



THE PRESSPECTIVE



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The Days After Independence

Aamiya Dhillon of the Vietnam News Agency analyses the reasons behind political strife in Africa

The burden of the crown lay not just on the royalty that donned it, but on the men and women whose shackled hands held it upright. In rage they found strength that was absent in their hollowing bones, so once they overturned the grandiose symbol of debauchery, they crumbled. The years succeeding the second World War saw not just empires collapse, but also the development of foundations of aspiring nations constituting mostly of hope and little substance. Without opportunities to expand their own knowledge base, and without the exposure to interpret the true meaning of the ideals they pursued, the multitude of countries emerging from colonial rule were urged into democracies. Their inevitable failure allowed developed nations to exploit these resource-rich regions. Taking the example of Uganda, which existed as the British Protectorate of Uganda up until 1962, we can trace the present day political turmoil to an absent foundation. The major tribes in Uganda are the Acholi and the Bantu people who are present in the North and South of the country respectively. While agricultural and economic development in the South exceeded that in the North, a disproportionate amount of the military was composed of the Northerners. Following the parliamentary elections of 1962, a multitude of coup d'états led to unstable military rule. Idi Amin, a military leader, persecuted multiple ethnicities, especially the Acholi and the Langi. Both were perceived as threats, for his predecessor Obote was a Langi and much of the military consisted of the Acholi. On his eventual re-election, Obote was opposed by the National Resistance Army led by Museveni which engaged in guerrilla warfare. Mass destruction and death resulted in a military coup, and in 1986, Museveni seized power.

Accustomed to this volatility, violence is an integral part of the survival skill of the various tribes present in the region, and this constant state of insecurity binds these conflicting communities. It is then not surprising that political movements turn violent.

What can be inferred from the above example is that blindly pursuing 'democratic ideals' is of no use to a people who are not acquainted with what this entails. Concepts of equality, sovereignty and franchise, when developed by the citizens, can be adjusted to the circumstances in which the country is born.

Vietnam has been ravaged by war and destruction for aeons, and has seen a multitude of empires attempt to encroach upon its soil. The preservation of Vietnamese culture, however, lies in not just the sense of ownership but also the ability to coordinate between the diversity.

After a draining independence movement, the Vietnamese fought American influence for approximately twenty years. Their eventual victory lay not in superior technology, for they had next to none. It lay in the innovation, resilience and the sense of community. So, when the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was eventually established, socialist principles of collective belonging had found their foundation in the sentimental aspect of affairs.

Civil strife is not unique to Uganda, for African nations across the continent bear the brunt of improperly drawn borders. It is true that at this point redesigning the boundaries of African nations is going to worsen the situation. However, through exercise of federalism and the strengthening of the African Union, room can be created for differing beliefs and ideals.

Fears of the US Evident in the Plans of the Politburo

Sharanya Ghosh of Canada Free Press throws light on a major goal of the Politburo

The Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam has been set up to discuss the current crisis in North and South Vietnam. Growing tensions between the two countries over their selected ideologies may actuate war, in countries that have not even fully recovered from their previous encounter with bloodshed.

What's making the scenario worse is the involvement of other countries; The United States of America, USSR and China have all become a major part of the struggle.

With American troops moving into the Southern country to provide military support, North Vietnam is forced to approach other Communist States such as the USSR and China.

Initially, the Politburo discussed the repercussions of war that will be faced by the already suffering peoples of both nations. However, soon there was a clear shift in focus, with their main goal becoming the removal of US troops and aid from South Vietnam. The delegates at the conference expressed the need to “distract, destroy and disengage” the Americans. The news of the assassination of US President John F. Kennedy provided the North Vietnamese with the perfect opportunity to attack, when the US were at their weakest after having lost their leader.

America is militarily powerful and has a highly developed intelligence, which gives it and its allies an upper hand against the enemy, which explains the need to defeat the troops. The delegates plan to use guerrilla tactics and wish to employ the youth of the country in their troops to defeat the American troops. They also suggested that spies be planted in the US, masked by plans to set up an Embassy in the country. This would facilitate them in interpreting near future tactics of the Americans. The representatives of the USSR and China fully support these suggestions.

It is clear from the focus of the Politburo's discussions that America poses the greatest threat to their control over the Northern country. Their fear of the great economy is not unsound and the US will not take such sensitive matters, concerning the lives of its military and people, lightly. It is obvious that Canada itself will support the United States along with other Capitalist States.

However, it is the Vietnamese people who are recovering from the aftermath of war and it should be the goal of the governments of both the countries to keep in mind the best interests of their peoples



An Ode to The First Speech

Aamiya Dhillon recalls her first and last MUN as a delegate

The ceiling seems to attract my hand, for against all better sense my hand inches higher, and higher,

outstretching itself like a flag that comes in peace whilst declaring war

Now that it has scaled the mountain, it heaves on the pinnacle of success

(for we should celebrate our small victories)

It waits

In silence

The typing of a distant keyboard disrupted by the occasional name

Eyes scan the room and you rather disappear,

Find oneness with the furniture

(for we have the same maker)

But, they find you, emphasising each syllable of the identity you don,

And the furniture is not amenable to your polite suggestion,

The ground too, refuses to split.

One down, five to go.

Two down, four.

You lose track as wood hits wood, and you yourself

(for it is difficult to forgive ourselves).

Paper, you think

Paper is more patient than people and the people demand you stand,

In a while, in a minute, ninety seconds to be precise.

You scramble for that scrap of the understanding sheet you had jotted your thoughts down on,

Reaching for it as you're expected to stand

Delegates

Your voice is not your own, it may be the blood rushing down your face but it is louder,

Your words are not your own, it may be the slight dizziness but they sound wiser,

And lastly, as a slow thump of approval echoes through the room, the sound reminiscent of the irregular beat of your heart

You seat yourself, a little fiercer, a little stronger

Russia Will Not Negotiate

Sparkle Biswas of Emirates 24/7 reports on Ad-Hoc of the African Union

Ukraine can largely be segregated into the pro-Russia Ukraine, and anti-Russia Ukraine, consisting of 46% and 36% of the country's population respectively. The Eastern part of Ukraine has the number of people who speak Russian, and therefore support and side with Russia. On the other hand, the Western part is closer to Europe, and is supportive of the proposition made by the EU, asking Ukraine to join the eastern European countries in an economic alliance. Therefore when the corrupt President, Viktor Yanukovich, rejected the EU's offer, and took a loan of 15 million dollars from Russia, majority of the population opposed the decision which led to riots. These protests were brutally suppressed Viktor and Russia sent military help, but this further agitated the public and Viktor fled to Russia.

In this vulnerable state, Donetsk and Luhansk, two Russia-supporting regions, declared themselves independent Republics calling themselves, "Donetsk People's Republic" and the "Luhansk People's republic". They were not recognised by the United Nations, but that didn't stop Russia from giving them military aid to fight against the newly established Ukrainian government. Crimea was captured by Russia, and was declared as a part of the Russian territory. This too was not accepted by the United Nations. Large number of civilians were killed, which worried the new government and it therefore proposed ceasefire. Both the unofficial Republics agreed to this, and the parties involved signed the Minsk I. The agreement stated that Ukraine and the Separatists should exchange prisoners and call ceasefire.

