

FES Aragón Model United Nations



ARAMUN 2014

XII Edition

UNSC *United Nations Security Council*



Security Council

United Nations

Delegate's Handbook

Delegates, chiefs of State, governors, indigenous experts, representatives and honorable special guests.

The General Secretariat offers you the most cordial welcome to the twelfth edition of the Model United Nations of Facultad de Estudios Superiores Aragón, ARAMUN 2014, extending you our infinite gratitude for your preference y great disposition to participate in one of the biggest and most ambitious projects in our faculty but, overall, in Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, UNAM.

ARAMUN is a student project that looks for inclusion of the university community and of students from different studying levels which go from participation of the Middle School to students in the biggest universities in the city and in the country. Our objective in ARAMUN has always been, and will be, making a model that contributes to the formation of professionals capable of resolving conflicts of any nature in the public sphere in a national and an international level through de development of abilities that includes investigation, analysis and redaction, as well as the adequate learning to potentiate your talents in a respect sphere, tolerance and inclusion that lead to dialogue and pacific negotiations.

That is why we as academics and responsible members of a society that is constantly violated by numerous problematics that are part of the international befall, it is necessary that our responsibility in the resolution of conflicts stands out through the consolidation of viable ideas and proposals for the solution of them, which requires concrete axes and strategies to begin with a task that involves even more than learning in classrooms but also with the application of common values. Being this one of the biggest challenges that societies face worldwide, in this edition of ARAMUN we decided to start a proposal network that involves every single of our communities –developing analysis y investigation topics that go from national to international perspectives- so that cooperation and integration are the guidelines that new generations would have to take into consideration to respond to particular and general necessities, which propitiate an approach to discussions regarding people all over the world. In this context, and highlighting our concern to take the initiative in generating debate for that, the thematic axis of this edition of ARAMUN is “Challenges and Dares for the integration in the International Society”, in which the priority to attend the most vulnerable groups in our community are highlighted. In this context, our compromise has extended not only to contribute to the formation of academics but also to consolidate our participation in noble causes as the fight against breast cancer, having in that way another objective and a big responsibility of which we feel proud.

We hope that your experience in one of the biggest projects in which we have put all of our compromise, passion and our affection for what we do satisfies you and changes your life as it has changed ours. Thank you for accepting to paint the world pink with us. Welcome to ARAMUN 2014!

“POR MI RAZA HABLARÁ EL ESPÍRITU”

Edwin N. Vargas Plascencia

Andrea Navarro de la Rosa

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT
ARAMUN 2014**

HANDBOOK

1

XII EDITION



Delegates, heads of States, governors, experts y representatives, receive the warmest welcome to Model United Nations of Facultad de Estudios Superiores - FES Aragón, ARAMUN, in its twelfth edition.

This year we decided to affront various challenges to make this model a total success and we are sure that this year ARAMUN will represent before and after in our Faculty y in our University. All the Organizing Committee of ARAMUN 2014 has been working to be able to give all of you a Model United Nations of the best quality, so that you, even if you are a firstling delegate or if you are a very experienced one, can have an incredible, unique and satisfactory experience in ARAMUN.

In the three days of ARAMUN you will have the opportunity to represent an important piece inside of this jigsaw puzzle known as the international reality and, even if it is just a simulation, you will be able to change the world with your ideas y actions because you are Mexico's future leaders y representatives.

We hope that in these three days of hard debate you can find solutions to the topics that afflict International Society and that these serve to work for a better world. One of the most rewarding activities in our life is the Model United Nations because they are the seedling for leaders looking for a change in the reality they are living. Without any further ado, we hope that you enjoy these three days of debate as much as we enjoyed ourselves creating it for you.

ACADEMIC SECRETARIAT

Bernardo Ramos Rodríguez; Regional, National y Especialized Committees.

Diego Jesús Peña López; United Nations and Crisis Committees.

Delegates, ministers, governors, Federal District chief of government, indigenous experts and special guests, be all welcome to a new edition of a student project that just twelve years ago was the dream of a group of compromised and responsible students, and today is a consolidated project that also is the joint dream of the more than thirty persons that compose this edition of ARAMUN.

During all this time, the Protocol Secretariat along with the Chairs have been preparing in every moment to offer you the quality debate that you deserve, not just in protocol but also in academics. The connivance with each of the persons that compose ARAMUN and in specific the members of the Chairs have been one of the best personally and professionally experiences that we have had. Dedication, effort, fellowship, respect, honesty and humility are some of the characteristics that with so much proud we can say this great team and family has.

