



Surf City XVIII

Huntington Beach High School



African Union

Topic A: Globalization
&
Topic B: The Coltan Trade

Matthew Baumgartner
Hunter Ruebsamen
Taylor Jackson



Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Huntington Beach High School Model United Nations Program, we would like to welcome you to our 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

Matthew Baumgartner

Hello, my name is Matthew Baumgartner. I am a senior at Huntington Beach High School and will be one of your chairs for the Surf City MUN conference. I have been involved with the MUN program here at HBHS since my freshman year. At school, I run Cross Country and Track. In my free time, I like to do robotics and scale modeling mostly. When I was a sophomore, I remember having a great experience at the Surf City MUN conference, so I hope you do as well. Overall, I hope you will enjoy the committee, and I am excited to see what you will bring to the table in terms of solutions and speaking.

Hunter Ruebsamen

Hello delegates, I'm very excited to welcome you all to Surf City. As a senior at Huntington Beach Highschool, I've had the privilege of being able to participate in the MUN program for nearly four years. When I'm not dedicating myself to chairing or conferencing, I usually like to relax by myself. This ranges from reading an awesome novel or honing my martial arts skills. When I graduate from high school, I intend to become either some sort of computer programmer or a bioengineer. I can't wait to hear your indepth solutions to both topics while also working within the limited budget of an African country.

Taylor Jackson

Welcome to Surf City Delegates! My name is Taylor Jackson and I'm a junior here at Huntington Beach High School. I have been involved in MUN since my freshman year at HBHS. Outside of MUN I love going to the beach, playing softball, and hanging out with friends. I have been playing softball for 10 years and am currently playing at HBHS and on my travel team. On campus I'm involved in Link Crew, the National Honor Society, and on the board of the California Scholarship Federation. I can't wait to "see" you all at Surf City, and wish you the best in committee!

**All Papers are due on January 2, 2020 by 11:59pm to
surfcitymun.au@gmail.com**



TOPIC 1: Globalization

BACKGROUND

The interconnectedness of the 21st century means that the circulation of goods and services from across the globe has never been greater. This is referred to as globalization, and this economic force is a huge driving factor in many of the technological leaps that 1st world countries have made in the past few years. Unfortunately, the structure of these connections is not mutually beneficial to all participants, many of them being the countries of Africa. The continent of Africa has a very complex relationship with the effects of globalization tied with its past history of colonization; a relationship that is still evolving today.

To understand the present day effects of globalization, the history of exploitation and colonialism within Africa must be understood. Large-scale colonialism by European powers was initiated by Belgium monarch, Leopold II. He established a seat of power within the Congo to “civilize” the people and extract resources like rubber. This move prompted the Berlin Conference in which the rest of Europe carved up Africa into multiple spheres of influences.¹ During this period, resources were extracted by African “workers” and sent back to their mother country. When decolonization finally occurred following World War 2, these countries were left with little to no infrastructure, wealth, or even a common language since multiple ethnic groups were grouped together to form a single country. The weakened nature of many of these fledgling states has led to their exploitation by many more powerful nations.

For example, through building infrastructure projects and negotiating trade deals for these African nations, China has accumulated 20% of the continent’s entire debt. Private-sector loans also account for another 32% of the debt.² Both entities wield this debt as a powerful negotiation tool against these smaller countries to obtain rare resources or garner political favor.³ There are various ways in which countries and corporations can acquire the debt of a country, but they generally attempt to propose massive infrastructure projects to these African nations. For instance, Kenya’s new Chinese built railroad has required them to take on a \$4.5 billion loan in addition to a monthly \$1 million dollar payment to China’s Africa Star Railway Operation Company for maintenance fees.⁴ As a result, Kenya is currently leading negotiations with China due to unforeseen costs associated with the project. Many critics see this use of debt as an insidious, subtle form of modern imperialism.⁵ This also extends to foreign aid given out by countries such as the United States. Much of this foreign aid is not free, and comes in the form of loans.⁶ Additionally, U.S money is usually spent on U.S contractors operating in the region, so it is not invested in the country. The credit just circulates between the American government and American corporations.⁷ In exchange for this aid, African governments must shoulder the burden of growing interest rates and increasing deficits.⁸