The agreement signed could be considered invalid, as none of signees stopped firing and bombing each other. But another attempt was made, and Minsk II was signed which had similar demands. This negotiation led to a peculiar situation, where there was no peace but also no war.

Today the UNSC met to discuss the situation in Ukraine, especially the territorial conflict in Crimea. Crimea still wasn't being considered a part of Russia. This led to attacks on US warships in the Black Sea and 13 soldiers were taken hostage, which was orchestrated by Russia. Suggestions for a joint government were made during committee, but Russia was uncooperative. Ukraine also refused to strike a deal with Russia and wanted Crimea to be a part of Ukraine. 80% of the Crimean population was for Russian governance, and they started protesting. This protest was dealt with in a murderous manner, as Ukraine killed most of the protesters while trying to suppress these revolts.



The Indomitable

Aamiya Dhillon of the Vietnam News Agency updates fellow comrades around the world on the unfolding situation around them

The United States has projected itself to be the example of stability and consistency other nations should aspire to live by. This stability, however, does collapse, their silver armor is full of kinks.

The assassination of John F. Kennedy has put their government in disarray. His demise comes amidst great chaos, and has put forth several questions. Amongst the most pertinent ones is with regard to the relationship the US will maintain with South Vietnam.

Vietnam has been partitioned into the North and the South with accordance to the Geneva Accords of 1954. The North has the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in power and the South has recently elected Ngo Dinh Diem, with such a large majority that the number of votes in his favor exceeded the total number of voters. In attempts to curtail the increasing popularity of communist ideals, the United States has begun to back the tyrannical leader of the South, who violates the very philosophies American soldiers live and die for.

As made evident by the assassination, it is not just our comrades who have begun to question the hypocrisy of the US government. The citizens of the States have begun rising in protest, for their men are forced into fighting a war they don't stand for. Further proof of their capitalist agenda lies in the fact that those who carry a university degree are spared from forced recruitment, leaving the poor for the trenches.

Passionately declaring his allegiance to Diem, the interim president Lyndon Johnson promised to honor his late President, and not let the North 'ruin Kennedy's vision for democracy'.

As North Vietnam backs the National Liberation Front in the South, attempting to provide the citizens of the Republic of Vietnam with an efficient government, the United States continues to fund and supply the one that denies those citizens the same right.

With the United States strengthening its presence in the South, and on the brink of declaring war, the onus is on the citizens of the North to stand for the ideals they cherish. Be it through the resilient guerrillas, the organised army or their strong bond with the Soviet Union, we must fight the influence of the West and showcase the indomitable spirit of the Vietnamese.



Progress Towards Uncertainty

Ananya Oberoi of The Guardian reports happenings of The Ad-Hoc of the AU

The Ad-Hoc of the African Union, was inundated with pandemonium and chaos that followed the crisis updates. They have been tasked with stopping the expansion of Lords' Resistance Army (LRA) and bringing Joseph Kony to justice. While the delegates are trying their best to solve the problems, new problems arise and leave the delegates in utter bedlam. Throughout the proceedings of the committee, some delegates were conflicted between the idea of pointing fingers at decisions of other delegates, and looking for actual solutions of the problem. The LRA has been a wound on Central Africa ever since Kony's emergence. However this wound is far from healed, and constantly reminds the common people of its existence.

The delegates discussed issues like; recruiting of child soldiers and empowering their citizens. The Delegate of Sudan believed that the people are already in danger, empowering them and teaching them basic fighting skills would increase any chance of survival that they have. The committee was in session and the next topic to be addressed was the Central African Republic's (CAR) decision to make a deal with the LRA. The CAR gave the LRA \$2 million only for their word that they will not hurt the its citizens. This decision was rather haste and did not bring any good to the country. The funds provided by them to the LRA only helped it to take control of five of the major cities of CAR. When questioned by other delegates, the Minister Of Defense of the CAR attempted to justify this action by saying that, they made the best decision they could have for their people, and little did they know that the LRA is not going to stand by their word. The LRA is a terrorist organization and should not have been trusted in the first place, it is immensely hard to make negotiations with a terrorist organization. Maybe if the CAR would have carried out the deal a little differently, with some amount of assurance, their situation would have been better. The Minister of Defense of the CAR was later relieved of his duties by the Director.

The delegates soon received information that the LRA had captured 9000 South Sudanese citizens and 1000 citizens of Uganda, and demanded to make Obuto Mamur the President of South Sudan for their freedom. After a lengthy debate, the South Sudanese delegates decided to deny the demands of the LRA. This decision cost 10,000 innocent people their lives. The delegate of South Sudan said that they had no other option, and have now managed to save their nation from future demolition. They also stated that there actions were simply for the greater good of their nation and other citizens. They too had no assurance of whether or not the LRA would stand by their word. The troops of the LRA present in South Sudan and Uganda now moved to CAR.

The CAR is now crises ridden, with most of its cities captured by the LRA. The President of the Central African Republic fled to Ethiopia, and all outside contact to any government officials was lost. The Chief Of General Staff of Sudan reacted to this by saying, "The CAR did not make a wise decision, funding the LRA, and they have paid their price. They have lost their nation to a terrorist organization." With the CAR now officially a rogue nation, and the fate of the citizens unknown, The Ad-Hoc of The African Union has now taken a step in the uncertain.

The Spanish Civil War—A Taint on Humanity

Ankita V Hegde of Le Monde reports on the Spanish Civil War, wherein many people lost their lives

On July 17th, 1936, the Military of Spain instigated a coup against the Spanish Republican Government. This marked the beginning of the Spanish Civil War. Agriculture, the Catholic Church, Regionalism, the Spanish Army and Spain's economic instability were believed to be the causes of the war. There were many nations involved in the war, all with the sole intention of gaining power. There were the pro-Nationalists (Nazi Germany, Italy, Portugal, Austria and Greece), the pro-Republicans (the USSR, Mexico, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland) and the neutrals (the U.K, the U.S.A, Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Belgium amongst others). A series of horrors and tragedies followed. Mothers saw their babies dying, and children saw their parents getting slaughtered. The national leaders were so busy grabbing power that they failed to notice, or rather overlooked, the appalling tortures and horrors the common people had to go through.

The war could have been easily avoided if the leaders had been sensible enough to understand their people. The leaders then would not have taken any rash decision which would have a horrendous effect on the people. The greed for power made them forget their duties and responsibilities and made them butcher their own people. It is quite surprising that these were the leaders who had earlier propounded peace. Adolf Hitler (Germany), Benito Mussolini (Italy), Joseph Stalin (Soviet Union), Francisco Franco, Manuel Azana, Francisco Largo Caballero and Jose Sanjuro (all from Spain), were some of the prominent personalities involved.

The impact of the war on the common people was overwhelming. Innumerable innocents lost their lives or witnessed the deaths of their family or friends. Many were rendered homeless. People lost their livelihoods and could not even earn meagre earnings to look after and support their family. Furthermore, even schools had to be closed. As a result, no child received education for many years. The future generation was uneducated and impoverished. However, the people could do nothing to control the situation. A word against the government would mean instantaneous death. The world was doomed. Sorrow and anger was disseminating everywhere.

