

Kings Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

UNSC: The Situation in Afghanistan, 200 days later...



Security Council
United Nations

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History & Purpose

The United Nations Security Council was established along with the creation of the UN itself, on October 24, 1945. The UNSC was created with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security while following the principles and purposes of the United Nations. They are required to investigate disputes or situations that may lead to international issues. As well as recommending methods of settling these areas of friction, not to mention their ability to use the military. Originally, the council consisted of 11 members and was conceived on a basis of responsibility and capacity. Five permanent members; the Republic of China, France, the Soviet Union, the United States, and the United Kingdom. And six non-permanent members which are elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. During the Cold War, there were continuous disagreements between the United States and the Soviet Union causing the Security Council to be an ineffective institution. In June of 1950, the Soviets boycotted the Council because of China's recent UN membership. In 1965, there was an amendment to the UN Charter which allowed an increase in council membership to 15, five remained the permanent members, and 10 non-permanent. However, in 1971, the Republic of China was replaced with the People's Republic of China, and in 1991, the Soviet Union was succeeded by the Russian Federation. The process of choosing 10 non-permanent members generally revolves around an equal representation of geographic regions. Two members are from Latin America, one from Eastern Europe, five from Africa or Asia, and two from western Europe or other areas. Five of these members are elected for two year terms, and the rest retire after one year.

Forming the Security Council has usually caused quarrels, especially since the end of the Cold War. The five permanent members reflect the high authority structures that existed at the end of World War II (most of the world was under colonial rule), or so the critics have argued. In an attempt to reduce disagreements, the UNSC is ensuring the Council's work is more transparent. Not only that, the council is trying to respond to the demands of non-permanent, yet important members, of becoming permanent members; Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan (the G-4), or at the very least have special status within the Security Council. G-4 had also proposed the idea to increase the membership count to 25, which would occur by adding six new permanent members, one for each of them and two for Africa. Any dispute brought up to the

Council is explored to find a peaceful resolution. To this date, there is outcry that UNSC is not working. Because the world is constantly changing, and issues arise rapidly, the Council is becoming less and less responsive. Keep in mind, the Security Council has authorized fifty-nine peacekeeping operations since 1991. They respond to failing states, civil wars, or complex humanitarian crises. The Council relies on other sanctions such as diplomatic or economic, as well as Peacekeeping Forces Committees, Military Staff Committees, Sanction Committees or International Tribunal Committees.

Topic 1: The Situation in Afghanistan, 200 Days Later...

This paper will discuss the Taliban's cry to be recognized as a government, and the damage they have already caused in Afghanistan 200 days after they took over. In 2020, Trump had sent American troops to train Afghan Soldiers in order to strengthen the military. However, July 4 2021, American military snuck out in the middle of the night, leaving their Afghan counterparts with 80 million dollars worth of military equipment, as per Biden's orders. Regardless, the Taliban slowly took over each city until they reached Kabul. Afghan citizens were rushing to obtain their money from the bank, and many were looking to flee and took desperate measures such as holding onto flying planes. Taliban claims that their newfound leadership will be different than how it was 20 years ago. Yet, many are now left homeless, starving and women still are considered worthless.

The most significant issue is the collapse of the economy. 95% of Afghan citizens are starving, of which 3 million are children under the age of 5. The United States froze the country's assets, 9.5 billion dollars along with foreign aid (75% of the country's original income). The US does not want to give the Taliban this money as they have no experience in being in government let alone trust from higher authorities. However, the citizens of the country are suffering. The UNSC adopted a resolution which provides aid to Afghans in desperate need of basic support, while ensuring that none of the funds reach the hands of the Taliban. Thus, the UN set up camps in order to provide aid for Afghans, but it simply is not enough. Afghanistan's health care system is crumbling, and scammers are promising desperate Afghans an escape for a few thousand dollars. Conditions have become so terrible, that it seems as though the only way to help the

citizens is to cooperate with the Taliban. These are still the early days of ruling, so the Taliban says, but look at the damage that has already been done. Unfortunately, this is caused by the frozen assets. To truly eradicate hunger and poverty from the country, there needs to be some sort of funds accessible, even if that means negotiating with the Taliban. Now it is a matter of which authoritative countries can trust this new government, or is there a different approach that can save the citizens.

