

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

Security Council Reform

Security Council Resolution 2100, passed on April 13, 2013, expanded the number of non-permanent seats from 10 to 14, while leaving the status of the P-5 unchanged. It was a compromise measure, as the P-5 countries could not agree upon a formula for new permanent members, in addition to who those members should be. The formula for the selection of the non-permanent seats was also changed. The new formula, as well as the members of this session of the Security Council, is as follows:

- Permanent Nations (with veto power)
 - People's Republic of China
 - France
 - Russian Federation
 - United Kingdom
 - United States
- 3 Western European countries
 - Germany
 - Ireland
 - Norway
- 3 Latin American countries
 - Brazil
 - Cuba
 - Mexico
- 2 Eastern European countries
 - Belarus
 - Slovakia
- 3 African countries
 - Nigeria
 - Somalia
 - South Africa
- 3 Asian countries
 - India
 - Japan
 - United Republic of Korea
- 2 Middle Eastern countries
 - Iran
 - Syrian Arab Republic

THE WORLD FROM 2010-2020

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

Asia

The first part of the second decade went as expected. China continued its rate of rapid growth, although it had slowed to a more modest yearly average of 7% by 2015. India seemed to match China's rise with a rise of its own; India's economy averaged a 6.3% growth rate over the same time span. Japan continued to struggle to find economic growth, while South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, and Thailand continued to grow. Pakistan was able to achieve some success in its fight against the Taliban, and with the American withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2014 maintains enormous influence over its Western neighbor. Even relations with India have improved, as both were weary of the rise of Chinese influence in the region. Myanmar's democratic election scheduled for 2010 did occur, but with blatant accusations of ballot stuffing and disenfranchisement of voters; needless to say, the military junta remains in firm control of the country, and is a source of instability in the region with its continued campaign against ethnic minorities on the Indian, Chinese, and Thai borders. The North Korean nuclear issue was not resolved, as both the United States and China failed to pressure the regime to removing itself from its isolation.

The seminal event in the region by far was the death of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in 2015. The government attempted to keep the news hidden for two months, but eventually foreign news sources and governments unmasked the deception. The new regime under his son Kim Jong Un, was unstable; both the military and his brother-in-law, Jang Song Thaek, attempted coups. The result of the in-fighting was a wave of protests against the deplorable economic and humanitarian situation within the country. Army soldiers refused the orders of their officers to put down the protests, and joined the demonstrations. Refugees began pouring over the borders into both China and South Korea, and to prevent the Chinese from possibly establishing a client state, South Korea pronounced the two Koreas unified, and the United Republic of Korea (hereafter listed as simply Korea) was declared on June 24, 2015.

The situation within the former North Korea led to tensions between Korea and China. Korea was unable to quell the refugee exodus into China, resulting in instability in northeastern China. Korea also decided to integrate the two armies of North and South Korea into the United Korean People's Armed Forces (UKPAF); the total number of troops numbered approximately 1.8 million. The United States supplied a large number of military supplies to Korea, further drawing the ire of China. Economic assistance poured into Korea, some from the United States and Japan, but also from the Korean diasporas. Furthermore, the Korean government refused to give up the nuclear weapons that the North Koreans had developed; it is estimated Korea now has 10-15 operable nuclear warheads. Tensions exacerbated as the Chinese moved 500,000 troops into the border regions to stop the tide of refugees. Fearing an invasion, Korea struck first, and war broke out on February 6, 2016.

The war was limited- both sides chose to limit their attacks to exclude civilian population centers, and neither air force attacked each others major cities, although air cover was provided

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

for the troops on the ground. The United States took the lead in condemning the violence, and the US Congress passed a bill over President Obama's veto in which economic sanctions were placed on the two countries. Although the bill helped to precipitate a recession, it was politically popular as a way to restore the US balance of trade. Economic problems beset both the Chinese and Koreans, and both agreed to US mediation in January 2017, with a truce declared on January 19, 2017, right before the end of Obama's administration.

While the war hurt both countries economy, China suffered the most. Exports to the United States fell from \$401.2 billion in 2015 to \$47.6 billion in 2016, and only improved to \$89 billion in 2017 as former Chinese importers looked to more stable sources. Massive unemployment struck China; tens of millions of workers were laid off. Protests quickly developed in Canton, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Chongqing, and Wuhan. The government quickly sent in troops to dispel the protests, but could not stop them all. In the midst of the chaos, the ethnic minorities saw a chance to secede from the Beijing government. Inner Mongolia, Yunan, Xinjiang, and Tibet all declared their independence; while Taiwan reaffirmed their independence. Riddled with budget problems, dwindling foreign reserves, and protests in the more populous and economically important eastern provinces, the government has been unable to stop these groups from establishing republics. While the Communist government has not fallen from power, the regime is currently on thin ice and is going to have to proceed at a cautious pace to maintain its leadership position.