Le Monde believes that the Spanish Civil War has been one of the major reasons for disunity and capricious and volatile relationships amongst various countries. The world would have been a much better place without wars, killings and violence.



Southeast Asian Women Sleep in Graveyards

Arjun Kochhar of the Chosun Ilbo shares a letter written by a woman of Qatar

Aabid Mirza,
56 Rawdat Rashed Rd
Ash-Shahaniyah
Qatar

15th September 2017

Dear father,

How are you? I assume that you are keeping well. Every day, I pray to Allah for mother's recovery and well-being. I am writing you this letter to notify you about the miserable life that I am living here in Qatar. The last four months of being indulged in matrimony have been the worst of my lifetime. In the first week of the marriage, I kept my distance from Zamir, my husband, as I am terrified of him. He asked me to partake in acts I was uncomfortable with and upon my refusal, he beat me up.

I tried to approach some women in my colony and it was brought to my knowledge that this wasn't anything surprisingly new. They had all been through the same experience and despite various complaints against this, they await action being taken against their spouses till date. As long as the Quran states that it is alright for us women to be beaten as we are 'below' our male 'equivalents', nothing can be done. We die and are made to suffer everyday, and are somehow getting through this life. Even in the sweltering heat of the summers, we are being forced to wear clothes that cover our shoulders and knees. What kind of a life will I live if what I wear, say, do and even think, is under the authority of my husband?

I hope that soon a guiding force will overtake our godforsaken country and help me through this time. Already, our government, as well as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, are trying to implement various policies for women empowerment. They are also trying to increase the number of women in the workforce which may give me a chance to work, at the discretion of my husband.

Life is like a rose. It has its beauty but it also has its thorns and right now, it feels like I'm lying on a bed of needles.

I will wait for your reply and I hope to see you very soon.

Love

Mariam

Survival Seems Hard Enough

Oviyaal Kannan of The New York Times writes about the lives of citizens during the civil war

The people of Spain were highly dissatisfied with their surroundings. The Spanish economy, which was primarily agriculture, deeply suffered from the Latifundia system, seasonal unemployment and outdated agricultural practices. Many people stepped into poverty due to this. Soon, the regions surrounding Spain, with distinct languages, wanted independence, which the Republicans considered but the Conservatives opposed. This led to severe discontent among people in places like Basques and Catalans. The army was poorly equipped and had to work in extreme conditions without proper gear, there was a ratio of one general to 100 soldiers. Then, the countdown to the war began, the Conservatives and the Republicans were fighting, which questioned the very existence of thousands of Spaniards.

The country went from a superpower, to a country which was completely devastated after the world war. The army led by Francisco Franco ruthlessly killed thousands of protesters in a village. The life of the Spaniards was miserable. There was mass executions of opponents, all the members of Conservative organisations, and especially the clergy. Nearly 8000 clergy were killed, and almost 60000 citizens perished in the Republic zone. Between 1856 and 1932, more than 5 million Spaniards are said to have fled to America. Nationalist figures say that 1 million people were killed in battle, assassinated or executed. The figures do not even include all those children and adults who died of starvation and malnourishment.

Children who were supposed to be going to schools, were begging for food on the streets to fill their stomachs. People watched their families die of diseases, which spread throughout Spain in days. Men in the army wore dirty and unwashed clothes. Citizens were executed in some of the most inhumane ways. The fight between the Republicans and the Nationalists for power, ended up affecting thousands of innocent people, mentally and physically. The civil war of Spain was one of the worst recorded wars in the history of Europe. LON should strive to save the lives of innocents and maintain peace.



The Authors of Words Have Crossed Boundaries

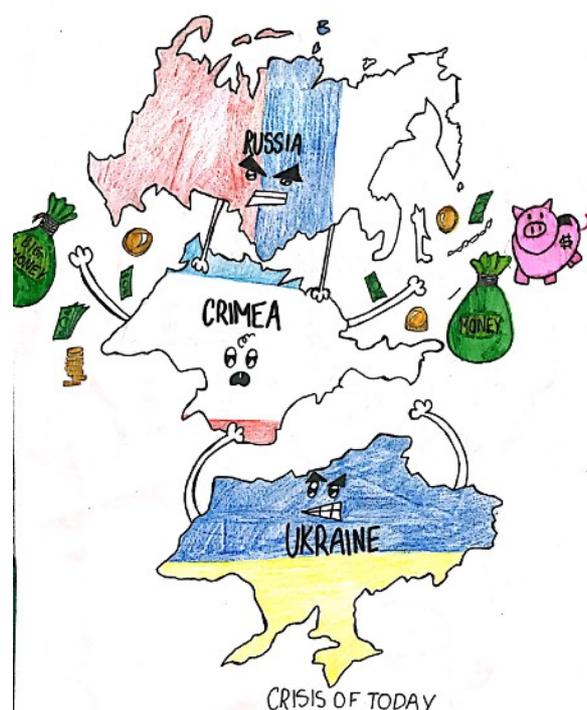
Arjun Kochhar of the Chosun Ilbo provides an analysis of the crisis in the Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Recently, a Vietnamese spy from the world of communism entered South Vietnam and landed in pursuit of an espionage, disguised as a journalist and placed in a news agency. He was put to this task by the Director of Communications of the untrustworthy communist government to learn about and report upon confidential information regarding the Republic of Vietnam. Luckily, he was caught by a gang of patrol officers and was held captive in the basement of a South Vietnamese facility enveloped by forests and well-guarded by watchtowers. The only known way of reaching the area was via a helicopter. He was kept under scrutiny and tortured for secrets of the opponents. Despite continuous and unsympathetic beatings, he refused to disobey the communists and eventually suffered the consequences.

The Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam tried their level best to retrieve this "journalist". They tried to reach the captured hostage through underground tunnels and were extremely close to their goal, only to be let down by their explosives which weren't timed properly. The bombs went off at an undesired point in time and led to the demise of everyone present at the facility.

It was later brought to the knowledge of the Politburo that the information had already been leaked by the operative to the representatives of the South Vietnam present there. This information was passed on to Washington DC, who circulated it to the anti-communists. The peasantry and the farmers were influenced and various rebellions, revolts and anti-communist uprisings occurred in the South as well as the North.

The next few decisions made by the Cabinet must be extremely thorough and well-rounded as their entire political ideology rests on the existence of their farmers. To quote the Minister of Interior, "They are the most important part of Vietnam. They, our farmers, are the ones who make up our nation."



Religious Restrictions on Women

Iniyaal Kannan of The Straits Times analyses the religious restrictions faced by women across the globe

Religion is a practice which has the power to unify a distinct society as well as destroy a unified community. It grants greater rights to certain members of the society and neglects the fundamental rights of the others; women fall in the latter category.

Women face some form of discrimination or another in most religions. In some cases, women are stripped off of their basic human rights and are forced to serve their supposedly “superior” male counterparts. Most of the religious restrictions faced by women today were not established a long time ago; they have gained momentum only in the last century. These restrictions have evolved over time to prevent the empowerment of women and keep them contained within their domestic spheres.

