



United Nations Security Council

Background Guide

EagleMUNC

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www.EagleMUNC.org

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Introduction

Letter from the Chair:

Welcome Delegates of the United Nations Security Council,

My name is Conner Hoke, and I am the United Nations Security Council Committee Chair at EagleMUNC 8. I am an International Studies Major, with a concentration in Conflict and Cooperation in the Morrissey College of Arts and Sciences at Boston College. I love talking about International Relations in general, especially when it relates to US-Russian relations (Coincidentally, I am also learning how to speak Russian). I am from (congrats if you can say this right) Sammamish, Washington near Seattle, and am an avid hockey fan. I play on the Boston College Men's Club Lacrosse team and am involved with several other International Relations-ey clubs, such as the International Studies Student Association (ISSA Club... [Please Clap]). A few interesting things about me are that I am related to the "Most interesting man in the World" (Remember The original Dos Equis Commercial Guy) and I have been in the Oval Office.

I joined EagleMUNC last year and served as a crisis committee staffer for the UNSC and Presidential Cabinet of Chile committees. That was my first Model UN experience and I immediately decided that I should become more involved! I am really excited to share this experience with you guys and just wanted to say that we will have a lot of fun, but the best way to deal with these issues is to be respectful, professional, and pragmatic. Just remember, these are real world issues with serious consequences, and you are the leaders that are trying to solve them. The basic question you should ask yourself when preparing motions and negotiating is whether your actions would

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realistically align with those taken by delegates of your country. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should! Having a stupendously unrealistic scenario will not only hamper the authenticity of the committee, it will make dealing with Crisis much more difficult - and therefore less fun (trust me on this).

I also wanted to remind you that, unlike other committees, the UNSC is a real organization making an impact in the real world. Recently, they have been focusing on Africa and the Middle East, debating issues such as the conflicts in Libya, Sudan, and Syria. Similarly, we will be discussing the Sudanese Civil War, the geopolitical quagmire surrounding Hong Kong, and the security implications of Brexit in Northern Ireland.

Additionally, it would be very beneficial for you to know your specific country's relationship with and position on Turkey, Syria, NATO, ISIS, Iran and the Kurds.

These are dynamic issues with several (or no) possible answers, and it is up to you to find them. Good luck in your research and I look forward to hearing how the E8 delegates of UNSC will solve the world's problems!

Happy Hunting,

Conner Hoke

UNSC Committee Chair



Historical Background:

Following the conclusion of the First World War, the United States President Woodrow Wilson, in his Fourteen Points speech, expressed his desire to create an international body in which all future conflicts could be addressed, discussed, and moderated before sparking armed warfare. Realizing this dream, the League of Nations was formed in 1919 on basis of Wilsonian thinking, peaking with over fifty-eight members originating from all six populated continents.¹ However, despite proposing and spearheading development of the charter, Wilson was not able to convince both houses of Congress to approve the increasingly isolationist United States' membership in the organization, undermining both the power and credibility of the League in the eyes of the world.

Despite the League of Nations' best efforts, the agreement that inspired the creation of the League indirectly led to its downfall. Many historians believe that the Treaty of Versailles, which formally concluded the First World War, and the stipulations outlined therein, inspired the rise of Fascist Nazi Germany, whose vengeful attitude towards Versailles led to a virtually unchecked expansionist foreign policy which initiated the Second World War upon its invasion of Poland. Ironically, the League of Nations, the body designed to deliver "peace in our time," was not able to simmer the flames of war, and indirectly led to the bloodiest conflict in human history, where eighty million lives were lost in six years². Even before Imperial Japan surrendered on

¹ "The League of Nations." PBS, Public Broadcasting Service, www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/wilson-league-nations/.

² "The Failure of the League of Nations and the Outbreak of War in 1939." Bartleby. Accessed In.d.. <https://www.bartleby.com/essay/The-Failure-of-the-League-of-Nations-PKQ9LWZVC>.

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the deck of the USS Missouri, it was decided that the League would be dissolved and replaced with a more powerful and respectable global institution. To fully establish this new body as a reputable governing body, the United States, as well as its communist contemporary, the Soviet Union, would both have to become cornerstone members.

On June 26th, 1945 delegations from fifty nations convened in San Francisco, California to outline a document which would become the de jure constitution of establishment for the UN Charter.³ Entering the June UN Charter into force, on October 24th, 1945 the United Nations was officially born after ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and 46 other states.⁴ Poland was not present at the conference but was officially considered part of the original fifty-one signatories, as its membership was confirmed shortly thereafter.

Along with the establishment of the United Nations on October 24, 1945, the United Nations Security Council (“UNSC”) was formed from parameters outlined in the UN Charter⁵. Occupying one of the six main bodies of the United Nations and meeting first on January 17, 1946 in Westminster, London, the UNSC has taken “... primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security... [and] may meet whenever peace is threatened”.⁶ Today, the Security Council takes up residence at the United Nations Headquarters in the Turtle Bay neighborhood, in New York City.

³ “History of the United Nations.” United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-undated-nations/index.html.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “Charter of the United Nations.” United Nations. United Nations. Accessed 1n.d.. <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>.

⁶ “Security Council, SC, UNSC, Security, Peace, Sanctions, Veto, Resolution, President, United Nations, UN, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Prevention.” United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sc/about.

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Membership in the Security Council is split between fifteen total states, five maintaining permanent membership status, and the remaining ten occupying two-year rotating membership status⁷. Upon fulfillment of term requirements, the United Nations General Assembly elects states to fill vacated positions left by non-permanent members. Resolution 1991 A (XVIII) enacted in 1963 stipulated that rotating members must meet four geographic requirements:⁸

1. Five states from Africa and Asia
2. One state from Eastern Europe
3. Two states from Latin America
4. Two states from Western Europe

As of January 1st, current members are as follows (term expiration as year in parentheses)⁹:

Permanent Members	Current Rotating Members - Region	Veto Power
China	Belgium ('20) - Western Europe	China
France	Tunisia ('21) - Asia/Africa	France
Russia	Vietnam ('21) - Asia/Africa	Russia
United Kingdom	Dominican Republic ('20) - Latin America	United Kingdom
United States of America	Germany ('20) - Western Europe	United States of America
	Indonesia ('20) - Asia/Africa	

⁷“Charter of the United Nations.” United Nations. United Nations. Accessed 1n.d.. <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>.

⁸ “Security Council, SC, UNSC, Security, Peace, Sanctions, Veto, Resolution, President, United Nations, UN, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Prevention.” United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sc/members/

⁹ “UN General Assembly Elects 5 New Security Council Members.” Xinhua. Accessed 1n.d.. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-06/08/c_138125159.htm.

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	Estonia ('21) - Eastern Europe	
	St. Vincent and the Grenadines ('21) - Latin America	
	Niger ('21) - Asia/Africa	
	South Africa ('20) - Asia/Africa	

The Security Council allows non-member states to sit in on committee discussion if the UNSC deems said states' interests are of merit and may be affected by drafted policy, so long as the states agree to forgo voting rights. Similarly, UNSC members and non-members alike may potentially be allowed to sit in on discussion so long as they are privy to the dispute at hand and agree to waive voting rights.¹⁰

Though the Security Council describes its role as the international body responsible for furthering global peace and dissuasion of hostile conflict, such a description only scratches the surface of its true purpose. Pulled directly from the UN Charter, the UNSC sees its four main purposes as follows; the maintenance of international peace and security, further development of friendly relations between nations among the global community, cooperation in the solution of international issues whilst meeting the promotion of human rights, and to provide the nucleus for further harmonization of the actions of nations.¹¹ The United Nations has given only the

¹⁰ "Security Council, SC, UNSC, Security, Peace, Sanctions, Veto, Resolution, President, United Nations, UN, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Prevention." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/en/sc/members/

¹¹ Ibid.

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Security Council the power to obligate members to enact policies agreed upon in committee sessions under the UN Charter.

To enforce its actions and policy decisions, the Security Council may undertake any number of just actions in the hope that its goals are met in a swift and dignified manner. In the interest of maintaining international peace and security, the Security Council may:¹²

- ❖ Set forth principles and parameters for agreement
- ❖ Investigate and or mediate any issue if deemed appropriate
- ❖ Dispatch missions
- ❖ Appoint special envoys
- ❖ Request the intervention of the Secretary General if need be to aid in the meeting of settlements

If the aforementioned measures are neither ineffective nor forceful enough to meet the goals of the Security Council in the resolution of an issue, the UNSC may:

- ❖ Prevent further escalation to armed confrontation by issuing ceasefire directives
- ❖ Deploy military observers or peacekeeping forces (Blue Helmets)
- ❖ Enact economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties, and travel bans
- ❖ Sever diplomatic relations
- ❖ Enforce a Military blockade
- ❖ Engage in Collective military action

¹² Ibid.

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Ideally, the United Nations and its apparatuses, including the Security Council, would like to achieve omnipotent and omnipresent effectiveness. Yet, in a complicated world of conflict and ethnic tension, perfection in the dissuasion of violence is an ideal rather than accepted practice. While not universally successful, Security Council intervention has produced results in geographically diverse conflicts surrounding a myriad of issues. Peacekeeping operations are specified in the United Nations Charter as either Chapter VI or Chapter VII peacekeeping mandates. Chapter VI is known as the Pacific Settlement of Disputes and outlines that the United Nations may deploy its peacekeeping units without deliberate specification of which Chapter of the Charter is being fulfilled¹³. Chapter VII is known as Action with Respect to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression and outlines that the Security Council must decide which Chapter is being acted upon, what the legal basis of action is, and how security and public order is lacking in maintenance in the deployment region. Peacekeeping operations have been successful in hotbeds of hostility including Burundi, Cambodia, Haiti, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and the former eastern European region of Yugoslavia.¹⁴ Similar to war, no situation survives Murphy's Law and operational success is never perfect or complete for all stakeholders; however, success on UNSC Mandates often involve improving (to varying degrees) the regional humanitarian and political situation.

¹³ "Charter of the United Nations." United Nations. United Nations. Accessed In.d.. <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>.

¹⁴ "Our Successes Peacekeeping." *United Nations*, United Nations, peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-successes.

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A specific example of Security Council peacekeeping success pacified the East African state of Cote D'Ivoire, where the UN accomplished its mandate and objectives by early June 2017. Following the initiation of a 2004 civil war, the United Nations deployed over 12,000 peacekeepers to the struggling nation, and to date, many specific measurables have been met. Successful free elections are continuing to be held, human rights violations decreased by nearly five-hundred percent over a five-year period, a quarter million refugees have returned safely, and the nation has championed nearly eight percent GDP growth year over year on average since the conclusion of hostilities, resulting in the small African nation being elected to and serving on the UNSC.¹⁵

¹⁵ “GDP Growth (Annual %).” *GDP Growth (Annual %) Data*, World Bank, data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.MKTP.KD.ZG.

Topic 1: *The Forgotten War: South Sudan in Crisis*

Background

Nation building is never an easy or conflict-less process. Disagreements have to be moderated, opposition has to be brought to rest, and the government must establish legitimacy. Such is the Case in South Sudan, the world's youngest country after citizens voted, overwhelmingly, to separate from Sudan in 2011. Through 2013 the government, led by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, the party that advocated for the split between South Sudan and Sudan, peacefully managed divisions between the two largest ethnic groups and tried to refocus the economy around oil export and production. In 2013, President Salve Kiir, a Dinka, accused Vice President

Riek Machar, a Nuer, of attempting a coup to take over the government and removed Machar from office.¹⁶ The capital city of Juba was quickly enveloped in violence, as



presidential guard soldiers of each ethnicity fought with each other for their candidate.

The SPLA (Sudan People's Liberation Army) followed suit, with soldiers choosing their respective side. The conflagration quickly spread throughout the country and violence

¹⁶"South Sudan: What Is the Fighting About?" BBC News. May 10, 2014.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25427965>.