We thank infinitely your participation in the comities of ARAMUN 2014, we reiterate that in the Protocol Secretariat we are ready to serve you and we assure you that as it is a peerless experience in our lives, it will be in yours. Welcome!

PROTOCOL SECRETARIAT

Andrea Cruz Montesinos

Welcome to our ARAMUN's twelfth edition, it is for me an honor to be part of this great project that has changed my life and I have the conviction that the joint efforts that every member of this great team will be reflected in the results during the three days of debate assuring us that it will be a unique experience for each of you.

In ARAMUN we are a great group of young people compromised with a project that has operated as an innovation platform so you can propose, cooperate, argument and give solution to a problematic. Looking so to impulse your oratory, analysis and teamwork capacity. That is why we invite you to be part of this experience that without a doubt has been evolving and the efforts have been redoubled to make of ARAMUN an excellence model.

Without any further ado, again, be cordially welcome. I hope that the works in all the comities and in all the Model fulfill with tour expectations and even better, surpass them. We are to serve you and remember that in ARAMUN we keep working for you.

OPERATIVE SECRETARIAT

Arely T. Sánchez Alonzo

A Model United Nations is a unique teaching where you learn to express your ideas and to generate empathy while adopting positions maybe different than yours and where negotiation abilities and teamwork are developed, letting you realize that, with joint work, even the biggest problematic in the world have a solution.

In ARAMUN we seek to be changing agents and we are working hard to be able to offer you a Model that not only complies with your expectations but also surpasses them, hoping that you grow with us as a human being; that is why in this edition we seek to create conscience and together we will position as pillars of our own social environment. We can guarantee that you will have an unforgettable experience. Let us take the compromise all together of taking further and beyond the Model United Nations.

In name of the Entailment Secretariat receive a cordial greeting, during these days we will procure that nothing is missing so that you can enjoy to the fullest this experience, be confident of letting us know any situation that arises, we are compromised with giving you an excellence Model; we hope that this Model United Nations of FES Aragón changes your life as well as at the time it changed ours.

ARAMUN 2014 welcomes you; let's paint the world pink!

SECRETARIAT OF ENTAIL

Eréndira Sandra Rubio Rodríguez, Image and Media

Zaira Nayeli Ortiz Guevara, Diffusion

Dear delegates,

We welcome you and thank you for choosing to participate in the working sessions of the United Nations Security Council under the framework of ARAMUN 2014. We are pleased to serve to you as your chair and as a guide throughout the days of debate.

Feel confident to reach any member of the team to answer any doubt, annoyance or discomfort during the process, we want to make you know you aren't alone to take the project forward, we are willing to show you the work dynamic in order to facilitate your integration and bring your performance up.

The Chair has worked hard in creating a handbook that will give you an understanding on the progression of each of the topics. This guide should be used as an introduction to your own personal investigation and construction of your official postures.

We trust on all of you and the extraordinary work you are going to develop within the next days of debate, we wish you the best during your participation with us in the United Nations Security Council of ARAMUN 2014.

Sincerely,

The Security Council Chair



Carlos I. Peñaloza Galván
Chairman



Erika B. Cortes Gómez
Co-Moderators



Silvia Morales Jiménez
Co-Moderators



Karen P. León Lemus
Conference Officer

The United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations it has the main responsibility to insure international peace and security.

The Security Council has fifteen members, five permanent members with the right of veto which are China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The other ten nations are non-permanent members which are elected by the General Assembly for a two year term, each member has one vote, and they take turn at holding the presidency of the Security Council for one month. This year the non-permanent members present in the Council are Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea and Rwanda.

Under the United Nations Charter, Article 25, all the 193 states are under obligation to accept and comply with the Security Council decisions while other organs of the United Nations only can make recommendations.

The Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 in Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. It also travelled to other cities, holding sessions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972, in Panama City, Panama and in Geneva, Switzerland in 1990.

Functions and Powers

Under the United Nations Charter, Articles 29, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 42, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- Maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- Investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- Recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- Formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- Determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- Call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- Take military action against an aggressor;
- Recommend the admission of new Members;
- Exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";

- Recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 is a clear example of a ceasefire established by the Security Council in a region of conflict. The resolution helped reduce the friction between the states of Lebanon and Israel and has been honored to date. UNSC Resolution 91 lays down the foundation for Monitor in the area of Jammu Kashmir but also, the framework for the UNMOGIP mission that is still working in the area.

Measures

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;
- appoint special envoys;
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

- Issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- Dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- Economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- Severance of diplomatic relations;
- Blockade;
- Or even, collective military action.

