

SPECPOL



STUDY GUIDE



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I. Letters

Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed and Distinguished Participants,

I am pleased to welcome you at TEDUTRAIN 2024 conference as those who are aware of and fulfill their responsibilities. You, as future leaders, will find significant solutions in this situation working with the power of diplomacy. In these two days, you will be the leaders.

I am Pelin Onat, a sophomore Political Science and International Relations student at TED University. Creating the best and most distinguished conference possible was the goal of the months of planning. I would like to thank my dear friend, our Deputy Secretary General Asya Arslan, for all the effort she has put into all of this process of preparation. You wouldn't think that it is just a academic work for conference I would like to express my gratitude to our Organizational Advisor Duru Hızarcıoğlu and our Director general, Zeynep Ece Bilgin In TEDUTRAIN'24, we have nine different committees that, significantly, will discuss vital agendas. I would like to express my feelings to my academy team; they worked so hard in order to make these committees possible.

It is expected of delegates to carefully examine the study guides that were given to them. In order to add value to their conversations, they are required to actively participate in the conference and offer solutions. Delegates at the conference will benefit from and be guided by further study on the policies of the nations to which they have been assigned. I wish you all a great conference that you will have a great time, that you will enjoy, that you will not forget, and that you will make your mark.

Lastly, if you have any questions about our study guides, please do not hesitate to contact us via mun@tedu.edu.tr. I am looking forward to the day of TEDUTRAIN'24. I am sure that this conference will be a legendary experience.

Sincerely,

Secretary-General of TED University Model United Nations Training Conference
TEDUTRAIN 2024, PELİN ONAT

1. Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Distinguished Representatives and Honourable Participants,

I am pleased to welcome you to the 4th session of TEDUTRAIN. I, Yağız Patır, am a sophomore student at TOBB ETU, and I am studying mechanical engineering. Instead of introducing myself more, in this section, I want to stress the fact that before coming to the committee, reading and understanding this guide, and also through preparation is an absolute necessity for this committee.

This guide gives delegates a general understanding of the background and conflicts at hand. Therefore, the participants must read the guide very carefully and try to think about possible solutions based on our conflict. It will also be important to mention that before coming to the committee, reading the rules of procedure in order to learn the state of affairs of the committee is of vital importance for you to run the sessions effectively.

If every participant does their part and comes prepared to the committee, all of us will have an experience that none of us will forget and always remember. If you have any questions about the committee, my dear friend Çınar Mehmet Erduran and I will do our best, so you may contact us if you need to: yagizpatir@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Under Secretary-General of SPECPOL

Yağız PATIR

2. Letter from the Academic Assistant

Dear Participants of TEDUTRAIN'2024,

I am Çınar Mehmet Erduran, your Academic Assistant. I welcome all of you to this year's edition of TEDUTRAIN and the SPECPOL committee. I wish all of you a perfect two days and sincerely hope you will be able to learn about MUN and the circumstances of the world.

I would like to thank the Secretary General, Deputy-Secretary General, Director General and the Deputy-Director General for their hard work to put together this year's TEDUTRAIN.

Also I would like to thank Yağız Patır, my Under-Secretary General, for believing in me and being a very charming and enjoyable person in general. Last but definitely not least I would like to thank Sarina Fidan for giving me this and many other opportunities and in general being very compassionate and thoughtful towards me. SPECPOL is a special committee for me, because it was my first ever committee. I had the chance of enjoying it once again

alongside my dear friend Timur Saraç as chairs not too long ago and now here in

TEDUTRAIN'2024 I will once again get to experience SPECPOL but this time as an

Academic Assistant. I sincerely hope all of the delegates in this committee will get to enjoy

SPECPOL as much as I once did.

If you have any questions about this very special committee feel free to ask them via my

email address: cinarmerduran@gmail.com . Before ending this letter, I would like to point out

that this guide took so many sleepless nights and more effort than you'd think, so please read

it carefully since there is so much hard work in each and every paragraph. Finally, I hope each

and every one of you has a wonderful conference, where you will both learn and create unforgettable memories.

Sincerely,

Academic Assistant of SPECPOL

Çınar Mehmet ERDURAN



II. Introduction to the Committee

1.1. History

Early specialized duties within regular law enforcement gave rise to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), (Stroops, or Special Police Forces. In the 20th century, threats like terrorism and organized crime arose, and these units had to adapt to deal with difficult problems. These days, they include elite teams that use cutting edge technology and specialized training, such as S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons And Tactics) in the United States and GSG 9 (Grenzschutzgruppe 9 der Bundespolizei) in Germany. Their focus has expanded to include high-risk activities, cybercrime, and counterterrorism, demonstrating their response to modern security requirements.

1.2. Scope

Among the six principal committees of the UN General Assembly is SPECPOL, or the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. Within its purview are topics pertaining to international relations' political and decolonization facets. This committee deals with issues such human rights promotion, conflict resolution involving non-self-governing areas, and the advancement of self-determination. The activity of SPECPOL is essential for handling political conflicts and assisting regions in gaining complete autonomy. The resolution written by the committee, while not holding any judicial or administrative authority, is important for the resolution of regional conflicts.

1.3. Members

The 193 member states of the UN make up the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) of the UN General Assembly. Representatives from every country that is a member of the UN make up this committee, which is one of the six main committees of the General Assembly. Due to the committee's organizational design, decolonization, political questions, and other

unique political matters can be discussed and decided upon by all member states. All member states have one vote in all votings, representing the equality among nations.

III. Introduction to the Agenda Item: Decolonization in the 21st Century: Challenges of Non-Self-Governing Territories

1. Historic Background

This section will briefly focus on the historic background of the agenda item, delegates should know that without knowing the history of the agenda it would be much more difficult to understand the current state of the agenda. Hence this section is very crucial to understanding the rest of the guide and since this is a brief explanation of colonialism just to give you an idea about it, if you want to understand the dynamics of today better, you should do further research upon the matter.

1.1. Colonization

The history of non-self governing territories starts all the way back to the period of European Expansion, especially after the discovery of America. The exploration was started by the Portuguese with both economic and religious motives, especially to discover the spice trade after the Ottomans took control of Constantinople in 1453 and blocked Europe from the spice trade coming all the way from India. The exploration started off with the discovery of some Atlantic islands. The first major discovery was Cape of Good Hope, which proved that there was a way to get around Africa. After this the Portuguese managed to discover the spice trade by sailing north to the Indian Ocean. This success led to the Spanish funding the infamous Christopher Columbus, in order to find an alternative way to the spice trade by sailing west. This led to the discovery of the American Continent and the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 which allocated the western part of the world to Spain and the eastern part of the world to Portugal, the dividing line being the meridian on Cape Verde. For a

while Spain focused on Atlantic colonization, while the Portuguese focused on the Indian Ocean. However in 1521 Magellan and his crew managed to circle around the globe for the first time, and they reached modern day Guam and the Philippines. After some fighting, the Treaty of Zaragoza was signed, establishing the anti-meridian for the Treaty of Tordesillas and the influence areas for the empires in the Pacific. Portugal kept exploring Southeastern Asia and the eastern sides of Africa, discovering the natives and indigenous people there. They also discovered China and Japan around this time and established what would be known as Brazil today. Meanwhile, the Spanish established New Spain, Peru and many other colonies in Latin America. The Europeans were ruthless for their greed for lands and riches, and also technologically very advanced according to the indigenous Americans. In addition the Europeans carried diseases that they were immune to, but since the people living in the Americas encountered these diseases for the first time they began dying in mass. All in all these combined seriously devastated the Americans and caused catastrophe for them. The economic yields the Spanish and the Portuguese harvested from the Americas took the attention of Netherlands, France and England, which now also wanted a piece of the new-found-lands.

Before moving on with the further colonization of the Americas, it must be noted that the natives were seen as “natural slaves” with arguments against this idea being strictly suppressed. As mentioned before, the other European powers wanted some of the lands, however they were not included in the previous treaties. Spain and Portugal claimed that all these claims were illegitimate because of this, however of course the other Europeans would not allow this. Initially the Northern Europeans pillaged Spanish ships sailing in the Atlantic later this developed into them settling in what is today’s USA and Canada and some islands in the Caribbean, which were not Spanish interests at the time. An important difference between the Northern colonizers and the Southern colonizers was how and why they did what they were doing. The Spanish had a very important religious goal of spreading the word of Jesus, while some Spaniards moved

to the Americas in order to gain social status. In contrast, the Northern Europeans were much more focused on building a new land with their own rules from scratch. This difference in points of view has affected the development and prosperity of the areas significantly even to this day. Soon the English, French and the Dutch realized there weren't many important metals like the Spanish had, however they discovered other resources which saw high demand from Europe such as sugar, tobacco and cotton. This led to the start of the Atlantic Slave Trade, which was the transportation of millions of slaves to the Americas for them to work in plantations. Remember that none of these people were considered human and still considered as “natural slaves” due to their lower level of technological advancement.