In Hinduism, Sati was a common practice which involved a widow immolating herself on her husband's pyre. Initially, it was up to the wife whether she wished to sacrifice herself or not, but society took advantage of this custom and forced widows to burn in their husband's pyre without their consent or will. This demonstrates how society wanted women to be loyal to their husbands; but does sati apply to a man when his wife dies? No. In the more prohibitive religion of Islam, rules of the Sharia are followed.

Most of the rules in this book suppress women and promote the treatment of women as inferiors. It is a controversial law with rules such as “A man can beat his wife for insubordination,” which is clearly unjust. The most followed religion in the world, Christianity, also has several restrains. Women have to be submissive to their husbands, the church, their community, and God. Leadership roles in the organized churches and sects of Christianity are often restricted to males.

By limiting women to their domestic spheres and subjugating them to their husbands, a great deal of valuable human resource is lost. In order to help women become more independent, several laws have been enforced to prevent such atrocities. In the United States, various states have banned Sharia Law. The Islamic Religious Council of Singapore has reduced polygamy to 0.08 percent by revising Sharia, which now requires that men prove they are qualified for additional marriages. Sati was abolished in India by Governor-General Lord William Bentinck in 1829. Although this practice was abolished almost two centuries ago.

The practice still occurs today in some parts of India and is regarded as the ultimate form of devotion and sacrifice towards ones husband. As can be clearly seen, legislating laws and abolishing such practices is an efficient and effective method of solving this problem. But the real challenge lies in changing the mindset of people towards women, which can only be changed if women educate themselves and strive to remove such unjust religious restrictions imposed upon them.

Beyond The Battlefield, Into The Home

Ishani Khemka of Komsomolskaya Pravda illustrates an image of the life of the women abducted by the LRA in Africa

“Life goes on”, they say. Little do they know how wrong they are. Life in Digba will never give us any joy. It is a scarred village, hosting the abused and the abuser. We awake every morning to the sound of dozens of women screaming after receiving a thorough beating, and we sink into our thin blankets and try to shield ourselves from the cries, in the hopes that we are not next. I was abducted at the tender age of fifteen and have stayed here for over two years. My capturer violated my modesty at first chance and continues to do so whenever he pleases. However, it does not bother me anymore; I have lost my ability to emote.

Still, I am not one to complain. His position in the Lords Army requires him to be on duty for a majority of the time, so some would say that I am lucky. We stay here, day in and day out, for we have no life beyond the walls of this confinement. I remember the first few days I spent here vividly. Having seen members of my village brutally killed and robbed just the previous day, I would not leave my room and stay without food or water for days on end, just wishing it all away. But I realized soon enough, that it would never be.

The worst part of staying here would be the daily news one receives of the atrocities committed by the men, because there is always something new that they’ve done. The stories are hideous and gruesome. Our faces contort during the narration and are hidden in disgust by the end and we practically see the glimmer of joy in their eyes at the same time. We live with them; we live with these monsters.

Last year, they performed the grandest act of them all. We could hear them laughing about it as they entered the village after hours of planning. “Like magic” they’d say. But the only difference is, magic doesn’t give you nightmares. Now they’ve probably committed the worst of them all. The 9,000 recruits, my abductee being one of them, holding women and children hostage.

Why will they not stop? Why are they not content with the lives they have already destroyed? No matter how much time I spend around these “people” I will never be able to answer these questions. I will never be able to comprehend what it is, that is blocking their humanity.



Pressie in Conversation with the Pillar of the Correspondents

Despite her very hectic schedule as the Editor-in-Chief of the United Nations Correspondents Association, Ananya Jain takes out time to speak briefly to the journalist of Al Jazeera, Latika Joshi, on her previous MUN experiences and what she expects out of her team of journalists.

Journalist: Good morning! I hope your day has been going well. To begin with, what made you want to start MUN-ing as a “pressie”?

Editor-in Chief: There is something highly empowering about being a part of an environment that appreciates your passion for international affairs and the intricacies of the intriguing world around us; an environment conducive to learning. I find very few activities provide room for that better than Model United Nations conferences. The Press Corps, in particular, is quite possibly the most unique of the committees at any MUN, in that it allows for unparalleled creativity and flexibility. Being someone who has always had countless stories to tell and ideas to share, I have taken to expressing these opinions using the written word since a young age. I vividly remember a member of the then Secretariat walking into my class in 8th grade, saying that we could either stay in class and recite a speech on a topic given to us by them to audition as delegates, or rush to the library with a paper and pen for our audition as journalists. I chose the latter on impulse, and haven't looked back since.

Journalist: If you can recall, what has been your most embarrassing moment from any of your MUN experiences?

Editor-in-Chief: I'd tell you, but then I'd have to kill you.

Journalist: You were one of the three additional editors for the Inter School SMUN'17. What was your reaction when you got to know about your selection?

Editor-in-Chief: I was elated, especially considering that I was an Additional Editor with two of my closest friends.

Journalist: Just to elaborate on to this, how was your experience as an Assistant Editor?

Editor-in-Chief: Exhilarating. We had the absolute best Executive Board that guided and helped us throughout the process, so I mean it when I say that each one of us truly grew as journalists and editors over the course of our journey as ADs.

Journalist: Tell me something about your co-editors. How do the three of you manage to work together as one team?

Editor-in-Chief: We're different people with different ideals about what constitutes a good piece, a good press conference, a good crisis and a good journalist, but as exasperating as that gets sometimes, I've come to realise that this helps us refine each idea when it is in its nascent stages, until it's absolutely perfect, invariably helping us meet our common goal of directing this committee in the best possible manner.

Journalist: Can you describe your editors in a few words?

Editor-in-Chief: The best.

Journalist: What was the reason behind changing the name of the the committee from International Press to the United Nations Correspondents Association?

Editor-in-Chief: The new name truly encapsulates the essence of everything this committee stands for and hopes to accomplish, and I knew the minute I came to know that the UNCA was an actual organisation of journalists and freelancers working with the United Nations that I had to change the committee's name.

Journalist: How have the various MUN experiences changed you as a person?

Editor-in-Chief: I have learnt, over time, the virtues of diplomacy, integrity, persuasiveness and collaboration, whilst confronting the multitudinous moral, ethical, political and legal quandaries at the diplomatic parlays unfolding within committee rooms at Model United Nations conferences. By representing ideologies that I earlier didn't know the first thing about, I have learnt the art of mulling over ideas that I may or may not agree with, hence providing me with perspective and significantly fixing the invariably warped lens through which we look to form our world-views. We live in a moment of conflict, and at the risk of sounding trite, I do truly believe that these are the values that help create individuals who later go on to change the world for the better.

Journalist: What do you expect from the journalists this year?

Editor-in-Chief: In all honesty, I only want each and every one of the journalists to push themselves beyond their boundaries and put in their very best, whatever that may mean for them. Research and analysis are key; but apart from that, the most rewarding aspect of the entire experience would be for me to be secure in the knowledge that at the end of it all, each one of you felt that you grew as writers, thinkers, and citizens of the world.

Journalist: Finally, any message you would like to give to the members of the UNCA and the delegates?

