

UGAMUNC XXI

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Background Guide



UGAMUNC XXIII
UNODC

Distinguished Delegates,

Hello and welcome to the illustrious University of Georgia's Model United Nations Convention XXIII. This convention has been the product of many months worth of preparation and practice in order to make this year's UGAMUNC the riveting competition that it will be. My name is Max Berry, and I have the distinct privilege of serving as your Committee Chairman for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime. I hail from Rome, Georgia, and I attended the Darlington School. I am currently in my second year here at UGA, and I am in the process of pursuing a major in International Affairs, a minor in Arabic, and a certificate in Applied Politics. My primary areas of study include counterterrorism, counterinsurgency, US foreign policy, and campaign politics. I have declared a pre-law intent, and I am looking towards joining the US military after law school. In my future career, I'd like to play a role in US intelligence and US foreign policy. This is my first year as a member of the Model UN, and hence my first year chairing a committee. I'm very excited for the opportunity to lead you all, and I'm looking forward to learning a lot from your contributions and work. In the past, I have worked on several political campaigns, and in one I managed a gentleman's campaign for County Commission Chairman in Franklin County, Georgia. I currently serve as the Scholarship Chair of my fraternity. I'm my fraternity's incoming Vice-President, a Houseboy at a UGA sorority house, and am excited to be studying abroad in Innsbruck, Austria this coming July.

Co-chairing this committee with me is Ms. Kamryn Lyle. She is from Marietta, Georgia where she attended Osborne High School. She is a second-year at UGA like myself, and she is majoring in International Affairs with minors in French and Women's Studies. Her passion is rooted in helping those in disadvantaged areas of her community and providing for her family. This coming May, she will also have the privilege of studying abroad in Verona, Italy along with many other students and professors. Her focus will be on immigration policy. In the future, she'd like to practice immigration law and defend human rights on a global scale.

We hope you're as excited to be here as we are. We'll be tackling some large, controversial issues in this committee, and I would like to remind all of the delegates to "keep it clean". We both recognize that many of you may bring different levels of insight and knowledge on these issues which will make the conference a wonderful learning experience. The position papers on each of your country's stances on each of the topics laid out in this guide. One page should suffice for each topic, and these should be brought in during our first committee session. I intend to run a clean ship as your Chair, but at the same time I'd like to keep a robust debate and everyone should feel free to contribute as they please.

If you have any questions about the position papers, how the convention will run, or anything at all please do not hesitate to direct them to Kamryn or myself. You can contact me via my email at mrb90563@uga.edu or Kamryn's email kll76964@uga.edu. We're very excited for the opportunity to lead this committee, and we look forward seeing the solutions you develop for the topics presented in this guide

All the best and Go Dawgs,
Max R. Berry
Chairman of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime
mrb90563@uga.edu

About the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

In 1997, the United Nations International Drug Control Program and Crime Prevention and the Criminal Justice Division combined to create the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).¹ This organization was originally created to combat the facilitation of illicit drugs and multinational crime though has expanding its operations to cover a wide array of international criminal phenomena.² It operates in more than 150 countries, and it was originally established as the United Nations Development Group. The organization also works closely with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to assist governments in implementing plans to combat crime within their countries.³ The UNODC primarily focuses on drugs, terrorism, and human trafficking⁴, though they work toward educating the world on the risks associated with drug use, strengthening criminal justice systems internationally, and arming governments with the full capabilities to combat major global crime threats.

Mr. Yury Fedotov of Russia currently serves as the UNODC's Executive Director and has since 2010.⁵ The UNODC contains two constituent bodies that operate under its direction: the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The CND works as the UNODC's governing body, and it approves the UN International Drug Control Programme's budget.⁶ This program constitutes the bulk of the UN's work to combat international drug trafficking. The CND works to counter illegal drug trafficking in that it "monitors the world drug situation, develops strategies on international drug control and recommends measures to combat the world drug problem, including through reducing demand for drugs, promoting alternative development initiatives and adopting supply reduction measures."⁷ The CND has 53 seats with quotas for a certain amount of countries from each continent.⁸ The countries serve terms of four years, and they try to accord representation with specific emphasis on countries that are pivotal in the drug trade.⁹ The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice functions similarly to the CND in terms of organization, and it serves as the UN's main avenue of affecting international crime policy. The CCPCJ works mainly to improve countries' criminal justice systems and capabilities in combatting crime.¹⁰ Most of the UNODC funding comes from the UN and from private donors.¹¹

As delegates to the UNODC, the following topics are issues of relevance to the modern day or very recent history that fall under UNODC jurisdiction. It's up to you to formulate solutions to the complex issues at hand while navigating the world's political nuances and being aware of the boundaries of UNODC power.

¹ Nancy.cao. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *About UNODC*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

² Ibid

³ "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*. N.p., n.d. Web. 26 Oct. 2016.

