised of the surrounding land and oceans and is extremely rich in natural resources: making it a prime location for petroleum, mineral, and metal extraction. There is also an abundance of various fish populations, making it a prime location for exploitation. Furthermore with the melting of the ice caps the Northwest Passage, a strait that connects the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean, has become a viable option for all countries that border the Arctic Ocean. The most significant case of this is providing an alternate route to the Panama Canal, thereby decreasing the route between Europe and Asia by 4,000 kilometers. With the current global financial and climate crises, the territorial ownership of the Arctic Circle is becoming not only a geographical problem, but also a political, economical, and meteorological one.

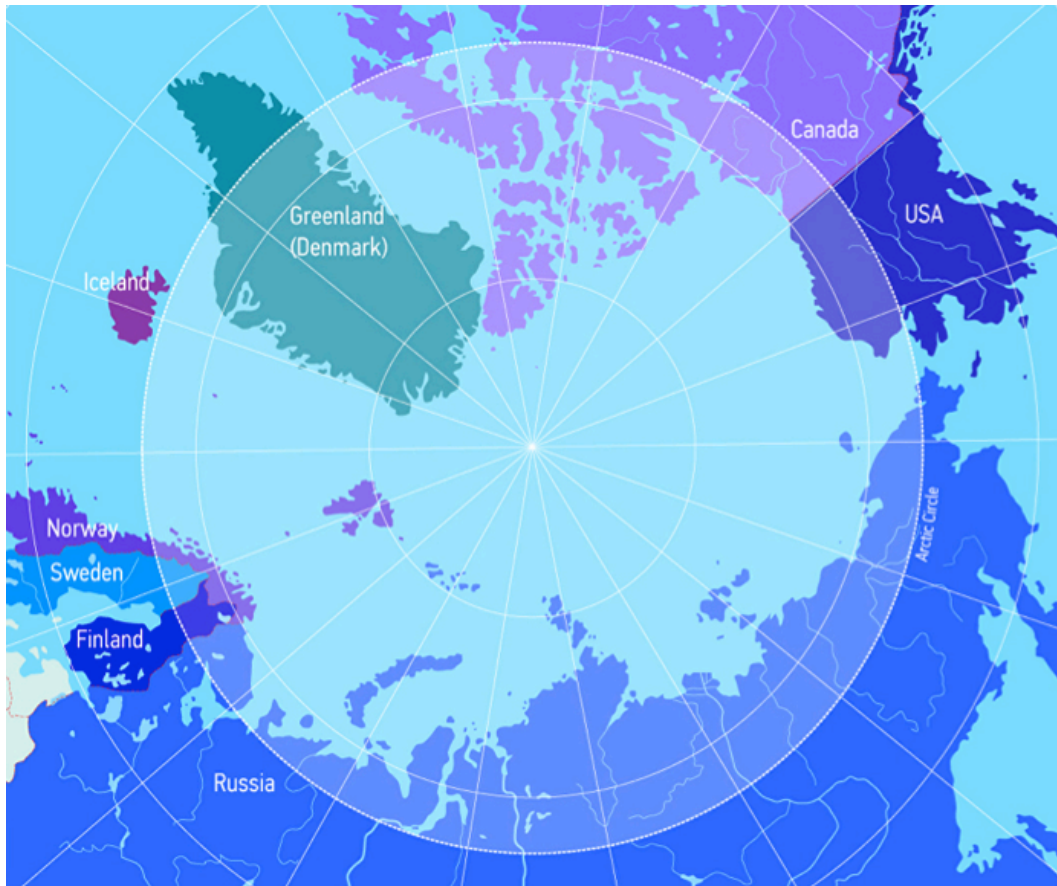


Figure 1: Arctic Territories

(The Arctic: <http://arctic.ru/geographics/>)

Historical Conflict

The significance of the Arctic region became apparent especially after WWII, where former allies, the USSR and the US, came out tense and weary of the other's hidden intentions. As the Soviet Union continued to expand into parts of Europe, the United States implemented a "containment" policy, whereby the US would stop the encroachment of outside forces (namely communism) abroad. Seeing as the Arctic region provided the shortest distance between the two countries, the Arctic became a prime location for militarization. Both countries invested heavily in the development of long-range nuclear weapons that could be launched across the Arctic region from land, air, or sea (Atland). In particular, the Soviet Union developed submarines that were able to stay submerged for extended periods of time in addition to "[launching] missiles from almost any position in the central Arctic Basin" (Atland). The Arctic region remains a critical



component of Russia's military defense, especially the Kola Peninsula that houses the Russia's Northern Fleet, a navy unit whose primary goal is to defend Russia's territorial claims in the Arctic.

