

# PacificMUN

Dare to Speak



SPECPOL-Topic A  
Backgrounder Guide



Development of Autonomous Measures and Proposals for Non Self-Governing Territories - SPECPOL

Topic A

PacificMUN



## Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

Thank you and congratulations on finalizing your delegation to Pacific Model United Nations (PacificMUN). My name is Jimmy Ma, and it is my utmost pleasure to serve as your Director of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

As a student attending Port Moody Secondary, a school with a student body that places great emphasis on Model United Nations, it was natural for me to delve into this passionate community of bright individuals. It has introduced me to the greatest group of friends I could ask for and admirable mentors who have taught me more than school alone ever could. By the vehicle of research, debate, and public speaking, Model UN has encouraged me to take an interest in the world we live in. This is especially important in a democratic country such as Canada where we all have jurisdiction over the fate of our nation. I hope delegates are able to derive a similarly rewarding experience from this conference.

Over the course of three days, two topics will be held for discussion: Developing Autonomous Measures and Proposals for Non-Self-Governing Territories and Preservation of Civil Order in Mass Protests. Being socially concerning and yielding a high degree of significance, addressing the numerous facets of the topics ranging from economic and social developmental hindrances to the chaos caused by groupthink is a priority in the eyes of SPECPOL. I invite delegates to take their country's foreign policy heavy consideration when collaboratively producing resolutions with other delegates in the committee.



I will be joined by your Chairs Jessica Song and Samuel Tung. As your dais, we hope to provide an unforgettable experience yielding applicable teachings and a platform for conducive discussion. If you need assistance or have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Jimmy Ma  
Director of SPECPOL  
PacificMUN 2019

## Committee Overview

SPECPOL, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, was established in 1961 as the fourth of six General Assemblies. It is tasked with resolving issues regarding social, political, and economic development worldwide. Initially, the Fourth Committee solely focused on decolonization matters while political questions were the responsibility of an additional Main Committee: the Special Political Committee (SPC). After the 48th session in 1993, the SPC merged into the Fourth Committee to create the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in conformance to the General Assembly resolution 47/233.<sup>1</sup>

The Fourth Committee allows all 193 Member States in the United Nations to participate in discussion and policymaking. As a principal organ of the General Assembly, SPECPOL often investigates issues prior to passing them onto more exclusive committees, allowing for a broader range of facets to be discussed and grants all United Nations Member States to be aware and place input. However, SPECPOL may not induce actions or enforce resolutions, but only make recommendations on the subjects it considers.

The committee name is deceptively simple compared to the expansive range of issues the committee is responsible for. SPECPOL is one of the most versatile organs of the General Assembly. Besides decolonization, it deals subject areas including the consequences of atomic radiation, collaborative non-combative uses of outer space, ensuring accuracy and precision in the presentation of public information, and such topics belonging to gray areas between various other committees. SPECPOL annually conducts detailed analyses regarding peacekeeping affairs through special political operations. Subjects of such audits include The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices.<sup>2</sup> Both organizations share the intention of supporting the Palestinian people in recuperation. Biennially,

<sup>1</sup> <https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/committees>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/>



SPECPOL assists in mine action operations including clearance, education, victim assistance, advocacy, and stockpile destruction helping to establish a safe environment for over 50 once war-torn countries.<sup>3</sup> The Committee considers items in relation to the University of Peace every three years. Politically, SPECPOL also strives to assist to areas where government measures are lacking in order to develop a stable region.

## **Topic A: Developing Autonomous Measures and Proposals for Non Self-Governing Territories**

### **Introduction**

The founding of the United Nations on October 24, 1945, marked the beginning of not only the international relations system that we use today, but it also marked the end of the European imperialism. From 1945 throughout the rest of the 20th century, colonies all over the world would see themselves become independent. However, despite the decolonization that happened throughout the world, there are still regions today that still exist in a state of limbo. These regions are known as Non-Self-Governing Territories.

