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# THE PRESSPECTIVE

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SANSKRITI SCHOOL

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INTRA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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## **Routine Irregularities**

*Aamiya Dhillon of the Vietnam News Agency reports on the unfolding crisis in Central Africa*

The ad-hoc committee convened to address the deteriorating situation in central Africa struggled with the first evidence of the resurgence of Lord's Resistance Army, the assassination of South Sudanese President Salva Kiir. A region burdened with civil strife, the Madi people were carrying out a rally against the Acholi tribe in Juba. Primarily Acholi, the Lord's Resistance Army conducted mass killings, abductions and the assassination.

A consequence of the socio-economic isolation of North Uganda, the home of the Acholi people, the Lord's Resistance Army developed as a heterodox Christian movement. Spreading its influence to war torn South Sudan, Congo and the Central African Republic, it grew infamous for its brutal mass killings and routine abductions. The African Union and the United Nations deployed troops including multiple peacekeeping contingents from Vietnam. Towards the end of 2017 the threat was considered negligible and the search for their leader Joesph Kony was discontinued. Rebuilding his army in the cover of thick vegetation, April 2019 has seen the rise of the LRA and the imminent destruction it brings in its wake.

The ease of movement through the porous borders of the four countries is amongst the chief facilitators of its growth. To counter its influence, the delegate of Sudan suggested recruiting military personnel from the border regions. With their livelihood dependent on their loyalty to the government, the likelihood of them conniving with the LRA reduces significantly. This move, however, won't take into account the capricious nature of the relationship between the citizenry and the government, and providing arms and training to untrustworthy citizens can backfire on the supplier.

The delegates found consensus in the fact that being a product of isolation, the movement's end too lies in isolation. Without the luxury of space, the LRA can be concentrated in a particular region and through military intervention eventually demobilised. Moreover, curtailing the avenues through which the movement can conduct illicit trade will help cut the funding.

Military intervention, however, has consistently failed to curb the movement's reach. Despite the animosity present between Sudan and South Sudan, they both insisted that diplomatic measures can be the only source of lasting peace. The existence of such a concept in a region marred with regular coup d'états and the normalisation of genocide, is questionable.



## Life Cycle

*Aamiya Dhillon writes from the perspective of a child soldier in the Lord's Resistance Army*

Joseph Kony and his organisation have been responsible for the abduction of approximately forty thousand children, who have been abused and forced to partake in brutal acts of violence. This piece is written to exemplify the extreme nature of their indoctrination.

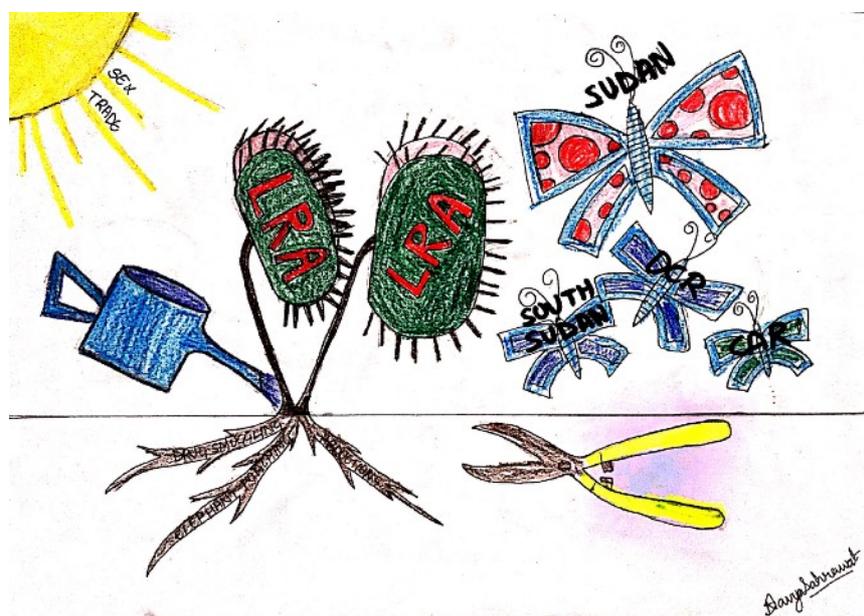
If death was a silver dagger, made with borrowed linings of clouds that weighed down on him, life was needles that pricked his thumb and jolted him awake. Life was the vestibule, the moments of anticipation before the door opens. His moments of anticipation were spent hunting monkey meat and carrying out other insignificant tasks to sustain his insignificance.

Death came in December. He had no concept of months but the sun shone through and it was unusually pleasant. He was dragged out of his home with burning metal pressed against his spine. He frantically looked for his mother, but she was nowhere to be seen. Father lay asleep on the floor in a pool of crimson.

