



GEMS Cambridge International School Abu Dhabi Model of United Nations 2020

CIAMUN

United Nations General Assembly Forth Committee (SPECPOL) Background Guide

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LETTER FROM THE DIAS

Welcome delegates!

It is such an honor to be SPECPOL's chair at CIA's premiere MUN. We cannot fully express or contain my genuine excitement for this cohort of delegates walking in; it's going to be a fun couple of days, that's assured. I'm Omeesha Krishnan and I have been to my fair share of MUNs as a delegate and its extremely exciting being on the other side and being chair. By that, I essentially mean, I know what it's like to be a delegate, especially a first time MUNer. I truly hope this background guide acts as a solid starting point for your further research, so that all of you can fully succeed and have an enriching experience.

Now, to the serious stuff. This committee, like any other, is to be taken with utmost seriousness and I expect all delegates to be completely prepared and have all research in order. Trust me, it is the ONLY way to fully be a part of committee. You want to be prepared and confident, and honestly, if you think about it, even if you're nervous and jittery, at least you would have information to read off of. This background guide is simply a starting point, not the be all and end all!

On a lighter note again, MUNs are great fun and a genuine learning experience. You might not want to admit it, but while MUNs are academically rigorous, they are also extremely enjoyable. These "diametrically opposed" ideas tie together quite harmoniously here. SPECPOL is an amazing space to learn and bounce around ideas from a wide range of topics and holistically absorb an eclectic selection of agendas.

Our best wishes,
Omeesha Krishnan
Chairperson of the SPECPOL Committee

If you want to get in contact with any of the chairs email us to our MUN email at ciamun.specpol@gmail.com.

INTRODUCTION TO THE 4TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE- SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee is the 4th committee of the General Assembly. It was established in 1993 where the 7th committee- Special Political- merged with the 4th committee-Decolonization. These committees were merged as the UN declared the duration of 1990-2000 as the “International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism”. Article 37 of the United Nations Charter states that, “Members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of people who have not yet attained full measure of self- government, recognize the principle that the interest of these territories are paramount”. This is the mandate of this committee.

During the time of creation of the United Nations, around 750 million people were living in colonized territories, and partly due to this committee, the number has been drastically reduced to 2 million and SPECPOL continues to work towards eradicate the scourge of colonialism.

The 4th committee of the General Assembly works on a wide range of topics, ranging from issues persisting from the past, like, atomic radiation, current affairs such as questions relating to information, comprehensive reviews on peacekeeping actions and fragments of the future, like outer space exploration.

At CIAMUN’s simulation of this diverse committee, we will be discussing 2 very different topics, allowing you delegates to acquire a solid grounding in international and current affairs with a view towards understanding what is approaching us in the coming years. The topics to be discussed will be ‘Questions Relating to International Espionage’ and ‘Questions Relating to the Privatization and Colonization of Outer Space’. These topics are of utmost relevance for our collective future. They are thus at the pinnacle of importance for discussion, especially for the 4th committee.

TOPIC A: EXPLORATION OF OUTER SPACE- QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE PRIVATIZATION AND COLONIZATION OF OUTER SPACE

Introduction

Space is the future. Simply put, outer space and its exploration is the key to the further propagation of humankind and knowledge. However, what are the subtle -or sometimes even explicit- political undertones that steer the course of the exploration of the cosmos.

This agenda is based on how past actions and other similar acts such as the current *Scramble for the Arctic* can give insight into what the future might hold in terms of space exploration and the further notion of colonization. My co-chair and myself will be looking for innovative resolutions that act as a prevention rather than a cure to a quickly approaching future that holds the privatization of outer space.

I.e, it will be difficult to gather current information as the situation is barely beginning, rather delegates will have to conduct research upon similar events, specialist articles and analyze their research so as to gain insight upon this topic to then further relate to their individual foreign policies.

So, to help delegates get a secure footing, my co-chair and I have chosen parts of history to serve as a basis for insight and wider reading. The subtopics we will discuss in the guide are, colonialism, the scramble for the Arctic, the US-Soviet space race and the birth of NASA. All this information will be given under the larger topic of *history*.