A Non-Self Governing Territory (NSGT) is defined by the UN Charter as a “territory whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government,”<sup>4</sup> the territory in question being under the jurisdiction of another country. Countries ruling NSGTs are referred to as administering powers. Administrative countries obtain this position of power through colonization, a means to annex another region as an extension of the administrative powers sovereign borders.

Colonialism is often used by prosperous nations to exploit smaller, weaker countries through the enforcement of political, economic, and cultural policies particularly benefiting the administering power. It may be utilized for a wide variety of reasons ranging from economic to political, resource rich regions are drained for their natural commodities, and some with untapped markets enticing to foreign private firms. Geographical placement or topography may lead administrative powers to consider them as desirable shipping or aviation routes, strategic placement of naval and military bases.<sup>5</sup> As a result, colonized regions are often grounds for international rivalry or conflict. NSGTs are seldom represented in the administering power’s governmental body, allowing the governing body to exclude the needs of those in the colonized region. Although colonization has the possibility of bringing benefits in particular

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gichd.org/what-is-mine-action/introduction-to-mine-action/#.XA9BMBNKhTZ>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/events/nonselfgoverning/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-journal-of-international-law/article/legal-problems-arising-from-the-united-nations-trusteeship-system/81B3B377286FB2C68E48D4FDE2C8B578>



cases, however the general consensus is there are marginally fewer benefits than costs. For example, foreign businesses may provide indigenous consumers with enticing products, meanwhile domestic businesses suffer from decreased revenue due to fierce competition.

Colonization brings about hindrances in international social, cultural, and economic development of dependent peoples which challenge the United Nations ideal of universal peace.<sup>6</sup> It is the United Nations' vision to establish self-determination for all peoples in the world. To ensure that Non-Self Governing Territories can combat problems and challenges in the absence of administrative powers, developing measures and proposals geared towards autonomy is a crucial step toward decolonization efforts.

## Timeline

**1494** - Signed by the Spanish and the Portuguese empires, the *Treaty of Tordesillas* describes of a vertical, imaginary line set in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. All territories west of the line was free to be conquered by the Spanish, and the east, by the Portuguese.<sup>7</sup>

**1760** - The Industrial Revolution altered colonialism practices substantially. Whereas before, the empire-building nations purchased goods from colonies, the now industrialized motherland became sellers of their manufactured goods. Industrialization contributed to the fall of demand for slaves, spices, and sugar, with a growing demand for raw materials for manufacturing purposes. New policies directed to adapting colonies to better suit the demands of the industrializing nations heavily disrupted social systems in colonies.<sup>8</sup>

**1775** - The American Revolution, also known as the War of Independence where 13 British colonies on the eastern seaboard of North America fought against Great Britain for independence. Although the Declaration of Independence was signed the following year, this expensive and bloody war prolonged for 8 years.

**1945** - *Chapter XI: Declaration Regarding Non-Self Governing Territories* in the Charter of the United Nations details principles administrative powers must adhere to. It mandates that governing member states must uphold utmost respect for the local people and cultural identities, treat them justly, protect them from abuse, consider their political aspirations, and assist in development of infrastructure. To ensure the integrity of the administering power, reports are to be regularly submitted to the Secretary General for the supervision.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Tordesillas>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Western-colonialism/European-expansion-since-1763>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-xi/index.html>



**1945** - Chapter XII of the UN Charter established the Trusteeship Council which aimed to promote political, economic, and social advancement of the NSGTs and their development towards self-government and self-determination. The Council monitored 11 Trust Territories which remained under colonial rule with distinct agreements with administering powers respectively.<sup>10</sup>

**1945** - The Cold War sparked a series of neocolonialist-like actions from the Soviet Union and the United States. Both the United States and the Soviet Union subsidized developing regions with foreign aid to gain their alliance to their respective blocs. Instead of complying, a substantial number of regions decided to join the Non-Alignment Movement with a focus on internal development.