Death, they say, is quickest when it comes by surprise. Not prolonged by the need for it to be further away. As they trudged into the forest, his bare feet pressing into the debris, he was told that death was not to be feared. That they were not to be feared.

He walked into purgatory. Perhaps the only thing more painful than the lashes was the mundanity from which he was spared. He remained occupied in menial labour, lighting cigarettes, polishing guns, and every now and then, he held those catalysts. The carriers of liberation, the vehicles of transformation. There were days of revolt, when disagreement corrupted his gut, but it was silenced. The thought of Him neutralised the sickness, for His purity outshone the darkness that engulfed the forest at night. Only seen by the truest of devotees, some say they even ate with Him. There were millions searching for Him, to take him to the guillotine or to the throne.

But as the days went by the sun rose, only to sink. His palms grew scarlet, the sky darker still. Until that day in February, revolutions later, they took him to meet the god, their god. A whispered name manifested itself into grace and royalty, whose slit eyes glanced his way. Heaven, he found, lay in the bush.



## **In The Wake of Uncertain Times**

*Ishani Khemka of Komsomolskaya Pravda sheds her viewpoint on the African Crisis*

Today, the members of the Ad-Hoc of the African Union were left in a state of shock and panic, as the delegates were not able to keep up with the constant crises. Post the assassination of the Ugandan President and the withdrawal of 6,000 Ugandan troops from various borders, it was conveyed to the members that 10,000-20,000 members of the LRA were successful in infiltrating Fort Portal. A plan was made headed by DRC suggesting that they send troops to the affected area. This directive was passed and a large number of troops were sent only to find 1,000 members of the LRA present at the fort. The other 9,000 had escaped to Kasese where they went on to abduct women and infants. The current situation is one of complete chaos.

This crisis has had massive implications on the people. After the troops of the DRC chose to infiltrate the Fort, there has been an overwhelmingly large number of troops in the area. In the past, this has never been a good luck charm. Regardless of the force they are fighting against, the members of the military in Africa have been known for harassing and sexually assaulting women in various areas. This is also known as exploitation, which is defined as “any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.” So, the military should be removed from the region as soon as possible.

Whilst some shudder in fear at the sheer volume of the troops that surround them, others are in a mass hostage situation, orchestrated by the LRA. But one must think, how did the LRA move 9,000 of its soldiers, just before the troops of the DRC began to pursue them, and why did they leave them behind? There are a few explanations. For the former, either the LRA presumed that upon hearing of the infiltration members of the military would react and in order to spite them left, at the brink of time. Or, someone or country leaked the classified information to the LRA, and it's not doubt that the LRA has its sources.

Yes, one can say that the Ad-Hoc committee is a treasured organ on the United Nations and a “mole” is a highly uncommon occurrence, but stepping into the world with such a utopian ideal is not naive but in fact almost ignorant. Seeing the situation, incentives must be taken to try to understand how the LRA got to know of the planned attack. The respective representatives should convey messages to convey this message to their governments and conduct investigations.

Apart from this, the main situation which must be focused on is helping the women and children break away from the hostage situation. The governments must try their best to come in contact with the LRA in order to negotiate with them and find out what they want. The motive of this fact is unclear. The rebel group has enough members, plenty of ammunition and sufficient funds. This could either be a way to deter the respective governments or a way to convey a message. A message that makes millions wail in terror.

They will not stop until they are in power.



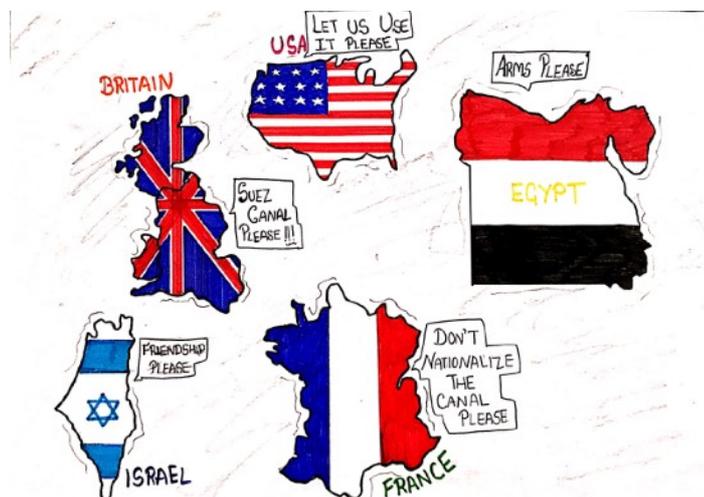
### Gamal Abdel Nasser—The Face of Egypt