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spread, especially to the economically critical and oil rich States of Unity, Jonglei, and Upper Nile.¹⁷

In the aftermath of the attempted coup, which evidence neither confirms nor denies, Machar split off from the SPLM to form the SPLA-IO, or the Sudan People's Liberation Army - In Opposition.¹⁸ The SPLA and SPLA-IO have fought a brutal war, with each side committing war crimes and atrocities against civilians. In addition to the SPLA and SPLA-IO, other armed groups, both state actors and rebel groups, have aligned themselves with each side. Continuing to today, rape and sexual violence are frequently used by all armed groups as a weapon of war and atrocities are usually targeted along ethnic lines.¹⁹ Property destruction and looting, as well as the use of child soldiers, are also commonplace.²⁰ As of August 2019, it is estimated that over 50,000 people have been killed and 2.27 million are recorded as refugees and asylum seekers in nearby Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and the D.R. Congo.²¹

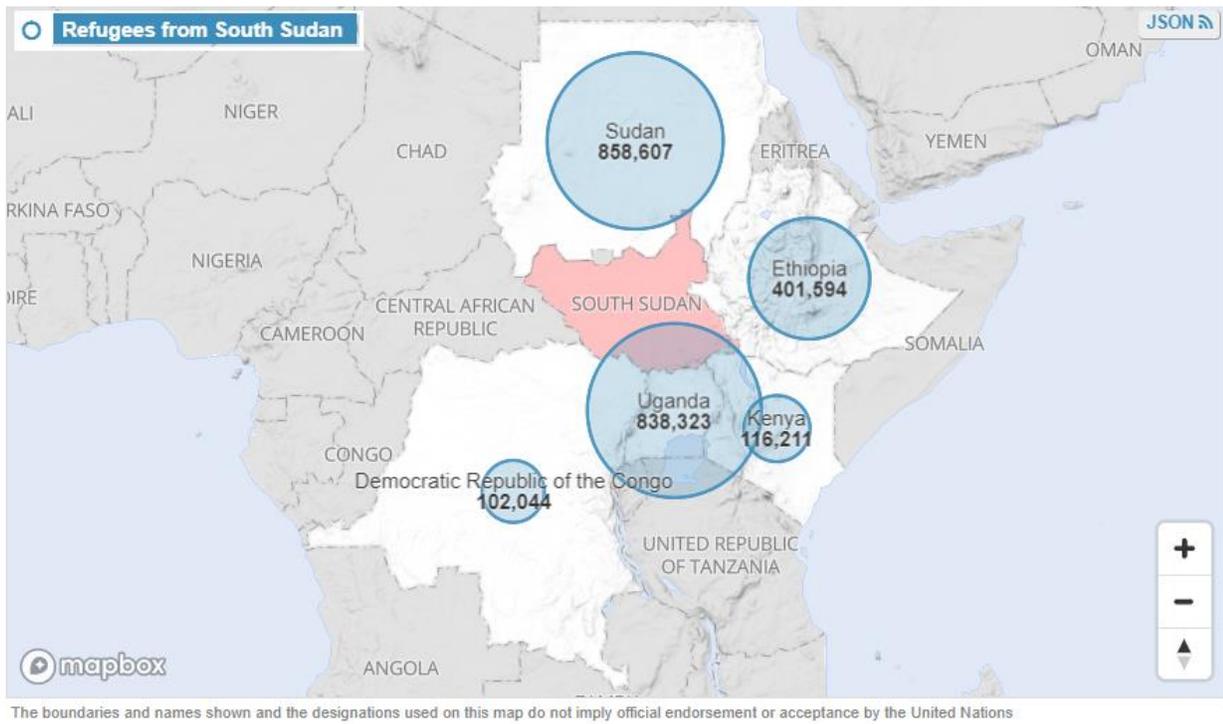
¹⁷ "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. August 21, 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

¹⁸ "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. August 21, 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ "Operational Portal: Refugee Situations." Situation South Sudan. July 31, 2019. https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/southsudan#_ga=2.269075509.53416348.1536600562-660995975.1534952835.



Shattered Peace

In 2015, under threat of sanctions by the international community, the IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) sponsored negotiations between Kiir and Machar. In August of 2015 they signed a peace agreement and Machar returned to the South Sudanese capital Juba in April of 2016 to again be sworn in as Vice President.²² Unfortunately, yet predictably, the fragile peace did not hold and soon violence between Kiir's government forces and Machar's opposition forces broke out, creating a new wave of refugees to nearby nations. Machar subsequently fled to South

²² "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. August 21, 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

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Africa where he was detained by authorities.²³ 2017 brought about more unsuccessful peace agreements and cease-fires that were quickly violated by both sides or other warring factions.²⁴

Less-Than-Stable Stability

In 2018, the civil war had gone on five years and international pressure mounted. The US instituted targeted sanctions while the UN placed an arms embargo on South Sudan. In June 2018, Machar and Kiir signed yet another cease-fire in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia that was mediated by Uganda. This agreement, called the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement, includes a pledge to negotiate a power sharing agreement that would end the war, though it does not address many root issues of the conflict.²⁵ In September, the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan was signed, acting as a final cease-fire and power-sharing agreement eventually reinstating Machar as vice president.²⁶ In October 2018, Machar returned to South Sudan, setting off a nationwide peace celebration and marking the end of the Civil War.²⁷ While this peace agreement is stronger than the other recent treaties, this peace is still extremely unstable the pressing question remains “when” and “how” violence will return rather than “if” peace will be violated.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. August 21, 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

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UN Mission Involvement

From the beginning of the conflict, the UN has held a vested interest in the safety and security of the South Sudanese people. In December 2013 the UNSC deployed 6,000 additional security forces to join the 7,600 blue-helmets that were already in-country to aid in South Sudan's nation-building process.²⁸ May 2014 marked a landmark ruling for the UN South Sudan Mission as the UNSC issued a rare change of mandate, refocusing the peacekeepers on civilian protection away from nation-building.²⁹ This ongoing refocus of the mission means that 13,600 in-country blue-helmets now work to ensure the safety and security of all civilians across a land area larger than the Iberian Peninsula. However, due to the vast land area, insufficient force size, and increased violence, UN Peacekeepers have and will struggle to prevent violence, though the mission continues to request reinforcements and promise that it will not abandon civilians.³⁰ Hearing the calls for reinforcements, in 2016 the UN authorized deployment of 4,000 additional Peacekeepers, who were delayed until August 2017.³¹

Famine

Unfortunately, as described above, the UN force has been relatively ineffective in preventing violence from affecting civilians. One group that has been extremely defenseless against the violence has been farmers. In 2014, the UN recognized that

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ "South Sudan: What Is the Fighting About?" BBC News. May 10, 2014. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25427965>.

³¹ "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. August 21, 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

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violence had prevented farmers from planting crops, which caused food shortages nationwide. In 2017, the food shortage became so severe that a famine was declared, leaving 100,000 people at risk of starvation and five million people, more than 40% of the population, in need of severe and urgent aid.³² 2018 was even more dire according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in South Sudan, as aid agencies reported that 6.1 million people, 59% of the population, would face severe food insecurity during a famine in summer months that would require varying levels of "food aid to stave off starvation and malnutrition."³³ Based on projections by the Government of South Sudan, UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2019 is not any better as 6.96 million people, especially those in the Unity, Lakes and Jonglei Provinces, face "Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse [food insecurity] through the July/August peak, [even with] the presence of already planned humanitarian assistance."³⁴

Current Stagnation

Since brokering of the 2018 tentative peace, both sides have been slow to reconcile with each other. Machar currently lives in Khartoum, Sudan and will return to South Sudan once the September 2018 agreement takes effect, though its implementation date has been delayed six months from May 12, 2019. Though

³² Jones, Bryony. "Famine Declared in South Sudan." CNN. February 22, 2017. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/02/20/africa/south-sudan-famine/index.html>.

³³ Al Jazeera. "South Sudan Close to Another Famine: Aid Groups." News | Al Jazeera. February 26, 2018. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/02/south-sudan-close-famine-aid-groups-18022611150948.html>.

³⁴ "South Sudan Food Insecurity-2015-2019." Reliefweb. <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/record-number-people-facing-critical-lack-food-south-sudan>, ICP stands for the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification and Phases 3,4,and 5 represent Crisis (3), Emergency (4) and Famine (5) levels of food availability.

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violations of the treaty have been frequent and deadly, they have occurred at a slower and less threatening scale and pace than in the past, therefore leaving the fragile peace relatively intact. In November of 2018, the UK and UN found that Uganda had been skirting the UN arms embargo and funneling Eastern European weapons to Kiir's Government Forces.³⁵ South Sudan's information minister combatted this report by pointing out that the civil war was over so they had no need as well as commenting that "we [South Sudan] don't even have money to buy arms."³⁶ In response, the UN extended the arms embargo on South Sudan.

More recently, in May of 2019, in ingenuine anticipation of the coming peace, South Sudan has concentrated efforts into improving ties with the US, but the US is not exactly keen on the proposal South Sudan has put forward. South Sudan has paid US lobby firm Gainful Solutions to smooth things over with Trump's cabinet with the stated goal of blocking the creation of a special war crimes court concentrated around the South Sudan civil war.³⁷ Understandably, critics, South Sudanese human rights activists, and the US Administration are not sympathetic to the deal, with the US Ambassador to South Sudan calling it "very disturbing," and South Sudanese human rights activist Kenyi Yasin Abdallah calling it a "flagrant violation of the peace agreement."³⁸

³⁵ "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. August 21, 2019. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

³⁶ "New Report Accuses Uganda of Sending Arms to South Sudan." Voice of America. November 29, 2018. <https://www.voanews.com/archive/new-report-accuses-uganda-sending-arms-south-sudan>.

³⁷ "Critics Slam Multimillion-dollar Deal Between South Sudan, US-based Lobbying Firm." Voice of America. April 30, 2019. <https://www.voanews.com/archive/critics-slam-multimillion-dollar-deal-between-south-sudan-us-based-lobbying-firm>.

³⁸ Ibid.

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Indeed Abdallah is right, the agreement signed by both Kiir and Machar in 2018 specifically stipulated that a hybrid South Sudanese and African Union court would conduct trials regarding atrocities and crimes against humanity that occurred during the war.³⁹ Augustino Ting Mayay of the Sudd Institute, a Juba based analysis firm said the deal represents a “misplaced priority” of the government because they are trying to distract justice instead of take reasonable steps to uphold the agreement.⁴⁰ Mayay further argues that by attempting to “undercut the most important elements of the agreement,” it shows that the Kiir and Machar’s governments’ have not been in recently constructive dialogue and “demonstrates Juba’s lack of commitment to implementing the peace deal.”⁴¹



Yet even while this egregious violation of justice is gaining life and seeming to point to dooming the agreement, the situation remains fluid. Also in May 2019, Machar

³⁹ "Critics Slam Multimillion-dollar Deal Between South Sudan, US-based Lobbying Firm." Voice of America. April 30, 2019. <https://www.voanews.com/archive/critics-slam-multimillion-dollar-deal-between-south-sudan-us-based-lobbying-firm>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ **PHOTO:** "New Report Accuses Uganda of Sending Arms to South Sudan." Voice of America. November 29, 2018. <https://www.voanews.com/archive/new-report-accuses-uganda-sending-arms-south-sudan>.

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and Kiir met in Addis Ababa to discuss (and agree upon) a six month delay in implementing the power sharing agreement past the May 12th deadline.⁴² While this sense of cooperation is hopeful, not even a week later Kiir argued for additional delays that would ultimately postpone Machar's reappointment up to a year.⁴³ Additionally, waves of violence continue to wash over the country and in July 2019, 100 were killed and 76,000 fled for safety.⁴⁴ Later in the month a UN Peacekeeper and six civilians were killed on the border between Sudan and South Sudan.⁴⁵

Sensing stagnation of the progress, the International Community, especially the UN, UK, Norway, and the US has increased pressure on the warring parties.⁴⁶ Domestically, activists in South Sudan have become increasingly active, starting a 90 day countdown to the November deadline demanding a united government.⁴⁷

Delegate Initiative

In our meeting, we will be looking for a way to put pressure on Machar and Kiir to come together and consummate their peace agreement. A peaceful resolution to this conflict is imperative to the security of Central Africa as well as the South Sudanese

⁴² "South Sudan Rivals Meet in Bid to Salvage Stalled Peace Deal." SABC News - Breaking News, Special Reports, World, Business, Sport Coverage of All South African Current Events. Africa's News Leader. May 02, 2019. <http://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/south-sudan-rivals-meet-in-bid-to-salvage-stalled-peace-deal/>.

⁴³ "U.N. Peacekeeper, 6 Civilians Killed in Sudan/South Sudan Border Area." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, July 17, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-security/un-peacekeeper-6-civilians-killed-in-sudan-south-sudan-border-area-idUSKCN1UC1FG>.

⁴⁴ Montgomery, Kelly. "Quick Facts: What You Need to Know about the South Sudan Crisis." Mercy Corps, August 26, 2019. <https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/south-sudan/south-sudan-crisis>.

⁴⁵ "U.N. Peacekeeper, 6 Civilians Killed in Sudan/South Sudan Border Area." Reuters. Thomson Reuters, July 17, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-southsudan-security/un-peacekeeper-6-civilians-killed-in-sudan-south-sudan-border-area-idUSKCN1UC1FG>.

⁴⁶ "Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker." Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed 1n.d.. <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

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civilians and refugees. The Security Council will be considering ways of applying international pressure to hold both parties to the agreed upon terms without breaking the fragile peace that exists. Also, as a committee, will be discussing Uganda's violation of the arms treaty and how to appropriately deal with this transgression that was not aimed at the restoration of peace. Delegates should also examine ways to best repatriate those exiled to surrounding countries. Finally, the Security Council will consider restoring the UN Mission in South Sudan's objective to nation building and curbing the Civilian Protection role if it is deemed safe.