The extremity of this humanitarian crisis can be reflected through different Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals are to be reached and targeted by 2030, and because of Afghanistan's situation, the examination of specific goals that apply will be seen throughout the rest of the report. Firstly, SDG 1 - No Poverty, more specifically Target 1.5; Build Resilience to Environmental, Economic, and Social Disasters. Afghanistan is suffering because of drought, lack of funds and a Talibani government, which all partake in this specific target. Because of where they are now, it would be highly suggested to build this resilience and reduce citizens' exposure to vulnerability. Secondly, SDG 2 - Zero Hunger and more specifically Target 2.1; Universal Access to Safe and Nutritious Food, and Target 2.2; End All Forms of Malnutrition. These targets go hand in hand in the case of Afghanistan. An immediate priority for the UN should be supplying an abundance of food to Afghan citizens. Most, if not all are malnourished and no one is able to afford food prices in their country. Thirdly, SDG 5 - Gender Equality, specifically Targets 5.1, End Discrimination Against Women and Girls, 5.2; End All Violence Against and Exploitation of Women and Girls, and 5.5; Ensure Full Participation in Leadership and Decision Making. The Taliban has made it clear that they follow their own interpretation of Sharia law, and through this, women are much less valuable than a man. Women in Afghanistan must follow excruciating laws that make them feel less than human. They are not allowed to show their face, drive, vote, walk without a man, go to school (in most cases) etc. Those who excelled in their careers, such as Judges, lawyers, and doctors are all stripped from their licenses and no longer have a say in their countries decisions. Many women are being violently harassed by the Taliban, or even by their spouses. This situation is already terrible for the citizens, yet it is much worse for the women. Lastly, SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth, more specifically Target 8.10; Universal Access to Banking, Insurance and Financial Services. Despite the irregularity of Taliban in government, citizens need to be allowed to access their banks in order to buy food and grow their businesses. The country will destroy itself without funds, and it

will not be the fault of the Taliban. In order to resolve this issue, UN members should look into funding the citizens themselves rather than the Taliban. In this manner, the country's economy will have a chance at surviving, rather than crumble to pieces.