*Ankita V. Hegde of Le Monde elucidates the appointment of G.A. Nasser as the Egyptian President and the future of the Egyptian people*

Born in an Alexandrian village, Gamal Abdel Nasser is an Egyptian nationalist and politician. In his youth, he enrolled himself in the Egyptian Royal Military Academy, where he received intense military training and interacted with soldiers of various social and economic backgrounds, many of whom were to become future leaders of Egypt. They together formed the Association of Free Officers. This group gained tremendous power and influence; so much so that finally in 1952, they overthrew the Monarch of Egypt, King Farouk, who was being controlled by the British. The citizens had already started disavouring monarchy after Egypt’s loss to Israel in the war of 1948. Therefore, they readily supported the Free Officers. M. Naguib, Nasser’s senior became the first President of Egypt. Still, Nasser had great power and influence over the nation. Soon the ideologies of Nasser and Naguib made them drift away. Finally, Naguib was forced to resign as President. In 1956, G.A. Nasser was appointed the President of Egypt. The country followed republicanism and a semi presidential system of government. While Nasser was supported by many, there were several people who said that his reign followed more of dictatorship than republicanism. This was not entirely false as Nasser was known to press his opinions on others and his subordinates had to support his stances, most of which, however, worked towards the benefit of Egypt as a nation.

Nasser wants a Middle East that is devoid of European and American control. He is against prominent countries such as France and the UK. These nations have also withdrawn support from Egypt at the time of its need. Nasser says that allowing these nations to have access over the Canal would mean allowing them to usurp power over the Middle East, something which may prove to be disastrous for Egypt. Egypt has been successful in seeking an alliance with the USSR, a foe of the USA. In exchange for arms, Egypt will allow it to access the Canal.

Although Nasser is an efficient leader, the future of Egyptians does not look too bright. Nasser has indeed taken a brave and wise decision by deferring the support of France, U.K and the U.S.A, who seek alliance with Egypt for their personal gain; on the other hand, he has angered them and thus has invoked their anger and enmity. This may lead to future repercussions and a war as terrible as the Cold War may occur. The Egyptians indeed have to face a lot ahead of them.



### **A Resident Of War**

*Arjun Kochhar of the Chosun Ilbo shares a diary entry of a resident of South Korea*

January of 1957

Dear Diary,

After almost 60 years of being under the French colonial rule and suffering the numerous hardships that came along with it, our country has been left divided on the basis of our political ideology. Those staying in the North desire communism and we, in the South, yearn the more realistic and appropriate, capitalism. The North has formed a cabinet or the Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and is contemplating the inevitable war. Supported by the USSR and China, their Naval army is top-notch and this scares me about our future. The USSR and China provided them with battleships, gunboats, manpower, logistical staff and monetary funds. They say that a war is soon to come and we all must prepare ourselves. One of our own, an anti-communist, John Wolf or Naked Snake, is in captivity for the assassination of the leaders of Dong Hoi and Vu Con. Even though he rightfully served his country and tried, in his own way, to stop the undesired communism from spreading, he is being punished.

A route through our lands, namely the Ho Chi Minh trail, is being established by the Democratic Republic and it will most probably serve as a channel for resource and troop smuggling. The future of our country truly lies in the hands of our government and the steps they take for a better future. Both the North and South, have just escaped a long colonial rule which has left the entire Vietnam deprived of its basic resources and needs. The North is trying to gain more communist followers but their unwanted communist ideology will not be accepted by us. If this ideology is established, I will lose my identity. I am an artist and accepting communism will just asphyxiate me and my career as communism leaves no scope for creativity and claims such professions to be ridiculous.

Our great head of state, Bao Dai, is trying to increase support for us in the North. What lies ahead is still unknown, so, just like we have made history in the past, we shall win the war and create a better tomorrow too!

Chinh Trung

(Resident of the Republic of Vietnam)



## **Women In The Political Sphere**

*Iniyaal Kannan of the Straits Times reports on the processions of the UNCSW session*

In most countries, women constitute almost half of the population. The inclusion of all sections of society in the political arena is crucial for any democracy that wishes to uphold the ideals upon which it is founded. In this UNCSW discussion, most of the delegates were well researched and gave thoughtful insights. Domination of males in politics was a common problem pointed out by the delegates and the solutions proposed for this issue were to reserve political posts for women and select more female candidates for elections. Concern for personal security and dependence on the approval of family were the main reasons that kept many women away from political jobs.