Meanwhile, in Asia Russia expanded into northern Asia and Siberia, mapping the areas and starting the Russian expansion into Asia, which would take around 200 years to be completed with them expanding further and further in different time periods. Also in Asia was the colonization of Southeast Asia, which is as significant as the colonization of the Americas. In this region, the Dutch prevailed with their navy, while the Spanish, Portuguese and the British also saw some success. These regions also saw the same atrocities committed in the Americas for the indigenous people.

1.2. Independence Movements

After the Seven Years War, between France and the British, the British were the new superpower. However, their economic situation wasn't as good as their political situation. The British were in significant debt and saw huge inflation, which meant they couldn't fund their Navy. The thing about having a global empire is that you need many soldiers and ships to maintain it, if you don't have the finances to produce ships and pay your soldiers soon enough there will be disloyalties. Hence the British Parliament made the decision to increase taxes on the American colonies, this was not

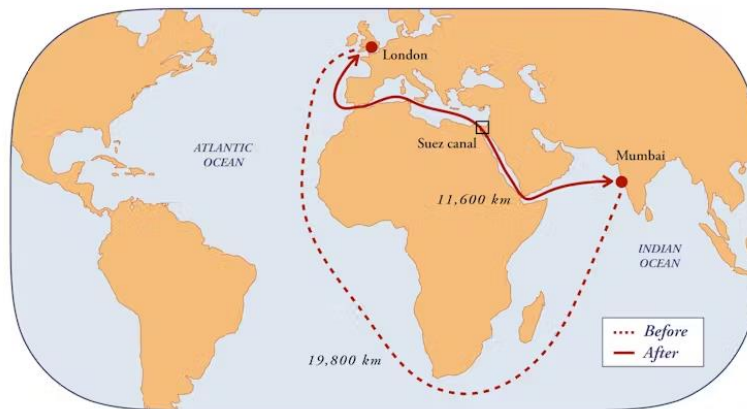
appreciated by the Thirteen Colonies since their rights were being threatened. Eventually all this tension led to a rebellion starting in 1770 with the Boston Massacre. The Americans soon formed an army and managed to establish the United States of America. The Treaty of Paris was signed, with the British recognizing the United States of America as sovereign. This was a major independence movement the 18th century saw, the ideas such as freedom, justice sincerely inspired French people since they were funding the Americans against the British.

Another revolution occurring at around this time was the Haitian Revolution. Haiti, or with the colony's name "Saint-Domingue", was a French colony. The slaves there had enough of the ruthlessness and not being treated the same as the white people. Hence they revolted against their masters, and succeeded. This was mainly due to the really poor economic conditions in mainland France after funding the American War of Independence. The Haitian Revolution established the first free, black republic, which might seem normal for the modern times however at that time this was a monumental event. Later on many of the Spanish colonies would have revolutions, and establish their own countries especially in Latin America.

1.3. The New Imperialism

Africa and East Asia colonized on a larger scale at the end of the 19th century. This is called "The New Imperialism". The reason it took more time for the Europeans to colonize these places on a larger scale was the inconvenience of transport or the harsh living conditions. The transportation issue was largely solved after the construction of the Suez Canal(1869) which made the route much shorter, as shown below.

The Suez Canal



(<https://images.theconversation.com/files/566869/original/file-20231220-23-i5fge.jpg?ixlib=rb-4.1.0&q=45&auto=format&w=754&fit=clip>)

Seen in the picture above, there is a difference of around 8200 kilometers between the two routes, which is a significant number. With this new found comfort in transportation, the Dutch, British and other colonial powers could now establish colonies further away from their mainland. The Europeans colonizing East Asia, the Pacific and Australia were still as ruthless as they were with the Americans. After no more land remained to be colonized the European powers turned their gaze into Africa. The African continent is known for its riches, which were being slowly discovered at this time, and with the advancement of technology the European powers could now settle in deeper parts of Africa since they had better supply lines and ways of transportation. This led to the Scramble for Africa, which also saw many atrocities being committed in the continent. A great example of this would be Belgium and their colony at the time the Congo Free State. The Congo Free State was directly owned by Leopold II. He treated the native people so poorly the Belgian government had to take control. After the Europeans invaded all of Africa, they had disagreements among each other so the Berlin Conference was held in order to establish the colonial borders in Africa. The conference mostly favored France and the British Empire, while the Germans were not granted as much as they wanted leading to tension between the powers. During this time the newly unified Italy also invaded some lands in Africa, such as Somaliland, Eritrea and Libya. The African continent continues to

suffer from the effects of colonialism to this day since the infrastructure built there by their colonizers was dependent on the mainland, modern-day African nations face many challenges when it comes to basic infrastructure.

1.4. Post World War II

After the Second World War, a new world order was established and most significantly the successor of the League of Nations, The United Nations. The already started independence movements across the world began to gain momentum, due to the actions of especially the United States of America where most people and recently the government began to advocate for peace and human rights for all. A very significant milestone for this was the Atlantic Charter signed in 1941 by officials from both the UK and the US, guaranteeing the rights of people across the British Empire. The United Nations also gave representation to the new “third world countries” in the 1950s, further accelerating independence movements across the world. Countries such as India and New Zealand were the first to gain independence, and many more countries would follow. The decolonization of the world did not last any 10 or 20 years, the total decolonization of Africa was not complete until around the 1990s.

One of the most significant points during this time was the difference between the first and second worlds. The first world refers to NATO and capitalist countries, while the second world refers to the Warsaw Pact and communist countries. The non-aligned(third world) countries were mostly newly independent colonies. However the Soviet Union at this time employed a policy of supporting many independent movements in order to sway these third world countries to communism. This created a sense that communism was freedom which swayed public opinion, while the first world countries could not do much since the United States was unable to support

independence movements from fellow NATO members. This is why the United States stayed neutral during some wars of independence. This sense and policy of the eastern world was damaged by the Chinese leader Mao Zedong, who did not support the idea of creating a rupture between the communist states. However this damage did not change much, with still many independence movements being supported by the second world countries. Either Beijing or Moscow funded the independence movements and the newly-formed states of Africa, leading to the communist idea becoming popular and establishing many one-party socialist states in the process,

1.5. Neocolonialism

1.5.1. Forms of Neocolonialism

Neocolonialism is a form of indirect control and influence over former colonies or weaker nations, even after formal political independence has been achieved. Unlike traditional colonialism, which involved direct territorial control and exploitation by colonial powers, neocolonialism manifests in more subtle ways, such as economic dominance, political manipulation, and cultural influence. It maintains unequal power dynamics between developed nations and developing nations, mostly between the old colonizer and the colonized.

There are a few ways modern developed countries maintain the remnants of their colonial empires. Arguably the easiest way of neocolonialism is having economic control over a developing country. There are many ways to achieve economic control; some being debt dependency, unequal trade relations and the exploitation of resources. These ways are not new, colonial powers used the same techniques 100, 200 or even 300 years ago. However the way of execution of these techniques is now much more professional. Debt dependency is no different from the Ottoman Empire drowning in debt in its last years, but now instead of England directly loaning the

Ottoman Empire there are third parties along the way which makes the whole process much more discreet. Similar to this, is the exploitation of natural resources. In the past the colonial empires would directly harvest the natural resources and other valuables for the name of their monarch or government, today we see international corporations doing the exact same action with the only difference being the receiver of the resources. The only different one from these two is unequal trade relations, it is still open and not very discreet. However the way of diverting media attention from related topics is much easier now hence why it is harder to detect. Finally there is also the global supply chain, which does not allow for developing countries to become much more than sellers of raw materials and places for cheap labor very easily. The global supply chain also allows corporations from wealthier countries to often use developing nations as tax havens or exploit weak governance to avoid paying taxes, which exacerbates economic inequality.