A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

Topic A: Presence of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria: A Threat to the International Society

The Islamic State¹ in Iraq and Syria has taken control extensive areas of Iraq and Syria; this group was founded out of the Sunni terrorist organization Al Qaeda but after Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's ²death Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi rose in command. The purpose was at first to start an extremist conflict against the Shiite community. This entity performed brutal acts such like beheadings, public executions, kidnappings and bombings against the Shiite muslims. These actions have caused the world's leaders to focus its attention towards this extremist group from fear that of what new threats they may present to the international community as a whole.

Background

Its origins date back to 2002 when the Jordanian Abu Musab al-Zarqawi created the radical group Tawhid wa al-Jihad. After Saddam Hussein's collapse on 2003 and the subsequent withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, the government was led by the Prime Menester Nuri al Maliki who has been implementing partisan policies in favor of Shiites, leaving aside Sunni and Kurdish communities.³

The installation of US forces is the reason why appeared many militias to fight foreign troops; at this time Zarqawi pledged its full support to Osama bin Laden who later founded the terrorist network Al-Qaeda in Iraq.

On Zarqawi's death in 2006, the egyptian Abu Ayub al Masri declared on October 13th of that year the creation of the Islamic State of Irak (ISI), always taking as a starting point Al Qaeda.⁴

On april 2010, an operation of the US forces killed who was considered the group's emir, Abu Abdullah al Rashid al Baghdadi and the real chief Abu Ayub al Masri. Then Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi became the new leader and proclaimed himself Caliph Ibrahim.⁵

¹ Also known as Islamic State of Irak and Syria (ISIS), Islamic State of Irak and the Levant (ISIL)

² Leader of al Qaeda's faction in Iraq (AQI)

³ BBC "Chiitas, sunitas y kurdos, ¿quién es quién en el conflicto de Iraq?" <http://mexico.cnn.com/mundo/2014/07/01/chiitas-sunitas-y-kurdos-quien-es-quien-en-el-conflicto-de-iraq>

⁴ Mundo "La historia del Estado Islámico, la organización que tiene en jaque a Irak" <http://www.latercera.com/noticia/mundo/2014/08/678-591105-9-la-historia-del-estado-islamico-la-organizacion-que-tiene-en-jaque-a-irak.shtml>

After Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) took over huge swaths in Iraq in 2006 the organization declared itself a state in Northern Iraq, and started calling itself the Islamic State in Iraq (ISIS).

At first it was a little movement but on April 8, 2013 ISI joined an al-Qaeda supported force in Syria and al-Bagdadi against the Bashar al Assad's government, joining rebel groups in this country, increasing the number to about 2,500 militants, forging the Islamic state of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) as we know it today.⁶

This decision created a dispute between Al Baghdadi and Ayman al Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's heir as head of Al Qaeda.

For a while, ISIS and Al Qaeda worked together because they shared interests and ideology. However, in February 2014, ISIS became independent from Al Qaeda. Barack Mendelsohn, a political scientist at Haverford College, says that the situation in Syria was a key relationship that pushed to the breaking point piece.

In April 2013, the ISIS claimed the control of Jabhat al-Nusra⁷ ("Victory Front for the People of Greater Syria") and then resisted the orders of Ayman al-Zawahiri, leader of Al-Qaeda, to move back. Moreover, also opposed to the orders to kill fewer civilians in Syria in addition with its brutal practices and its wild exhibition of violence led to Al Qaeda denied any connection with this terrorist group.⁸

In the midst of this conflict are the Kurds who have no religious interest, but historically seek independence and the establishment of a state, the Kurdistan, which includes the regions of Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Syria and Armenia.

Current conflict

Over the past few months, the Islamic State, an al-Qaeda offshoot formerly known as ISIL, has mounted a brutal campaign in Syria and Iraq that has allowed it to expand its ranks and win large swaths of new territory. With the stated goal of establishing a Sunni caliphate, the insurgent group's fighting has taken a heavy toll on Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority, as well as a number of minority groups, including Kurds and Christians.

⁵ BBC "Siete preguntas para entender qué es el Estado Islámico y de dónde surgió."

http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/noticias/2014/09/140904_que_es_estado_islamico_amv.shtml

⁶ Collegian "A Crash Course on the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria" <http://www.collegian.com/2014/09/crash-course-islamic-state-iraq-syria/87944/>

⁷ Terrorist organization operating in Syria and Lebanon

⁸ Vox. "ISIS used to be Al-Qaeda in Irak" <http://www.vox.com/cards/things-about-isis-you-need-to-know/what-is-isis>

While reports of the Islamic State carrying out mass executions, placing heads on fence posts and imposing harsh religious restrictions have sparked concern across the world, they haven't elicited military involvement until now. On September, U.S. warplanes began bombing Islamist fighters following an announcement by President Barack Obama that he had authorized airstrikes to prevent "genocide."

