

Committee: General Assembly 1 (DISEC)

Agenda A: Addressing Foreign Military Intervention and Sovereignty Issues

I . Introduction

It is natural for each country to pursue their individual goals in methods such as gaining economic initiatives, accomplishing extensive social welfare, and so forth. Today, these methods are being chased after in a world where each country has its own political and economic structure. Due to this diversity, intervening with another country's affairs is controversial. While the intervention may have the purpose of aiding the involved countries, it can also become a form of disrespect. Furthermore, because the standard for intervention differs in each country, as there has never been a universal standard for intervention, the ambiguity escalates the chaos.

There are numerous cases around the world in which a problem cannot be solved by that one country that is experiencing the problem. Many of these countries, in common, have a closed structure in which education is limited, media is censored, so that domestic uprisings against the dictatorship is altogether infeasible. In these cases, a force powerful enough to cease the oppression is required, and thereby aids of international organizations and other nations seem necessary.

On the other hand, humanitarian intervention can be controversial because a superior country's scheme to gain advantage, may be disguised in the name of intervention for the enhancement of human rights. This issue of intervention has emerged significantly as various historical cases such as the Rwanda War and Bosnia War have highlighted the urgency and gravity of a concrete solution.



Figure 1 (World map indicating each regions' government)

II. Definition of key terms

National Sovereignty:

The definition of the term is being defined vaguely over history as the right to autonomy. In the status quo, it is defined that independent nations, which have declared their independence, have an organized government and are self-contained, have a right to exist without other nations interfering. More precisely, the ability or right of a state to carry out actions or policies within its borders without interference. According to this definition, states have the right to solve domestic problems and decide their stance on international issues on their own.

Humanitarian Intervention:

If the unfair treatment of a nation is so cruel and extensive that it disregards the society's universal values such as human rights, exercising of force by one or more other countries to stop such activities is considered to be legitimate. Humanitarian intervention can be divided into forcible humanitarian intervention and unilateral humanitarian intervention. Forcible humanitarian intervention is the interference of imperialist states to force their interest on others. Therefore, it is vague to constrict other nations' decision as something wrong. Unilateral humanitarian intervention is a military intervention set by a state that is out of the border of the UN. Legality and legitimacy of humanitarian intervention can be approached in two perspectives: positive law and common law. It is usual to follow the positive law by gaining the authorization from members of the UN Security Council. But in some minor cases including NATO's military humanitarian intervention in Kosovo war, interfering can be justified without the United Nations' authorization depending on modern international law, which was the contemporary international law before.

The International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS):

ICISS was created to address the dilemma between respecting national sovereignty and aiding nations through humanitarian intervention. The commission was founded by the Canadian government in September 2000, with selected members who can reflect geographical, political and professional perspectives. They tried to notify the notion of humanitarian intervention by announcing the responsibility to protect.

Responsibility to Protect:

This is the global political commitment to address preventing genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. It covers the intervention dilemma and the state sovereignty, and the responsibility to prevent, react and rebuild. By stating a framework for employing measures, it is aiming to prevent atrocity crimes. It has been practiced in the past cases such as Kenya ethnic

violence in 2008, Burundi civil war, and Yemen Crisis.

III. Background information

Many cases show how conflicts among nations and dictatorship of unjust leaders lead to the violation of human rights, causing external aid to become necessary. But at the same time, those cases have shown the importance of intervention to take place in an appropriate situation, with legitimacy, considering the method that least infringes human rights.

Rwanda genocide was one of the most shocking events ever in human history for its cruelty and scale of the destruction. The mass slaughter of Tutsi happened during the Rwandan Civil War, commanded by the political cores of Hutu, causing 500,000 to 1,000,000 casualties, death of 70% of the Tutsi population, and rape afflicted to 250,000 to 500,000 women. During this period, the Peacekeeping Forces were not able to cooperate effectively due to the disagreement among members of the UN Security Council. Since then, the Netherlands, Ghana, and Canada Peacekeeping Forces have actively taken part in saving innocent civilians' lives. However, western nations including the US, France, Belgium, altogether ignored the atrocities of the Rwanda War, due to various factors including the proliferation of a negative public sentiment. Like this, the insufficient provision of UN forces was the cause of the failed attempt to alleviate human rights violation in Rwanda causing more severe consequences in Rwanda and the whole of humanity. Rwanda genocide is the representative example of indecision of the international society that caused a catastrophe.