Editor-in-Chief: Keep the ethos of Model United Nations conferences in mind, and push yourselves to strive for excellence, but don't forget to have fun along the way, for MUNs are as gratifying as they are demanding.

Journalist: It was a pleasure interviewing you. Thank you for the intuitive information and for your time.



Garden of Countrymen

Mannat Gandotra of Syrian Arab News Agency conducts an interview of the delegate of Syrian Arab Republic WHO

Journalist: Good evening delegate, please share your views with us on the Refugee crisis. What are the major factors that have resulted in the crisis? Do you propose any possible solutions?

Delegate: The refugee crisis is a critical, challenging area of the situation of Syria at present. The major factors leading to it are first and foremost the terrorist activities prevalent in the country, and also the EU embargo of almost 7 years which has had a negative impact on the Syrian economy in the past few years, resulting in a drop in living standards.

Journalist: What have been the various steps taken by the Syrian Government in order to improve the lives of women and children in Syria?

Delegate: Well, the Syrian Ministry of Health is committed to promoting reproductive health and family planning, as well as other areas of maternal and paediatric care. Amongst its many initiatives in the field is a cooperation plan of about 38 million dollars with the UNICEF, for access to healthcare and nutrition, with a special focus on women and children.

Journalist: Psychiatric health is one of the concerns in the region, how would you address that?

Delegate: With increasing terrorist activities and an atmosphere of constant insecurity, especially in terrorist-inhabited areas, the psychiatric care of our citizens is of utmost importance to the government. For this, the Syrian government carried out mental health nursing courses in conflict-ridden areas last year. At the present session of the WHO, it looks forward to collaborate with other MENA countries to further such initiatives and decentralise psychiatric care to the rural and remote areas.

Journalist: According to the delegate of the United States, medicine certification is required to improve the health issues of the MENA region. Do you agree?"

Delegate: Definitely, the point was brought up by the Syrian Arab Republic as well. Legislation regarding safety of medicines, vitamin supplements, food and non-alcoholic beverages and substitutes to breast milk are of utmost importance. The National Drugs List of the Syrian Arab Republic currently looks after the safety of medicinal drugs in the country. In addition, higher standards for certification of medical universities remains a priority for the MENA region as a whole.

Journalist: Do you agree that 'Western intervention' is a reason for aggravating the problems in the region?

Delegate: When we talk about the refugee crisis itself, and the debilitation of the Syrian economy, it is clear that the embargo initiated by the European nations has been a root cause of the problems. In addition, interpretations of governmental action by Western media and analysts has, naturally represented one side of the story on several occasions. We assert that Western nations do consolidate resources to fight terrorism at large, but keep that goal and their economic/political goals distant from any interventions in the Middle East.

Journalist: It has been established that better infrastructure is required. But how does one achieve that goal?

Delegate: Yes, better health infrastructure will naturally come with larger funds or allocation of a greater proportion of the national budget to health. We call for economic collaboration amongst MENA countries, as well as international organisations like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, to improve infrastructure to meet both short-term and long-term health goals in the MENA region.

Journalist: What are your views on the fall of oil driven economies?

Delegate: The fall of the oil-rich economies will lead to increased diversification of economy towards other sectors of society in the oil-rich countries. From the Syrian perspective, this will mean less scope of economic support amongst and from other MENA countries. We urge oil-rich countries to use their existing, quite substantial resources, in a sustainable manner and plan strategically. In Syria particularly, the oil crisis has meant increased government involvement and investment in the agricultural, industrial and service sectors, as opposed to maintaining oil resources as the backbone of the economy.

Journalist: Thank you for this informative interview, delegate!



To Trade or Not To Trade

Ishani Khemka of Komsomolskaya Pravda reports on the unfolding crisis in the Advisory committee

Today is a day of grief for all of us. We mourn for the loss of Antonin Zapotocky, the late Czechoslovakian president. He was assassinated whilst in Egypt, in the middle of a meeting with the advisory. They had gathered there to discuss an arms deal which would highly favour the Egyptian government and which strengthen ties with the USSR. He had but one condition, the cutting off of all ties with Jordan, which the council was sadly not ready to sacrifice. Suddenly a man burst into the room, armed with a gun, and assassinated the Czech President. He was also successful in injuring the Egyptian confidant.

This was, as terrible as it sounds, a blunder. A planned scenario similar to this was to take place during a meeting with UK and Israel wherein a member of the Israeli council would be shot by an Egyptian assassin. A council member would be shot so as to not lead to any suspicion, and UK would be the one to blame. However the hired assassin was confused, and intruded the incorrect meeting.

What bothers one the most is not the blunder committed by the assassin but the message sent by the president, crafted by the members of council to the Czech government which claims that they had nothing to do with the happenings. They orchestrated a plan stating that the British official captured recently was released by the government. He then returned to the same area where the meeting took place, and was allowed to enter the Palace because of his occasional presence there. The official was armed; he disrupted the meeting and was successful in shooting the President. They further went on to state that they have "recaptured" him and will now execute him. This thus enables them to blame UK yet again for the assassination of the president and continue to strengthen relations with the USSR.

The USSR has made it very clear that it approves of the relations between Egypt and the East. It is proud of Egypt for standing up for itself as a pillar of nationalism and communism amongst suppressed countries. But one thing it will not stand is being lied to, especially about an assassination of a president. The support USSR has provided Egypt has been immense. Egypt however, has never made its position extremely unclear. While discussing the arms deal they kept trying to negotiate with Czechoslovakia as they did not want to anger the kingdom of Jordan nor did they want to anger the UK. But if they are to maintain an alliance with USSR, no negotiation should have taken place.

The path ahead is a weary and unclear one. The government of USSR has not made any statement in relation to this information. However, one can be assured that they will not cut all ties with Egypt. However, this does not mean that all is well. Egypt must regain the trust of the USSR for if the UK and Israel want to invade areas near the Suez canal, the East is the most powerful ally that they could possess. If at all this breaks out into a nuclear war, which is a possibility for the Cold War and all its remnants are safe with the respective countries, the Director of Naval Forces as well as the Director of Armed Forces have mentioned that they will be taking aid from USSR.

So before the members of council take any other decisions and pledge their allegiance to anyone else; they must consider what is at stake.

Cease The Influence, Regain The Power

Paavani Ojha of the UNIAN writes about Ukraine, Russia and the ocean of conflict that lies between them

The only real power comes out of a long rifle.

-Joseph Stalin, Soviet Leader

In the central part of Eastern Europe, cradled in between the arms of Poland and Russia lies the nation of Ukraine. Endowed with plentiful resources, geographical advantage and historical relevance, Ukraine is a nation of many complexities. Before understanding the cause of its current crisis, one must understand its long and tumultuous history.

Ukraine and its neighbouring country, Russia, have been intertwined with one other over the course of the past thousand years. The Ukrainian population can be predominantly divided into two conflicting ethnic groups- the ethnically Ukrainian west and the ethnically Russian east. However this is not the greatest bone of contention. This cultural divergence was created due to two reasons. Firstly, both countries share similar roots of origin. Secondly, Russia has always tried to maximise its influence over Ukraine, claiming it to be for the purpose of national security.

