



XXII TecMUN Jr.

**North Atlantic Treaty
Organization**

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”

— Benjamin Franklin

Ambassadors:

Are you familiar with that nerve-wrecking sensation that eventually turns into an almost unbearable excitement? I do. I felt that every time I participated in TecMUN. I remember the rush of raising your placard in a heated moment during the debate, of writing down dozens of proposals and most of them getting shot down by the president of the committee. You see, sometime ago, I used to be where you are right now. Entering my committee for the first time, all the while clutching my folder very tightly and looking around nervously thinking about what I would say, what I would do. Of course, that never prepared me for the real thing. Let me tell you a secret, no one is truly prepared for the real thing. You learn by doing, by listening, even by trial-and-error. I sure did.

When I entered those big wooden doors for the initial ceremony of my first TecMUN, all I could think about was that it was a *very* big room, filled with people. I immediately searched for my classmates and sat down. I watched with admiration at those figures sitting at the blue tables in the front of the room. Little did I know, years later, I would be one of them. I also didn't expect that within those four walls, I would learn, I would cry and I would laugh just two years later. You see, when you enter this model, I am sure you are expecting to get better at researching, or at public speaking or even at defending something you do not personally believe in. But, in truth, you will get *so much more*. What everyone tells you is that TecMUN will help you academically, that it is sure to improve your argumentative skills. What they do not tell you is that you will meet lots of people. And maybe, just maybe, some of them will be on their way to becoming the people you trust the most in a few years. You will also learn. Not only geographical positions or the names of countries you did not know existed. You

will learn how to treat people, how to cooperate and negotiate but, most importantly, how to get *involved*.

Ambassador, I sincerely hope you gain as much during this XXII TecMUN Jr. as I always have. Enjoy the model because someday it might become a big part of your life.

Danae Tea Espinosa

President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization for the XXII TecMUN Jr.



NATO

TOPIC A: NATO's measures to ensure the Russian Federation's cooperation in accomplishing the Geneva Pact regarding the Crimea situation.

Historical background

Ukraine became an independent state from the crumbling Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in August of 1991 by means of a referendum that counted with more than 90% of Ukrainians. Nevertheless, relations between Russia and Ukraine stayed civil. Although, there was a brief dispute concerning Crimea because the territory had always been managed by the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic since 1954. It eventually stayed as part of Ukraine as an autonomous republic.

The next dispute was about different energy supplies because of the various gas and oil pipelines running through Ukraine, connecting Soviet and Western Europe. This eventually led to large trade partnerships and in the late decade of the 1990's, between one third and a half of Ukrainian's trade was with the Russian Federation. A strong dependency was formed when most gas and oil consumed in Ukrainian territory came from the neighbouring country. Relations between both countries continued to be stable until 2004, when the presidential candidate Viktor Yanukovich, who was backed by the Russian government, was kept from power because of the Orange Revolution, a civic movement sparked by the electoral fraud that tried to give him the presidency. It consisted of mass protests, which lasted two months, until pro-Western candidate Viktor Yushchenko was declared to have won the election in a repeat voting session.

However, months before the election, opposition candidate Yushchenko fell gravely ill with what would later turn out to be dioxin poisoning. He also faced continuous negative press due to government-controlled national television and media. It was later proved that Ukraine's corrupt elite rigged more than 2 million

of ballots in favour of Yanukovich. The fraud also proved to involve some of the government's highest officials.

It wasn't until 2010 when Russian-backed Viktor Yanukovich won the presidential election in what would be the start of a long pro-Russia campaign.

The Ukrainian Crisis and the Crimean Peninsula secession.

During late 2013, Ukraine's then President Viktor Yanukovich decided to reject a deal which would have made stronger trade bonds between Ukraine and the European Union (hereby referred to as EU) in favour of creating stronger political ties with Russia.

This event sparked a series of protests, which started small at first but would eventually turn into demonstrations with as many as 800,000 people in the capital Kiev. Nevertheless, the protests did not stop both Russian and Ukrainian governments from trying to strengthen their bonds, particularly when Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to buy £15bn of Ukrainian debt as well as reduce the Russian gas supplies' price by a third.