Political influence is another way of neocolonialism. As one may guess, this method is very complicated. Political influence over another nation requires the correct administration, hence countries might have to interfere with the elections of a developing nation. This has to be done in secret, otherwise the country would face significant diplomatic backlash from other nations. However there of course is another option, which is to have an army or a military base present in the country. This not only provides a nation with political influence over the country but also control and presence in the surrounding region. This can be done by either the developing country gaining benefits from the establishment of a foreign military base or a direct military intervention under the pretext of terrorism or security. Either way none of these ways actually benefits the developing country most of the time.

Finally, there is also the cultural influence that the developed countries have over the developing countries. This might be overlooked quite easily but is actually very

significant and relevant to the agenda. The western values and culture being shared all over the media allows for the developing nations youth to imitate western norms and culture instead of the native ones. Over time this unfortunately erodes the culture the native people have on their own. This is further supported by the already established linguistic influence, which makes it easier for the media to influence people over this linguistic influence. Another very important cultural influence is the education system of developing countries. One must understand that the education system of a country must represent its own values, without a proper education system the societal resilience of a nation would not develop. This would allow the nation to be much more open to media and information manipulation, not only from outer powers but also from internal powers. One final point to be mentioned about the educational system is that in many post-colonial nations, educational curricula still reflect colonial histories and perspectives. Colonial languages (such as English, French, or Spanish) are often prioritized over local languages, reinforcing cultural hierarchies.

1.5.2. Effects of Neocolonialism

The effects of neocolonialism can be categorized briefly into four different groups; economic, political, social and cultural, and environmental effects.

The three main economic effects of neocolonialism are poverty and underdevelopment, widening global inequality, and foreign debt. Poverty and underdevelopment is a direct result of unequal trade deals and debt dependency.

These cause funding to be allocated to other areas slowing the process of infrastructure building and leading to poverty. Widening Global inequality is caused by unequal trade deals and the hard-to-break-rules of the global supply chain. The benefiting of wealthier resources causes the furthering of the aforementioned inequality. Finally, countries that rely on loans from international financial institutions often have to adopt austerity measures that prioritize debt repayment over

public services like healthcare, education, and welfare. This can further entrench poverty and hinder social development.

Political effects of neocolonialism can be categorized into three main points; Weak sovereignty, instability and conflict, and lack of representation. Developing nations may experience limited political sovereignty due to the influence of powerful countries or international financial institutions. Their ability to make independent decisions on domestic policies, such as labor laws, environmental regulations, or economic planning, can be undermined.

Political interference from foreign powers can fuel instability, civil conflict, or authoritarianism in developing countries. In some cases, neocolonial powers support repressive regimes to secure access to resources or maintain geopolitical control. Some interventions may destabilize a whole region, which may cause not only internal but international tensions. Finally, the lack of representation faced by developing countries is because most international organizations are dominated by wealthier countries, leaving them with little say in the decision-making processes. A perfect example of this would be the P5 countries in the UNSC, who has a right to veto any decision agreed upon by the rest of the Council.

Social and cultural effects can be shortly defined by cultural erosion and brain drain. Cultural erosion happens when the culture of the colonizing or previous colonizer country embeds its own values to the developing nations education system and media. This leads to the own culture of the natives to be “eroded”, eventually becoming extinct. Brain drain could be considered even worse than cultural erosion for the nation. Many talented and educated individuals from developing countries migrate to wealthier nations in search of better opportunities, contributing to a brain drain that weakens the human capital necessary for their home countries’ development. This not

only limits the development of their home country, but also allows for the further manipulation of the country.

Finally, the environmental effects of neocolonialism are very obvious yet significant. The excessive usage of the natural resources of the countries and disregard for the environment while doing so causes significant environmental hazards in the country and sometimes even in the surrounding regions. This not only harms the environment but also ruins the chances of proper infrastructure due to even harsher living conditions being forced upon the citizens. Furthermore developing nations are disproportionately affected by climate change, even though wealthier nations are historically responsible for the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions. Neocolonial practices often prevent these countries from investing in climate resilience, leaving them vulnerable to natural disasters and environmental crises.

1.5.3. Case Studies

Before concluding the historical context section, let us explore some examples of neocolonialism. The first example, which is a great example for the cultural and economic influence of developed countries over developing countries, is the French Influence in Francophone Africa. Even after independence, France maintains significant economic, political, and military influence over many former colonies in Africa. The CFA franc, a currency used by many West and Central African nations, is controlled by the French Treasury, limiting these countries' economic autonomy. Furthermore these nations are mostly french-speaking nations, which erodes their own culture and also paves the way for the brightest minds of these nations to study and settle in France or other European nations, accelerating brain drain.

The second example is China's Belt and Road Initiative(BRI). China is not an old colonial power, actually the contrary, it saw massive invasions from the West prior to World War II. However China's BRI has caused many debt dependencies to form across developing nations around the world, especially in Africa. These debt offers from the Chinese Government often seem very attractive to developing nations due to low interest rates, but China of course finds a way to benefit itself like any wealthier country in the modern world. Chinese infrastructure investments, such as building ports and roads, often come with conditions that allow China to exert control over these countries' economies and policies.

Finally, the United States Influence in Latin America. The U.S. has historically exerted significant influence over Latin American politics and economics, often intervening to ensure governments align with its interests. U.S.-based corporations dominate industries such as agriculture and mining in the region, perpetuating a form of neocolonial economic control. This economic control extends so far that the US has embargoed some Latin American countries many times due to the abundance of oil in the area, which would not benefit their sellers of oil. This causes significant poverty and limited living standards in the Latin American region, which in turn causes some social and cultural problems such as brain drain and crime rates constantly being on the rise or very high.

2. Economic Implications

2.1. Economic Dependency

Economic dependency refers to a situation where a country or region relies largely on another country for financial assistance, trade, or economic stability. In the case of non-self-governing territories, economic dependency means that their economies are

deeply tied to and controlled by the administering powers, which may limit the territories' ability to develop independently or diversify their economies. This section will explain the consequences of economic dependency, and the later sections will explain some types and further reasons for it. Economic dependency is in most cases the main reason for which a non-self governing territory is under an administrative power, since without a proper economy the country would ruin itself the idea of serving as an NSGT is considered better. There are 5 main consequences of this economic dependency. Which are as follows:

2.1.1. Lack of Economic Autonomy

Starting off with the lack of economic autonomy, which is a pretty obvious yet serious consequence when it comes to the economy of an NSGT. The lack of economic autonomy does not allow for independent policies. Explaining this with an example, imagine that an NSGT is producing tomatoes however also has favorable conditions for the production of wheat. Let's assume there is a high consumption of wheat and wheat-related products in this area and the NSGT could use its own fields to produce wheat and further boost the economy by cutting costs for the import of wheat. However the NSGT is pressured into or convinced to keep producing tomatoes, which the administrative country needs. This example is a bit plain however grants a view of the challenge faced easily. This significantly limits the ability of the NSGT to pursue alternative development strategies or meet the needs of the local population. This, if left unsolved, can lead to Resistance and Calls for Greater Autonomy(2.1.5).

2.1.2. Vulnerability to External Shocks

Vulnerability to external shocks refers to the susceptibility of non-self-governing territories to sudden and unexpected economic disruptions caused by factors outside their control. These shocks can take various forms, such as global economic downturns, natural disasters, geopolitical conflicts, and health crises, all of which can severely impact the economies of these territories. Since many NSGTs rely heavily on a few key sectors like tourism, resource extraction, and foreign aid, they are particularly sensitive to external variations in the world economy. Once again going with an example, NSGTs that are dependent on tourism, such as the Cayman Islands or Bermuda, are very vulnerable to changes in tourism and international travel. The COVID-19 pandemic is a great example of this, as travel restrictions caused a sudden collapse in tourism, leading to massive job losses, reduced government revenues, and economic contractions. Similarly, NSGTs dependent on natural resource exports, like Western Sahara or New Caledonia, are exposed to global commodity price fluctuations. A sharp decline in demand or a discovery of a new vein for these resources can significantly reduce export earnings. This can in turn cause inflation, less jobs since the companies harvesting these metals can go bankrupt or downsize, or social unrest.

Natural disasters also pose a huge risk. Many island NSGTs in the Caribbean and Pacific, such as the British Virgin Islands and Tokelau, are prone to hurricanes, typhoons, and rising sea levels due to climate change. These events can devastate infrastructure, displace populations, and cripple economic activities like fishing and agriculture, leading to long-term economic difficulties. The risk of these kinds of natural disasters are even

furthered by climate change, causing more severe and more frequent disasters. Furthermore, reliance on foreign aid and remittances makes these territories vulnerable to policy changes in the administering powers or economic downturns in countries where their expatriates work. NSGTs' economic structures, lack of diversification, and geographic isolation make them disproportionately affected by external shocks, hindering their ability to recover and achieve sustainable development.

