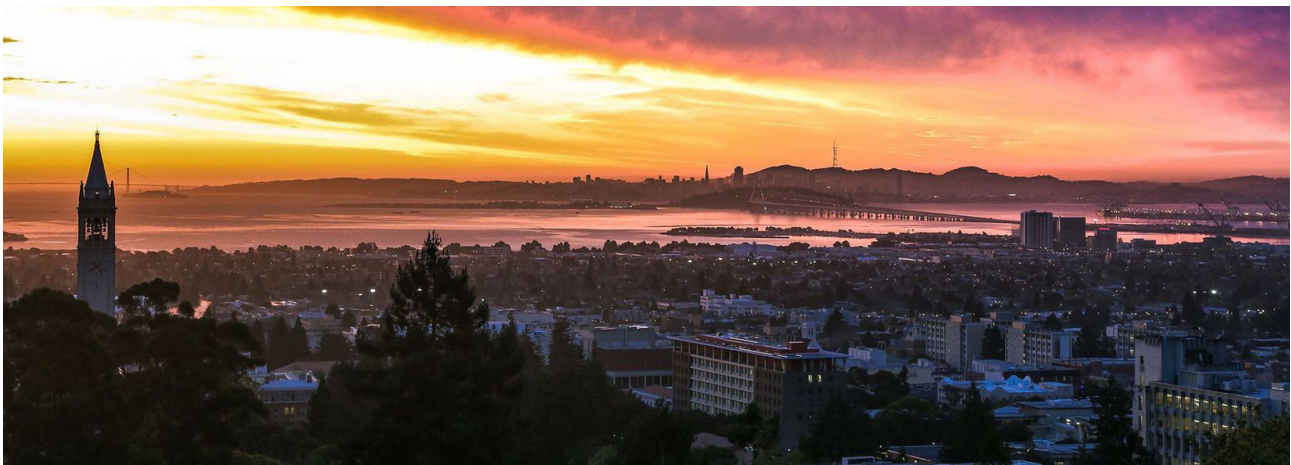


Bay Area Model United Nations Spring 2015

April 25th



BACKGROUND GUIDE PUTIN'S CABINET: ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

PUTIN'S CABINET: ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

A Message From the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Muhammad Hassan Ayub and I will be serving as your Head Chair for Putin's Cabinet here at Spring BayMUN 2015. I am a freshman intending to major in Business Administration at the Haas School of Business and minor in Public Policy. I have been involved with Model U.N. for the past 6 years and this is the 8th time that I'll be on the administrative side of committee, judging your viewpoints and policies on this very pressing issue.

In this committee, Delegates will assemble and deal with critical issues that will lead to a very high level of intellectual debate. The background guide covers all the details of the topic at hand very comprehensively. So I'll personally advise all of you to read the guide very acutely, and address all the issues mentioned in the guide during your interaction. Delegates of Putin's Cabinet need to take this issue forward very creatively and cautiously, as what may or may not have actually worked between the Committee's start date and today is not guaranteed to work again.

If you wish to contact me prior to the official commencement of the conference, please feel free to contact me through email (hassanayub@berkeley.edu). I'll be more than pleased to address your concerns and clarify any ambiguities. I am looking forward to meeting you all and see what you have to offer.

Most Sincerely,

Muhammad Hassan Ayub
Head Chair – Putin's Cabinet



BayMUN Spring 2015



A Message From the Crisis Director

Dear Delegates,

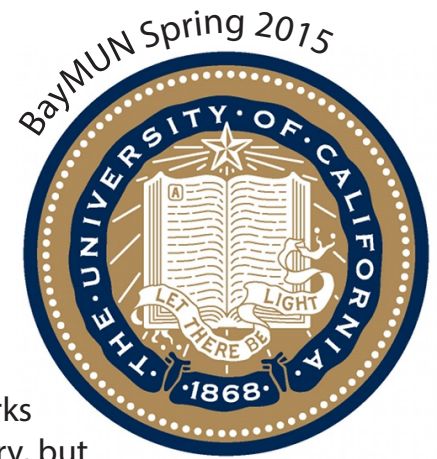
My name is Beckett Kelly and I will be your Crisis Director for Putin's Cabinet. I am a declared sophomore at UC Berkeley majoring in Political Science and minoring in Public Policy. I have been involved with Model U.N. since it was first offered at my high school during my junior year. In the past, I've served as Head Chair for Ostpolitik: The Government of Willy Brandt for UCBMUN XIX.

