

Forum: Special Conference

Issue: Preventing Instability Generated by Foreign Involvement

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Introduction

Foreign involvement, in the context of war, foreign policy, and general political issues, is defined by the additional support or opposition coming from an external or otherwise uninvolved nation or organization. Foreign nations may involve themselves politically, with military intervention, economically, and/or socially. These foreign nations may have positive or negative intentions. Since the beginning of the 20th century, developed and Western countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom have been driving foreign involvement, operating under the premise of aiding developing countries around the world. However, foreign involvement from western countries can lead to political, social, and economic instability in various LEDCs (least-developed countries). Primarily, they are known to exacerbate ongoing issues. There have been numerous examples of how foreign involvement can change and influence current events or stability in the non-Western world, from the Vietnam War to the United States' military intervention in Afghanistan. In the Special Conference, it is crucial to understand how foreign involvement has affected non-western nations, and how to prevent instability generated by external action (Cordesman and Toukan).

This RCIMUN's theme is "The Monopolies Turning the Wheels of History: Recognizing Circularity in an Ever-Changing World". Considering how globalized the world has become, all of our actions against or for another will affect each other. This remains the same in many world issues, including the issues that the Special Conference will debate upon. Many developed nations hold increasing power over the livelihood and fate of other, less developed nations. Recognizing the impact that many of these powerful nations have over other countries is crucial to preventing the instability of those other nations.

Definition of Key Terms

Arms race

An arms race is the competition between countries for better development in military assets as a measure of superiority.

Civil War

A war that occurs between different groups in the same nation.

Developmental aid

Generally given by foreign nations, developmental aid is a type of aid that is given to nations who need humanitarian aid to support them in an economic, social, or political crisis.

Foreign Involvement

In the context of war, foreign policy, and general political issues, Foreign Involvement is defined by the additional support or opposition coming from an external or otherwise uninvolved nation or organization.

Guerilla warfare

Guerilla warfare is common in civil wars. Small groups of non-traditional militia, usually named rebels, fight against a larger, traditional military, usually connected to a current government.

Neocolonialism

According to the Oxford dictionary, larger countries use economic, social, and/or economic pressures to control another country for their personal interests, whether it be for economic advantage or political advantage.

Proxy War

A type of war where a major superpower may be a main instigator or cause for conflict, or major support, but only involves themselves in a little bit of the conflict.

Superpowers

This term refers to a powerful country whose power has developed to the extent that they are capable of influencing external countries economically, socially, and politically.

General Overview

In order to understand how to prevent foreign involvement, it's important to understand the rationale

behind foreign involvement and its negative impact. Furthermore, It is important to provide examples of when foreign involvement has led to instability politically, economically, and socially.

Western Rationale

Generally, foreign involvement has come from western countries. Since the World Wars, western nations such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom have been expanding their sphere of influence. They focus on promoting democratic ideology, financial and economic gain, and allyship, and during the Cold War, they disputed socialist and communist ideals. The term democratic ideology refers to many ideas. In recent years, Western countries have focused on reducing Islamic influence in the West and Middle East. They do this primarily with the intention of “stabilizing” countries in the Middle East. The actions of foreign nations generally meant involvement in wars and other political conflicts with military intervention.

As fairly globalized countries, western countries are primarily concerned with extending their economic influence past their continent. As most countries do, they sought out more natural resources and investments in industries from many developing countries and continents. This also leads to competition between other developed countries, such as China, or Russia. This interest in economic growth may lead to a detrimental effect on the developing nation’s own economy and may leech natural resources.

Additionally, proxy wars and general warfare are the most common examples of foreign involvement that leads to instability. This connects further to Western countries attempting to promote stability in countries with unstable governments. However, in many cases, western countries tend to exacerbate the issue further. This is proven further in general warfare, where foreign nations may provide military and economic support to the country or the country’s enemy. This additionally aids them with national security and allyship with other nations.

Instability

There are numerous reasons why involvement from Western/Foreign nations is dangerous and destabilizing to developing countries. First, economic involvement from external nations can fester foreign dependence. Dependence on external resources may weaken the country and leave them vulnerable to economic sanctions and other measures to restrict economic growth and trade. Furthermore, external involvement in government conflict violates national sovereignty and weakens the country politically. It can exacerbate conflict between different countries, or civil wars. Many western countries, especially during proxy wars, support a single side with military and economic advantages and assets. This leads to further violence, which puts the general public in danger. Considering that these instabilities are caused by external actors, it is crucial to prevent this from happening. Western countries are far more economically developed and can monopolize trading, industries, and wars for their own benefit. Here are a few examples of instability caused by foreign involvement in different regions (Pickering and Kisangani).