In early 2014, clashes between civilians and the government turned deadly when three people were killed by gunshot wounds during a protest. In retaliation, protesters began storming and seizing government offices in western Ukraine. Months later, more than 80 people were killed during the encirclement of Independence Square in Kiev.

President Yanukovich fled the capital when protesters took control of several presidential buildings and sought refuge in Russia instead, which would cause Pro-Russian gunmen seizing key government buildings in Simferopol, Crimea's capital. An interim government was established with speaker Olexander Turchynov named as interim president. Unidentified military forces, which would later be accused of being Russian, appeared outside the region's main airports.

Russian President Putin requested then to use military forces in Ukraine, alleging it was for the protection of Russian citizens and interests. This decision did not bode well with western countries, especially the United States (hereby referred to as U.S.), whose president, Barack Obama, demanded Russia pull forces back to military bases.

Ukraine's interim government stated Russia had effectively declared war by invading their territory, to which Vladimir Putin answered that the armed men in Crimea "besieging Ukrainian were not Russian troops but self-defense forces." (BBC, pars. 18,19)

Soon after, the Crimean parliament voted to secede from Ukrainian territory and join the Russian Federation. This was put forward by a referendum qualified as illegitimate by most of the international community. The Crimean parliament ignored several international statements condemning their actions and moved forward, even taking polls around the region, whose results showed that at least 95% of Crimean population were in favour of the secession and later, the planned annexation to Russia. Later, that figure was disputed when a leaked United Nations (UN) draft stated that Moscow had meddled and possibly manipulated the entire situation.

The draft, which was written by UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic, claims Moscow, repressed any possibility of dissent and Ukrainian nationalism in the weeks leading up to the referendum. An excerpt of the draft says: "The delegation met with sources who claimed that there had been alleged cases of non-Ukrainian citizens participating in the referendum as well as individuals voting numerous times in different locations." (RiaNovosti, par. 3)

Russian President Putin agreed to annex the Crimean peninsula a week after the referendum passed, stating to the entire Russian political elite that the region

itself was being “welcomed back [...] In people’s hearts and minds, Crimea has always been an inseparable part of Russia,” (The Guardian, pars. 1,2)

Protests in Ukraine and Russian military presence

After the annexation was completed, the Russian military was built-up on Ukraine’s eastern border, which only created more tension between both governments. Putin officially ordered a “partial withdrawal” of troops from the border but a few days later, NATO foreign ministers announced that a Russian military withdrawal hadn’t happened yet and the “saw no signs of it ever happening”. Thanks to this, NATO suspended every practical cooperation with the Russian Federation.

Pro-Russian separatists have since taken complete control of several key government in cities across Ukraine, including Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv, calling for a new referendum on independence. Although Kharkiv, which is the second-largest city after Kiev, was re-taken by the Ukrainian government, occupation on Donetsk and Luhansk still continues, with activists in both cities planning voting even when the EU stated that any vote “could have no democratic legitimacy and would only worsen the situation”. (BBC, par. 23)

The rebels have shocked the government by being in possession of weaponry and heavy artillery including tanks and rocket launchers which appear to be Russian in origin. This has prompted the United States, the European Union and the Ukrainian government to accuse Moscow of enabling the rebels, by supplying them with weapons, resources and manpower.

However, NATO’s officials reported nearly 40,000 Russian troops massed near Ukraine’s eastern border, which Putin insists are only there for military exercises.

Russian nationalism and social separation in Ukraine

Ukraine has always shown a strong social division between east and west since its independence from the Soviet Union. Although Ukrainian is the main language in its western regions, Russian is more prominent in the east and south.

There are other many factors that contribute to the on-going Russian nationalism in Ukraine besides a shared language such as common history and a shared belief with over half of the Russian population that the handover of the Crimean territory to Ukraine happened when Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev was drunk.

Common history, on the other hand, is pretty much indisputable. It is this which has provoked a humanitarian aid response from western Russia cities. Although it has not been the only thing lent. Several Russian citizens have stated that they are willing to give and in other cases, have already given what they call “armed charity”. These people recruit Russians to fight in Ukraine, on the side of separatists rebels. They, however, deny having any involvement or backing from the Russian government.

