



# Surf City XVIII

Huntington Beach High School



## Security Council #2

Topic A: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict  
&  
Topic B: Disarmament in North Korea

Emma Guard  
Mary Sharkoff  
Alison Miu-Martinez



## Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Huntington Beach High School Model United Nations Program, we would like to welcome you to our virtual Surf City XVIII advanced conference!

Our annual Surf City conference upholds the principles and intended purpose of the United Nations. Delegates can expect to partake in a professional, well-run debate that simulates the very issues that those at the United Nations discuss every day. Both novel and traditional ideas will be shared, challenged, and improved.

It is our hope that all delegates will receive the opportunity to enhance their research, public speaking, and communication skills as they explore the intricacies of global concerns through various perspectives, some of which may be very different from their own. We hope their experiences here give them new insight and values that they can apply outside of the realm of Model UN for the betterment of the world community.

Although we will be entertaining a new style of a virtual conference, we hope all delegates will experience a fruitful and enhancing debate. Please do not hesitate to approach our Secretariat or Staff Members with any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the day. We wish the best to all our participants and hope that they may share a fulfilling experience with us! Enjoy the conference.

Sincerely,

Summer Balentine  
*Secretary-General*

Jenna Ali  
*Secretary-General*

Kayla Hayashi  
*Secretary-General*

Hailey Holcomb  
*Secretary-General*

## Meet the Dias



**Emma Guard**

Hey delegates! My name is Emma and I am a senior here at HBHS. Being a part of MUN for the past four years, I have developed a passion for global politics and thoroughly enjoy MUN conferences - I hope to continue participating in MUN and major in International Relations in college! Outside of MUN, I'm on the varsity Swim Team and am involved in many clubs around campus such as the National Honors Society and California Scholarship Federation. I love to spend my free time surfing, painting, roller skating, and going to the beach where I work as a California State Lifeguard. Can't wait to see everyone on Zoom and hear all of the amazing research you've done!

**Mary Sharkoff**

Hey guys! My name is Mary and I am a junior at HBHS this year. MUN has been a major part of high school for me and has helped me get over my fear of public speaking and also learn about many concerning world events. The first topic I ever had for MUN was what helped me decide that I want to become a pediatrician or biomedical engineer after college. In school I am also a part of the Doctors of Tomorrow Club and Operation Smile. Outside of school I mostly spend my time dancing at my studio or tutoring. I love to read, bake, and watch sappy rom coms with my best friends when I'm not crammed with homework. I am so excited to chair for you guys and cannot wait to see everyone in committee!

**Alison Miu-Martinez**

Hi all! My name is Alison and I am a junior at HBHS this year. MUN has been a big part of my high school life and it is actually what made me realize that I wanted to major in political science to one day be a lawyer! I love all things politics and I am a part of the Humanitarian Helpers and Democrats for Change clubs on campus. In my free time, I write for the magazine HB Coastal Living as writing is another one of my passions. I also love to get coffee to feed my caffeine addiction and to spend time with my friends. I could not be more excited to see what you guys bring to committee:)

**All Papers are due on January 2, 2020 by 11:59pm to**  
**[surfcitymun.sc2@gmail.com](mailto:surfcitymun.sc2@gmail.com)**

**TOPIC A: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict**



## BACKGROUND

The Nagorno-Karabakh region was established in the 1920s by the Soviet government, a landlocked mountainous area within the nation of Azerbaijan, 95% of this region's population was Christian Armenian, with the other percentage mainly Turkic Muslim Azeris<sup>1</sup>. These two groups, as well as the countries of Armenia and Azerbaijan, remained mainly peaceful under Bolshevik rule until the gradual collapse of the Soviet Union. As tensions continued to increase, the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast (NKAO) chose to join Armenia in 1988 despite being located within Azerbaijan's borders, resulting in the beginning of this conflict. The fighting that ensued resulted in about 20,000 to 30,000 dead and Armenia gaining control over the region and, as the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, declaring Nagorno-Karabakh's independence. Over 230,000 Armenians fled parts of Azerbaijan while 800,000 Azerbaijanis were displaced from Karabakh and Armenia<sup>2</sup>. By 1993, Armenia was in control of 20% of the territory surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh, with this war not ceasing until a year later. In 1994, Russia arranged a ceasefire through its Minsk group, which is co-chaired along with France and the United States, in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), leaving Nagorno-Karabakh as well as other parts of Azerbaijan in Armenian control<sup>3</sup>. Since this agreement, the two nations have been in a frozen dispute with sporadic conflicts, preventing many of the citizens displaced from the original war unable to still return home<sup>4</sup>.