Questions to Consider

1. Is the UN Mission helping the people of South Sudan or prolonging the conflict?
 - a. Consider the Opinion Piece by Amir Idris.⁴⁸
2. How will a reunification of the government affect the food problem within the country?
3. Will a reunification of the government lead to less violence?
4. What is Uganda's role in perpetuating the conflict?
 - a. Is it in their interest to have a weak neighbor? ex:
 - i. In the Iran/Iraq war the US supported both sides in order to prolong the war so they would keep each other busy and off US hands.
5. Can Machar and Kiir rule together?
6. What can the UNSC do?
 - a. Not trying to impose a foreign peace on a domestic conflict.
7. Will lifting sanctions be beneficial?
8. Will returning the UN mission to Nation Building accomplish its stated goal?
9. How do you deal with the refugee crisis and ensure the safety of newly repatriated South Sudanese?
 - a. Can the agricultural system handle the massive population increase or would repatriating these people right away cause mass starvation?
10. Are there solutions to the food crisis? Who can provide aid for the food Crisis?
 - a. Look at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

⁴⁸ Idris, Amir. "In Opinion: South Sudan's Demise Is Partly Due to the U.N. Security Council." Newsweek, January 27, 2017. <https://www.newsweek.com/south-sudan-conflict-civil-war-un-security-council-arms-embargo-544738>.

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11. Will reinstating a dual ethnic government smooth over the abysmal and violent ethnic relations?



Topic 2: The Erosion of One Country, Two Systems in Hong Kong
Background

Britain has a long history of involvement in Hong Kong. After the conclusion of the First Opium War in 1842, Hong Kong was taken over by the British.⁴⁹ In 1898, the UK leased land around Hong Kong, called the “New Territories” and promised to return them, after a period of ninety nine years.⁵⁰ The British and Chinese began negotiating the return of these territories to China in 1982, almost twenty years before the United Kingdom’s lease on the territory expired on July 1, 1997.⁵¹ As part of these negotiations, signed in 1984, Hong Kong was returned to China, but set up as a separate administrative district, utilizing its own system of semi-republican, representative government and a capitalist economy, for a period of fifty years, until 1948, when it will be fully returned to China’s direct rule.

China Rejoined with Hong Kong

However, the China Hong Kong will be returned to is vastly different than the China it was leased from. Since the turn of the 20th century, Sun Yat-Sen established the Republic of China and overthrew the Manchu Dynasty, from whom Hong Kong was leased, in 1911.⁵² Mao Zedong’s Communist revolution took control of China in the late 1949, overthrowing the Republic of China and establishing authoritarian Communist Rule across the country.⁵³ Chairman Mao ruled until his death in 1976 having

⁴⁹ "Hong Kong profile - Timeline." <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16526765>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² "Timeline of Events in China." <https://www.facinghistory.org/nanjing-atrocities-crimes-war/timeline-events-china>

⁵³ Ibid.

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fundamentally transformed China from a regional participant into a modern world powerhouse. Alongside fellow communist Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union, Mao's totalitarian and autocratic rule led to him being one of the greatest mass murderers in human history, his policies and wars being credited with 30 to 70 million deaths.⁵⁴

Largely relevant to the Security Council, in 1971, Mao, along with a change in American Chinese policy to the One China Policy under President Nixon, negotiated the replacement of Taiwan, who China still considers to be a province in revolt, from the Security Council in favor of the People's Republic of China.⁵⁵ After Mao's death, China underwent a period of reform and opened up to the rest of the world. During this time period the Hong Kong agreement was signed in 1984 and the Chinese continued the Sino/Soviet Split continued to intensify.

China's period of Western rapprochement ended with the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1989, where the government brutally cracked down on student led protests calling for democratic reforms and changes. The Chinese government still censors any mention of this conflict to this day and it signifies the end of many democratic freedoms in China. Understanding the Chinese Government's reaction to Tiananmen Square is essential context for the Hong Kong protests. Being the only place in China where information is freely available, Hong Kong Chinese know full well the history of

⁵⁴ Arifa Akbar, "Mao's Great Leap Forward 'Killed 45 Million in Four Years'," <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/maos-great-leap-forward-killed-45-million-in-four-years-2081630.html>

⁵⁵ Joseph Bosco, "The One China Policy: What would Nixon do?" <https://thediplomat.com/2017/01/the-one-china-policy-what-would-nixon-do/>

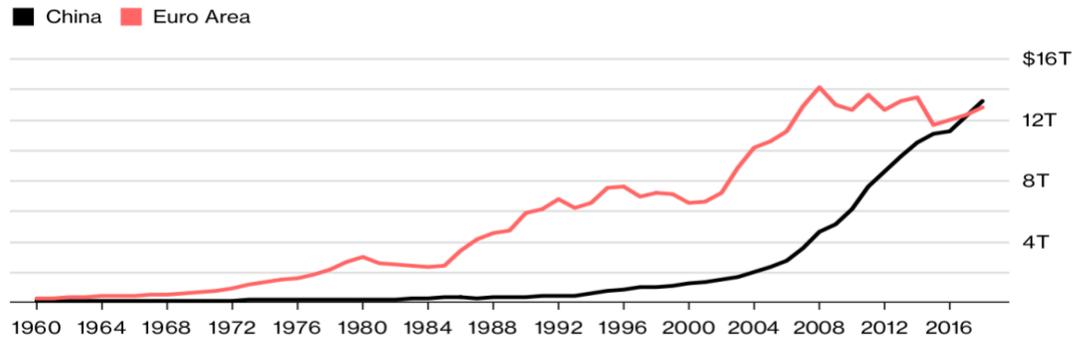
PHOTO: Michelle Jamrisko, *China's Economy to Overtake Euro Zone this Year* Bloomberg, (2018). <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-06/china-s-economy-is-set-to-overtake-combined-euro-area-this-year>.

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Tiananmen Square while a majority of the Mainland Chinese Population is largely oblivious.

Seeing Red

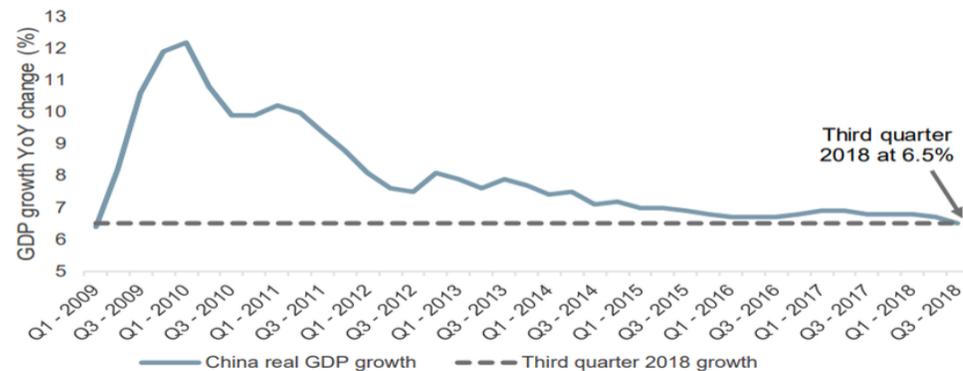
China is set to overtake the entire Euro area economy in 2018



Notes: Charts nominal GDP levels; 2017, 2018 Bloomberg survey medians used where official data unavailable as of Feb. 26, 2018. IMF GDP deflators used to convert from real levels. Sources: Bloomberg, World Bank, International Monetary Fund

Bloomberg

Chart 1. Chinese economic growth slowest since 2009



Sources: Wells Fargo Investment Institute, Bloomberg, November 5, 2018.

China remained largely economically stagnant until 1989, when the then newly empowered Chinese President Jiang Zemin consolidated power of the state, party, and military under his office's control. The Chinese economy matured steadily throughout the 1990's and by the early 2000s it was going gangbusters, growing at almost unheard-of rates. The Chinese Economy has retained its strong growth rate overtaking the Euro Area Economy in 2018 and it is poised to soon outpace the world leading American economy, though the economic foundations of these two countries are vastly

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varied and China's astronomical, and some judge unstable, economic growth rate is coming back down to earth.⁵⁶

Economics of Hong Kong

The economic outlook of Hong Kong is essential to understanding why the Chinese government accepted the seemingly poor terms of the British turnover of the territory. In a sentence. In 1984, when the deal was reached to turn Hong Kong turned over to the Chinese, the Chinese needed Hong Kong. Not restrained by the communist policies of Mainland China and enjoying a favorable geographic position at the with close proximity to the Philippines and Southern Asia and on the nexus of worldwide trade routes serving Japan, India, Australia, and the Americas, capitalist Hong Kong enjoyed significant foreign investment and soon became one of the most important financial capitals in the world. In the 1990s, China was slowly growing, but wasn't anything close to the economic juggernaut that it is today. Its economy was increasingly industrial and isolated from the rest of the world. Hong Kong offered not only an opportunity to gain a significant portion of the Chinese economy, but access to western companies and an outlet to the Global Financial market. In 1993, Hong Kong made up 27% of the Chinese Economy and was by far the most economically important

⁵⁶ Gary Huang, "If China Thinks It's Overtaking the US any Time Soon, Here's a Wake-Up Call," <https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/opinion/article/3006892/if-china-thinks-its-overtaking-us-any-time-soon-heres-wake-call>

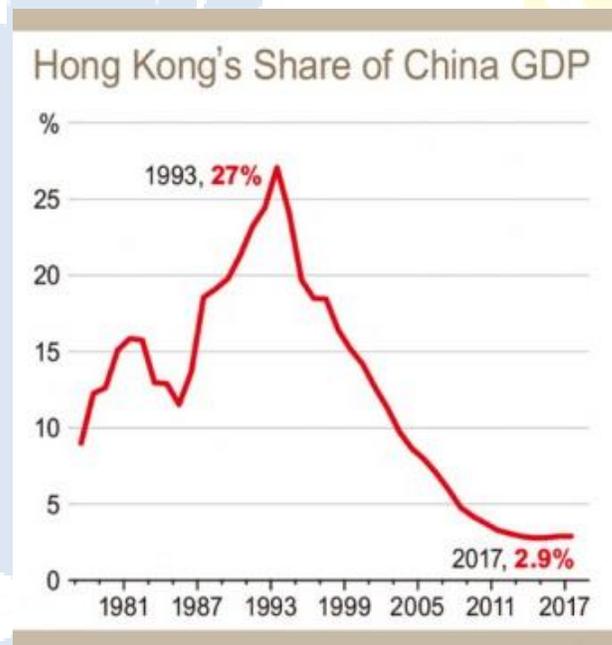
PHOTO: Pedro Nicolaci da Costa, *Chinese Economic Growth Slowest since 2009*, Vol. ChartForbes, 2018). <https://www.forbes.com/sites/pedrodacosta/2018/11/25/the-scariest-economic-chart-in-the-world-right-now-may-come-from-china/#7df51e953fd2>

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city in China.⁵⁷ Quite simply, China could not afford to turn down any of the terms that Britain offered them for Hong Kong, especially with the Communist party's goal of pursuing rapid economic advancement.⁵⁸

Hong Kong's Economic Situation Today

Today, however, though the city is still thriving and growing at a sustainable 3% rate, Hong Kong currently represents less than 3% of the Chinese economy and doesn't really produce consumer products.⁵⁹ The city is still an extremely important financial hub, being the Asian headquarters of many American and Foreign investment firms, tech companies, and industry leading companies. Through their special "One Country, Two Systems" arrangement, this allows China to access advanced western technology while companies located in Hong Kong gain access to the massive Chinese market. Hong Kong still provides massive economic potential and



⁵⁷ HKEJ, "HK Vs China GDP: A Sobering Reality," <http://www.ejinsight.com/20170609-hk-versus-china-gdp-a-sobering-reality/>

⁵⁸ PHOTO: HKEJ, "HK Vs China GDP: A Sobering Reality," <http://www.ejinsight.com/20170609-hk-versus-china-gdp-a-sobering-reality/>

⁵⁹ Timothy B. Lee, "Hong Kong used to be 18 Percent of China's GDP. Now it's 3 Percent." <https://www.vox.com/2014/9/28/6857567/hong-kong-used-to-be-18-percent-of-chinas-gdp-now-its-3-percent>

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power for China, though through no fault of their own, Hong Kong is not the lynch pin that China's economy rests on anymore.

Information and the Great Firewall of China

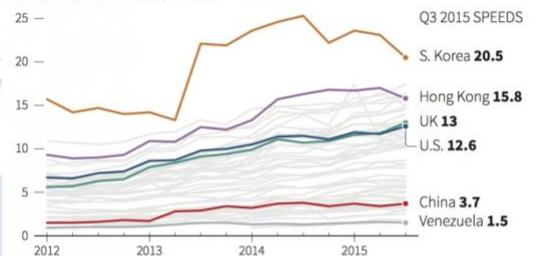
Hong Kong, while technically part of China, is essentially culturally independent from their mainland neighbors. Hong Kong speaks Cantonese instead of Mandarin, competes in international sporting events as an independent country, has foreign media outlets with independent reporting, issue their own currency and passports, are ruled by a different government, has their own legal system, has democratic freedoms such as freedom of information and freedom of the press, and are not directly responsible to Xi Jinping in Beijing, among many other things.⁶⁰

However, Beijing views Hong Kong as sovereign territory and finds the terms of the 1984 agreement quite hindering. Jinping and Beijing are very authoritarian and rule the rest of China with very strict, borderline tyrannical, policies including significant state involvement in the economy. However, this level of control does not extend to the autonomous region, and

The Great Firewall of China

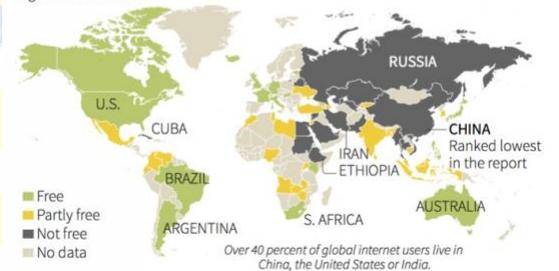
China operates a sophisticated online censorship mechanism, known as the Great Firewall, with methods that include bandwidth throttling, keyword filtering and blocking access to certain websites.

