UNSC – STUDY GUIDE

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Esteemed Delegates,

It is our pleasure to officially welcome you all to the Security Council of KAMUN 2020. This study guide is meant to serve you as a compass that indicates how to organise and conduct your research not only for the topic but also for your country's policy. The Security Council is considered to be one of the most challenging, as well as exciting and rewarding committees of the conference and we are looking forward to dealing with these challenges and to experiencing the thrill of debate together.

For this year's Security Council, we wanted to challenge you, the delegates, and broaden your horizons further than the monothematic approach of choosing a single topic for you to discuss, instead we set an Open Agenda so each and every one of you can decide what is the most crucial issue from you country's point of view. To give you a more orientated perspective we chose 5 of the most essential topics that humanity is currently facing. These are the Libyan Civil War, the Kashmir Conflict, the ongoing war in Donbass, Cyberwarfare as a global threat and the need for stability in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Each one of the aforementioned topics, provides you with the opportunity to tackle complicated and multifaceted issues that would require you to think outside the box and to embrace your unique way of thinking.

Despite the information that this study guide is going to provide you with, we strongly encourage you to do your personal research both on the topic and on your personal country's position. We are certain that you will provide us with structured, well written position papers and a constructive debate during the conference. We do anticipate delegates to be respectful, devoted, and eager to make the most out of their experience, but most importantly, we want you to enjoy yourselves and share our passion and love for debating. During your whole experience, we will be at your disposal for any possible remarks and inquiries that may arise.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Karlsruhe,

Best Regards,

Daria & Apostolos.

Introduction to the committee

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, Art. 7 of the Charter of the United Nations (UNC). Its main goal is the maintenance of international peace and security under chapters V and VII.[1]

The council is composed of fifteen members. Five of them are permanent (commonly known as "the P5"): The People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The P-5 members of the UN Security Council have veto power, meaning that, if present, any substantial decision to be taken can be blocked if any of the 5 permanent members disagrees and exercises their veto power. The other ten members of the Council are non-permanent. The non permanent members are elected by the United Nations' General Assembly, taking into consideration the contribution of the chosen states to the actions of the United Nations and the need for an equitable geographical distribution for a term of two years. [2]The current non permanent members are: Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, and Vietnam.[3]

Under Section VII of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations' Security Council takes the lead in investigating any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction or cause turbulence in the global dynamics and also in determining the existence of a threat to peace. Its first measure to deal with possible imbalances is to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or establish the terms of settlement using peaceful means. Furthermore, the Council is entitled to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to stop aggression. If non-military measures do not bring fertile results, the Security Council can take military action against an aggressor. Lastly, it is rightfully permitted to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General[4] and, together with the Assembly, elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

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[1]"United Nations Security Council |." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed August 30, 2020. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/.

[2]"Current Members Security Council." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed August 30, 2020. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members.

[3] "Current Members Security Council." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed August 30, 2020. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members.

[4]"FAQ Security Council." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed August 30, 2020. https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/faq#threat.

The Security Council is the most powerful body within the United Nations system, as it is the only organ able to take measures that are legally binding for all 193 UN member states under Art. 25 of the United Nations' Charter. Given that, the Council can take several actions in case of turmoil in the global scenery. It can decide upon the existence of a threat to peace and ways to resolve the emerging problem and call upon the parties involved to keep a specific position. Amidst others, the Council can adduce the signing of agreements, provide guidelines and principles to ensure that arrangement is fair and precise, entertain mediation processes between parties and launch specific missions and envoys. In cases of aggravation, the UN Security Council has the authority to ask for ceasefire and deploy military observers or peacekeeping forces. The authority of the Council also encompasses the adoption of measures, such as economic sanctions, embargoes, rupture of diplomatic relations, blockades and collective military action under the prerequisites set by the UN Charter. The Security Council's actions are not only the result of the cooperation with single UN member states, but it can also coordinate its actions with those of regional organizations such as the League of Arab States, the African Union, NATO, or the European Union to achieve their main goal, which is international security and safety.[5]

In case the Council is not able to pass a resolution, the committee is still able to publish a Presidential Statement. These statements address the topic and contain official recommendations given by the Council but are not legally binding in any way.[6]

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[5] CFR Staff. The UN Security Council. (2018, September 24). Retrieved from https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/unsecurity-council.

[6] "UNSD - Methodology." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed August 30, 2020. https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/.

War in Donbass

Issue Analysis

The crisis in Ukraine began with protests within the capital city of Kiev in November 2013 against Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych's decision to reject a deal for greater economic integration with the European Union. After a violent crackdown of the protests by state security forces, the protesters increased and the conflict escalated. That escalation led President Yanukovych to flee the country in February 2014.

In March 2014, Russian troops took control of Ukraine's Crimean region, before formally annexing the peninsula after Crimeans voted to hitch the country in an exceedingly disputed local referendum. Russian President Putin cited the necessity to shield the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeast Ukraine.

The crisis heightened ethnic divisions, and two months later pro-Russian separatists within the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of eastern Ukraine held a referendum to declare independence from Ukraine. Violence in eastern Ukraine between Russian-backed separatist forces and also the Ukrainian military has by conservative estimates killed over 10,300 people and injured nearly 24,000 since April 2014.

Although Moscow has denied its involvement, Ukraine and NATO have reported the buildup of Russian troops and military equipment to a region near Donetsk, Luhansk oblasts and Russian cross-border shelling, collectively called Donbass (Image A).