One significant example of a flare up in tensions between these two groups occurred in 2016<sup>5</sup>. Within four days in April, fighting on the border along Nagorno-Karabakh resulted in over 300 casualties. A ceasefire was once again announced, yet violations of this agreement followed that led tensions to still remain high as can be seen with the escalation of this crisis in 2020. Skirmishes on the border of Nagorno-Karabakh began once again in July of 2020, with many Azerbaijan citizens calling for war with Turkey in support. Azerbaijan and Turkey have long been allied in events as Turkey helped the nation gain its independence from the Russian Empire in 1918 and recognized its independence in 1991 after the Soviet Union collapsed<sup>6</sup>. However, Turkey's support of Azerbaijan has only further fueled this conflict by angering Armenians. Many citizens of Armenia see Turkey's support as a continuation of the Armenian Genocide, where the Ottoman government displaced and massacred over 1 million Armenians. Conflict officially broke out on September 27, resulting in over 1000 deaths in less than one month. Armenia accused Azerbaijan of attacking civilian settlements within Nagorno-Karabakh while Azerbaijan claimed they were running a military offense to protect their own citizens from Armenia's activity. This outbreak has yet to be ceased and is seen as even more serious as now the possibility of Turkey and Russia entering the conflict could lead to further damage and devastation. Three truces have been attempted, yet all have failed as each side accused the other of breaking the ceasefire. With three failed attempts at peace, little is known what will become of this conflict, and if it will result in another war between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the state of Nagorno-Karabakh<sup>7</sup>.

To understand why the involvement of Turkey on Azerbaijan's side has only worked to further escalate into the formation of a war, a look must be taken into the historical conflicts between Muslims Turks and Christian Armenians. Since Armenia was first absorbed into the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century, non-Muslim citizens were treated as second class people by both Turkish and Kurdish neighbors. Within the Ottoman Empire, Christians were not considered equal to Muslims in practically any way, with laws and regulations even put in place over time that divided these religions. For instance, under Ottoman rule Christians were forced to





pay higher taxes than Muslims and they were permitted from testifying against any Muslim within a court. Despite these restrictions placed, Armenians still thrived, with their success in education and wealth for citizens fostering resentment in many Muslim Turks. These resentments turned into a greater distrust of Armenians and would influence the actions taken as the Ottoman Empire began to fall in the 19th century and Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid II rose to power. The first massacre of Armenians would thus result in 1894 and last for two years. Known as the Hamidian massacres, it is estimated that between 100,000 to 300,000 Christian Armenians were killed as Turkish military officials, soldiers, and citizens destroyed cities and attacked these people<sup>8</sup>. This massacre was mainly fueled by the beginning riots of Armenians for liberation from the empire.

In 1908, a new government known as the nationalist Young Turks came into power and brought with them a desire to rid any non-Muslims from their region. After the Turks entered World War I on the side of Germany and the Austro-Hungarian empire, tensions continued to rise. Armenians began to volunteer and raise support for the Russian Army in opposition to Turks, and these actions caused the Turkish government to view all Armenian citizens as traitorous threats. As can be seen, the initial disdain for Christian Armenians coupled with the growing distrust of these people by the Ottoman Turks over history would lead to the Armenian Genocide. On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began arresting and massacring Armenians intellectuals and people of power. Soon after this day, Armenian citizens were stripped away from their homes and belongings and forced into death marches through the Mesopotamian Desert without food, water, or many supplies. Killing squads were also formed by the Turks to essentially erase all Christianity from the region. Adult Christians were drowned, crucified, burned alive, raped, forced to be slaves, and shot by the masses, while the Turkification campaign kidnapped children in hopes of converting them to Islam. It is estimated that from the time this horrific genocide began to when it ended in 1922, out of the 2 million Armenians that had been in the Ottoman Empire, less than 388,000 remained<sup>9</sup>. After the Ottoman Empire fell, the government leaders of the Young Turks fled and faced no prosecutions for the atrocious acts they enacted against the Christian Armenians.