A prerequisite to initiating a humanitarian intervention is to gain assent from the UN Security Council members. However, NATO's humanitarian intervention in the Kosovo War was a case in which a foreign military force acted without the Security Council's permission, but successfully led to the end of war. It has evoked numerous questions related to its legitimacy, the severity of infringement in human rights, whether it was the last resort, and whether it had an important influence on the solution. Moreover, it is ironic that the U.S. is one of the NATO members and one of the Security Council members at the same time.

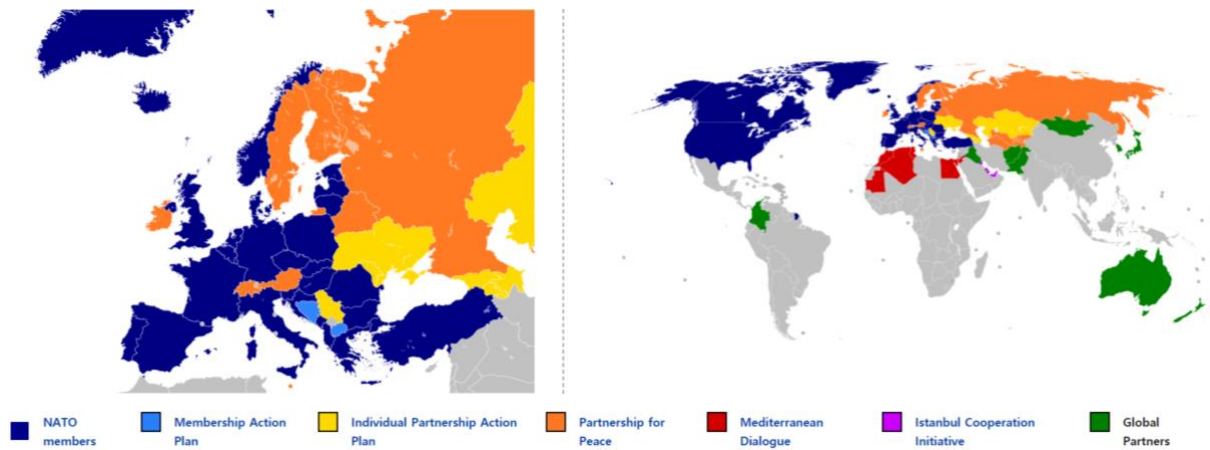


Figure 2 (Map of NATO affiliations in Europe / Map of NATO partnerships globally)

Bosnian War, which lasted for three years and a half, was an obtrusive event throughout history. It had a notable difference to other cases in the aspect of the grand scale of refugees generated and the coinciding ethnic cleansing. Furthermore, the case took place within the global scale of intervention including the military intervention of UNPROFOR and NATO, the involvement of non-governmental civil relief organization, and intensive broadcasting of the media. However, UN handled the brutal event late, contributing to the increased degree of damage.

The intervention dilemma between national sovereignty and human rights aid is always being debated upon. The standard of the level of humanitarian intervention that can be regarded as legitimate is ambiguous, and to what degree intervention should be limited is not yet clear. Critical affairs can happen everywhere and every time, including events that necessarily requires global connection and cooperation. However, it is inefficient and risky for organizations to have a thorough conference newly for every case, for every intervention. Historical precedents that indicate successful and failed cases of intervention verify the importance and necessity of a well-organized construction of the criteria of intervention.