After the first World War and the disintegration of the Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires in 1918, Ukraine enjoyed a period of transient independence, but was soon invaded by Poland. After Poland was defeated, leaving a crumbling economy and distressed populace in Ukraine, the Soviet took the country into its dominion. Over the next decade, the people of Ukraine were further exploited, ill-treated and persecuted. Large groups of ethnic Ukrainians were removed from the country and were replaced by Russians.

In the 1930s, this already dismal situation worsened. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin reversed the Bolshevik agriculture system by snatching land from helpless peasants and establishing collective farms. He believed that this policy of collectivism would accelerate food production and boost the economy. However, it was purely counterproductive and resulted in widespread famine, causing millions of people to starve to death. In addition to this heinous act, he ordered large scale executions of ethnic Ukrainians for arbitrary and unjustified reasons.

Eventually with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the hope of a stable Ukraine spread across the horizon, but the Russians were not done. In the 2004 Ukrainian Presidential elections, candidate Viktor Yanukovich was backed by the Kremlin and came into power, sparking mass protest due the corrupt election. Yanukovich caused great deterioration to the economy of Ukraine and eventually fled the country, fearing angry protestors.

These examples are few of the many ways Russia has exploited Ukraine and its people. Ukraine is now an independent country, but with Russia's continued attempts to disrupt the order and functionality of the nation, its progression into an economically stable and nationally cohesive country has been adversely slow.

Returning to the crisis at hand, the United Nations Security Council was convened to discuss the future of Ukraine and Crimea, which is located in the southern part of Ukraine, after Russia began providing pro Russian separatists with arms, ammunition and other destructive equipment who then resorted to violence in a vast number of regions, sparking chaos and inevitable bloodshed.

The Council has not yet reached a resolution and the more time that is spent deliberating the future of Ukraine in closed rooms, the more number of people are losing their lives in the perilous regions of the country. During the session, it came to be known that a Russian warship went rogue, kidnapped thirteen soldiers, killed six of them and returned the rest of them only after getting national recognition over its ownership of Crimea.

Also, during the course of the discussions, the Ukrainian representative was not seen taking a firm stance to protect her country and her people, which was disappointing, to say the least. She let Russia continue to dominate and influence its future.

It is evident that the Russian Federation, with its expansionist tendencies, influence driven motives and power hungry actions is destined to guide Ukraine into a pit of death, destruction and despair. It is a creature of habit, and its habits are malicious and ignorant. It is willing to go to inhumane lengths to expand its influence over the world. All that Russia has provided Ukraine with is national instability, ethnic conflict, economic deprivation and mass exploitation.

For Ukraine to flourish as a sovereign nation and effectively improve its strategic functioning, it needs to completely shun the Russian involvement in its territory. Possible ways to do this could be the introduction of stricter foreign policies and border violation laws. People directly involved should be prosecuted and made to face justice, thus introducing the fear of consequence to the equation.

The crux and essence of this issue is that if we continue to let powers like Russia have a monopoly and control over the world, we are sure to lead it to its doom. The Ukrainian populace is in tatters and it needs to be salvaged from this suffering before it is too late.



A Falklander's Cry for Peace

Sharanya Ghosh of Canada Free Press presents a Falklander's view on the Argentine invasion

The news arrived of the Argentines invading our homeland, scaring our families into hiding. They have claimed our home to be theirs for too long now. The British had been interacting with them to negotiate, but they just don't seem to budge. For years, the British have been accused of encroaching on Argentine land and waters, and Argentina has claimed sovereignty of our islands because they lie in Argentine waters. What they fail to accept is that we don't want to be a part of their nation. We are descendents of the British, and we have been British for as long as we can remember.

We are greatly satisfied with what our country has given us, and we want to give back to our motherland as much as we can. We identify ourselves with the British, and if there is any weight in all those laws the world talks of, if there is any value in their Principles of Self-Determination, then we should be left alone, and in peace. We are just a couple thousand inhabitants of the islands, but we know what we want. It will be difficult to change that, especially since they are attacking us. They think they can overpower us using force. But, we have full faith in the British. We trust that if the Argentines do not back off from the islands, the British will come to protect us, because we are British as well. We have always been a part of their community and intend to continue to do so. The weak claims of a politically hungry country will not change that. We may be in their waters, but our loyalty and sovereignty lies elsewhere.

Their disrespect of the Principle of Self-Determination and the invasion of our home cannot be overlooked. The Falkland Islanders are peaceful, hard-working and resilient people. Our society is thriving and forward-looking. All we ask is to be left in peace, to choose our own future, and responsibly develop our home for our children and generations to come



The Humdrum Of Pain

Paavani Ojha writes a poem from the perspective of a harrowed Ukrainian youth

A bitter night, a better day
I wake up to agonized cries
Another day, another war
An endless humdrum of pain
Kids are born into this bloodshed
Seeds of are violence sown here
Watered with blood and tears
Growing towards the darkness of our future
Their warcry is the wail of sufferers
Their ammuration- lack of hope
Their bullets, laced with poisonous hate
Their aim fixed upon our peace
Father says they want identities
And identities they deserve indeed
But they choose to identify themselves
With death, destruction, vain
My brother left home that day
With an angry heart and a promise
A promise to return by midnight
But till today mother stares at the open door
With the clock hand stuck at twelve
Quite like our nation
And its people
Its poor, pitiable people
As my rest my head on this pillow
Having seen another day of dread
The cold, biting into my skin
The noise, coming from within.

Five Days Later

Verses on the ongoing civil war in Spain and the plight of its citizens by Al Jazeera journalist, Latika Joshi

They call it a civil war, I don't think so,
External alliance, that help comes and goes, to and fro
But there are these two warring groups, so strong
Will the country be able to survive for long?
They call themselves, the Nationalists and the Republicans
They move around the city with guns

Who knows when one might fire a bullet?
But instead of killing another, it would kill a tourist
Initially, it started as a civil war,
But as time passed, it became as strong as the hammer of Thor
The groups could not be kept apart, nor could the war be ended
The meeting organised to create some peace, was left unattended
It was basically the republicans at first,
All citizens supported them, not knowing it could be the worst

Little did they know that the philosophy of communism was what they had oriented,
Not knowing that their house would in no time, be rented
Finally the elections took place
It was a very simple race,
The Republicans won, of course
And well, nationalisation of property was what they enforced
Hatred for the republicans could be smelled in the air
Overthrow the government? No, no one dared

But when the church was shut down and the people became poor,

Their supporters had definitely become fewer
Meanwhile, behind the shadows grew,
Another warring group,
Soon there would be an unannounced military coup,
And definitely the Republicans would lose, like Napoleon at Waterloo
The new government, still better than the previous one,
At least they did not preach communism to everyone,
But then joined the other countries,
They were nothing but war-hungry.

