

ASIAN CAUCUS

SALVADOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS XIV



HEAD-CHAIR: BEATRIZ ALVES
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LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear Delegates,

We are honored to chair the Salvador Model United Nations Asian Committee. This year we are hoping to have an enriched discussion that will provide different perspectives of the situations debated. We would also wish to have an ongoing and fluid debate that will reveal the delegates' abilities on persuading and protecting their government's views regarding the topics debated.

Additionally, we should comprehend the urgency to provide these issues with a further solution, since they are occurring in the present time and affecting in a negative way the lives of many individuals. The topics chosen are focusing on particular groups that are having their rights violated, as well as wishing to be conceived with further autonomy. This is a debate of the people vs. government, where the main issue of Asia is brought up: Human Rights. The Uyghur population is suffering and being persecuted for having a distinct ethnicity, being Turkish and speaking a different language within the Chinese borders. Meanwhile, countries such as Taiwan, are pleading for official independence, as the current president of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen assumes the government. Also, another topic of extreme importance is the Afghanistan War, which resulted in 2,307 confirmed deaths according to [BBC News](#) and 1 in 5 are civilians. All of these conflicts need affective solutions and will require countries to brainstorm their positions, as well as maintain themselves on either side of the issues. We believe that the Delegates will find the solutions to the eminent issues and we wish to have a respectful and thoughtful debate!

We would also like to inform the ways of communication that will be used between the Delegates and the Chairs. We will create a Facebook page in order to post due dates, announcements and any further information about the conference. In addition, we would like to invite the Delegates to send e-mail with any questions or concerns regarding procedures, position papers or topics. We also recommend all the representatives to be prepared for the debate with all their materials and clauses, as well as full research about all the topics that will be debated during the committee session. We would also like to remind the Delegations that in order to be eligible for awards, delegates must comply with sending position papers within the deadlines established.

We are looking forward to a great discussion with the use of arguments and persuasion skills made by the delegates. We will further recommend delegates that have any concern to ask questions and to maintain the attention in the debated during all the sessions. We are hoping to achieve a high level of debate, as well as thrilled in participating in a debated that will uphold the future leaders, who, in this caucus, will undoubtedly persist in defending their countries' views,



as well as resolving these issues of extreme importance. Feel free to contact us through our e-mails!

Sincerely,

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Asian Caucus is a regional committee formulated by only Asian countries. The committee stands to find solutions for issues at hand in the social, political, economic and military sphere. There is cooperation in order to find the most efficient answers for diverse problems within this locality. Asia is an area in which many conflicts were held, suffered historically in many sectors, which reverberate in the countries economy and relations. The continuance of wars in this area and the rise of independence movements have made the continent a victim of political instability. The constant increase in the prosecution of religious minorities and intolerance has taken the continent into a social downfall. These issues not only influence the negative way the population but also have a great impact on the nation's relations.

The aim of this caucus is for the main topics to be tackled and to resolve such conflicts since this will bring well-being not only to the continent of Asia but also for the whole world. Through the positioning of countries' perspectives, different solutions can be brought in order to regain the continent's stability. Also, the delegates in the committee are expected to defend their country's position, and also to be looking forward to finding an efficient resolution that diminishes the negative effects of the conflicts.

In addition to that, the delegates are expected to defend their countries' positions through all the sessions. The caucus expects the delegations to give their perspectives through the use of data or any other way that can clearly contribute to emphasize the delegation's views as well as convince other countries to adhere to their main purpose. Finally, the Delegates should keep in mind the urgency and necessity of resolving the topics that will be entertained in the caucus: Tackling the persecution of the Uyghur ethnic group,

Relevant Documents

- ❖ [The UN Charter](#)
- ❖ [UN Documents](#)
- ❖ [Information about the UN](#)
- ❖ [The Official UN Delegate Handbook](#)



The Persecution of China's Muslims Uyghur

<https://religionandpolitics.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Moir-550-x-358.jpg>

Topic A: Tackling the Prosecution of the Uyghur Ethnic Group



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Is Religion a relevant justification for the killing of individuals? Is the fact of being Islamic reasonable for someone to lose their basic human rights? The Uyghur's ethnic group is a Turkic Muslim minority group that is located in China. This persisting persecution considering the components of this group is notable through the Asian country's territory. In fact, according to the Asian-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, approximately one million of these individuals were relocated into "de-extremification" camps. These facilities were targeting to maintain people of this group that uphold unformal charges and have no right to obtain any legal service. While the Uyghur population was being captive in these camps, is noticeable that many expressed their discontent regarding their treatment and the abuses that were committed within these areas. Also, diverse members lose their children, that are placed in childcare centers, according to the Chinese government, while their parents are in captivity.