IV. Past actions of UN and non-governmental organizations

The Responsibility to Protect: Also known as activities for "right of humanitarian intervention", it presents the expanded view of sovereignty as responsibility, development of standards for the protection of citizens, suggesting a new framework of the responsibility to protect. Defining sovereign states as equal but mentioning that the authority of a state is not regarded as absolute. Mentioning "The debate about intervention for human protection purposes should focus not on 'the right to intervene' but on 'the responsibility to protect'", it specifies the responsibility to protect in three

offshoots, responsibility to prevent, react and rebuild. Effective prevention can be achieved by an 'early warning', knowledge of the fragility of the situation and the risks associated with. Measures for the resolution is divided into political and economic measures, economic measures, legal measures, and military measures, and must be accompanied by political will for the appliance. The responsibility to react is including various sanctions, following with collecting evidence and information and military intervention. The responsibility to rebuild must include security, justice and reconciliation, development and local ownership.

UN Security Council: It has invoked the principle of "responsibility to protect" and adopted resolution 1973, endorsing a no-fly zone over Libya and authorizing member states to "take all necessary measures" to protect civilians under attack from Qaddafi's government. However, some Western Countries including the U.S. began strikes over Lybia, causing a debate on whether the forced intervention was warranted

V. Major countries involved

United States

Including the conflict in the Middle East, the United States is involved in manifold issues worldwide. The range of the intervention varies from indirect pressure such as adjusting tariff, to military forces. This made the U.S. into an international police, exerting influence to every issue and country. Though the present U.S. government is pursuing American Firstism policies, its impact on international society remains since the only thing altered was the direction, shedding from pretexts and focusing on relationships which are apparently beneficial to themselves. For instance, in 1980, the U.S. had intervened in the Middle East dispute for the reason of World peace, but their intrinsic purpose was to gain a reliable petroleum supply. Furthermore, in 2019, the U.S. had raised the tariff barriers with Mexico in order to exact Mexico's cooperation in case of immigrant regulation.

Former colonies

Countries that were colonies in the past, especially countries in Asia or Africa, have for long viewed intervention of any kind as a threat to their sovereignty. Most of these former colonies have experienced interference of foreign countries in their national liberal decisions, both directly and indirectly. To this day, some of these countries have successfully become independent of former imperialist countries, while some still cannot stand alone even after liberation. It is the case of the latter that encourages the former colony to remain reliant on other countries both politically and economically.

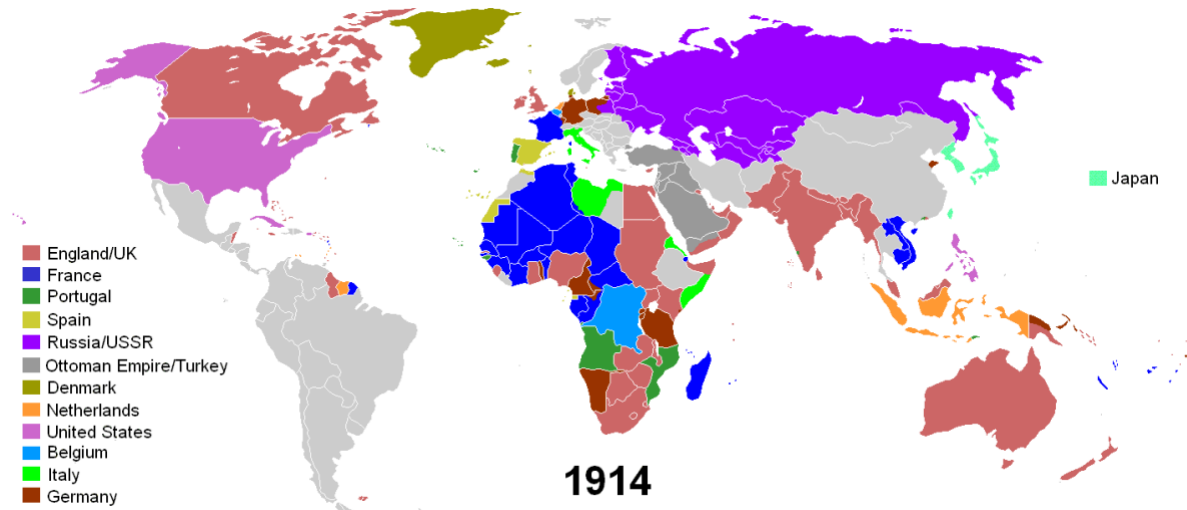


Figure 3 (World map of former colonies)