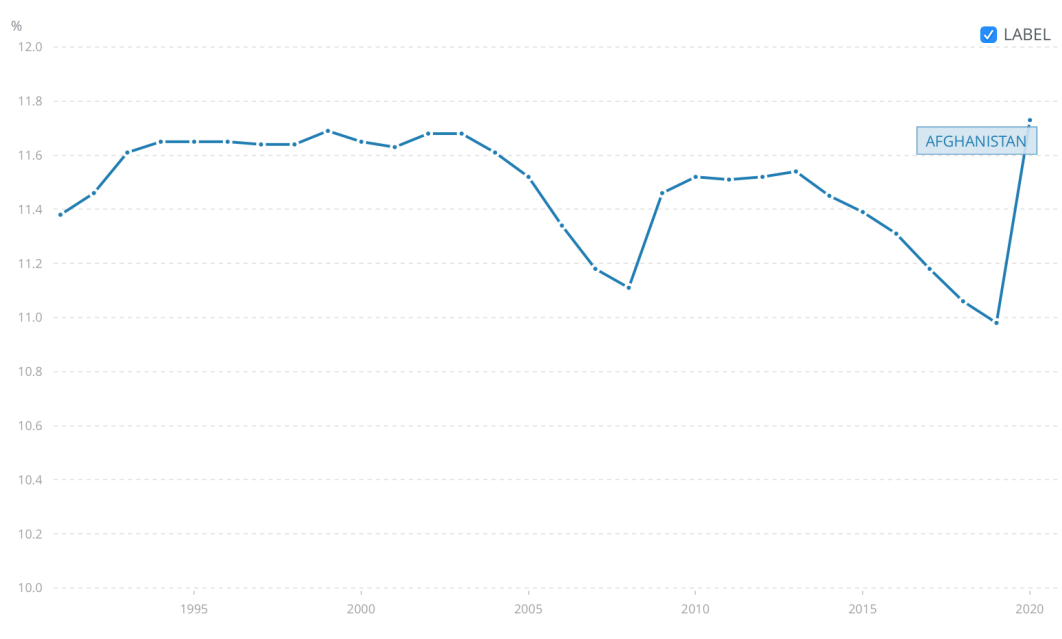
Questions to Consider

- How can your country provide aid to those starving in Afghanistan?
- What strategies can be used to avoid directly funding the Taliban, and rather fund the citizens?
- Has the crisis worsened to the point where your country believes it may be worth negotiating with the Taliban?
- To the countries that use Sharia law, how can Afghanistan improve women's rights while still intact with Taliban beliefs?
- Is it worth trying to remove the Taliban from government, or should all countries accept the fact that they are now in ruling?



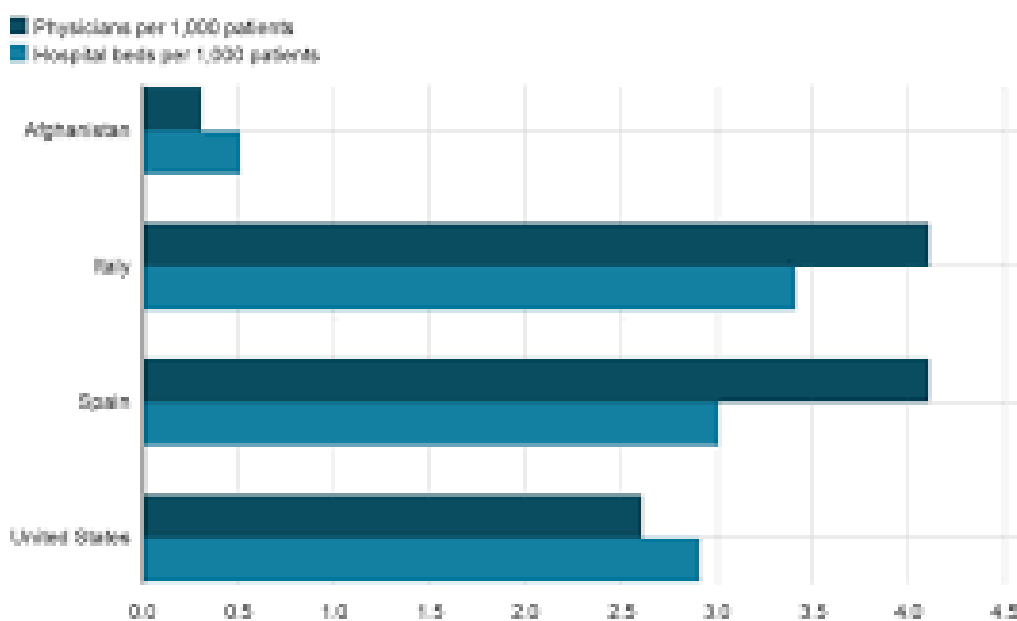
Graphs & Data

Unemployment Rates in Afghanistan.