These demonstrations, which followed the February–March 2014 annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, and which were part of a wider group of concurrent protests across southern and eastern Ukraine, escalated into an armed conflict between the separatist forces of the self-declared Donetsk and Luhansk People's Republics (DPR and LPR respectively), and the Ukrainian government, generally known as War in Donbass.

As the conflict escalated in May 2014, Russia employed a "hybrid approach", deploying a combination of disinformation tactics, irregular fighters, regular Russian troops, and conventional military support to destabilise the Donbass region

In July 2014, true in Ukraine escalated into a world crisis and put the USA thus the EEC (EU) at odds with Russia when a Malaysian Airlines flight was shot down over Ukrainian airspace, killing all 298 onboard. In September 2016, authorities said that the missile system was provided by Russia, determining it had been moved into eastern Ukraine so back to Russian territory following the downing of the airplane.

Since February 2015, France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine have attempted to achieve a cessation in violence through the Minsk Protocols. The agreement includes provisions for a cease-fire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry, and full Ukrainian government control throughout the conflict zone.

Since the beginning of the conflict there have been over 20 ceasefires, each intended to continue indefinitely, but none of them stopped the violence. The most recent ceasefire came into force on 27 July 2020 which led to no Ukrainian combat losses for more than a month.

Image A: A geographical representation of Donbass Region | Retrieved from: Lees, Kevin. "About Ukraine's Donbass Region" Suffragio, April 18, 2014. http://suffragio.org/2014/04/18/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-ukraines-donbass-region/.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
November 21st , 2013	Protests in Ukraine starts
February 22nd , 2014	Viktor Yanukovych loses his power as the president of Ukraine.
March 16th, 2014	A referendum takes place in Crimea which results in a majority pro-Russian vote.
March 18th, 2014	Russian annexation of Crimea
March 27th, 2014	United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262 is adopted
September 5th , 2014	Minsk-1 Agreement is signed.
February 11th , 2015	Minsk-2 Agreement is signed.
July 27th , 2020	Current Ceasefire (until 03/09/2020)

Security Council's Resolutions and Press Statements regarding the Situation in Donbass.

The United Nations' Security Council has been increasingly involved in the crisis in Eastern Ukraine, trying to de-escalate the conflict and promote prosperity.[7]

17 FEBRUARY 2015 **S/RES/2202**	A resolution that endorsed the "Package of measures for the Implementation of the Minsk Agreements" signed on 12 February 2015.
21 JULY 2014 **S/RES/2166**	This resolution condemned the downing of Malaysia Airline flight 17 and called for an investigation of the crash.
31 JANUARY 2017 **SC/12700**	A statement on the deteriorating situation in Donetsk region.
31 JANUARY 2017 **SC/12700**	A statement on deterioration of situation in Donetsk Region.
17 FEBRUARY 2015 **SC/11784**	A press statement that expressed concern over ceasefire violations and continued fighting in Debaltseve.
22 JANUARY 2015 **SC/11749**	This press statement condemned the killing of 15 civilians as a result of the shelling of a public transport stop in Donetsk.
13 JANUARY 2015 **SC/11733**	A press statement condemning the killing of 11 civilians as a result of the shelling of a passenger bus in Volnovakha.
3 OCTOBER 2014 **SC/11588**	A press statement condemning the killing of a staff member of the ICRC, Laurent DuPasquier, in Donetsk, Ukraine, on 2 October 2014 as a result of a shell landing near the ICRC premises.

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[7] "United Nations Security Council |." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed August 30, 2020.

18 JULY 2014

SC/11480

This press statement expressed condolences to the families of those killed in the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight 17 and called for a thorough and independent international investigation.

Questions a resolution should answer:

- What the Security Council could do to further assist in the implementation of the Minsk Agreements?
- What measures can the Ukrainian government take in order to protect civilians and guarantee their rights?
- Will a UN peacekeeping force help end violence and find a peaceful settlement of the conflict?
- Beyond the security and military situation, how can the UN system improve the humanitarian situation of civilians affected by the conflict?

Cyberwarfare

Governments face many threats in contemporary international politics from terrorism, to epidemics, to war. The digital world has brought about a new type of clear and present danger: cyberwarfare. Since information technology and the internet have developed to such an extent that they have become a major element of national power, cyberwarfare has become a common warfare technique as nation-states are arming themselves for the cyber battlespace. Many states are not only conducting cyber espionage, cyber reconnaissance and probing missions; they are creating offensive cyberwar capabilities, developing national strategies, and engaging in cyber attacks with alarming frequency. Increasingly, there are reports of cyber attacks and network infiltrations that can be linked to nation-states and political goals.

Common Cyber Warfare techniques

Sabotage[8]

Sabotage in the cyber warfare sense involves targeting computers, satellites, or infrastructures that people rely on. Indeed, sabotage causes mass panic and disruption.

Espionage[9]

Cyber espionage is a routine occurrence and an expansion of traditional efforts to collect information on an opponent's secrets, intentions, and capabilities. It consists of the search for access to classified, personal or corporate data, intellectual property, proprietary information and patents, or results from research and development projects, for reconnaissance, probing, and testing of information and communications technology (ICT) defenses, and clandestine manipulation of data, information and critical infrastructure for war preparation. The return on investment for targeting sensitive information can be extremely high compared to the skills and technology required to penetrate the systems, which are relatively low. And acts of cyber espionage can be as much or more pervasive than acts of cyberwarfare, as the publication of 250,000 classified US embassy cables in November 2010 by WikiLeaks testified.

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[8]"Cyber Sabotage." Military.com, February 6, 2008. https://www.military.com/defensetech/2008/02/06/cyber-sabotage.