As of now, Covid restrictions have exacerbated this issue as well, with many of the debts taken on by these African countries now at risk for defaulting. Zambia has become the first victim of this, with the government opting out a \$42.5 million eurobond repayment to investors, due to their obligation to fulfill debt payments to the Chinese government first.⁹ The global



pandemic that Africa faces represents a great threat for the country, and threatens many global markets that the country relies on.

There is also the problem of raw resource exports that African countries rely so heavily on. Referred to as the resource curse, this overreliance on natural resources and the lack of a competitive industrial sector has amplified the negative effects of globalization within the continent. British companies like Acacia Mining Plc and Randgold Resources control 12.5 million ounces of the gold the continent extracts.¹⁰ Other companies like Nestle, Hershey, and Mars are responsible for encouraging the use child labor during the production of Cacao.¹¹ Because of globalization, these foreign companies have managed to extract resources from African countries without reinvesting them in the countries they extract them from. From there, the natural resources are exported out of the country by these foreign companies and refined in other regions. The effect this has is twofold. One, it means that the economies of these African countries are subject to massive boom and declines based on the value of just a few exports. Two, it does not encourage investment in any industrial sector within the continent, since the resources of the country do not stay within the country. Combining this with the historically low trade liberalization of many African countries, and the poor economic situation of the region becomes apparent. While there have been efforts from the African Union to increase trade liberalization, with the AFCTA (African Continental Free Trade Area) representing one of the largest pushes to increase the economic independence and sovereignty of all fellow members, no current solution has addressed the entirety of the issue.

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The United Nations has greatly aided Africa in its fights against colonization. Following World War 2 and the establishment of the UN, a promise of decolonization was established for African countries. This promise would be written within the Charter of the United Nations itself, which called on UN members, who were acting as protectorates for territories outside their borders, to relinquish their control over said territories in order for these nations to achieve independence and grant them the ability to govern themselves. This call was a great success, and has seen every country within Africa gain independent sovereignty from their former colonizers over the past few decades. Further action by the UN against colonialism includes Resolution 1514, which calls to end colonialism in all of its forms across the globe and Resolution 65/119 which declares the period 2011-2020 as the third international decade for the eradication of colonialism.¹²

While the UN has not directly combatted the causes of globalization within Africa, it has attempted to limit its effects. For example, the UN has also called for greater equality within the global community. In addition, the UNDP has expressed concern that some of the poorest countries on Earth are not reaping the benefits of globalization and has tried to spread awareness of the issue.¹³ Focusing on millennium development goals, which would later be expanded to the sustainable development goals, was another call from the UN to increase the economic independence of third-world countries. To achieve these outlined goals, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) intends to work with the African Union on the AFCTA by partnering with nongovernmental organizations and utilizing the private sector. This also included restructuring part of the UNECA into compartmentalized units, with each being



structured to deal with pertinent issues to globalization like taxation or trade.¹⁴ With AFCTA being recently implemented, it is unknown how involved the UNECA truly will be in their aid to combat the ill effects of globalization within Africa.

CASE STUDY: NIGERIA

Globalization has become prevalent within Nigeria's economic, cultural, political, social sectors throughout the Information Age. The process of communication and technological advancements due to globalization has greatly influenced trade, inventions, and has even generated a connection with countries around the globe. Developing countries, like Nigeria, are often drawn into globalization within developed countries "global mentality". When used correctly, this mentality can create borderless partnerships to sustain economic and financial incorporation. However, weak policies, poor planning, and unstable governments often leave these developing countries in the dust.¹⁵ In a world with rapid globalization, countries who do not maintain their growth and development will be left behind.