2.1.3. Persistent Poverty and Underdevelopment

Poverty and underdevelopment is basically a result of everything mentioned so far. Economic dependency to other nations and especially to private companies to harvest resources, leads to poverty for the working class. This is because a significant portion of the profits from these economic activities are directly channeled to the administrative powers or the private company, hence there is little opportunity for reinvestment in local infrastructure, education, or social services. This limits economic growth and social mobility for the local population. Furthermore, underdevelopment and poverty lead to many more issues such as 2.1.5(Resistance and Calls for Greater Autonomy), 2.1.4(Social Inequality) and many more social issues. These social issues can bring the crackdown of an administration, which further elevates poverty and underdevelopment. Even though the solutions to poverty and underdevelopment seem obvious, delegates must consider that the administration benefits from this. Say for example a member of the parliament is bribed with shares from a company in return for voting in favor of a law which benefits the company.

2.1.4. Social Inequality

Social inequality is when social classes become so different, to the point that the life of an upper class citizen and a lower class citizen is completely different. This is a very common occurrence in both NSGTs and formerly colonized countries or developing countries. This happens because a certain group of people, generally people who have a good relationship with the current administration, benefit from the economic situation. These people can range from family members of a politician to an administration-friendly businessperson. Social inequalities elevate aforementioned problems which in turn elevates social inequalities, creating a cycle that creates problem upon problem. More often than not the issue of social inequality is not an issue that the media covers, due to the fact that most media in these kinds of territories are friendly with the regime. This is why social inequality is a rabbit-hole that most would not want to go down into. If one investigates too much eventually they will be “silenced”.

While all of that political drama is going on, the common folk suffer. The access to basic services and opportunities is very limited at best. The common folk work for a company who benefits from this system, even furthering the wealth of those who keep them and their families as unimaginably poor. Many of these people are also uneducated which is a direct result of the lack of services for these people, uneducation leads to even more people stuck as servants to companies. It is extremely hard to break the loop if not impossible, and more often than not the idea of revolution or resistance most often is unfeasible or does not exist.

2.1.5. Resistance and Calls for Greater Autonomy

There are however some exceptions. Economic dependency can fuel political discontent and calls for greater autonomy or independence, as local populations may feel that their resources and economic potential are being exploited by the administering power without benefiting the territory itself. This has been the case in New Caledonia, where calls for independence from France have been partly motivated by frustrations over economic inequality and control of resources. However, it must be well established that even reaching the point where the common peoples' voices are heard is extremely difficult. This resistance brings more injustice and even more inequality, sometimes further fueling the peoples' want for a new regime or independence and sometimes deplete morale, failing the resistance.

Overall these are the consequences of the economic influence that the administrative governments have over NSGTs. These are all consequences which affect each other significantly, one causing another and fueling the other one even further. Delegates must keep this in mind while working on solutions for the agenda, the economic problems of non-self governing territories are never-ending.

2.2. Resource-Based Economies

Resource-based economies are economies in which the economy relies on one or few key resources. Most non-self governing territories are great examples of this. This section will explain how this type of economy works in further detail, since Economic Dependency(2.1) explains it in a simple form.

First off, the economy is based on a single resource which lacks diversification. In order to understand what diversification in economic terms means, how about we give an example. Let's assume there is a river that originates from a mountain, and another river which originates from a mountain but along the way combines with streams from other mountains and underground water sources. Which of these rivers would be less affected by the amount of snow melting on top of the mountain? Of course, as you might've guessed it would be the second one. This is because if there is no snow left on the top of the mountain, the first river would stop flowing while the second river would continue flowing with less water than usual. This is exactly what economic diversification is like, when there are more sources for money in a country or enterprise it allows for economic stability, since it is less affected by changes in many economic factors such as price, demand, supply. This in turn increases social well-being and other socioeconomic factors. NSGT economies being reliant on a single source means that the economy is not stable and is significantly affected by changes in the global economy.

Adding to this, the profit gained from the single source is not all for the NSGT to keep. More often than not a large percentage of the profit generated leaves the territory. This creates economic dependency and limits local benefits. Western Sahara is a perfect example for this situation, Morocco controls most of the phosphate extraction, with limited benefits to the Sahrawi people. The resources are often exploited without consent from the local population, fueling political tensions and calls for greater autonomy or independence.

Not only foreign companies occupy a large percentage of the generated wealth. Foreign companies also employ foreign specialists for high-skilled and high-paying jobs. This leaves locals to work lower-paying and much riskier jobs resulting in further poverty or resulting in them to migrate to the mainland. This migration causes

there to be less available and fit workers to work on these risky jobs, which creates a loop of high unemployment and economic inequality, as much of the wealth generated from resources does not trickle down to the broader population.

Another point to be explored is export dependency and trade imbalances. Most resource-based economies export their few natural resources, which are raw materials and do not have a huge profit margin. Unfortunately however these economies need to depend on imports of vital resources in order to keep the society together. This results in a large difference between imports and exports, which we call a trade imbalance. Giving an example to this situation, we can explore the Falkland and Pitcairn Islands. In the Falkland Islands, while fishing is a key part of the economy, especially with valuable squid exports, the islands must import most of their food, fuel, and machinery, making them dependent on global market conditions. Similarly in the Pitcairn Islands, people rely on honey production and fisheries for exports, but they import nearly all other necessary goods, creating economic vulnerability.

Global commodity prices are volatile, meaning that NSGTs with resource-based economies can experience fluctuations in income. When global prices are high, the territory may have a boom in revenues, but when prices fall, the economy can suffer greatly. This revenue volatility makes it difficult for governments to plan long-term investments in infrastructure, education, or healthcare. This is very parallel with what was already mentioned, however the point here isn't the prices of commodities but the revenue generated directly affecting the salaries and the currency of a resource-based economy. Once again, giving examples: New Caledonia often experiences economic instability due to fluctuations in nickel prices. When demand from global markets, especially China, declines, the territory's economy shrinks, leading to budget deficits and social unrest.

Finally, all of these economic issues cause significant political and social tensions between groups and administrations. If the local population believes they are not receiving fair benefits from resource wealth, control of natural resources can lead to political and social tensions in NSGTs. This could result in requests for more independence, self-governance, or possibly separation. Local communities often resist resource extraction projects because of worries about harm to the environment, insufficient consultation, or inequitable profit sharing.

Concluding and summarizing everything for this part, delegates must understand that resource-based economies are very risky and present many challenges. However they also come with many opportunities if threaded with caution. For NSGTs to achieve sustainable growth, there is a need to manage their resources in a way that ensures local benefit, promotes diversification, and addresses the environmental and social impacts of extraction. In some cases, greater local control over resources or a move toward self-determination may be necessary to achieve these goals.

2.3. Tourism-Dependent Economies

Tourism dependent economies are very similar to resource-dependent economies. There is a Turkish saying that goes along the lines of “Tourism is industry without a chimney.”, hence this is why they are very similar. These economies also face the exact same issues but this section will cover some case studies and give detail for the special cases which are somewhat different from what we’ve already covered. We will cover some examples, and then we will cover the general issues faced by all tourism-dependent economies.

Starting off with our first example, Bermuda’s economy is significantly reliant on tourism, particularly high-end and luxury tourism. The island attracts visitors with its

pristine beaches, upscale resorts, historic towns, and world-class golf courses. Cruise ships also bring a significant number of visitors to Bermuda. However, while cruise tourists contribute to the economy, they spend a lot less than tourists staying on the island, limiting their economic impact. The tourism industry accounts for a large portion of the island's GDP and provides employment opportunities. Since Bermuda is a high-end touristic spot, the revenue generated is also really high which is a benefit. However a negative aspect of Bermuda's tourism based economy is that since the tourist profile is middle-middle to lower-upper class and the type of tourism the island is fit for is especially for the summer they do not receive many visitors during the winter. The island's economy is vulnerable to external shocks like recessions in the U.S., natural disasters (like hurricanes), and global events like the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to a collapse in travel and tourism. Another point about Bermuda is diversification, just like with resource-based economies, even though Bermuda is also a prominent international financial center ,especially for insurance, tourism remains an important economic pillar. The dependence on high-end and seasonal tourism limits economic diversification, making the economy susceptible to fluctuations in the tourism sector. Finally, Bermuda is easily affected by natural disasters. These disasters are heightened by climate change while Bermuda finds itself struggling to balance the care for the environment and tourism.