History

Colonialism is defined as, “control by one power over an area of dependent people”. There were two waves of colonialism, the first in the 15th century, during Europe’s Age of Discovery and the second in the 19th century.

The First Wave of Colonialism

In the Age of Discovery, countries such as Britain, Spain, France, Portugal colonized lands in North and South America. Their motivations can be summed up as,

“God, Gold, and Glory: God, because missionaries felt it was their moral duty to spread Christianity, and they believed a higher power would reward them for saving the souls of colonial subjects; gold, because colonizers would exploit resources of other countries in order to bolster their own economies; and glory, since European nations would often compete with one another over the glory of attaining the greatest number of colonies.”

- JAMILA OSMAN

The persistent logic of colonizers was that, a piece of land was only considered as something that truly exists when colonizers set eyes on it. Lands that were considered ancient by indigenous peoples were tagged as “New” and open to colonization and blatant exploitation by the colonizers.

The Second Wave of Colonization

This wave of colonialism was called “The Scramble for Africa”, and deals with European countries splitting up the African nations amongst themselves as their individual areas of influence. This can also be seen later in Asia.

The theme seen here is that a “new” piece of land is considered to be owned on the first come first serve basis.

The Scramble for the Arctic

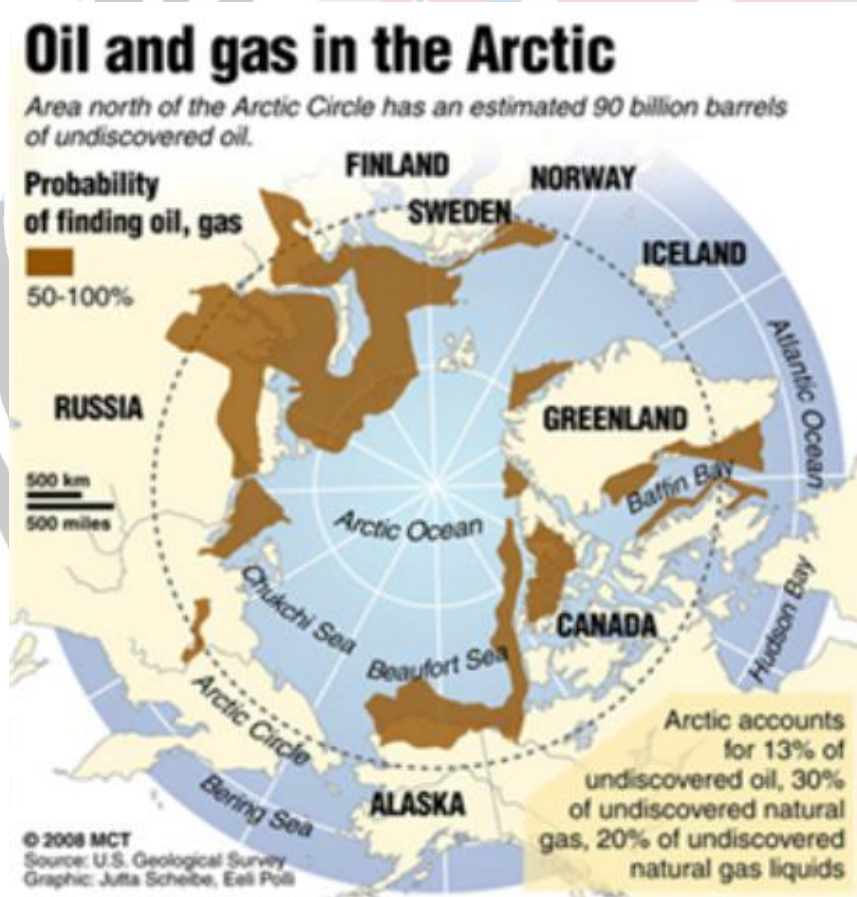
Both the Arctic and the Antarctic regions are still largely unexplored and many countries are competing to own a slice. With treaties in place by the United Nations, international law has caught up with the growing interest in the polar regions.