Nevertheless, if the accusations are proven to be true, the actions made by the leader and the government should be considered Crimes Against Humanity, as stated in article 7, paragraph 1. With that, people have been fighting to widespread information to other countries and maintain people informed about the situation in China. This can be seen through the use of hashtags, such as "MeTooUyghur" on Twitter and other vehicles of communication. The situation is chaotic since the officials of the government insist there are no further actions against the population, just a further education plan against extremism. Regarding the United Nations, countries such as Japan and the United Kingdom currently signed a letter to the UN demanding further investigation. With the denial of the government and the States Sovereignty granted to the country, there are further difficulties to resolve the issue.



Religious Minorities in China Falling Victim to 'Re-education' Camps



History of the Uyghur Ethnic Group

Uyghur's Ethnic has deep roots in China. The history dates back to the Silk Road where the people lived within the cities in this trading route. The group presents distinct physical features, having brown skin, with blond, brown or black hair that can identify the people that are components of the group. Also, the clothes that they wear are typical of their religion and traditional with scarfs and caps, which can easily identify their origin. Considering the region of China, this group appeared in Xinjiang in the tenth century. Provided the fact that the recent acts of violence that have happened by terrorist groups, this contributed to the increase of the fear of the populations of diverse countries with the religion, even though Islam states peace and fraternity. The population suffered throughout history considering the free practice of their religion. Initially, with the command of the communist parties, they had their pilgrimage to Mecca restricted and people were prohibited to practice Ramadan, which goes strictly against the freedom of religion. In fact, the restriction is not only in the religion or beliefs, but in other aspects that are present in their culture, such as their language, as Xinjiang's leader, once stated, that their written Arabic scripts are unsuitable to the Chinese "scientific development". For this reason, they were also banned from Chinese higher education. According to China, after the attacks that happened in 9/11 in the United States, the main suspects should be Muslims and they insisted on capturing people that were part of the Uyghur's ethnic group. Nevertheless, some were liberated and the persecution considering the group grew significantly after the attacks on Beijing Olympics. With that, we can conclude that the relations of the Uyghur's population and China are well-known to both sides of the conflict.



Demonstrators Worldwide Protest China's Uyghur's Policy



China's Reeducation Camps

China's "reeducation" camps have the official intention of going against terrorism and educating the ones that committed crimes. Experts estimate that they began to operate in 2014 and lasted until 2017, but there is no official empirical evidence that proves that they were in fact created within this period of time according to the Council of Foreign Relations. Also, the Reuters journalists, Philip Wen and Olzah Auwezov, researched and, through the use of satellite images, could discover that the original number of camps, thirty-nine, almost tripled in size. Also, according to Adrian Zenz, a German scholar expert in the subject of religious intolerance, published "Bitter Winter", research that denounced the increase in investment in the city of Xinjiang. Through his discovery, it is possible to notice an unusual increase in the security investment of approximately \$2.96 billion in 2017. This can suggest that there might have been a construction of more of these camps. The main issue is that these locations are being accused of proliferating violent acts against the Uyghurs, as well as having testimony of torture and many other actions that infringes the Human Rights promoted by the United Nations.

China's Reeducation Camps



China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang



POSITION OF MAJOR COUNTRIES

China

China maintains the Xinjiang region autonomous, but the Federal Government can choose the person in charge of it. The Xinjiang region is of utter most importance to Chinese Government especially because of the Belt and Road Initiative. The trillion dollar plan to connect China to Africa and Europe passes through the Xinjiang region, so it is important for China to have the crisis under control. Another major problem to the Chinese government is the growing amount of terrorist attacks in that region and how because of them the Uyghur people are being antagonized by the people. The Chinese government submitted a paper stating that “hostile forces in and outside of China, especially ... religious extremists and terrorists, have tried to split China ... by distorting history and facts.” China denies accusations of brutality against the Uyghur people.

Japan

Japan has already shown disagreement on the way the Uyghur people are being treated in China. In 2012, the Japanese parliament set up a caucus to support China’s minority, the Uyghur. But the connections between them can be traced to the 1930s when the commander in chief of a Uyghur division asked for aid from Japan after the fall of the First East Turkestan Republic. In 2008 the Uyghur Japan Association was established, this organisation helps until today the Uyghur people. In 2012 The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) happened in Japan even with China asking for them to close the WUC. Currently Japan has taken a stronger role against the alleged Human Right Violations by China. It signed a document along with 21 other countries condemning the actions taken by the Chinese Government. Overall Japan has been one of the biggest advocates for the rights of the Uyghur people. Even accepting Rebiya Kadeer, Uyghur women, who has been exiled was accepted to Japan.

