



Security Council Background Guide 2015

Introduction to the United Nations Security Council

Founded after World War II in hopes of rectifying the failures of the League of Nations, the UNSC (United Nations Security Council) has been present since the establishment of the UN, and is now one of the six major organs of the UN. The UN Charter states the primary roles of the SC is to maintain international peace and security, the development of diplomatic ties among nations, collaboration to resolve international clashes, and the promotion of human rights.

The SC consists of five permanent member states (the P5): France, China, the Russian Federation, the United State, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Furthermore, there are ten non-permanent Member States that are elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly (GA). The heads of the triumphant Allied nations after World War II hold the P5 seats. The P5 hold veto power, meaning that with a single negative vote, the P5 can avert a potential draft resolution from being passed by the SC. The other ten temporary Member States do not hold veto power. For a resolution or change to be passed in the SC, it must accumulate an aggregate of at least nine votes.

Given its distinction, influence, and standing in the UN, the SC repeatedly finds itself under criticism from the international community. A leading complaint that is made about the SC is the veto power of the P5, for the reason that it grants these five Member States absolute power to veto resolutions that could dispute their own foreign policy and agendas, ultimately distorting the positions and opinions of the majority. For example, the United States has a reputation of vetoing resolutions and proposals that address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the situation in Palestine.

Despite being pressured and scrutinized by the global community, collaboration and diplomacy are still held in the highest regard as identifying characteristics in the SC's transactions and are exemplified throughout its work of defending the world's population in the pursuit of world peace, safety, and stability.

I. The Situation in Ukraine

"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable"

--John F. Kennedy

Introduction

For the majority of modern history, the region of Ukraine belonged to Russia. Ukraine first declared independence from Russia with the Ukrainian War of Independence lasting from 1917 to 1921¹. As a result, the two Ukrainian states, the West Ukrainian People's Republic and the Ukrainian People's Republic merged together to form the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic (Ukrainian S.S.R.); which was quickly retaken as a sub-state of the Soviet Union along with a coalition of states known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) that all served under the Soviet Union². When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union during World War II, the Ukrainian S.S.R. saw them as a military liberating them from Soviet control and influence, while other Ukrainians formed a partisan movement³. Ukrainian nationalists again tried to declare their independence and formed the underground Ukrainian Insurgent Army that battled against both Soviet and Nazi militants, while other Ukrainians joined forces with the Nazis⁴. However, after World War II and the Nazi defeat, the Ukrainian S.S.R. was still under the control of the Soviet Union and the U.S.S.R. After World War II, accepted amendments to the Ukrainian S.S.R. constitution allowed them to become one of the founding members of the United Nations along with the Soviet Union⁵. During its tenure as a member state of the United Nations, the U.S.S.R. was elected to the United Nations Security Council in 1948-1949 and 1984-1985⁶.

Ukraine officially became an independent nation on August 24th, 1991 when the Ukraine declared that they will not abide to the USSR laws and will only follow the Ukrainian SSR laws, separating them from the Soviet Union⁷. The approval of the December 1 Ukrainian Independence Referendum saw Ukraine officially secede from the Soviet Union. Over 90% of Ukrainian citizens voted for independence, with majorities in every region, including 56% in Crimea⁸. The Soviet Union subsequently failed and ceased to exist on December 26, when the presidents of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia (the founding members of the USSR) met in Belovezh Pushcha to formally dissolve the Union in accordance with the Soviet Constitution⁹. Following these events, Ukraine was formally independent and its statehood was acknowledged and recognized by the international community¹⁰.

For its first ten years of independence from the Soviet Union, Ukraine's economy and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had fallen sharply and was stagnant, and the poverty rate was very high¹¹. Prior to Ukrainian independence, Ukraine was a vital part of the Soviet Union economy. Ukraine's economy experienced a deep recession during the 1990s, including hyperinflation and

¹ Subtelny, Orest (2000). *Ukraine: A History*. University of Toronto Press.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

¹¹ Subtelny, Orest (2000). *Ukraine: A History*. University of Toronto Press.

a drastic fall in economic output. In 1999, at the lowest point of the economic crisis, Ukraine's per capita GDP was less than half of the per capita GDP it achieved before independence¹².

The New Millennium

Ukraine's GDP recovered in 2000 and its economy rapidly grew for eight years¹³. In 2007 the economy continued to grow and posted real GDP growth of 7%. In 2008, Ukraine's economy was ranked 45th in the world, with the total nominal GDP of 188 billion USD, and nominal per capita GDP of 3,900 USD¹⁴. The poverty rate in Ukraine fell from 32% in 2001 to 8% in 2005. The United Nations noted that Ukrainian absolute poverty was already overcome, and that there is only relative poverty today in Ukraine. More than 60% of Ukraine's exports go to other post-Soviet states, with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan the most important. Ukraine's largest exports are iron ore and steel.