In light of the recent news, here's an update on the militant group by the numbers:

13,000. The number of square miles thought to be under Islamic State control, a stretch between Syria and Iraq that is roughly the size of Belgium. Other estimates suggest the Islamic State controls an area closer to 35,000 square miles, or roughly the size of Jordan.

1,922. The number of people killed in Iraq in June, according to government figures, making it the deadliest month since May 2007. Official figures report 1,393 civilians, 380 soldiers and 149 policemen among the dead. Another 2,610 people were wounded, the majority of them civilians.

30,000 - 50,000. The number of militants now fighting with the Islamic State, according to a recent estimate by Dr. Hisham al-Hashimi, an expert on the group. Many former Iraqi Army soldiers have been forced to join and others have been recruited from around the region and beyond.

The number of nations with which the Islamic State has engaged in direct fighting. In an effort to expand its holdings, insurgents have attacked soldiers from Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey this summer alone. The group is currently pursuing a large offensive against the Syrian Arab Army in the northeast of the country, snatching up large quantities of munitions from military bases.

Kurdish fighters have conceived a smuggling operation to get themselves into the city illegally from Turkey to confront the Islamic State militants swarming the Syrian border city, they fight against ISIL but to protect their territory, Iraqi Kurdistan and their boundaries located to the northeast, which have been in danger from attacks on border towns ISIL. In some of these cities, the Iraqi army dropped their weapons and fled, so the peshmerga -milicia Kurda has taken control of these areas, notably Kirkuk, one of the main oil centers.

The Shiite and Sunni Community



Muslim Distribution (Sunni and Shia) 1995⁹

Approximately 85-90% of the international communities muslim population has a strong fellowship to Sunni Islam, leaving a small margin of all Muslims with a fellowship to the Shiite branch. It should be noted that the world's Shiite populations are in their majority located in countries such as Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Syria. Sunnis and Shiites have most mutual fundamental religious tendencies. However, now in a time when difference seem to appeal more than similarities, their differences have been the center of most of their political and religious intolerance which leads to extreme violence.

Al-Baghdadi named himself Caliph of the Islamic State, which is a form of government headed by a political and religious leader according to the Islamic law or Sharia; force women to wear a veil, force non-Muslims to convert or pay a tax and impose harsh punishments including executions. Even now only controls territories between Syria and Iraq, pretends to get support of all the muslim world. Its goal is "to break boundaries" of Lebanon and Jordan in order to "liberate Palestine."¹⁰ Currently, ISIS and al-Qaeda contend for influence over Islamist extremist groups around the world.

⁹ University Of Texas Library <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/world.html>

¹⁰ BBC "Siete preguntas para entender qué es el Estado Islámico y de dónde surgió."
http://www.bbc.co.uk/mundo/noticias/2014/09/140904_que_es_estado_islamico_amv.shtml

Financing

Initially, much of its financial support came from individuals in Arab Gulf states. Today, ISIL is a largely self-financed organization, earning millions of dollars a month from the oil and gas fields it controls, as well as from taxation, tolls, smuggling, extortion and kidnapping. The offensive in Iraq has also been lucrative, giving it access to cash held in major banks in cities and towns it has seized.

Millions of dollars in oil revenue have made ISIL one of the wealthiest terror groups in history. Experts estimate the value of the output from the dozen or so oil fields and refineries under its control in Iraq and Syria at \$1 million to \$2 million a day.

The group controls many of Syria's eastern oil fields. In July, ISIS fighters took control of the country's largest oil field, Omar, which was producing about 30,000 barrels a day when it was fully functioning. Recently it was producing about a third of that or less.

ISIL expanded its attacks into Iraq's oil-producing areas in June, and an August sweep into the Kurdish region gave it access to more of the country's oil assets. Experts estimate that the Iraqi oil fields under ISIL control may produce 25,000 to 40,000 barrels of oil a day.

Military Power

As fighters for the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria continue to seize territory, the group has quietly built an effective management structure of mostly middle-aged Iraqis overseeing departments of finance, arms, local governance, military operations and recruitment.

US officials believe IS could have as many as 31,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria. Iraq expert Hisham al-Hashimi says about 30% are "ideologues", with the remainder joining out of fear or coercion.