The acts of the Armenian Genocide and the history leading up to it demonstrate the long standing conflicts between Muslims and Christians as well as explains Armenia's refusal to stand down for the Nagorno territory when in the past their citizens have been stripped and displaced from many other regions. In attempting to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis, both history and current events must be addressed<sup>10</sup>. Considering that the descendents of many Ottoman Turks still live within Azerbaijan after occupying the nation while the Ottoman Empire was in control, religious tensions are still an issue. The human rights violations that have already occurred through the death and displacement of both Azerbaijan and Armenian citizens must be resolved and war between these surrounding regions must also be prevented. Furthermore, as both countries have claim to the region one must consider the impacts of borders, religion, past events, as well as which nation is currently in control in resolving both the superficial tensions between Azerbaijan and Armenia as well as the deep distrust and hate between Christians and Muslims, specifically those Armenian and Turkish.

## UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

While the UN has yet to adopt any resolutions addressing the current renewal of the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis in 2020, past actions were taken involving the conflict within the



1990s. One of these resolutions includes Resolution 822, which was adopted by the Security Council on April 30, 1993 and focused on an immediate ceasefire between the two hostile countries and the withdrawal of Armenian forces occupying territory in Azerbaijan<sup>11</sup>. Other resolutions passed during this time include Resolution 853<sup>12</sup>, 874<sup>13</sup>, and 884<sup>14</sup>. Resolution 853 further reaffirmed the need for a ceasefire and also encouraged Russia's Minsk group to facilitate the end of this conflict. Resolution 874 also builds upon the last two resolutions made while also urging that both countries refrain from violating any humanitarian laws and focus on the establishment of a ceasefire. Resolution 884 lastly focused on condemning the violations of the ceasefire that had been committed by both Azerbaijan and Armenia while also reaffirming the past documents.

Going back to the current crisis occurring this year, the UN has focused more so on taking action than on passing resolutions and documents. For instance, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has pressed the need for a ceasefire once again. However, due to the fact that no aid can reach the Nagorno-Karabakh region without Azerbaijan's consent, and taking into account many border issues due to COVID19, it is practically impossible for any organization to provide help to the struggling region and its citizens caught in the crossfire. The Security Council has begun to discuss these issues in private, but no solidified actions have been taken to address the growing threat of war between these two nations. However, it is believed that this UN body will eventually side with many other countries in calling for the return to the October 10 Moscow ceasefire agreement in hopes that a shaky peace can be restored in order to provide humanitarian aid to those displaced and suffering<sup>15</sup>.

As stated previously, practically no international aid can currently reach the Nagorno-Karabakh area, yet some organizations still work to end the current rising conflict. The European Union has also worked to encourage the end of this conflict in partnership with organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC has been able to maintain a permanent place of office within the Nagorno-Karabakh region since the beginning of this conflict, and has attempted to provide both countries with medical supplies to hospitals despite the current COVID19 pandemic making it extremely difficult. With more and more citizens from the surrounding Nagorno-Karabakh region being displaced as their homes and schools and places of work become under fire, the ICRC is struggling to provide necessary aid and shelter while also working to keep the number of COVID19 cases low<sup>16</sup>.

Overall, while the United Nations has yet to take action on the renewal of this longstanding conflict, bodies and organizations have been looking to the past actions of the Security Council and the OSCE in order to make plans on how to reinstate a ceasefire that will actually work, provide aid to both sides of the conflict including the many displaced citizens from both Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as find a way to end the dispute over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

### **CASE STUDY: Armenia**

Before taking a closer look into Armenia's role and claims within this conflict, it is important to understand their history of oppression in the Middle East. The root of Armenia's cultural claims for Nagorno-Karabakh despite the land claims of Azerbaijan and support of Turkey, a major influence throughout the region, extend even further back than Soviet interference in the region<sup>17</sup>.