The candidate of United States of America explained that in order to improve participation of women in politics, the view of women as inferiors to men must be discouraged and encouragement of gender stereotypes should be stopped. Only if more and more women take up political endeavours will there be equitable distribution of power between the two sexes in legislation. The process of empowering women in the political sphere works both ways. If there is more reservation and equitable distribution of power, more women will be willing to participate. Similarly, if more women take part in legislation, male domination of the political field will be reduced due to the presence of women in the legislative procedures.

The solutions proposed for this important issue were to educate more women and persuade them to take up political jobs by ensuring that they have all the necessary facilities they require.

A very significant change made in Kenya to accommodate women was to declare that not more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the legislature can be of one gender. This has forced the government incorporate more women in politics.

Overall, the discussion proved to be very valuable as it highlighted the importance of women in the political field and proposed helpful solutions for this prolonged issue.



### **The Politburo Discusses the Intricacies of the Vietnamese Crisis**

*Paavani Ojha of the UNIAN reports on the proceedings of the Politburo and elaborates on the discourse that took place*

The session of the Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam that convened was one filled with a plethora of issues. There was discussion, deliberation and debate on several topics that were brought up by the President and other present members.

The American CIA agent under the Saigon Military Intervention who was notorious for his assassination of Vietnamese officials, and was causing civil turmoil within the Vietnamese community, was captured. John Wolf, more commonly known by his code name 'Naked Snake', was brutally tortured and thoroughly interrogated. As of last week, he was in Vietnamese custody. However, his current whereabouts are unknown to the members of the Politburo and there is a nervous anticipation of his subsequent actions.

The USSR, China and North Vietnam have formed an alliance and have together created the Ho Chi Minh trail through Laos and Cambodia, which is essentially a network of intricately interwoven footpaths and roads, meant for the transport and trade of essential goods. Other ways to harness the trail are using it for the transport of weapons, supplies and essential military equipment via bicycles to the Vietcong. The trail is said to be of great strategic and resourceful importance for the North Vietnamese.

Additionally, the USSR has supplied North Vietnam with a magnitude of naval forces and manpower to aid it in defending itself from external interventions by countries like the United States of America, amongst other foreign nations. North Vietnam has accepted these and plans to utilise it effectively to secure the waterways that can pose a threat to its sovereignty if left unguarded and exposed. The security on the perilous borders of North Vietnam has also been improved by a manifold of methods.

Lastly, a spy journalist has been caught within North Vietnamese territory and the members of the Politburo are participating in discourse in order to decide their response and action in the future. Since this discovery implicates that there is infiltration of the Vietnamese territory on more than one front, fruitful ways to combat such interferences are the need of the hour.

How the Politburo resolves and adjudicates these issues is yet to be seen.



### **The World's Republicans and Nationalists**

*Kaashif Mohsin of South African Press Association elucidates the unsteady balance between the fascist and anti-fascist ideologies in the League of Nations*

The session of the League of Nations commenced with the clunk of polarising views on the Spanish Civil War. France forwarded support for the Republican government, quoting Thomas Jefferson, “When the people fear the government, there is tyranny; when the government fear the people, there is liberty.” The delegate of Mexico went on to support the points made by France, stressing on the importance of public decisions in governance whereas the Soviet Union belligerently stated its promise of military support to the anti-fascist government in Spain.

Italy and Germany, undoubtedly two of the most active supporters of the Nationalist regime, correctly pointed out the ineffectiveness of the current Republican government, which has been characterised by slow economic growth and pervasive corruption. The delegates contended the principle of an anti-fascist government as a sluggish and indecisive rule; while an authoritarian leader can be a messiah for a nation in times of crisis, capable of taking prominent swiftly and effectively. South Africa and Switzerland took this idea further, making a few rethink their own stances as the scales seemed to tilt towards the ideology of fascism.

The League of Nations stands to consider all facets of the argument fully before it can arrive at a course of action regarding the Spanish Civil War. The League is under the pressure of various powers across the globe—especially Europe—to make the decision to uphold the Non-intervention Agreement or to act in the present.



## **Favouring Nations or Borders?**

*Vallika Varshri opines the first session of the Advisory Council to Nasser in Egypt*

Updated with their latest crisis, a single fact is made clear to Egypt. In its tough position in the Middle East, it is left without any ally. Only supplied with less than half of the promised arms, Czechoslovakia has favoured upon protecting its own interest by refusing to supply Egypt with further arms. As a result, Egypt faces two major crises, its lack of arms and the upkeep of its foreign policy. Resounding with a dissonance of disunity, the Advisory of Nasser seems to be spilt two ways. The first session of the council portrays a clear demarcation in its ideology - is Egypt to protect its borders at the cost of the nation or is Egypt to protect its nation at the cost of its borders?