However, Ukraine's economy was greatly damaged yet again as a result of the Great Recession in 2008, and in the span of one year (2008-2009), Ukraine suffered a 15.1% decrease in its GDP. Inflation slowed in July 2009 and stayed at about 8% in 2011. The Ukrainian currency, which had been pegged at a rate of 5:1 to the U.S. dollar, was devalued to 8:1, and was stabilized at that ratio. There was 3% unemployment at the end of 2008; over the first 9 months of 2009, unemployment averaged 9.4%, however, according to the CIA World Factbook, in Ukraine there are "large number of unregistered or underemployed workers". Ukraine's economy recovered in the first quarter of 2010.¹⁵

On the night of November 21st, 2013, Ukrainians began a string of public protests against their government, paired with demonstrations and civil unrest¹⁶. These protests and demonstrations took place in Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, demanding and protesting for closer integration with Europe¹⁷. The protests were intensified and expanded to the point of citizens demanding the resignation of President Viktor Yanukovich and his administration¹⁸. Consequently, the protests and rebellion led to the birth of the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution¹⁹.

Causes of Protest

Several reasons led to the Ukrainian people protesting and rebelling against their government. Many protested because of the violent dismissal of protesters on November 30th. On that night, Ukrainian special police forces armed with batons, stun grenades, and tear gas severed all mobile phone communications and attacked and violently dismissed protesters and demonstrators from

¹² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

¹³ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/up.html>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26252679>

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Ukraine crisis: Yanukovich announces 'peace deal'". BBC News. February 21, 2014.

¹⁹ Ibid.

Independence Square²⁰. The police attacked and arrested both protesters and people who happened to be in the vicinity of Independence Square. As a result of the militia raid, 79 people were injured, two of whom were a journalist and a cameraman²¹. The majority of the protesters were students. Police justified the militia raid by accusing the protesters of throwing rocks and stones and burning logs and disrupting efforts to decorate the square for the Christmas and New Year's seasons²². This militia raid raised concerns of violations of human and civil rights in Ukraine. Consequently, the protests were now motivated by the belief of widespread government corruption, "abuse of power", and violation of human rights in Ukraine²³.

In mid-February, the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution reached its precipice. On 18 February, the worst clashes of the rebellion broke out after the parliament did not accede to demands that the Constitution of Ukraine be restored to its pre-2004 form, which would decrease presidential authority. Police and protesters exchanged live and rubber ammunition at multiple vicinities in Kiev. The riot police progressed to Independence Square later that day and fought with the protesters but did not entirely take back the Square. The disputes lasted through the following days, during which many casualties occurred. On the night of 21 February, the Independence Square protesters vowed to go into armed conflict if Yanukovich did not resign by 10:00 AM. Subsequently, the riot police retreated and Yanukovich and many other high government officials fled the country. Protesters gained control of the presidential administration and Yanukovich's private estate. The next day, the parliament impeached Yanukovich, replaced the existing government with a pro-European Ukrainian government. The aftermath of this ordeal was the Crimean Crisis and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Ukraine and Russia

Russia involved itself in Ukraine at several angles after the events of the February 2014 Ukrainian Revolution which resulted in the fleeing and impeachment of President Yanukovich²⁴. After the ousting of the Yanukovich government, a secession crisis emerged in the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. In late February, unknown and unidentified troops gradually took control of the Crimean Peninsula. These soldiers were later identified as Russian Special Forces²⁵. Following this invasion, Russia annexed Crimea following a controversial status referendum. Several months later, as Russian-backed separatist insurgents fought a war against Ukrainian forces in the Donbass region of Ukraine, armed Russian soldiers with military vehicles went into Ukraine, backed the rebels, and opened a new front on the coast of the Sea of Azov²⁶.

On March 1, 2014, an emergency United Nations Security Council Meeting was held to discuss the emerging crisis in Ukraine. During the meeting, Ukraine's representative to the United Nations called on the Security Council to do whatever is feasible in order to stop military intervention in the Ukraine by the Russian Federation. The Ukrainian representative justified his request by expressing that the recent events of Russia's invasion of Ukraine imposes a grave danger to the stability, peace, and honor of Ukraine. He proceeded to back this allegation by

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ <http://www.rferl.org/content/protesters-police-tense-standoff-ukraine/25241945.html>

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/12/us-ukraine-idUSBRE9BA04420131212>