As with any crisis committee, be ready for twists and turns as we navigate the tricky waters of war, international diplomacy, scandal, murder, and anything else the committee wants to come up with. I look forward to all of your interesting and wonderful ideas and cannot wait to lead us down a road of conquest and prosperity, or, since this is Model U.N. after all, of destruction and despair. Be sure to read the background guide to be prepared to debate these important issues.

If you have any questions or concerns I will gladly answer and address them. I can be easily contacted at bbkelly@berkeley.edu. I look forward to leading our glorious cabinet and country to prosperity!

Best Regards,

Beckett Kelly
Crisis Director – Putin's Cabinet
bbkelly@berkeley.edu



PUTIN'S CABINET: INTRODUCTION

The ongoing Ukrainian Crisis is one of the most significant international issues of the contemporary world. It not only marks a radical change in the turn of events during the 21st century, but it also makes us all question the future of the Global Community, that we are a part of, and what we as people and members of nations need to do to ensure our collective security in the years to come.

However, delegates representing Putin's Cabinet will be seeing this crisis with a very acute and a different viewpoint. Russia has been criticized by the entire world for its actions in Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea. Vladimir Putin considers Crimea to be an inherent part of Russia and he wants the region to fall under the country's control, "where it belongs," as he believes. However, due to pressure from the international community--particularly that of NATO and the West--Putin's plans are subject to interference by these powers.

The Committee will begin with an emergency convening of Putin's Cabinet on February 22, 2014. In Kiev, hundreds of thousands of protesters have caused the Pro-Russian President Yanukovych to flee the country, and the Ukrainian Parliament is now drafting legislation to ban Russian as an official language. Pro-Russian rebels exist and operate in the Donetsk region of Eastern Ukraine and in Crimea itself, but Crimea has not yet been made a part of Russia. Delegates' first task will be securing Crimea, and following that, regaining domination over Ukraine by any means necessary.

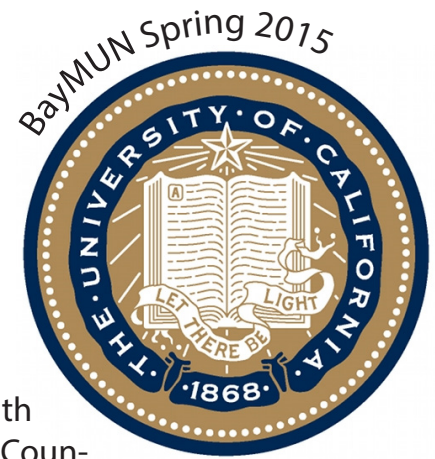
Russia will need to contend with the global pressures it will surely face from such a course of action. But it is very important for delegates to note that they need to be cautious in accomplishing these tasks because the international community may react too strongly against Russia if diplomacy and discretion are not maintained. President Putin has emphasized the importance of preventing NATO especially from becoming directly involved in the crisis. Delegates must use all the tools at their disposal—their domestic industrial and military might, pro-Russian sentiments in Ukraine, and Russia's international position on the Security Council and other organizations—to bring Crimea and Ukraine back to Russia's sphere of influence without causing severe reaction from the global community.



HISTORICAL CASE STUDY: TAKEOVER OF AUTONOMOUS REGIONS IN GEORGIA

Before the disintegration of the USSR, South Ossetians living in Georgia were in conflict with the government of Georgia. The idea of South Ossetian independence from Georgia was first seriously considered in 1918 amid Ossetian revolts against the Republic of Georgia. Major clashes between the two groups erupted again in the early 1990s and in 2004 [1]. The roots of this later conflict lay in the South Ossetians' claim of unequal rights under Georgian law. They desired economic, social and political protection as an ethnic group. On one hand, the clash was over area and political sovereignty; Georgia wanted to prevent South-Ossetia from gaining independence, while the South Ossetians wanted autonomy. The South Ossetians also considered pursuing another option, of joining North Ossetia, part of the Russian Federation (hence coming under Russian influence). On the other hand, Russia wanted to rebuff Georgia for their apparent acceptance of Western political ideology, and so was inclined to support South Ossetia's breakaway from Georgia. From an economic standpoint, politicians within the disputed region worried about the fate of the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline that runs halfway through Georgia [2].