In response to Russia's increased military presence in the Arctic, which included Russia planting a Russian flag in the Arctic in 2007 and encroaching dangerously close to the aerospace of other countries, Canada instigated Operation Nanook with the cooperation of the United States and Denmark. This annual military drill occurs every year, Canada's primary goal being to assert its sovereignty over the region. As each country continues to develop establish new military training facilities, purchase additional icebreakers and submarines, and bolster their navy forces, the risk of a new Cold War increases.



UN Involvement/International Community Actions

UNCLOS

The United States Convention on the Law of Sea was a treaty signed in 1982 and came into force in 1994. The document attempts to legally dictate which territories countries have sovereignty over as well as specify the limits for which each country can utilize the resources in each region. The UNCLOS uses the following terms to define the legal status of a territorial claim:

I. *Territorial Sea*: The sovereignty of a coastal State extends beyond its land territory to an adjacent belt of sea of up to 12 nautical miles measured from the base line. All States are granted innocent passage through the territorial sea, with innocent passage being defined as passage that does not threaten the security of the coastal State (UNCLOS 1982, Part II).

II. *Contiguous Zone*: A zone that can extend up to 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the territorial sea is measured. This allows for the coastal state to punish infringement of the regulations placed in its territorial sea, however the unlike the territorial sea, the State does not own the extended area (UNCLOS 1982, Part II).

III. *Exclusive Economic Zone*: A zone defined as 200 nautical miles from the baseline where the coastal State has the right to economically exploit resources in the area (UNCLOS 1982, Part V).

IV. *Continental Shelf*: “The seabed and subsoil of submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea...the coastal State exercises over the continental shelf sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources” (UNCLOS 1982, Part VI).

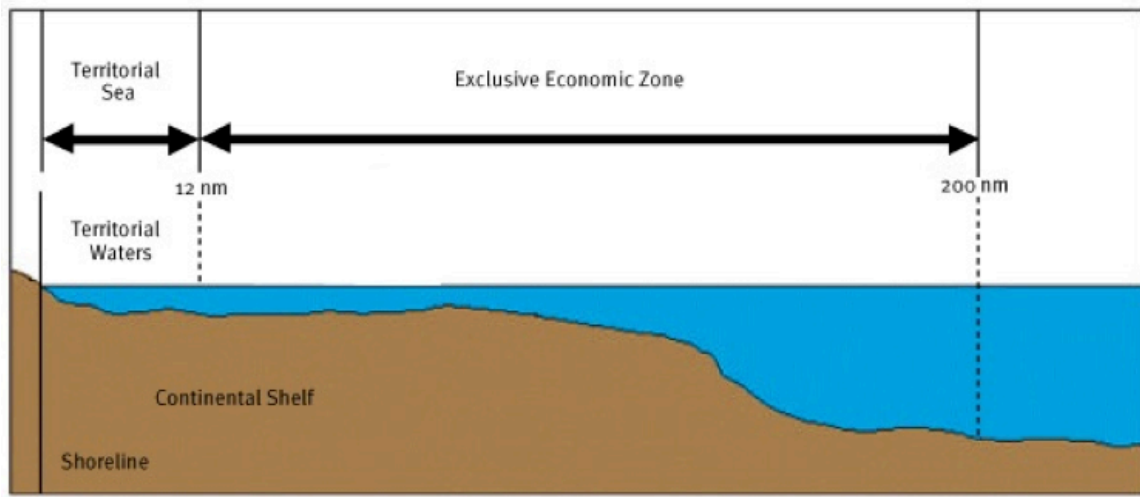


Figure 2: UNCLOS Zones

(World Customs Organization: <http://www.wcoomd.org/en/topics/origin/instrument-and-tools/comparative-study-on-preferential-rules-of-origin/specific-topics/study-topics/who.aspx?p=1>)

The United States has since signed the UNCLOS, however it has failed to ratify the treaty, preferring to instead maintain its history of a liberal maritime regime (Smith 2015). It is the only Arctic state that has failed to ratify the international treaty. One of the criticisms of the UNCLOS is that it is legally ambiguous and fails to mitigate the effects of climate change.

The Arctic Council

The Arctic Council consists of all eight Arctic states as well as six international organizations representing the Arctic Indigenous Peoples (Arctic Council 2015). It was recognized in the Ottawa Declaration of 1996 for the purpose of facilitating “cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues; in particular, issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic” (Arctic Council 2015). The Arctic Council has become a forum where the Arctic States can draft negotiated agreements, some of which are legally binding (Fenge & Funson 2015). It is forbidden to discuss military security, and instead focuses on environmental protection and sustainability. This commitment can be seen through working groups



created under the AEPS. Four working groups were subsumed including the AMAP, which provides an assessment on environmental impacts and sustainability, and the EPPR, which details response procedures in the event of an environmental emergency. In 2013, China as well as four other Asian countries became permanent observers in the Arctic Council, increasing the economic powers that express interest in the resources the area has to offer (Myers 2013).



