

RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT



JACKRABBIT MUN I

L.B. POLY - MAY 25th

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CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

Esteemed Delegates,

We are so excited to welcome you to our inaugural Jackrabbit MUN! Crisis committees are unique in their pacing and focus, and we think there is no better way to address issues that have presented themselves both throughout history and in the present day. It's unusual to have four crisis rooms in a small conference, but there's something for everyone, and we can't wait to see the compromises you reach in Yemen and the cures you chase in the SARS committee. Even better, it's going to be paperless! Technology is an up-and-coming part of the MUN experience, so our chairs will guide you through the computer basics at the beginning of the conference. But before we continue, a brief introduction:

I'm Alexis, one of your Crisis Directors, and I am a senior at Poly in the PACE program. I've been in MUN since sophomore year, and I'm currently the treasurer of PolyMUN. I've been heavily involved in the creation of the digital crisis system that we will be using at the conference and I'm excited to oversee its implementation at Jackrabbit MUN. When I'm not navigating the depths of this year's background guides, I am an editor at Creators Syndicate and enjoy working just a little too much. I will be headed to Georgetown in the fall, where I look forward to pursuing a double major in math and philosophy.

I'm Caris, the other Crisis Director, and I'm also a senior in the PACE program at Poly. My very first Model UN experience was an all-crisis conference, and ever since then I've been hooked. It's been fun, challenging, and incredibly exciting to manage the creation of this year's committees, and as a self-professed crisis fanatic, I almost wish I could be in the rooms with you while you explore them. In the fall I'm headed off to Dartmouth College, where I'll be studying cognitive science on the pre-med track. But until then, you can find me researching the finer points of SARS transmission and brushing up on my Eurasian geography before we all meet on May 25th.

From the both of us, we look forward to hosting you, and we hope you have as much fun preparing for this conference as we've had preparing it for you. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Alexis Soohoo & Caris White

Co-Crisis Directors



HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to Jackrabbit MUN I! We are so excited to have all of you participate in our first ever conference. My name is Taylor Schol and I am proud to be chairing our Russia/Ukraine crisis room. I am a senior at Poly High and this is my first year as a MUN student, however I am beyond thrilled to be chairing an excellent crisis room alongside several superb members of our MUN program. My co-chair in this committee is Ben Rodriguez who is a junior here at Poly High. It is also his first year in MUN and he can't wait to hear what you all have to bring to the table in this committee.

As your chairs, we will be moderating the committee sessions and we look forward to seeing what all of you will come up with throughout the course of our day. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at trschol21@gmail.com or benarodo2@gmail.com and we would be happy to help you out. We look forward to an awesome day at Jackrabbit MUN I with all of you!

Sincerely,

Taylor Schol & Ben Rodriguez

Russia-Ukraine Chairs



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

JACKRABBIT MUN POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on May 15th, 2019
- Position Papers can be submitted by one of two ways:
 1. Email to: jackrabbitpositionpapers@gmail.com (to be used only by delegates experiencing technical issues, or those without a google account).
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional page for citations.
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background
 - Past Actions by Country
 - Position of your Country/Person
 - Possible Solutions
 - Goals for Committee
- At the top of each paper, include your country/person, name, committee, and topic.



COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

****THIS IS A CRISIS COMMITTEE****

PROCEDURE OF A CRISIS ROOM:

- Click [here](#) for crisis committee procedure

SPECIFIC ROOM CRISIS INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Our system allows us to respond to directives frequently, so we highly encourage delegates to send directives and communicate frequently with Crisis.
2. Crisis will present delegates with crisis updates periodically, in addition a live feed of all ongoing updates will be available via a digital newsletter.

Delegates WILL NOT be able to use personal computers and phones.

- ➔ Delegates will be provided with an LBUSD chromebook to access the crisis directive form
- ➔ Periodically all computers will be locked on the newsletter to ensure all delegates have a chance to view updates
- ➔ Delegates are permitted to bring printed materials into the room, however full binders of research are discouraged :)
- ➔ Delegates are HIGHLY encouraged to conduct outside research on the topic, their character, and any other information they feel is pertinent

*Delegates should expect a fast-paced, crisis-driven room. There will be no set storyline, so the direction of the committee will be determined by the delegates. Throughout the day, delegates should work to build a personal story arc for their character in addition to working to further the arc of the committee.