The finer intricacies of its foreign policy require it to maintain a distance from Western countries like the USA and the UK, however, considering the hostile position they are placed in with UK, maintaining a long-distance 'relation' should not be a problem. Subsequently, what comes across strongly is the inclination of some of the ACN's members to strike a deal with the USA.

But what is it that is entailed in striking a deal with USA? Does the committee actually believe that this would be a fruitful effort or is the committee merely stumbling in the dark, trying to find solid ground to walk on? The need for USA's support, though still undecided, is rooted in the fact that after Czechoslovakia's withdrawal from its promise to Egypt, Egypt is left in the perilous situation of not having enough arms to sustain against its militarised adversaries in the middle of a severe crisis. Thereby put in a desperate situation, the ASN is willing to compromise on its own foreign policy in a bid to further strengthen their own position in the Middle East. Therein lies the question of nation and border? Is Egypt willing to compromise and go against the wishes of its own people by aligning with the USA so as to be able to protect its borders? Perhaps the only reason that the ASN is willing to compromise on its own foreign policy is to be able to be able to safeguard Egyptian interests. However, what the Egyptian Council needs to carefully contemplate is whether aligning with the USA is actually in its true interests or not.

It is true that USA and USSR both opposed the France and British backed Israeli invasion of the Egypt's territory. Nonetheless, it would be naïve of the Egyptian council to assume that the motives behind USA 'support' of Egypt were purely selfless. It is at this point that the Council needs to remember that the Suez Canal is at the heart of international trade, through which hundreds of ships pass through on a yearly basis and as a result, the Suez Canal is an important strategic point for virtually all countries in the world. With Israel's invasion of the canal, one can rest easy in assuming that the motive behind USA's support of Egypt was purely on an economic and strategic basis. The sole reason for USA's intervention in Egyptian affairs had arisen out of the fact that the functions of the canals were halted in its invasion, thus adversely affecting USA's own interest.

By extension, what Egypt needs to consider is that USA's support of it would not be in pure goodwill. For a superpower like the USA, its own ego would be of paramount importance. It is no matter of long deliberation that the USA is averse to the thought of an Arab power with the potential of encroaching upon its own position in the Middle East and as a result, Egypt can be rest assured that it would be facing opposition from USA at a later point. While one has to wait for the ACN's resolution determining the path that Egypt decides to walk, one matter remains clear for Egypt. For the emerging Middle Eastern force, it will surely be embarking upon a thorny path with shadows of doubt lurking over the minds of the members of Egypt's highest advisory council.

### **Women Will Not Pay**

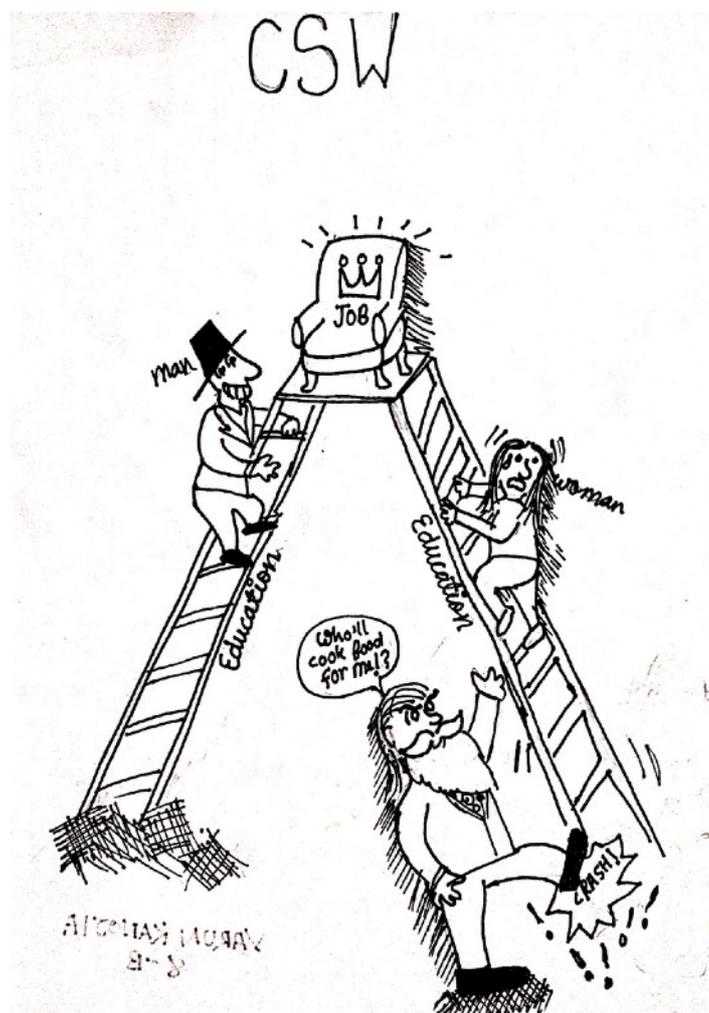
*Chetanshi Singh throws light on violence against women*