[9]"What Is Cyber Espionage." VMware Carbon Black.. https://www.carbonblack.com/definitions/what-is-cyber-espionage/.

Denial-of-Service Attack[10]

A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack occurs when legitimate users are unable to access information or other network resources. This act of cyber warfare targets high profile services such as banking and credit card companies.

Often, rival governments will employ a DoS attack in order to take down a competitor's website. However, in more extreme cases, a state-sanctioned DoS could cripple an entire web of infrastructures. In many cases, DoS attacks link to ransomware

Propaganda [11]

Much like espionage, propaganda is a "soft threat" or second tier form of cyber warfare. Propaganda is a concerted effort to control public perception on a topic by controlling the types of media that people see. Propaganda is not an uncommon occurrence. In fact, every country uses propaganda of some sort.

However, as time progresses, propaganda becomes more subtle. In fact, more serious cases of social media manipulation, fake news websites, and online censorship qualify as a form of psychological warfare. These methods help create a distrust in the government. Additionally, they can influence elections and warp infrastructure. However, most notably, propaganda delegitimizes social and political structures upon which cyber defenses rely on.

Block Positions

Major state actors involved in cyberwarfare incidents are the USA, China, and the Russian Federation. Those superpowers conduct cyberattacks not only against other states, but occasionally against each other transforming cyberspace in an everlasting chess game whose result will eventually determine the power dynamics of the 21st century.

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[10]"What Is a Denial of Service Attack (DoS) ?" Palo Alto Networks..
https://www.paloaltonetworks.com/cyberpedia/what-is-a-denial-of-service-attack-dos.
[11]"Cyber Propaganda 101." Security News - Trend Micro USA.
https://www.trendmicro.com/vinfo/us/security/news/cybercrime-and-digital-threats/cyber-propaganda-101.

United States of America

As one of the most developed economies globally the United States of America are highly dependent on the Internet and as a result really exposed to its dangers. However, despite the risks of the USA's dependency on the internet, the United States has substantial capabilities in both defense and power projection thanks to comparatively advanced technology and a large military budget.

Cyber attacks by domestic or foreign enemies remain a constant threat to the United States sovereignty and leading position in the global scene. In response to these growing threats, the United States has developed significant cyber capabilities, to be able to not only be protected from possible attacks in cyberspace but also to launch cyberattacks themselves. Some of the most crucial United States' cyber attacks have been directed towards **Iran, People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.**

Iran was a USA's cyber attack victim in June 2010. The cyber-worm 'Stuxnet' infiltrated into a nuclear facility in Natanz, is considered to be the most advanced piece of malware ever created , and a first step for revolutionizing cyberwarfare. Around 1,000 nuclear centrifuges were destroyed. A public statement was made by Gary Samore, White House Coordinator for Arms Control and Weapons of Mass Destruction, in which he offered "winking acknowledgement" of US involvement in the Stuxnet incident. [12]

In 2013, Tsinghua University one of China's biggest research institutions, as well as base to one of China's six major networks, the China Education and Research Network (CERNET), from where internet data from millions of Chinese citizens is distributed was hacked by the United States government, an information revealed by Edward Snowden, a former systems administrator for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and a counterintelligence trainer at the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA). [13]

In June 2019, Russia conceded that it is "possible" its electrical grid is under cyber-attack by American hackers from the United States Cyber Command that planted malware capable of disrupting the Russian electrical grid.[14]

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[12] "Iran Threatens Retaliation after What It Calls Possible Cyber Attack on Nuclear Site," July 4, 2020. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-natanz-idUSKBN2441VY.

[13] "Snowden Spy Row Grows as US Is Accused of Hacking China." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, June 22, 2013. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/22/edward-snowden-us-china.

[14] "Snowden Spy Row Grows as US Is Accused of Hacking China." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, June 22, 2013. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/22/edward-snowden-us-china.

People's Republic of China

China is one of the world's leading powers, being the second leading economy worldwide and possessing nuclear weapons, China's position in the international arena is ensured by a variety of means. Network warfare is considered to be one of China's greatest assets, as China's "hacker army" personnel is considered to be anywhere from 50,000 to 100,000 individuals.

China's aggressive espionage techniques are occasionally pointed out by Western countries,and while investigations have traced various attacks on corporate and infrastructure computer systems to have originated in China, chinese officials deny any involvement. One major receiver of **alleged chinese cyberattacks are the United States of America[15]**

Important American military, commercial, research, and industrial organisations have been targeted by China's cyberattacks to such degree that led a Congressional advisory group to declare China "the single greatest risk to the security of American technologies"

China does not accept the accusations of cyberwarfare, Wang Baodong of the Chinese Embassy in the United States responded that the accusations are a result of Sinophobic paranoia. He states that "China would never do anything to harm the sovereignty or security of other countries. In conformity with such national policies, the Chinese government has never employed, nor will it employ so-called civilian hackers in collecting information or intelligence of other countries. Allegations against China in this respect are unwarranted, which only reflect the dark mentality of certain people who always regard China as a threat."

In April 2020 it was revealed by U.S. intelligence agencies that Chinese hackers have been involved in the 2016 and also 2018 elections and that "there have already been signs that China-allied hackers have engaged in cyber attacks on a variety of American political targets" ahead of the **2020 United States elections.**

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[15] Finkle, Jim. "China's Hacking against U.S. on the Rise: U.S. Intelligence Official." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, December 11, 2018. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-china/chinas-hacking-against-u-s-on-the-rise-u-s-intelligence-official-idUSKBN1OA1TB.