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INTRODUCTION (LETTER FROM CRISIS)

Dear Delegates,

Greetings and welcome to the First Committee of the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict. The committee begins on May 25th, 2019, as leaders from around the world arrive in Geneva to partake in a UN-sponsored negotiation. Since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, interactions between Russia and Ukraine have become increasingly hostile. Incidents such as the downing of a Malaysian Airlines jet, the rise of a separatist movement in Eastern Ukraine, and the 2018 Russian capture of naval vessels in the Kerch Strait have increased tensions to a breaking point. The international community has divided into two very distinct groups, with countries like Israel, China, Iran, Brazil, and India supporting Russia, and the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Japan supporting Ukraine.

You have been tasked with navigating this complicated and dangerous conflict, with the goal of peace and preservation for Earth. The nature of the committee and topic requires that delegates be able to quickly respond to updates and changes in the storyline. Delegates who will be most successful will be those who not only have a strong understanding of the topic and their character, but are also able to react to new information and situations in a quick and effective manner. Delegates are encouraged to work together with the other delegates representing their country, yet should remain true to their character's national position, as well as personal morals and beliefs. The road to war is clear, but it is not the only option. Be creative, be quick on your feet, and prepare for anything.

Good luck and Godspeed,
-Crisis



CONFLICT IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

Since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, tensions between Russia and Ukraine have run high. In 2013, the Ukrainian government was supposed to sign a deal that would open European Union markets for Ukrainian goods and put the country on a pathway to possible EU membership. This endangered Ukraine's ties with Russia, its closest neighbor and major trading partner. The President of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich publicly agreed to sign the deal, only to walk out on it at the last minute. Massive street protests followed, calling out the President for his actions. In turn, Yanukovich fled to Russia, and the pro-West, Petro Poroshenko, replaced him as President through a series of violent protests.

2014 ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA

Crimea is an autonomous peninsula in Southern Ukraine with strong Russian loyalties due to a high ethnic majority of Russians. Since the 18th century Crimea was considered part of Russia, yet after the October Revolution ended the Russian Empire in 1917, Crimea briefly became a sovereign state. Then it became a part of the Soviet Union, and after World War II, Russia again took the reigns and made Crimea an administrative region of Russia. Finally, in 1954, Premier Nikita Khrushchev “gifted” the land to Ukraine, partly as an apology for the sufferings of the war, but also because the two regions had close ties and it didn't seem like a big deal for him to hand it over.

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia and Ukraine's relationship was a little different. A 1997 treaty with Ukraine allowed Russia to keep a military fleet in a small region of Crimea: Sevastopol. The strategically-located peninsula has given Russia military leverage both in the Black Sea and the greater Mediterranean region. In 2014, President Vladimir Putin of Russia requested to send military forces into Crimea claiming to protect their port access to the Black Sea. Instead, Russia seized and annexed Crimea from Ukraine. Citizens of Ukraine deemed this an illegal move as well as arguing it violated the integrity of the former Soviet Republic. Putin justified the aggression by asserting that Crimea was mostly comprised of ethnic Russians, who even voted to join Russia themselves. However, the annexation is still considered illegal to the country of Ukraine and the West, and tensions and violence continue to erupt between the two regions.



DOWNING OF MALAYSIAN AIRLINES

Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was a scheduled passenger flight from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. Contact was lost with the aircraft when it was about 31 miles from the Russia-Ukraine border. It was shot down on July 17th, 2014 while flying over eastern Ukraine, killing all 283 passengers and 15 crew members on board. About 90 minutes after the incident, Ukraine closed all routes in Eastern Ukrainian airspace. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko named the incident an act of terrorism, and also called for an international investigation into the crash.

After investigation, both American and Ukrainian officials said that a 9M38 series surface-to-air missile strike (a Russian Missile) was the most likely cause. On July 19th, 2014 the chief of the Counterintelligence Department of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), Vitaly Nayda, also stated, "We have compelling evidence that this terrorist act was committed with the help of the Russian Federation. We know clearly that the crew of this system were Russian citizens."

Russian President Putin reacted by stating that Ukraine bore responsibility for the incident that happened in its territory, which he said would not have happened if hostilities had not resumed in the south-east of Ukraine. He also said that it was important to refrain from reaching hasty conclusions and politicised statements before the end of the investigation. This incident sparked a lot of conflict between the two countries.

RISE OF SEPARATIST MOVEMENT

Conflicts have escalated in the region of Donbass in Ukraine, which is occupied by pro-Russian groups called the Donetsk and the Luhansk People's Republics. The Donetsk People's Republic(DPR) and Luhansk People's Republic(LPR) both declared their independence from Ukraine in April of 2014 and have since been receiving humanitarian and military support from Russia. Ukraine has designated both as terrorist groups and is at war both. A ceasefire in July of 2014 prevented the DPR from gaining any territory, but in August the DPR, along with help from Russian troops, were able to gain regain the territory. The Ukrainian government estimates that half of the population of the province of Donetsk live in DPR-controlled regions. In December of 2018 Russian-led forces mounted seven attacks on Ukrainian troops in Donbas, eastern Ukraine. An indefinite ceasefire was agreed upon starting midnight of December 29, 2018 to repair critical infrastructure facilities.