**1956** - A list of over 100 developing countries established the Non-Alignment Movement for less significant nations independent of bloc positions to be heard. The organization calls for Members States to abstain from aligning themselves with superpowers such as the U.S. or the U.S.S.R. and collectively fight for self-determination and combat colonialism, and imperialism.<sup>11</sup>

**1960** - The decolonization process experienced a considerable breakthrough with the implementation of UNGA resolution 1514 (XV) *Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples*. The United Nations "Solemnly proclaims the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations;" guided by the principle of aiming to assist subjects of alien subjugation, domination, and exploitation to reach a state of self-determination and preserving territorial integrity of States.<sup>12</sup>

**1962** - UN General Assembly established the Special Committee on Decolonization or the Special Committee of 24 to monitor implementation of the Declaration on decolonization (General Assembly Resolution 1514 XV). The committee takes into account statements made by representative sent by NSGTs along with visiting missions in effort to review and make recommendations on the political, social and economic situation.<sup>13</sup>

**1970** - The United Nations General Assembly adopts Resolution 2621 XXV criminalizing further colonialism in any forms of existence.

**1990** - The United Nations proclaimed the years 1990-2000 to be the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism along with the adoptions of a specific Plan of Action outlined in

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/its.shtml>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Non-Aligned-Movement>

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/specialcommittee.shtml>



A/RES/44/181. Simultaneously, the Special Committee on Decolonization begins holding regional seminars to gain a better understanding of NSGTs

**2001** - The Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is set from 2001 to 2010. The resolution considers recommendations made by the thirteenth iteration of the Non-Alignment Movement and Pacific regional seminars held in favour of Non-Self Governing Territories in Majuro.<sup>14</sup>

**2011** - UN proclaims 2011-2020 to be the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. The resolution further reinstates proclamations made in the previous Decade. Bearing in mind the recommendations made in the fifteenth summit held by the Non-Alignment movement and information gathered at the Pacific regional seminar held in Nouméa.<sup>15</sup>

## Historical Analysis

Since the beginning of civilization, ancient peoples often clashed in conquests of desired territories. The exploitation which took place was outright barbaric compared to modern-day colonialism. The aftermath of such conflicts often resulted in the conqueror pillaging any property of value, and the complete subjugation of the domestic people.

Colonialism first began in the 16th Century led by two powerful empires—The Spanish and Portuguese. Colonialism at this time was still very much synonymous to conquest. On the western front, the Spanish slew countless natives and often turned indigenous tribes against each other in the ultimate pursuit of natural resources, slaves, territory occupation, and market share for European goods while the Portuguese operated mainly in favour of commercial benefits. Later, during the 16th and 17th centuries, other European countries such as France, England and the Dutch Republic continued the practice.<sup>16</sup> The Industrial Revolution altered colonialism substantially to benefit the empire-building nation. Empire-building nations became sellers of manufactured goods and tapped into raw material deposits. Colonies were forced to embrace new laws which proved highly disruptive to social systems including: a reconstruction of land and property systems, introduction of private property in land, creation of labour supply, introduction of currency to capitalize property. This was to accommodate for the mass emigration of settlers into the “inferior” continents. They carried with them a highly narcissistic and racist attitude towards the indigenous populations which lead to the removal, eradication, or forceful relocation of the locals to make space for the European development of industry, agriculture, and ideologies.<sup>17</sup>

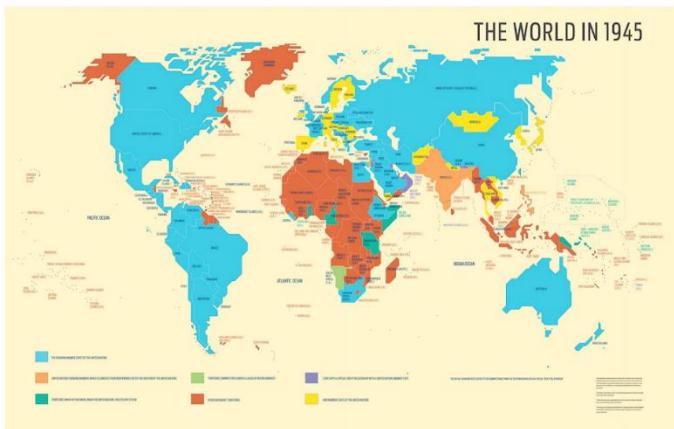
<sup>14</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/60/120>