US and Russia are large contenders in the ‘*Scramble for the Arctic*’ and some are even calling it the new Cold War.

Nations are most interested in these regions as it holds 13% of the world's undiscovered oil and natural gas reserves.

Analysis

It can be inferred that nations simply want to exploit the polar regions for their own use, which conforms to the “compete not cooperate” mentality. With experts calling this the “*Scramble for the Arctic*” and the “*New Cold War*”, it shows how this exploration can restart some of the toughest moments in human history. This also gives insight into how space exploration can cause friction between nations and how it may be carried out. There may be treaties but, that won't stop the competitive nature of nations who can be said to explore with the intent of exploitation, and not discovery, fueled by curiosity and greed.



The Birth of NASA

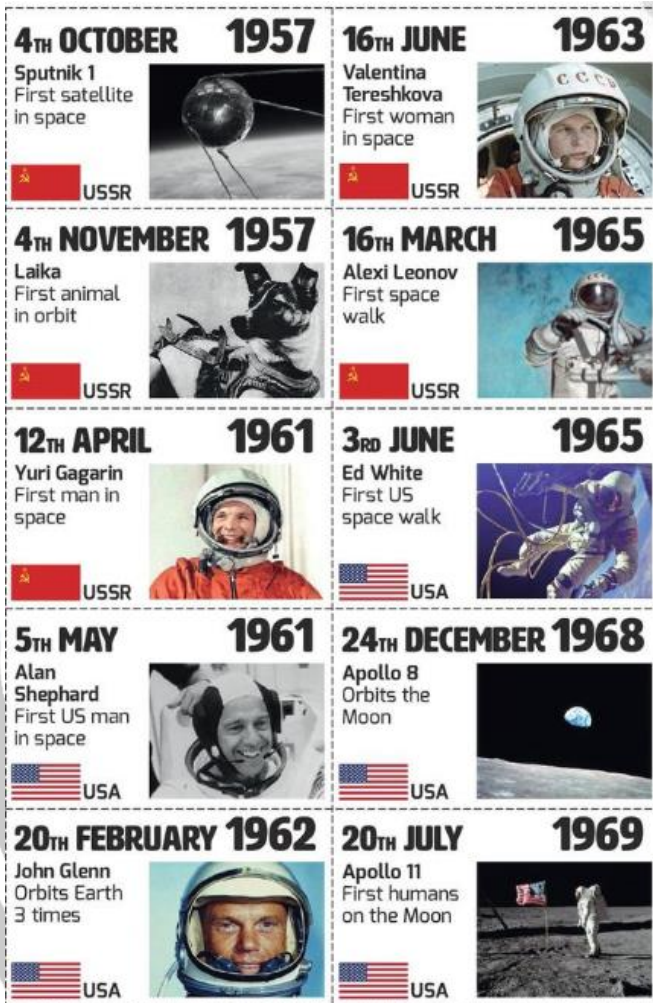
NASA was created in 1958 as a *RESPONSE* to the Soviet Union's Sputnik satellite.

The *Sputnik* launch caught Americans by surprise and sparked fears that the Soviets might also be capable of sending missiles with nuclear weapons from Europe to America. The United States prided itself on being at the forefront of technology, and, embarrassed, immediately began developing a response, signaling the start of the U.S.-Soviet space race.

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Seeing that NASA was established as a retaliation, rather than the US' curiosity, shows that politics plays a larger role than explicitly seen. Inferences can be made because *of motivation* are more due to one-upmanship, then chances are that history could repeat itself. Discovery, exploitation, competition, and then ultimately war.