CAPTURE OF NAVAL VESSEL IN KERCH STRAIT

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine further developed after the seizing of Ukrainian ships of the coast of Crimea in 2018. On November 25, Ukraine sent three navy vessels from the Black Sea port of Odessa to Mariupol in the Sea of Azov. While passing through the Kerch Strait, a crucial waterway that holds economic importance to both countries, Russian coast guards claimed Ukraine was entering illegal waters and ordered them to leave. When the Ukrainian vessels refused, Russia opened fire and stormed the ships. In the end, six Ukrainians were injured.

Since the illegal annexation of Crimea, Russian troops have controlled both sides of the strait and even constructed the Crimean Bridge connecting Crimea and Moscow. This construction has been criticized by many countries, especially Ukraine. However, both countries have the right to inspect ships passing through the Sea of Azov according to a 2003 agreement.

The Kerch Strait incident has been the first time Russia and Ukraine have been in open conflict in recent years. The Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine reportedly said that the incident was an act of war by Russia. The day after the incident President Poroshenko signed a decree for martial law for 60 days. During that period all Russian men between 16 and 60 were banned from entering Ukraine, in effort to prevent Russian private armies on Ukrainian soil. However, due to the pressure of upcoming elections the President let martial law expire after 30 days.



FIGURE A

LOCATION OF CRIMEA IN RELATION TO UKRAINE AND RUSSIA



FIGURE B

USAGE OF THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN MACROREGIONS OF UKRAINE