Dating back to 1958, globalization within Nigeria has been commonly connected to the first exports of oil to London. Oil became Nigeria's primary export, precisely when they needed it the most, as in 1960 Nigeria gained independence from Britain. In a sense, this economic basis should have laid the foundation for a strong economy, however it became nothing more than a wasted opportunity.¹⁶ Following this economic and political failure, Nigeria recognized the importance of utilizing their oil industry in order to better the average standard of living for Nigerians. Since the 1970's oil within Nigeria accounted for 90-95% of their foreign exports, 85% of government profits, and 50% of GDP. This employment of globalization is evident through Nigeria's signing of the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade and the World Trade Organization agreement to embark on their own standards of trade.¹⁷ These agreements have become even more apparent in the New Age of Information Technology, allowing countries who utilize technology within their borders to explore the benefits on a global scale. Nigeria's persistent commitment to mitigate the negative impacts of globalization while searching for beneficial plans of action has become vividly evident in the World Bank's projected 2.9% annual GDP growth. This GDP growth is a result of the barrier free international trade that globalization brings to Nigeria. Next, globalization has enriched Nigeria economically, religiously, and even culturally. A wide variety of items and ideas have been circulated around the world, resulting in an international consumption of services, goods, knowledge, and technology. Global marketplaces can be accessed from anywhere in the world, as the internet has widened the options available.

Globalization within Nigeria has resulted in many positive outcomes, as seen above, however recent Sub-Saharan African studies examine the effect of globalization in a south-east Nigerian rural village. Chosen for its representation of isolated and poorly implemented infrastructure, this study surveyed 300 households. This village is extremely poor as 87% of the population earn less than \$1 (US) per day and 94% earn less than \$2 (US) per day.¹⁸ When globalization began to positively impact a large oil based city, Port Harcourt, around 20% of the village population migrated to take advantage of the financial opportunities. While migrant workers began to make moderately higher revenue than the non-migrant workers, the change of



relative prices lowered the migrant workers' income.¹⁹ Hence, proving that globalization is not the purely benevolent economic force many 1st world countries make it out to be.

Moreover, these negative impacts have been visibly present within Nigeria's economy. As globalization spread throughout Nigeria, the gap between wealthy and poor became bigger and bigger. Although this may not seem like a very big negative influence, ever-increasing rates create a concentrated flow of money in a few elite individuals. The administering of wealth in Nigeria and other parts of the world will never be fair, however a separated country leads to future issues. In addition, a constantly fluctuating economy, due to varying levels of oil and consumers, creates an unstable basis for Nigeria. This unreliable network of income within the country spreads fear and distress among businesses, government officials, and leaders. For example, during the coronavirus pandemic, western countries took a large hit to their economies. This global shock resulted in many different countries losing imports and exports. Furthermore, fear and uncertainty have a large impact on the social sector of Nigeria. Unstable economies result in cutbacks, leading to job loss and a large increase in unemployment rates. Overall, the impact of globalization on a social level creates a constant panic of job security.