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Sauer, Alexander. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *UNODC's Executive Director Yury Fedotov*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

⁶ Rohrbach, Regina. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *The Commission on Narcotic Drugs*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Rohrbach, Regina. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Membership and Term of Office*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

⁹ Ibid

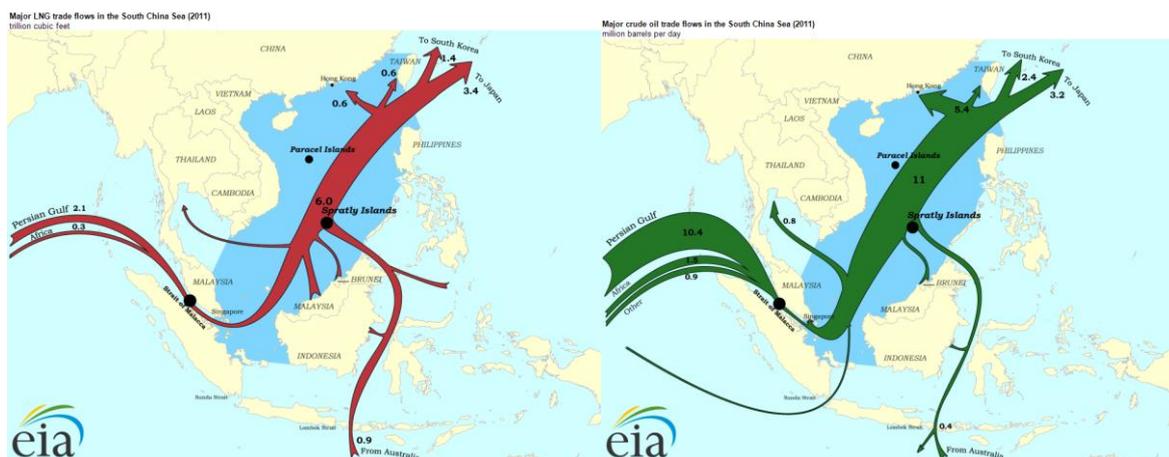
¹⁰ Rohrbach, Regina. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

¹¹ Yanez, Mariana. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Donors*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

I. Maritime Piracy in Southeast Asia

Introduction

Maritime piracy has throughout history been a serious economic and security issue faced by national governments and private entities. Maritime piracy involves ship-borne raiders violently subduing and boarding a ship, usually one carrying weapons or cargo with a high resale value, and seizing whatever assets aboard the captured ship that they consider valuable. While modern pirating activities do often practice violent theft, they also frequently take the crewmembers from developed nations' ships and hold them for ransom. Since they are most always at an armament disadvantage when coming up against modern naval ships, modern maritime piracy is almost always directed towards private cargo ships. While pirates in years past operated from their own foreboding flagships, operating and conducting raids from a large ship is no longer pragmatic due to the power of modern navies and surveillance technology. Modern pirates generally opt to conduct their raids using smaller, lighter boats that can be easily launched from the shore. They usually approach their target under the cover of darkness, and they may fire warning shots as they approach or they may board silently. Once the crew has been subdued, they go about the work of either contacting the government of the ship's country of origin or securing the valuable assets aboard the ship and moving them back to shore.¹² Modern piracy generally occurs in maritime areas that have high concentrations of shipping activity that find themselves near impoverished countries. The biggest modern hotspots of maritime piracy include the Caribbean, the Gulf of Guinea in West Africa, the Gulf of Aden, Africa's east coast, the Bay of Bengal, and the Straits of Malacca.¹³ International cooperative naval efforts have generally been successful, but they don't address piracy's root causes.¹⁴ Whereas piracy in Somalia generally involves individuals or gangs looking to cash in on ransom payments, the pirates that are present in the Straits of Malacca are "highly organized criminal enterprises that gather intelligence, coordinate attacks, work in discrete teams, sometimes have their own tankers and then sell what they steal to big, pre-arranged buyers."¹⁵



¹² "Modern Piracy." *Jobs At Sea*. Maritime Connector, n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

¹³ UNODC. *Maritime Piracy* (2016): n. pag.193 www.unodc.org. UNODC. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

¹⁴ MarEx. "'Cautious Optimism' as Piracy Numbers Decline." *The Maritime Executive*. The Maritime Executive Magazine, 13 Oct. 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

¹⁵ Kemp, Ted. "Dangerous Waters: Meet the New Face of Piracy." *CNBC*. CNBC, 20 July 2016. <http://www.cnb.com/2014/09/15/worlds-most-pirated-waters.html>

The map on the left shows the volume of natural gas shipments through the affected sea lanes in trillion cubic feet per day.¹⁶ The map on the right shows the volume of oil shipments in million barrels per day.¹⁷

History

In the past few years of foreign policy developments, US-China relations have teetered on something of a downward trend as Chinese expansion continued largely unfettered with calls from the US and international community to adhere to international law and respect sovereignty rights falling on deaf ears in the Chinese Politburo. China has continued to push its sovereignty claims on the South China Sea, and its expansion of its military presence there has made several actors in the region nervous. Political instability is affecting some nations in the southeast Asian nations, and countries having to focus their efforts on guarding against Chinese expansion, piracy against shipping vessels travelling through the South China Sea and Straits of Malacca, which account for an entire third of worldwide maritime shipping, has drastically risen.¹⁸ Duterte's raucous rule in the Philippines has further affected the situation. Duterte's work to move from the US sphere of influence to China's and his using a war on drugs to target political opponents, has led to the degradation law and order and caused poverty rates to increase all while denigrating the region's capacity for cooperation.¹⁹ The aforementioned factors combined with the prevalence of firearms in the Philippines has led to more piracy originating in the Philippines and increased militant activity from the Islamist terror group, Abu Sayyaf.²⁰