Russia

Russia is a long time known ally of China. It along with other members of the International community signed and wrote a letter to the UN Human Rights Council in support of the security actions taken by China for security measures in Xinjiang. It states how China has suffured on the hands of terrorism and extriminization, and that it has created vocational education and training centers. It also states how security has returned to the region.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

June 25 → Two Uighur factory workers are reported killed and dozens injured in a huge brawl with Han Chinese in Shaoguan, in the southern province of Guangdong.

July 5 → Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Uighurs riot in the Xinjiang capital Urumqi after security forces move in on a protest over the Shaoguan incident.

July 7 → The government says nearly 200 people died in the unrest, with more than 1,600 injured and hundreds arrested. Eventually at least 26 are reportedly sentenced to death.

Year: 2011

July 18 → Police kill 20 protesters in clashes in Hotan, southern Xinjiang, exiled Uighur groups say. State media say police fired on demonstrators who attacked a police station, killing one officer.

September 15 → Courts in Xinjiang sentenced to death four Uighurs over the July incidents.

December 28 → Police in Pishan kill seven "terrorists" in a hostage standoff that left one officer dead. State media call Uyghur - Are them terrorists engaged in a "holy war?"

Year: 2012

February 28 → Rioters armed with knives kill at least 10 people in Yecheng, while police shoot two of the attackers dead, state press say. One man is later sentenced to death.

April 23 → Gunfights in Bachu leave 15 police and community workers and six "terrorists" dead. Two men are later sentenced to death.



June 26 → At least 35 people are killed when, according to Xinhua, "knife-wielding mobs" attack police stations and other sites in Lukqun before security personnel open fire. Three people are later sentenced to death.

October 28 → Three members of the same Xinjiang family crash their car into tourists in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, the symbolic heart of the Chinese state, killing two, before setting it on fire and dying themselves, according to authorities who call it a terrorist attack. Three people are later executed.

December 16 - 14 → Uighurs and two police officers are killed in Shufu county. Authorities describe the slain Uighurs as members of an extremist group, but campaigners say police raided a house where a family was preparing for a wedding, with six women among those killed.

Year: 2014

January 15 → A prominent Uighur academic and critic of government policy, economics professor Ilham Tohti, is detained by police and later charged with "separatism".

January 25 → A total of 12 people are killed in Xinhe, six in explosions and six shot dead by police dealing with "violent incidents", a government-run news portal says.

March 1 → Knife-wielding assailants killed 29 people and wound more than 130 at Kunming train station in Yunnan province, more than 1,600 kilometres (1,000 miles) from Xinjiang. Officials blame separatists from Xinjiang.

April 30 → Assailants armed with knives and explosives attack a rail station in Urumqi, killing one person and wounding 79, on the final day of a visit by President Xi Jinping.



May 22 -- 39 → people are killed, along with four attackers, and more than 90 wounded when assailants throw explosives and plough two vehicles through a market in Urumqi, state media say.

June 16 → Authorities execute 13 people and send more than 100 to jail in a public mass sentencing on mostly terrorism-related offences in Xinjiang.

July 28 -- 37 → civilians and 59 "terrorists" are killed and another 13 civilians wounded in an attack on a police station and government offices in Yarkand. Police arrest 215 people in connection with the incident, according to state media.

July 30 → Jume Tahir, the government-appointed head of the Id Kah mosque in Kashgar, the largest in China, was killed after leading morning prayers. Police shoot dead two alleged assailants and capture a third.

August 1 → Police in Hotan shoot dead nine suspected terrorists and capture one after discovering the group in a cornfield, according to state media.

September 21 → A total of 40 "rioters", six civilians and four police are killed in Xinjiang's Luntai county after a series of coordinated explosions at police stations, a market and a shop, authorities say days later.

September 23 → Tohti is sentenced to life in prison for "separatism."

Resource from

<http://www.iuhrdf.org/content/timeline-unrest-connected-chinas-restive-xinjiang-region>



DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Uyghur - A turkic ethnic group originally from Central Asia. They are recognized native to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

World Uyghur Congress (WUC) - An international organization made up of exiled Uyghur groups that represent the collective interests of the Uyghur people inside and outside of Xinjiang. The organization states that “The main objective of WUC is to promote the right of the Uyghur people to use peaceful, nonviolent, and democratic means to determine the political future of East Turkistan.”

Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region - Autonomous region in the northwestern corner of China. Home for the Uyghur people and very rich in Natural Resources.



FURTHER RESEARCH

- ❖ <https://www.rferl.org/a/pompeo-reject-beijing-demands-to-send-back-et-hnic-uyghurs-to-china/30177996.html>
- ❖ <https://campaignforuyghurs.org/>
- ❖ <https://www.jww.org/conflict-areas/uyghurs/>
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Taiwan Independence Protesters Take to the Street in Taipei

Topic B: Addressing the Legal and Political Autonomy of Taiwan



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Taiwan is an island located to the south of the Chinese territory that is officially considered part of the People's Republic of China (PRC). The conflicts between both locations are visible taking into consideration that they present different desires in relation to their own systems. There are constantly confusions regarding what is Taiwan and what should it be called, since it wishes to have a political and legal autonomy from the main-land. There should also be an awareness that this land is crucial for the Chinese economy since there are several companies and factories located there, as well as the fact that it upholds a great part of the Chinese technology. The issue is persistent and the countries planned to adhere to military actions, as China had already mentioned several times the probability of using military power against Taiwan. Even though this was already mentioned several years ago, tensions within both territories persist. There are also actions and agreement made by the Chinese Government with the population that planned to protest for autonomy. China have negotiated with the Taiwanese, which agreed to have a "one country, two systems" rule, which would grant the territory with their own government, a capitalist economy, as well as their own military power. But the civilians in this territory pleads for their own country.

In fact, the population doesn't view themselves as part of China, naming themselves Taiwanese, they also believe that Taiwan is an independent country denominated the Republic of China (ROF), according to the Washington Post, 70% of the population agrees with the statement. Even though they are officially considered part of the People's Republic of China (PRC), they were not part of the country in its history. The population also believes that there is a great issue regarding human rights in the country. So, they are seeking for the final title of independent, they have in fact a government and, after the establishment of it democracy in the 1990s, the territory became more divergent from the Chinese ideologies, contributing to its desire of independence.

For these reasons, Taiwan reveals its necessity of being completely independent from China, while, on the other hand, the mainland wishes to persist with its economy and wealth that is located in the Taiwanese locality. The protests and the tensions are increasing in the region, that can attract the military intervention of the PRC, which can create further damage.