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

bringing the point that although Russia's Parliament had just authorized the use of force against Ukraine, the Russian troops were already present in Ukraine and their population and numbers were increasing rapidly, thus constituting an act of aggression²⁷. The delegate representing the Russian Federation retorted by accrediting that Parliament had agreed to use force on Ukraine's territory and borders, but not to use force directly against Ukraine. He then acknowledged that President Putin of the Russian Federation did not order the use of force, and continued to implore that all parties in the Security Council to remain calm²⁸. The delegate from the United States advised Russia to cooperate and work with the Ukrainian government, and also requested that international analysts and observers from the United Nations be sent to Ukraine in order to unbiasedly report on the unfolding events²⁹. The delegate representing the United Kingdom expressed to the Security Council that his country shared deep concern regarding the unfolding of recent events and tension in Ukraine, and the permission of the Russian Federation to utilize military action in Crimea³⁰. Bearing in mind that the Security Council implored all parties to practice and achieve self-control, he added that Russia should take initiative and take steps to calm the situation. Lastly, the French delegate shared the opinion that the deployment of troops is a risky method to promote peace, and should be avoided³¹. Calling for all parties to show restraint, the delegate proceeded to promote and promise peace with all countries and communities.

After the occupation of the Crimean parliament by these unmarked troops, widely believed to be Russian Special Forces, the Crimean leadership announced it would hold a referendum on secession from Ukraine³². The final results of the referendum in Crimea showed that 97% of voters favored seceding from Ukraine to join the Russian Federation. The Crimean Referendum was popularly hated by leaders of the Western world who wanted to discuss economic sanctions to punish Russia. The new Ukrainian government labeled the referendum a "circus" directed at gunpoint by Moscow. This heavily disputed referendum was followed by the annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation in mid-March. Ukraine and most of the international community refused to recognize the referendum or the annexation. On April 15, the Ukrainian parliament declared Crimea a territory temporarily occupied by Russia. Since annexing Crimea, the Russian government moved to integrate the peninsula into Russia economically, politically, and culturally³³. It also increased its military presence in region, with Russian president Vladimir Putin saying a Russian military task force would be established there³⁴.

Since the events of February through April of 2014, issues have not improved or been resolved in Ukraine. Currently, constant fighting and conflict takes place on the borders of Ukraine, between the Ukraine defense forces and pro-Russian separatists, being supplied with weapons and military aid by the Russian Federation³⁵. The pro-Russian separatists fight for the cause of taking back major cities in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine and seceding to join the Russian Federation. This fighting on the borders especially peaked when Malaysian flight MH-

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/sc11302.doc.htm>

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² "Crimea referendum: Voters 'back Russia union'". BBC News. March 10, 2014.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

17 flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down near Donetsk, Ukraine, a terrorist crime committed by the pro-Russian separatists. No passengers aboard the plane survived the crash, totaling to 298 fatalities. 100 of the 298 passengers were AIDS researchers, scientists, and delegates on their way to an AIDS conference. There were reported to be also at least 20 family groups on board, and approximately 80 children³⁶.

The situation in Ukraine matters to the international community as a whole for a multitude of reasons. By invading Ukraine, the Russian Federation placed significant pressure on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) because Ukraine was in the process of joining, and if Ukraine had been an official member, all participating NATO countries would have been obligated to defend Ukraine and go to war with Russia. The situation in Ukraine also places pressure on the international community because they must decide how tolerant they will be of President Putin and Russia's aggression and ignorance of international law. It is illegal by international law for any one country to invade a sovereign nation. This will trigger questions about redefining what international law is. Lastly, the global community must assess whether or not it is acceptable to stand by while Russia invades and annexes areas of Ukraine, and what course of action they will take if Russia proceeds to invade and expand into other countries.

Questions to Consider:

-What can the United Nations do to rectify the situation in Ukraine and stop the fighting on Ukrainian borders? -Will the international community collectively come to officially recognize Russia's ownership of Crimea? -How will the international community decide to react to Russia if Russia continues to invade sovereign nations?

II. Crisis Management in Fragile Developing and Underdeveloped Nations

"Any dangerous spot is tenable if men—brave men—will make it so"
--John F. Kennedy

Introduction

There is no established convention for the designation of underdeveloped and developing countries or areas in the United Nations system, neither is there an official definition³⁷. Underdeveloped and developing nations are characterized as nations whose people have lower life expectancies, less education, and make less income³⁸. Another common characteristic among developing nations is their lack of being capable to maintain order and structure in their country, usually because of their government's failure, ultimately leading to being susceptible to invasion by other nations, and the creation of unstable conditions in their country³⁹. A current example of a developing nation is Ukraine. Underdeveloped and developing nations are very prone to

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ <https://www.law.kuleuven.be/icr/iir/nl/onderzoek/wp/WP80e.pdf>

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

instability and are in constant danger of losing the power to execute rudimentary political and economic functions⁴⁰. Developing nations most commonly deal with these difficulties because they may have recently changed their form of government. An example of a developing nation in political transition is Egypt. When situations of civil unrest and intensity occur in these countries, it is the responsibility of the United Nations to manage the crisis in the most efficient and effective way possible⁴¹.