Several claims have raised that among fighting rebels in eastern Ukraine there are professionals who, while funded and equipped by the Kremlin, have been filed by western governments, including statements where evidence that proves a Russian intervention, gathered by U.S. intelligence have been mentioned. Said evidence remains confidential and has not been made public. Moscow continues to deny sending any kind of military forces or weapons supplies across the border.

Many Ukrainian citizens have fled the violence in their cities and have taken refuge in nearby Ukrainian or Russian villages. Most of them claim to have male family members stay behind in Ukraine to become rebels. They emotionally stated they blame the government for the civilian deaths, so far.

The Geneva Pact

In mid-April, a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland between the EU, the U.S., Russia, and Ukraine took place. They all agreed there was an ever growing necessity to take steps to de-escalate the rising tension and violence in eastern Ukraine. The pact called for the armed pro-Russia separatists to give up the seized government buildings as well as complete disarmament in exchange for amnesty, excepting those found guilty of capital crimes. While the pact was agreed to by all sides present, pro-Russia separatists have continued to ignore it while still seizing government buildings. They have also repeatedly claimed they did not agree to it and as such, were not tied to its conditions.

New Ukrainian government

After the quick escalation of violence in eastern Ukraine, it was made clear that presidential elections needed to be held. In late May 2014, pro-European oligarch Petro Poroshenko won, thus, becoming Ukraine's new president.

Poshenko counts with solid backing from Washington and Brussels and has claimed that his primary goal is reaching stability in Ukraine. And while he has won the support of his opposition leaders, he has taken a hard approach about rebels in eastern Ukraine, ruling out any kind of negotiation with them.

Nevertheless, he has not yet shown any kind of inclination to introduce martial law in the east and has said he “hopes to pacify the region with an offer of amnesty and a promise of early regional elections,” (BBC, par. 21). The need to stabilize political and working relations with Russia stays urgent, however.

Sanctions imposed

Russia's seemingly forceful involvement with violence in eastern Ukraine, as well as the Crimean annexation to the Russian Federation, has been considered to be unacceptable and illegitimate. U.S. President Obama has “emphasized that

Russia's actions were in violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity". (The Guardian, par. 5)

In response, several sanctions have been imposed by the European Union and the U.S. government to both Russian and Ukrainian officials as well as Russian companies and financial institutions. The sanctions included asset freezes as well as travel bans to several government officials.

The Obama administration has targeted two Russian banks, Gazprom Bank and VEB, and two major energy companies, Novotek and Rosneft. These institutions will not be able to get any kind of financing in the U.S. In addition, any kind of U.S. assets and American contacts were banned and forbidden, respectively, for eight Russian weapons companies.

Political sanctions have been imposed as well, the most prominent one being the exclusion of the Russian Federation from the elite financial group G8 (currently G7), in an effort to pressure Russian leader Putin to "change course" over Ukraine, otherwise the country faces indefinite exclusion.

It is important to mention, however, that the European Union had been somewhat reluctant to impose strict sanctions because the Russian Federation is currently the main European energy supplier. Western European countries import nearly 30% of their energy consumption from Russia and financially speaking, countries like the United Kingdom, France and Holland are highly dependent on Moscow.

The reluctance changed when a commercial plane, the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, was shot down over rebel-occupied territory by a Buk missile, killing all 298 people on board. While the Ukrainian government upholds that the missile came from the rebels, the latter answered that the missile came from a government facility but have not given any proof to sustain this accusation. The nearly 300

passengers came from more than 10 countries, although the majority of them were Dutch citizens.

Western nations uphold that the missile was Russian in origin, which only adds to the rapidly-deteriorating Russian-Western relations. Russia has pointed fingers to the Ukrainian government forces as well as NATO forces.

This event has led European leaders to take into consideration stricter sanctions against a country that is crucial to the EU economy. The Russian Federation is the third most important trading partner for the EU, after the U.S. and China.

