



TOPIC 1

Devising measures for foreign military interventions and peacekeeping missions

Committee: **DISEC**

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Introduction to topic

Ever since the establishment of a centralized government, militaries, and armies have existed. Since their creation, militaries have been used to exert influence and enforce the interests of nations on one another. However, as time continues, military intervention comes under increasing scrutiny, and it is important to think about the consequences of these operations. If one nation seeks to exploit another's conflict, what is there to stop them? What happens if the intervention occurs to promote "good" principles like democracy, with the meaning of "good" being difficult and subjective? Finally, if no one intervenes in fear of retaliation, which is to blame when atrocities happen because of these internal conflicts? There can be a million reasons for justifying both intervening and not intervening. The question is if one outweighs another.

Alongside this, it is also important to address UN peacekeeping. According to the United Nations themselves, UN peacekeeping is an "instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace". Peacekeepers monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed. Such assistance comes in many forms, including confidence-building measures, power-sharing arrangements, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and economic and social development.

A major question that comes from interventions that are often considered as an afterthought is what happens after an intervention. If the intervention is to protect citizens, how do you maintain a stable peace after intervening? Leaving power vacuums can lead to regimes that could be more dangerous than the ones they replaced. This is not to mention the tons of Internally Displaced People that can come because of interventions. This critical question must be asked when either deciding to intervene or not or in trying to fix the issues of an intervention that had already occurred.

History

With the rise of increasingly advanced forms of diplomacy, military intervention, and state-sanctioned operations, the issue of foreign intervention has become more and more of an issue on the global stage.

The Cold War

The Cold War saw the rise of two major powers – the United States and the Soviet Union. While the war remained without direct military attacks between the two major powers. This resulted in a series of "proxy wars" which involved both parties and their respective allies on foreign soil. While no direct conflict ever occurred on either Soviet or American soil during the Cold War, both sides readily deployed forces and resources during conflicts that involved conflicts of interests between the two sides in other nations.

The Korean War, the first of many interventionist wars in this era, set the scene of future conflicts between the two powers and their allies. The end of World War II had left the Korean

peninsula divided into two separate powers: the north, administered by the Soviet Union; the south, backed by the United States. Tensions rose as each claimed legitimate control over the whole peninsula. The tension finally snapped when North Korean troops marched across the border in a surprise invasion. The forces quickly pushed all the way down the peninsula, almost completely overtaking the South. The United Nations condemned the invasion and initiated forces to push back. This military intervention primarily consisted of American and allied forces and the action taken by the UN that pushed the involvement was passed without the approval of either the USSR or China. These combined United Nations forces pushed the Northern troops back to almost overtake the full peninsula. However, a later intervention by China forced the United Nations Command to withdraw troops. Later parts of the war consisted mostly of back-and-forth pushes between the two sides, losing and reclaiming the territories, until this perpetual stalemate was ended with an armistice that formally drew a border at the 38th parallel.

This conflict involved many nations from across the world despite only being on Korean soil, the first of its kind in the modern era. This was also a war that did not aim to capture land or resources for the intervening nations, as was often the case in the past, but to protect political and influence interests in the region. Notably, this war also included an interesting role for the United Nations as a potential military force to protect the interest of member nations.

Post-Cold War

Since the start and completion of the Soviet Union's collapse, several different military interventions have occurred around the globe. Many came from the United States, as they become the global hegemonic power of the era. Its various interventions have been both praised and criticized. Here is several interventions the global superpower has engaged in over the years:

1. The Gulf War
2. The Afghanistan War
3. The Iraq War
4. Intervention of Haiti after 2015 coup
5. Intervention in the Syrian crisis

Yet, as interventions on the issue of communism versus capitalism have subsided, interventions on political ideology and interests have grown. Notably, interventions are popping up from various regional powers. Saudi Arabia has been criticized for operations in Yemen, while China has intervened.

UN Peacekeeping involvements

United Nations peacekeeping was initially developed during the Cold War as a means of resolving conflicts between states by deploying unarmed or lightly armed military personnel from a number of countries, under UN command, to areas where warring parties were in need of a

neutral party to observe the peace process. As of the present moment, there have been over 70 peacekeeping missions undertaken & 14 are currently ongoing.

According to scholar Page Fortna, there is strong evidence that the presence of peacekeepers significantly reduces the risk of renewed warfare; more peacekeeping troops leads to fewer battlefield and civilian deaths. There is also evidence that the promise to deploy peacekeepers can help international organizations in bringing combatants to the negotiation table and increase the likelihood that they will agree to a cease-fire.

However, the cost of these missions is quite significant, with UNMISS in South Sudan costing \$1 billion per year for 12,500 UN soldiers unable to prevent the country's movement toward civil war. Often missions require approval from local governments before deploying troops which can also limit the effectiveness of UN missions.

In addition to that, there have been several reports during UN peacekeeping missions of human rights abuse by UN soldiers. Reporters witnessed a rapid increase in prostitution in Cambodia & Mozambique after UN peacekeepers forces moved in. The table below presents all the confirmed accounts of crimes and human rights violations committed by United Nations soldiers, peacekeepers, and employees

Conflict	United Nations Mission	Sexual abuse	Murder	Extortion/Theft
2004 Haitian coup d'état	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti	110	57	0
Burundi Civil War	United Nations Operation in Burundi	80	5	0
Côte d'Ivoire Civil War	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire	500	2	0
Eritrean-Ethiopian War	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea	70	15	0
Israeli-Lebanese conflict	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon	0	6	0
Kosovo War	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo	800	70	100
Rwanda Civil War	United Nations Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda	65	15	0
Second Congo War	United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo	150	3	44

Second Liberian Civil War	United Nations Mission in Liberia	30	4	1
Second Sudanese Civil War	United Nations Mission in Sudan	400	5	0
Sierra Leone Civil War	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone	50	7	15
Somali Civil War	United Nations Operation in Somalia II	5	24	5

Questions to consider

Here are some questions to potentially think about as you do your research and formulate your country's position on this topic. You do not need to address them all in your paper if any at all. These are just some starting points for debate in committee and your own position and agenda:

- When should military intervention be allowed? What should be the standards for justifications which make military intervention reasonable?
- Should there be consequences for unilateral interventions initiated by a nation? How about interventions by blocs or groups of nations (NATO, GCC, UN Security Council)? What would they be?
- What is the role of the international community and its organizations in dealing with military interventions? What role does the UN have, and who has the say over if the UN should deploy its own personnel to intervene?
- How can we balance international involvement with the right of national sovereignty?
- What should be the limits of what any given nation can do if they choose to militarily intervene in a separate nation? 6. What should be done, and who gets to call the shots on how to stabilize a region after an intervention? What role could the UN play in this process, if any?