
United Nations Security Council: Ukraine Crisis
St. John's Preparatory School - Danvers, Massachusetts - December 2019



Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Hi! Welcome to SJPMUN XIV! My name is Luc Jean and I am a junior at St. John's Prep. As Director General for SJPMUNXIV, I have been helping prepare for this conference for many months in order to stimulate my interest in the U.N and world issues. A little bit about me, I do fencing during the winter season and have done so for several years. I love football and Star Wars immensely (a weird combo of interests). Additionally, I love history and philosophy and will always get into discussions. But today my job is to facilitate discussion for you all and allow for real solutions to come out of today's debate. Good luck delegates!

Regards,

Luc Jean

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Director General for SJPMUN XIV

Committee Description

The United Nations Security Council was first convened in 1946 in London, and since then, it has permanently resided in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Members are always present in case of a crisis. The function of the United Nations Security Council is, per un.org, is “to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations.” The powers of the United Nations Security Council include investigating disputes that may lead to international issues, regulating arms, assessing and acting threats to security, including through sanctions and military action, and to recommend the admission of new members and positions within the United Nations.

The United Nations Security Council is composed of five permanent members: The United States, The United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China. Additionally, it has ten members representing different regions of the world, elected in alternate years, each for a two-year term. Nine votes are required to pass a resolution, however, any of the five permanent members can veto a resolution.

Statement of the Problem

Since the fall of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has been divided internally between aligning with Western countries and the European Union or siding with Russia. This internal struggle in the Ukraine came to a climax in June 2014 when pro-independent President Petro Poroshenko replaced the pro-Russian president Viktor Yanukovich. Due to this, the Ukraine became more friendly with the European Union and Western nations, starting with the removal of economic sanctions in September of 2014. However, the pro-Russia block of Ukraine was outraged by this turn of events. This outrage caused the war against the Ukrainian military backed by the Russia government. Russia did more than just support the pro-Russian rebels in Ukraine. They provided direct assistance with the Russian military. In 2014, Russia built up a military presence at the Ukraine-Russia border, and even launched rockets against the Ukrainian government, now led by pro-West President Zelenskyy .

Russia's backing of pro-Russia separatists in Ukraine caused Western powers to respond swiftly with sanctions. Russia responded, in turn, by creating an economic war which led to a breakdown in relations between the United States and Russia. Unfortunately for Russia, the United States and the other Western countries' economic sanctions led to Russia's economy plummeting. Meanwhile the West, including the U.S., remained united in supporting Ukraine's efforts to keep their sovereignty. The United Nations Security Council, in numerous sessions, determined that Russia's actions violated international law, which resulted in even more sanctions. The conflict, however, continued for the next four years, encompassed economic and military tensions and a series of sabotages. Those include Russian-backed terrorists bombing a Malaysian airline, killing 298 people.

When the Russian Federation annexed Crimea in 2014 the rest of the world reacted strongly. As stated in the previously, sanctions were enacted onto Russia and Russia was suspended from the G8, now known as the G7. The annexation of Crimea brought light onto a growing violent Russian secession movement in eastern Ukraine.

In 2019, although the conflict internally in Ukraine has subsided, the conflict of influencers, mainly between the United States and Russia, still has persisted. Furthermore, in the summer of this year, Russia has been trying to fight against Ukraine's new language law, which makes the East Slavic languages of Ukrainians the official language. With this being the case, another United Nations Security Council has been called to visit, discuss, and find a resolution to this ongoing five year crisis.