Pirate activity in the region is coming largely from Malaysia and Indonesia since they are closest to the shipping lanes, but ethno-religious clashes in Myanmar have resulted in pirates operating from there too.²¹ Most of East Asia's petroleum arrives via these critical trade routes, and a new form of piracy that focuses on stealing oil from the tankers and reselling it on the black market has become popular among maritime pirates.²² This situation gives reason for concern to nations across the world due to the economic significance of these trading routes. Tenuous evidence has arisen that implicates the Chinese government in funding some of the pirate activities. Further allegations abound that China may also be working through intermediaries to purchase the stolen oil from the pirates it may be funding. These exchanges supposedly involve the pirates taking the oil and then delivering it to an empty tanker lying in wait controlled by someone in contact with the Chinese government. Rumors also surfaced that the North Korean government may also be one of the pirates' main customers for oil as a way of skirting international sanctions. Multinational efforts to combat piracy have been successful in the past, but Chinese foreign policy may prove to be an obstacle since they will not receive the idea of increased foreign naval presence with enthusiasm. Additionally, sovereignty issues are salient in the minds of the people and governments of Southeast Asia, and foreign involvement in solving the problem may not be met with the most open of arms. Foreign nations such as the United States, Australia, the European nations, and many others all have a vested interest in alleviating this problem as soon as possible. Banks have already begun to warn investors of the risks associated with companies that use these trade routes, and using alternate shipping routes will impose higher costs on the companies.

¹⁶ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." *The South China Sea Is an Important World Energy Trade Route*. U.S. Energy Information Administration, 4 Apr. 2013. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Denyer, Simon. "Philippines' Duterte Threatens to Throw out U.S. Troops." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 25 Oct. 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

²⁰ Alpers, Philip. "Guns in the Philippines - Firearms, Gun Law and Gun Control." *Guns in the Philippines - Firearms, Gun Law and Gun Control*. Sydney School of Public Health, 6 July 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

²¹ UNODC. *Maritime Piracy* (2016): n. pag.193 *Unodc.org*. UNODC. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

²² "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." *The South China Sea Is an Important World Energy Trade Route*. U.S. Energy Information Administration, 4 Apr. 2013. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

Past UN Actions

Past UNODC responses to outbreaks of maritime piracy have been fairly robust. In response to the outbreak of maritime piracy off the coast of Somalia, they established the “Counter Piracy Programme”, which established a framework and model for countries to coordinate their efforts to head eliminate piracy, apprehend pirates, and diminish the factors that lead to piracy in the first place.²³ The CPP is now referred to as the Global Maritime Crime Programme, and continues to find effective use in many states. The GMCP focuses on three main areas: piracy prevention, criminal prosecution of pirates, and assisting the victims of piracy.²⁴ The GMCP focuses on helping states coordinate their counter-piracy activities, which usually involve surveillance of coastal areas and organizing naval patrols of the shipping lanes.²⁵ The GMCP has assisted states in their improving their abilities to prosecute pirates once they’re apprehended. This primarily involves harmonizing the systems of prosecution for piracy between different states, improving weaker states’ abilities to prosecute and house the criminals, and safeguarding prisoners’ human rights.²⁶ The GMCP has worked as an intermediary between captive hostages and their families and governments, and it has also assisted the victims and their families in the rehabilitation process.²⁷ In 2010, the UN passed Resolution 1918, which called on countries of origin for piracy (i.e. Somalia) to reform their criminal justice systems in a way that would effectively prosecute and carry out the punishments of alleged pirates. This came after it was found “that the failure to prosecute persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia undermined international anti-piracy efforts”.²⁸

Consequences of Action/Inaction

The main risk involved with taking action to resolve the piracy crisis is doing so in a fashion that draws China’s ire. Additionally, paying inadequate attention to other countries’ reservations over sovereignty are likely to hinder moving forward with resolving the crisis due to the politically fragile climate of the region. The crisis provides an opportunity to several counties to expand their influence in the region, and the entire world has an economic interest in ships being able to navigate the waters unmolested. Inaction, on the other hand, will lead to further degradation of the political and socioeconomic situations in the states where pirate activity is greatest. Inaction also poses a real threat to the booming industrial economies of China, Japan, and South Korea since so much of their energy supply comes through the South China Sea, which will hamper the world economy.²⁹ Inaction could also lead to the Abu Sayyaf group growing in power, and the organized criminal groups behind the piracy could easily gain prominence if their illicit practices aren’t curtailed.

Questions to Consider

- I. What is your country’s relationship with states in the South China Sea, especially China? How have recent interactions been between you and them?