<sup>15</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/65/119>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Western-colonialism#ref25868>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Western-colonialism/European-expansion-since-1763>

# UNITED NATIONS: FOUNDED IN 1945



**At the end of World War II, over 1/3 of the world's population lived in dependent territories.**

*Non-Self Governing Territories in 1945<sup>18</sup>*

The United Nations once dedicated a tremendous effort to the process of decolonization having understood the importance of self-governance in leading fulfilling lives for inhabitants of Non-Self Governing Territories. Close to a third of the global population resided under colonial rule prior to the establishment of the United Nations. Under the influence of the non-alignment movement and assistance of the UN, over 140 colonies became independent Member States in a span of 20 years. During this time, the economic superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, opposed direct colonialism in favour of ambiguous methods of ideological, economic, and military domination to replace previous colonial powers. A wave of colonial wars for independence proved to be excessively violent and expensive for the now war-weary western Europeans to support. Regions with little value in precious resources, militaristic advantages, or colonial settlers gained their freedom.<sup>19</sup> In 1960, the UNGA adopted UN Resolution 1514 XV declaring the need to put an end to decolonization.<sup>20</sup> The Special Committee on Decolonization was established the following year to enact upon the Declaration.<sup>21</sup>

The UN decolonization mandate and the post-colonial world were heavily influenced by the United States, the Soviet Union, and administering powers. Decolonization efforts, from time to time, were not always prioritizing the autonomy of colonial territories. Near the end of the 20th century, the United States and the United Kingdom withdrew from the Special Committee on Decolonization and set to

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/world1945.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Western-colonialism/European-expansion-since-1763>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/specialcommittee.shtml>



dissolve it with the help of France. Only due to the relentless outcry from smaller territories was the committee able to be resurrected, however, with added limitations to its functions.<sup>22</sup>

## Current Situation

Though the United Nations has yet to accomplish absolute decolonization, it aims to do so with the adoption of a case-by-case approach in accordance to the resolutions and decisions legislated under the United Nations.<sup>23</sup> Western Sahara, Anguilla; Bermuda, British Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands, Montserrat; Falkland Islands, Saint Helena; Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands; Gibraltar, American Samoa; French Polynesia, Guam; New Caledonia, Pitcairn and Tokelau still remain as Non-Self Governing Territories as of today.<sup>24</sup> These territories are confronted with a multitude of different social, economic and political challenges. While some regions may share similar difficulties, the aspirations and circumstance of each NSGT is exclusive to each their own, therefore, they must be considered individually in the decolonization process. With these various issues at hand, developing autonomous measures for these non-self-governing territories will be a difficult task.

### **Dependency**

Self-determination, political equality and democracy have served as guiding principles of the decolonization process. The efforts of the United Nations, although commendable, cannot be considered truly successful when administering states are exercising absolute authority over NSGTs with dependency models that stimulate economic growth at the expense of democracy and political freedom.<sup>25</sup> Colonialism in the modern day is much more indirect compared to the blatant methods of the past. Neocolonialism stands in the way of regions achieving full independence as it is a practice often used by developed countries to hinder growth of developing countries and preserving a state of dependency. The practice is a means of indirect control through economic, financial, and trade policies enacted by global institutions and transnational corporations benefiting a small percentage of people while slowing overall growth. Such investments sustain underdeveloped nations as sources of inexpensive labour and raw materials. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are often subject to accusations of committing neocolonialism by providing loans which carry conditions beneficial for the institution itself but at the expense of the recipient nation's economy.<sup>26</sup> However, the NSGT continues their dependency in sight of short-term benefits. Governments of both administering powers and NSGTs may be uncooperative in decolonization efforts in fear of losing economic benefits. Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands

<sup>22</sup> <https://thediplomat.com/2016/09/how-the-un-failed-west-papua/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://enaun.mrecic.gov.ar/en/content/fourth-committee-special-political-and-decolonization-committee>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/nonselfgovterritories.shtml#foot1>

<sup>25</sup> <https://unu.edu/publications/articles/residual-colonialism-in-the-21st-century.html>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/topic/neocolonialism>



still retain colony status underneath the United Kingdom having shown little interest in independence. Puerto Rico remains a commonwealth of the United States due to an undecided political status.