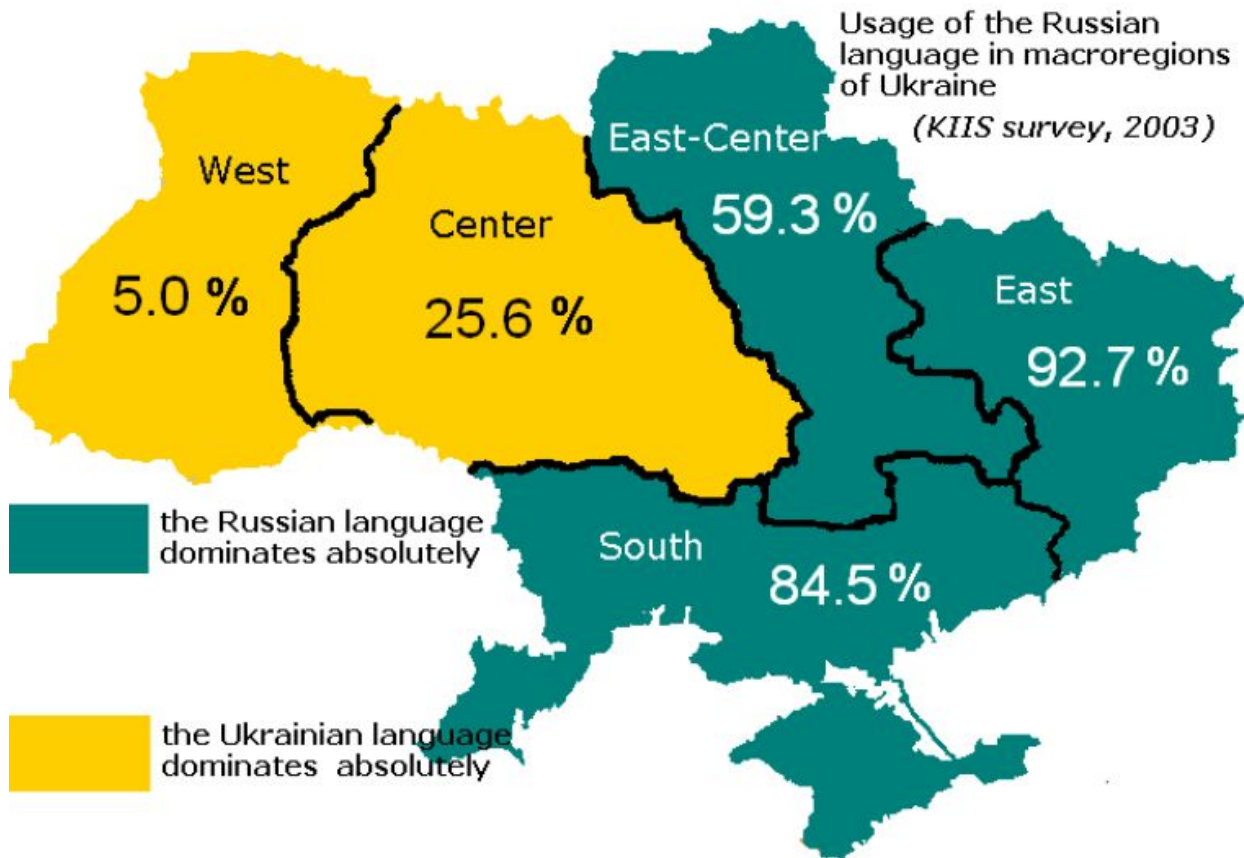


FIGURE C

MACROREGIONS IN UKRAINE UNDER MARTIAL LAW



POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL ARENA

As neighbors, Russia and Ukraine have a long, complex history. In recent decades, their relationship has become increasingly complicated. In 1954, the Soviet government declared that Crimea, which had been a part of Russia since the late 1700s, would become Ukrainian territory. Since they were both constituent republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), Ukraine and Russia were, to a large extent, parts of the same country. That all changed in 1991, when the Soviet Union collapsed and the two countries have since spent nearly three decades trying to define their new relationship. Ukrainian governments have looked towards possible NATO or European Union membership. Russian governments are wary of western, and therefore possibly in Moscow's eyes, unwelcome influences.

Domestic political considerations are also at stake for both Russia and Ukraine. The annexation of Crimea was a populist masterstroke for President Vladimir Putin, boosting his consistently high approval ratings accordingly. Almost five years on, the picture changed. Analysts pored over the decline in Mr. Putin's August ratings. Unpopular pension reforms were highlighted. Writing for foreign affairs in August, Andrei Kolesnikov even offered the view that, "the Kremlin will likely try to create some sort of spectacle to distract attention from Russia's many social problems."

Since the annexation of Crimea in 2014, the world has separated into two groups based on support for either Russia or Ukraine. The Russian block includes the countries of Russia, the Crimean Peninsula, Israel, China, Iran, India, and Brazil. This bloc of countries supports Crimea becoming a part of Russia rather than remaining a part of Ukraine. On the other hand, the Ukrainian block consists of the countries of Ukraine, United States, United Kingdom, Poland, Germany, France, and Japan. These countries are allied with Ukraine and believe that the Crimean Peninsula should remain a part of Ukraine.



CHARACTERS

RUSSIAN BLOC

RUSSIA:

- President- Vladimir Putin
- Prime Minister- Dmitry Medvedev
- Chief of General Staff of Armed Forces- Valery Vasilyevich Gerasimov

CRIMEA:

- Head of Republic of Crimea- Sergei Aksyonov

CHINA:

- Prime Minister- Li Keqiang
- President and Chairman of Central Military Commission- Xi Jinping

IRAN:

- President- Hassan Rouhani
- Chief of Armed Forces- Mohammad Hossein Bagheri

INDIA:

- Prime Minister- Narendra Modi
- Chief of Army Staff- Bipin Rawat

BRAZIL:

- President- Jair Bolsonaro
- Minister of Defense- Fernando Azevedo e Silva

UKRAINIAN BLOC

UKRAINE:

- Acting President- Petro Poroshenko



- Minister of Defense- Stepan Poltorak
- President Elect- Volodymir Zelensky

UNITED STATES:

- President- Donald Trump
- Secretary of Defense- Patrick Shanahan

ISRAEL:

- Prime Minister- Benjamin Netanyahu
- Chief of General Staff of Defense Forces- Aviv Kochavi

UNITED KINGDOM:

- Prime Minister- Theresa May
- Chief of Defense Staff- Nick Carter

POLAND:

- Prime Minister- Mateusz Morawiecki
- Chief of General Staff- Rajmund Andrzejczak

GERMANY:

- Prime Minister- Angela Merkel
- Minister of Defense- Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen

FRANCE:

- Prime Minister- Edouard Philippe
- Minister of Armed Forces- Florence Parly

JAPAN:

- Prime Minister- Shinzō Abe
- Minister of Defense- Takeshi Iwaya



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Why is your character aligned with your block?
2. If conflict does break out, which countries/characters are you most likely side with?
3. In what ways could peace be made between Russia and Ukraine?
4. What does your character gain and lose from participating in a peace treaty between Russia and Ukraine?
5. How might you work to prevent further conflict?
6. Which course of action will your character take?





ADDITIONAL SOURCES

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_military_intervention_in_Ukraine_\(2014%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_military_intervention_in_Ukraine_(2014%E2%80%93present))

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-europe-28799627/ukraine-crisis-bbc-finds-russian-aid-trucks-almost-empty>

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iONikVoIH0c>