The control of the Middle East by the Ottoman Empire during World War I signified a gruesome point in Armenian history. In the midst of religious indifference between the Muslim Ottoman Turks and the Christian Armenians, the Turks treated the Armenians as inferior, despite their undeniable growth under the Ottoman Empire: the Armenians represented a more educated and wealthier denomination than the Turks. As the Turks grew to resent Armenian success within their Empire, they became even more skeptical of them - claiming that they were more loyal to regional Christian governments (led by the Russians), than they were to Muslim ones. The Turks incessantly abused the Armenians, eventually responding to their protests by killing demonstrators, raiding Armenian villages, massacring entire communities, and driving thousands more out of the area<sup>18</sup>.

This situation is important to understand, as in the present day, Turkey still denies claims of genocide amidst their support of Azerbaijan against the Armenians, and Armenians see Turkey's unforgivable past actions of murder and displacement as justification to their claims to Nagorno-Karabakh. We will discuss the influence of Turkey more in the second case study, but it is important to understand the root of Armenia's claims to the land before considering solutions<sup>19</sup>.

Another important proxy-interest (arguably in favor of Armenia) within this conflict is Russia. Hoping to increase the influence of Christianity within the Middle East since the fall of the Ottoman empire, Russia has roles throughout many Middle East conflicts such as Syria. Although credited with liberating the Armenian people from the Ottoman Empire, Russia has done relatively little to help the residents of Nagorno-Karabakh, as the nation still sells weapons to both Armenia and Azerbaijan. Even more so, Armenia has suffered more and more under Russia's wing, as in the past decade, Russia has focused more on their role in the Syrian Civil War, threatening the security of 94% of Armenia's weapons stockpile and leaving the nation to suffer under abandoned Russian-brokered ceasefire agreements such as that of 1994, which fell through in 2016 and again in 2020<sup>20 21</sup>.

Unfortunately, Armenia's role in this conflict has not changed much since 1994, or even since the fall of the Ottoman Empire, but in September of 2020, unrest grew within the area. Fighting resumed, and in the following November, another Russian-brokered ceasefire caused an uproar within Armenian communities all around the world. After months of violent exchanges between Armenians and Azerbaijanis in the Nagorno-Karabakh territory, Russia demonstrated, once again, that helping Armenia is not necessarily in their best interest, as they brokered a ceasefire on November 9th, that favored the recent territorial gains of Azerbaijan. This agreement, signed by Armenian Prime Minister, Nikol Pashinyan, and monitored by Turkey caused an even greater uproar in the Armenian community, accusing the Prime Minister of betraying his citizens in the area who have spent the past months fighting, protecting their families, and even burning down their homes and community buildings to prevent Azerbaijani and Turkish advances<sup>22 23</sup>.

Ultimately, the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh is far from over, because although Armenia has few allies, their cultural ties to the land have made them resilient to recent advances. It is important to note that this topic is constantly developing and changing, so it is crucial to make note of advancements and changes past when this paper is posted.

## CASE STUDY: Turkey



Although we've addressed the role of the Ottoman Empire and present-day Turkey in the murder and displacement of their Armenian residents near the fall of the Ottoman Empire, it is important to note that this is not nearly the full extent of Turkey's transgressions against the Armenian people<sup>24</sup>.

Although many nations, such as the United States, have formally begun to recognize Turkey's actions in WWI as "genocide," Turkey continues to denote their own actions as a natural consequence of war time, refusing to take any sort of responsibility for the millions of lives lost and the thousands more displaced. The only acknowledgement of Turkish responsibility in the matter was in a condolence speech given by current Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, but he still refused to use the term "genocide". This refusal to adequately acknowledge past actions is one of many sources for Armenia's anger and belief that they have a right to the Nagorno-Karabakh territory<sup>25 26</sup>.