With the Chinese government unable to control its own borders, foreign powers have begun to recognize the splintered republics. Xinjiang declared itself the Republic of Uygurstan, and is recognized by all the Central Asian republics, as well as many Middle Eastern states. Inner Mongolia has annexed itself to the Republic of Mongolia. Tibet is recognized by many of the Western nations, as well as India and other southeastern Asian nations. Many of the southeastern Asian states have also recognized the independence of Yunan, although Myanmar has not done so.

The Americas

The United States began a slow recovery from its economic downturn beginning in early 2010. It has maintained its ranking as the top economy, but did suffer a recession in 2016 caused by the sanctions against Korea and China. It has spent an enormous amount of capital, both government and private, in securing new manufacturing bases outside of China. While some has gone to the other Asian tigers (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, etc.), the United States greatly increased its investment in Latin America. The result has been a quick and sharp rise in GDP in many of Latin America's economies: Mexico, Chile, Ecuador, Cuba, Uruguay, and Colombia's GDPs have risen between 4-8% in the last 3 years, and continue at a high pace. Exports from these countries to the United States have risen 66% in the last 5 years. The United States has in return sought to protect its investments by trying to keep foreign influence out of the region.

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

The U.S. also began to lick the wounds to its military, withdrawing from Iraq in 2012 and Afghanistan in 2014. Obama and the Congress cut military spending to help reduce the budget deficit, which now sits at \$16.4 trillion, American troops have withdrawn from Korea, and the base at Guantanamo Bay closed in 2017. Currently, the U.S. is very concerned about the security situation resulting from the chaos in China, and has increased military aid to Japan, Taiwan, and India as a result.

Currently, President Mitt Romney has sought a more isolationist foreign policy. He has scaled back American military presence in some countries, reducing the number of troops stationed in Germany, Kuwait, and Iraq. However, he has continued to use American influence to solve disputes, negotiating an Arctic boundary dispute between Canada and Russia in 2019. The Romney administration understands that America remains the sole superpower, although other countries, such as India, Brazil, and Russia still remain powerful and must be consulted with to solve international issues.

In Latin America, Brazil has emerged as the major regional power. Hosting the 2016 Olympics proved to be a coming out party to the world. Brazil now has the fifth largest economy, is energy independent, an exporter of oil and ethanol, and is a major contributor to UN peacekeeping missions. It has established military presences in Guatemala and Belize, much to the chagrin of the United States and Mexico. Brazil feels threatened by the increased US interest in Latin America, and has sought to increase its ties with its neighbors, creating a South American Treaty Organization (SATO) in 2018. The current members of SATO are Brazil, Suriname, Guyana, Venezuela, Uruguay, and Argentina. SATO's explicit goal is collective security in South America, although many see it simply as a way for Brazil to expand its influence and reduce that of the United States.

In addition, two of the world's rogue regimes have met an end in recent years. Both Fidel and Raul Castro died in 2013, leaving a large void in the Cuban government. The Communist regime quickly fell, and a democratic government was elected in 2014. However, that government relies heavily on the military to remain in power, and a de-facto military republic currently rules the island. This did not stop President Obama from removing the embargo in 2015, and the two countries agreed to close Guantanamo Bay. Additionally, Hugo Chavez was removed from power by a military coup in 2017. The military still maintains power, and is weary of American influence in Latin America, resulting in it joining SATO. Furthermore, the new government is just as belligerent as Chavez's, recently accusing Trinidad & Tobago of stealing oil from Venezuelan waters.

Europe

The trend in Europe has been towards greater integration within the European Union, yet at the same time factions have begun to emerge within the European bloc. In addition to the member states of 2009, Croatia, Turkey, FYR Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, Albania,

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

Ukraine, and Turkey are now full members. Iceland, Kosovo, and Bosnia are currently candidate countries for membership. This leaves Russia, Serbia, and Belarus as the only European countries currently not on track for EU membership.