Taiwan: The Question of One China



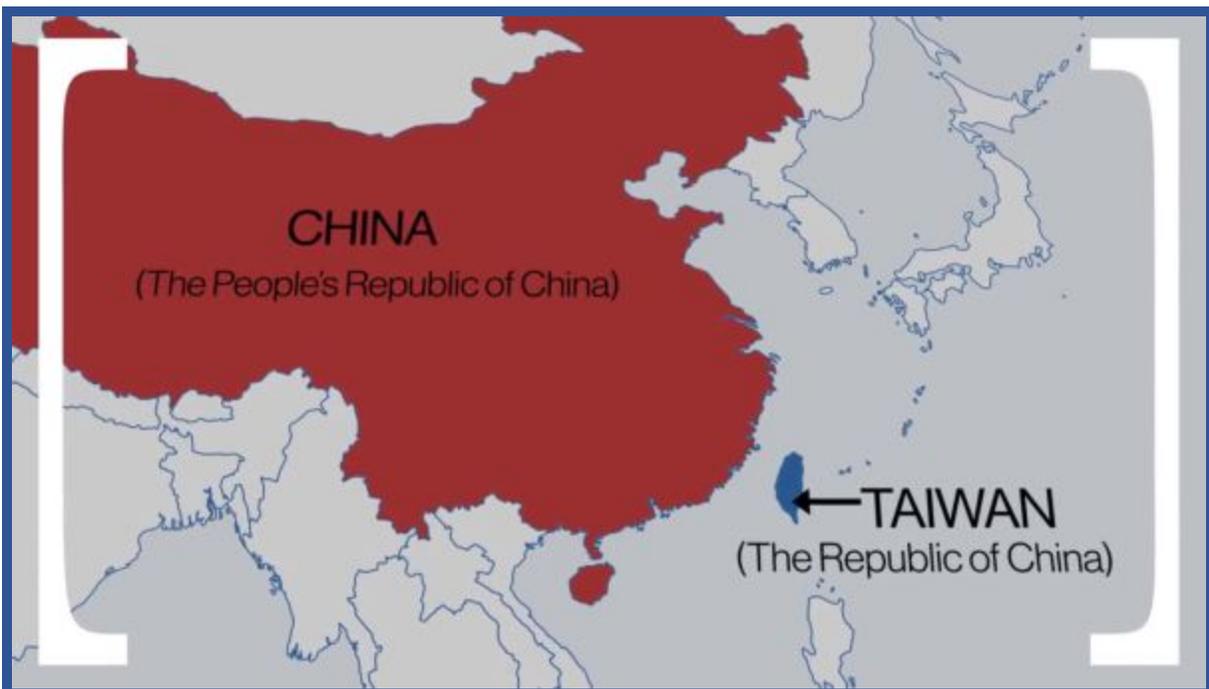
Taiwan's map

"If there are people who dare to split Taiwan from the country, China's military will be ready to go to war to firmly safeguard national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity." -Qian, Wu, the Defense Ministry of China.



One Country, Two Systems

In order for the country of China to attend the interest stated of Taiwan of having a greater autonomy. The Chinese leaders based this concept in the principles established in Great Britain with Hong Kong, as well as the actions made by Portugal in Macau. The country wanted originally to maintain the territory united and desired to diminish the protests that occurred considering this issue. The nation also believed that if they imposed their economy, their own particular views and their political ideology, the country would collapse. Even though this was decided previously as an agreement between both, China and Taiwan, the territory is still refusing to accept their unity.



'One Country, Two Systems'



POSITION OF MAJOR NATIONS

China

The People's Republic of China (PRC) wishes to remain with the "One country, two systems". The country would like to give the autonomy that was already agreed upon the nations, as well as refusing to conceive Taiwan with the independence. The country already stated several times that if the Taiwanese government persisted with the independence movement, the country would use the military actions, as it was declared publicly. The autonomy that will be given will be on the different system of government, democratic, capitalist ideology that Taiwan will follow, as well as the military force that will continue to be autonomous from the Chinese government, all aspects that were already considered in the policy previously stated.

Taiwan

The Republic of China (ROC) desires to have a greater autonomy and doesn't want to be related to the Chinese government. Considering the difference in ideology that are visible within both countries, the majority of the population is protesting to be separated from the mainland. Even though Taiwan is respected in the differences relating to China, such as the diverging political and economic systems, the population refused to be related to the mainland. This happens, mainly, because of the lack of human rights granted to the Chinese population, as well as the authoritarian form of government that is imposed. Not only that, but the civilians that lives within this area clearly states, according to the Washington Post, that they don't relate to their own nation and for this reason they would fight to receive their independence. The government that was recently elected also disagree with the policy of unity imposed by the mainland.

Japan

Japan is in the Taiwanese side and have been continuously bringing the discussion into international meetings. This happened since the election of the Taiwanese president, Tsai, that happened in 2016. Nevertheless, the country still doesn't challenges directly the Chinese policy of "One country, two systems" rule due to the fact that they want to maintain a stable relation with the Chinese government. Because of that, the nation won't fully recognize the independence and won't neglect the existence of the policy that was pre-established by the mainland.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1683 - China's Qing Dynasty annexes the territory to the mainland.

1895 - The taiwanese territory is given to Japan after China lost the Sino-Japanese war.

1942 - Until this date, Japan was still in power of Taiwan, but the Chinese Kuomintang's government demand the territory to be conceived to the original mainland. They pressure Japan after stating that all treaties onced signed between the nations should be renounced.

1945 - The Japanese army surrenders the pressures created by China and the mainland returns to its control.

1947 - Movements in Taiwan starts, they demand free elections and liberty, but the Chinese government receive this in a harsh manner. Still under Kuomintang's rule, the country imposes the martial law and murder a great number of oppositors, as well as protesters.

1949 - When the Communism won the power in the mainland, several people from the Kuomintang's government flees with two million refugees. Also, from this date to the 1970s, the territory is considered exclusively from China by the United Nations.

December 1949 - The Kai-shek's Kuomintang (KMT) fled to Taiwan and established their own government in Taipei, cutting any further relations with China.

1950 - The Taiwanese territory becomes the allies of the United States during the war against China. During this period of time, the tensions grew, since there could have been an eminent attack from the mainland in the territory.

1950-1960 - The development of China and Taiwan happened with the aid offered by the United States.

1975 - With the death of the Chinese leader, Chiang Kai-shek, his son, Chiang Ching-kuo, takes



power and starts liberal policies. With that, he starts to give more autonomy for Taiwan.