AVERAGE CONNECTION SPEED — IN MBPS



THE FREEDOM ON THE NET INDEX

The annual report measures each country's level of internet and digital media freedom



Sources: Akamai's State of the Internet reports; Freedom on the Net 2015, Freedom House.

W. Foo, 04/02/2016

REUTERS

⁶⁰ Prableen Bajpai, "Hong Kong Vs China: Understanding the Difference,"

<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/121814/hong-kong-vs-china-understand-differences.asp>

PHOTO: W. Foo, *The Great Firewall of China* Reuters, 2016).

<https://blogs.thomsonreuters.com/answerson/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2016/02/China-firewall-690x1056.jpg>.

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the economy is largely capitalist, functioning without government interference.

China is extremely tight lipped about information leaving the mainland, and as such controls virtually all media outlets while severely limiting internet access. For example, if you search for Tiananmen Square Massacre or anything related to it, your internet access will be completely shut off by the state.⁶¹ As a result of its special status, Hong Kong is one of the leakiest points of the "Great Firewall of China." Here, Beijing cannot control information access and thus limits Hong Kong's access to China's own internal media similarly to how they keep the rest of the world in the dark.⁶²

To prevent information from spreading via word of mouth and Chinese people from escaping using Hong Kong, mainland China maintains a hard border, with some of the most rigorous customs inspections in the world outside of the Korean DMZ, along their shared border. Anyone looking to cross the narrow waterway connecting Shenzhen to Hong Kong must have all the appropriate paperwork, a passport, and pass several other checks.⁶³

Beijing's Enforcement Issues: Lack of Chinese Impunity

Hong Kong's exclusions from many Chinese safeguards, combined with the worsening of Chinese/Taiwanese relations and China's economic boom mean Hong Kong has become a thorn in Beijing's side and remains a significant obstacle to furthering China's cultural hegemony and locking the outside world out of Chinese

⁶¹ Fu, "Students in Hong Kong used Fax Machines to Fight Chinese Censorship of Tiananmen Square," <https://qz.com/1688553/how-a-hong-kong-fax-machine-informed-millions-of-chinese-in-1989/>

⁶² Samuel Woodhams, "Internet Restrictions would Only Exacerbate Hong Kong's Problems," <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/internet-restrictions-exacerbate-hong-kong-problems-191016145818567.html>

⁶³ *China Erasing its Border with Hong Kong*, *China Erasing its Border with Hong Kong*. Vox, 2018)

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internal happenings. The 50-year agreement means that a united China cannot pursue these goals until Hong Kong is officially behind the Great Firewall in 2047. This waiting period has become a major nuisance for newly proclaimed President (for life) Xi Jinping and Beijing, who want to accelerate this timeline and elevate China into the world's preeminent power as soon as possible. Unlike the Chinese position of weakness that existed in 1984 and 1997, China is regional hegemon and feels that they don't need to bend to the British demands anymore in regard to Hong Kong. Beijing's ultimate belief is that because Hong Kong is fundamentally part of China, Beijing should have power there just like they exert throughout the rest of mainland China. This belief is only exacerbated by how Hong Kong frequently ignores Beijing and openly criticizes the Communist regime, something unfathomable throughout the rest of China.

However, China must still honor this treaty. If they break the Sino-British treaty, countries are less likely to make treaties with them in the future, which could lead to a further decline in their economic growth.⁶⁴ Next, China has virtually no option that would be legally acceptable to break this treaty; Hong Kong has not declared war against or independence from China, meaning invasion or use of force would not be justified. Hong Kong officials haven't expressed a desire to leave the treaty and never become part of China, which would give the Chinese government the option to take over control.⁶⁵ In essence, Hong Kong is politically unsolvable for Beijing because Hong Kong has not given the Chinese government an excuse to intervene based on current

⁶⁴ Tania Branigan, "How Far Will China Go to Stamp Out Hong Kong Protests?"

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/01/how-far-will-china-go-to-stamp-out-hong-kong-protests>

⁶⁵ Ibid.

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interpretations of Basic Law. Beijing does have the ability to reinterpret Basic Law to justify intervening action, though this would draw certain and punitive international condemnation.

Unlike in mainland China, Hong Kong's economy is vitally intertwined with the West. If China were to move against Hong Kong, it would create a situation that severely disables Hong Kong's ability to communicate and conduct business with the West, meaning both Hong Kong and China would lose access to the vital western technology and capital.⁶⁶ Finally, and perhaps most consequentially, Hong Kong rests beyond the "Great Firewall of China," has a large contingency of western journalists, and has freedom of speech, meaning that whatever happens in Hong Kong is known throughout the rest of the world.⁶⁷ Therefore, if China decided to use force against Hong Kong, they would face severe international sanctions and a blistering international condemnation, which would threaten to hurt the Chinese economy and certainly eviscerate the international image of peace and prosperity that Xi's regime is trying to cultivate.⁶⁸ If Beijing was experiencing social unrest, Jinping could theoretically roll in the tanks and put down the rebellion and ideally no one inside or outside of China would be the wiser, though in reality the situation would be much messier. Due to all of Hong Kong's atypical freedoms, Beijing can't act with this same unchecked impunity.

⁶⁶ Regan, "China President Xi Jinping's Balancing Act Over Hong Kong,"

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/12/asia/xi-jinping-balancing-act-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>

⁶⁷ Fu, "Students in Hong Kong used Fax Machines to Fight Chinese Censorship of Tiananmen Square,"

<https://qz.com/1688553/how-a-hong-kong-fax-machine-informed-millions-of-chinese-in-1989/>

⁶⁸ Regan, "China President Xi Jinping's Balancing Act Over Hong Kong,"

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/12/asia/xi-jinping-balancing-act-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>

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China's Erosion of Hong Kong's Freedoms

That doesn't mean China has been complete in their adherence to the treaty. Up until about the mid-2000s, when Hong Kong's percentage of the Chinese GDP slipped, China had incentive to respect the treaty and remained compliant. However, in the second decade of the agreement, the Chinese government in Beijing has been increasingly aggressive. The transgressions have come in all shapes and sizes and are designed to intimidate the people of Hong Kong into giving up their freedoms to the Chinese government. In 2012, the Government unsuccessfully tried to implement a pro-Chinese propaganda style education curriculum to indoctrinate Hong Kong's children.⁶⁹ In 2014, the Chinese government kidnapped five Hong Kong booksellers who sold books banned on the Chinese mainland because they detailed topics like Xi Jinping's sex life and other scandalous subjects.⁷⁰ The bookstore has since closed, and though the booksellers have been returned to Hong Kong, they are now forced to work as informants to the mainland government. In 2016, pro-independence and pro-democracy members of Hong Kong's Parliament were thrown out of the swearing in

⁶⁹ *Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China? Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China?* The Economist, 2019d)

⁷⁰ Ibid.

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ceremony for insulting China and expressing their beliefs that Hong Kong should remain independent past 2017.⁷¹

In addition to intimidation, China has embarked on a campaign to provide physical reminders that Hong Kong is indeed part of China. These reminders include significant infrastructure projects, public broadcasts, and language. Opened in 2018, the recently constructed Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge is one of the longest sea crossings in the world at 55km of connected tunnels, artificial islands, and bridges and is designed to last for a period of 120 years, well beyond the 2047 deadline.⁷² Due to various car entrance and permit restrictions on both Macau and Hong Kong, the bridge is currently underutilized and very impractical for anything but public transit.⁷³ Yet, Beijing thought it was worthwhile to construct because it provides a very permanent connection for Hong Kong to the Chinese Mainland and is representative of the



⁷¹ *Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China? Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China?* The Economist, 2019d)

PHOTO: The Prince of Wales Building houses the PLA's Hong Kong division, though the soldiers are not allowed to leave and don't have jurisdiction within the city. (http://www.ejinsight.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/396616_12c787545351b85f1ba43a8f8e3bed2b-692x360.jpg)

PHOTO: A map of the Bridge linking Macau to Hong Kong (map)https://i.dailymail.co.uk/1s/2018/10/22/09/5154014-6302317-The_Zhuhai_Hong_Kong_Macau_bridge-a-2_1540195855435.jpg

⁷² *Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China? Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China?* The Economist, 2019)

⁷³ Ibid.

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upcoming integration of the City into greater China in the near future.⁷⁴ China also constructed a massive skyscraper barrack in the middle of downtown Hong Kong to house the People Liberation Army (PLA). Though the soldiers cannot leave the base, the concrete monstrosity with the Communist Red Star emblazoned on the top gives the Beijing government a permanent physical position in the special administrative district as well as serving as a tool to intimidate the citizens of Hong Kong.

These types of reminders continue with the evening news, which is a state-run broadcast by Chinese State Television. The broadcast starts with a promo video showing Hong Kongers eagerly and gloriously participating in the development of China alongside fellow countrymen from the mainland. This video is covered by the Chinese National Anthem and is played every night⁷⁵. This broadcast, and all official correspondence between China and Hong Kong is in Mandarin, the official language of mainland China. However, Hong Kong speaks Cantonese, a southern dialect of Chinese.⁷⁶ These elements are not only meant to remind Hong Kongers that eventually their only source of information will be Chinese Propaganda, but also that the language they speak will be suppressed come 2047.

⁷⁴ *Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China? Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China?* The Economist, 2019d)

⁷⁵ Ibid.

⁷⁶ *Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China? Hong Kong Protests: What's at Stake for China?* The Economist, 2019).

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Hong Kong's Judiciary and Government

Born out of the 1997 handover agreement, Hong Kong's government and judicial system vaguely mirror Western institutions. The Judiciary is independent of China and reflects the British Court System, with a Court of Final Appeal, several High Courts, then district, magistrate, and special courts rounding out the lowest levels.⁷⁷ All judges are appointed by the Chief Executive, though appointees to the Final Appeals and Chief Judge of the High Court have to be approved by the Legislative Council.⁷⁸ Laws in Hong Kong are based off of "Basic Law," again negotiated in 1984, which is Hong Kong's de-facto constitution, spelling out its relationship with Beijing, the several western style freedoms that Hong Kongers are entitled to until 1947.⁷⁹ The agreement does give Beijing ultimate authority, and it was most recently exercised in regards to a Hong Kong Court decision that allowed two pro-independence lawmakers to remain in government after displaying anti-China opinions at the Legislative Council swearing in ceremony.⁸⁰ Beijing intervened, reversing the decision and disqualifying the pair from the Council.⁸¹

The Government, modeled after western democracy, is not even close to a representative democracy or even a republic. Its elections are extraordinarily complex, where only a fraction of the population votes for their leader, the Chief Executive, while

⁷⁷ Chi-Keung Leung, "Hong Kong- Government and Society," <https://www.britannica.com/place/Hong-Kong/Government-and-society>

⁷⁸ Chi-Keung Leung, "Hong Kong- Government and Society," <https://www.britannica.com/place/Hong-Kong/Government-and-society>

⁷⁹ *What is the Basic Law of Hong Kong? What is the Basic Law of Hong Kong?* South China Morning Post, 2017), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPZChjTU7LY>

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

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more vote for their representatives in the Legislative Council, or Legco, and the District Council.

The Legco election is more representative than the Executive Council, but still leaves a lot to be desired by democracy advocates. In a city of 3.8 million registered voters, 2.2 million voted in the 2016 Legco election and with 58.3% participating, it achieved a larger participation percentage than the 2016 US Presidential Election of 55.5%.⁸² However, these votes only counted for 35 of the 75 seats and many Hong Kongers reported intimidation and pressure to vote for Pro-China candidates. The 35 seats these votes counted for were for seats allocated to Geographic Constituencies, which are six geographic areas of Hong Kong.⁸³ 35 other seats, voted on by 240,000 eligible voters (not all of which are people, some are organizations and businesses) from their respective industries, are allocated to candidates from Hong Kong's 29 Functional Constituencies, or economic and areas socially critical industries.⁸⁴ The final 5 seats, nicknamed "Superseats" are Functional Constituency seats which are open to election by the general electorate of the 3.4 million.⁸⁵ Candidates for these "Superseats" are selected from distinguished members of the District Councils, which are akin to county/town governments in the United States.⁸⁶ The Chief Executive can

⁸² C.C, "How Hong Kong Picks its Chief Executives
," <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2017/03/21/how-hong-kong-picks-its-chief-executives>

⁸³ "Composition of the Legislative Council." https://www.legco.gov.hk/education/files/english/Exhibition_Panels_Supplementary_Notes/Composition-of-the-LegCo.pdf

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ James Griffiths and Vivian Kam, "Hong Kong Legco Election: Is this the World's Weirdest Political System?" <https://www.cnn.com/2016/08/31/asia/hong-kong-legislative-council-explainer/index.html>

⁸⁶ James Griffiths and Vivian Kam, "Hong Kong Legco Election: Is this the World's Weirdest Political System?" <https://www.cnn.com/2016/08/31/asia/hong-kong-legislative-council-explainer/index.html>

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appoint about a quarter of the District Council members while the rest are contested in an open election.⁸⁷

This means that Hong Kongers have direct input on 35, and some influence over five more, of 75 Legco seats, while China has de-facto influence on the other 40. In essence, Hong Kongers have as much political power as the minority party in the US Senate or House of Representatives. Therefore, in theory, they do not have a majority that will enable them to pass and enact legislative reform, but when acting as a cohesive bloc they can block legislation put forward by businesses. In this scenario, the five "Superseats" are supposed to be the impartial wildcard that will decide the election, however, since their appointment to run was controlled by Pro-China interests, they ensure the Functional Constituencies' control over Legco.