Meanwhile, the Falkland Islands have more diversification compared to Bermuda due to their fisheries and oil trade however they still have challenges of their own. The Falkland Islands do not have such high-end tourism like Bermuda, instead they have wildlife and nature-based tourism. Wildlife enthusiasts and eco-tourists visit to experience the islands' unique ecosystems, making nature-based tourism a primary draw. Additionally, the islands are attractive for adventure tourism, with activities like hiking, birdwatching, and fishing.

Similar to Bermuda, many people also come with cruise ships to the Falkland Islands especially through expedition cruises to Antarctica. These tourists stop by for short visits to explore the islands' wildlife. The challenge the Falkland Islands face is their limited touristic infrastructure. Though it is growing, it remains relatively limited. This limited amount of tourists the islands can host at any given time, keeping tourism small-scale but also somewhat more sustainable. Finally, the tourism industry in the Falkland Islands relies heavily on visitors from abroad, primarily from the United Kingdom and Europe. The vulnerability of the islands' tourism is due to their remote location and geopolitical circumstances, namely the ongoing dispute with Argentina. Furthermore, residing in a frigid, remote region of the planet results in tourism being dependent on varying travel trends and susceptible to global shifts.

Finally, exploring the common challenges faced by tourism-based economies, starting off with seasonality. Seasonality, which we've already explained, is caused by tourism being mostly focused on a single season. Since most NSGTs are islands and do not have both winter and summer tourism available, there is no way to solve this problem other than to diversify the economy which some NSGTs have already done. Moving on, external vulnerability is a significant factor when it comes to the challenges of tourism based economies, especially natural disasters, pandemics, political events, economic recessions can influence the amount of tourists hence affecting the profit generated for that season. Another point is environmental sustainability, which is often caused by tourism if not properly managed. The need to balance economic growth from tourism with environmental conservation is very important, especially in ecologically sensitive areas like the Falkland Islands or the coral reefs of the Cayman Islands. Finally, something that we've stated over and over again is the need for diversification of the economy for these NSGTs. While some diversification exists, tourism remains a dominant sector. Any downturn in the tourism industry can have significant ripple effects throughout the local economy.

2.4. Financial Services and Offshore Banking

Financial services and offshore centers have grown in importance in the world of finance, providing a variety of services such as banking, insurance, investment management, and corporate structuring. Offshore financial centers, like the Cayman Islands, Bermuda, and the British Virgin Islands, offer businesses and affluent individuals the chance to hold assets and carry out financial activities away from their native countries. Many times, these areas provide benefits in terms of taxes, like minimal or nonexistent tax rates, privacy, and favorable laws. Multinational corporations utilize offshore structures for effective management of assets and liabilities, with rich people leveraging these services for wealth preservation and reducing taxes. The offshore financial industry is crucial in global finance as it enables the movement of capital, tax strategizing, and corporate governance internationally.

However, the dangers related to offshore financial services are important, especially concerning tax evasion and financial secrecy. One major issue is that offshore centers enable people and businesses to evade or reduce taxes in their own countries by transferring profits to regions with lower tax rates. This frequently results in a decrease in tax income for governments, funds that could otherwise go towards public services. Adding upon this, the confidentiality and limited disclosure regulations in certain OFCs facilitate the occurrence of illegal activities like money laundering and terrorist financing. Laws on financial secrecy shield the identities of account holders, providing both legitimate privacy and opportunities for criminals to conceal illegal earnings and engage in fraudulent behaviors.

Tax havens are places that have low tax rates and entice foreign investment by permitting companies and individuals to lessen their tax responsibilities. Places such as the Cayman Islands and Bermuda are known as tax havens, offering businesses minimal corporate income tax and making them favored choices for multinational companies. Businesses can exploit "tax loopholes" by utilizing methods like transfer pricing, which involves moving profits to subsidiaries in tax havens, regardless of where the profits were originally generated. While these tax strategies may be legal, they spark ethical concerns and incite worldwide discussions about fairness and transparency in the global tax system. Nations where profits are truly made frequently miss out on substantial tax income, leading to weakened public services and unequal distribution of tax responsibilities.

Offshore financial services and tax havens are highly advantageous for numerous non-self-governing territories (NSGTs) by offering a vital source of income and stability. The Cayman Islands and Bermuda have utilized their advantageous regulatory environments and low tax systems to draw in multinational corporations, financial institutions, and affluent individuals looking for tax-efficient setups. The increase in foreign investments boosts the economy by generating employment opportunities in industries such as banking, law, and accounting, and by bringing in government income through fees and charges. Due to their small populations and scarce natural resources, financial services help these territories expand their economies beyond sectors like tourism or agriculture, allowing them to become major international financial centers despite their geographic and political limitations. Nevertheless, despite their importance, NSGTs must handle the global scrutiny and regulatory obstacles linked to functioning as offshore financial hubs.

2.5. Foreign Aid and Subsidies

This section is very plain and simple and will not need as much detail as the previous ones. Because of the trade imbalances and difficulties of sustaining the economy on their own, NSGTs often apply for foreign aid from their administrative countries, other countries or worldwide banks. This helps develop their infrastructure, education, healthcare, and public services. This aid can account for a significant portion of the territory's budget. This reliance on external aid creates a situation of economic dependency, where the territories are unable to build diversified, self-sustaining economies. It can also create political tension, with local populations debating whether greater autonomy or continued association with the administering power would be more beneficial. Exploring examples now, French Polynesia and New Caledonia receive great financial support and significant transactions from France, which helps maintain public services, social welfare systems, and employment in the public sector.

2.6. Limited Diversification and Market Size

Even though we have talked so much about diversification up until this point, let us explore deeper and also understand what market size means for an economy. First, as already mentioned, diversification is having multiple sources for wealth which makes the economy and currency much more stable. This has been said throughout the Economic Influence section quite a lot. So now let us explore a new concept, Markets and Market Size in NSGTs.

Starting off with, what is a market? To understand this, think of a bazaar where there are sellers yelling and a lot of people buying what they need. The two main components in this bazaar are the buyers and the sellers. This is exactly the same for a “market” in economic terms. Now let's assume there are 5 vendors selling tomatoes

with each of them selling it for the same price. In this scenario buyers would pick according to the quality of the tomatoes or maybe according to their personal relation with the vendor. Now let's explore a scenario where a seller lowers his prices because he has found a way to cut some corners, this would make him a better option for the buyers and he would get more sellers. This would in turn result in others also lowering their prices until it is at the limit of being profitable, eventually equalizing the price of tomatoes and returning back to the first scenario. However if one were to raise their prices, he would lose customers because there are many more cheaper options. Well, if a market is smaller things change quite a bit. Let's now assume there is only one vendor who sells tomatoes, and there is no price regulation on his tomatoes. Well this singular vendor now holds all power for the price of the tomato, profiting as much as he wants. This in general is what we call competition in economic terms, and a larger market means more competition between the sellers, thus benefiting the buyers. In NSGTs there are one to few sellers, which means less competition resulting in higher or very controlled prices. This makes it difficult to build large-scale industries or attract significant foreign investment beyond tourism and resource extraction.

3. Political Implications

3.1. Lack of Sovereignty

The lack of Sovereignty in NSGTs has important political consequences, especially regarding their capacity to engage in global matters. NSGTs frequently do not have a say in global organizations like the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, or other alliances due to their incomplete sovereignty. This lack of inclusion results in decisions about their future being made by outside forces, reducing the residents' ability to impact policies shaping their social, economic, and political progress. The

main colonial or administrative authority typically maintains the power to make decisions for the NSGTs, which may disregard the needs and desires of the locals.

Additionally, the absence of autonomy in NSGTs significantly affects their internal rule. The administering powers often influence the political structures in these territories, rather than the local population's will shaping them. This could result in governance systems that fail to reflect the population needs and wants, and democratic institutions may be completely absent. Hence, leaders may encounter difficulties in promoting their economic and political agendas that may not align with those of the ruling government. This results in tension between the desires of local communities for self-governance and the limitations imposed by governing authorities, frequently resulting in unrest or a demand for increased independence.