Violence against women is a rising issue that needs to be addressed. Unfortunately, the fact remains that in this day and age, about 22 women are sexually assaulted and raped everyday in countries like India alone. Even in developed countries like The United States Of America, 1 out of every 6 women has been a victim of attempt to rape or forceful sex in her lifetime. These experiences have a very negative impact on the women’s physical, mental and social well being. There is one question that is repeatedly being asked regarding this issue and that is, why does this happen?

One of the many possible answers is yet again a very simple three lettered word, men. As highlighted by the representative of China speaking at a convention of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), “Women are subject to sexual abuse mostly due to patriarchal violence. Everyday, a woman is paying for a man’s sexual insecurities.”

However, this is not the only answer to this question. Another possible answer was given by the representative of The Democratic Republic Of Korea who said that, “Women around the world are sexually abused because they don’t know their rights and men see this as an opportunity to take advantage of them. Even after they are sexually assaulted or raped, they are made to feel ashamed of themselves.”

This can only be stopped if the women are properly educated and made aware about their rights and freedom. Men should also be educated and reminded that women are also living, feeling beings and not their playthings.



### A Ray Of Hope

*Ananya Oberoi of the Guardian sheds a light on the proceedings of the UNSC*

Ukraine, a country located in middle eastern Europe, is of great importance to Russia. It plays a pivotal role in Russia’s energy trade. Its pipelines are responsible for the transit of 80 percent of the natural gas Russia sends to European markets. Not only does Ukraine act as the link between Russia and other markets, but is itself a major market as well. Lately, it has been the epicentre of uneventful situations; the people have suffered and their rights have crumbled. Today, it is stuck in a storm of, perhaps, one of the biggest humanitarian crisis of all time.

The crisis in Ukraine has been a constant source of pain and sorrow for its people. The committee proceedings of The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) aimed at alleviating the misery of the people. The humanitarian aspect of the crises was talked about extensively during the session. Numerous delegates attempted to propose possible solutions, some of which were aimed at the well being of the citizens of Ukraine, and a few which were rather bizarre. The delegate of Japan said that no matter who is responsible for the current situation in Ukraine, it is the people that suffer and always have suffered and it is up to the members of the Security Council to protect and safeguard the rights of the common people. The delegate of the United Kingdom suggested that there should be collaboration with private foundations like the Red Cross to send aid to the people in need. While there were many solutions on the floor, not all delegates could agree upon them. The underlying question that remains is if all the nations participating in the solutions would stand by their word. The proceedings of the UNSC today have managed to unleash a ray of hope for a better future, and we can only wait to see if this ray will be enough to brighten Ukraine’s future.



### **Treaties, Trenches, War and Bloodshed: The Only Solution?**

*Al Jazeera journalist, Latika Joshi, emphasises on the need to resolve the economic crisis going on in Ukraine by multilateral negotiations*