The area of South Ossetia is located north of central Georgia, on the Russian border. When Georgia came under Soviet control in 1923, the region of South Ossetia was granted autonomy via a political union with North Ossetia under the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast [3]. The Georgian government, however, refused to fulfill the requests of the South-Ossetians. They boycotted all provincial political groups in September 1990 while parliamentary decisions were being made. The Ossetians interpreted this as a move to prevent them from gaining self-rule and power within the Georgian political framework. In the long run, this prompted vicious clashes between Georgia and South Ossetia. In 1990, the Ossetians announced their sovereignty and in reaction the Georgian government revoked South Ossetian autonomy. [1]



As a result, an independent election was held in Tskhinvali with an overwhelming support for South Ossetia's secession from Georgia, and for the seceded territory's unification with Russia. On November 19, 1992, the South Ossetian Supreme Council finalized the declaration, which meant South Ossetia was no longer under Georgian sovereignty.

During the late 1980's, the Soviet Union slowly began to lose its legitimacy and during this time, Georgian patriotism swelled and the Ossetians residing within Georgia became apprehensive. Moreover, an army of Georgian soldiers charged into Tskhinvali as well as numerous Ossetian towns. The conflict was heightened in 1992, when Russian forces began to involve themselves in the clashes as well. A truce was arranged together between then-President Boris of Russia and President Shevardnadze of Georgia; the Joint-Control Commission was created to maintain peace and order using Georgian, Ossetian and Russian peacekeeping forces.

The end of the conflict assessed that there were more than 1,000 wartime losses, 100 missing individuals and a multitudinous measure of damaged or destroyed homes [1]. In 2004, Georgia attempted to disrupt further Russian advancements in Southern Ossetia. Furthermore, the Duma of Russia passed a determination that announced its backing of Southern Ossetians during and their clash with Georgia. Currently, Russian forces have established military bases in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, in violation of the 2008 Treaty ending the Russo-Georgian War. Russia has annexed both regions into the Russian Federation, though the international community largely does not recognize the areas as legitimately part of Russia.

RUSSIA, UKRAINE, AND CRIMEA

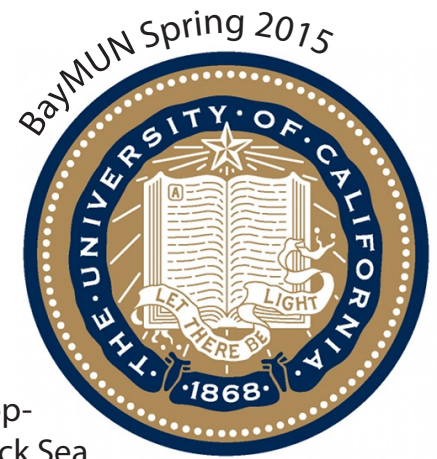
The Crimean peninsula has historically been the site of much conflict and dispute. The region has had a rather tumultuous twentieth century history and is currently the site of an ongoing disagreement between Russia and Ukraine. Historically, Crimea has a number of ties to Russia, which explains why it is the center of today's dispute. Prior to the fall of the Russian Empire in 1917, Crimea was one of the Empires most strategically valued territories. Following the October Revolution and subsequent fall of the Russian Empire in 1917, Crimea



briefly became a sovereign state. Yet this was short-lived, as Crimea soon became the base of the anti-Bolshevik White Army and was thus drawn into the Russian Civil War in December 1917.

The next four years in Crimea saw the defeat of the White Army at the hands of the Red Army, in addition to the rise and fall of a number of governments. In 1921, the region joined the Soviet Union as the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. Despite being occupied by Nazi Germany during the Second World War, Crimea remained a part of the Soviet Union as the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. In 1945, when Crimea was liberated from Nazi Germany, the region became an administrative region of Russia known as the Crimean Oblast. Crimea's experience during and shortly after the Second World War was harrowing. Nazi occupation saw countless lives lost as well as the destruction of many cities, most notably Sevastopol, which was reduced to ruin [4]. When the Red Army liberated Crimea in 1944, it forcibly evicted the entire population of Crimean Tartars, in addition to the majority of Greeks and Armenians residing in the country. The Tartars, remnants of the ancient Crimean Khanate, were banned from re-entering Crimea [1]. With the absence of the Tartars, Greeks and Armenians, "Crimea was a very Russian place." In 1954, Russia unexpectedly handed over Crimea to Ukraine. It became a territory of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which was also a part of the Soviet Union along with Russia. During the time of the Soviet Union, the difference between Russia and Ukraine was on many levels only nominal.