Out of all of them, Germany, Italy and the USSR took the spotlight,
An outbreak of war had taken place by midnight.
All countries and warring groups, mired in the “not so really civil war”
The war spread everywhere, the streets, government buildings as well as the sea shore
Some who could, fled the country

Whereas the poorest of the poor were forced to stay back and die
Many of them bled to death, not even saying a goodbye,
And the rest? They did not care about death, instead busy counting their money
Oh god! Have some mercy on them,
They are simply innocent countrymen
The dim light of the misery, pain, torture and death would forever glow,
And this was life, five days ago

Fear, Anticipation, Prediction: The Realm of Consequences

Paavani Ojha of the UNIAN shares her critical opinion on the Soviet involvement in the Vietnam crisis

Violence is something that leeches onto weakness, disruption and disarray. It is fueled by the rage of mournful sufferers not wanting to suffer anymore, aggression of leaders who translate their chaos into anguish and, the sorrow of those who are faced by the consequences of this discrepancy. Violence breeds when resolve is weakened and flourishes where destructiveness overpowers rationality.

Perhaps it is indeed this characteristic trait of violence that makes it so prominent in Vietnam, or maybe the prominence is due to negligence of those who wish to 'improvise' it. Either way, Vietnam is suffering. It is on its knees, still recovering from the aggressive blow of war that weakened its very foundation and the fatal oppression of its people. Along with this, Vietnam has been torn into two shreds, which is a byproduct of the battle of ideologies of the Communists against the Imperialists. Vietnam is left divided, broken and besmirched.

The Politburo of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam was called for this very purpose—to restore order and peace in Vietnam. The United States of America, having infiltrated Vietnamese territory, alarmed the President of North Vietnam to an extent where Vietnam became willing to turn to whichever nation it could for help. Call it an obvious assistance or a precarious decision, the USSR intervened. It agreed to provide North Vietnam with supplies, resources and equipment necessary for it to eradicate all foreign influence—namely from the USA—and establish a politically powerful monopoly over the entirety of Vietnam. The USSR endowed the Vietnamese navy with gunboats like the *Kraznaya Abkhazia* and *Kraznaya Zamiya* and coastal defence ships like the *Vainamoinen*, amongst several other guard ships and battleships, even though the waters of the South China Sea around Vietnam are not fit for these vessels. It also provided Vietnam with economic support. On the surface, this aid looks like a salvation. However, its underlying implications have not been considered. The Soviet may be willing to provide this aid to the Vietnamese as of now and it may even prove to be fruitful, but the dire ramification of this aid will be the undermining of Vietnamese leadership. Once the USSR has gained this image of a 'saviour' it is likely demand services and favours from North Vietnam, in return for their help. As a result, by being a major player of aid in the Vietnamese war, the USSR will be able to exploit the region in the future and inevitably turn it into its own beneficial playground. So, what appears to be an act of goodwill or a relation of symbiosis, is actually a parasitic and exploitative one. As far as the question of its history is concerned, the USSR is known to capitalise on the chaos of nations, irrespective of its causative agent. Its grave actions are one of the main causes behind a lack of cohesive nationality in several eastern European nations. It is creating a sense of indebtedness in the Vietnamese for itself, and will unquestionably monopolise on this relation.

The people of Vietnam are lost. At each turn, they see violence, death, destruction and bloodshed. A dagger of fear is slowly etching its way into their battered hearts and will soon gouge out from it the only thing that is stronger than their fear itself; their hope. And once that is extracted, they will be left limp and weak.

This clearly shows that this seeming aid by the Soviet is destined to threaten the future stability of Vietnam, a nation whose identity and dominion have been played with by influential powers throughout its history, and will lead to its people backed in a corner with the fear of oppression looming over their heads, the threat of exploitation treading towards them and the unintentional betrayal by their leaders grudgingly, but sharply scraping their backs.

Checkmate

Vallika Varshri of the BBC features the perspective from the revolts of Alexandria, Egypt

Darkness descended upon us with a startling grip, rousing us from the sweet labour of restiveness. We had never felt this before, a fire which was able to light us from within, a sense of freedom as if we ever had one. They came in with flaming slogans, calling us to join them. Their eyes beckoned us over, alight with a lust for freedom, for justice. Freedom from the lack of labour, from the incompetence of nothingness, freedom from the fear of being economy-less men in a world driven by money. The Muslim Brotherhood aroused in us what we had not felt in a while, they doused in our hearts the crackling fire of hopelessness and kindled in its place, a warm light within our chests, the light of hope.

Nasser had made us done for, we were all walks of men with no work and the little earning that we had been able to earn, that man, that scoundrel if I dare say it, had it taken away from us. Alexandria was the name of the city we lived in and the Suez Canal Company was the source of our employment; was the source of employment being the key word.

Our President, God forbid his soul rests in peace. It was his fault, it was his fault that we lost our jobs. He was the single man to blame, the bane of our existence, the cardinal sin of greed in flesh. He made great promises to us, you know? He promised us gold, he promised a golden, bright Egypt. An Egypt of bright prospects, a striving centre of electricity, crackling and whipping in delight. We were not meant to be this way anymore, we were meant to be more. We were meant to be a great country, the head of the Arabian world. He promised us that, Nasser did!

What, delivered to us? Ha, that was nothing. What he delivered to us was suffering. He made us suffer, it was because of his selfish greed, his unquenched thirst for power that the Suez Canal was nationalised, he was the sole reason to blame for our struggles, the loss of our livelihood. He promised us the removal of all western forces, he promised us a country free from the mar staining the blood of the Egyptians; he promised us freedom from the western countries, from Britain- the ugly coloniser responsible for our country's demise in its colonised 'glory'.

What we failed to understand is this- the Muslim Brotherhood was not in any way better, they roused us into revolt for their own personal gain, in a bid to undermine Nasser. They roused us to revolt, they promised us that we shall rise like phoenix from the ash of the old days of Egypt, they promised us that we shall be remembered, acknowledged- if a revolt was to be underway, Nasser would have to look at us; oh, and how we longed for him to look at us. Look at us, why don't you? Look at your people, look at the suffering in our eyes, at the tattered clothes on our backs, the parched skin on our lips; look at the begging, base animals you have made out of us.

Come what may, this is your fault, Nasser. You have made us into this, it is because of you that we have been reduced to this. It is because of you that we are controlled with sticks, our bones broken and our hearts searing through our chest; it is because you that we rose to revolt and yes, be under no mistaken guise, it is because of that we were made to be mere pawns in the games you play with Britain, and guess what Nasser? Checkmate.

Argentines vs British: An Analysis

Sharanya Ghosh of Canada Free Press explores the best solution for the Falklands issue

The disharmony between Argentina and the United Kingdom has existed even before the establishment of British control over the Falklands. Britain had set its eyes on the South American region to be an ideal location for a British colony, even though the Spanish had already settled there. While under the Spanish rule, Buenos Aires was invaded twice by the British in 1806 and 1807. However, they were not successful in conquering the capital in either of the two cases and were forced to retreat. Argentina, as part of the Rio de la Plata at the time, was barely provided with any aid during the war, which led to questioning of the Spanish control over the Rio de la Plata. This gave rise to the May Revolution. Within three years after the second war against the British, Argentina was officially declared independent in 1816. The British had arrived at the Falkland islands by 1765, but were driven out due to Spanish attacks and wars in other parts of the world, by 1771. They left behind a plaque declaring the islands to be under the British rule. The Spanish departed in a similar manner by 1811, after which the British began using the islands as a military base during war. Argentina, on the other hand, having inherited control over the islands by the Spanish Crown in the 1800s, allowed its men to exploit the faunal resources of the archipelago in 1823, after David Jewett raised the flag of the United Provinces of the River Plate in 1820. Soon after, when the British learned of the presence of Argentine men on the islands, they requested the replacement of their flag with that of Great Britain. Major Jose Maria Pinedo, the new leader of the military sent by Buenos Aires to set up a penal colony, wished to retaliate but realising his disadvantages, withdrew from the islands. Official William Dickson was placed in control of the islands. However, a gang led by Antonio Rivero in August 1833, killed five members of the settlement including the Britisher. The British then took complete control of the islands and, after a short period, set about developing its infrastructure. The islands' economy boomed under the British rule and the people seemed to be satisfied with the performance of their rulers.