IS fighters have access to, and are capable of using, a wide variety of small arms and heavy weapons, including truck-mounted machine-guns, rocket launchers, anti-aircraft guns and portable surface-to-air missile systems. They have also captured tanks and armored vehicles from the Syrian and Iraqi armies. The group is believed to have a flexible supply chain that ensures a constant supply of ammunition and small arms for its fighters. Their considerable firepower helped them overrun Kurdish Peshmerga positions in northern Iraq in August, surprising many.

ISIS's success has alarmed American and regional security officials, who say it fights more like an army than most insurgent groups, holding territory and coordinating operations across large areas.

The group has also received support from other armed Sunni groups and former members of the Baath Party — which was founded as a secular movement — angry over their loss of status.

Its operations are carried out by a network of regional commanders who have their own subordinates and a degree of autonomy, but they have set “drop times” when they open a shared network to coordinate.

After the September 11 attacks by Al Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden in the command, the United States follow each operation carried out, and although ISIS said That Al Qaeda is "not an affiliate with the al Qaeda organizational group and has no relation with it." Concern has increased recently, especially after the beheading of the journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff.¹¹

Conclusion

After supporting insurgent groups in Iraq and supporting rebel groups in Syria against Bashar al Assad’s government, the Islamic state has occupied as important points Raqqa (in Syria) and Mosul (in Iraq), has also claimed the caliphate with which seeks to break down borders in the Muslim world.

A rapid occupation, the violent way they do, and its cash flow, growing concern in the international community who see the ISIL as a threat to international peace; for some that alter the geopolitical balance in the region to become a new state and therefore socio-economic and security interests for their states; could unleash violent actions by fans from other regions of the world trying to reproduce the actions carried out by this organization and spill blood to defend an ideology very different culture of ISIL.

The coalition seems to join the EU only Iraq and Syria radicalized environment, urges moderate views and start negotiating to restore order and peace to the region.

¹¹ Infobae América “Infografía: cómo es la organización jerárquica del Estado Islámico en Irak y Siria”. <http://www.infobae.com/2014/09/12/1594490-infografia-como-es-la-organizacion-jerarquica-del-estado-islamico-irak-y-siria>

Study Questions

1. What is the Islamic State?
2. How does the Islamic State emerge?
3. What ideology does the Sunni community follow?
4. What ideology does the Shiite community follow?
5. What are the intentions of the Islamic State?
6. Who finances the Islamic State?
7. What steps have Irak and Syria's government taken to fight them?

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Topic B: China's Sea: A Race for Supremacy in the Region

The seas located just east and south of People's Republic of China are an area of great international conflict way beyond the birth date of the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council. Both seas have seen many armed conflicts and political tension since the times of the establishment of the Silk Road by the then imperial Chinese. In the present, the situation has become a conflict of political, military, and economic interests¹² and a threat to international security. In this conflict the six mainly involved are Brunei, China, Malaysia, The Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

The multiple extended claims over ownership of the islands have made even a short term solution a difficult task because of international law. The UN Convention on the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) has been seen to be limited on the territorial dispute but has been remained active in the matter of maritime agreements. Since 1994, the United Nations has had the UNCLOS serve as guidelines to the rights and responsibilities that all members have with respect to their use of the oceans, establishing guidelines for business, trade, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources. It services as a solution and definition for ownership of maritime but does not clarify an answer for nations in close proximity as those whom are in China's seas. But it does help prevent "undertaking unilateral action, such as collecting intelligence in the Asia-Pacific region, because permission to do so is not explicitly granted in the text" (Wright, 2012).

Currently there has been news that China is unraveling a series of strategic blueprints in the South China Sea. Within these planes is to add military personnel to its Nine Dash Claim Line which virtually englobe the entire South China Sea. Further increase of military operations is a direct taunt against neighboring nations. "China's declaration of South China Sea as China's 'Core National Interest' to be defended by even going to war." (Kapila, 2014) The map below demonstrates the territorial conflicts in relation to the neighboring nations.

¹² Business Spectator "Beijing sinks South China Sea code of conduct", <http://www.businessspectator.com.au/article/2014/7/21/china/beijing-sinks-south-china-sea-code-conduct>, July 21st, 2014



East China Sea

The exact location of the East China Sea can be limited and seen as the sound between the coasts of China, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. It is in the Pacific Ocean and it covers an area of 1,249,000 square kilometers from the coast of China. The East China Sea is the median of the coast of China and Japan. Both nations of which were the protagonist of the Sino-Japanese wars. This conflict was centered over territorial dispute over South Korea primarily but both countries continued to lose power after the Opium War¹³. Currently the tension between the two is spewing over from generations over legitimate ownership of the Senkaku Islands.