The Chief Executive is voted upon by a council of 1200 electors that are supposed to represent Hong Kong's population, much like the Electoral College in the United States.⁸⁸ However, in reality, the system is just about as far from representative as possible. The 1200 electors are comprised of several different industries, but the votes are not proportional to their respective impact on Hong Kong's economy.⁸⁹ For example, the Fishing Industry gets more votes than the Banking and Financial Sectors combined, despite Fishing making up .01% of Hong Kong's economy and Banking

⁸⁷ Ibid., The next District Council elections are scheduled to take place on November 24th, 2019 and will be a very good way to judge how drastically Hong Kong's political climate has changed. They are an ideal opportunity to test Beijing's strategy, as they can disqualify pro-independence candidates, but may not exercise their option to do so.

⁸⁸ Benjamin Haas, "Hong Kong Elects a New Chief Executive: What You Need to Know," <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/22/hong-kong-chief-executive-election-what-you-need-to-know>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

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accounting for almost 20%.⁹⁰ Additionally, foreign entities can vote in this election, as both the French and Australian Foreign Ministries are allocated a vote.⁹¹ Mainland China exerts considerable control over this election, though most meddling is clandestine and not publicized.⁹² Businesses who need to keep on good terms with the Chinese Government vote in favor of Chinese sponsored candidates so they can maintain their access to the lucrative mainland Chinese market, even when these candidates are highly unpopular in Hong Kong, threaten to violate Basic Law, encourage Chinese intervention, and/or act as puppets for the Government in Beijing.⁹³ China also has to approve of the elected Executive, and candidates that do not gain Beijing's approval are either intimidated into not running or defeated in the election by Chinese influence and businesses pandering to China.⁹⁴

In 2014, China overtly intervened in the Chief Executive election. China boasted that the 2017 election would be the first election to achieve the long worked towards goal of universal suffrage that was promised in the 1997 handover.⁹⁵ While this agreement did fulfill the stated legal terms of the treaty by giving every Hong Konger a

⁹⁰ Melissa Ho, "Financial Services Industry in Hong Kong
," <http://hong-kong-economy-research.hktdc.com/business-news/article/Hong-Kong-Industry-Profiles/Financial-Services-Industry-in-Hong-Kong/hkip/en/1/1X000000/1X003UUO.htm>

⁹¹ Haas, "Hong Kong Elects a New Chief Executive: What You Need to Know," <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/22/hong-kong-chief-executive-election-what-you-need-to-know>

⁹² C.C, "How Hong Kong Picks its Chief Executives
," <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2017/03/21/how-hong-kong-picks-its-chief-executives>

⁹³ Haas, "Hong Kong Elects a New Chief Executive: What You Need to Know," <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/22/hong-kong-chief-executive-election-what-you-need-to-know>

⁹⁴ C.C, "How Hong Kong Picks its Chief Executives
," <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2017/03/21/how-hong-kong-picks-its-chief-executives>

⁹⁵ C.C, "How Hong Kong Picks its Chief Executives
," <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2017/03/21/how-hong-kong-picks-its-chief-executives>

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vote, it was a massive affront to the democratic spirit of the agreement. The catch was that Beijing would control who could run for the position and pick the candidates.⁹⁶ This was the catalyst for the Umbrella Movement and awakened an entire generation of Hong Kongers to China's subversions of their freedoms and China's encroachment upon the 1997 treaty they signed with another member of the UN Security Council.

The Umbrella Movement

Pseudo-Independent Hong Kong has a long history of protesting policies and decisions that they dislike, especially those made in Beijing. Large scale protests have taken place in 1997 when some Hong Kongers protested the lack of direct democratic elections put in place at the turnover to China. In 2003, protests helped ensure pro-democracy parties success in the District Council election, handing the pro-China parties an embarrassing defeat.⁹⁷ Then, after a decade of relative peace and order in Hong Kong, protestors took to the streets again for what became their largest, longest, and most sustained protest.

In 2014, China tried to implement "universal suffrage" for the 2017 Chief Executive Election, but control who could run for the position. Hong Kongers were not impressed with Beijing's overtly autocratic, insincere approach that demonstrated a clear lack of commitment towards the promised universal suffrage agreed upon at the 1997 handover. Taking this as a blatant affront to the democratic process, hundreds of

⁹⁶ *China Erasing its Border with Hong Kong*, *China Erasing its Border with Hong Kong*. Vox, 2018), C.C, "How Hong Kong Picks its Chief Executives
," <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2017/03/21/how-hong-kong-picks-its-chief-executives>

⁹⁷ Joseph Y. S. Chang, "The 2003 District Council Elections in Hong Kong," *Asian Survey* 44, no. 5 (September/October, 2004), 734-754.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/as.2004.44.5.734?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents.

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thousands of Hong Kongers immediately took to the streets, occupying key points throughout the city. Calling for the resignation of the Chief Executive, Leung Chun-ying, demanding universal suffrage, with some factions even advocating for independence from Mainland China, the student led protests lasted for 79 days before dispersing.⁹⁸ Though these protesters remained largely peaceful, the Hong Kong and Chinese governments responded by declaring the protests illegal (and therefore the protestors criminals) and deploying Hong Kong's highly militarized police, who fired tear gas, rubber bullets, and pepper spray into the crowd in an attempt to disperse and hold back the crowds. The crowds protected themselves using umbrellas, yellow being the color of choice that contrasted their black clothing, as effective shields against the mace and tear gas. The powerful symbol of protestors using household objects to defend and protest a militaristic opposition quickly gained the movement international sympathy and inspired people to call it the "Umbrella Movement," a name the protestors adopted.⁹⁹

Ultimately, this protest did not accomplish any of its political goals, as Chief Executive Leung did not resign, and current further democracy was not implemented, with Chief Executive Carrie Lam being elected in 2017 using the same pro-Beijing 1200-person committee that elected Leung in 2013. Additionally, organizers were arrested, imprisoned, and as a result of their prominent positions as Hong Kong resistance

⁹⁸ Tripti Lahiri, "What was Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement about?" <https://qz.com/1714897/what-was-hong-kongs-umbrella-movement-about/>

⁹⁹ Lahiri, "What was Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement about?" <https://qz.com/1714897/what-was-hong-kongs-umbrella-movement-about/>

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figures and anti-China political views, were barred from running in the November 2019 District

Council elections at the end of October 2019.¹⁰⁰

Despite the protest's failure to accomplish stated goals, it did inspire the middle class to come out

and vote in droves, leading to a resounding victory for pro-democracy parties. 2014

taught protestors many important lessons that have enabled the 2019 protests to

eclipse 2014 in terms of scope, duration, influence, political achievement, and

international recognition.



2019: The Most Important Humanitarian Crisis in the Last 100 Years

In February 2018, a Hong Kong couple were vacationing in Taiwan when the boyfriend brutally murdered his girlfriend. After the boyfriend had returned to Hong Kong, the Taiwanese police issued a warrant for his arrest. However, as China does not recognize Taiwan's sovereignty, no extradition treaty exists between Hong Kong, in this case part of China, and the de-facto country. To amend this issue, the Hong Kong government proposed a law allowing Hong Kong to transfer fugitives, on a case by case basis, to countries where no extradition treaty exists, including Taiwan and mainland China.¹⁰¹ Hong Kongers are opposing the measure because it undermines Hong Kong's

¹⁰⁰ Lahiri, "What was Hong Kong's Umbrella Movement about?" <https://qz.com/1714897/what-was-hong-kongs-umbrella-movement-about/>

PHOTO: Protestors form an umbrella barricade to shield themselves from the approaching Hong Kong Police during the 2014 Umbrella Movement. Alan Taylor, "Hong Kong Police Clash with Occupy Protesters," <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2014/10/hong-kong-police-clash-with-occupy-protesters/100832/>

¹⁰¹ Tara John, "Why Hong Kong is Protesting: Their Five Demands Listed," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/13/asia/hong-kong-airport-protest-explained-hnk-intl/index.html>

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autonomy and civil liberties, it would allow China to extradite then prosecute Beijing's political fugitives and rivals who live in Hong Kong.¹⁰² While Hong Kong's justice system is based around Western principles of transparency and due process, Mainland China's authoritarian justice system is often used to silence political dissidents through intimidation, torture, rumor, and coercion.¹⁰³ Characterized by secrecy, residents of Hong Kong do not have to look farther than the 2014 kidnapping and "trial" of the Hong Kong booksellers to find reasons to fear persecution under this system.¹⁰⁴ Resultantly, by March 2019, rallies were organized against the proposed Legco bill and by June, these rallies transformed into a comprehensive combination of full scale protests, industry strikes, and targeted small group action throughout Hong Kong calling for the withdrawal of the bill.¹⁰⁵ While still united, these protests, which started by calling for withdrawal of the extradition bill, have developed strong violent tendencies, as younger frustrated demonstrators feel that peaceful resistance is insufficient against the militarized Hong Kong Police. As protests expanded and, since August, became increasingly violent, protestors have mandated "five key demands;" 1. The withdrawal and scrapping of the extradition bill, 2. An independent investigation into police tactics and brutality, 3. The resignation of Chief Executive Carrie Lam, 4. The release of arrested protestors, and 5. The implementation of greater democratic freedoms as

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ Tara John, "Why Hong Kong is Protesting: Their Five Demands Listed," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/13/asia/hong-kong-airport-protest-explained-hnk-intl/index.html>

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

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agreed upon in the Anglo-Sino 1997 handover agreement.¹⁰⁶ As of October 31st, 2019, these protests have been the longest and most disruptive in Hong Kong's history, stretching for an unprecedented 205 days (with no end in sight), significantly damaging the city's economy,



creating a massive headache for the Central government in Beijing, and focusing international media attention on the city. Unlike in 2014, where none of the demands were met, in early September, after months of delaying and coordinated opposition to the protestors, Carrie Lam officially withdrew the extradition bill, with permission of the Mainland government, ceding to one of the protesters demands.¹⁰⁷ The protesters continue to innovate and use every opportunity to advance their cause, recently protesting/demonstrating Hong Kong pride at a Hong Kong vs Iran international soccer friendly, quarreling with and condemning the NBA, and advocating for the American Second Amendment to be incorporated into the Basic Law.¹⁰⁸ Though the other

¹⁰⁶ Tara John, "Why Hong Kong is Protesting: Their Five Demands Listed," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/13/asia/hong-kong-airport-protest-explained-hnk-intl/index.html>

PHOTO: This picture shows the sheer scope of the Hong Kong protests, with crowds reaching up to an estimated (though probably inflated) two million people.

Paul Stapleton, "How Protest Turnout Figures are Manipulated on both Sides of Hong Kong's Political Divide," <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2019/06/16/protest-turnout-figures-manipulated-sides-hong-kongs-political-divide/>

¹⁰⁷ Jerome A. Cohen, "The Crisis in Hong Kong: What to Know," <https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/crisis-hong-kong-what-know>

¹⁰⁸ Paolo Zialcita, "FIFA Disciplines Hong Kong After Fans Protest Chinese Anthem," <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/09/768679277/fifa-disciplines-hong-kong-football-association-after-chinese-national-anthem-pr>, "Hong Kong Protesters are Punishing Brands that Take China's Side." <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hong-kong-protesters-outraged-over-lebron-james-china-comments/>

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demands have not been met, the 2019 Hong Kong protests are still currently ongoing and succeeding using lessons learned from the 2014 Umbrella Movement.