History of the Problem

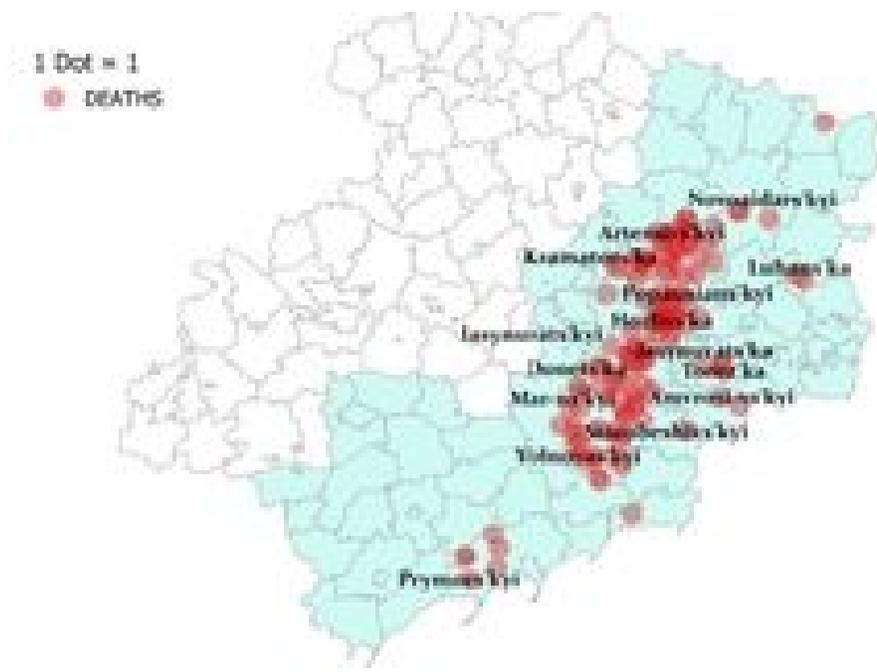
The Ukraine Crisis has its roots deep in an internal divide between Ukrainians: loyalty to Russia, or loyal to the Western powers including the European Union and the United States. Russia, who has supported the now Ukrainian rebels, has long had interests in Ukraine, once ruling their part of the world in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Until the early twentieth-century Ukraine was under Russian control. When the Bolshevik Revolution occurred in 1917 and the Czar was overthrown, Ukraine declared a short lived independence. However, the new USSR under Stalin led to a forced famine in Ukraine. This led to Ukraine to become one of the first republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

After the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in 1991, Ukraine once again sought independence, and voted for it in a referendum in December 1991. Unfortunately, as the U.S.S.R went, Ukraine went. Like the U.S.S.R, Ukraine immediately suffered from economic hardships. Later, Ukraine faces the issue of nuclear disarmament, especially after the Chernobyl disaster, among others. Ukraine, after its liberation from Russia, gave many nuclear weapons to it. After diplomatic pressure from the United States and other western powers, Ukraine began to disarm.

Ukraine slowly recovered and began to integrate into the world economy. As Ukraine entered the twentieth-first century, it began to gradually gain the trust and good standing from

members of the international community, eventually joining in partnership with the European Union.

The divide between Ukrainians has increased since its independence, leading to a back-in-forth between pro-Russia and pro-West presidents. Ukraine's relationship with Russia proved contentious at times while trying to maintain a workable relationship. This tenacious relationship with Russia was not helped by the internal divide in Ukraine between pro-West and pro-Russia citizens. With current pro-West president Petro Poroshenko, the divide has led to civil war, with of course, the interference of Russia and Western Powers. Local rebels took over East Ukraine and wished to break away. Ukrainian troops and the separatists from this point intensified the fight until the peace accord in 2015. Throughout the civil war. Russia has sought to interfere for political and economic gain, such as gaining more oil control. As the conflict intensifies, other powers wish to interfere as well. The interference of outsiders has heightened the civil war into an international crisis in which all major powers have a stake and opinion of.



Blocs:

United States, United Kingdom, France, Poland, Germany, Equatorial Guinea, Belgium:

These countries all are discontent with Russia's aggression towards Ukraine, and completely respect Ukrainian sovereignty. They all see this as Russia overreaching its power and influence, and believe that this issue presents a further danger to the European Union and international security.

Russian Federation, China, Dominican Republic, Peru: These countries are in support of Russia's occupation of Ukraine, and believe that Russia has a legal base for their occupation.

These countries are discontent with the United States' influence in the world, and believe that if the tides were turned there would be no outcry over a US occupation .

South Africa, Indonesia, Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait: These countries either want a peaceful solution to the crisis or have more important and more relevant issues and concerns.

Look for the United States and Russia to persuade each of you to join their side.

Questions to Consider

- 1.) Russia broke international law by invading and annexing Crimea. What measures can the Security Council further employ to secure its return to Crimea?
- 2.) What measures should the Security Council employ to end conflict in eastern Ukraine and ensure that it remain a part of Ukraine?
- 3.) What support does Ukraine need in order to protect its sovereignty from further incursion?

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