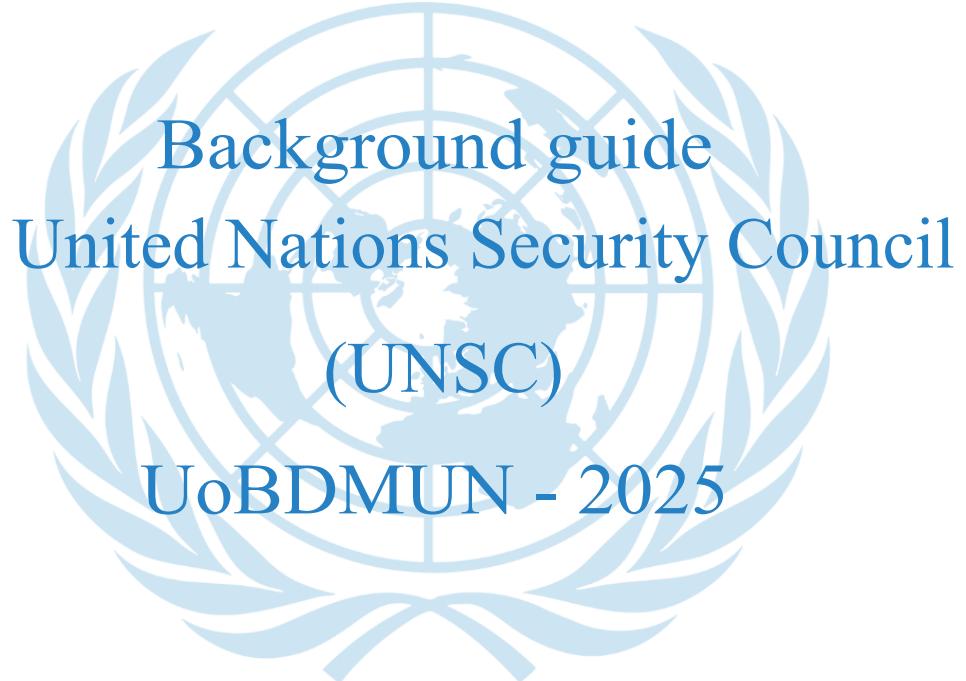




UoBDMUN | **20
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Welcome Letter

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council at the 1st Edition of UOBDMUN! With great honor and enthusiasm, we extend our warmest greetings to each of you. As chairs of the UNSC, we are eager to witness your engagement in debates and discussions, aiming to make your experience at UOBDMUN unforgettable.

The United Nations Security Council was formed in 1945 and aims to maintain international collective security. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorizing the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

As your moderators, we look forward to meeting you all and hopefully making the most out of this experience. To effectively participate in and benefit from this conference, remember that this Background guide is to assist you in understanding the topic and should not replace your research. Once again, we'd like to express our gratitude for your participation in this year's UOBDMUN conference.

Regards,
Moderators of the UNSC

Committee Introduction

One of the six main branches of the United Nations (UN), which was founded in 1945, is the United Nations Security Council. The UNSC occupies a special and powerful place within the UN system as the key body in charge of preserving world peace and security. Five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—and 10 non-permanent members chosen by the General Assembly for two-year periods make up the Council's fifteen members. All UN member nations must abide by the decisions made by the UNSC, which grants it the power to implement policies like sanctions, peacekeeping operations, and even the use of armed action to resolve disputes and threats to international security.

In addition to its direct involvement, the UNSC is essential in averting wars through mediation and diplomatic initiatives. Upholding respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, encouraging amicable relations among states, promoting international collaboration in tackling global concerns, and preserving international peace and security are some of its primary goals. The UNSC can quickly respond to new crises and influence global policy thanks to its regular sessions. The Council's work is crucial to the stability and security of the international order because its judgments frequently determine how the world community responds to complicated and unstable circumstances.

Topic – Explore Rising Tensions and Strategic Rivalries Between East and West

Introduction

Tensions and conflicts between East and West nations have increased globally in recent years. Global politics, economy, and security have been influenced by this rivalry, with repercussions seen in many parts of the world. Countries like the United States and European nations are on one side, while China and Russia are attempting to impose their influence on the other. These rivalries have their roots in historical occurrences such as the Cold War and have been further created by changes in global power politics and existing targets.

One of the most important is the conflict for control of important resources and trade routes. One example of how the East is extending its influence is China's Belt and Road Initiative, which seeks to create a network of investment and trade throughout Asia, Europe, and Africa. The West has been trying to form alliances in regions like the Middle East and Africa to overcome this growing dominance. With both sides attempting to ensure energy security and economic resilience, access to essential resources like oil, rare minerals, and sustainable energy technology has emerged as a major source of conflict.

Ongoing disagreements continue to emphasize the negative effects caused by such conflicts over power. Moreover, The South China Sea disagreements and the war in Ukraine are two major examples. The conflict in Ukraine has increased tensions between Russia and NATO member states. In addition to that, the Palestinian Israeli conflict has again returned as a significant problem. The West frequently supports Israel, while Eastern powers demand an end to the occupation and support for Palestinian rights in response to the increasing instability in Gaza and the West Bank.