1987- Martial law is abolished within the territory.

1988 - With the death of the Chinese president, Chiang, Lee teng took power, being Taiwanese, he started to give more freedom for the population of Taiwan. This includes less restrictions in culture and language, which conceives the population of this area with the right of religion and expression.

1996 - There were the free election in the region, in which the mainland tried to interrupt with the testing of missiles.

June 2001 - The government of Taiwan tests their air defense against China, that was simulating attacks against the island.

November 2001- Taiwan bans the trade with China for the time period of 50 years.

2002 - Taiwan enters the World Trade Organization (WTO) after China.

2003 - The parliament agrees upon referendum on declaring independence and if China would attack.

March 2005 - Taipei disagrees formally condemning the new law approved by Beijing, that states that military action will be taken if Taiwan declares their independence.

July 2009 - The leaders of China and Taiwan exchange the first direct messages in 60 years, which indicates that the ties are improving.

June 2010 - Both China and Taiwan sign a treaty on free trade.

November 2015 - Both leaders have a formal meeting since the end of the Chinese Civil War.



DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

The People's Republic of China (PRC) - Mainland China, founded the 21st of September 1949. It is a one party nation in Asia governed by the Communist Party of China.

The Republic of China (ROC) - Also known as Taiwan. It's capital is Taipei. Island to the east of China and to the south-west of Japan. It is a semi-autonomous state.

“One country, two systems” - Constitutional principle formulated by Deng Xiaoping which stated that even though being the same country, Taiwan can maintain its own system.

Taipei - It is the capital with Taiwan. With a population of 2.64 million and an area of 271.8 km squared.



FURTHER RESEARCH

- ❖ <https://theculturetrip.com/asia/taiwan/articles/the-differences-between-taiwan-and-china/>
- ❖ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/01/02/yes-taiwan-wants-one-china-but-which-china-does-it-want/>
- ❖ <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2019/06/30/what-is-chinas-one-country-two-systems-policy>
- ❖ <https://www.asiatimes.com/2019/07/article/us-china-tilting-towards-conflict-on-taiwan/>
- ❖ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-taiwan-anniversary-president/taiwan-leader-rejects-chinas-one-country-two-systems-offer-idUSKBN1WP0A4>
- ❖ <https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2019/06/30/what-is-chinas-one-country-two-systems-policy>
- ❖ <https://japan-forward.com/how-far-will-japan-go-to-help-keep-taiwan-free/>
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American Soldiers in fighting position

Topic C: Resolving the Afghanistan War



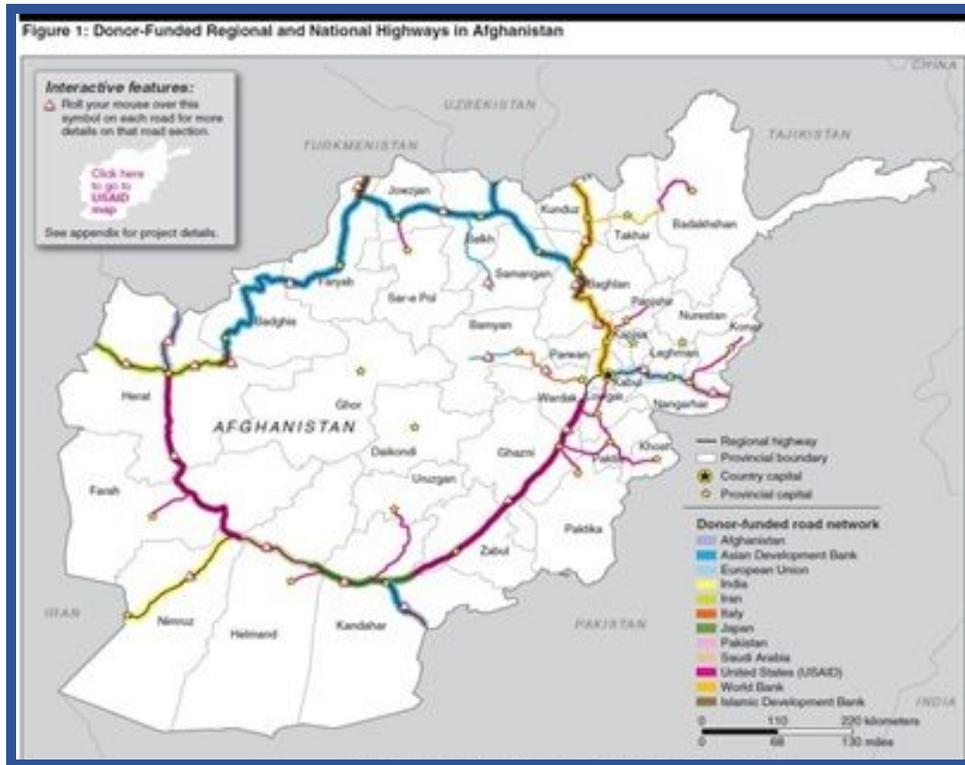
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The current war in Afghanistan was, at first, a war against terror and terrorism after the attack on the World Trade Center in September 11, 2001. Less than a month after the attacks the US declared war on Afghanistan and Al-Qaeda. US President Bush stated that the attacks would be on Al-Qaeda training facilities and the Taliban Regime, but such a plan of war was only implemented after the USA asked the Taliban Regime to deliver leaders of Al-Qaeda that hid in Afghanistan.