In examining Turkey's current motives to secure the Nagorno-Karabakh territory for Azerbaijan, it is important to note their past actions and other motives within the Middle East. Even since the dismantling of the "Special Organization" of young Turks whose goal was to defend the Arab roots of the area against Christian and Western influence, loyalists to their goal still invoke anti-Armenian rhetoric that is responsible for Turkey's stance against them and their Russian allies. As Turkey is emerging as a greater power in the Middle East because of President Erdogan's participation in alliances such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) and NATO, the nation has been outwardly critical of their inability to have more power in the international community, their slogan being "The World is Bigger than Five" - referring the Big Five nations of the Security Council. Therefore, especially considering their influence in other nations such as Cyprus, former Kurdistan, Afghanistan, and Syria, it is likely that Turkey will not give up their stance against Armenia anytime soon<sup>27 28</sup>.

The fact that Turkey's influence is only growing in the Middle East, arguably surpassing that of Russia, poses a future threat to Armenia's security, which is a possibility that should be acknowledged within this committee.

## QUESTIONS

1. What changes have occurred within the Nagorno-Karabakh territory since this paper was finalized? We encourage you to stay up to date on your research until the conference, as updates are being published daily and the situation is constantly changing.





## Surf City XVIII HBHS MUN

Security Council #2  
January 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>

2. How does your nation view the conflict and which country does it back?
3. Do you believe that other nations should become involved with this conflict?
4. What can be done about the underlying religious conflicts between these two nations as well as Muslims and Christians in general?
5. What is the best way to prevent war between these nations and facilitate aid to all those citizens displaced by the ongoing conflict?
6. How has/will the current COVID19 pandemic affect both the conflict as well as the health and safety of displaced and struggling citizens?



## TOPIC B: Disarmament in North Korea

### BACKGROUND

The history of nuclear weapons dates back to 1938 when Otto Hahn, Lise Meitner, and Fritz Strassman discovered nuclear fission<sup>29</sup>. That same year in Berlin, Germany the first atomic bomb was created by nuclear physicists, significantly sparking a new realm of technology and weaponry that would later be used in World War II by the United States in regards to their bombings in Hiroshima killing 80,000 people and Nagasaki killing 75,000<sup>30</sup>. Nuclear fission is when there is a split of two or more in the nucleus of an atom of radioactive material which allows for the releasement of a large force of energy as a result. It is important to recognize that while atomic bombs use nuclear fission as a source of energy, other nuclear weapons such as thermonuclear weapons or hydrogen bombs use both nuclear fission and nuclear fusion. Nuclear fusion also produces a tremendous amount of energy but it consists of the fusion of two or more nuclei to consist of a heavier nucleus as a whole.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) went into effect in 1970 with the main leaders of the debate being the United States and the Soviet Union. During that time period, the only countries who were working with nuclear weapons were the United States, Great Britain, France, China, and the U.S.S.R but North Korea would join that group later on. The goal of the treaty was for the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons and energy in order to reach full disarmament and establish international peace<sup>31</sup>. Those who signed who were nuclear weapon states were expected to refrain from usage and those who were non-nuclear weapon states agreed to hold back from acquiring nuclear weapons to begin with. In 1985 North Korea signed the NPT but they withdrew in 2003, claiming that the United States had been targeting them through the establishment of a blockade and military punishment<sup>32</sup>. Article X of the NPT allows for countries to withdraw if they feel as if their own interests are being jeopardized due to their involvement in the treaty<sup>33</sup>. However, Article X does not state guidelines to determine whether or not a party is acting out of good faith but some argue that customary international law requires it and that North Korea failed to meet that prerequisite. Another aspect of their absence would be that while leaving the NPT, they are no longer in compliance with the SafeGuards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This agreement allowed for observations performed by IAEA inspectors on North Korean nuclear material and facilities. It is worth taking into consideration the powers of the Security Council on this topic as the committee has the power to deem the actions of North Korea a threat to peace due to the relations between their withdrawal and the intent to resume missile testing, reactivate nuclear facilities, and the forced leave of IAEA inspectors. They also have the capability to impose a multitude of sanctions ranging from economic, diplomatic, and military involvement.