Due to struggle for resources, security, and influence, the growing tensions between the East and West are changing the circumstances of the world. Current conflicts, such as those in the South China Sea and Ukraine, reflect the difficulties that lie ahead, making diplomacy essential to prevent future escalation.

History

The tensions between East and West have deep roots that began during the Cold War (1947–1991), when the world was divided into two major groups. The Western bloc, led by the United States and its allies, supported capitalism and democracy, while the Eastern bloc, led by the Soviet Union, followed communism. Even though the Cold War ended, these differences have continued to cause conflict between East and West (Gaddis, 2005).

Recently, tensions have grown again due to changes in global power. China has become a major economic and military force, creating competition with Western countries like the U.S. and Europe. China's Belt and Road Initiative aims to expand trade and influence in other regions, which has raised concerns in the West about its long-term control over important trade routes and infrastructure (Zhao, 2018). Additionally, China's military actions in the South China Sea and disputes over Taiwan have made its relationship with Western countries even more strained (Ravenhill, 2020).

The Middle East is another area where East and West are competing for influence. The region's strategic location and rich energy resources make it a key focus for geopolitical rivalry. Western nations, including the U.S. and its allies, have been involved in the Middle East through military actions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria (O'Hanlon, 2018). These actions have led to strong anti-Western feelings in the region, allowing Eastern powers like Russia and Iran to gain more influence (Abdulhadi, 2020). Russia's support for the Assad regime in Syria and Iran's backing of groups like Hezbollah have made tensions with the West worse (Maleki, 2021).

China has also become more involved in the Middle East by making major economic investments in infrastructure and energy. Unlike Western countries, China focuses on building economic partnerships without interfering in political conflicts (Yu, 2017). This has increased competition between China and Western powers, adding to the ongoing rivalry (Wang, 2019).

Understanding these historical and current tensions between East, West, and the Middle East is important for understanding how global politics and security are shaped today.

Analysis

Current international politics are defined by the rivalry between Eastern and Western countries. This rivalry is based on conflicting ideals, historical occurrences, and strategic goals rather than simple military power or financial power. When the United States and the Soviet Union were superpowers with opposing ideologies during the Cold War, the East-West split first developed. Many believed that the world would move towards more stability and collaboration when the Soviet Union fell apart in the early 1990s. However, the development of China as an economic superpower and Russia's increasing power on the globe established a new sort of rivalry.

The promotion of democracy, liberal financial systems, and human rights are the main concerns of the West today, which are being led by the US and European nations. This is frequently observed in global initiatives to oppose regimes that violate these ideals or to promote political change in areas governed by authoritarians. Eastern states, particularly China and Russia, on the other hand, place a higher priority on their borders, national sovereignty, and forms of government. These nations frequently see Western actions as imperialist and a direct danger to their sovereignty and authority in the area. The struggle for international resources and routes of trade is one of the main causes of conflict. The West, which sees these initiatives as attempts to build control, especially in places like Africa and Asia, feels more threatened as China looks to increase its influence through initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative. In response, the United States and Europe responded by strengthening their partnerships and alliances in key areas to preserve their worldwide influence.

Certain international conflicts additionally demonstrate these tensions. A major example is the South China Sea, where other regional actors, backed by Western nations, have opposed China's claims to important sea lanes and hydrocarbon contributions. Because the United States and its allies deny China's territorial claims, this has resulted in military conflict and a continuous conflict for the right of passage in the region. The continuing conflict in Ukraine is another significant event. While the West views Russia's invasion of Ukraine as a hostile violation of international law, Russia views the expansion of NATO to the East as a danger to its domain of influence. In addition to emphasizing the East-West strategic rivalry, the war poses more significant concerns regarding the role of international institutions such as the UN and NATO in preserving world peace and security.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine, which has been causing separation, also serves as an example of the differences between Western and Eastern aims. While many Eastern countries, particularly in the Middle East, support Palestinian rights and an end to the occupation, the West frequently backs Israel. This gap is a reflection of the larger ideological split between the East and the West, with both sides frequently seeing issues through a perspective of sovereignty and self-determination and the other side focusing on human rights and international law.

Starter Sources

1. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en>
2. [Rising-tensions-shifting-strategies-evolving-dynamics-us-grand-strategy-arctic](#)
3. [Geopolitical-and-economic-tension-in-the-21st-century-not-your-grandfathers-cold-war](#)
4. [RAND PEA1404-2.pdf](#)

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How can the international community effectively balance economic and geopolitical interests in the Middle East, while avoiding escalation of conflict between East and West?
2. What strategies can East and West adopt to prevent further militarization and competition over critical trade routes, such as the South China Sea and the Strait of Hormuz?
3. How can diplomatic efforts between East and West be strengthened to address regional disputes in the Middle East, such as the ongoing conflict in Syria and tensions between Iran and Gulf states?
4. In what ways can global powers, including China, the United States, and European nations, work together to ensure energy security in the Middle East without compromising regional stability and peace?

Suggestions for Further Research

1. Past Efforts and Agreements in Managing East-West Rivalries
2. Regional Conflicts and Their Role in Shaping Global Tensions
3. New Approaches to Strengthening East-West Relations

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