²³ Town, Kevin. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *UNODC and Piracy*. UNODC, 2015. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Ibid

²⁶ Town, Kevin. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *UNODC and Piracy*. UNODC, 2015. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Security Council. "Security Council, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 1918 (2010), Calls on All States to Criminalize Piracy under National Laws | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *UN News Center*. UN, 27 Apr. 2010. Web. 25 Oct. 2016. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2010/sc9913.doc.htm>

²⁹ "U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis." *The South China Sea Is an Important World Energy Trade Route*. U.S. Energy Information Administration, 4 Apr. 2013. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

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- II. How much of an economic stake does your country have in solving the problem of piracy in the South China Sea?
- III. Has your country had to combat piracy in the past? If so, what practices employed then could be applied now?
- IV. Since piracy's root cause is poverty in countries adjacent to highly active shipping lanes, what steps could be taken to disincentivize piracy and perhaps reduce the volume of shipping coming through these areas?
- V. What states in the region should you be partnering with to effectively tackle the problem? Which states actually have the capacity and impetus to go after the pirates and which don't?
- VI. To what degree will your country want to use violence to combat piracy? Will pirates be fired upon on sight, or will you try to focus more on apprehension and prosecution?

Recommended Readings

- I. UNODC Global Maritime Security Programme
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/piracy/index.html?ref=menuside>
- II. Piracy in Asia: A Growing Barrier to Maritime Trade
<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2000/06/piracy-in-asia-a-growing-barrier-to-maritime-trade?renderforprint=1>
- III. The World's Most Pirated Waters <http://www.cnbc.com/2014/09/15/worlds-most-pirated-waters.html>
- IV. Today in Energy: The South China Sea
<http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=10671>
- V. The Strategic Value of the Straits of Malacca <http://library.utm.edu.my/e-melaka/koleksi%20melaka/geografi/ThestrategicvalueoftheStraitofMalacca.pdf>

II. Corruption in Eastern Europe

Introduction

The countries of Eastern Europe have long been viewed as hotbeds of political corruption and practices that degrade the quality of countries' democracy. Much of the political corruption that's evolved into almost something of a stereotype stems from the current state of the Russian political and economic system. Russia, and this is meant in a non-pejorative way, displays many qualities of a kleptocracy and corruption is widespread and flagrant. When the Soviet Union collapsed and the Russian Federation attempted to raise itself from the ashes, the question arose of how resources and industries previously controlled by the state under the communist Soviet system would be transferred into private hands. The vast majority of this wealth was doled out to "a tiny group of smart, ruthless, ambitious and well-connected men, who abruptly joined the ranks of the very richest people in history."³⁰ Rumors are frequently thrown around that the Russian Mafia also played a significant role in the disbursement of Russian assets following the USSR's collapse.³¹ Beyond this questionable occurrence, rumors of political assassinations, election-rigging, and widespread bribery also filter out of Russia. In 2010, a plane carrying many members of the highest level of the Polish government perished in a plane crash from Warsaw, Poland to Smolensk, Russia, and many people still consider this to have been the work of the Russian government.³² In February, 2015, Boris Nemtsov, a Russian politician and vocal opponent of Putin and United Russia's policies, was shot dead outside the Kremlin in what many suspect was a politically motivated assassination to silence a critic.³³ Many of the former Soviet republics have little experience with operating under a democratic system. They were under Soviet domain for decades, and many of them have no cultural links to democracy or prior experiences with it. Transparency International, an anti-corruption NGO, ranks countries based on their levels of corruption, and they found corruption to be rife in the former Soviet republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.³⁴ They cite the lack of an effective judicial system with the ability to go after corruption, lack of external oversight, and the lack of any degree of civil society, a population that can advocate criticisms of the government, as the main hallmarks of these countries' corruption.³⁵ These countries' lack of stable institutions and the prevalence of corruption work to drive away foreign investment, and international aid usually ends up in the hands of corrupt officials and businessmen rather than its intended destination.³⁶ The collapse of the USSR and the failure of eastern European countries to establish a stable, promising economy has led many of the educated and skilled workers from these countries to leave for brighter prospects in the EU countries.³⁷ This brain drain perpetuates a cycle of poverty and corruption. The skilled workers who will likely work to innovate and become entrepreneurs won't do so to benefit their native country's economy, and the people who would likely become critics of the government and build civil society are gone.³⁸ Tenuous links between the Russian government and conservative western European political parties have given cause for concern to people wary of Russia's political encroachment in

³⁰ Mueller, Andrew. "What a Carve-Up!" *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 02 Dec. 2005. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

³¹ Harding, Luke. "WikiLeaks Cables Condemn Russia as 'mafia State'" *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 01 Dec. 2010. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

³² "Conspiracy Theories Abound Six Years after Polish Plane Crash in Russia." *DW.COM*. Deutsche Welle, 4 Oct. 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016

³³ News, BBC. "Russia Opposition Politician Boris Nemtsov Shot Dead." *BBC News*. British Broadcasting Corporation, 28 Feb. 2015. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

³⁴ Sanders, Chris. "Corruption in five Eastern European countries remains endemic" *www.transparency.org*. Transparency International, 2 July 2015. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Dempsey, Judy. "How Corruption Is Driving Eastern Europe's Brain Drain." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 9 Sept. 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Dempsey, Judy. "How Corruption Is Driving Eastern Europe's Brain Drain." *Washington Post*. The Washington Post, 9 Sept. 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

Europe.³⁹ In the past few years, Russia has annexed portions of Georgia and Ukraine, and some concerns are rising that Russia's territorial expansion may include meddling in the political processes of foreign governments.