While more policy direction has been taken by the EU and the European Parliament, particularly on economic and environmental concerns, foreign policy remains largely the prerogative of the states; the countries do not wish to relinquish their sovereignty to the EU. Additionally, two noticeable blocs have been formed with the EU. One, led by the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, and Italy has called for the continuation of the status quo, with the goal of the EU being a negotiating and consultation forum rather than a policy making body. However, a second group, led by France and Spain, has called for more integration within the EU, increasing the powers of the body. These countries argue that this is the only way to consolidate the advantages that the European continent as a whole have and to increase European prestige in world affairs. This debate has become central in many countries, as economic stagnation and population decline have led to a general feeling that Europe may be entering another dark period, where the Asiatic and American powers shape world affairs.

The NATO adventure in Afghanistan has led to a reconsideration of the role of Europe within NATO. The UK has led the charge saying that NATO is a force of stability in the international community, and that it should be left standing. However, France and Italy have felt that NATO's role should be decreased, while Germany has reorganized its armed forces after its trials in Afghanistan. The European powers have been the dominant reason that the only NATO operation since the withdrawal from Afghanistan has been in an advisory capacity in Kosovo in conjunction with the EU. France and Germany have led to the creation of a separate international security arrangement, the Central European Defense Initiative (CEDI), in which members to the organization put a certain number of soldiers under a joint command chosen at an annual plenary meeting. Currently, France, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Denmark, and Slovakia are the only members, and CEDI is facing its first test engaging in a peacekeeping mission in Georgia. Both the US and the UK were opposed to the creation of the CEDI, as was Russia and Spain.

Russia has been largely marginalized by the increased European integration. It has enhanced its ties with Belarus and Serbia, fellow countries that have been excluded by the EU. Russia has tried to use its energy influence to its advantage to force concessions; this helped force the European nations to find a rapprochement with Iran, who has become the largest suppliers of natural gas to Europe. Russia has had to turn its eyes to Asia and Africa to exert its waning influence.

The Middle East

The Middle East continues to be a source of world instability. The increased dependence of the world economies on Middle Eastern oil has increased the desire of the international community to find stability. A two-state solution for the Israeli-Palestinian crisis has yet to be

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

implemented, as terrorist attacks from Palestinians and the refusal of the Israelis to abandon their West Bank settlements has caused any prospects for peace in the near-term to disappear. Fatah has ceased to be an effective force in Palestinian politics after Mahmud Abbas' resignation in 2010. Hamas is currently the dominant force in Palestinian politics, and has effective control over all Palestinian territory not occupied by the Israeli Defense Forces.

The United States completed its withdraw from Iraq in 2012. While not a model of stability or democracy in the region, Iraq has not fallen into chaos. The devolution of power into the three tribal areas (Kurds, Sunnis, and Shia) has proven to prevent large-scale sectarian violence. However, the national government has been heavily influenced by Iran in recent years, although Saudi Arabia has also tried to influence the Iraqi government.

Iran has continued to dominant regional headlines. Under President Ahmadinejad, the Iranians effectively stonewalled the international community, although it was not successful in developing a nuclear weapon. Following another disputed and fraudulent election in 2013, the Iranian people had enough; they took to the street and this time refused to leave. This so called Green Revolution, which lasted until February 2014, brought an end to the Islamic Republic. President Mir Hussein Moussavi has created a constitutional republic, with a weak legislature and strong judiciary and executive. During the unrest, the nuclear program's work was suspended. However, the Moussavi administration has continued the program, with slightly increased IAEA inspections. Israel in particular remains concerned that the program is designed for weapons, although much of the international pressure has been relaxed on the regime.

Africa

Africa is a story of success and failure. Some countries, such as Angola, Nigeria, and South Africa have improved their standards of living and are major regional powers in Africa. Some, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Guinea-Bissau are plagued by many of the same problems that have hounded them since independence such as violence, disease, and poverty.

Nigeria has proven to be a source of security and stability to West Africa. Nigeria has overcome many of its problems with corruption, and has helped to facilitate the end of the Niger Delta attacks. Nigeria has worked with the countries of the region to improve conditions, providing some economic and humanitarian assistance. Nigeria currently leads an AU peacekeeping force in Guinea-Bissau designed to negotiate a cease-fire to an eight-year civil war that has plagued the country.