The phenomenon of neocolonialism is most accurately characterized by NSGTs in the Atlantic and Caribbean area, alternatively known as the West Indies. West Indian producers lack the necessary means to be competitive in any commodity markets. Economies have been flooded by multinational corporations, commodities such as sugar is dominated by British-based companies. Both British and North American companies possessing a monopoly over banana production in Jamaica and the Windward islands.<sup>27</sup> Another challenge toward furthered autonomy of NSGTs is a lack of population, land mass, and geographical disadvantages. Located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean between New Zealand and South America, the Pitcairn Island has a total population of 39 people and an area of 35.5 square kilometers, making it highly difficult to be self-sufficient.<sup>28</sup> Without external input, they would most likely struggle in providing basic government services such as healthcare and education.

Administrative powers are dependent on NSGTs as well. Although the minuscule size of NSGTs are easily forgone, some are outstanding in their contribution to the world. The Cayman Islands and the Bermuda have a GDP per capita ranking top 10 in the world while Guam is crucial to the U.S. military strategies in the Pacific. In the case of the U.S, the people of NSGTs are considered as “alien races” in the eyes of the Supreme Court, making it inappropriate to provide U.S. citizenships or full constitutional rights. While military bases placed in the U.S. or abroad are handicapped by local restrictions, these Territories have very little constitutional rights on their soil so many more individual freedoms may be violated. In 2004, Major General Dennis Larsen was quoted saying: “Guam is a U.S. territory. We can do what we want here, and make huge investments without fear of being thrown out.” At one point, over 60% of the island had been occupied by military establishment. Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of excess artillery was relocated to Guam to be destroyed in environmentally polluting methods.<sup>29</sup>

### **Disputes**

In 1976, Spain expressed to the Secretary General its wish to relinquish ownership of the West Sahara and, therefore, no longer be held responsible for the management of the territory.<sup>30</sup> Colonizing powers often consulted each other rather than the locals of the area when deciding the placement of borders. The outdated artificial boundaries drawn by empire builders long ago have forced various tribes to cohabit leading to cultural divides and the possibility of civil wars if left unsupervised. Since then, Morocco has proposed its own transitional framework for autonomy. It has been commended by the

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Indies-island-group-Atlantic-Ocean/Decolonization>

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/nonselfgovterritories.shtml#foot1>

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2017/09/28/most-countries-have-given-up-their-colonies-why-hasnt-america/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.234a3efaa67b](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/made-by-history/wp/2017/09/28/most-countries-have-given-up-their-colonies-why-hasnt-america/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.234a3efaa67b)

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/nonselfgovterritories.shtml#foot1>



UNGA for its prioritization of creating a win-win situation for both the NSGT and administering power through objective, compromise-spirited, and peaceful negotiations.

Ownership of the Falkland Islands is a point of disagreement between the governments of United Kingdom and Argentina. Although both sides present highly convincing cases of argument, a 2013 UN-supervised referendum showed that over 90% of Falkland Islanders voted to maintain their status as a British Overseas Territory.<sup>31</sup> This is a case where the NSGT wishes to maintain their dependency. The people of the Falkland Islands express strong desire to be a part of the United Kingdom, having strong cultural, social and political ties to the motherland. Gibraltar has expressed a similar opinion as well.