A Brief History

Russia occupies a strange political niche regarding how its government was formed. The current Russian state evolved from the Soviet Union without oversight from a foreign body to help develop strong institutions.⁴⁰ States that rose from the ashes of the USSR had a similar issue, but lacked the economic resources of Russia, which further hampered their abilities to develop strong institutions. Weak institutions set the stage for large-scale corruption. Since Russia sits as the main political power of Eastern Europe, concerns have previously existed that corrupt practices found in Eastern Europe may emanate or originate from Russia.

Corruption in Eastern Europe as a Geopolitical Issue

As it has since Vladimir Putin became the leader of Russia, US and European efforts to curb Russian expansion in recent years have largely fallen flat. As Russia has continued to flex its muscles in terms of territorial expansion, concerns have begun to rise that it may be working to subvert the democratic processes of many Eastern European countries. Financial connections between far-right parties across Europe and the Russian government have raised eyebrows even higher.⁴¹ Evidence including videos of poll workers ripping up certain ballots and dumping piles of ballots into the ballot boxes have gone viral and people the world over are asking questions. Russia has completely denied any involvement in the political corruption in eastern Europe. Tensions between Russia and the West have manifested themselves in a worrying fashion. Russia has lately been conducting nuclear safety drills in Russian schools, running war-mongering headlines on Russian state media, and increasing its military involvement in Middle Eastern countries in which it has a presence. Similarly, the US has promised to rebuke Russia for its alleged cyber espionage, and NATO has conducted military drills in eastern Europe. Despite the Cold War being over, Russia and the West still seem to be at odds for some reason. The international community is worried by the prospect of Russia subverting the political processes of Eastern Europe in order to turn it into a Russian sphere of influence as it was during the Soviet era. But Russia is likely to view efforts from the international community equally as negatively as the international community views Russia's involvement in threatening democracy in eastern Europe. The allegations of Russian meddling are just that, allegations. What makes the situation even more worrying is that the sitting governments of several Eastern European countries are actively distancing themselves from EU policy, and them aligning with Russia seems to become more likely with each passing day.⁴² Many Eastern European nations are angered by the EU's policies of bringing in large quantities of immigrants from the Middle East citing the economic burden, increased risk of terrorist activities, and largely unsuccessful attempts at integration.⁴³ Hungary along with several other countries have put up border walls to guard against the large human influx, which puts them in direct violation of EU policy.⁴⁴ Will the EU have to compromise its policy goals in order to prevent eastern European alignment with Russia? The fact that significant populations of ethnic Russians do reside in areas of several eastern European countries offers Russia a tenable *casus belli* should they wish to employ military means to seize territory. How can the UN work together to solve the corruption problem in eastern Europe without poking the Russian bear? The countries considered

³⁹ Polyakova, Alina. "Strange Bedfellows: Putin and Europe's Far Right." *World Affairs Journal*. World Affairs, Sept.-Oct. 2014. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁴⁰ Mueller, Andrew. "What a Carve-Up!" *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 02 Dec. 2005. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² Bauvir, Etienne. "VIKTOR ORBÁN." *POLITICO.eu*. Politico, 02 Dec. 2015. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

to be at risk for corruption are the former Soviet republics in eastern Europe. These primarily include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Belarus.



Countries at Risk and their Geographical Locations

Past UN Actions

The United Nations Convention Against Corruption, initiated in 2000 and put into action in 2005, focuses on funding and establishing institutions that prevent corruption, making corrupt action a criminal offence, countries working together to coordinate anti-corruption efforts and practices, and working to recover assets lost due to corruption.⁴⁶ Though the eastern European countries signed and ratified it, it seems that few gains have been made in rolling back corruption. It's difficult to alter institutions meaningfully within a country in order to prevent corruption when the government of the country itself is corrupt and has corrupt actors coordinating with the UN. The UN observes International Anti-Corruption Day annually on December 9th in order to raise awareness of corruption.⁴⁷ While awareness is certainly important, this practice leads to little actual policy change.

Questions to Consider

- I. How is your country's relationship with Russia? Are the gains that could be made by fighting corruption in eastern Europe worth the potential damage to your relations with Russia?
- II. How interested in combatting corruption is your country? What is corruption like in your country?
- III. What is your relationship with the states where corruption is rife?
- IV. Do you think an aggressive approach or a cooperative approach is best for tackling corruption? Do you want to slap the corrupt states with economic sanctions or try to get in on the ground level to reform their institutions?
- V. Has the UNCAC worked? What could be done to improve its implementation? What would a proper replacement look like?
- VI. Do you think the allegations of Russian meddling in foreign elections are credible? What is your stance on the idea of Russia expanding regionally?