Japan cites its sovereignty over the islands after Japanese businessman, Tatsushiro Koga, who considered cultivating the soil on the islands in 1884, placed the land for sale. He states that the islands had been worked by the family for years and considered selling them from lack of use¹⁴. But the Okinawa government and the home ministry denied the businessman such a contract for a few years because they weren't certain if the islands belonged to Japan or China and because they didn't want to raise Chinese suspicions¹⁵.

¹³ Info Please "Opium Wars", <http://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/history/opium-wars.html>, 2012

¹⁴ Los Angeles Times "The specks of land at the center of Japan-China islands dispute", <http://articles.latimes.com/2012/sep/24/world/la-fg-china-japan-islands-20120925>, September 24th, 2012

¹⁵ The Diplomat "Getting Senkaku History Right" <http://thediplomat.com/2013/11/getting-senkaku-history-right/>, November 26th, 2013

Koga was however given rights to cultivate the land of four of the islands in 1896 and is said to have done so till the 1920s. "The islands were passed on to his descendants who sold some of the islands to the Kurihara family" (Mack). To build its case on sovereignty over the islands Japan also points to the 1895 Treaty of Shimonoseki¹⁶, in which China agreed to cede Taiwan to Japan as well as all the islands that belonged to Taiwan. However, the treaty didn't mention the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands by name which doesn't help clarify matters.

The South China Sea

The South China Sea is currently seen as being of the greatest interest for the region thus being the center most of these conflicts. It is a maritime region that beaches the coasts of several sovereign nations such as China, Indonesia, Taiwan, Philippines, Vietnam, and Malaysia¹⁷. Curiously enough, this body of water has been dubbed a variety of titles depending on the nations stated above; China has named it as the South China Sea, while in Vietnam¹⁸, it is called the East Sea, and Filipinos have referred to it as the West Philippines Sea¹⁹. The Nguyen Thai Hoc Foundations has even begun an online petition with over 70,000 supporters²⁰ online attempting to change the name of the South China Sea to "The South East Asia Sea" in order to neutralize and extinguish some of the political dispute.

Two clusters of islands are under dispute in the region which China claims complete possession of them. The first is the Paracel Islands that are debated not only by China but also Taiwan, and Vietnam. The second of these clusters is the Spratly Islands which are disputed by China and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Vietnam has been cited to be the most vocal following China. The situation in this region

¹⁶ Want China Times "Chinese experts slam Japan right wing attempt to 'break int'l order'", <http://www.wantchinatimes.com/news-subclass-cnt.aspx?cid=1101&MainCatID=11&id=20140727000103>, July 27th, 2014

¹⁷ CEO.CA "America, China, Vietnam and Why the South China Sea Matters", <http://ceo.ca/2014/05/19/america-china-vietnam-and-why-the-south-china-sea-matters/>, May 14th, 2014

¹⁸ Thanhnien News "Vietnam slams China's distortion of East Sea situation", <http://www.thanhniennews.com/politics/vietnam-slams-chinas-distortion-of-east-sea-situation-27315.html>, June 17th, 2014

¹⁹ The Diplomat "Manila claims only part of the South China Sea, but the area it does claim is a core national interest.", <http://thediplomat.com/2013/10/the-philippines-and-the-west-philippine-sea/>, October 8th, 2014

²⁰ Change, "Change the name "South China Sea" to "Southeast Asia Sea", <http://www.change.org/petitions/change-the-name-south-china-sea-to-southeast-asia-sea>, 2011

didn't begin to spark until the late nineteenth century when on January 16th of 1974 a Vietnam naval forces spotted Chinese militia in the Paracel Islands and went forward into combat²¹. Beijing won the Sino-Vietnamese war after an amphibious team took control of the islands. The combat further expanded over to the Spratly Islands by 1988 which had given involvement to the Malaysia. Though the tension has since dissipated US involvement, after World War II, has increased interest in the islands as well as renewed conflict by the regional nations. Military bilateral practices between US naval forces and ASEAN members have caused much speculations and suspicion by the Chinese government²².

Multilateral engagements have become increasingly important to build regional trust and cooperation, which helps deter conflict and crisis while working with ASEAN.

"U.S. Pacific Fleet's participation in, and support for, ASEAN defense exercises reflects America's serious commitment to the Pacific rebalance, as we all work together to promote regional security, stability, prosperity and peace."²³

Bilateral commissions have provided amphibious assault vehicle and the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft to the ASEAN while also introducing to them the Anchorage ships. This ships have improved warfighting capabilities, including an advanced command-and-control suite, increased lift-capability in vehicle and cargo-carrying capacity and advanced ship-survivability features.