The Arms Race is similar to the Space Race. The Arms Race is based on the mentality of nations to compete and not cooperate and precedes Cold War. This is an interesting analytical point and has immense contextual value

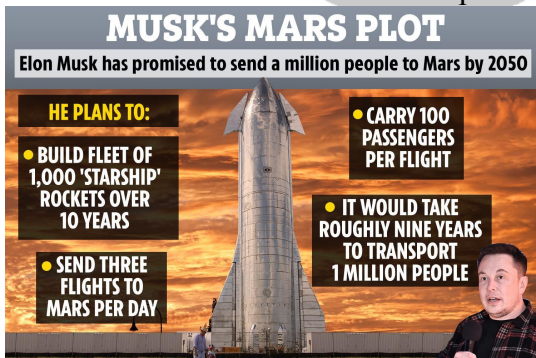


The image above clearly shows how the United States and the Soviet Union explored space as a method of simply showing one-upmanship to the opposing nation, i.e., it was simply a competition of which nation is going to look like the bigger “man” at the end

Summary

All this context reveals that nations work mostly with the intent of seeming more powerful literally and in the eyes of other nations. Subsequently, this shows that exploration will most likely lead to exploitation and that similar repercussions would follow.

In addition, private companies like SpaceX is planning a trip to Mars to further facilitate the eventual colonization of Mars. Elon Musk’s plan is efficiently illustrated in the image below.



With the added interest of private sector companies like Space X, apart from government agencies such as NASA, in creating space agencies and manufacturing rockets for even civilians to use in the future, it shows the capitalistic nature of operations involving outer space exploration.

Questions to Consider

- How will nations manage to work cooperatively for ethical exploration of outer space?

- How can nations and treaties try and prevent competitiveness in the “*Space Race*” which might soon re-emerge?
- How can history give us insights into future operations and how this can help certain nations manage competitiveness?
- How the involvement of the private sector may affect government led operations o Who owns space? is it even possible to own space?
- The ethical implications of the possible threat of the rebirth of the the *Space Race*



TOPIC B- INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY: QUESTIONS RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL ESPIONAGE

Introduction:

What is espionage? According to Merriam-Webster, it is “*the practice of spying or using spies to obtain information about the plans and activities especially of a foreign government or a competing company*”. In this committee we will be focusing on political espionage, its repercussions and its relevance today.

History:

Espionage in Wars

In the First World War, warring powers used the “secret war” to try to break the balance on the battlefield. Generally created in the previous few decades, intelligence and security services saw strong development during the war: the warring sides were committed to espionage behind enemy lines and in the neutral countries, but also performed other tasks such as tapping radio communication; sabotage; counterintelligence; and propaganda. The secret war was also fought in the mind, as all warring societies were consumed by spy mania, and began to recognize their own spies as true heroes and heroines.

The Second World War throws up even more startling advances. A surprising fact is that, by the time the US dropped its first atomic bomb on Japan in August 1945, Stalin knew more about this devastating new weapon than most American politicians. During World War II, Moscow prioritized the infiltration of the Manhattan Project, America’s nuclear weapons research program. Soviet agents were able to obtain and pass on technical information about this program, including blueprints, with remarkable ease.

In the Cold War, there were many cases of international espionage with varying degrees of repercussions, like:

1. The CIA’s Cold War activities ranged from general surveillance of suspected foreign agents, to deploying its own agents abroad, to illicit operations like assassinations and human experimentation. The CIA also complemented US foreign policy by supporting, funding and equipping anti-communist leaders and groups abroad. One of the CIA’s first major missions, for example, was to assist non-communist political parties in Italy in 1948.
2. The CIA also researched effective interrogation techniques and mind control strategies. One of these research programs was Project MK-ULTRA, which ran from 1953 to the late 1960s and soaked up more than \$US10 million in funding. MK-ULTRA was chiefly concerned with the effects of hypnosis and mind-altering drugs, with a view to using them for Cold War purposes
3. The FBI began investigating Soviet espionage in 1943 after receiving an anonymous letter. Within two years, the FBI had more than doubled in size, numbering around 13,000 agents. In late 1945 the FBI was provided with extensive information about Soviet espionage by Elizabeth Bentley, who herself had been passing information to Moscow. Bentley provided the FBI with a 112-page confession, naming 80 people as paid informers or agents working for Moscow.
4. By 1950 the FBI was investigating Julius Rosenberg, a civilian engineer previously employed by the US Army. Rosenberg, who had ties with an American communist group, was arrested in 1950 and accused of passing information to a Russian agent. When he refused to confess or provide investigators with more names, the FBI began targeting his wife Ethel. Both were eventually charged under the Espionage Act
5. Britain was also subject to Soviet espionage, most notably by the Cambridge Five spy ring. In 1963 British journalist Kim Philby disappeared from Lebanon. Until his resignation in 1951, Philby had been a high-ranking member of Britain’s Secret Intelligence Service (or MI6). In reality, Philby was a double-agent and had been passing information to Moscow since the mid-1930s.