2003 Invasion of Iraq

The 2003 Invasion of Iraq began when a US aircraft dropped a number of bombs into an Iraqi military bunker. They continued with airstrikes that targeted military and government areas and buildings. By the end of their attacks, the U.S. military had made its way through Kuwait, which they had aided in the Persian Gulf War in the 1990s, and invaded Iraq. The purpose of the invasion was to destroy Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and remove Saddam Hussein as president to free the Iraqi people. Saddam Hussein was removed from his position and executed in 2006. After the collapse of Saddam Hussein's leadership, the general population was sent into a frenzy. Numerous Iraqis were killed in violent outbreaks after the war, whether it be from the U.S Military's hand or from the guerrilla warfare that was broken out. The economy had collapsed, with debt stacking up over time. Even 20 years after, the country is still feeling the vestiges of the invasion politically and economically ("Iraq War").

Syrian Civil War

The Syrian Civil War began in February 2011, after multiple factors had exacerbated problems in Syria. Bashar al-Assad assumed office in 2000, after his father's death in the same year. His presidency began a cycle of protests, reprimanding al-Assad's violent, oppressive, and authoritarian actions, similar to his father before him. The economy began to collapse, and after the severe drought in Syria from 2006 to 2010, oppositional parties and rebels began to arise to attempt to remove al-Assad from his position, and the Syrian Civil War began. Soon after, both sides received support from opposing forces. The Syrian government was funded and supported primarily by Russia and Iran, and the opposition, the Free Syrian Army, where primarily supported by the United States of America and Turkey. The Syrian Civil war is still ongoing, with millions of deaths and worsening economic crises. Furthermore, the Syrian Civil way has led to the largest refugee crisis, with over millions of Syrians attempting to flee their country and find safety ("Syrian Civil War").

The Vietnam War

The Vietnam War, from 1954 - 1975, is most notably seen as a proxy war between the United States of America and the Soviet Union at Cold War during the time. North Vietnam wished to unite the country under a communist government, similar to the Soviet Union and China. On the other hand, the South Vietnamese government, wished to follow the west's examples of government, taking the United States as an example. The United States supported South Vietnam, while the Soviet Union and China supported North Vietnam. While the Soviet Union and China primarily supported the north with ammunition, assets, and supplies, the American Military got personally involved, sending over 500,000 soldiers to Vietnam by 1970. However, with how the war was proceeding in North Vietnam's favor, the United States pulled out in 1973, leading to North Vietnam's victory in 1975, creating the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on July 2, 1976. Over 2 million civilians

died in the conflict, with over 1 million soldiers from both sides also killed, and around 50,000 thousand American soldiers as well. After the war, large parts of the country were damaged and could not be used for their agricultural industries. Many South Vietnamese fled the country as refugees as well. (Britannica, Vietnam War)

Israeli–Palestinian conflict

After World War 2, many Jewish people sought refuge to escape persecution and anti-Semitism against them in Europe. They believed this possible by creating a separate Jewish State. This was supported by Great Britain, who had promised parts of Palestine to the Jewish people using the Balfour Agreement. However, they had promised parts of Palestine to themselves and to the Sharif of Mecca at that time. After difficulty negotiating, Great Britain gave the issue up to the UN. Since the beginning of the creation of Israel, foreign involvement has been driving the tide of the conflict. Specifically, the United States has been notably in support of the creation of Israel, with the United States attempting negotiations and peace talks between Palestine and Israel. Furthermore, Russia has attempted to provide Hamas with military aid through Syria. With external actors leading the conflict and attempting conflict resolution, Palestine remains unstable with millions of Palestinians displaced by the Israel militia and air forces. The United States have imposed economic sanctions on the Hamas-occupied Gaza Strip, furthering the collapse of Gaza's economy, already in shambles due to the economic blockade imposed by Israel (Raghuraman and Chakravarthy).

Somalia Intervention

Most notably known as "Operation Restore Hope", the United States-led humanitarian peacekeeping operation attempted to stabilize Somalia from 1992 - 1993. After a military coup in 1991, in which a Somali dictator was overthrown by 2 opposition parties, the 2 opposition parties began to fight against themselves, leading to the instability and destruction of Somalia economically, socially, and politically. The conflict led to widespread famine, as the agricultural industry was destroyed amidst the fighting. This marks the United States intervention in Somalia. 25,000 military personnel and troops were sent to Somalia under the Bush Administration in the United States. While at the start, the United States was successful in providing some sort of aid, they became too entangled in the actual political conflicts. They began to blame Aydid, one of the opposition leaders in conflict and attempted to apprehend him in 1993. This resulted in the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993, with hundreds of Somali civilians dead and 18 American soldiers dead. After the Battle of Mogadishu, Clinton withdrew U.S. Militia from the country, leaving Somalia in economic despair and further political instability. No functioning government was established at the end ("Somalia Intervention").