Russian Federation

The Russian signals intelligence that is in charge of the cyberwarfare missions is a part of the 16th KGB department. Russian cyberwarfare can be divided in two categories "Informational-Technical" and "Informational-Psychological'' groups. The former refers to network operations relating to defense, attack, and exploitation and the latter to "attempts to change people's behavior or beliefs in favor of Russian governmental objectives." One of the most common victim of Russia's cyberattacks **is the United States of America.**

In 2015 Russian hackers had reportedly "penetrated sensitive parts of the White House" and have been able to withdraw sensitive information for several months. The Secret Service, and other U.S. intelligence agencies categorized the attacks as "among the most sophisticated attacks ever launched against U.S. government systems." The hacks targeted U.S. power plants, in addition to water processing, aviation, and government facilities.

In 2016, the release of hacked emails belonging to the Democratic National Committee through WikiLeaks was said by private sector analysts and US intelligence services to have been a product of russian cyber espionage . Also, in late 2016, Senators from both parties in the Senate Committee on Armed Services called for "a special select committee to investigate Russian attempts to influence the presidential election".[16]

United Nations Resolutions

The issue of information security has been on the UN agenda since 1998, when the Russian Federation introduced a draft resolution on the subject which was adopted without a vote by the General Assembly as resolution 53/70. Since 2004, five Groups of Governmental Experts (GGE) have continued to study the threats posed by the use of ICTs in the context of international security[17] and how these threats should be addressed and eradicated.

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[16] Baezner, Marie & Robin, Patrice. (2018). Cyber-conflict between the United States of America and Russia.

[17]

MARCH 2010 **Resolution 64/211**	A resolution that ensures the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures
JANUARY 2004 **Resolution 58/199**	A resolution that promotes the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures
JANUARY 2003 **Resolution 57/239**	Resolution 57/239 encourages the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity
JANUARY 2002 **Resolution 56/121**	Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies

Questions a resolution should answer:

- What can be done to prevent foreign impact and foreign interruptions during national elections?
- What kind of measures can be taken to prevent the spread of viral attacks on critical infrastructure?
- Computer systems and informational technologies are fields of constant change and evolution. What tactics should be employed in order to keep up with advancements in cyber warfare technology?
- With the number and sophistication of cyber-attacks increasing, what measures should be taken to prevent, or decrease, future state to state cyber-attacks?
- Should an international framework be established to increase international cybersecurity?

Libyan Civil War

As conflict has rambled on since the fall of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, with militias vying for power and control of Libya's oil, the country is now torn in a civil war between the internationally recognized government of Prime Minister Fayez Sarraj and the army of the warlord and former general Khalifa Haftar.

Background

Khalifa Haftar is a former Libyan army general who spent two decades in self-imposed exile in the US after he was disowned by Libya's Muammar Gaddafi.
He returned to Libya in 2011 to join the fight against Gaddafi and became a key commander of the makeshift rebel forces. A few years later, he became a main player in the Libyan civil war after he gathered militias and launched Operation Dignity (August 2014)[18], a military campaign aimed at ousting Al Qaeda and its affiliates out of Benghazi and the east.

But what started as a military campaign against the extremist groups in eastern Libya turned into an attempt to control all of the country. Haftar aligned with the Tobruk government and became the leader of the Libyan National Army (LNA), a mix of military units and militias.
Emboldened by his gains and support from his allies, Haftar ordered the LNA to March to Tripoli on April 4th 2019[19] in an attempt to oust the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) - after years of political deadlock between the two rivals.

Current   situation

After Turkey passes a vote to deploy its troops in Libya, the Berlin Conference is held in late January 2020 in order to appease the growing tensions and find a peaceful resolution to the Libyan conflict. The document that is passed comprises 55 points which go way beyond the initial step of ensuring a cessation of hostilities through a formal ceasefire. In fact, the comprehensive plan also addresses economic order in Libya, human rights, the prevention of terrorism and the political process that leads to a unified government.[20]