Afghanistan's Healthcare Resources compared to Italy, Spain and US

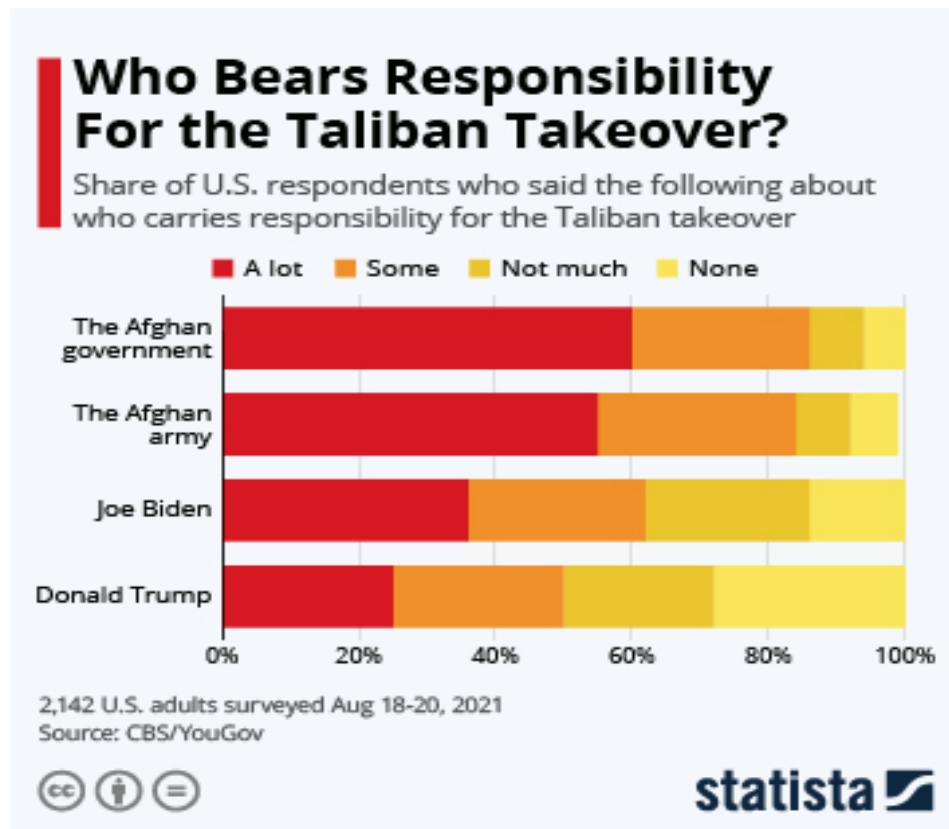
Afghanistan's healthcare resources



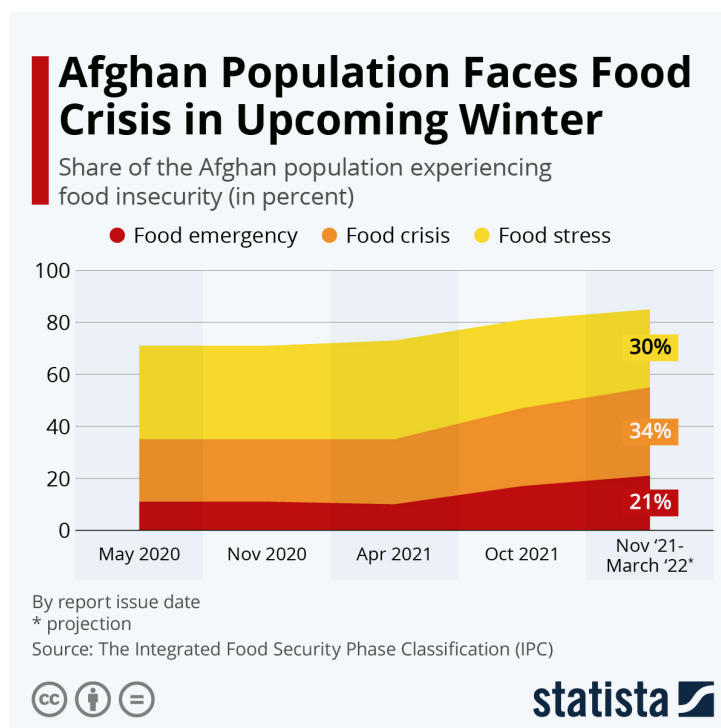
Source: World Bank

2024

United States respondents answer who they think is most responsible for the Taliban taking over



Population in percent of Afghan food crisis



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Topic 2: The Situation Between Russia and Ukraine

In recent weeks, Russia has built up its military presence along its border with Ukraine. An estimated 100,000 soldiers are concentrated along the frontier, with some 20,000 reportedly stationed near the Donetsk and Luhansk “republics”.