At first the US didn't want to send many troops and trained anti-Taliban groups and militias to fight the government. The CIA provided arms, advice and equipment to fight. The militias made good improvements and took Kandahar on December 6. It not only was the largest city in the south of Afghanistan but also the political and religious center for the Taliban. It was taken by forces led by Karzai from the North and troops commanded by Sherzai advanced through the South. The US came really close to capturing Osama Bin Laden in the battle of Tora Bora. But supposedly he escaped to a rural area of Pakistan with the help of Pakistani and Afghan forces that were supposedly helping the USA. Al-Qaeda re-settled in Pakistan making his base of operations and training grounds there. After such an offensive Omar and other top Taliban leaders fled to Pakistan.

After Al-Qaeda and the Taliban left Afghanistan the operation was in nation building, in order to assure that Afghanistan won't be home to terrorists organizations again. Bush announced a Marshall Plan and from 2001 to 2009 more than 38 billion dollar in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance. One of the US's main projects were the ring road. The road that connects the four major cities in Afghanistan and it is of utter most importance to the Afghan government and the USA since it not only helps move troops and resources but good and people in Afghanistan. Unfortunately this road is being hard to build due to the constant threat of attack.

The war is more than 18 years old and caused many damages to the Afghan nation, and the USA. More than 4 thousand soldiers were killed and 30 thousand injured for the USA and every soldier in that location is in dire danger of terrorists attacks and other attacks by Taliban. It is estimated that 40,000 civilians were killed because of the war. The Afghan Ministry of Public Health says that 2/3 of Afghan have Mental Health Problems. The people live in constant fear.



History of Afghanistan

In 1979, The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and created a communist government. The communist government had little popular support and were in Power because of the Soviet Union. The government purged domestic opposition and made many unpopular land and social reforms. The majority of the population were anticommunist muslims. With that the Mujahideen were created in order to fight the communist government. The Soviet Union sent more than 100,000 troops to help the Afghan government. They tried many tactics but the guerrillas eluded the attacks. The Soviets bombed and depopulated rural areas in order to kill the civilian support. Since this happened during the cold war, the US was responsible to arm, train and support the mujahideen against the soviet government, it is named Operation Cyclone. They provided arms and enabled the rebels to neutralize soviet air power with anti-aircraft missiles. They gave better equipment and the organization of the rebels improved. In 1989 the countries involved signed an agreement that the Soviet Union would withdraw the troops and Afghanistan would return to their unaligned status. After that in 1992 the Mujahideen got the capital, Kabul, and started a Islamic Republic, but a group of the Mujahideen wanted all the control so a civil war started between these two parties. In 1994 the Taliban group was created by Mullah Omar joined the war and controlled most of the territory. After that the war was over and the Taliban created an Islamic Government.



Peace Talks

Along the 18 years of war there were many opportunities to discuss peace, and many trials to do so, but success was never achieved. The war continued and so did the consequences of it. The biggest problem is to ensure the safety of Afghan citizens and that Afghanistan won't become home to terrorist organizations again. Peace talks intensified in 2018 and an agreement was reached which included the US removing its troops from Afghanistan. A year of negotiations brought the deal to the verge of signature but on September 7, 2019, Donald Trump stated on a tweet that peace talks were "dead". After that peace talks resumed in the 28th and 29th of October.



POSITION OF MAJOR NATIONS

China

China will be the next meeting point for the Taliban and the USA, and it is very interested in the end of the Afghanistan War. The One Belt one road project passes through Afghanistan, and it is important for the region to be stable for it. China also invested in the country, one example of economic aid is that China donated 3.5 billion dollars to develop the Aynak copper mine. China is afraid to be targeted by terrorist attacks and insurgents so it will walk carefully in the current situation.