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[18] Jamestown Foundation, *Operation Dignity: General Haftar's Latest Battle May Decide Libya's Future*, 30 May 2014, Terrorism Monitor Volume: 12 Issue: 11, available at:
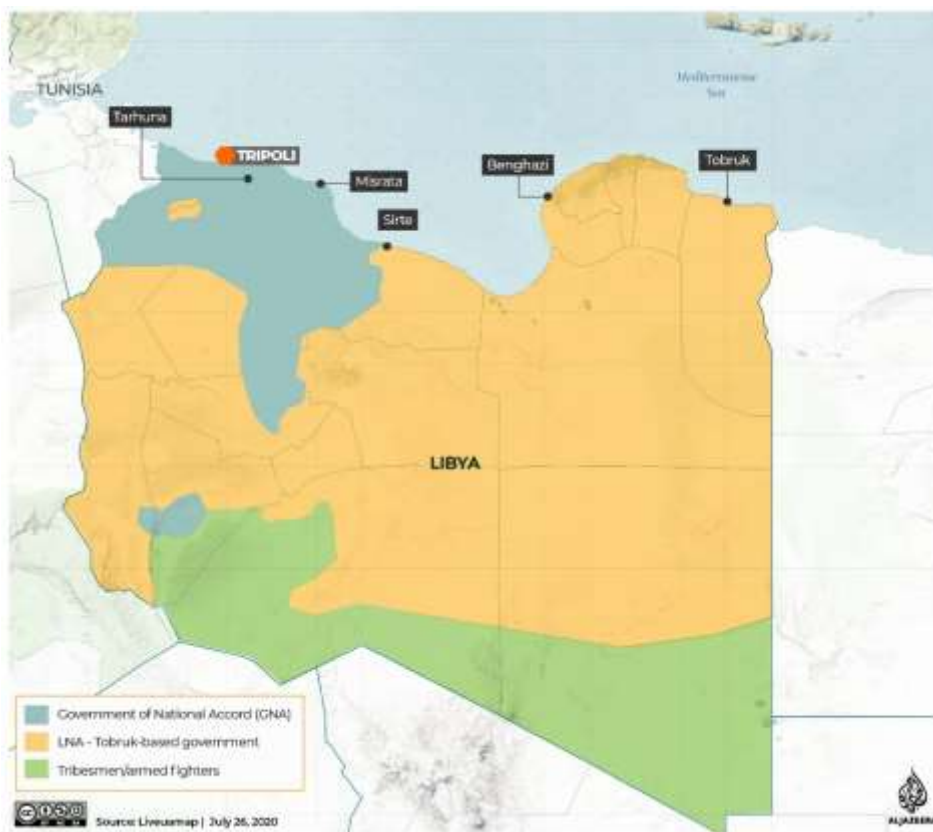https://www.refworld.org/docid/538f12444.html [accessed 2 September 2020]
[19] The Economist Intelligence Unit. 2019. *Haftar Orders Troops To Move On Tripoli*. [online] Available at:
<http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=1887874172&Country=Libya&topic=Politics&subtopic=Fo_2>
[Accessed 27 August 2020].
[20] UNSMIL. 2020. *Berlin International Conference On Libya - 19 January 2020*. [online] Available at:
<https://unsmil.unmissions.org/berlin-international-conference-libya-19-january-2020> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

By May 2020, Haftar has lost control of nearly 6 towns and cities in the West of the country, and in June the UN-recognised government announced it had regained full control of Tripoli. Following Haftar's defeat, the Egyptian President openly offered Libyan tribes both weapons and training to fight the Tripoli-based government and its Turkish patrons, before the Egypt's Parliament approved the possible deployment of armed forces abroad to fight "criminal militias" and "foreign terrorist groups" on a "western front".[21]

As of July 2002, after forces loyal to the UN-recognised government pushed illegal militias out of Tripoli, the fight has moved to Sirte. Any battle for control of the city of Sirte is going to be significantly more difficult and look different to the fighting around Tripoli, as the frontlines leading up to the city of Sirte are wide open areas of uninhabited land.
The UN-recognised government has said that there will be no ceasefire as long as Haftar has control of Sirte.

The military escalation of course affect the civilians, who are often displaced in addition to be scared.

https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2020/06/libya-mapping-areas-military-control-200604114507211.html

Countries' positions:

[21] France 24. 2020. *Egypt'S Parliament Approves Possible Intervention In Libya*. [online] Available at: <https://www.france24.com/en/20200720-egypt-s-parliament-approves-possible-intervention-in-libya> [Accessed 29 August 2020].

The UAE has been providing Haftar with military support for years. It was one of the countries accused of violating the international arms embargo on Libya for giving weapons to Haftar's LNA. In August 2014 during Haftar's Operation Dignity, Emirates airplanes conducted air strikes on Benghazi from an Egyptian airbase. In 2016, the UAE built up a military base in Al Khadim in eastern Libya to support Haftar's military operation. Furthermore, Haftar's LNA has also received aircrafts and military vehicles from the UAE.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the UAE has also participated in secret negotiations with Haftar in 2018 to export Libya's oil through channels other than the UN-approved exporter.

Similarly, Saudi Arabia allegedly offered tens of millions of dollars to help fund Haftar's Tripoli offensive.[22]

Although France publicly supports the UN-backed government in Tripoli, it has also provided Haftar with financial military and intelligence support. The double role played by France in the conflict sparked disputes with other European countries, such as Italy which fears the influx of migrants to its shores if the fighting continues. Furthermore Italy has accused France of jeopardising Libya's Security in return for economic and commercial benefits after France blocked an EU resolution condemning Khalifa Haftar's assault in Tripoli.

Besides, France has a strategic partnership with Haftar as it relies on oil imports from the Haftar-controlled regions of Libya. In fact, France's giant Total has access to Haftar-controlled oil reserves in the southern and eastern parts of Libya. In March 2018 Total has expanded its reach through a $450 million deal purchasing a 16% stake in the Waha Oil Company, a subsidiary of Libya's state-owned oil enterprise.

Lastly, in May 2019 Tunisia arrested a group of 13 armed French nationals crossing the Libyan border.[23] France said the group is part of a diplomatic mission while media reports that they were intelligence personal providing logistical support to the LNA.

Much like France, Russia has publicly supported the UN's mediation efforts led by Special Envoy Ghassan Salame. However, in April 2019 Moscow blocked a UN Security Council statement that would have called on forces loyal to Khalifa Haftar to halt their advance on Tripoli.[24] Furthermore, Russian mercenaries from the private Wagner group have also reportedly joined the battle alongside Haftar's forces.[25] Yet, Moscow has denied sending troops to back Haftar.

Although the US officially backs the GNA, President Donald Trump contradicted his country's foreign policy and praised Haftar's fight to eradicate terrorism and protect his country's oil reserves. Furthermore, in July 2019 Washington blocked a UNSC statement condemning an

[22] Aljazeera.com. 2019. *Saudis 'Gave Libya's Haftar Millions Of Dollars Before Offensive'*. [online] Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/04/saudis-gave-libya-haftar-millions-dollars-offensive-190412175708363.html> [Accessed 28 August 2020].