1953 Iranian coup d'état

The Iranian coup d'état is a prime example of Western countries, most notably the United States and the

United Kingdom, working in their own western interests. Mohammad Mosaddegh, the prime minister of Iran at the time, decided to Nationalize Iran's oil industry and remove British Involvement in their industry to benefit Iran further. This was conflicting with the United Kingdom's interests, as they had controlled Iran's oil industry previously. After Mosaddegh had continued to deny the United Kingdom's future involvement in the industry, the United Kingdom and the United States began to plan a coup to overthrow Mossadeg and his administration and place Mohammad Reza Pahlavi at the head instead, who had far more pro-western ideals. While the first coup failed, with Mosaddegh having previous knowledge of the coup coming, a second coup d'état was launched soon after, successfully placing Mosaddegh under house arrest and returning power to Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last Shah of Iran. This is simply an example of western countries working for their own interest with no other concern (Wu and Lanz).

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

There have been a few countries that have repeatedly gotten involved in conflicts external to their country. These are generally western countries, such as the United States or the United Kingdom. If other countries get involved, it is generally to oppose these countries, or Russia, during the Cold War.

The United States

As a global superpower, the United States acts as an external force, driving conflict or change in many different countries. They have the power, economically, politically, and with the military, to make large impacts on other countries' political and economic status, and involve themselves in external conflicts. They do this through military Interventions, economic aid, and to promote western ideals. They may get involved using diplomacy to mitigate conflicting interests between two countries. Most notably and fairly recently, President Joe Biden pulled the US Military out of Afghanistan after 20 years of conflict with the Taliban. This automatically resulted in the Taliban taking control of the country. This quick decision without any residual forces left in Afghanistan led to the quick spread of the Taliban's power throughout Afghanistan.

United Kingdom

The same applies for the United Kingdom. As an older superpower, their power over countries provides them with opportunities to work toward their own interests in other countries.

Russia

Russia, being a global superpower alongside the UK and the United States, held much power over their satellite countries, and now, through economic and political means, holds a fair amount of power over the world. Russia holds its strength through its exports of crude oil and other fuel and energy products.

Additionally, with the current Russo-Ukraine war, oil prices have exponentially increased globally. As they are technologically and economically advanced, like the United Kingdom and the United States, they are considered a global superpower. If they were to impose economic sanctions on oil and other major exports, the global economy could be severely impacted.

Timeline of Events

14 May 1948 - present	Israel was created with the help of the United Kingdom, leading to the official start of the Palestine- Israeli conflict .
15 August 1953 – 19 August 1953	1953 Iranian coup d'état: Resulted in the house arrest of their then current prime minister, Mohammad Mosaddegh.
1 November 1955 – 30 April 1975	Vietnam War- A civil war between North and South Vietnam, and a proxy war between Russia and the United States. the North won, leading to the establishment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,
March 1993 - March 1995	Somalia Intervention- Known as “Operation Restore Hope”, the United States attempted to aid Somalia, but resulted in further instability.
19 March - 1 May 2003	2003 Invasion of Iraq- The US’s invasion of Iraq to oppose Saddam Hussein’s regime in Iraq.
15 March 2011 - present	The Syrian Civil War- Both sides of the war received support from opposing forces, but this intensity in violence has led to the largest refugee crisis.

UN Involvement

The UN has not made any specific resolutions on preventing foreign instability. It would be important to focus on national sovereignty and respect country boundaries when interfering.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Foreign policy is generally very vague in countries like the United States. In the United States, some foreign policy advancements have been made. For example, the Freedom of Information Act has made it clear that more information should be exposed to the public. This was necessary during the Iranian Coup d'état, as it was only publicly confirmed by the CIA in 2013 that the United States was the main perpetrator. (FOIA)

Furthermore, the creation of the United Nations Security Council has allowed for peaceful, democratic attempts at resolution. Peacekeeping missions reduce violence and maintain peace in areas and countries with active conflict. Furthermore, the UN provides various forms of Humanitarian aid to support civilians throughout conflicts throughout the world. However, it is important to examine the root of the issue: the influence that global superpowers have on other countries, enough to monopolize entire industries and leave many countries underdeveloped.

Possible Solutions

While some advancement in foreign policy has been made, it is important to further this by taking into consideration the national sovereignty of the many unstable countries affected by foreign involvement. Having the UN intervene in conflicts where an external nation may be involving itself would also be feasible. Furthermore, peacekeeping operations and missions for humanitarian aid must be carefully monitored by the UN with their support, to make sure that neither the external nation nor the insatiable nation is delving further into instability. Policymakers must focus on the prevention of unnecessary involvement as well. (Pickering and Kisangani)

This is an incredibly multi-faceted issue, which needs to be addressed at the root. For the last century, western countries have been working on strengthening connections between most countries, and they do this in methods that may be damaging to unstable countries. Promoting peaceful and efficient communication through the UN on humanitarian, economic, and political issues may prosper better growth

for developing and unstable countries.

Notes from the Chair

While it is important to focus on military conflicts and how global superpowers have influenced them throughout the years, it is also incredibly important to understand the economic and political strengths these countries have. Examine your delegations' economic advantages like their exports and understand how they can be used to influence another country, for the better or for the worse.

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