### **Lack of Cooperation**

The issues NSGTs are faced with are further aggravated by a lack representation in the legislature of their administering countries. Administrative powers are able to hide their ownership of foreign states by the misconception that colonization is no longer a relevant topic nor exists in modern times, thus, could not be held liable for any infringements in self-determination. Of the 17 recognized NSGTs, many are structured with quasi forms of self-governance. The United States allows only non-voting powers to the Congressional representatives of its three Non-Self Governing Territories—American Samoa, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Moreover, the US government claims such non-voting territories have “self-governance” and thus should no longer be considered as NGSTs—nor should they be included in decolonization-related discussions. Similarly, the United Kingdom maintains ultimate constitutional authority in the presence of localized governments within overseas territories. Although the UN is required to continue the decolonization process, representatives of administering powers outright neglect their responsibilities in the situation, seldom interacting with the Committee on Decolonization. Delegates of France, administering New Caledonia and French Polynesia, purposely walk out of discussion related to their NSGTs.<sup>32</sup>

## **UN Involvement**

In UNGA Resolution 1514 XV, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples declares “the necessity of bringing to a speedy and unconditional end colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.”<sup>33</sup> To accomplish this, the Special Committee observes the concerns of NSGTs by hosting regional seminars in differing parts of the world, as well as dispatching units to visit and report on territories of interest. These methods of data collection allow the Special Committee to determine practical policy approaches when considering the interests of NSGT representatives,

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<sup>31</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-21750909>

<sup>32</sup> <https://thediplomat.com/2016/09/how-the-un-failed-west-papua/>

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>



professionals, and other stakeholders.<sup>34</sup> The data gathered is then analyzed, discussed, and, hopefully, resolved by the 24 Member States. Concurrently, the General Assembly declared the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism detailing a specific Plan of Action. This was followed by the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and currently with the third. With each iteration, the resolutions emphasized further cooperation with specialized agencies and NGOs. There are well over 10 branches of the United Nations capable of providing assistance to NSGTs. UNICEF covers a total of 14 NSGTs, providing children and women with all necessary means of welfare, education, and development. In regards to technical, economic, and infrastructure, UNDP can provide aid in the stated areas in the Caribbean through its Caribbean Regional Technical Assistance Center. They are joined by other well-known organs such as UNESCO, WHO, FAO, UNEP, etc.<sup>35</sup>

The UN Decolonization process was not as successful when it first started. The UN experienced one of its failures in the decolonization in West Papua. Under the supervision of UN observers and U.S. diplomats, Indonesia acquired national sovereignty over West Papua in 1968 with an undemocratic voting procedure named the “Act of Free Choice.” The Indonesian military ordered 1,025 Papuan citizens to cast votes, either by hand or vocalizing prepared scripts, in display of their eagerness to surrender their sovereignty for Indonesian citizenship. The International Human Rights Clinic at Yale Law School reports “Indonesian military leaders began making public threats against Papuan leaders...vowing to shoot them on the spot if they did not vote for Indonesian control.” The United States allowed the annexation of West Papua with the primary concern of preventing the spread of communism.<sup>36</sup> Benny Wenda, an exiled West Papuan leader, presented a petition endorsed by over 70% of the Papuan population requesting for a representative of the Special Committee to investigate human rights violations in the province. The Special Committee has refused to recognize West Papua as a NSGT since its annexation in 1968.<sup>37</sup>

## Seeking Resolutions

Decolonization is a globally concerning issue requiring input from a range of Member States. Furthering the decolonization process can give Non-Self Governing Territories the fundamental right to govern themselves. Offshore governments cannot holistically approach issues for their colonies. Power should be placed in the hands of institutions within the Territories. Note that a portion of NSGTs may not wish for full independence and, instead, focus on meeting the aspirations of the people. Measures of counteracting the obstacles facing NSGTs would considerably benefit the decolonization process.

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/regseminars.shtml>

<sup>35</sup> [https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/English\\_JUNE%202017.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/English_JUNE%202017.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> <https://thediplomat.com/2016/09/how-the-un-failed-west-papua/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2113504/united-nations-refuses-accept-west-papua-independence>



These proposals could be outlined within individually established frameworks for Territories to follow. This section will outline potential solutions to assist Non-Self Governing Territories gain autonomy:

### ***Regulations***

Established previously, modern-day colonialism uses economic dependence as a means to trap NSGTs in exploitative relationships. Without the proper infrastructure for economic autonomy, NSGTs are susceptible to market failures. Heavy dependence on foreign imports can have disastrous effects on the domestic economy. Importers with near-monopolistic positions are able to set prices to their desires as opposed to the best value. Supply shocks, such as natural disasters, can cut off the supply leaving non-self-sufficient regions in helpless situations. Instead of allowing foreign corporations to dominate the local market shares, they should use them as a buffer while domestic businesses solidify. If the motive is the capitalist ideal of gaining profit, then removing the economic benefits will disincentivize the foreign corporation. By using regulations which (1) favour local businesses and (2) restrict foreign corporations, the economic foundations of these Territories can solidify to compete with foreign goods and progress in self-sufficiency.