3.2. Limited Representation

The lack of representation is a very common issue faced by NSGTs, as they are often administered by external powers. These territories are not fully autonomous and do not have independent governments that can advocate for their interests on the global stage. Decisions regarding their governance, economic policies, and international relations are frequently made by the administering state. This lack of direct representation means that the local populations in NSGTs often have limited influence over laws and policies that affect their daily lives, leaving their specific needs and aspirations unaddressed.

NSGTs are not included in important global decision-making organizations like the United Nations General Assembly or top international trade organizations at the global level. They are unable to participate as individual members or conduct diplomatic efforts to promote their own interests without sovereignty. The administering authorities often act as the voice for these regions in such scenarios, but

this may not always match the needs of the local residents. As a result, they are frequently unable to speak out on important topics like economic progress, safeguarding the environment, and ensuring human rights are upheld. This causes even less attention from the media. More often than not, you do not hear about the issues these territories face.

Internally, NSGTs commonly encounter restricted democratic participation, as local political systems are frequently influenced or dominated by the governing authorities. Sometimes, there is a lack of political institutions or they are not well-developed, which can prevent people from engaging in meaningful political activities. This only worsens problems such as inequality and social unrest and inequality, as residents in these areas may find it difficult to advocate for their rights and advocate for policies that match their specific circumstances.

3.3. Pressure for Decolonization

The pressure for decolonization has been a very long standing issue. This movement gained significant momentum after World War II, when the United Nations established its Special Committee on Decolonization to oversee the process of granting independence to territories still under colonial control. The principle of decolonization is enshrined in international law, particularly through UN resolutions such as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which emphasizes that colonialism violates the fundamental rights of people to determine their own political future.

Decolonization is primarily driven by pressure originating from the NSGTs themselves. In these regions, the populations frequently seek increased self-governance, sovereignty, or incorporation into nearby countries, according to their

local desires. Movements that promote self-determination often claim that ongoing colonial authority results in political exclusion, economic abuse, and a lack of acknowledgment of cultural identity. These actions can vary from peaceful promotion to more extreme demands for instant sovereignty. The level of influence exerted by internal actors on various NSGTs differs based on the political awareness of the population and the extent of backing or oppression from the ruling authority.

Internationally, various states and international organizations advocate for decolonization to promote justice and eliminate colonialism's lasting effects. The United Nations frequently assesses the situation of NSGTs and calls on administering powers to work towards granting self-governance or independence to these territories. Yet, advancement may be slowed down, particularly if the ruling authorities have vested strategic or economic concerns in preserving dominance. Civil society groups, activists, and academics add to external pressures by claiming NSGTs' presence shows a lack of complete post-colonial world order implementation. The increasing demand for decolonization mirrors larger worries about fairness, independence, and human rights, as the global community aims to progress from the impact of colonial rule.

4. Social and Cultural Implications

This section could include further titles, however many things such as social inequalities have been explained in the previous sections, hence there will not be a separate section for it in this part of the study guide.

4.1. Migration Issues

The migration issue is two-faced, both of them being negative. First off, due to the lack of job opportunities or lack of higher education many citizens of NSGTs often

prefer to relocate in order to have a better life. This is called brain drain, which we have already covered in the neocolonialism part of the guide. This causes NSGTs to face more socioeconomic and political challenges, especially the ones we've already covered. At the same time, remittances from those who emigrate can provide vital financial support for families remaining in NSGTs. However, emigration can also exacerbate the dependency of these territories on external powers, further complicating their push for greater autonomy or independence.

The second way in which migration affects NSGTs is the difficulty of acquiring the citizenship of the administrative country, the restrictions on the freedom of movement and settlers from the administrative country. The most significant issue being settlers from the administrative country. At times, colonial powers actively promote this migration to gain more control over the territory and its resources. This can result in disputes regarding land ownership, political representation, and economic chances, as native communities could feel excluded or pushed out by new arrivals. The demographic shifts that occur can make it harder to achieve self-governance, since newly arrived inhabitants may support the governing power, strengthening colonial control.

In NSGTs, migration frequently causes conflicts regarding citizenship, rights, and availability of resources. Indigenous communities might find it difficult to retain authority over their political structures, territory, and heritage, especially when immigrants from the ruling state or neighboring areas receive special privileges. These changes may lead to political and social unrest, as requests for self-determination are combined with requests for the protection of indigenous rights and equitable allocation of resources. The limited sovereignty in NSGTs prevents them from having control over their migration policies, making them susceptible to outside influences that manipulate migration trends for their own benefit.

4.2. Nationalism

Nationalism is a very obvious occurrence of any colony or NSGT. The idea of nationalism comes from the French Revolution, and ever since that it has been affecting the world very significantly. The ideas of nationalism, freedom, justice and equality was the thing that started the decolonization process around the globe. So it is not a surprise to see it happening in NSGTs. In order to explain this, it is best to give examples, unlike the other sections which were more conceptual.

The Kanak independence movement in New Caledonia is driven by the indigenous Kanak people's desire for independence from French rule. The Kanaks, who are the original inhabitants of the archipelago, have long sought to reclaim control over their land, culture, and political future after centuries of colonial rule. The movement gained momentum in the 1970s and 1980s, with the creation of the Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste (FLNKS) in 1984. The FLNKS, a coalition of pro-independence groups, sought to challenge French dominance and promote the rights of the Kanak people. Their struggle for independence was both political and cultural, as they sought to resist the economic and social marginalization they faced under French governance, which primarily benefited European settlers.

The tensions between the two groups rose during the 1980s, resulting in violent clashes between the groups, such as the Ouvéa cave hostage crisis in 1988, where pro-independence Kanak militants clashed with French military forces. These events forced France to take Kanak demands more seriously, leading to the signing of the Matignon Accords in 1988, which aimed to reduce tensions and improve the Kanaks' political representation and economic opportunities. This allowed for the creation of a new accord in 1998 called the Nouméa Accord, which granted Kanaks more control

over local institutions and allowed a phased transfer of powers from France to New Caledonia.

Although a lot of progress has been made since then, the Kanak independence movement remains a strong political force. New Caledonia has held three independence referendums, with a majority voting to remain part of France in each one. However, these results reflect a divide between the indigenous Kanak population, which largely supports independence, and the European and other non-Kanak residents, who prefer to maintain ties with France. Kanaks feel that full independence is very important for the protection of their cultural identity and the realization of true political and economic sovereignty. These settlers from Europe continue to resist the independence of the native people.

4.3. Cultural Suppression and Assimilation

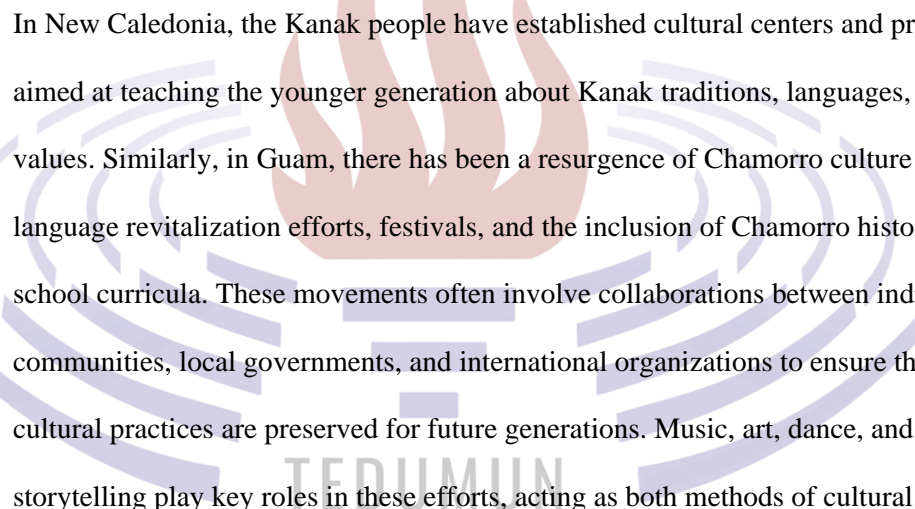
Cultural suppression and assimilation are both very significant issues. Before we dive into their effects on NSGTs, we must first understand what they are. Cultural suppression is when a certain culture suppresses another one, for example by intentionally relocating the people from the mainland to the targeted area in order to suppress the culture already existing there. The difference between suppression and assimilation isn't that noticeable in practice, however in theory while suppression aims to cover up a culture, assimilation aims to completely integrate or undermine it. Cultural assimilation is when a culture dominates another one and then slowly begins erasing it from anywhere you can find. A perfect way of doing this is using the education system, if the children of the dominated culture are not taught about their culture in schools, they will eventually become assimilated. Now let's explore the effects of them on NSGTs.