Another effect of globalization within Nigeria is seen in Nigerian youth. There are many positive effects including, technology and a rapid transit of goods. Technology has improved communication throughout Nigeria within telecommunication infrastructures, data flow, wireless phones, and even cross border flows of data. Children and teenagers have been able to utilize these gifts to the best of their abilities and improve their livelihoods as well. Children, teenagers, and young adults are able to grow in school and research ideas that were once unattainable. Computers, phones, and internet access all have brought major transformations in Nigeria during the current Age of Information. Moreover, a constant flow of transportation and trade, by land, air, and water have also impacted younger generations. Globalization has brought new opportunities and a chance of a better life. Although job security is unreliable, as discussed in the previous passage, a growing economy allows for short term opportunities, and when utilized correctly, these financial opportunities within Nigeria will see major improvements. Although globalization brings many amazing technological and trade opportunities to Nigerian youth, it also brings many dangerous ideas. Internet access brings many difficult issues to Nigeria's strong Islamic and Christian cultures. Including, pornographic material, illegal online activities, money laundering, child abuse, and even international terrorism. Tolerating and solving all of these issues is difficult within Nigeria, as many other national problems are more important. Furthermore, Nigerian Universities have become more urban in a unmodern country. Clothes have become more exposing, causing great disapproval from older generations. Many who dress according to this new style often show exposure of body parts, disrespecting Nigerian culture. Another negative impact of globalization within the youth of Nigeria is human trafficking. Many young girls are persuaded and lured into unique destinations that they are not adapted to. Women are placed in brothels and other situations, forced into sexual exploitation. Overall, globalization provides many unique opportunities to the youth of Nigeria, but this new accessibility comes with a price.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Is it better for African countries to do away with this vital foreign aid in an attempt to gain more economic independence for themselves, or will it create more harm than good?
2. Many believe that a united African continent could work together to liberalize trade and its many countries. How should your country go about uniting the many disparate, factitious nations of Africa in order to accomplish this and why should they agree with your proposal?
3. If your country is in debt to foreign nations as a result of foreign aid or infrastructure investment, what is your plan to develop a system to pay it back or negotiate a new deal? How do you plan to help fellow African countries also accomplish this.?
4. Foreign companies have long exploited Africa's resources, but also offer a vital job market and investment scheme to these countries. How should your country balance the two issues?
5. Covid-19 has placed an extra burden on the trade African countries receive, and increases the risk of debt defaulting. What plan could be implemented to alleviate this burden?



TOPIC 2: The Coltan Trade

BACKGROUND

Coltan is a black ore found in the Congo region of Africa, specifically in the countries of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda. When refined, the mineral becomes metallic tantalum used in almost every electronic device that contains a tantalum capacitor.²⁰ When coltan was first used commonly in electronics, developed countries like Canada provided most of the world's coltan supply. However, in recent years starting in the 2000s, the trend has shifted to obtaining supply from the Congo, becoming the epicenter of the world's coltan supply. The demand for coltan has significantly increased due to more electronics development, which has made the price of coltan rise to 600 US Dollars per 1 kilogram.²¹ Electronics companies like Sony continue to buy more coltan, making them willing to pay higher costs for the valuable mineral. At the current rates, the demand for coltan continues to grow by 7 percent every year. As a result of this demand, coltan mining has caused many issues, including depleting the environment, financing wars, and poor working environments.²²

The Congo Basin Rainforest is home to roughly 600 tree species and 10,000 animal species. Annually, 1200 square miles of the Congo rainforest are cut down to support the growing economy of these African countries with Coltan mining being a significant contributing factor.²³ Common clearing methods like Slash and burn techniques, used to make space for the mines, and the increased human activity resulting from miners working the area further this degradation of the environment. Additionally the lack of controlled, monitored development surrounding the Congo Basin area has led to many coltan miners hunting the local wildlife, putting even greater strain on the ecosystem.²⁴ Several miners participate in the illegal poaching of endangered species in the Congo to make more money through the illicit animal trade. This illegal poaching causes environmental decay as keystone species such as the western lowland gorilla can be reduced or completely wiped out in areas near the coltan mines. Another threat to the environment as a result of coltan mining is river dumping. Most Coltan mines are near rivers. As a result, many mines authorize river dumping in which unwanted minerals get dumped into the river. This dumping can cause vast issues associated with water pollution and kill much of the river's fish. Because of these actions taken by the coltan mine companies, many Congo Basin Natives known as Pygmies are at threat. The Pygmies are a hunter-gatherer group who exclusively live off of the resources in the Congo Basin. As these resources continue to decrease, many of the Pygmy people face a rapid decrease in population.²⁵