Diplomatic talks have failed to ease rising tensions. Russia opposes NATO bases near its borders and has asked for written guarantees that NATO does not expand eastwards. One of the Kremlin’s central demands is that Ukraine never be allowed to join NATO – a move it considers a red line. The United States has refused to concede to this demand.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Conflict at a glance

The threat of conflict looms in Eastern Europe with more than 100,000 Russian troops amassed along the border with Ukraine. **Russia denies it has any plans to invade.**



Source: News agencies

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History of the USSR

Russia and Ukraine were part of the 15 Soviet republics that made up the USSR. After the fall of the USSR, many of these nations declared independence again. On August 24, 1991, Ukraine also declared their independence.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

USSR republics

Russia and Ukraine were part of the **15 Soviet republics that made up the USSR.**



Source: Al Jazeera



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Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine moved to shed its Russian imperial legacy and forge increasingly close ties with the West.

Over the past 30 years, Ukraine has been led by seven presidents. The country has had a rocky path towards democracy with two revolutions, first in 2005 and then in 2014. Both times, protesters rejected Russia's supremacy and sought a path to join the European Union and NATO. By comparison, Russia has been led by three presidents with Vladimir Putin having been in office for 17 years. In 2021, the former agent of the Soviet Union's KGB security services signed a law which essentially enables Putin to stay in power until 2036. Putin has repeatedly claimed that Russians and Ukrainians belong to "one people", and are part of the historical "Russian civilisation" that also includes neighbouring Belarus. Most Ukrainians reject his claims.

Ukraine and Russia are the two largest countries in Europe. At just more than 17 million square kilometres (6.5 million square miles), Russia is the largest country in the world and roughly 28 times the size of Ukraine. Both countries' populations have declined since the 1990s with fertility rates among the lowest in the world. As of 2020, Russia's fertility rate was 1.5 and Ukraine's 1.2. For context, in order for a population to remain stable, an overall total fertility rate of 2.1 is required.

Resources

Russia and Ukraine are both rich in oil and gas. Russia has the world's highest proven gas reserves at 48,938 billion cubic metres. More than 70 percent of the country's gas reserves are held by Gazprom, a state-owned energy giant. Russia supplies about one-third of Europe's natural gas. US sanctions over any conflict could disrupt that supply, exacerbating Europe's energy crisis. The opening of Gazprom's Nord Stream 2, an \$11bn gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea, would bypass Ukraine and deprive it of some \$2bn in transit fees Russia currently pays. Russia also has some of the largest proven oil reserves, at 80 billion barrels, or 5 percent of the world's total oil reserves. Ukraine too has a sizable reserve of oil and gas at 395 million barrels and 349 billion cubic metres, respectively. The country sits at the crossroads between the West and Russia, and plays a key role in delivering Russian gas to European markets.

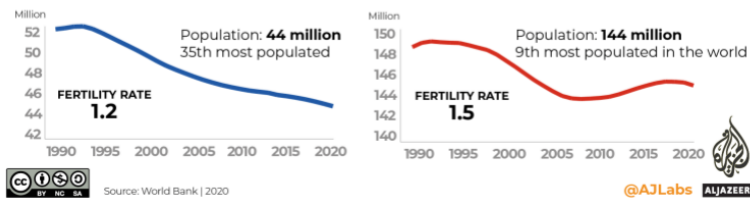
UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

How big are Ukraine and Russia?

Ukraine and Russia are the **two largest countries in Europe**.



Both **countries' populations have declined** since the 1990s with fertility rates among the **lowest in the world**.



UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Oil and gas resources

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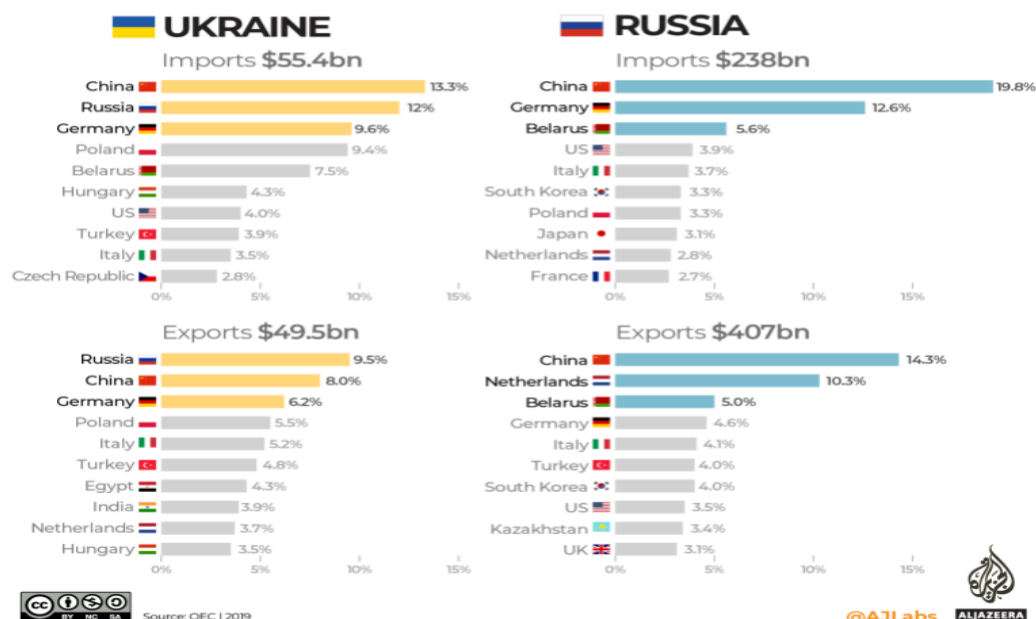
Economy

Western powers have imposed sanctions on Russia since 2014 when it annexed Crimea. The threat of fresh sanctions if Russia attacks Ukraine is unlikely to affect the Kremlin's decisions. The European Central Bank has told lenders with exposure to Russia to be prepared for the fallout of economic sanctions. A study into the effect of sanctions at Finland's Aalto University found that more than 80 percent of Russian companies it sampled had experienced adverse effects between 2014 and 2017. Ukraine has a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of about \$3,100, while Russia's is about four times higher at \$11,700. According to the National Bank of Ukraine, inflation stood at 10 percent for the country. In comparison, the Bank of Russia stated inflation was 8.5 percent in 2021. Russia's bilateral trade with Ukraine has tanked from its peak of almost \$50bn in 2011 to \$11bn in 2019. Russia remains one of Ukraine's biggest trade partners. In the event of outright aggression, the flow of wheat and grain could be disrupted – Ukraine and Russia are both major grain exporters and use ports located in the Black Sea, a key geo-economic region, as a hub for transporting commodities. Economic sanctions or military action could have a significant effect on the cost of food as importers seek to find alternatives.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Trading partners

Russia's bilateral trade with Ukraine has tanked from its peak of almost \$50bn in 2011 to \$11bn in 2019. Russia remains one of Ukraine's biggest trade partners.



Military

Russia has one of the most powerful militaries in the world and ranks among the top five defense spenders. In 2020, Russia spent \$61.7bn on its military which accounted for 11.4 percent of government spending. In comparison, Ukraine spent \$5.9bn on its military or 8.8 percent of government spending, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). Since tensions began, NATO allies, fearful of a potential ground invasion by Russia, have stepped up support for Kyiv by sending additional troops and military equipment to Ukraine.

Recently, Ukraine received a second shipment of weapons from the US as part of a \$200m defense package approved by President Joe Biden in December.

UKRAINE-RUSSIA CRISIS

Military head-to-head

Russia has **one of the most powerful militaries** in the world. It ranks in the top five nations which spend the most on their military. Since tensions began, **NATO allies have sent additional troops and military equipment** to Ukraine.

 Ukraine		 Russia
209,000*	 Active personnel	900,000*
900,000*	 Reserve personnel	2,000,000*
2,040	 Artillery	7,571
12,303	 Armoured vehicles	30,122
2,596	 Tanks	12,420
34	 Attack helicopters	544
98	 Fighter/attack aircraft	1,511
\$5.9bn 8.8 percent	 Military spending, % of govt spending	\$61.7bn 11.4 percent



Source: SIPRI (2020), Global Firepower (2022), IISS (2021)*

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<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/28/ukraine-and-russia-explained-in-maps-and-charts-interactive>