North Korea's past involvement of nuclear weaponry follows a timeline with consistent patterns that must be recognized and addressed when researching key points that surround the topic. A month after they left the NPT, the United States confirmed that they had already reactivated a nuclear reactor with the intent of producing plutonium which is known to be used for weapons. However, North Korea chose not to declare that they had nuclear weapons until April, leaving room for question on why they waited around 2 months later for the announcement. In 2005, North Korea announced they would be willing to give up their entire nuclear program as long as South Korea, Russia, China, the United States, and Japan gave them



oil, energy, and security. However, in 2006, they conducted their first nuclear test which would end up being just the beginning as they continued to test in 2009, 2013, 2016, and 2017<sup>34</sup>. Their first 2016 test in January was especially significant due to the fact that what is assumed to be a miniaturized hydrogen bomb had an explosive yield between 4 to 6 kilotons. Moreover, that September, another nuclear test was held with a seismic activity of 5.3 in magnitude and an explosive yield of 10 kilotons<sup>35</sup>. This example proves the growth of North Korea's nuclear capabilities day by day as this explosion was 10 times stronger than what was being produced 10 years prior and equivalent to the strength of the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Another instance of North Korea ignoring their agreements with other countries and the Security Council resolutions would be the opening of a new nuclear enrichment facility with 2,000 centrifuges and the potential to produce highly-enriched uranium (HEU) bomb fuel<sup>36</sup>. It was not until 2 years later that they were willing to temporarily shut down the facility in order to receive food aid from the United States as the country was in an impoverished state<sup>37</sup>. It is worth understanding that North Korea has been persuaded to pause their nuclear advancements by incentives in events such as this; unfortunately, they tend to eventually either end the agreement they signed onto or simply choose to ignore what they promised to do, which essentially encompasses where the problem lies.

Kim Jong-Un's presidency also plays a major role in the disarmament process as he exemplifies pride and ambition in the improvement of North Korea's weapons. He has mentioned in a public speech that he believes their extensive arsenal is not only key for their national security but is also the reason that they will be able to defend themselves from "high-intensity pressures and military threats and blackmailing by imperialistic reactionaries and hostile forces."<sup>38</sup> He makes the claim that his nuclear deterrence will be the reason that North Korea will never face another war on their own land and speculations assume that they have around 20-30 nuclear warheads as of 2019<sup>39</sup>. The harmful effects of his aspirations were seen in 2014 when in preparation for another nuclear test, 500 artillery shells were fired into the Yellow Sea and 100 of those landed in the territory owned by South Korea. Angered, South Korea fired 300 back and released fighter jets to the Northern Limit Line, an area known as a place of conflict in the past. Kim Jong-Un's eagerness to further the development of his nuclear technology has proven to incite violence and damage North Korea's relations with other nations. Currently in 2020, the South Korean military has confirmed that North Korea has taken part in firing at least three unidentified projectiles for the second time in the span of two weeks<sup>40</sup>. Once again, this was done in violation of the current Security Council resolutions but Kim argues that he declared that the United States had until the end of 2019 to initiate real progress in terms of their denuclearization discussions and that they failed to do so. Because of this, Kim stated that he would no longer be held back by the desires of the United States and hints towards new projects including the possibility of advanced forms of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) and submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). There is controversy on whether or not North Korea's actions are truly developmental based or if there is political motive to threaten other countries including the United States that can be found as well. It is vital to acknowledge the multiple factors that led to North Korea's large weaponry expansion and what has already failed in the past in order to consider what can be done for the future.

## UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT



The United Nations (UN) recognizes the concerns created by North Korea's nuclear involvement and has taken the incentive to address them through numerous resolutions. The adoption of S/RES/1718 was a unanimous decision and consisted of a demand for North Korea to stop their current missile and nuclear tests as well as asks that they return to the NPT and the Six-Party Talks<sup>41</sup>. Sanctions were also imposed, as member states were prohibited from the "direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer" of heavy weaponry, materials and technologies related to North Korea's Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) program, and luxury goods in general. Building off of that resolution was the creation of S/RES/1874 where North Korea was asked to join the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty but they refused to sign. Member states were now asked to inspect North Korean cargo if there was belief that materials and technologies used for their arsenal were present. Moreover, financial support for trade with North Korea was prohibited if it would contribute to nuclear or ballistic missile activities; they were still allowed to provide humanitarian support as long as North Korea made it clear what the purpose was going to be for it. S/RES/2270 touched on a variety of issues after North Korea launched their four nuclear tests. This includes a desire for North Korea to conform to the guidelines of the Biochemical Weapons Convention and the Chemical Weapons Convention along with a prohibition of training North Korean nationals in any manner that could help their proliferation. Two new financial sanctions consist of prohibiting member states from beginning new bank branches or financial institutions in North Korea and from hosting any North Korean financial institution who supports their nuclear activities. Lastly, there was the establishment of S/RES/2375 after their sixth nuclear test, centered around imports and exports. For imports, petroleum products were capped at 2 million barrels a year, crude oil amounts were frozen, and all natural gas and condensate was banned. There was a full ban put onto textile exports and asset freezes on North Korea's Central Military Commission and the Propagation and Agitation Department were highly encouraged.

In 2019, the Security Council had a meeting where the Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific touched on how North Korea's developments of ICBMs and SLBMs violated their resolutions and the growing problem it is becoming<sup>42</sup>. He stresses the necessity for diplomacy between North Korea and the United States as well as North Korea and South Korea in order to establish peace in the future; because of the North Korean Foreign Ministry warning that the world witnessing a real ballistic missile soon was highly probable, this creates a great concern for the safety of all member states. Within the same year, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released a report highlighting how North Korea's excessive focus on nuclear development is the cause of the detrimental effects faced by 10.9 million citizens who are food insecure and have little to no access to clean water in the country. North Korea is known for violations of standard human rights ranging from a lack of free speech to the only sources of food, shelter, and healthcare being attainable to those who bribe state officials<sup>43</sup>. The UN suggests that if the government were to cut funds from their nuclear projects, there would be more money to improve the overall well-being of their people, but North Korea showed no interest when it was proposed. Throughout the years, the Security Council has been extremely active in the disarmament of North Korea but a lack of implementation of their regulations and suggestions has been noticed.

### **CASE STUDY: The Trump Administration**

Even before North Korea began to develop a nuclear arsenal, their history of monitoring terrorist actions and allegedly participating in the counterfeit drug trade, resulted in the United



States interference, stationing forces in both South Korea and Japan. Following World War II, when Soviet forces declared war on Japan and invaded North Korea to keep as a stronghold, the United States mobilized military forces in South Korea on September 8, 1945, hoping to restore balance in the area and prevent South Korea from being susceptible to Japanese control<sup>44</sup>. Although American influence in this conflict is extensive, the most prominent US-intervention, which is indicative of the current policies of the Trump Administration, is when the United States led United Nations forces to recapture Seoul for South Korea in 1950, maintaining a predominantly interventionist policy for decades to come<sup>45 46</sup>.

The election of 2016 and transition of power from Obama to Trump immediately signified a change in US foreign policy. President Obama had maintained a policy of “strategic patience” towards North Korea since Kim Jong-Un assumed power in 2011, just before Obama’s second term. Obama’s policy had an important influence on Trump’s actions, as the transition of power in 2016 signified a sharp turn in American politics within almost every political topic (but especially foreign policy), influencing Trump’s plans to create a relationship with the North Korean dictator<sup>47</sup>.

Trump’s foreign policy statement was explicitly based on security and military expansion, as he wanted to pursue a relationship with Kim Jong-Un on the basis of an “America First” approach where “old enemies become friends”<sup>48</sup>.