First of all, cultural assimilation and suppression leads to native traditions and cultures being forgotten. This is bad for the natives and good for the administrative powers since the administrative powers find it easier to control an assimilated or suppressed culture. If cultures are not suppressed or assimilated, there are higher chances of independence movements. A direct effect of this is the education systems in NSGTs. Many NSGTs' education systems reflect history from the point of view of the administering country and also by teaching the language of the administrative country. It must be understood that for suppression or assimilation, one must start from a young age. In territories like New Caledonia, Guam, and French Polynesia, the indigenous languages and cultural practices of the Kanak, Chamorro, and Polynesian people, respectively, have been gradually diminished through the dominance of French or English in schools, government, and the media.

Another point to be talked about is colonial powers frequently introducing economic and political systems that, along with language and education, lead to the decline of indigenous cultures. In numerous NSGTs, indigenous systems of governance and land ownership have been substituted with European-style institutions that prioritize economic growth over traditional ways of life. In the Falkland Islands, British settler culture has largely supplanted the indigenous heritage, whereas in the Pacific islands, native lands are frequently utilized for military bases, tourism, or agriculture, leading to the displacement of local customs. These pressures result in a type of cultural assimilation, in which native peoples must embrace the traditions and beliefs of the dominant nation in order to thrive financially and socially. In spite of these difficulties, numerous NSGTs have experienced a revival in efforts to preserve their culture, as native populations persist in advocating for the safeguarding and rejuvenation of their languages, traditions, and heritage.

4.4. Cultural Preservation Movements

Cultural preservation movements are movements started by local communities to keep their cultures intact. These movements often arise in response to centuries of cultural suppression, where the dominant colonial power's language, education, and political systems have marginalized indigenous practices. Cultural preservation initiatives seek to reclaim and revitalize what has been lost or threatened, fostering a sense of pride and identity among native peoples. Key elements of these movements include the promotion of indigenous languages, the revival of traditional ceremonies and arts, and the assertion of cultural rights in education and governance. Let us further explain with examples.



In New Caledonia, the Kanak people have established cultural centers and programs aimed at teaching the younger generation about Kanak traditions, languages, and values. Similarly, in Guam, there has been a resurgence of Chamorro culture through language revitalization efforts, festivals, and the inclusion of Chamorro history in school curricula. These movements often involve collaborations between indigenous communities, local governments, and international organizations to ensure that cultural practices are preserved for future generations. Music, art, dance, and storytelling play key roles in these efforts, acting as both methods of cultural expression and tools for resistance against the erosion of native identities.

The United Nations has also taken various actions to support cultural preservation and self-determination in NSGTs as part of its broader decolonization agenda. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is an important milestone that upholds the rights of indigenous peoples, including those living in NSGTs, to maintain and protect their cultures. UNDRIP affirms their right to self-determination, their land, resources, and to revitalize their cultural traditions and languages. Additionally, the UN Special Committee on Decolonization regularly reviews the status of NSGTs and advocates for their right to self-determination. The UN also

monitors and provides assistance to NSGTs through various agencies, ensuring that cultural rights and identities are respected and that these territories move towards decolonization in a manner that prioritizes the needs and wishes of indigenous communities.

Another important UN effort is its backing of educational programs that focus on teaching indigenous languages and cultures in NSGTs. Efforts to support linguistic diversity and safeguard endangered languages are made by UNESCO and other cultural organizations within the UN. This assistance has enabled NSGTs to create educational programs that integrate indigenous wisdom, creative expressions, and past events, giving indigenous communities the opportunity to restore their cultural legacy. These efforts support the UN's wider objectives of advancing human rights, cultural diversity, and sustainable development in those areas. By doing so, the UN plays a crucial part in safeguarding the cultural identities of individuals in NSGTs and endorsing their right to self-determination.

5. Geopolitical Implications

5.1. Strategic Military Interests

The geopolitical aspects of NSGTs are short, but very important. Starting off with the military importance a NSGT can have, we have to first consider many NSGTs are islands hence islands provide significant aerial and naval control over seas and oceans. They can also be used for refueling and military exercises, while also providing strategic advantages in terms of defense, surveillance, and power projection. The presence of military bases and installations in NSGTs can complicate the political and economic dynamics of these regions, as local populations may feel the consequences of foreign military activities, while being unable to control or influence these decisions due to their lack of sovereignty. Let us talk about some examples to better understand the topic.

A very important and known example is the Falkland Islands, a British NSGT in the South Atlantic Ocean. Although not very populated, the islands hold strategic significance for the United Kingdom due to their location near important maritime routes and rich natural resources, which we've already talked about. The UK maintains a military presence there to defend against any potential claims, particularly from Argentina, which asserts sovereignty over the islands. The Falklands War of 1982 between the UK and Argentina underscored the military importance of the islands, as both nations sought control over the territory, not only for national pride but also for its geopolitical value.

Another important, yet cruel example is Diego Garcia, part of the Chagos Archipelago in the Indian Ocean, which is an NSGT under British administration but given to the United States as a key military base. Diego Garcia is positioned for projecting military power across the Middle East, Africa, and Asia, serving as a vital hub for airstrikes, surveillance, and logistical support in the region. Despite its strategic value, the original inhabitants of Diego Garcia were forcibly removed in the 1960s and 1970s to make way for the base, and they have since campaigned for the right to return. The presence of this base remains contentious, as the local population's right to self-determination is not even talked about due to military interests.

These examples show how NSGTs are used as military outposts by administering powers, who benefit from their strategic locations. However, these military uses frequently come at the expense of the local populations' self-determination, rights, and well-being. The lack of sovereignty prevents these territories from making

independent decisions about the use of their land and resources, reinforcing their subordination to the geopolitical and military interests of external powers.

5.2. Diplomatic Relations

The ongoing issues and situations in a non-self-governing territory can often affect their administrative power quite a lot in the diplomatic stage. There are a few ways in which a NSGT can affect their administrative power in terms of diplomacy which are usually caused by human rights challenges, geopolitical tensions caused by the ownership, and territorial disputes. Just like the previous one it is much easier to explain this with examples, so here are some examples for the NSGTs affecting their administrative powers' diplomatic relations.

Gibraltar has been a longstanding point of diplomatic tension between the UK and Spain. Spain claims sovereignty over Gibraltar, which was given to Britain in 1713 by the Treaty of Utrecht, but the local population has repeatedly voted to remain under the British administration. The issue of Gibraltar became even more complex with the UK's decision to leave the European Union (Brexit), raising questions about the territory's border with Spain and its future relationship with the EU. Diplomatic tensions between the UK and Spain have been wavy over access to Gibraltar's waters and its airport. During Brexit negotiations, the issue of Gibraltar was especially important, as Spain sought to leverage the situation to gain a greater say in the territory's future. While the UK and Spain have maintained diplomatic relations, the Gibraltar issue continues to affect their bilateral relations, particularly in European and international diplomatic circles.

Western Sahara is one of the most debatable NSGTs, claimed by both Morocco and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. The United Nations classifies it as an NSGT, but it has been mostly controlled by Morocco since Spain withdrew from there. The conflict over sovereignty in Western Sahara has deeply impacted diplomatic relations between Morocco and neighboring Algeria, which supports the Sahrawis Front and the Sahrawi people's right to self-governance.

The still unresolved status of Western Sahara has broader geopolitical implications as well, especially affecting Morocco's relations with the European Union, the African Union, and the United States. The U.S. recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over Western Sahara in 2020, in exchange for Morocco normalizing relations with Israel, caused diplomatic friction between Morocco and countries that support Sahrawi independence, such as Algeria and South Africa.

6. Legal Issues and Human Rights Challenges

This is the final section of the guide. This section will cover one of the most important aspects of NSGTs which is legal issues. The United Nations should offer solutions for these legal and human rights issues since these are one of the main points the United Nations have much say on.