[23] Middle East Monitor. 2019. *Tunisia: 24 Armed Europeans Coming From Libya Crossed The Border*. [online] Available at: <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20190417-tunisia-24-armed-europeans-coming-from-libya-crossed-the-border/> [Accessed 28 August 2020].

[24] France 24. 2019. *Russia Blocks UN Libya Statement Singling Out Haftar's Forces - France 24*. [online] Available at: <https://www.france24.com/en/20190408-russia-blocks-un-libya-statement-singling-out-haftars-forces> [Accessed 25 August 2020].

[25] BBC News. 2020. *Wagner, Shadowy Russian Military Group, 'Fighting In Libya'*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-52571777> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

air raid on a migrant detention centre that killed more than 40 people, which the GNA blamed on the US ally UAE.[26]

Turkey has been zealous in its support of the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord, sending mercenaries and weapons daily to the GNA. Turkish President Erdogan has affirmed that his backing of the GNA is to "ensure Libya's peace and stability,". It is important to note however that in December 2019 Turkey and Libya's UN-recognised government in Tripoli have signed an historic deal : a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU), which demarcates the maritime boundaries between Turkey and Libya on the Mediterranean Sea, and identifies the coordinates of Turkey's economic exclusive zones (EEZ)[27].Through this deal, Turkey could prompt other Mediterranean powers to reach out to Ankara to implement the EastMed Gas pipeline project, which hopes to revolutionise the economies and geopolitics of the region. The deal also includes agreements on weapon transfer, technical support, intelligence sharing, security training, exchange of weapons systems and various other forms of cooperation between the two countries.

QARMAS:

- How can the Security Council create effective long-term and short-term solutions that will ensure the end of this war without more bloodshed?

- How should the militias fighting in Libya be approached?

- How should the UN and countries non-affected assist the Libyan Government?

- How should the activities of the countries supporting General Haftar be addressed by the Security Council?

- What could be the most viable plan to help the Libyan Government rebuild the country after the end of the Civil War?

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[26] Allahoum, R., 2020. *Libya's War: Who Is Supporting Whom*. [online] Aljazeera.com. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/libya-war-supporting-200104110325735.html> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

[27] Al Arabiya English. 2020. *Why Is Turkey Supporting The Libyan GNA? To Control Libya'S Energy Reserves: Experts*. [online] Available at: <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/features/2020/06/22/Why-is-Turkey-supporting-the-Libyan-GNA-To-control-Libya-s-energy-reserves-Experts> [Accessed 29 August 2020].

Kashmir conflict

The region of Kashmir is one of the most strategic places in the world, where three powerful countries collide: India, Pakistan and China. Yet the region and its inhabitants are subject to what seems to be an endless cycle of violence, stemming from a conflict that started more than 70 years ago.

Map of Kashmir. Source: https://edition.cnn.com/2013/11/08/world/kashmir-fast-facts/index.html

China invaded and took Aksai Chin (Northeastern part of Kashmir) from India, and was given Shaksgam Valley by Pakistan. India and Pakistan control different parts of Kashmir as well, but they claimed more. Therefore, the Kashmir region is at the center of a brutal conflict over this dispute of borders.

Background

In the mid-1800s India was a patch work of several hundred provinces and princely states under British rule. A century later when British India won independence, the British left and hastily decided to split the region into two: a new Muslim-majority country, Pakistan, and the mostly Hindu, but secular, India.

1947: Partition of India

The partition was bloody, and 15 million people were displaced[28]. Amid the chaos, some princely states were given the choice to join either country. In most cases, the ruling monarchs followed the will of their people. But the state called "Jammu and Kashmir" was different as it had a Muslim-majority population but was ruled by a Hindu monarch, and when asked to pick a side, the ruler chose to stay neutral. However, fearing that the monarch would join India, the Kashmiri population rebelled in the city of Poonch in 1947.[29] Armed tribesmen from Pakistan soon joined the fight. The monarch turned to India for military help and in exchange agreed to join them, which sparked the first India-Pakistan war in Kashmir.

The establishment of a ceasefire-line

The UN Security Council brokered a ceasefire in 1949, which established a ceasefire-line (Karachi agreement) dividing Kashmir into two sides, one controlled by Pakistan and the other one by India[30].
The UN Comission for India and Pakistan also asked Pakistani tribesmen to withdraw from the region and Indian troops to follow, so that Kashmir could hold a direct vote to decide its own future.
But neither held up their end of the deal. Pakistan argued that Kashmir's Muslim-majority population rightfully belonged with them. While India insisted that Kashmir was handed over to them by the Hindu monarch. So they doubled down and added Kashmir to their constitution. However, the vote for the Kashmiri population was never held. Both countries continued to tighten their grip around it for decades.
After decades of turmoil and two other Indo-Pakistani wars, the loss of Pakistan's eastern half in 1971 made Kashmir more important than ever: it became one of the most militarised places on earth as India and Pakistan deployed planes, tanks, artillery and soldiers along the Line of Control.