South Africa likewise has provided stability and security in Southern Africa. South Africa helped to facilitate a new era of democracy in Zimbabwe following the death of Robert Mugabe in 2013. Currently, an AU peacekeeping force there led by the South Africans is scheduled to depart this year after democratic elections returned President Tsvingari to power. Likewise, South Africa helped to restore order after the collapse of the Swaziland monarchy in

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

2016. South Africa has worked with Nigeria, but the two continental powers are suspicious of each other, and prefer to keep order in their regions of Africa without the assistance of the other.

Unfortunately, not all is well. The international community failed to resolve the crisis in Darfur, resulting in the death of 3.2 million people in the region. Sudan continues to defy the international community, and tensions have recently increased with Ethiopia over attacks against the Sudanese government. Likewise, the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to be a source of instability. MONUC has never left the country, although its main focus now is on protecting the government and the area around Kinshasa. Rwanda exercises tremendous influence in the Eastern Kivu region, and Angola is suspected of supporting anti-government militias in the central part of the country. It is estimated that 2.1 million people have been forced to flee their homes in the last ten years due to the violence in the country.

COUNTRY BRIEFS

Belarus

Belarus has been excluded by the European Union, and has been forced to turn to Russia as a result. The two countries have great relations, recently signing a free trade agreement and an energy deal guaranteeing Belarus preferred access to Russia's oil and gas exports, although the relationship clearly favors Russia with Belarus as the junior partner. President Alexander Lukashenko has been in power now for over twenty years, and does not seem interested in giving up any power anytime soon. The Western world continues to denounce Belarus as a dictatorship, and Lukashenko continues to consider them to be trying to undermine his regime. Belarus has strengthened ties with Syria, Iran, China, the UR Korea, and its neighbors in an attempt to improve relations with the outside world, and limit its dependence on Russia.

Brazil

Brazil's influence has expanded markedly over the last decade, and it is the largest Latin American power. Current President Aecio Neves da Cunha faces a strong challenge in this year's election as the public looks for a more assertive foreign policy. Neves has attempted to maintain good relations with the U.S. despite Brazilian opposition to an increased American role on the continent. Brazil has sought stronger relations with typical American antagonists such as Russia and China as a means to try and improve its relations with the U.S. Brazil is looking for opportunities to expand its influence, as evidenced by its military presence in Central America. Rumors persist that Brazil is strengthening ties with Pakistan and Iran to seek a possible nuclear weapon, but this has not been confirmed. Brazil has also placed vital emphasis on the sovereignty of countries, not willing to denounce the coup in Venezuela.

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

China

President Xi Jinping faces major problems trying to return stability to China. The first goal has to be to return economic growth to the country- China has been passed by Japan and Germany in terms of GDP. Unemployment is a major factor fueling the unrest in the eastern provinces- and military force has had only minor success in solving the issues. The second problem is the issue of the breakaway republics. China has yet to seek to solve the problem militarily, realizing that the United States will protect Taiwan and India would likely protect Tibet. China's leaders know their instability could lead to foreign entanglement in their affairs, as India and Korea seek influence, and Japan, Russia, and the United States look to protect their interests as well. China has been looking for investors in the country, and Brazil has helped provide much needed investment in the last couple of years. China had become more assertive in their foreign policy in the early part of the decade, vetoing resolutions condemning Myanmar and Sudan, and expanding its influence in the Persian Gulf. However, its internal struggles have forced it to be less assertive, and has been less confrontational on issues not seen as vital to its national security and interests, knowing it needs to pick its fights carefully given its weakened state.

Cuba

President-General Orlando Valdez has sought to maintain order and stability in a country transitioning from Communist rule to integration in the international community. Cuba has depended on aid from the United States government and its Cuban-American immigrant community. Slowly rebuilding the economy, General Valdez has backed American foreign policy initiatives in Latin America and rebuffed Brazilian overtures, including observer status in SATO. Cuba has also sought and received assistance from the European Union, and in return has offered small numbers of peacekeepers to UN peacekeeping missions in Africa. Cuba's foreign policy remains largely pro-American, but has refrained from joining its northern neighbor's condemnation of other's human rights abuses.

France

France continues to insist that it is a major world power, although its influence has been on the decline. It has lost influence in West Africa due to the rise of Nigeria, and clearly is less influential in European affairs than Germany. President Herve Morin champions the CEDI as an alternative to NATO, although as of yet it has refrained from withdrawing from NATO. France has sought to influence the development of democracy in Iran, and has signed deals providing high-value technologies to modernize Iran's oil sector, and has resisted calls for sanctions on its nuclear program. France has even broken with the EU neglect of Russia, by sending overtures to

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

the Russian government for cooperation on the China situation. Desiring to maintain an independent foreign policy, France remains suspicious of American foreign policy motives.