6.1. Citizenship Issues

Starting off with citizenship issues, which is when a citizen of a NSGT suffers problems with their citizenship from the administrative country or cannot entertain their rights fully. This causes civil issues and ranges from being very unpleasant for citizens to citizens not being able to entertain their rights given to them by their citizenship status. Once again this section will be explained by giving examples. So here they are:

The best example for this is Puerto Rico, which is an unincorporated territory of the United States, and its residents are US citizens by birth under the Jones-Shafroth Act of 1917. However, Puerto Ricans do not have the same political rights as citizens living in the 50 US states. They cannot vote in presidential elections unless they move to the mainland, and their representation in Congress is limited to a non-voting delegate. Not only is this an issue for the Puerto Ricans, but this has also caused the US diplomatic and internal problems in the past. The Latin community in which inhabits the United States often brings this fact up quite a bit. There are many arguments for Puerto Rico becoming a state, whether in favor or against. However one thing is certain, that if Puerto Rico were to become a state they would finally be able to enjoy the rights given to them by the Constitution fully and freely.

Another example I would like to give from my personal experience is with British Overseas Territories. In my case this was Cyprus but this could be Bermuda or any other British controlled NSGT. The United Kingdom grants all citizens of their overseas territories a special type of citizenship called "British Overseas Territories citizens (BOTC)" but they can further apply for full British citizenship. If they do get full British citizenship, they also get a British passport. If they do not get full British citizenship, their status as BOTC grants them another type of passport. However the ability of this BOTC passport is much more limited compared to the British passport. My personal experience regarding this was when one of my familiars did not apply for a visa for the United States of America, since they had BOTC status. However, just when there were days left to leave for the US, a new regulation started which did not allow BOTC residents to travel to the United States without a visa (full British Passports have this ability). This can be an example of how citizens of NSGTs can have issues regarding their citizenships and passports.

Unfortunately it is true that residents of NSGTs often face unique legal frameworks that can limit their political representation, create travel complications, or challenge their national identity. The future of these territories will likely continue to involve debates about citizenship, especially as movements for decolonization and autonomy progress.

6.2. Resource Rights

Resource rights is often a point of debate for many NSGTs, since many of them have plenty of natural resources ranging from underground resources to plants. More often than not, administrative powers manage or benefit from these resources, sometimes at the expense of the indigenous populations. Arguments over resource control and revenue sharing frequently arise, complicating decolonization efforts and raising questions about sovereignty, environmental sustainability, and economic justice. Now, let's explore some examples in order to understand the subject more clearly.

The best example for this case is the dispute in Western Sahara, which you might think we've talked about so much but there are only a limited number of NSGTs so nothing to do about that. Western Sahara has lots of natural resources, such as phosphate and fisheries. This is the main reason for the dispute between Morocco and the Sahrawi people. Morocco has already established mining and fishing operations in Western Sahara, exploiting the territory's phosphate deposits, which are among the largest in the world, and fishing in its rich waters off the Atlantic coast. The Sahrawi people however do not agree, since they believe that the area is theirs they believe that under international law the Moroccan government cannot use these resources without their consent. This makes sense if you were to accept that the area belongs to them, however since it is a disputed territory the United Nations cannot say for sure whether this is a breach of international law. The situation has led to international

legal challenges, including a 2016 ruling by the European Court of Justice (ECJ) that Western Sahara could not be included in trade agreements between Morocco and the European Union unless consent was obtained from the Sahrawi people.

Another example would be New Caledonia, which has one of the world's largest deposits of nickel. The control and management of New Caledonia's nickel resources are central to the territory's economy and its political debate over independence. The indigenous Kanak population, who make up a significant portion of the independence movement, argue that greater control over the territory's natural resources, should be in the hands of New Caledonians, rather than the French government or foreign companies. French companies have historically dominated nickel mining in the region, with substantial portions of the revenue benefiting France more than the local economy. This means that the nation's best source out of only a few sources of income is exploited by France. However the referendums held unfortunately still does not allow for the independence of New Caledonia due to something we have discussed before which is the fact that people who live in the mainland often vote against independence. Although the independence movements still go on.

Resource rights in NSGTs need a fragile balance between the administering powers' economic interests and the local population's right to control and benefit from their own natural resources. In many cases, local populations are seeking greater control over these resources as part of their broader push for self-governance and autonomy. However, the legacy of colonialism, geopolitical interests, and economic dependence on the administering powers complicates these efforts.

6.3. Ambiguous Legal Status

Legal ambiguities are things which occur all around the world, whether it be in a fully sovereign state or a NSGT. Legal ambiguities are when the law does not specify or is

contradictory about something. The result of this can differ from having no effect at all, all the way to people being treated with injustice. Let's explore some examples to better understand this one as well.

First let's explore an example of a legal ambiguity in a sovereign nation, like Japan.

The Japanese Constitution's 9th Article states, "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation" and that "land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained." The ambiguity lies in the interpretation of what "war potential" and "self-defense" mean. While Japan is constitutionally prohibited from maintaining a traditional military, it has established the Japan Self-Defense Forces, which function similarly to a military but are officially tasked with defensive roles only. This creates a legal gray area (this phrase came to my mind later but it perfectly defines what a legal ambiguity is), as Japan has engaged in activities such as peacekeeping missions and strengthening its military capabilities, especially in response to regional threats like North Korea and China's growing influence.

Now that we understand what a legal ambiguity is, we can talk about NSGTs and legal ambiguities. Puerto Rico, which we have already talked about how its voting rights are limited by it not being a state, faces problems regarding other laws as well. Especially a major point is, Puerto Rico does not have the same tax obligations as other states due to it not being an officially recognized state. Legal questions also arise regarding the extent of the US Congress's power over Puerto Rican affairs. The ongoing debates about statehood, independence, or maintaining the current status reflect the complexities and ambiguities surrounding Puerto Rico's legal status and the rights of its citizens.

American Samoa can be another example for legal ambiguities. Other than having similar issues with Puerto Rico, it additionally has an issue with land property laws. In American Samoa, customary land ownership is recognized, which can conflict with normal US property laws. This has created an ambiguity regarding land rights, inheritance, and development, as the interaction between U.S. law and traditional Samoan land ownership systems is not well defined.

6.4. Indigenous Rights and Human Rights

Human rights and indigenous rights violations have often occurred throughout history, especially during the colonial times. Unfortunately today too there can be some abuses of these rights, of course, not as violent as they once were in the past. Before moving on to examples let's first understand the difference between "Indigenous" and "Human" rights. Indigenous rights are the rights of the native people to their land, culture, resources and other related things. These rights ensure that what happened in the past with the colonialism of America, Africa, Australia and Asia will not occur again. Human rights on the other hand, are the basic rights everybody has for being a part of the human race. These rights guarantee that each and every person has fundamental rights which cannot be breached under any circumstances. Now that we've covered the difference between these two, let's move on with some examples.

One very fitting and easy to understand example for this situation is, you guessed it, the Western Sahara. Human rights abuses in Western Sahara have happened before, particularly against those advocating for Sahrawi independence. Moroccan authorities have been accused of political repression, including arbitrary arrests, torture, and bad treatment of activists and peaceful protesters. Reports indicate that individuals advocating for self-governance often face violence from security forces, with heavy

restrictions on freedom of expression. Censorship is very common, as Moroccan authorities tightly control media coverage, suppressing information about human rights violations and the unfortunate mistreatment of the Sahrawi people.

Economic marginalization and cultural suppression further worsens the human rights situation in Western Sahara. The Sahrawi population faces serious economic disadvantages compared to Moroccan settlers, with limited access to jobs and resources. This economic inequality allows for frustration among the Sahrawi people, in turn leading to more frustration and the furthering of resistance. Additionally, the Moroccan government's efforts to assimilate the Sahrawi population threaten their cultural identity, as educational and cultural programs supporting Sahrawi heritage are often restricted, as said before this is the best way to assimilate an entire culture.

For indigenous rights abuses there are no need for examples since we've already covered them in previous sections. However just to name some of these abuses, we can name land rights of the Samoan people, the rights that the New Caledonians have to their natural resources and in general assimilation of many indigenous peoples' cultures. Both human rights and indigenous rights abuses show us the way in which the indigenous people of NSGTs have put up with over the years. The United Nations needs solutions to address all of these issues, and improve on previous resolutions.

7. Questions to be Considered

1. *What could the United Nations do to lessen the economic reliance of NSGTs to their administrative powers or other foreign aid?*
2. *How could the United Nations preserve the different cultures of NSGTs while also maintaining the unison between their administrative country?*
3. *How could the United Nations encourage nations to clear up legal ambiguities between their and NSGTs local laws?*
4. *Could the United Nations offer ideas to solve the migration and social services requirements issues faced by NSGT residents?*
5. *What could be done to enlarge markets and economies of NSGTs without foreign reliance?*
6. *What legal frameworks could be implemented to ensure the rights of the indigenous people to their resources and their environment?*

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