Political repression

On the political front, in 1987, India reportedly rigged an election[31], declaring a pro-India party as the winner. This was a turning point for many Kashmiris, who felt they were again denied a chance to vote. Thousands took to the streets in the Indian-controlled Kashmir to protest the occupation. But India met the movement for independence with harsh resistance, which quickly escalated to more violence. Eventually, security forces opened fire in demonstrating

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[28] SBS News. 2017. *Partition Of India: Ancient Sites Became Refugee Camps As Millions Fled*. [online] Available at: <https://www.sbs.com.au/news/partition-of-india-ancient-sites-became-refugee-camps-as-millions-fled> [Accessed 31 August 2020].
[29] Snedden, C., n.d. *The Forgotten Poonch Uprising Of 1947*. [online] India-seminar.com. Available at: <http://www.india-seminar.com/2013/643/643_christopher_snedden.htm> [Accessed 2 September 2020].
[30] Peacekeeping.un.org. n.d. *UNITED NATIONS INDIA-PAKISTAN OBSERVATION MISSION (UNIPOM) - Background*. [online] Available at: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/mission/past/unipombackgr.html> [Accessed 28 August 2020].
[31] Everycrsreport.com. 2002. *Kashmiri Separatists: Origins, Competing Ideologies, And Prospects For Resolution Of The Conflict*. [online] Available at: <https://www.everycrsreport.com/files/20020930_RL31587_8dff0ac97fbc7e3e304d1f0c42dcd894c1579025.pdf > [Accessed 30 August 2020].

separatists, which turned the struggling movement into a full-blown popular uprising. More than 600 people have been killed in clashes between troops and separatists.[32]

Involvement of militias

In order to attack the Indian military and fight for independence, Kashmiri militias like the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front started recruiting Muslim youth. A new kind of militant group was born in Pakistan as well : Radical Islamic fighters who fought for a more pro-Pakistan Kashmir. By the mid 1990s these groups dominated the insurgency. India responded with incredible military force, deploying 500,000 troops to Kashmir[33], and they cracked down on militants and protesters. Unarmed civilians were killed and many more were forced to flee the violence. In 1998 the stakes raised again as both India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests, making Kashmir a battleground between two nuclear-armed nations.
Over the years, Pakistan's militant groups got bolder and launched terror attacks in and outside of Kashmir. In 2001, members of Lashkar-e-Taiba bombed India's parliament building in New Delhi, killing 14 people[34]. In 2008, 10 militants from the same group killed 174 people and wounded 300 in Mumbai.[35]

Current situation:

In August 2019, the Indian government moved to revoke Article 370 of the Indian constitution, removing the special status of Jammu and Kashmir. Today the region remains under lockdown, with internet and phone services intermittently cut off and thousands of people detained. India's revocation of Kashmir's autonomy is adding fuel to an already blazing fire. New Delhi accuses its Pakistani neighbor of secretly supporting armed groups in the predominantly Muslim Srinagar Valley. Charges that Pakistan has always denied. The two opposing armies clash almost daily with rock and mortar fire over the cease-fire line.

The geopolitical situation in the region is all the more complex when added to a separatist insurgency in Indian Kashmir against New Delhi since 1989. So far, it has claimed the lives of more than 70,000 people, mainly civilians[36]. It was in this context that the latest attack occurred on February 14, 2019, when a young Kashmiri threw his explosive-laden vehicle at an Indian army bus, killing more than 40 paramilitaries.[37] The attack was claimed by an Islamist

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[32] Ibid

[33] trtworld. 2019. *Kashmir Fears End Of Special Rights As India Deploys More Troops*. [online] Available at: <https://www.trtworld.com/asia/kashmir-fears-end-of-special-rights-as-india-deploys-more-troops-28594> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

[34] The Economic Times. 2020. *Six Terror Attacks That Shook India - 1993 Bombay Blasts - The Economic Times*. [online] Available at: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/six-terror-attacks-that-shook-india/1993-bombay-blasts/slideshow/74146291.cms> [Accessed 30 August 2020].

[35] Ibid

[36] Vox, 2019. *The Conflict In Kashmir, Explained*. [video] Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyayif_nla8> [Accessed 31 August 2020].

[37] BBC News. 2019. *Kashmir Attack: Bomb Kills 40 Indian Paramilitary Police In Convoy*. [online] Available at: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-47240660> [Accessed 30 August 2020].

separatist group Jaish-e-Mohammad based in Pakistan. The Indian and then Pakistani armies responded a few days later with airstrikes.

A third external player, China, is also playing its part. Since the 1950s, the Chinese state has controlled three eastern territories of Kashmir and claimed them, despite protests from New Delhi. What could be at stake for Beijing is to ensure its presence at the crossroads of two strategic Chinese regions, namely Tibet and Xinjiang, where significant dissident movements are at work, but also maintain a balance of power with India. Unlike Pakistan, India is opposed to this Chinese territorial claim, which could be another breeding ground for a potential conflict between the two Asian giants.

Therefore, the Kashmir region and its civilians seem to be stuck in the middle of a cycle of violence driven by India and Pakistan: the Indian Army crackdown drives some Kashmiris to join Pakistani-backed militant groups, who carry out violence against the Indian forces. But beneath it all is the Kashmiri's wish to make a choice. A wish that continues to be suppressed and again and again by violence.

QARMAS:

- What can the Security Council do to de-escalate tensions between India and Pakistan?

- Why have peace talks, ceasefires and the Security Council's recommendation to have a referendum for Kashmiri people failed in the past? What can the Council learn from these   failures?

- Does either India or Pakistan have a more legitimate claim to the contested land, or is neither   claim   legitimate?

- How can the UNSC guarantee that weapons of mass destruction will not be used in order   to   escalate   the   conflict?

- How can the Security Council create lasting peace?

Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been plagued for several years by a political crisis that has worsened since Joseph Kabila's stay in power after the expiration of his second and last constitutional term at the end of 2016. Today the Democratic Republic of Congo faces a worsening humanitarian, human rights, and security crisis. The consequences have been devastating for the Congolese people, with some 4.5 million people displaced from their homes, more than 2 million children at risk of starvation and a growing health crisis due to the second largest Ebola outbreak.

Background

Joseph Kabila became president of the DRC in January 2001, after the assassination of his father Laurent-Désiré Kabila. On October 29, 2006, he was elected by universal suffrage (58%) against Jean-Pierre Bemba from the Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC, opposition). On March 22 and 23, 2007, Kinshasa was the scene of heavy weaponry between the army and the close guard of Jean-Pierre Bemba. The fighting left more than 300 dead, according to the UN Mission, which denounced "a disproportionate use" of force[38]. The MLC troops were totally defeated and Senator Bemba left the DRC.

On November 28, 2011, Joseph Kabila was re-elected in a one-round presidential election. The opponent Etienne Tshisekedi, who came second, rejected the results. In addition to having been organized in a chaotic fashion and marked by violence, the elections were marred by numerous irregularities according to the international community.

From January 19 to 22, 2015, demonstrations broke out in Kinshasa against a revision of the electoral law that could lead to a postponement of the presidential election and allow Mr. Kabila to remain in power beyond his second and last constitutional term. The demonstrations degenerate into riots and looting. The repression killed several dozen civilians[39].

On September 19 and 20, 2016, new violence between the police and young people demanding the departure of Mr. Kabila shook Kinshasa, killing dozens of people.

On December 20, on the last day of Mr. Kabila's mandate, Kinshasa and several other cities were the scene of deadly clashes between security forces and young people hostile to his maintenance in power. The UN reports at least 40 dead.

On November 5, 2017, Mr. Kabila is announced to stay until January 2019. The opposition demanded his departure from the end of 2017.

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[38] VOA. 2018. *Une Longue Crise Politique Émaillée De Violences En RDC*. [online] Available at: <https://www.voaafrique.com/a/rdc-une-longue-crise-politique-%C3%A9maill%C3%A9e-de-violences/4518319.html> [Accessed 30 August 2020].
[39] Ibid

In January 2019, Félix Tshisekedi was elected President of the DRC. Since then, tensions have been on the rise between him and politicians loyal to the former president Joseph Kabila.

Current Security Crisis

From August 2016 to April 2018 an outbreak of violence in the country's central Kasi region, involving Congolese security forces, government-backed militias, and local armed groups, has left up to 5,000 people dead. In December 2017, a wave of horrific violence has engulfed Djugu territory, an area of northeastern Congo's Ituri province, where assailants killed more than 250 civilians and torched scores of villages.[40] More than 200,000 people have been forced to flee their homes, including tens of thousands of refugees who fled to neighboring Uganda.[41]

Large-scale violence has also continued in eastern Congo's North and South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. Today, over 120 armed groups are active in eastern Congo. Many of these groups receive support from the Congolese government and security forces, while others have formed coalitions against the Kabila government. Yet the gravest threat to Congolese civilians comes from the security forces meant to protect them. According to the UN human rights office in Congo, some 1,180 people were extrajudicially executed by Congolese "state agents" in 2017, far more than those killed by any of the armed groups.[42]

Health crisis

In May 2019, the head of WHO called an outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo one of the most complex emergencies that the WHO has ever faced. More than 1100 people have died (1600 infected) from the deadly virus in a year , making the second worst Ebola outbreak ever[43].
By January 2020, more than 3000 people have fallen sick, with more than 2,000 dead, while most of the DRC is also at war. In fact, the outbreak zone being also a war zone makes fighting this disease an increasingly difficult battle, with civilians being a frequent target.
Furthermore, at the outbreak's epicentre, attacks against medical teams have left the vital response at a near standstill. In fact, there has been 119 attacks on health workers in 2019 according to WHO - 85 of whom have been killed or wounded.[44] Multiple attacks on health facilities have also forced organisations such as Doctors Without Borders to shut Ebola

[40] Refworld. 2018. *Overview Of The Political Crisis In DR Congo And The Human Rights, Security, And Humanitarian Consequences*. [online] Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b39f295a.html> [Accessed 29 August 2020].
[41] Ibid
[42] Sawyer, I., 2018. *UN Security Council Should Act On Congo*. [online] Human Rights Watch. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/02/12/un-security-council-should-act-congo> [Accessed 27 August 2020].
[43] Who.int. 2020. *Ebola Health Update - North Kivu/Ituri, DRC, 2018-2020*. [online] Available at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/ebola/drc-2019> [Accessed 2 September 2020].
[44] Nytimes.com. 2019. *Ebola Deaths Top 1,000 In Congo Amid Clinic Attacks*. [online] Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/04/world/africa/ebola-outbreak-congo.html> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

treatment centres.[45] There is also the issue of distrust. Some communities aren't seeking treatment from health workers because of conspiracy theories and some believe that outbreak was invented by charities to justify their presence.

QARMAS:

- What should the UNSC do to protect civil society activists, opposition members and journalists in the DRC?

- What approach should be used to tackle the threat of armed groups?

- How should the health crisis be tackled, and which actors must be involved?

- How to address both local drivers of conflict between communities and the interplay with regional dynamics?

- How to hold the government accountable without interfering into DRC's politics?

[45] Doctors Without Borders - USA. 2019. *DRC: MSF Suspends Medical Activities After Ebola Treatment Center Attack*. [online] Available at: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/what-we-do/news-stories/news/drc-msf-suspends-medical-activities-after-ebola-treatment-center> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

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