Not having recognizable leaders is something that the 2014 movement taught Hong Kong. Recognizable leaders are easy for Hong Kong and Beijing authorities to concentrate on and suppress, either through arrest or subversion. Even with protest crowds numbering two million or more, the 2019 protests have no recognized leader, which helps characterize the movement as a popular uprising and limits authorities from targeting specific figures when trying to spurn the uprising's fervor. While 2014 was primarily student lead, 2019 awoke all generations of Hong Kongers to the threats to their civil liberties and is therefore much more inclusive.¹⁰⁹ Additionally, though 2014 was confined to certain parts of the city, 2019 has become a city wide protest, utilizing diverse places and tactics in the city so that police and authorities can't set up and rehearse tactics night after night.¹¹⁰ Having fluid, non-predetermined protest locations or actions dilutes police forces and allowed the protestors to occupy the Legco building in early July.¹¹¹ They also utilize different locations in order to maximize the effectiveness of their most important weapon, the foreign media. Occupying the airport was a strategic decision to alert the international community of their plight, as the airport is one of the main access points of non-Chinese foreigners into Hong Kong.¹¹² The Western Media is very sympathetic to pro-democracy movements, and

¹⁰⁹ Helen Regan, "China President Xi Jinping's Balancing Act Over Hong Kong," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/12/asia/xi-jinping-balancing-act-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>

¹¹⁰ Julia Hollingsworth, "Hong Kong Protest Timeline: The Evolution of a Moment," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/16/asia/hong-kong-protests-evolution-intl-hnk-trnd/index.html>

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² Julia Hollingsworth, "Hong Kong Protest Timeline: The Evolution of a Moment," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/16/asia/hong-kong-protests-evolution-intl-hnk-trnd/index.html>

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being able to control the narrative by seizing the initiative, has been a huge boon for protestors gaining international support. In comparison, China's not exactly false, but also not close to true rhetoric about the protestors being "violent mobs" of "criminals" and "terrorists," is perceived (outside of China) as authoritarian propaganda intended to justify a violent response by the power hungry and unstable mainland Chinese government.¹¹³ Making Beijing the "bad guy" before Beijing was able to control the situation has compromised Mainland China's options to respond while vilifying them on the world stage. Only time will tell if this move helps the protests achieve tangible goals due to international pressure or if it backfires and provokes a violent response because China feels cornered and out of options.



China's Options - A Catch .22

If this protest occurred in mainland China, the Communist party would stifle any opposition before it could reach this stage. Additionally, the Great Firewall of China would prevent any dissemination of this information to the rest of China and the rest of the world would be left in the dark. If a protest were to reach this size and scope, China would theoretically be able to isolate the city and violently put down the insurrection without the rest of China being any the wiser. However, if a protest ever did reach this

¹¹³ Julia Hollingsworth, "Hong Kong Protest Timeline: The Evolution of a Moment," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/08/16/asia/hong-kong-protests-evolution-intl-hnk-trnd/index.html>

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size on the mainland, it would represent a significant challenge to the Communist Party's 'Mandate of Heaven', China's religiously based 'traditional right to rule.'¹¹⁴

However, this protest is occurring in Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region where the Great Firewall does not apply, China can't control the free press or freedom of assembly and can't circumvent the judicial system.



From the start, these protests have been overshadowed by the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989, where Beijing violently put down a pro-democracy student-led protest in Tiananmen Square, killing hundreds.¹¹⁵ Tiananmen Square set the limits of political expression in mainland China and is widely censored by the Great Firewall, where even mentioning it or anything related to it can get you banned.¹¹⁶ As a result, to this day very few Chinese nationals know the truth about the Massacre and it marked

¹¹⁴ Bosco, "The One China Policy: What would Nixon do?" <https://thediplomat.com/2017/01/the-one-china-policy-what-would-nixon-do/>

PHOTO: Images of black clad and unarmed protestors juxtaposed against heavily armed police force give the situation Hunger Games style optics. Lam Yik Fei, "Hong Kong Residents Block Roads to Protest Extradition Bill," <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/11/world/asia/hong-kong-protest.html>

¹¹⁵ Jeff Widener, *Tank Man* (Beijing: , 1989). <http://100photos.time.com/photos/jeff-widener-tank-man>.

PHOTO: Nominated One of TIME Magazine's 100 Most Influential Photos of All Time, "Tank Man" depicts an anonymous protester blocking a column of Tanks the morning after the Tiananmen Square Massacre. The front page of almost every non-Chinese newspaper worldwide in the days following the Massacre, this iconic image helped the world come to terms with the horrible atrocity that had just occurred in China. Jeff Widener, *Tank Man* (Beijing: , 1989). <http://100photos.time.com/photos/jeff-widener-tank-man>.

¹¹⁶ James Griffiths, "Tiananmen Square: China Censors all Mention
," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/06/03/asia/tiananmen-june-4-china-censorship-intl/index.html>

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the end of democratization in China, with the Communist Party purging moderates and consolidating their grip on power.¹¹⁷

Where mainland China remains ignorant to their government's atrocities, Hong Kong remembers them vividly. Every June 4th, on the anniversary of the Massacre, Hong Kong holds a day of remembrance and candlelight vigil, something strictly outlawed in Mainland China.¹¹⁸ In many ways, Hong Kong protesters motivations mirroring 1989, with primarily student protesters demanding increased democracy and openly defying the communist government.¹¹⁹ However, unlike 1989 Tiananmen Square protesters who fought for the dream of freedom, something they had never experienced, Hong Kong's protesters have lived with legally assured freedoms all their lives, meaning they will not give up these rights as easily, and have international recognition that should prevent 1989 from repeating itself.¹²⁰ Hong Kong's Basic Law affirms the freedom of assembly and press, and the city has a significant influence from foreign entities that would almost certainly abandon any business dealings with China should a violent suppression occur.¹²¹ In Tiananmen, one of the major factors of China being able to violently suppress the protests was how they controlled the flow of information, expelling foreign journalists and seizing most of the media compiled

¹¹⁷ King-wa Fu, "Students in Hong Kong used Fax Machines to Fight Chinese Censorship of Tiananmen Square," <https://qz.com/1688553/how-a-hong-kong-fax-machine-informed-millions-of-chinese-in-1989/>

¹¹⁸ *China Erasing its Border with Hong Kong, China Erasing its Border with Hong Kong*. Vox, (2018)

¹¹⁹ The World Staff, "Tiananmen Leader on Hong Kong Protesters: 'They are Ready to Burn Together'," <https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-10-28/tiananmen-leader-hong-kong-protesters-they-are-ready-burn-together>

¹²⁰ The World Staff, "Tiananmen Leader on Hong Kong Protesters: 'They are Ready to Burn Together'," <https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-10-28/tiananmen-leader-hong-kong-protesters-they-are-ready-burn-together>

¹²¹ "The Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China." https://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/pda/en/basiclawtext/chapter_3.html

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surrounding the massacre.¹²² Though some made it out and drew extremely harsh international criticism, China faced little resistance domestically because their citizens were largely ignorant of the government's actions. However, Hong Kong faces a much different scenario due to the massive presence of foreign press and Beijing's inability to remove them. Additionally, while cameras and video recorders were exotic technology in 1989, in 2019 everyone, including most Hong Kongers and Chinese people, have smartphones that can instantaneously disseminate information worldwide, making the spread of information virtually impossible to contain, even with the Great Firewall. These two factors make anonymous violent suppression politically impractical, despite Xi Jinping's threats to do so.¹²³

China has thrown their complete support behind Carrie Lam and the Hong Kong government, at times even admitting to joint decision making, which has only incensed the protestors who are calling for greater differentiation between China and Hong Kong.¹²⁴ In terms of controlling information, Beijing has banned any mention of the democratic protests on the Chinese internet and used their powerful propaganda machine to domestically brand Hong Kongers as violent, radical separatists who are an existential threat to China's sovereignty.¹²⁵ China has also consistently maintained that

¹²² Widener, *Tank Man* (Beijing: , 1989). <http://100photos.time.com/photos/jeff-widener-tank-man>.

¹²³ "Hong Kong Protests: President Xi Warns of 'Bodies Smashed'." <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-50035229>

¹²⁴ Farah Master, "Hong Kong Leader Says China 'Respects and Supports' Withdrawal of Extradition Bill," <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-protests/hong-kong-leader-says-china-respects-and-supports-withdrawal-of-extradition-bill-idUSKCN1VQ038>

¹²⁵ Regan, "China President Xi Jinping's Balancing Act Over Hong Kong," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/12/asia/xi-jinping-balancing-act-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>

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these protestors are influenced by foreign entities who are trying to undermine China and stop them from becoming the hegemon they are destined to become.¹²⁶

Using Hong Kong's militarized police force, the government has fought the protestors tooth and nail, using special crowd disbursement techniques, water cannons, dyed water, rubber bullets, bean bags, tear gas, pepper spray, and even live ammunition.¹²⁷ Carrie Lam has also invoked emergency measures, banning face masks to make arresting protestors easier, though this only made protestors more incensed.¹²⁸ They have also shut down metro stations, officially banned the rallies, arrested high profile activists, and used thug tactics, though mostly to no avail.¹²⁹

Every step that the Hong Kong government has taken to suppress the protestors has only made them more popular and increased their popularity, and protestors have become increasingly emboldened, showing no signs of stopping even if it means destroying their own city in the process. China has also made similar comments, comparing these protestors to Color Revolutionaries, though they have not decreed an ultimatum that Hong Kong would likely actively seek to break. Despite the lack of ultimatum, Beijing cannot back down from their stance without committing political suicide, and President (for life) Jinping's authority is further undermined the longer these protests go on. With neither side showing any signs of backing down, the

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Tania Branigan, "How Far Will China Go to Stamp Out Hong Kong Protests?"

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/01/how-far-will-china-go-to-stamp-out-hong-kong-protests>

¹²⁹ Ibid.

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conflict seems to be coming to a head and confrontation of some sort is almost guaranteed, as these protests cannot go on forever.¹³⁰

Despite the bleak outlook and David and Goliath like situation, Hong Kongers still have a few unlikely paths to victory. They can hold out for long enough for Jinping to get removed from power due to his inability to deal with the crisis. Chief Executive Lam could resign, opening the selection of a new Chief Executive. However, if China does decide to militarily intervene in Hong Kong, the protestors will be crushed. The stark reality of the situation is that because Hong Kong is internationally accepted as part of China, military intervention by any other country would be taken by China as an invasion of their sovereignty and dealt with accordingly. However, if this does occur, China's credibility will be destroyed and it will be a massive blow to the Chinese economy, something that the Communist Party wants to avoid at all costs.

Every potential Chinese response has to be countered against the Taiwan question, an independent democratic island province that Communist China wants to reunify with which has been operating as a de-facto country since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Before Hong Kong, reunification under "One Country, Two Systems" was looking like a real, but very improbable possibility. Now, with Hong Kong basically in open rebellion, Taiwan-China relations have drastically deteriorated, and diplomatic reunification is basically impossible.¹³¹ That being said, in Beijing, Xi has trumpeted reunification with Taiwan, either forcefully or peacefully, as a major goal of

¹³⁰ Regan, "China President Xi Jinping's Balancing Act Over Hong Kong," <https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/12/asia/xi-jinping-balancing-act-hong-kong-intl-hnk/index.html>

¹³¹ Shelley Rigger, "Why Taiwan is Watching Hong Kong Very Closely" <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/04/why-taiwan-is-watching-hong-kong-very-closely/>

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his rule and actively moving away from this goal because of opposition in Hong Kong is severely hurting his credibility in the Communist Party.¹³² Further compromising Xi's position is that any use of force is prohibited by an exceedingly short window of passable weather in the Taiwan Strait and will be heavily opposed by US military commitments to defend Taiwan from Chinese military aggression.

With Tiananmen Square looming large, Hong Kongers demanding democratic freedoms, and China despising its lack of control over Hong Kong, the parties involved have to find a mutually agreeable way forward. This crisis has the potential to shape the long-term future of power politics and could cement China's status as the world hegemon or directly lead to the direct downfall "One Country, Two Systems." Potentially, it could also lead to the Chinese Communist Party's downfall, though this is a remote possibility. For the immediate future, Hong Kong stands in the way of China's economic, political, and strategic goals and the Communist Party's handling of this crisis will be essential to their upcoming global perception

Delegate Initiative

Unfortunately, the role of the UN is somewhat limited in this situation because the conflict involves China, who holds a veto on the Security Council. It is also technically a conflict within a sovereign country, and China has used its veto to set the precedent of not involving the UN in domestic conflicts. However, because of Hong Kong's special status, there are several other ways the UN can intervene. Delegates could potentially investigate options of making the UN an intermediary between the

¹³² Buckley Chris and Chris Horton, "Xi Jinping Warns Taiwan that Unification is the Goal and Force is an Option " <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/01/world/asia/xi-jinping-taiwan-china.html>

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people of Hong Kong and the Communist Government in Beijing. Delegates could explore making sure humanitarian rights are upheld on both sides. Additionally, delegates will work to find ways to prevent the use of the power 5 veto, which will be extremely difficult in these circumstances. The UN's role might be in trying to humanely uphold "One Country, Two Systems" and preventing another Tiananmen Square situation. This crisis could potentially provide a good example for how the UN could define a role in domestic politics contributing to international human rights and/or conflict resolution, and it is up to you delegates to find a way to further the UN mission.