### ***Development***

The development of educational systems should be a priority. Studies have shown education can break the poverty cycle, and in our case, introduce political, social, and economic awareness. Establishing democratic parties people can vote for has been historically proven to be effective. Hasty decolonization without a prepared system of government leaves the Territory vulnerable to power struggles and the enforcement of unconventional forms of government. The party should aim to reach a state of allocative and productive efficiency. As well as measures to mitigate corruption by distributing responsibilities to professionals competent in completing their tasks. An overhaul of financial systems may be required, especially for those under the sovereignty of the U.S.

### ***Self-determination***

A lot can be learned from the efforts of Morocco in their pursuit of self-determination. The government of Morocco proposed objective, compromise-spirited negotiations between both Morocco and their administering power to gain a better understanding of the aspirations of both parties to arrive at an agreement. The plan respected the principle of self-determination detailed in the UN Charter, as well as Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It dictates domestic affairs are to be governed by democratically elected domestic bodies. Morocco has since obtained its self-determination and territorial integrity deviating from Western Sahara.<sup>38</sup> Independence should only be granted when the Territory has a concrete governmental infrastructure to ensure autonomy and self-governance; such as the case with Morocco.

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2009/gaspd426.doc.htm>



# Bloc Positions

## ***States in Favour of Decolonization***

Newly independent developing nations have been responsible for the growth in United Nations Member States and the shift in international voting dynamics. Emerging Member States heavily sympathize with Non-Self Governing Territories. Most are characterized by non-white populations, developing economies, and internal turmoil from colonial pasts. European and North American-style political ideologies, governmental structures, and economic institutions are faced with stigma and suspicion from these parts of the world. Often serving as bastions of decolonization, they lead the United Nations to accept resolutions creating decolonization oriented committees and assisting nations struggling for independence.

## ***States Against Decolonization***

The United States, the United Kingdom, France, and New Zealand are the last of the administrative states, remaining indifferent to the idea of further decolonization. Occupying offshore regions brings great marginal benefits to their homeland. As mentioned previously, many of the Non-Self Governing Territories are crucial in the international stage. The United States utilizes strategically placed NSGTs as housing for military bases. There is great militaristic advantage of using Guam as a buffer between the United States and potential attacks from Asia, most worryingly, from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The tremendous amounts of output produced by Bermuda and the Cayman Islands can be tapped into by the United Kingdom, thus, losing such valuable assets would prove economically catastrophic. There are many reasons as to why some territories prefer to remain under the authority of a country. Economically, the regions may not be able to survive without continued support. Socially, they may strongly identify with the people of the ruling country. Politically, they may be contempt with the current situation.

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is autonomy important for non-self governing territories?
2. What factors should be considered to ensure that non-self governing territories are capable of operating autonomously?
3. Should the United Nations intervene in NSGT if no human rights are violated?
4. How can administering powers (UK, France, USA, New Zealand...) be incentivized to recede control of these territories?



5. What are some of the biggest challenges currently experienced by non-self governing territories?
6. What are the living conditions in NSGTs?
7. What should be done if a NSGT is resistant to sovereignty?
8. What steps should the UN implement to ensure a smooth transition into an autonomous region?
9. What are some of the reasons for NSGTs to remain a part of their government country?

## Further Reading

1. [http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/English\\_JUNE%202017.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/pdf/English_JUNE%202017.pdf)
2. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/non-self-governing-territories-of-the-world.html>
3. <http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/nonselgovterritories.shtml>
4. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2012/gacol3236.doc.htm>
5. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/asia-and-africa>



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