Succeeding the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Crimea became an autonomous part of an independent Ukraine. The Belavezha Accords, which dissolved the Soviet Union, formally included Sevastopol as part of Ukraine in what was touted as an extremely unfair compromise. While many expected President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation to demand that Crimea, and more specifically Sevastopol, be returned to Russia, he never did. In the same year, Crimea held a referendum on independence in which 54 percent of Crimean's favored independence from Russia. Crimea agreed



to remain a part of Ukraine under the condition that the region was granted a substantial autonomy, which it was. In 1997, Russia and Ukraine signed a Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership, which allowed Russia to keep its Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol. What seemed like an innocuous decision at the time may have been a vital factor in inciting the turmoil that engulfed the peninsula in 2014.

CONTEMPORARY UKRAINE AND CRIMEA

Conflict in Crimea was stirred up following the Ukrainian Revolution of 2014. Dissent had been growing within Ukraine due to dismal economic conditions, allegations of government corruption, and lawlessness. The Ukrainian Revolution in February 2014 culminated in the impeachment of President Viktor Yanukovich, following a botched European Union trade pact, and was succeeded by a number of political changes that reinstituted the country's previous constitution as well as established a new interim government. Following the revolution, Russia refused to accept Ukraine's new government and labeled the Ukrainian Revolution a coup d'état. Pro-Russian protests were held in the city of Sevastopol and on February 26th, 2014, pro-Russian forces began occupying strategic positions, such as parliament buildings, across Crimea.

The people participating in the protests seemed to be a mix of Russian nationalists, Crimean separationists, and most importantly Russian military personnel who donned unidentifiable uniform. Despite sanctions from the European Union and the United States of America, the Crimean Crisis culminated in Russia's annexation of the Crimean peninsula in March 2014.

With its actions in Crimea and in Georgia over South Ossetia, Russia has shown that it is more than willing to get involved in the affairs of post-soviet states. As the situation in Ukraine continues to simmer, there is much fear that history will repeat itself. Russia has begun amassing troops on its border with Eastern Ukraine. Some analysts have reported that hundreds to thousands of Russian troops have crossed or are stationed at the Ukrainian border [5]. What happens next is yet to be seen.



CHARACTER PROFILES

Dmitry Medvedev
Prime Minister

Dmitry Medvedev is the Prime Minister and the leader of the Russian government, along with President Putin. Medvedev is a unique political figure because he is seen as the quintessential partner of Vladimir Putin—Putin was president from 1999-2008, and then Medvedev served as President with Putin as his Prime Minister from 2008-2012, then the two switched positions in the 2012 elections. He is a great supporter of the Crimean annexation because he feels it will strengthen Russia in the world. He has power over all aspects of the government, and as prime minister he has informers in every Russian agency.

Igor Shuvalov
First Deputy Prime Minister

Igor Shuvalov has been working his way through many political positions his whole life. Shuvalov is the most senior of the cabinet members, having served in his position since 2008. Within the Russian government, he is responsible for the economy and the country's financial budget. As first Deputy Prime Minister, he is ready to assume the position of Prime Minister at any time, hoping he eventually reaches this position. He already takes the place of prime minister in the event of his absence, and due to this, he has immense power and sway over the cabinet and among financial government agencies. Annexing Crimea, he hopes, will portray Russia as a leading figure in the international order and give it more sway in international affairs.



Sergey Prikhodko
Deputy Prime Minister – Chief of Staff of the Government

Prihodko's has a longstanding history in Russian politics and is well-known and well-respected. He started his government career working in embassies, then became involved with intra-Soviet affairs. But his primary focus is international diplomacy and relations between Russia and the rest of the world. This history of working in many different departments makes him an excellent policymaker who can identify and eliminate waste and inefficiency, along with ensuring that the cabinet's wishes are being followed out as they should be. He has control over many governmental positions through his personal connections and his position's power, and has immense sway in the government to affect many different decisions. He is well-liked by his peers. While he generally supports the annexation of Crimea, he is cautious of the bridges which may be burned over such an operation and aims to minimize international conflict.