Recommended Readings

⁴⁵ Luhn, Alec, and Joanna Lillis. "Edginess and a Reluctance to Rattle Russia's Cage in Former Soviet Republics." *The Guardian*. Guardian News and Media, 07 Mar. 2014. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁴⁶ Kambarska, Natasha. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Convention against Corruption*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁴⁷ Larose, Timothy. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *International Anti-Corruption Day*. UNODC, n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

- I. United Nations Convention on Corruption <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/index.html>
- II. How corruption is driving Eastern Europe's brain drain https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/global-opinions/wp/2016/09/09/how-corruption-is-driving-eastern-europes-brain-drain/?utm_term=.c6edb6226392
- III. What a carve-up! <https://www.theguardian.com/media/2005/dec/03/tvandradio.russia>
- IV. Corruption in five Eastern European countries remains endemic http://www.transparency.org/news/pressrelease/corruption_in_five_eastern_european_countries_remains_endemic
- V. Corruption in Eastern Europe <http://www.cer.org.uk/publications/archive/bulletin-article/2000/corruption-eastern-europe>
- VI. From Bolshevism to back handers <http://www.economist.com/node/18560605>

III. Political Chaos and the War on Drugs

Introduction

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime has frequently focused its drug combating efforts in Latin American countries due to its prevalence. Unfortunately, drug trafficking has led to a significant deterioration of political systems in Latin America which affects the negotiating process. The power dynamic between drug cartels and governmental officials has shifted in countries such as Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and many more. Powerful figures in the narcotic industry have influenced the outcome of elections, the economy and the social hierarchy within their respective regions. Drug trafficking has also influenced the political relationships between nations on an international scale. Historically, Europe and the United States are the largest markets for drug distribution. In 2002, officials in the UK reported that 90% of cocaine seized originated in Colombia⁴⁸. The United States authorities “estimated that 90% of... cocaine” is smuggled through the US/Mexico border⁴⁹.

The UNODC and other coalitions have responded to this previously by attempting to draft a variety of resolutions at international conferences. But as drug cartels and organized crime groups expand their operations, the influx of multinational criminal activity has been substantial. This raises the following question: Whose responsibility is it? Although Latin American countries are often the source of many illegal narcotics, the consumers are often from foreign nations. Foreign nations have made initiatives within their respective governments tackling border security⁵⁰ without taking into consideration how their own citizens and officials contribute to the distribution of drugs. People within foreign nations may help to facilitate drug operations by providing routes, infrastructure and dealers for cartels. It is also important to note the function of multinational crime organizations such as gangs and other violent groups which are present in almost every country and make profits from these industries. , “demand reduction” is significantly difficult to subdue without controlling the source⁵¹. The corruption of Latin American governments have made it increasingly difficult to make transnational, collaborative efforts; though, many continue to work towards establishing a plan for action.

Brief History

The globalization of drug consumption has increased the size and prominence of the illicit narcotic industry substantially over the past several decades⁵². Since the early 20th century, the Latin American drug cartels have been working to expand their operations on an international scale. The Colombian cartels initiated this first by utilizing Mexican ports to transport cocaine into the United States. Cocaine has always been the most exported drug, because it appeals to a larger market and produces a higher profit at a lower quantity than its competitors. As the supplies are becoming readily available on a global scale, more people are able to access and use it which ultimately gives drug

⁴⁸ "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁴⁹ Ibid

⁵⁰ Panteha.pishehvar. "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." *Drug Trafficking and Border Control*. N.p., n.d. Web. 05 Nov. 2016.

⁵¹ "7. Reducing the Supply of Illegal Drugs." *7. Reducing the Supply of Illegal Drugs*. Office of National Drug Control Policy, 1999. Web. 05 Nov. 2016.

⁵² Feron, Dr. Elise. "The Story of Drug Trafficking in Latin America." *Borderland Beat*:. N.p., 11 June 2014. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

cartels multinational power. In the United States, the prevalence of cocaine grew from its popularity among youth, countercultures and Hollywood actors⁵³. One of the most famous cases of cocaine addiction was in 1920 with the wife of Jack Pickford, an American Hollywood actor; she committed suicide on her honeymoon, because she was under the influence of cocaine provided by a US Army officer⁵⁴. This trend continued throughout the United States with several more incidents of suicide, homicide and other sporadic acts of violence. The effects of drug trafficking were not limited to domestic acts of violence. Widespread political downturn began early on as a result of the Latin American cocaine market as well⁵⁵. Government officials have continuously attempted to enact political reforms to combat drug trafficking which resulted in a multitude of “state-building efforts”⁵⁶, however, none of them have maintained long-lasting effects. Leading into the 21st century, Latin American politicians began to shift the blame of the narcotic industry from themselves to the governments of foreign nations⁵⁷. They claim that, especially in the United States, the amount of “American addicts and users” have largely contributed to the continuation of the production of cocaine. To this day, the United States is the single largest consumer for illicit drugs from Latin America⁵⁸.