Rapid exploitation of the coltan miners is another issue caused by the rapid demand for coltan to be mined in the Congo. Due to the increased demand for coltan miners in several different countries, coltan mining companies take advantage of their workers to provide maximum outputs for the mines. Many of the mines rely on miners using only shovels to increase the coltan output as there is a lack of efficient mining technology in countries where coltan is most common. Coltan mining has also been threatening children in recent years, with child labor reportedly occurring in the mines. A report by the European Union found multiple cases of full-time workers in the coltan mines under 12 years of age. It has been reported by the



UN that militia groups often force indigenous people in the Congo to work in the coltan mines with threats of violence.²⁶

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Coltan producing countries often turn to coltan consuming countries to pass laws outlining measures to ban unresponsibly sourced coltan. Recently these measures have been taken by consumer countries. For example, in 2017, the European Union passed a law to be able to identify conflict minerals, minerals that have been mined in areas where there is conflict and ban them from their imports.²⁸

UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The issues associated with the coltan trade involve both the consuming countries and the supplying countries. The UN's international platform offers both sides an opportunity to settle agreements and help end the exploitation coming from the coltan mines. The major UN body that has taken the most action on fighting exploitation from coltan mines is the UN Security Council. In 2009, the Security Council passed two resolutions to address illegal mineral trades occurring in the DRC. The UN identified that illegal trade was occurring between rebel groups occupying the coltan mines and using this occupation to buy illegal weapons to fight the DRC government. These mineral trades with funding violence. The first resolution that the UN passed was Security Council Resolution 1856, which kept the existing mandate to keep peacekeeping forces in the Congo region known as MONUC (United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo).²⁹ Under this resolution, the UN used MONUC forces to monitor illegal rebel groups and trace down their funding sources in coltan, gold, and cobalt mines. The second resolution passed by the security council was Resolution 1857.³⁰ This resolution outlines explicit sanctions that countries in the Congo can use against coltan and other mineral mines illegally owned by rebel groups. The Security Council also urged the governments in countries within the Congo region to ensure that the companies operating mineral mines are official and abide by that specific nation's guidelines. Additionally, the UN enforced an exact 48 day deadline for the states in the Congo to report to the UN about the measures they have taken to stop the mineral trade from funding violent militant groups.



The African Union has also used its intercontinental presence to form mining and trading restrictions on the mineral trade. In 2009 the African Mining Vision formed to understand why that great wealth exists side by side with rampant poverty near mines. The African Mining Vision included a solution that targets tax evasion occurring in coltan mines, which represents a reason as to why governments are not able to profit as much from the coltan mines.³¹ The African Union also targeted government corruption in which governments were misusing the money coming from the coltan mines. They did so by recommending that governments spend a percentage of the funds from the coltan mines on infrastructure and roads to help workers get to and from the mines more easily.

More recently, in 2019, the African Union and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) adopted a strategy to modernize and regulate Africa's mining industry. The approach outlined new educational measures to educate mining executives about environmentally harmful mining tactics. The new plan also had educational programs for workers at the mines on how to use modern equipment to help the mines become more efficient.³² By implementing this, the AU hopes to reduce the wealth divide occurring in the coltan mining industry and reduce the mineral trade's environmental destruction.

CASE STUDY: RWANDA

Following close behind the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda is one of the largest exporters of tantalum, also known as coltan. In 2013 Rwanda was able to export around 28% of the tantalum produced globally, equivalent to 2,466,025 kilograms. In this same year Rwanda was able to profit over \$134 million. This large profit within Rwanda is a direct result of high demands in western industries. During the early 2000's, technology began to reach its peak and has yet to decline. Although this steady income allowed for Rwanda to make a large profit, it soon began to decline as the US Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act were put into place.³³ Both of these acts were set in place on July 21, 2010 in order to eliminate, "the exploitation and trade of conflict minerals originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and adjoining countries [as they were] helping to finance conflict characterized by extreme levels of violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo" (Section 1502).³⁴ The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and their 11 neighboring countries were legally unable to export minerals, including tantalum, outside of their countries as they were funding conflicts. Many groups throughout Central Africa aimed to restore stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and were willing to implement the legislation necessary to do so.