Germany

Germany remains Europe's largest economic and military power, and continues to attempt to increase Europe's status in the international community. Chancellor Angela Merkel remains popular, and recently won a landslide victory in 2017. She has appeared to support less of America's policies than previously, as evidenced by her joining France's CEDI initiative. However, she has maintained a commitment to good relations with the U.S. and U.K., joining them in their mediation efforts to end the Sino-Korean War. Germany remains committed to the idea of nuclear disarmament, condemning Iran for its program and Korea for not giving up its nuclear weapons. Germany has also sought to increase its influence in China vis-a-vis the Communist government in recent years, supporting assistance to the new republics of Tibet and Uygurstan.

India

India sees the void left by the chaos as a blessing, and a curse. It helps makes India's regional and global position stronger; countries in the region are now looking to Delhi for assistance and relations rather than Beijing. Yet, the instability caused by the chaos threatens India's national security and its military and economic power makes it the one that will have to help solve any conflict. So far, Prime Minister Anand Sharma has tried to chart a middle path. He has recognized the independence of Tibet and Uygurstan, but refrained from doing the same for Yunan and Taiwan. He has maintained his embassy in Beijing, despite China not appointing one since their recognition of Tibetan independence. India has great relations with the U.S., and is looking for assistance from America to help stabilize the region; Prime Minister Sharma has made nine trips to the United States since 2016 to consult on the matter. India has expanded its influence in the Middle East and Africa, but remains focused on ensuring stability in its neighborhood before it ventures into more foreign policy initiatives.

Iran

President Mussavi has blended the new with the old in fashioning a new democratic order in Iran. He has eliminated clerical rule, but maintains many elements of sharia law. He has enhanced democracy, but has maintained many of the state-owned businesses. He has sought conciliation with the West, but has continued the nuclear program. He has sought rapprochement with Saudi Arabia, but maintains tough rhetoric concerning Israel. Iran remains a major military threat in the region, with strong missile capabilities and large numbers of troops,

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

and Mussavi has integrated many of the Islamic Republic's militias into the armed forces. Iran maintains links to Hezbollah and Hamas, and has recently conducted exercises in the Strait of Hormuz. Mussavi is quick to reaffirm Iran's national sovereignty while integrating Iran into the global economy. How Iran might respond to various international crises remains a mystery to most international observers.

Ireland

Just recently elected in November 2019, Prime Minister Mary Coughlan finds herself in a bit of a foreign policy dilemma- does she value relations with the U.S. or the EU more? The Irish have fought hard against greater European integration, but recognize that it is in their best (economic) interest to maintain good ties within the EU. Likewise, Ireland has been a bit skeptical of some of America's foreign policy initiatives, including involvement in China's civil disorder. Ireland recognizes that they are only a minor player on the global stage, and that their relations should focus on economics and better relations than politics and antagonisms.

Japan

Japan faces a new and dangerous neighborhood with the rise of Korea and decline of China. Realizing such fears, the Diet approved a measure in 2018 that removes the pacifist clause of the Japanese constitution. Conservative politicians have even called for Japan developing its own nuclear program, although it has not done so. Japan has reaffirmed its relations with the United States, and enhanced them with India; Japan knows it needs these two powers to help stabilize the region, and it is suspected that Japan would help support any operations needed to stabilize China. Prime Minister Ryu Shionoya has preferred national security over economic interests in dealing with China, recognizing all the breakaway republics, including Taiwan. In other areas, Japan continues to seek stability in the Middle East, as all of its oil imports come from that region.

Mexico

President Gerardo Ruiz Mateos is not a fan of Brazil, thinking that the United States and Mexico are the natural countries that should remain the dominant influence in Latin America. Mexico has helped the United States to expand its influence in the region, serving as a resource base for aid heading to South America. Mexico was also the second country (after the US) to recognize the fall of the Castro regime in Cuba. Mexico virulently opposed the extension of Brazilian troops into Belize and Guatemala, and responded by recalling its ambassador to Brazil (who has since been restored). Mexico still has a large problem with the drug cartels, and blames Brazil for providing safe haven for drug cartels in Guatemala. President Romney and Mateos signed an agreement in 2018 providing Mexico \$400 million in aid to launch a major

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

offensive in the southern regions of the country, where much of the problem has shifted to in the last few years.