²¹The Diplomat, "Lessons from the Battle of the Paracel Islands", <http://thediplomat.com/2014/01/lessons-from-the-battle-of-the-paracel-islands/>, January 23rd, 2014

²² The Sydney Morning herald "Focusing on sweetening relations in the region", <http://www.smh.com.au/comment/focusing-on-sweetening-relations-in-the-region-20140705-zswxj.html>, July 4th 2014

²³ The US NAVY "ASEAN, US Leaders Enhance Multilateral Ties aboard USS Anchorage" http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=80084



As an almost closed sea, this sea is host to countless islets, living and natural marine resources. It also provides important maritime routes for naval mobility. Therefore this has become a strategic destination for potential pirating²⁴. This has raised national and international attention among many organizations that combat piracy in the area. Blames has been placed on many nations causing this to escalate in a finger-point conflict.

International Security

In a globalized world in which all leading markets are scouting for the last barrels of oil and fuel China's seas are of the last unexplored natural energy resources locations near large economic leaders. Considering the base facts mentioned before one can conclude that China's seas are not only of interest to the nations that coast the area but also nations such as The Russian Federation, The United States, and The United Kingdom have also sought out to implement their authority in the region. The United States has been known to transport bunks of military missiles to The Philippines through China's South Sea. In turn China has obtained H-6K bombers and threatening to attack unauthorized crossing through its territory²⁵.

²⁴Lloyd's List Australia "ASIA: Piracy falls, but severity rises" <http://www.lloydslistdcn.com.au/archive/2014/07-july/25/asia-piracy-falls-but-severity-rises>, July 24th 2014

²⁵ RT "China 'amenaza' a EE.UU. y Japón con el bombardero estratégico H-6K" <http://actualidad.rt.com/actualidad/view/115387-china-amenaza-eeuu-bombardero>

Thus, escalating interest from foreign exploitation as well as strengthening or hampering international relations.

The possibility of resource expansion in much of these areas has been apprehended in the past decades by unresolved claims to territorial sovereignty. Islets such as the Senkaku Islands, Spratly Islands and Paracel Islands are among those that come into dispute in the area because of their potential to hold natural resources²⁶ and could define the final judgment on maritime and aerial sovereignty. “The U.S. Energy Information Agency (EIA) estimates there to be approximately 11 billion barrels (bbl) of oil reserves and 190 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas reserves in the South China Sea.” (Administration, 2013) Competition between nations for natural energy resources in China’s Seas is intensifying and endangering political ties.

Conclusion

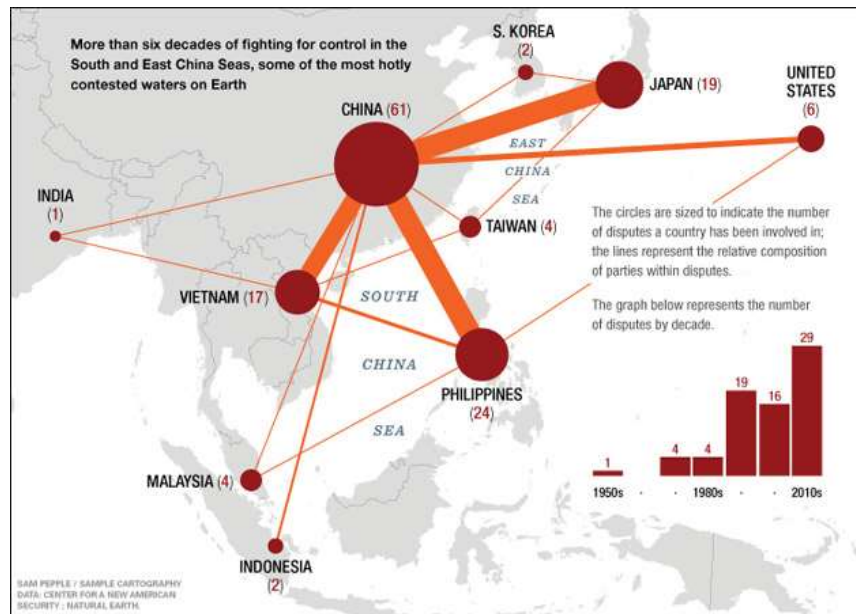
The alternative to a solution is an outcome of endless bilateral suspicion, unstable international affairs, unregulated and unused resources, an escalated frequency of armed conflict, and an intensification of accidents such as those that have been seen in the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea between China and Japan.²⁷

Maritime claims proceeded under international law are established by sovereignty over land²⁸. Therefore as long as land formations exist in the China’s seas disputes over the water will also.