Latin America’s Political Corruption

The underground narcotic industry has impacted the modern political atmosphere in Latin America significantly. Many politicians in the region have been discovered to be strongly affiliated or working closely with members of the cartel. Drug cartels have been known to utilize methods such as coercion and bribery to gain this sort of influence in local and federal governments. In Mexico, the infamous Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), known for their relationship with regional drug traffickers, was recently elected into office⁵⁹. Members of the political party claimed that they were working towards a resolution for the corruption, but none of their efforts proved to be effective. Following the election, many mayors throughout the country were threatened, kidnapped and murdered at an increasing rate⁶⁰. Drug cartels specifically targeted political leaders who sought to end their political influence in their territory. Los Zetas, one of the most infamous cartels in Mexico, carried out several executions of local mayors while also turning ranches into extermination camps⁶¹. This trend of violence has historically impacted many Latin American countries and cultivated a system of corruption. The annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) report indicates that virtually all Latin American countries, with the exception of Chile and Uruguay, “appears in the bottom half of the table”⁶² when it comes to political impunity.

⁵³ "Cocaine Arrives in the Twentieth Century." RSS. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Nov. 2016.

⁵⁴ *Ibid*

⁵⁵ "Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime in the Americas." (n.d.): n. pag. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Aug. 2012. Web. 6 Nov. 2016.

⁵⁶ *Ibid*

⁵⁷ *Ibid*

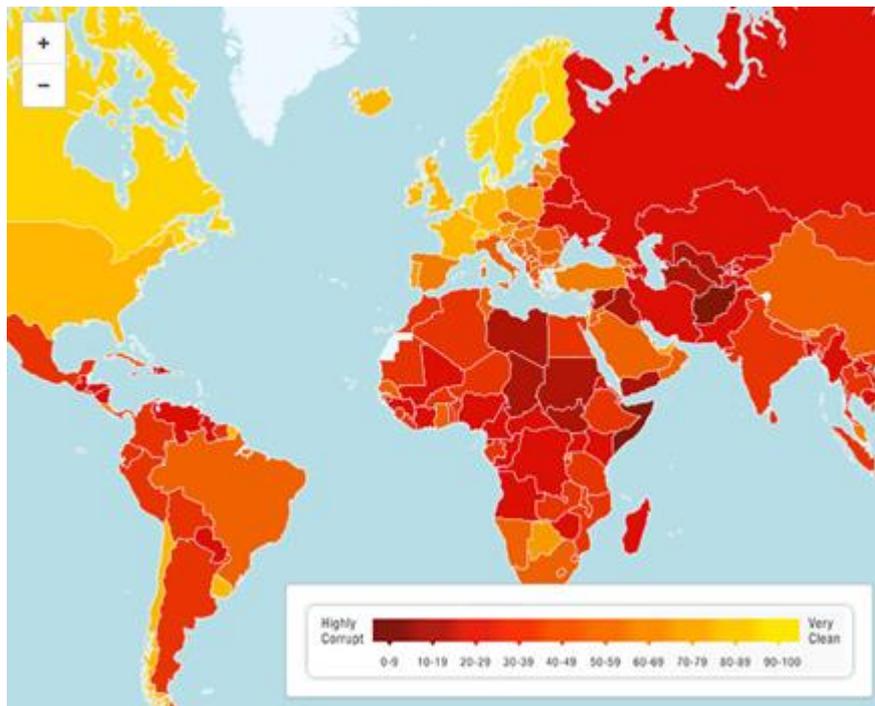
⁵⁸ *Ibid*

⁵⁹ Finnegan, William. "The Drug War and Mexico's Election." *The New Yorker*. The New Yorker, 02 July 2012. Web. 24 Oct. 2016.

⁶⁰ Grillo, Ioan. "Why Cartels Are Killing Mexico’s Mayors." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 16 Jan. 2016. Web. 24 Oct. 2016.

⁶¹ Osorno, Diego Enrique. "How a Mexican Cartel Demolished a Town, Incinerated Hundreds of Victims, and Got Away With It | VICE News." *VICE News* RSS. N.p., 31 Dec. 2014. Web. 24 Oct. 2016.

⁶² Parkinson, Written By Charles. "Why Is Latin America So Corrupt?" *Why Is Latin America So Corrupt?* N.p., 08 Jan. 2014. Web. 24 Oct. 2016.



Corruption Perceptions Index

<http://media.transparency.org/maps/img/cpi-2013-medium.jpg>

Since the twentieth century, The Colombian cartels significantly contributed to Latin America's corruption score. They were known for having one of "the highest... [drug-related] ...homicide rates"⁶³ and being the central location for the distribution and production of cocaine. The former president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, shut down Congress as well as the Judiciary in response to the political corruption caused by drug trafficking⁶⁴ This anti-corruption platform is pivotal in many modern Peruvian political campaigns as well as those in Bolivia, Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. Overall, these platforms and promises from Latin American countries have proved to be ineffectual and government officials appear to use it as an opportunity to gain access to power.

The Distribution of Illicit Drugs

Illicit drugs are delivered to countries worldwide through an intricate network of powerful figures, smugglers and resource providers. Drug cartels have facilitated the process by building warehouse in specific regions to support the production of illegal substances. After the production of drugs in these warehouses, the substances are sold in wholesale to drug dealers⁶⁵ for distribution. The Colombian cartel primarily sells their product in bulk along the northeastern and eastern seaboard cities in the US, though, the Mexican cartels' territory has steadily expanded over the past few decades. Latin American traffickers utilize Mexico as an avenue to transport illicit drugs into the United States. A recent interagency intelligence assessment reported that approximately "65% of cocaine" trafficked into the US cross the "...southwestern border"⁶⁶. This gives the traffickers in

⁶³ Parkinson, Written By Charles. "Why Is Latin America So Corrupt?" *Why Is Latin America So Corrupt?* N.p., 08 Jan. 2014. Web. 24 Oct. 2016.