Salt water will remain salty till we filter it. In the same way, violence will remain violence till the holy word “peace” does not arouse in our minds to end it. And the only way to end such immense violence, that has taken away several innocent lives, is by multilateral negotiations. The United States along with the European Union, Japan, and Canada imposed economic sanctions on Russia, which included travel bans and freezing of its assets. In July 2014, the United States blocked some Russian banks situated there, and the European Union targeted Russia’s finance, energy and defence industries. Although Russia’s economy was hit by a slowdown in growth and investment, it was not as slow at retaliating. That same month, it banned imports of foodstuff from the United States as well as the European Union. But these nations are simply fighting with one another like small six-year-olds due to which the sanctions leave Russia unaffected, unconcerned to stop the war. Ukraine today is suffering from a major economic crisis. The elite and the cream of the society may not find it like an albatross around their necks, but it is the poor and the ordinary Ukrainians who have to bear the consequences. Due to the unpopular steps taken by the new government, it earned itself a nickname, “Kamikaze team”. The Ministers and their Prime Minister inherited two things from their predecessors- billions in debt and a country that was on the verge of economic and social collapse. The State Treasury was found empty on the ascending of the new government. The Prime Minister commented on this further by saying, “This economic catastrophe is unprecedented in the history of independent Ukraine.” The Ukrainian national currency “Hryvnia” is losing its value day by day, opening doors to massive speculations. Yet, the prices of basic goods such as bread, milk, sugar, eggs have not gone up, making it sustainable for the citizens to still survive. However, this would not last long as the future of the country would soon be unfolded. Ukraine could be at the brink of war if these tensions between Russia, Crimea, Ukraine and the European Union increase. This would mean that a lot of money would have to be spent on the war and artillery. Due to this, the Ukrainians would suffer in the future, as goods would be packed and sent off to the army camps. But if this war does not stop at some point of time, Ukraine would end up suffering from a double economic crisis, as the prices of goods in the market would go up, making it difficult for the Ukrainians to buy bread, milk, eggs etc. It seems unfair how the ordinary have to face the consequences for something that is not a fault of theirs. It seems wrong on the part of the elite to not help these sufferers, who have lost everything they had, and some people who have lost everyone they knew. The pull between Western Europe and Ukraine, wanting Ukraine to be its ally is not new. It had been going on for decades now, and the key reason behind this is that it has served as a borderland between the European Union and Europe. What Ukraine needs is stability, decades of stability because ever since it attained independence from Russia, its government has remained very unstable. It needs to grow to attain its own identity such that it becomes capable of building relations with both Russia, as well as European countries, without either of them controlling it. Another important step that needs to be taken up to ensure that Ukraine does not go to war with Russia is; organising multilateral negotiations and peace talks, because sending the peacekeeping force or asking NGOs for humanitarian assistance will not stop the reason behind requiring humanitarian assistance. Change at this point might seem impossible, but if now is not the time for change then it will never be. Like the delegate of Romania rightly said “It's better to solve this dispute with peace rather than violence.”

The arc of history has always followed the path of violence, let's hope that it bends towards peace.

**MENA mayhem**

*Mannat Gandotra of Syrian Arab News Agency discusses the proceedings of the WHO*

The session began on a request made by the chair to “step in the right direction” and to find possible solutions. The Syrian delegate sat in the front row of the World Health Organisation committee, armed with her yellow placard ready to solve issues. The cry by each country was the same. They all pleaded for improvement in infrastructure, construction of clinics and hospitals and a proper trained medical team. It is true that MENA region is flowing with both, communicable and noncommunicable diseases, but its betterment cannot be only dependant on funds. It might also be true that the calls for justice, have perhaps, made the region a little aid dependant. It is important to know that the aid is provided by those who are not in the MENA region. The intervention by the West could be one of the reasons for communal unrest within the region. It was typical for countries to seek gain from the situation. Medicine certification was proposed by the United States, in order to curb diseases within the region. The silver lining could be that the delegate of Syria, requested for a strong refugee system and a greater implementation on regulations.

The delegate of United States spoke; strongly recommending various kinds of vaccinations suitable for people in the region. Everyone spoke, except the Syrian delegate, who kept on raising the yellow placard in hope for a chance to speak about the crisis in the country. The optimist in us, hopes that the Syrian delegate, who was seated right in the very front, was overlooked because of invisibility.



## **A World Without Walls**

*Gayatri Singh Sharan of Notimex writes from the pen of a young one caught in between chaos and war*

To the men who say they are going to give us a home.

It is only in the mornings when I feel safe. When I feel like I've survived. When I feel like there's something to look up to. There's war going on everywhere. Daddy had gone to fight, too. But all that returned was the pen that he carried.

And before I begin my story, allow me to introduce myself. I am Katherine Smith from Britain. My father was a fisherman, until those Argentinian men came to claim their land. My mother...oh, how I miss her. She passed away two years ago, when I was just eight. And now, I'm alone to fend for myself. No parents. No family. No friends. Only darkness.

I don't even see the point of this. I can't understand why we even need to fight over land. Have they ever considered the fact that we want to stay here? Don't we matter at all? And after all, aren't we the ones who have to stay here? I hate this, I hate these wars. And I envy those kids who have someone to tuck them in bed every night.

And I have a thought. One on which I dwell about every night; why do we need boundaries? Why do we even need a border, or an army? Why can't all of us live in peace and harmony? And oh! It will be so beautiful to have a world without wars. A world where going abroad will not be a big deal. A world where we would not have to worry about boundary issues or invasions.

Oh! How I wish there were no boundaries.



### **Aid/Raid From Across the World**

*Kaashif Mohsin narrates the experience of a soldier of the Army of Africa during the Spanish Civil War*

It didn't feel like liberation, we did not feel like saviours but rather we were the oppressors.

The German commanders had told us that we were going to liberate the Spanish people from the weak, unjust Republican government. I had charged out in our self righteousness but now I found myself in the darkness.