Questions to Consider

1. Is there a way for Communist China to use the UN to legitimize their actions?
 - a. Without hurting prestige or signaling weakness on the international scale.
 - i. Consider US action in Kosovo and Russian Peacekeeping in Georgia.
 - ii. Would be a new and unprecedented role for the UN because it would be within a sovereign state.
 1. Could it be used as a substitute for "internal policing?"
 - b. Accomplishing Beijing's goals while Appeasing the International Community.
 - i. Avoiding a veto by the other veto holding countries.
 1. Upholding humanitarian and treaty rights.
2. What options do the Hong Kong Protestors have within the UN?
 - a. Hong Kong is represented by China.
 - b. Raise awareness for their cause on mainland China.
 - i. Divide between Hong Kong and Chinese viewpoints.
3. What can the UN learn from the China-NBA fiasco?
4. How does Beijing's proposed Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area plan influence Chinese incentives and goals?
5. Can Beijing solve this problem with soft power instead of force?
6. **How does this situation compare the 1956 Hungarian Revolution?**
 - a. **Look at how the UN Security Council handled this issue.**
7. **Explore viewpoints on Taiwan and how Beijing views Hong Kong in context of reacquiring Taiwan?**

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8. What happens if/when the protests “fizzle out” and the protestors go home?
9. Is Xi Jinping’s grip on power really as ironclad as he projects to the world?
 - a. Evaluate internal forces working against him.
10. How would an external international crisis affect China’s decision making/timeline?
11. How could this conflict influence the US-China Trade War and how would this impact Beijing’s decision making in regard to Hong Kong?
 - a. Consider the use of force?
12. Think about how the Hong Kong and Brexit Crises are happening simultaneously and explore the ongoing influence of colonization?
13. **What is the “Uniting for Peace” precedent in the UNSC and how could this be applied as a last resort in this issue?**

Topic 3: The security implications of Brexit in Northern Ireland

Background

In 2016, the United Kingdom held a referendum on leaving the European Union (EU). English, Welsh Scottish and Northern Irish citizens, frustrated over EU imposed immigration quotas and a lack of control over their own borders, voted to leave the EU, more commonly known as Brexit.¹³³ Already not part of the united currency Eurozone, this meant that the UK would not remain part of the European Union, an economic alliance of European Nations. Leaving the EU entails that people entering or leaving Britain will have to show their passports at a land border crossing or when crossing through the Channel Tunnel between England and France. Being island nations, a majority of travelers to and from the UK and Ireland arrive by sea or plane and already have to show their passports at these points of entry as both Islands are not part of Schengen, Europe's passport free travel zone. However, due to hundreds of years of bloody, tumultuous, and controversial history and relations between England and Ireland, the UK has one land border with Ireland. Northern Ireland, one of the four member states of the United Kingdom, is located on the Island of Ireland and is a place of deeply divided loyalties, both religious and political.



¹³³ Booth, William, and Amanda Ferguson. "Could Brexit Bring New Troubles to Northern Ireland?" The Washington Post. WP Company, November 6, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/could-brexit-bring-new-troubles-to-northern-ireland/2018/11/06/31adbb9e-d7a5-11e8-8384-bcc5492fef49_story.html.

Freedom of Travel

Currently, Ireland and the UK are EU member states and there are no border controls between the two countries in Northern Ireland.¹³⁴ Similar to the Continental Schengen Zone, Ireland and the UK are part of the Common Travel Area. Established in 1922, The Common Travel Area, or the CTA, is an agreement between Ireland, the UK, the Isle of Man, Jersey, and Guernsey in which travel and cohabitation between these lands is essentially free and unregulated, with some exceptions.¹³⁵ Mirroring the Schengen Area, coordination is required between all parties to ensure that people entering into the CTA are similarly screened at all external borders. Some exceptions apply as some citizens of foreign countries need separate visas to visit and Ireland and the UK, and since 1997 Ireland has imposed random checks on ships coming from Britain and regularly checks passenger identities of flights from the UK.¹³⁶ While travel is unregulated, you still need a valid government issued photo ID, though not necessarily a passport to travel by sea or air.¹³⁷ In May 2019, the Irish and UK governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding reaffirming the CTA and issued a Joint Statement regarding their commitment to the agreement after Brexit.¹³⁸ In the

¹³⁴ Citizensinformation.ie. Common Travel Area between Ireland and the United Kingdom. Citizensinformation.ie. Accessed 1n.d. https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving_country/moving_abroad/freedom_of_movement_within_the_eu/common_travel_area_between_ireland_and_the_uk.html.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Ibid.

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Joint Statement, the Irish and British governments reaffirmed the current standing of both Nationalities to be treated like citizens in either country, highlighted the agreement as one of the Good Friday Agreement's essential backbones, and demonstrated their mutual commitment to the existing state of the CTA by stressing the agreement's veteran status and independence from the EU.¹³⁹ However, with the UK's imminent departure from the European Union, the terms of the CTA directly contradict the terms of the European Union, specifically with reference to the border of Northern Ireland and External EU borders.

External Borders

The first point of entry into the EU and the European Single Market is called an external border, and these exist primarily in Eastern Europe with many of the Baltic states, in states that border the former Soviet Bloc countries, and all international airports and ports with respect to the Intercontinental and outside EU flights or shipping.

The problem that arises when the UK leaves the EU is that the extremely volatile land border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will become an external European Union border. As the UK would be leaving the European Single Market, their border between Northern Ireland and Ireland would become an External EU Border and Ireland will have to impose a "hard border", with rigorous border checks on all parties entering into their territory, in order to monitor economic activity and ensure and uphold the same level of security, both economic and immigration, that

¹³⁹ "Joint Statement on the Common Travel Area," May 8, 2019.
<https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/eu/brexit/brexitandyou/Joint-Statement-CTA.pdf>.

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would apply if a person entered the Eurozone through any other External EU Border.¹⁴⁰

This could be avoided however if a Brexit deal is reached by October 31st, 2019 between the UK and the EU. A Brexit deal would most likely include provisions for avoiding a hard border on the Northern Ireland-Republic of Ireland border though none of the current options seem like they will gain the required majority in the British Parliament. However, if a no-deal Brexit does take place on October 31st, then the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland will become a hard border in order to maintain the border integrity of the European Single Market.

Neglected Consequences of Brexit

While this may seem fine in theory, an external border is a massive problem and one of the most consequential parts of Brexit. While the UK as a whole voted slightly in favor of leaving the EU, Northern Ireland joined Scotland in voting to remain. Largely forgotten, except to the people of Northern Ireland, as a potential consequence until after the Brexit vote, was the issue of the Northern Irish border.¹⁴¹ The reasons for Northern Ireland's desire to remain in the European Union are deeply tied to the history of Northern Ireland and its relation to the Republic of Ireland.

The Troubles

"The Troubles" are a period spanning from 1968 to 1998 when Irish Republicans violently fought a guerilla war with English Loyalists in Northern Ireland and across the UK to protest the English "occupation" of Ireland. While it is a political (and not

¹⁴⁰ Vox. "How Brexit Could Create a Crisis at the Irish Border." YouTube. YouTube, August 17, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0xGHf8o-9k>.

¹⁴¹ News, BBC. "Could Brexit Mean a Return to Violence in Northern Ireland? - BBC News." YouTube. YouTube, May 17, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ene8A2Wy-h4>.

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religious) conflict, The Troubles have deep religious roots to divide the sides. Resulting from religious conflict dating back hundreds of years, Ireland is a devout Catholic country while the UK is primarily Protestant. These dynamics are mirrored in the demographics of Northern Ireland, which has a large population of Protestants. In 1968, Irish Nationalists protested the ruling British Unionists discrimination against them in Northern Ireland.¹⁴² The response against this demonstration was accused of being police brutality by Nationalists. Unionists also violently responded to the Nationalist Protest. In August 1969, continued severe violence led to the deployment of British Troops, which lasted until 1998. Initially the Army tried to separate the communities with walls and was embraced by both sides as a neutral force. However, that perception was increasingly challenged by Irish Nationalists and after the Bloody Sunday Massacre in 1972, in which British Paratroopers shot 28 and killed 14 unarmed Irish protestors at a

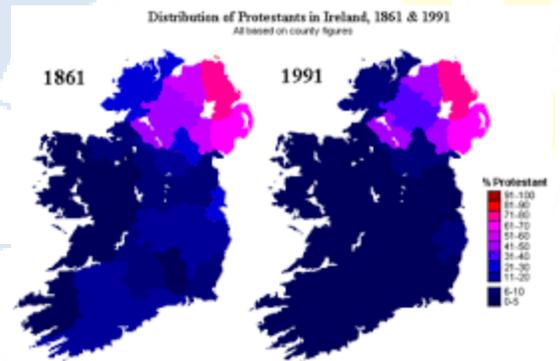
¹⁴² News, DW. “Will Brexit Bring the Troubles Back to Northern Ireland? | Focus on Europe.” YouTube. YouTube, March 31, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD4V_kkivoo.

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civil rights march in Derry, Northern Ireland, the government forces lost all credibility in the eyes of Republicans.¹⁴³

In the aftermath of Bloody Sunday, the conflict devolved into a paramilitary guerilla war. Nationalists and Unionists alike organized paramilitary organizations who bitterly fought each other and the occupying British Troops throughout the neighborhoods of Glasgow and other towns of Northern Ireland, most notably Derry in Northern Ireland's northern border with Ireland.¹⁴⁴ The aims of these groups were mostly political as most in the Unionist/Royalist/Protestant camp sought to keep Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom and the goal of those in the Republican/Nationalist/Catholic camp sought to force the United Kingdom out of Northern Ireland and reunite the whole Irish Island under the Republic of Ireland's political control.

The most significant of these were the Nationalist Irish Republican Army (IRA), which still exists in some capacity today though it is largely dormant, and the Loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defense Force. Loyalists terrorized Catholic neighborhoods and mass



¹⁴³ News, DW. "Will Brexit Bring the Troubles Back to Northern Ireland? | Focus on Europe." YouTube. YouTube, March 31, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD4V_kkivoo.

PHOTO: The Shrinkage and Concentration of Northern Ireland's Protestant Population.

https://www.wesleyjohnston.com/users/ireland/past/protestants_1861_1991.html

PHOTO: The Political Dominance of Northern Ireland by Voting District. <https://efre.weebly.com/uk-northern-ireland.html>

¹⁴⁴ News, BBC. "Could Brexit Mean a Return to Violence in Northern Ireland? - BBC News." YouTube. YouTube, May 17, 2018. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ene8A2Wy-h4>.

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shootings, assassinations, bombings, and kidnappings were their calling cards.

Government forces, the British Military and the Royal Ulster Constabulary, were left with community policing and counter-insurgency responsibilities, though these were usually targeted against the Irish Nationalists.¹⁴⁵ While the conflict was mostly restrained to Northern Ireland, the IRA did set off car bombs in London to make the conflict feel closer to home and instill fear in British Politicians.

The IRA and Sinn Fein

The political connections, tactical sophistication, geographic reach, advanced weaponry, and organizational scope of the IRA made them the most potent and threatening of the paramilitary groups. Not unlike the Unionists, the IRA, which went through many iterations throughout the war, relied largely on guerilla and terrorist tactics to accomplish their goals. Car bombing assassinations of prominent Ulster and British Politicians and Officials, guerilla ambushes against the British Security Forces, especially border checkpoint raids, and bombings of British infrastructure were their modus operandi. The IRA also had international allies. Seeing the IRA as an ally in the struggle against British Imperialism, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi supplied the Republican's with AK-47s, Ground to Air Missiles, and Semtex Explosives as early as 1973.¹⁴⁶ In 2003, as part of the deal where Gaddafi admitted responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing, Libyan Officials told the British about 120 tons of arms and millions

¹⁴⁵ News, DW. "Will Brexit Bring the Troubles Back to Northern Ireland? | Focus on Europe." YouTube. YouTube, March 31, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZD4V_kkivoo.

¹⁴⁶ "The 38-Year Connection between Irish Republicans and Gaddafi." BBC News. BBC, February 23, 2011. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-12539372>.

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of Sterling Pounds they had provided the IRA during the conflict.¹⁴⁷ These arms played an important role in the unprecedented lethality of the IRA and the fear that they inspired. The IRA also had a very influential political connections that led to them being supported at the ballot box as well. Sinn Fein, one of the most prominent political parties in Ireland, had deep IRA ties and at certain points could be characterized as the political mouthpiece of the organization, adopting IRA talking points as their official platform.¹⁴⁸ While the IRA has gone underground since the Good Friday Agreement, Sinn Fein has only grown stronger.

Though they have officially denounced the IRA and have broken any relations to paramilitaries, Sinn Fein's platform is still centered around Irish reunification and the party has a growing influence in Northern Ireland.¹⁴⁹ After the IRA announced a ceasefire in 1994, Sinn Fein was the voice of the Irish Nationalism during the Northern Ireland peace process and was influential in both the 1998 Good Friday and 2006 St.

Andrews

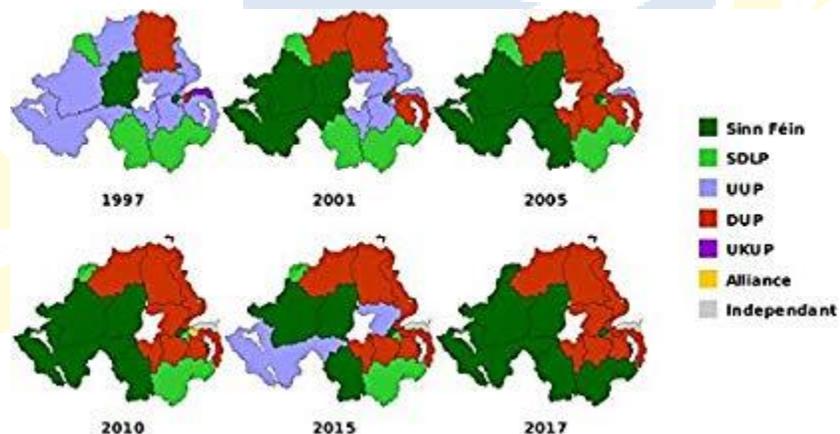
Agreements, which

finally restored

civility to the region .