Case Study

Antarctica

Similar to the Arctic, Antarctica is a region that suffers intense weather conditions. However, there has never been war in Antarctica and the area is fully demilitarized. The Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959 stipulates that Antarctica is stripped of any military activities and is open for scientific research. Furthermore, the results from research in the region are to be released to the public. Lauded as one of the most successful treaties of all time, the Antarctic Treaty is a precedent that has mitigated all territorial conflicts and instead has established Antarctica as a preserved region for scientific study.

There are many reasons why the situation in Antarctica does not strictly parallel that of the Arctic. For one, the geographical components of the two continents differ greatly. While the Arctic is a semi-enclosed ocean surrounded by land mass, Antarctica is the complete opposite, with the continent being primarily surrounded by water (NSIDC 2015). Antarctica is also larger with a maximum areal extent of 18 million square kilometers and thicker snow. Antarctica is also positioned further from powerhouse countries and instead has coastal States such as South America and Africa who have lower GDP per capita than that of the United States or Russia.

Although Antarctica does have deposits of coal, petroleum, and other minerals, the harsh weather raised concerns about the cost of extracting and transporting these resources. Moreover, only 3% of its land is ice-free adding onto the difficulty of exploiting the resources in this region. Even so, the ability of world powers to reach a collaborative, peaceful agreement on this region provides a beacon of hope that a peaceful resolution is possible for the Arctic region. However, it can be argued that the effects of global warming will soon make it feasible to mine for resources in the area, causing for a review conference to be called in the imminent future.



Topic to Consider

Environmental Impacts

Studies show that 97% of scientists agree that climate change is likely due to human activities (NASA 2015). In fact, some claim that wars will breakout over scarce resources such as water if countries continue to ignore the staggering effects of global warming. IAEA Scientists estimate that after 2017, climate change will be irreversible. “The door is closing,” Fatih Birol, chief economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA), said. “I am very worried — if we don’t change direction now on how we use energy, we will end up beyond what scientists tell us is the minimum [for safety]. The door will be closed forever.” The effect of climate change in the Arctic is faster and more severe compared to the rest of the world (WWF 2015). The WWF Global states:

“A small temperature shift can have enormous implications. Even an increase of 2°C could be too much...As snow and ice melt,

- The ability of the Arctic to reflect heat back to space is reduced, accelerating the overall rate of global warming.*
- Some Arctic fisheries will likely disappear.*
- We are likely to see more forest fires and storm damage to coastal communities in the Arctic.*
- Glaciers, sea ice and tundra will melt, contributing to global sea level rises.*
- A warmer Arctic could halt the Gulf Stream, which brings warmer water and weather to north-western Europe.” (WWF 2015)*

As the ice continues to melt in the Arctic, more States are interested in the trade routes that have started to open up. Currently, in order to get through the ice countries have been employing icebreakers, which break apart the sea ice and leave open water in their wake. Although the impact is miniscule for now, the fact that countries are economically profit from in the melting of the ice caps is extremely concerning.



Furthermore, the exploitation of resources in the Arctic put the region at jeopardy for pollution and ocean acidification.

For example, every 18 months, more than four million barrels spill into the Arctic Ocean (Greenpeace 2015). A specific incident occurred in the Chukchi Basin, which houses 29 million barrels of potentially recoverable oil. Shell Oil's contractor was recently convicted for violating environmental protection laws when its drilling unit broke loose. It was also found that the company was dumping waste overboard into the Arctic Ocean. In the past Exxon Valdez also spilled approximately 10.8 million gallons of crude oil into the ocean, which led to the immediate death of up to 500,000 animals. The Department of the Interior found that there is a 75% chance of a major oil spill in the Arctic.

The oil that is not spilled then undergoes a refining process, which releases an excess amount of carbon dioxide into the air. The carbon dioxide then causes ocean acidification, causing a catastrophe known as oceanic global warming. Therefore the question becomes whether bargaining over trade routes and areas rich in fossil fuels is really the approach that should be taken when trying to create treaties to demilitarize the Arctic Circle.



Questions to Consider

- 1) Does the resolution address the environmental impacts of resource extraction in the Exclusive Economic Zones?
- 2) How will you mitigate the risk of climate change and how will you protect the wildlife that thrives in the regions assigned to each country?
- 3) What can be done to improve current treaties such as UNCLOS to increase specificity and enforceability?



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