²⁶ The Atlantic, “Intrigue in the South China Sea”, <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/06/intrigue-in-the-south-china-sea/308995/>, May 24th, 2012

²⁷ BBC News, “Boat collisions spark Japan-China diplomatic row” <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11225522>, September 8th, 2010

²⁸ International Maritime Organization “The Implication of the United Nations Convention for the Laws of the Sea for the International Maritime Organization” <http://www.imo.org/OurWork/Legal/Documents/Implications%20of%20UNCLOS%20for%20IMO.pdf>



Foreign Affairs: (http://www.foreignaffairs.com/files/images/pepple_south_china_sea_FNL.jpg)

The Security Council has as its objective to prevent international conflict and establishing preventive measures when the situations call for them. Understanding this conflict has extended its regional standing to an international confrontation. The likely solution for this conflict would be for the Security Council to mediate a joint development of the disputed organic and non-organic resources. Reduction in the rivalry over the resources is the key to ease the tension in the area. Successful efforts to achieve this must be made taking into consideration the interest of all the entities involved.

Study Questions

1. How is your delegation's foreign affairs (Political, economic, and financial relationships) affected by this conflict?
2. How does the current territorial ownership of the Senkaku, Sparty and Paracel Islands influence your commercial sector?
3. Does it benefit from the Exclusive Economic Zone?
4. What risks could your delegation encounter if an armed conflict were to erupt in the region?
5. What international laws could your delegation use to justify its actions in the region?
6. Elaborate in how your delegation has participated in the past with the three territorial disputes.
7. What benefits could your delegation gain from the three territories?

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Glossary

ISIL

Group known variously as ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant), ISIS (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria) or simply Islamic State is, originally, an offshoot of Al-Qaeda in Iraq.

Al-Qaeda

An international organization of loosely affiliated cells that carry out attacks and bombings in the attempt to disrupt the economies and influence of Western nations and advance Islamic fundamentalism.

Sunni

The branch of Islam that accepts the first four caliphs as rightful successors of Muhammad

Shiite

Member of the branch of Islam that regards Ali and his descendants as the legitimate successors to Muhammad and rejects the first three caliphs.

Islam

A monotheistic religion characterized by the acceptance of the doctrine of submission to God and to Muhammad as the chief and last prophet of God.

Muslim

A Muslim, is an adherent of Islam, a monotheistic Abrahamic religion based on the Qur'an which Muslims consider the verbatim word of God as revealed to prophet Muhammad and, with lesser authority than the Qur'an, the teachings and practices of Muhammad as recorded in traditional accounts, called hadith. "Muslim" is an Arabic word meaning "one who submits to God". Muslims believe that God (referred to with the name Allāh) is eternal, absolutely one (the doctrine of tawhid, or strict or simple monotheism), and incomparable that he is self-sustaining, who begets not nor was begotten. Muslim beliefs regarding God are summed up in chapter 112 of the Qur'an, al-Ikhlās, "the chapter of purity". Muslims also believe that Islam is the complete and universal ver

sion of a primordial faith that was revealed at many times and places before, including through the prophets Abraham, Moses and Jesus. Muslims maintain that previous messages and revelations have been partially changed or corrupted over time, but consider the Qur'an to be both unaltered and the final revelation from God Final Testament.

Caliphate

Is the political-religious state comprising the Muslim community and the lands and peoples under its dominion in the centuries following the death (632 CE) of the Prophet Muhammad. Ruled by a caliph (Arabic khalīfah, “successor”), who held temporal and sometimes a degree of spiritual authority.

Sharia

Sharia, or Islamic law, influences the legal code in most Muslim countries.

Baath Party

Arab political party in Syria and in Iraq. Its main ideological objectives are secularism, socialism, and pan-Arab unionism. Founded in Damascus in 1941 and reformed, with the name Ba'ath, in the early 1950s, it rapidly achieved political power in Syria.

Tawhid wa al-Jihad

Jamaat al-Tawhid wa'l-Jihad is believed to be led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. Al-Zarqawi was a Jordanian-born Sunni militant said to have links to Al-Qaeda. He was wanted by the United States on suspicion on organizing terrorist attacks on U.S. troops in Iraq.

Jabhat al-Nusra

Al-Nusra was formed in late 2011, when Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) emir Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi sent operative Abu Muhammad al-Julani to Syria to organize jihadist cells in the region. The Nusra Front rose quickly to prominence among rebel organizations in Syria for its reliable supply of arms, funding, and fighters, some from donors abroad, and some from AQI.