Arkady Dvorkovich
Deputy Prime Minister for Industry and Energy

Dvorkovich has served as Assistant to the President of Russia, and has extensive experience in the financial sector. As a former Deputy Minister for Economic Development, he has a high degree of knowledge of Russia's growing industries, which translate into industry protection in his position today. He maintains many contacts with businessmen in the energy sector. He studies abroad at Duke University briefly and is fluent in both German and English, and he is seriously considered over the effect of sanctions on Russia's industries. He hopes that the takeover of Crimea will strengthen Russia's energy position, as the region has the port of Sevastopol and probably coastal oil reserves.

Vladimir Puchkov
Minister of Civil Defense and Emergencies

Puchkov has been a figure in Russian politics for a while and became the Minister of Civil Defense and Emergencies in 2012. He attended a military academy and served as an engineer in the military, obtaining the rank



of Lieutenant General. He also served as Deputy of Head Department for Activities of Population and Territory Protection. Puchkov has substantial connections in the military. He supports Crimean annexation and is a strong supporter of military action. Because his position demands he prepares Russia for initiative military operations or reactive operations, he frequently worries and considers what NATO will do in response to Russian action.

Sergey Lavrov
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Sergey Lavrov has been involved in foreign affairs for all of his life, starting when his mother worked at the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Trade. With his long history of foreign dealings, he has extensive contacts throughout the world. He deals with Russia's foreign policies and can deal with issues of Foreign Relations. He worries that the annexation of Crimea may affect Russia's relations with other nations and hopes it does not affect their standing.

Nikolai Nikiforov
Minister of Communications and Mass Media

In 2012, Nikiforov became the youngest cabinet minister of Russia the age of 29. Nikiforov therefore has a lot to prove to the other cabinet members, who often doubt his ability to serve as an effective Minister of Communications and Mass Media. He has control over all the state-run media in the nation, and deals heavily with propaganda across Russia and in Crimea. Nikiforov wants to take a very active role in Crimean annexation. He wishes that the takeover will succeed and particularly that his propaganda strategies are effective so he can be hailed as one of the key leaders of the operation, which would secure his reputation in the cabinet.



Sergey Shoygu
Minister of Defense

Sergey Shoygu has spent much of his life in the Russia government, previously serving as the Minister of Emergency Citations. Now in his current position he has the utmost control over the Russian military and their actions. He wishes to take over Crimea to widen Russia's military supremacy and to secure a warm water port for the Russian Navy.

Sergey Donskoy
Minister of Natural Resources

Sergey Donskoy took his position in 2012 as one of the newer cabinet members. Much about his past is unknown, beyond the fact that he worked for several years in the oil and gas industry. From this experience, he has contacts in Gazprom and is very aware of the way Russia can cripple Europe economy through a gas embargo. The natural gas in Crimea will be a great help to grow Russia's natural gas production, and to deny a source to NATO countries if need be. He deals with the issues and worries of the environmental policies as well, but has received international scrutiny of poor environmental practices.

Anton Siluanov
Minister of Finance

Siluanov has been involved in the finance sector of Russia for many years, but is currently in his first cabinet position. Because of this, he lacks domestic political connections which put him at a disadvantage. He does, however, control a seat International Monetary Fund (IMF) and can attempt to sway the votes of the other 23 members if the issue of proving funding to Ukraine comes into play. He worries that the Crimea Annexation may cause the economy of Russia to suffer because of the possible sanctions; however, he is extremely aware of the fact that his predecessor was fired from his position for publically disagreeing with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.



Alexander Novak
Minister of Energy

Alexander Novak has been working in government for many years, and finally secured a cabinet position with the Minister of Energy. He views the acquisition of Crimea as greatly important to help with their natural gas fields to better secure Russian energy dominance in Europe. Novak has to deal with companies and international energy trade agreements, and is knowledgeable of energy competitors such as Norway. He feels confident about the Crimean annexation because he knows how devastating an energy embargo against the EU and NATO would be, but he's also aware of how damaging such an embargo would also affect the Russian economy.

Oleg Savelyev
Candidate for Minister for Crimea

In secret talks between President Putin and his cabinet, Oleg Savelyev has been selected to serve as Minister for Crimea if an annexation is to successfully occur. While a relatively unknown economist with very little power currently, Savelyev has the potential to wield vast control over the committee if actions play out in his favor. However, he also faces the possibility of being coerced into the position of puppet minister by the more experienced committee members.



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