US-China Espionage Case Study

On October 30, 2018 the U.S. Department of Justice announced the indictment of 10 Chinese intelligence officers and cyber hackers from the Ministry of State Security (MSS), China’s main civilian

espionage organization. The United States charged the group with stealing airline engine technology from French and U.S. companies. The alleged scheme ran from 2010 to 2015 and targeted turbofan engine technology developed through a U.S.-French partnership. The objective of this espionage was to steal intellectual data and confidential business information about the engine. China's defense industry is working to develop a comparable engine.

Weeks earlier, on October 10, the FBI announced the arrest of Mr. Yanjun Xu, alleged deputy division director of the Jiangsu Province Office (sixth bureau) of the Ministry of State Security, China's main civilian spy agency. The FBI's affidavit describes luring Xu to Belgium to illegally purchase General Electric commercial aviation technology. Belgian authorities placed him in custody on arrival and put him on a plane to the United States (most likely with an FBI escort). It is probably not a coincidence that the FBI also arrested Mr. Chaoqun Ji, a PRC national in Chicago, on espionage related charges. The FBI indictment alleges Ji was tasked by his spymaster — a senior MSS officer in the Jiangsu Province MSS office.

China has expanded its espionage efforts considerably over the last 20 years. Chinese entities conducting espionage include government agencies, the military, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), private companies/individuals, and select universities. Nearly half of China's espionage efforts target U.S. military and space technologies. Almost 25 percent of cases target commercial interests. China is unlikely to significantly curb its espionage efforts, as they provide a cost-efficient means to expand the economy, advance research and development, project military power, and meet China's stated goal to become a world power.

Analysis

This case clearly shows how, although the intent of espionage and the priority has changed, the methods are similar and quite frankly, that espionage is still quite prevalent. With spying taking on a role to aid economic and commercial interest, it shows that a direct link to politics can be made.

Summary

After the 9/11 attacks in the USA, the issue of espionage has, indeed, gained new momentum due to the implementation of new augmented surveillance programs for the purpose of fighting terrorism. The development of new technologies and communication media has, likewise, heightened possibilities for mass surveillance. In June 2013, the revelations made by Edward Snowden, a former agent of the National Secret Agency (NSA), concerning the United States' intelligence programs reinvigorated legal and political debate around espionage activities by states. In legal scholarship, discussions have mainly focused on the legality of espionage under international human rights law. Forms of espionage have become more diverse and sophisticated, involving a wide array of practices and actors. Because of this diversity, and the absence of a single, general legal regime under international law, the problems raised by espionage require the examination of a different set of rules: sovereignty; non-intervention; use of force; sea, air, and space law; human rights; international economic law; international criminal law; etc

The general practice of espionage cannot be and is not explicitly illegal according to international law, and it is up to individual states and other international actors to apply and interpret the law in relation to specific contexts in which covert tactics are used.

Questions to Consider

- Is espionage relevant today?
- Is the cost, financial and human, of espionage and surveillance worth the intelligence and information gathered?
- Should there be international laws concerning espionage?
- How is politics – localized to a certain region – affected by international espionage?
- If a nation believes that espionage and surveillance is necessary, are the techniques used ethical, i.e, does it affect the political environment adversely?

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