Shortly after President Trump started his term in the White House, North Korea was quick to expand their nuclear testing arsenal, test-firing 6 ICBMs by September of 2017, further implying that they had developed hydrogen bomb technology. In response, President Trump took to Twitter, threatening “fire and fury” and to “totally destroy” North Korea. After a series of insignificant Twitter exchanges, North Korea fired a seventh ICBM in November of 2017, later declaring themselves as a global nuclear power. Following greater escalation with tests and US flyovers in the Korean DMZ, a North Korean official, Kim Yong Chol, finally expressed interest in peace talks between Trump and Kim Jong-Un in February of 2018. At this time, which also neared the start of the Winter Olympics in Pyongyang, South Korea, the two leaders made plans to meet for a summit in a neutral location. On May 10, 2018, Trump announced that a summit between himself and Kim Jong-Un would take place on June 12th in Singapore. The summit initially showed promise, as Kim Jong-Un requested a second summit, which took place on February 28th of 2019 in Hanoi, Vietnam, but following this second summit, North Korea showed no signs of deescalation, launching another ICBM test the following May. Shortly after, the two leaders met once again in the Korean DMZ, but little progress was made<sup>49</sup>.

Although the two made a few civil exchanges and made history in their relationship, there was no evident progress by means of disarmament, as Kim Jong-Un has shown no signs of halting his nuclear progress and has continued to launch ICBMs, MLRSs, and SLBMs despite alleged nuclear agreements and the “good relationship” between the two leaders. Therefore, as the United States transitions to a new President and new foreign policy, it is important to explore how future changes and progressions in foreign policy could influence North Korea’s actions, and what type of actions could be successful in the future.

### **CASE STUDY: South Korea**

Although the previous case study explored early tensions between North Korea and South Korea after World War II following the United States, Soviet Union, and Japan intervening in the area, it is important to realize how these actions affected South Korea in the long term.





The results of the Korean War were disastrous for South Korea: they suffered terrible casualties from both military and civilians, families were permanently separated on opposite sides of the DMZ, and most of Korean industry was destroyed. With North Korea still posing a threat to their security, US forces remained in South Korea<sup>50</sup>.

The nation was determined to grow despite their poor economic state. After the war, the per capita income of a Korean home was less than \$100 and citizens searched for food in the hills and forests amidst dire food scarcity and many crops being ruined. As their economy began to recover in the 1960s, South Korea took important steps for their economy and foreign policy through partaking in international agreements and bilateral treaties such as the United Nations Development Program, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, which all helped provide needed financial assistance and economic opportunity for the nation<sup>51</sup>.

The significance of this economic growth (in relation to North Korea) is that the nation has been able to thrive despite being located next to the threat of North Korean attack, especially given that South Korea is within range of their ICBMs. When brainstorming solutions, it is important to note the growth South Korea was able to achieve under democratic leadership and international support.

Despite North Korea's reluctance to make progress with nations such as the United States, they have shown their willingness to cooperate with South Korean leaders, as in 2007, trains first made their way through the DMZ, which was the first allowance of travel between the two nations since the Korean War. This was short-lived though, as they later attempted to nullify all military and political agreements with South Korea in 2009. This downward trend only continued when Kim Jong-Un assumed power, as he shut down the joint-industrial zone between North and South Korea and accelerated the nation's nuclear program, with South Korea distinctly within their range. Although slight ammenes were made when South Korea hosted the 2018 Winter Olympics, the two nations remain indifferent towards each other<sup>52</sup>.

Considering these relations, it is important to keep the prosperity and well-being of South Korea in mind when creating plans for nuclear disarmament.



## QUESTIONS

1. What is your country's policy in regards to usage of nuclear weaponry and what actions have they taken towards the disarmament of other nations in general?
2. How might changes in leadership around the world influence North Korea's inclination to cooperate or work towards disarmament?
3. When and where has nuclear disarmament been successfully agreed on in the past? Could a similar approach be successful with North Korea?
4. What motives are associated with maintaining a nuclear arsenal? Why is North Korea reluctant to give up this power? How might you create solutions despite this?
5. Does your country have nuclear weapons? If so, why does your country deserve to have these weapons while North Korea is called to disarm their arsenal? If not, how does your nation feel about the Big 5 Powers?
6. What can be done to incentivize North Korea to comply with the numerous sanctions placed upon them by the Security Council over the last decade? How can overall consistent cooperation with the international community be achieved as well?



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