As the map above

demonstrates, Sinn



¹⁴⁷ “The 38-Year Connection between Irish Republicans and Gaddafi.” BBC News. BBC, February 23, 2011. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-12539372>.

¹⁴⁸ Patrick Cockburn @indyworld. “Opinion: If the Troubles Return after Brexit, It Won't Just Be Because of the Irish Border Issue.” The Independent. Independent Digital News and Media, August 31, 2018.

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¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

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Fein now holds a 7 of 18 of Northern Irish seats in British Parliament, though they maintain a practice of abstention and never attend. Sinn Fein is currently the largest Nationalist Party in the Irish Parliament, or Oireachtas, and they currently hold 105/462 seats on the Northern Ireland Executive (set up in 2007 by the St. Andrews Agreement), making them the body's second largest party behind the Democratic Unionist Party.

The Good Friday Agreement

The culmination of the Northern Ireland peace process brought the "Troubles" to a close with the April 10th, 1998 Good Friday Agreement, otherwise known as the Belfast Agreement. Negotiations brokered by US Senator George J. Mitchell led to the agreement, which sought to establish an agreement between the English and Irish governments, as well as almost all of the political parties of Northern Ireland on both sides, Sinn Fein included.¹⁵⁰ Considered one of the greatest multilateral compromises of the modern era, all parties signed the agreement, with the exception of the Democratic Unionist Party, who objected to nationalist and loyalist parties joining the talks before paramilitary weapons had been decommissioned.¹⁵¹ In Ireland, the agreement first had to be voted upon by the people in the first all-Ireland (Northern Ireland included) vote since 1918.¹⁵² The agreement was approved by 94% of Irish

¹⁵⁰ Guardian, The. "Brexit Breakdown: Fear and Anger on the Irish Border | Anywhere but Westminster." YouTube. YouTube, February 13, 2019. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRMwCz_Q9b4.

¹⁵¹ "The Northern Ireland Peace Process." Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed In.d. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/northern-ireland-peace-process>.

¹⁵² Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Good Friday Agreement." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed In.d. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Good-Friday-Agreement>.

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Citizens and 71% of Northern Irish, though the Catholic/Protestant divide remained prominent, as 96% of Catholics voted 'Aye" while only 52% of Protestants consented.¹⁵³

Three "Strands" of administrative relationships were mandated under the agreement. The First strand called for the establishment of the Northern Ireland Assembly; an elected body responsible for local issues. They would also appoint members of the power sharing branch, the Northern Ireland Executive, which is designed to not function without consent of both sides' major parties, preventing abuses of power. Unfortunately, the Executive's First and Deputy First Minister's both resigned due to scandal in January of 2017 and the still vacant positions have essentially collapsed the Executive as the opposing sides have not been able to reconcile their differences. This has led to London exercising limited clerical control (though not resuming direct control), as they have set taxes, budgets, and provisions for Northern Ireland since 2017.¹⁵⁴ The Second Strand focuses on cross-border cooperation between the governments of Northern Ireland and Ireland.¹⁵⁵ Finally, the Third Strand provided mechanisms for a continued dialogue between the British and Irish Governments.¹⁵⁶

Though the deal brought relative peace between the three sides, details of the treaty still needed to be finalized. Two more agreements, the 2006 St. Andrews Agreement, signed by the UK, Ireland and several Northern Irish parties, and the 2010 Hillsborough Agreement, where Sinn Fein and the DUP finally reconciled, wrapped up

¹⁵³ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Good Friday Agreement." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed 1n.d. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Good-Friday-Agreement>.

¹⁵⁴ "The Northern Ireland Peace Process." Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed 1n.d. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/northern-ireland-peace-process>.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

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the remaining differences, including the disarmament of militia groups, clarified specific details about policing and justice, and instituted political structures designed to keep the peace.¹⁵⁷

While the specifics of the deal prevent abuses of power, the backbone for multiparty cooperation comes from the Good Friday Agreements legitimization of two elements. The first recognition is that, as it currently exists, a majority of Northern Irish citizens want to remain in the United Kingdom.¹⁵⁸ The Second recognition is that there exists a substantial population in Northern Ireland, and a majority of people on the Island of Ireland, that wish to reinstate a United Ireland. Finally, Should those seeking Irish reunification ever become the majority, a referendum could be held for Northern Ireland to rejoin a United Ireland.¹⁵⁹ Another groundbreaking concession came at the Parliamentary level, as the Republic of Ireland amended their constitution to relinquish their territorial claim to the whole Irish Island.¹⁶⁰ In return, the UK repealed the Government of Ireland Act of 1920, which established Northern Ireland and laid territorial claim to the entire Irish Isle, relinquished direct control of Northern Ireland, and agreed to participate and support the systems and legislatures set up by the Belfast agreement.¹⁶¹ Finally, if a majority of people in Northern Ireland and a majority of people in the Republic of Ireland vote for Northern Ireland to rejoin the Republic of

¹⁵⁷ “The Northern Ireland Peace Process.” Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed In.d. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/northern-ireland-peace-process>.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ “The Northern Ireland Peace Process.” Council on Foreign Relations. Council on Foreign Relations. Accessed In.d. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/northern-ireland-peace-process>.

¹⁶⁰ Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. “Good Friday Agreement.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed In.d. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Good-Friday-Agreement>.

¹⁶¹ Ibid.

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Ireland, then the Belfast Agreement constitutes a “binding obligation” upon both the British and Irish Governments to make that happen.¹⁶²

Citizenship - Shared Nationalities

Per the Good Friday Agreement, people born in Northern Ireland can hold either Irish or British Citizenship, or hold dual citizenship between Ireland and the UK.¹⁶³ Brexit further complicates this situation because Northern Irish citizens who hold Irish Passports will remain EU Citizens, while those who hold exclusively British Citizenship will forfeit their EU Citizenship and not have access to or be able to work freely throughout Europe.

Brexit

As mentioned above, a no-deal Brexit creates a virtually unsolvable situation for Northern Ireland. To remain compliant with their European Union and European Single Market commitments, Ireland has to install some type of border control on their border with Northern Ireland. However, satisfying their EU agreements directly violates the Common Travel Area and the Good Friday Agreement, as both states being EU members was a vital underlying pretext for the removal of all border controls. Imposing borders would inflame the Republicans who feel that Northern Ireland is a violation of Irish sovereignty by the British, who have been abiding by the Good Friday Agreement because there are no physical border manifestations and it afforded Northern Ireland a special “middleman” status where it was politically influenced by two sovereign

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ “About Northern Ireland.” nidirect, July 23, 2019. <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-northern-ireland>.

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governments. Hardline Unionists who feel that Northern Ireland is British would welcome hard borders as a restoration of Northern Ireland's rightful place in the United Kingdom.¹⁶⁴

Potential Brexit solutions side are equally disastrous to both the EU, Ireland, and the UK. Additionally, even though Britain is the country leaving the EU, typically Ireland is the country incurring most of the cost and having to pursue the most drastic policy change in regard to Northern Ireland. Though no proposals currently hold anything close to the majority of votes needed to come to an agreement, some solutions have been proposed. The most likely solution is called the Northern Ireland only backstop, but the proposal was already rejected by former Prime Minister Theresa May, though with the October 31 deadline fast approaching, there is hope Boris Johnson will reconsider as it is emerging as the only potentially viable option.¹⁶⁵

The Northern Ireland only backstop makes the Irish Channel the effective border for the European Single Market as well as immigration checks.¹⁶⁶ Therefore, no border checks would be required along the Northern Irish border with Ireland, eliminating the pressure point that could explode into guerilla warfare.¹⁶⁷ However, this solution is a non-starter for Unionists, as it significantly effectively erodes Northern Ireland's

¹⁶⁴ Daniel Boffey, "EU Looks to Northern Ireland-Only Backstop to Break Brexit Impasse," *The Guardian*-09-10T12:49:56.000Z, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/10/brexit-eu-looks-to-northern-ireland-only-backstop-to-break-deadlock>.

¹⁶⁵ Daniel Boffey, "EU Looks to Northern Ireland-Only Backstop to Break Brexit Impasse," *The Guardian*-09-10T12:49:56.000Z, 2019a. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/10/brexit-eu-looks-to-northern-ireland-only-backstop-to-break-deadlock>.

¹⁶⁶ Daniel Boffey, "EU Looks to Northern Ireland-Only Backstop to Break Brexit Impasse," *The Guardian*-09-10T12:49:56.000Z, 2019a. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/10/brexit-eu-looks-to-northern-ireland-only-backstop-to-break-deadlock>.

¹⁶⁷ Boffey, "EU Looks to Northern Ireland-Only Backstop to Break Brexit Impasse," *The Guardian*-09-10T12:49:56.000Z, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2019/sep/10/brexit-eu-looks-to-northern-ireland-only-backstop-to-break-deadlock>.

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economic ties to the United Kingdom and superimposes an international border between Northern Irish citizens and their own country.¹⁶⁸ If this were to occur, it would be a de-facto win for the Republicans and Ireland who would be able to exercise significantly more control over Northern Ireland than under the previous arrangement. Though this proposal still upholds the Good Friday Agreement, it drastically tips the scales of power in favor of Ireland.

UN-heard (Northern Irelanders Unheard Voices)

However, with the exception of a few radical Unionist hardliners, a majority of Northern Irish do not want hard borders returning. This was one of their main concerns when voting to remain in the European Union when voting in the 2016 Brexit referendum.¹⁶⁹ Citizens of Northern Ireland are acutely aware of the danger that a hard border poses. Not only will the New IRA reactivate, loyalist paramilitaries will follow suit and the guerilla warfare and terrorism that characterized “The Troubles” will once again become commonplace.¹⁷⁰ In all likelihood, the British Army would have to be redeployed to Northern Ireland as a peacekeeping force, however the political situation surrounding such a deployment is very controversial because doing so would mean admitting that leaving the EU caused a reemergence of guerilla warfare in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland, the UK, and Ireland could potentially turn to the United Nations to deploy peacekeepers to the region, though that move remains unlikely.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ Carmen Fishwick, "Why Northern Irish and Irish Voters Want to Remain in the EU," <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jun/20/why-northern-irish-and-irish-voters-want-to-remain-in-the-eu>

¹⁷⁰ Ibid.

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Holding one of the five permanent vetoes on the Security Council, the UK can effectively stop any intervention in Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the only thing more politically disastrous to pro-Brexit politicians who currently hold power in Parliament than deploying British troops to Northern Ireland would be the deployment of foreign troops to sovereign UK territory. Allowing, and by some perspectives inviting, a foreign army, UN or otherwise, to solve a problem that pro-Brexit politicians started and reignited would be the equivalent of political suicide. Lacking political will in London behind the deployment of troops, and the international community's helplessness due to the UK's ability to block UN aid, Northern Ireland's second bout with "The Troubles" could potentially be much more consequential and deadly than the first.

Delegate Initiative

In our discussion, we will have to propose potential UN actions in regard to making sure a conflict does not reemerge on the Irish Isles. We as the Security Council will have to find a way to support the EU, British and Irish in a capacity that allows them to resolve their differences peacefully. Remember that the UK is on the Security Council and hold a veto, therefore any solutions will be pursued, at minimum, without their tacit disapproval. A re-emergence of "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland would be very detrimental to regional security in a traditionally stable region and it is in everyone's best interest to keep the peace. A revitalized troubles would also serve as a further economic shock to Europe, exacerbating the impending economic shock they are about to endure via Brexit, whether with or without a deal. Delegates should explore options not only for helping Brexit move along peacefully, while remembering

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it is being negotiated between the EU and the UK, but also figure out how to minimize economic disruption. Finally, the UNSC will explore options regarding the potential deployment of peacekeepers to the region.

Questions to Consider

1. Is there an effective way to stop militias from rearming?
 - a. The UK has many enemies abroad. Explore preemptive options for denying militias on both sides' arms.
2. Pay attention to your own national goals and remember national priorities.
 - a. Many European Nations are about to suffer a drastic economic shock.
3. What role could the French play in representing the entire EU?
4. **A power five abstention is not a veto. Consider the likelihood that the respective P5 countries would exercise this option.**
5. Could the Irish, French, or rest of the Security Council force the UK to veto a resolution, making them the de-facto 'bad guy?'
6. What is a Preventative Deployment, and could it work in this scenario?
 - a. Remember it is based on consent and invitation of UN peacekeepers into a sovereign nation.
 - i. Specifically, in relation to Ireland
7. Is there a possibility to involve the General Assembly with this process? And if so, would this be a beneficial diplomatic move?
 - a. Uniting for Peace?
 - b. Look up the procedures regarding the Security Council "becoming seized" of an issue and then the process by which they can pass this issue to the General Assembly.
 - i. The UN Charter is a great place to look.

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