⁶⁴ Soberón, Ricardo, and Garrido Soberon. "Corruption, Drug Trafficking and the Armed Forces." Transnational Institute. N.p., 07 June 2012. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁶⁵ Agency, Drug Enforcement. "Drug Trafficking in the United States." *Drug Trafficking in the United States*. Policy Almanac, May 2004. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

<http://www.policyalmanac.org/crime/archive/drug_trafficking.shtml>

⁶⁶ Ibid

Mexico a considerable regional advantage and more access to the distribution of narcotics in the United States. However, international drug trafficking operations are dominated by the Colombian cartels. The UNODC Drug Report found that the majority of cocaine shipments to Europe are by sea are from Colombia⁶⁷.

Drug traffickers in Colombia have also collaborated with international terrorist organizations and foreign cartels to distribute cocaine across seas to countries in Europe and the Middle East⁶⁸. Members of Hezbollah, a terrorist organization originated in the Middle East, have been caught by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) trafficking Colombian cocaine to Europe and laundering their money through Lebanon. The Hezbollah are also linked to members of the Islamic State and Al-Qaeda.

Although the Colombian narcotic industry is prominent within Europe, other Latin American countries are becoming more participatory. For example, Brazil and Venezuela are now considered “key departure points”⁶⁹ for drug exportation to Europe as well as Argentina and Ecuador; Bolivia and Peru are also now expanding their part as suppliers to the industry.

The Western Response

The United States along with other foreign governments have initiated a war on drugs in response to the growing drug trafficking industry. Many have sought to construct agreements with Latin American countries that will prevent the proliferation of the drug industry and shrink its effects. US government officials have advocated for this by opting for a security partnership with Mexico called “the Merida Initiative” which ensures that drug operations do not increase in capacity between the two nations⁷⁰. Both countries have also allotted billions of dollars to help fund the expenses of the program. In Europe, drug trafficking is one of the largest economic industries and significantly impacts domestic affairs. The European Union (EU) has responded to this by worked closely with the UNODC to establish policies that combat drug trafficking, organized crime and corruption⁷¹. Frequent international meetings have been held in Vienna and Brussels to address the issue. In addition, the EU has drafted resolutions such as the “EU Drugs Strategy” and the “EU Action Plan on Drugs” to organize a framework for their initiatives⁷².

Past UN Actions

The United Nations has created different branches to target illegal drug trafficking. The UNODC was developed to target the criminal activity typically incited by Latin American drug cartels. Yury Fedotov, the Executive Director of the UNODC, has mentioned that to combat the corruption of political systems and the proliferation of drug trafficking, it must be a collective effort. In 2010, Fedotov has welcomed the “Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”⁷³ which will fight against corrupt institutions and organized crime. Unfortunately, the UNODC is

⁶⁷ "United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime." Drug Trafficking. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁶⁸ Taylor, Guy. "Hezbollah Moving 'tons of Cocaine' in Latin America, Europe to Finance Terror Operations." Washington Times. The Washington Times, n.d. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁶⁹ Yagoub, Written By Mimi. "New Report Offers Details on Cocaine Traffic to Europe." New Report Offers Details on Cocaine Traffic to Europe. N.p., 02 June 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁷⁰ Drug Trafficking Across the Southwest Border and Oversight of U.S. Counterdrug Assistance to Mexico." U.S. Department of State. U.S. Department of State, 17 Nov. 2015. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁷¹ EU External Policy on Drugs - Eeas - European Commission." Eeas. European Union External Action, 5 Mar. 2016. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ Struggle against Organized Crime, Corruption, Drug Trafficking Connected; Too Big for Countries to Confront on Their Own, Third Committee Told | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." *UN News Center*. UN, Oct. 2010. Web. 25 Oct. 2016.

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unable to be as effective due to lacking of funding; “less than one percent”⁷⁴ of the United Nations’ budget is allocated to this branch. Members of the UNODC have appealed for an increase in funding from the General Assembly so that their progress may continue.

Questions to Consider:

- I. The UNODC’s lack of funding has inhibited its success in pushing reform in regions affected by drug trafficking. How should the UN reform its budget to address these impending issues?
- II. What actions have your country’s government taken to subdue drug trafficking or its distribution?
- III. What are the political advantages for combating drug cartels in your specific country? Disadvantages?
- IV. What actors within your country are responsible for facilitating the drug trade?

Suggested readings:

- I. Testimonies of individual countries on drug trafficking
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2010/gashc3975.doc.htm>
- II. Chinese relationship with drug cartels
<http://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/article/1759760/how-mexican-drug-cartels-are-moving-hong-kong>
- III. Catalog of UN Resolutions and Decisions on drug trafficking
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Resolutions_Decisions/Resolutions-Decisions_2000-2009.html

⁷⁴ Ibid