These nations' situations and the predicaments the people of these nations find themselves in are often very grave. Violent rebellion and militant hostility is often a consequence of their government fighting with itself⁴². This violence can force thousands of citizens to flee their homes and towns, leading to mass migrations into refugee camps in neighboring nations, ultimately causing the conflict to expand out of the country of origin, and into other countries⁴³. As fighting and unrest continues to grow and worsen, refugees in these mass migrations are placed in the settlements, commonly known as refugee camps, on the borders of neighboring states, which are often riddled with harmful and infectious diseases and viruses. An example of a refugee settlement is the Al-Za'atari Camp located in Jordan, made for Syrian refugees⁴⁴. These refugee settlements eventually become immensely overpopulated with an influx of people arriving in a matter of weeks. They even become targets of armed groups involved in the conflict⁴⁵. Another example of such camps is the Nuseirat Refugee camp, constantly targeted by Israel. Seeing as the governments in a state of chaos and confusion, they are incapable of protecting and defending their citizens.⁴⁶

The United Nations and Crisis Management

The United Nations have two processes of managing crises: prevention and response⁴⁷. Development by reinforcing and rebuilding infrastructure and governmental institutions offers a way to minimize risk and chances of further violence, but given that many of these nations have very limited resources, it is much more difficult for their governments to achieve any substantial progress while undergoing and experiencing severe conflict and civil unrest⁴⁸. Interactions with the community involved also plays a vital role in crisis management of developing nations⁴⁹. The Security Council manages and deals with all matters and ordeals that jeopardize global security and safety via a plethora of different organizations, departments and committees. Though there are many committees in the United Nations that deal with crisis management, the Security Council is the most controlling and ruling committee concerning these affairs⁵⁰. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) are utilized for

⁴⁰ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/>

⁴¹ <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/CE704B4341533445C125733A00409987-UN%20and%20Civilian%20Crisis%20Management.pdf>

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49192.htm

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

peacekeeping and field operations⁵¹. The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) serve as advisory bodies⁵². The Security Council to the best of its ability attempts to involve all needed elements into Peacekeeping Operations to best their chances of success.

Creation and Preservation of Peace

The creation and preservation of peace in developing nations are the two most important factors of crisis management⁵³. These two factors are forever changing to fit and apply to different situations of different nations. Preserving peace is vitally important and is the first crisis management tool utilized by the Security Council in developing and underdeveloped nations⁵⁴. It provides a middle ground in the heat of dismay and civil conflict, and is intended to ease the tension of a potentially violent setting. Achievement of this intention is necessary if a path towards peace is to begin. Also, there are certain reforms that are necessary to be implemented for crisis management to succeed in developing and underdeveloped nations. Three prominent reforms include inter-agency cooperation, engagement with civil society, and responsiveness⁵⁵. Reforms are even more imperative in underdeveloped and developing nations because terrorist organizations often attempt to take the advantage and opportunity of a weak government system in place⁵⁶. Therefore, quick, efficient, and effective response is vital in these scenarios. However, the issues are often extended and stalled due to various factors such as lack of resources. Consequently, other countries are forced to get involved to attempt to resolve the crisis, which causes complications and further stalls any progress from being made. Engaging with civil society paired with training civilians and empowering civilians can attract the people of a nation to faithfully and morally invest and believe in their country, compelling them to help in rebuilding their institutions and establishment⁵⁷. It also compels the people to battle and find a way to beat poverty in their nation.⁵⁸

Another key factor in managing crises in underdeveloped and developing nations is interagency cooperation. One of the United Nations' allies in keeping peace in Africa is the European Union (EU)⁵⁹. In 2003, the United Nations and the European Union signed the *Joint Declaration on UN-EU Cooperation in Crisis Management*, to similarly magnify each organization's planning, training, communication, and most effective methods in the areas of peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and rapid deployment. However, support from the European Union to the missions of the United Nations has been decreasing⁶⁰. One cause for this decrease in support is the lack of faith in the United Nations' peacekeeping operations to execute affairs efficiently,

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ http://nmun.org/dc14_downloads/BGGs/DC14BGGSC.pdf

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ <http://un.v1.libguides.com/friendly.php?s=en/EU-UN>

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ http://pbpu.unlb.org/pbps/library/capstone_doctrine_eng.pdf

⁵⁹ http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_2768_en.htm

⁶⁰ Ibid.

especially after the failures of the 1990s⁶¹. Although the relationship between the two parties hasn't been the best in past years, it does show promise and potential.

Questions to Consider:

-What do the UN and the global community needs to keep disasters from being stagnant and growing into full-fledged conflicts? -What advances can the SC make to better its reaction to emergency situations in underdeveloped or developing nations?-What can the SC do to change according to the conditions of underdeveloped and developing nations?

⁶¹ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>