Moreover, the US Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act had a large impact on Rwanda's mining industry. In 2017 the State Minister in charge of the mining sector, Evode Imena, stated that Rwanda was able to earn over \$400 million from exports. The mining field was also able to create over 600,000 jobs for Rwandans allowing them to earn a stable income. Rwanda aimed to utilize their mining industry, consisting of 815 mines, in order to support their economy as a whole.³⁵ First, Rwanda expressed that their government has created



plans for 22 new projects regarding coltan trade and approved 29 new licenses. Specifically, there are 11 quarrying, 17 mineral exploration, and 1 small-scale mining license. These licenses allowed for more mines to be created and ensured their exports were at an all time high. This plan not only bettered Rwanda's economy financially, but also provided hundreds of thousands of jobs for miners. However, in February 2017, Evode Imena was charged with fraud in terms of mining permits. Imena abused his role by partnering with Franci Kayumba and Joseph Kagabo in order to associate with a mining company that was run by his partners' spouses. Imena argued in his defence that he was not aware of the illegal background in his decision. The judge ruled that Imena was granted bail, however Kayumba and Kagabo faced charges that did not qualify bail. Imena was then removed from his position and Rwanda began to scramble, as they invested over \$110.5 million into this project.

In another response to the US Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, Rwanda created the Minerals Traceability Program. This program allowed for all minerals that are mined to be tagged with the location they were from.³⁶ Tagging a minerals location helped decipher where each product was coming from and ensured that companies were sourcing these minerals from safe and conflict-free zones. The Operations-Manager of Wolfram Mining processing LTD, Safari Eria, stated how tagging minerals has been very beneficial in their company and provided a source of traceability. Even local miners have been urged by mining companies to tag minerals and make sustainable adjustments to their daily mining routine. Local miners were specifically targeted on Mining Day in Burera District, which was organized by Gifurwe Wolfram Mining and Processing LTD.³⁷ This day was created to ensure that efforts were being made to improve mining operations by partnering together leaders of mining sectors, government officials, mining companies, and local miners. Mining operations within Rwanda have become more and more traditional in a world moving towards more modern systems, which is why the government has taken it upon themselves to improve the sector and well being of locals.³⁸ For example, the managing director of Wolfram Mining and Processing LTD, Jean Malic Kalima, has made an abundance of progress developing the mining sector over years. Kalima has researched ways for miners to be well treated and supported through insurance and other necessities that many ignore. These small improvements helped boost the work ethic of many individuals in this specific Rwandan mine.³⁹ This mine employs over 1,300 people and has excavated around 15 different minerals each month. These high figures produced optimism within the Wolfram Mining and Processing LTD management, creating a sense of security and confidence for many Rwandan miners.⁴⁰

In addition, although Mining Day in Burera District is very impactful, another big event involving the mining industry within Rwanda is International Mining Day on December 4. This day was celebrated in the capital, Kigali, commemorating the theme, "Professional Mining as Pillar of Growth and Sustainable Development". This theme was specifically chosen as mining had been recognized within Sustainable Development Goals by the World Commission on Environment and Development in their publication of "Our Common Future".⁴¹ Some goals of the commission were to correctly define mining, understand how essential minerals are to sustainability, and analyze data involving metals, fuels, and minerals. The International Mining Day was first created in order to celebrate St. Barbara, which was the patron saint praying for protection and safety for miners in their daily work. Festivities on this day include parades, retirement ceremonies, anniversaries, family trips to mines, and even meeting with mothers of



miners. Saint Barbara is even often seen in the form of statues and paintings in many churches and miner homes.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How can African Nations better leverage the wealth of coltan for their benefit?
2. How can incentives be used to regulate coltan minings destruction on the environment?
3. How can consumer countries play a part in reducing the harmful effects of the coltan trade?
4. How can African nations use whistle blowers to reduce coltan mining companies susceptibility to corruption?
5. How can safe mining practices be implemented in coltan mines in lower developed countries?



Endnotes

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