NATO's involvement

The NATO members, especially those in close proximity to the Russian Federation's borders, have taken this affair as a growing threat towards their own sovereignty and voiced out their concerns at the latest summit in Wales. NATO Commander General Philip Breedlove has taken measures in order to ensure Russian leader, Putin, to know to what extent an involvement into their internal politics, such as the situation in the Crimea, would be a guarantee for war. Breedlove declared that NATO would not stand any of these "stealth invasions" and would consider them as direct attacks to the member state which would later call for the complete alliance to attack the opposing forces under Article Five of NATO's charter.

However, Russia responded when a foreign minister stated that any mistreatment or violation to the rights of Russian speakers in the Baltic states would have far more strenuous consequences. This message was taken by the western countries as a threat for further internal intervention in states which once belonged to the Soviet Union.

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TOPIC B: NATO's proposal of the ISAF's mission extension in Afghanistan, beyond 2014.

The Afghan Civil War

The Islamic State of Afghanistan was officially established in 1992 with an interim government, after 14 years of continuous government conflicts. Their mandate didn't go smoothly, with several militia and bombing campaigns attacking Kabul, the Afghan capital. But the major problem didn't arise until 1996, when the terrorist organization known as the Taliban got established in Kabul, with complete control over it. While the previous government was still the one formally recognized, the Taliban founded the new Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, which was only ever recognized by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Taliban

The Taliban is an Islamic extremist political group established in Afghanistan, with major bonds with terrorist group, Al-Qaeda.

It emerged as one of the "freedom fighters" groups that arose against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan (1979-89). The groups of Taliban, which means religious students, were poorly organized until while protecting a convoy from Pakistan to Central Asia, they proved to be an able force. This eventually led to their taking of Kabul in September 1996.

The Taliban's control over Afghanistan was actually quite popular with the war-weary population because of their somewhat achievement of peace, elimination of corruption and allowed resuming commerce. The institution of a very strict and devout interpretation of the Islamic law achieved this. Things considered frivolous activities as well as any kind of "non-Islamic" influence such as television, music and the Internet were banned. Public executions and physical

punishments like flogging became a regular sight. All men were required to wear a beard with the threat of receiving a beating if they didn't.

Women, on the other side, were forbidden to go to school or work outside their homes, which later brought on a crisis in healthcare and education. They were also required to wear an all-covering burka and to always be escorted by a male relative when leaving their home; otherwise they risked beatings or even being shot. All of this was, according to the Taliban, in order to protect women and their honor.

Contrastingly to their strict beliefs, the Taliban's funds came from various smuggling operations as well as opium cultivation.

Although during Taliban government most of the afghan population was united, the civil war did not end and living conditions in cities actually worsened.

Al-Qaeda and its ties with the Taliban

Similarly to the Taliban, this extremist military and political group started in Afghanistan as another one of the groups that arose against Soviet control in afghan territory. Osama bin Laden was the prime financier as well as leader of Al-Qaeda since its beginnings. He returned to his country of origin, Saudi Arabia, for a short period of time, to be later expelled accused of "anti-government activities".

The organization first actions were attacking U.S. serving forces in Somalia and a succession of terrorist attacks followed. In August 1996, Osama bin Laden stated they were declaring war against the United States.

After being expelled from his country, bin Laden moved his headquarters to Sudan, and was eventually expelled by the government, who was under pressure from Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Eventually, Al-Qaeda found itself settled in Afghanistan, "hosted" by the Taliban.

American intervention

On September 11th, 2001, four different commercial planes were hijacked and later, crashed into New York City, Washington, DC and outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania, resulting in 2,977 deaths and what turned out to be the “worst terrorist attack in U.S. history”. (CNN, par. 1)

A month later, Osama bin Laden took responsibility for the attacks through a video and U.S. troops launched military strikes against the Taliban regime. This was followed by an ultimatum that demanded surrender of bin Laden to the appropriate international authorities. The Taliban rejected the ultimatum so American as well as British military intervention began. Their main purpose was to remove the Taliban-led government and to locate the leader of Al-Qaeda in an effort to neutralize the entire organization. The latter was accomplished when bin Laden was killed in a black op carried out by elite U.S. Navy SEALs in early 2011. The operation itself took over 10 years of intelligence gathering and while the Al-Qaeda leader was killed, the organization did not crumble, as it was thought it would.