Nigeria

Nigeria still has its problems, but high oil prices and an effort to eliminate corruption clearly have made Nigeria the dominant country in Western Africa. Nigeria is the dominant military power on the continent, having received large numbers of American and Chinese arms and training. Nigeria is currently heading a peacekeeping mission in Guinea-Bissau, and just recently sent troops to Sierra Leone at the request of the government to fight off instability. Not all countries are excited about these developments, however. Many countries feel that Nigeria is becoming the “United States of Africa,” using its economic and military influence to force countries to follow its ideals and policies. Additionally, Nigeria does not have good relations with South Africa, the United Kingdom, or France, three states that still have large influence. President Emmanuel Uduaghan has taken steps to improve relations and trade with Sudan, Iran, Russia, and Brazil in an effort to improve its diplomatic options.

Norway

A reluctant member of the EU, Norway has aligned itself with the UK on issues of European integration. The two states have strong relations, and Norway believes that aligning with the UK on these policy issues preserves its sovereignty well. Norway is still a large donor country, providing 1.1% of its GDP for economic assistance; recently, Iran, Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago, and Georgia have received significant amounts of aid from Norway. Norway does not force policy prescriptions on countries receiving its aid, although Prime Minister Erna Solberg recently announced a program of “accountability and transparency” in its aid programs. Norway is very suspicious of the CEDI proposed by France and Germany, and believes that the UN must remain the major peacekeeping body in the world.

Russia

President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Dmitri Medvedev have been swapping posts in the Russian government, but Russia’s policy has remained fairly constant. Medvedev’s efforts to improve relations with the West did not work, as shown in its exclusion from the EU. Putin believes that his country must now look eastward to assert its influence, and it is rumored he believes that the unrest in China provides him such an opportunity. Russia is very uneasy with the idea of unstable republics near its borders, and is equally alarmed by a nuclear, unified Korea and a no longer pacifist Japan. Russia has so far refused to recognize the new republics, and has extremely tense relations with Korea. Russia has extended ties to other countries in the region, such as Myanmar, Nepal, and Mongolia as well as Middle Eastern states such as Iran and Saudi

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

Arabia in an effort to replace Chinese influence in the world. Thus, Russia sees India as a rival, and is concerned about the level of cooperation between India, Japan, and the United States in Asia. How much leverage Russia outside its European allies and in the Central Asian and Caucasus republics remains a mystery.

Slovakia

Slovakia seized at the chance to join the CEDI and remains concerned about potential Russian influence in Eastern Europe. Slovakia has strengthened its ties with France and Germany, and believes the CEDI suits its interests more than NATO. Prime Minister Robert Fico has proposed the creation of a Central European caucus within the EU to promote regional interests in that body. Slovakia has in the past committed troops to UN peacekeeping missions, but it is unclear if that will continue given their support for CEDI.

Somalia

Some measure of order has finally been established in Somalia, as the Islamic Court Union (ICU) finally was able to establish effective control over the country, although Somaliland still maintains it is independent from Mogadishu. Supreme Judicial Cleric Sharif Ahmed has declared sharia law and has focused on eliminating Western influence in the country. Piracy remains the major economic activity, as the ICU converted the disorganized pirates into the Somali Jihadists' Coast Guard (SJCG) and has given overt government support of their actions. Tensions exist between the major maritime powers (US, China, UK, France, etc.) over the continued pirate attacks and between neighboring Ethiopia, who sees the regime as a threat, and Djibouti, who the government accuses of supporting Somaliland separatists.

South Africa

South Africa prides itself on being the most developed and industrialized African nation. It believes it should be the continental power, leading to tensions with Nigeria. South Africa has flexed its military muscles recently, intervening in Swaziland and Zimbabwe to secure stable transitions to power in those countries; needless to say, those governments maintain friendly relations with Pretoria. South Africa has worked to eliminate foreign influence in Africa, preferring itself to do peacekeeping missions versus the UN. President Ebrahim Patel has worked to convince the major powers, including the US, that its interests are best served by allowing South Africa to help Africa solve its own problems. As a result, South Africa has become a champion of state sovereignty, and is reluctant to condemn countries outside of Africa to promote goodwill with the international community.