We stood at the shores of Morocco, looking out into the horizon for the steamer ships that would take the platoon to the mainland. But the ocean was seamlessly empty, we soon got to know that the crew of the ships had defected, they wanted to support the government which had given them nothing and taken everything. Within hours the sky was filled with the roaring sound of airplanes, they roared as about a hundred of them landed next to us.

General Franco led the army with a fierce passion for Spain's freedom, one could see the look of determination in his eyes. We charged in through the shores and town by town, we began to take over the nation. With the Nationalists, we were restoring Spain to its former glory, which the corrupt, ineffective government had dismantled. While I could not say about everyone, there was one thing which had lingered in my mind since I was first told about the war between the Republicans and Nationalists—if the nation was theirs and so was the government why were we there to fight the Spanish Civil War?



### **The Last Wish**

*Al Jazeera journalist, Latika Joshi, highlights the dreadful situation in Ukraine through a letter written by a young Ukrainian girl.*

To: Goddess Ishtar

Address: Somewhere in heaven, somewhere beautiful

My lady, you are the goddess of love, hope and prosperity. You have seen the seven wonders of the world. You have the power to see the beauty in every single soul, so why not us? We sit here, crying, hoping that that situation would become better. We always pray that, our neighbour, Russia would realise what is happening here. Whenever something devastating happens, Alexandra and I always meet and discuss about the future events. For the past three years now, there is this one thing that we always wish for, even on our birthdays- peace and tranquility for all. It has always fascinated me how our current situation is similar to fairy tales. In our fairy tale, Russia is the sleeping beauty, whose eyes have been kept shut for so long that it hasn't seen the bloodshed and deaths it has caused. It hasn't realised that it has taken the lives of several innocent civilians, just to be able to govern a country. But this is not it, my lady. The situation of people living here has worsened. Despite being the capital, the humanitarian condition of the ordinary citizens has deteriorated. Hundreds of people died in my locality last week and most of their families had to leave their destroyed homes and go elsewhere. But this question keeps arising in my mind- Where will they go? Where will they find shelter? Every city is unsafe now. This crisis is on the brink of becoming a war. There is absolutely no guarantee that Russia, Ukraine and Crimea won't go to war. Everyone wants to flee, but where? Wherever you go, whether it is the Town Square or the beach or the club; danger and death, they both follow you. But alas, some people did take up this risk. Aunt Vera fled with her two babies and god knows where she is and how safe she is.

Yesterday, I heard that a few NGO groups had visited rehabilitation camps that had been set up for the displaced refugees. They brought with themselves food, water, clothing and first aid to help those in need. But what about those who could not find a place to make a tent? What about those who had lost everything that they did not even have money and were homeless, sleeping on the streets? Rumors have been going around the city that Russian troops are coming with guns and artillery to bomb this city. Everyone has been in panic ever since the rumour started. People are extra cautious of everything and some even carry guns with themselves, in case any such incident occurs. But is this the life we were supposed to live? Even if we go abroad, we definitely cannot stay there for our entire life. Goddess, please understand our situation. Please help us. Russia has become so selfish, that it doesn't even care about the consequences of its action. It doesn't even bother to think about the civilians who have died, still continue to die and will die in the future if it does not stop. Kiev does not feel like the capital anymore. Its importance is lost, its self respect has been shattered into pieces and its dignity has sunken, deep in the ocean. And as for us, we have lost that desire to live a better life, to live a life of wonders, to live a life without fear and to live a life of prosperity.

Love and peace,

Valeriya

Address: Somewhere in this universe

### **And It Begins...**

The stage and the mood was all set for an informative three days of SMUN Intra Model United Nations Conference 2018-19. The restless delegates, who had spent weeks researching, couldn't wait to begin solving some of the most complex crises the world has ever seen. The opening speeches, given by Lusha Jetley and Shreya Singh, Directors of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Security Council respectively, discussed the importance of the tradition of SMUN that has developed over these seven years at Sanskriti School, and were glad that they had found those who would continue to uphold this legacy long after them.

The Principal, Mrs Richa Agnihotri, rightly said that MUN is an important and enriching extracurricular activity. Even though it doesn't change the world, or rid it of its problems, it does change a person's perspective and opinions, and that truly is the first step. She went on to talk about how Model United Nations, instils important values and ideals into students and carries forward the idea of shaping Sanskritians who will be change-makers.

Abhisri Nath, the Director of the World Health Organisation, then went on to introduce the delegates to the Secretariat members, who were also encouraged by the Principal. And with the power vested in him as a member of the Upper Secretariat, Gautham Siva Sreeji, Director of the League of Nations, declared the Intra Sanskriti Model United Nations Conference for the year 2017-18 open.





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