Weeks later after the U.S. intervention began, the Taliban forces were driven out of Kabul and they retreated towards the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

A new interim president, backed by the United States, named Hamid Karzai was installed.

The Bonn Agreement

Officially named "*the Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-Establishment of Permanent Government Institutions*", briefly called the Bonn Agreement, was the beginning of a series of agreements which main objective was to re-establish a governmental State in Afghanistan, created on December 2001.

The Bonn Agreement established an interim authority over Afghanistan until the Loya Jirga, or grand council, established a transitional authority, and a new constitution was adopted. It also calls all Afghan armed groups to join a new national army called the "*Afghan Armed Forces*" (controlled by the interim authority). Finally, the agreement also calls upon the United Nations to help with assistance in the formation of the new National Army.

The ISAF's mission

The *International Security Assistance Force* (ISAF) was created in 2001 as a security mission in Afghanistan, which was established by the United Nations Security Council, taking into consideration the Bonn Agreement. Its control was rotatory between the participant nations and changed every 6 months between countries until in 2003 its lead was yielded to NATO, becoming its first-ever operational commitment outside of Europe.

Its main goal is to help the Afghan government to reestablish control over the nation politically, socially, and economically, as well as to enhance the proper conditions for the country's infrastructural reconstruction and to help diminish the insurgent forces. Currently, it covers all of the Afghan territory with a total of 49,902 soldiers, the maximum number of soldiers it has ever reached being 128,961, from 50 different countries (The United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany and Italy being the ones with the most soldiers in action). With the gradual improvement of security in certain regions, its responsibility area has eventually expanded throughout years, getting to cover the entire country in 2006. NATO and the ISAF were also responsible for the eventual creation of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), which would later become the main organism ISAF has the mission to train and support.

Timeline

In January 2004, Loya Jirga adopted a new constitution and in December of that year, the first-ever straight democratic elections were held. Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

In September 2008, former U.S. president George W. Bush called upon NATO to increase the number of troops in Afghanistan, with approximately 50,000 soldiers already in Afghan territory.

Three months into 2009, new U.S. President Barack Obama called for a change in strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, where an extra 4,000 U.S. personnel would train and prepare the Afghan army and police as well as lend support for civilian development. Widespread Taliban-led attacks were still present in the nation. As retaliation, Obama increased U.S. troop numbers in Afghanistan, bringing total to 100,000 soldiers.

In August 2010, the Netherlands became the first NATO country member to pull out their troops of combat in Afghanistan. Later that year, NATO agreed to hand control of security to Afghan forces by late 2014.

A military partnership with the United States was first proposed in 2011, when President Karzai negotiated a 10-year military pact at a Loya Jirga assembly, which would see U.S. troops remaining in Afghanistan after 2014.

In June 2013, the Afghan National Security Forces formally took over all military and security operations but there was a major setback on talks between Afghanistan and the US when President Karzai suspended all possible security pacts after Washington announced it was planning to hold direct talks with the Taliban. The Afghan government wanted to conduct the talks themselves, instead.

Nevertheless, a Loya Jirga assembly backed the original military pact from President Karzai to provide bases to US military forces after the formal

withdrawal of NATO troops in 2014. The former president, however, refused to sign the deal.

In early 2014, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander announced NATO's mission did not end after 2014, but instead it is transitioning into an assistance mission, to train and advise afghan troops.

It was later stated that, both U.S. and NATO leaders, have a "decision space to get through period election". (CCN, par. 8) Nevertheless, U.S. political leaders claimed that without an agreement signed by the next elected afghan president, the troops would have no choice but to prepare for complete and resolute withdrawal.

The start of the afghan presidential election campaign was thoroughly marked by rising Taliban-led attacks. After the first round of votes remained inconclusive, a second round was organized, which resulted in more than 50 civilian deaths in various incidents. Several claims of election fraud have also been made.

While the Afghan National Army and the Afghan Police have both grown considerably in size and strength, there are still some doubts as to whether they are strong enough to take on the Taliban attacks by themselves. This is the primary reason why an extension of the ISAF's combat mission was proposed. This proposal, put forward by NATO members was first made at a NATO summit in Chicago, and it would result into the new post-2014 ISAF mission called "Resolute Support."

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