For more information: https://carnegieendowment.org/files/china_role_afghanistan.pdf

Japan

Japan is a long known ally of the USA and it has helped protect the interest of its allies in Asia. In the war it has contributed by sending aid, and promising money for the development of the nation. Up to 2011 Japan provided 2.5 billion dollars in assistance to the new government. Hiroyuki Yamaya stated that Japan will focus on the security of civilians and development of the region. Japan with the money donated made schools, roads, wells and provide aid to rural business. Japan also hosts many events in order to raise money for this cause. Japan is interested in the well being of this area especially since Japan is interested in the natural that Afghanistan holds. It currently has a good diplomacy with the country, especially taken into consideration that Japan will have priority on exploring the mining industry. It is crucial to Japan that the conflicts deescalates.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS

2015 May - Taliban representatives and Afghan officials hold informal peace talks in Qatar. Both sides agree to continue the talks at a later date, though the Taliban insist they will not stop fighting until all foreign troops leave the country.

2015 July - Taliban admits that reclusive founder, Mullah Omar, died a few years ago, and appoints Mullah Akhter Mansour as his replacement.

2015 September - Taliban briefly capture major northern city of Kunduz in their most significant advance since being forced from power in 2001.

2015 October - Powerful earthquake kills more than 80 people in northeast of country.

2015 October - US President Barack Obama announces that 9,800 US troops will remain in Afghanistan until the end of 2016, backtracking on an earlier pledge to pull all but 1,000 troops from the country.

2015 November - A new Taliban splinter group, headed by Mullah Rasool, announces its presence in southern Afghanistan. However, the group is totally crushed by the mainstream Taliban by spring 2016.

2015 December - Taliban make bid to capture Sangin, a town and district in Helmand Province. US warplanes deploy in support of Afghan security forces' attempt to repel insurgents.

2015 December - NATO extends its "Resolute Support" follow-on mission by 12 months to the end of 2016.

2016 - Over one million Afghans are on the go during the year, either due to internal displacement because of the war, or are forced to repatriate by Pakistan, Iran and the European Union, according to the United Nations.

Heavy US air strikes reverse Islamic State's gains in the east, and the group is cornered in a few



districts in Nangarhar.

2016 May - New Taliban leader Mullah Mansour is killed in a US drone attack in Pakistan's Balochistan province.

2016 July - US President Barack Obama says 8,400 US troops will remain in Afghanistan into 2017 in light of the "precarious security situation". NATO also agrees to maintain troop numbers and reiterates a funding pledge for local security forces until 2020.

2016 August to October - Taliban advance to the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand, and to the northern city of Kunduz. The group has brought much of the two provinces under its control since the bulk of NATO forces withdraw by the end of 2014.

2016 September - The Afghan government signed a peace agreement with the militant group Hezb-e-Islami and grants immunity to the group's leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

2017 January - A bomb attack in Kandahar kills six UAE diplomats.

2017 February - Rise in Islamic State activities reported in a number of northern and southern provinces.

2017 March - Thirty people were killed and more than 50 wounded in an attack by so-called Islamic State on a military hospital in Kabul.

2017 June - Islamic State militants capture the mountainous region of Tora Bora in Nangarhar province, which was formerly used as a base by the late al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

2017 August - US President Donald Trump says he's sending more troops to fight a resurgent Taliban.

2018 January - Bomb-laden ambulance explodes in Kabul, killing more than 100 people. It is one of ongoing attacks attributed to the Taliban.

2019 September - Protracted peace talks between the Taliban and the United States break down.

To see full timeline <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-12024253>



DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Mujahideen - Rebels that fought against the Communist Government. Had the support of the USA. After separated to form groups, one of them is the Taliban.

Taliban - Conservitive religious and political faction that emerged in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops. They took control of the majority of Afghanistan and formed an Islamic Government

Al-Qaeda - Terrorist organization responsible for the attacks on 9/11 in the World Trade Center, used to be heavily situated in afghanistan.



FURTHER RESEARCH

- ❖ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War#ref292841>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-49192495>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-45507560>
- ❖ <https://abcnews.go.com/International/war-afghanistan-started-18-years-ago-fight-terrorism/story?id=65981061>
- ❖ <https://watson.brown.edu/costsofwar/costs/human/civilians/afghan>
- ❖ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghan-War#ref341368>
- ❖ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-12024253>
- ❖ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDQLHFBp4aM>
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