Member States of NATO

NATO's intervention in Kosovo is generally evaluated as a successful military action, though it denied the authorization of UN. It revealed the NATO member states' confidence about humanitarian intervention, making themselves eligible to act even without UN authorization. Moreover, since it gave a positive influence to the war, their action found a new route named "Unilateral Humanitarian intervention." Unilateral humanitarian intervention allows for efficient decision-making because it disregards the procedure of authorization, which may delay implementation. Such benefit of unilateral humanitarian intervention was proved important in the Bosnian war, in which quick decision-making was utilized to minimize damage.

VI. Future Outlooks and solutions

In the matter of one country or an international organization aiding another country, it is first important to consider the result of the intervening power's effort: whether the human rights infringement experienced by the nation has stopped, or whether the nation's internal conflict has terminated. All the while, it is important to preserve the value of sovereignty.

When viewed upon negatively, international intervention is regarded as sovereignty invasion. However, considering the status quo that every country is interrelated, and that several issues are almost impossible to be solved by one country alone, a certain level of intervention seems to be justifiable. But what is controversial is the standard of the level of intervention. Excessive involvement can exceed the minimum level of sovereignty infringement that can be allowed, and

passive aid cannot solve the problem at hand effectively. In addition, the method of intervention is being debated upon, as some military actions are exacerbating conflicts. For instance, NATO's humanitarian aid in Kosovo war is partially denounced because it afflicted civilians and their shelters. Therefore, in our committee, we must discuss about methods to minimize human rights infringement with minimized intervention. To summarize, a concrete standard of the level of the intervention and an effective method of intervention must be devised.



Figure 4 (NATO military committee visiting Kosovo)

Secondly, though it is inevitable for countries to act according to their national interest, they must not abuse this as a justification for intervention. In the past, the U.S. had intervened in the Middle East war under the name of “contributing to world peace” to, in reality, acquire a reliable supply of petroleum for its own nation. Such intervention caused more conflict afterwards, causing numerous casualties. Besides the purposes for acquiring valuable resources, some interventions have political purposes. For example, during the age of the Cold War, there were several proxy wars worldwide, including the Vietnam war and the Korean War, due to political reasons. As more countries became involved, intervening in one another, the scale and damage had greatly expanded. With these prior incidents in mind, solutions to stop some nations’ interventions only for their national benefits, which makes the problem worse, should be sought for. For example, limiting the level of intervention can prevent the countries from extracting their own profits through intervention.

Third, historical cases proved that it is important for foreign aids to be implemented quickly. If the implementation is postponed, despite how effective the aid itself may be, during the time of delay the calamity will aggravate, making it more difficult to solve. The reason for the postponement of the execution of the aid is usually the tedious process of authorization, which requires discussion on whether the intervention is just and the decision of the method through which the intervention will take place. This process takes time because of the currently vague standards of the level of intervention. In order to minimize damage and enhance the effectiveness of the aid, an immediate first aid that can be implemented readily while the authorization procedure is in process is required. Because the point of such first aid is that it can be implemented without authorization, it must be an aid from a non-governmental organization (NGO), such as their medical aid. Also, it would be helpful if the NGO can comprehensively inform the situation of the conflict to the international society, which can benefit from it to come up with more effective aids after understanding the exact condition.

VII. Conclusion

Conflicts happen worldwide, within a nation and among nations, because of collisions in values that result in political and economic disputes. Among these, conflicts entailing military forces lead to many negative effects such as the violation of civilians' human rights. Since this is in discordance to our moral values, historically, in these cases, intervention has been regarded as justifiable. However, such interventions can make the state unable to stand alone afterwards, and the intention behind the intervention may divert away from the original motive to secure the intervening country's own national interests, causing detrimental results in the long term. To prevent this possibility and to achieve the initial humane goal while protecting all nations' sovereignty, the more concrete standard for the justification and the limitation for each intervention should be provided. Moreover, additional aids should be offered from institutions that are not tied to formal international relationships, enabling them to immediately take action without the validation and consensus of international organizations.

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