The Argentines, however, continued to feel that the British had taken control of islands that belonged to them. Many negotiations for control over the islands were carried out up until the 1970s, after which the Argentines invaded the Falklands, leaving little space for peace negotiations. The people of the islands continued to support the British due to their prosperity. The Right to Self Determination clearly shows that the British should be in control of the islands, since it is the people who demand that their presence. The people of the islands have been under the British administration for a long period of time and most of them have descended from British settlers. They have accepted the British as their rulers, and it is their right to choose who should take control of their land. There are various approaches to the issue, yet most feel that it is best to let the people of the land decide what they want. Argentina claims the right to control the islands and demands that they be decolonised from under British control. There are limited options to solve the issue in peace: The islands become a part of Argentina, they continue to remain under British control or the two countries negotiate and rule over the islands together. However, due to recent developments, it seems unlikely that the British and Argentine governments can ever work together in this matter. Argentina also took a very calculative step by taking up sudden military action during peace talks and negotiations to feed the domestic politics, where the military rule was under question and there was a great amount of civil unrest. It is highly unethical of the country's military to threaten the lives of others in order to maintain a political balance within the country. The best solution, therefore, is the continuation of British rule over the islands, which leads to the contentment of the people and the maintenance of peace as the people are satisfied with their rulers.

Is Drop in Oil Prices More Important than Public Health?

Sparkle Biswas of Emirates 24/7 analyses the relationship between healthcare and oil prices

Physical and mental healthcare is not given as much importance in the MENA region. They only spend about four percent of their annual GDP on healthcare, which is much lesser than developed countries like Europe, which spends about 14% of its GDP on the same. This doesn't mean the MENA region is disease free. Non-communicable diseases like obesity, malnutrition, heart stroke and diabetes are quite common in this region. Even though HIV/AIDS has low prevalence here, these life threatening diseases cannot be ignored, and measures have to be taken to prevent them.

The reason why there is not a lot of investment in the healthcare sector, especially in the middle-east, could be the drop in oil prices. Many of these countries mostly depend on their oil export, and when the prices drop, the country's economy is largely affected. This is when health problems are not a major concern. Some African countries like Yemen, Sudan and, Egypt are poverty stricken and people there suffer from innumerable diseases like malnutrition and cholera, and due to low income, and lack of good hospitals and doctors, these diseases are not battled and continue to prevail.

The middle-eastern countries are under constant threat of terrorist attacks and civil wars, which not only injure and kill thousands, but also affect the mental health of the people. These people suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and other diseases which affects their mental stability. Again, only two percent of the annual income of the MENA region is spent on this health sector.

The inadequate healthcare infrastructure shows how uninterested the governments of these countries are towards the health sector. The private sector doesn't invest much into medical facilities, since two-thirds of the hospitals in the MENA region are government owned.

Lack of skilled workforce is another setback for this region. Countries like Iraq and Syria, where destruction of infrastructure is frequent, schools are not remade and it causes a huge hindrance in the education of the youth, and not many are qualified to take up medical jobs.

Even though healthcare is not as advanced and efficient in most of the countries in the MENA region, it doesn't mean they aren't making progress. Efforts to improve healthcare have been made, particularly in UAE, Tunisia and Bahrain. Unfortunately this venture hasn't worked out for all, except for UAE, which is rapidly growing in medicine and medical technology UAE has developed an advanced health system, and uses mobile technology



Na(sser), Britain

Vallika Varshri of the BBC breakdowns the proceedings of the first day of the Advisory Council to Nasser

“I finally figured out that not every crisis can be managed. As much as we want to keep ourselves safe, we can't protect ourselves from everything.” -Susan Elizabeth Phillips

Conflict ridden and suppressed by years of colonisation, Egypt proved herself to be a formidable force to be reckoned with through its actions in July, 1956. However bold her action had been, perhaps what Egypt didn't anticipate in advance is the repercussions of Suez Canal's nationalisation which thereby lead to an international crisis to brew in the Middle East. As a result, the Advisory Council to Nasser was formulated with the broad agenda of dealing with the crisis itself. The first order of business for the Council was the letter from the Czechoslovakian President through which he decided to withdraw from its arms deal with Egypt, thus forming the first crisis update. Unfortunately for Egypt, its only other arms dealer had been Britain but considering the hostility between the two countries, Egypt was left without sufficient arms to sustain herself. As a subsequent result, the deliberations were based upon Egypt's foreign policy and its relation with other Middle Eastern countries- thus leading to a vehement debate between the delegates about whether they were willing to compromise on their foreign policy so as to accommodate the delivery of arms and help from the USA.

Though a matter of crisis, the subsequent crisis update had the council jolting awake as they discovered that their problems were not limited to an external crisis but in fact included an internal crisis- an uprising had taken place in its port city of Alexandria. As a result of the nationalisation of the canal, several employers, believed by the committee to be aroused by members of the Muslim Brotherhood, were protesting due to having lost their jobs. Further, it was discovered that the Muslim Brotherhood had been successful in holding hostage Egypt's shipment of rice and cotton which had been bound for UAE countries.

Nonetheless, it was without doubt the third crisis update which had the whole of the ACN reeling in shock. Through pure luck, Mr. David had overheard a meeting between a British official and a Muslim Brotherhood member, thus leading the committee to realise the connection between the two entities in its collaborative effort to undermine the Egyptian position. Moreover, it was also inferred from the ensuing deliberation that the UK was in preparation of raising arms against Egypt, thereby calling for an urgent need to take pre-emptive military action against Egypt's enemy.

The subsequent heated debate, fuelled by rage against the British people, lead to the passing of a collective directive which called for the kidnapping of a high ranking British official. Other directives which came up pertained to encouraging the people into supporting their governments as well as joining the Egyptian army in a bid to increase Egypt's military prowess. After the kidnapping a British official, the collective directive proposed that Egypt subsequently send a naval and air troops where the Egyptian shipments were being held.

However, it was the news delivered by the kidnapped and subsequently tortured British official which had the delegates on the edges of their seats. Unfortunately for the Council, matters were unable to be discussed further due to the elapse of time. With a single statement from the British official, one thing become clear: Once again, the ACN will have a crisis to deal with on its hand- the planned revolt on 19th August is bound to make or break the mettle of the Egyptians.



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