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

Syria

President Bashar al-Assad remains head of state and has so far successfully rejected introducing democracy into Syria. The cornerstone of Syria's foreign policy remains its antagonistic stance towards Israel, influence in Lebanon, and its relations with Iran. Syria has remained Iran's staunchest ally, and Assad and Mussavi remain committed to their strategic relationship. It is suspected that there are Iranian missile teams in Syria to deter Israel from launching in an attack against Iran. Syria is still seen as a "rogue state" by the West, and thus still opposes many Western actions in the international community. Syria, though, has begun to cultivate ties with Russia and India to help reduce its isolation.

United Kingdom

Prime Minister David Cameron early in his administration put himself in a pickle: trying to reduce the UK's dependence on the US and reducing its commitments to the EU. Despite strains with the US, such as Britain's decision to withdraw from Afghanistan in 2011, he has chosen the US over the EU. The UK has supported many of America's security initiatives, and is opposed to the creation of SATO and CEDI. It has begun to contribute troops to UN peacekeeping missions to expand its credibility and influence. The UK has followed the lead of the US in recognizing the breakaway Chinese republics, and supported the 2016 embargo. The UK and India have also strengthened ties with each other, and the UK is helping the Indians to expand the scope of their nuclear technologies.

United Republic of Korea

Korea is coming to be seen by many as a pariah in the international community. Its decision to keep the nuclear weapons has caused many of its former allies, including the United States and Japan, to distance themselves from the regime. Its actions have scared the countries in the region, and there is a clear consensus within the states of the region, including Russia, to seek ways to limit the threat of the new state. Not all, however, have taken such steps. The states of Southeast Asia have friendly relations with Korea, as they are appreciative of the role Korea has played to limit the influence of China in the region. President Oh Se-hoon has looked to new regions for partners, and has expanded Korean relations with many members of the Middle East, including Iran and in Africa, such as Nigeria. Whether Korea is accepted back fully into the international community will likely depend on the steps it takes to help reduce the chaos in China, which the regime clearly has shown so far it is not willing to do, seeing it as an opportunity to promote Korean interests.

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

United States

President Mitt Romney has found himself in a foreign policy quagmire. The American public prefers withdrawing from the international scene, tired from its wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, yet the US finds its interests clearly in danger. The rise of Brazil has challenged the American predominance in Latin America; France and Germany are struggling to create an independent center of power and direction in the Western world; and the vacuum of power in Asia because of China's internal problems will require some form of American involvement to resolve. So far, the US has worked with its allies to avoid a direct American commitment, although its support of the Japanese decision to remove the pacifist clause from their constitution shows that many within the American government feel some force may be necessary to deal with the threats. How the US will exert its influence is likely the key issue that will determine how the situation in East Asia unfolds.

APPENDIX- RECOGNITION OF THE BREAKWAY CHINESE REPUBLICS

Uygurstan

- Afghanistan
- Armenia
- Australia
- Azerbaijan
- Bahrain
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Chad
- Cuba
- Djibouti
- Egypt
- France
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait

**ODUMUNC 2010
Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Malaysia
- Marshall Islands
- Mauritania
- Mexico
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- Oman
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Portugal
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Singapore
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Tunisia
- Turkmenistan
- United Kingdom
- UR Korea
- United States
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
- Yemen

Tibet

- Afghanistan
- Australia
- Austria
- Bahrain
- Belize
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Czech Republic

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The Crises of 2020

- Djibouti
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Holy See
- Hungary
- Iceland
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Kuwait
- Kyrgyzstan
- Lebanon
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Marshall Islands
- Mexico
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Palau
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Portugal
- Romania
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Singapore
- Slovakia
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Turkmenistan

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The Crises of 2020

- United Kingdom
- UR Korea
- United States
- Uzbekistan
- Vietnam
- Yemen

Taiwan

- Australia
- Belize
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Cuba
- Djibouti
- Dominican Republic
- El Salvador
- Gambia
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Holy See
- Honduras
- Ireland
- Japan
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Nauru
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Palau
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

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The Crises of 2020

- Sao Tome and Principe
- Singapore
- Solomon Islands
- Swaziland
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- Turkmenistan
- Tuvalu
- UR Korea
- United Kingdom
- United States

Yunan

- Australia
- Belize
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Cuba
- Djibouti
- Ecuador
- Grenada
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Laos
- Luxembourg
- Malaysia
- Marshall Islands
- Mexico
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Panama
- Singapore
- Tajikistan
- Thailand
- UR Korea
- United Kingdom

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Issue Brief for the
Future Security Council (FSC)**



The Crises of 2020

- United States
- Vietnam