

Forum: General Assembly 4th Committee

Issue: Question of the rise of nationalism in Europe

Student Officer: Michael Schmid

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

75 years ago, Europe was in the midst of an unprecedented rise of nationalism specifically in Germany where Adolf Hitler, a fascist leader, took control of the country promoting his 'Germany First' ideology and promoting World War Two. Now, in 2017 we are again experiencing a rise of right wing nationalist movements. In Germany, a country where nationalism was seemingly taboo after World War Two, there has been an overwhelming victory for the Alternative for Germany (AFD) which won 13% of seats in the German Bundestag (parliament). Yet outside of Germany names and political events such as Donald Trump, Marie Le Penn, Brexit, PEGIDA and, Sebastian Kurz all have become omnipresent when reading the newspaper or scrolling in a newsfeed. All of these politicians and political movements have many common goals such as preventing the islamification of their country, preventing terrorists from entering the country as refugees, up keeping of traditional western culture and ideals, promoting state sovereignty, and putting their people before others. Whilst a rise in right wing positives should not be generalised into nationalism as most of these parties and politicians are merely patriotic and are not soon to be tyrant dictators, one still needs to analyse the situation carefully in order to prevent a single state party to emerge let alone another horrible European conflict which will cost the lives of many.

Definition of Key Terms

Nationalism

Nationalism is a fanatic version of patriotism, the political stance that your country is better than any other and the interests of your nation are more important than foreign objectives.

Refugees

People who have been forced to flee their home country to a foreign country due to war, prosecution, or fear of death.

Economic Migrants

People moving to a more economically developed country in order to benefit from being a migrant in that country through the country's welfare system, higher paying jobs, or higher standards of living.

Alt-Right

A contemporary political ideology consisting of far-right beliefs straying away from the common right wing conservatives in favour of white supremacy or nationalism. However, this term is not uniquely linked to white supremacy and is only very loosely defined. See appendix.

Sovereignty

Comes in two main forms, internal and national. National sovereignty describes a nation being recognized internationally whilst internal or state sovereignty is the ability to exert supreme control over a country's population and have controllable borders.

Western European Culture

The shared culture in Europe which is well known for its openness to nudity, adult themes, alcohol, and Christianity. This is greatly juxtaposed by Islamic culture which therefore results in friction when introducing large masses of Islamic people into an otherwise European community.

Islamification

Islamification or Islamization is the progression or transition towards an Islamic culture in an otherwise non-Islamic nation or community.

Background Information

The rise of nationalism in Europe over the past half-decade can be traced back to many aspects and is arguably related to several of these yet a clear definite answer is not known. The second part of this section will analyse some of the more notable nationalists or patriotic parties which have rallied or won in recent years in Europe.

Refugee crisis

In the year 2015 and the years directly following 2015 Europe experienced an unprecedented influx of migrants and refugees coming largely from nations such as war-torn Syria but also peaceful settlements in Northern Africa such as Eritrea. The refugee crisis brought more than 2.5 million aliens into the EU which caused instability in many areas of Europe. Whilst in many areas of Europe such as Munich refugees were welcomed with a large crowd of friendly German citizens applauding them when they exited the trains, in other areas they were beaten and had their accommodations burnt down. This is why different noteworthy areas of Europe will be analysed.

Germany

Germany was the most involved nation in the refugee crisis with around a million refugees entering. Angela Merkel opened up Germany's border under her 'open borders' policy in order to prevent death at the borders of her country and was thus seen as 'Europe's angel' by doing this humanitarian task. As Germany was the most involved country, they were also one of the most heavily affected. Economists and NGOs had warned that Germany cannot continue accepting economic migrants for a prolonged period of time as this will result in economic issues such as the already visible higher taxes in Germany. In Germany there has been a sharp rise in crime committed by migrants mostly in the areas of burglary and rape according to Germany's national crime bureau's annual statistics bulletin. The clash of cultures was visible in the Cologne New Year's Eve incident where migrants from Northern Africa and the Middle East participated in a mass rape game dubbed 'Taharrush Gamea' which originated in Africa. This has warranted the need for special classes to teach refugees and migrants about German culture and has also opened a debate about banning the burqa and other Islamic facial veils as these do not conform to the openness that is expected of German culture. Overall the patriarchy that is common in these Middle Eastern and African countries there are clear gender roles which are not viable in Germany's relatively progressive gender equality situation.

Sweden

Sweden, according to many political activists, has suffered the most from the refugee crisis. Sweden accepted several hundred thousand refugees which were not integrated or deported properly. 12,000 illegal migrants entered the country and were legislatively forced to leave the country yet only 150 left. This is due to the breakdown of law and order in Sweden where the police do not have power over refugees. This also comes in the form of extra-territorial zones that are popping up where Swedish law is not respected but other laws are implemented by the citizens such as Sharia Law. These so called no-go zones have appeared throughout major Swedish cities and are now not entered by Swedish citizens due to fear of being beaten or sexually harassed and groped. Even police officers are afraid to enter such zones and when chasing suspects, they will not continue if the suspect enters these areas. The Swedish government denies that such areas exist yet documentaries in addition to interviews with ex-police officers has more or less confirmed these allegations. This is a clear deterioration of Sweden's internal sovereignty losing the ability to control what happens inside its borders not being able to deport or rule over their entire population.

France

France has also suffered through the migrant crisis and prolonged migration to their country. France notoriously banned the Burkini on beaches for a temporary period of time in order to combat the islamification of culture and keep France's secularism, in addition to security and hygiene concerns. France suffered from a row of terrorist attacks all performed by Islamic extremists some of who entered the country as refugees from Syria and committed these crimes as members of the terrorist organisation Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Noteworthy political parties and groups

The refugee crisis and other less contemporary aspects have been a catalyst for the rise of nationalist sentiments across the European continent. Some particularly noteworthy parties that have made headlines recently are listed below and their policies are briefly dabbled in.

Germany AFD

The AFD (Alternative for Germany) as outlined above has created the largest opposition party in the recent German general elections. Has become a threat to Angela Merkel's party, where a million of her ex voters instead voted for the AFD. The AFD also mobilised more than 1.5 million otherwise non-voters in Germany. The AFD's party program is very similar to many populist and nationalistic parties in the world. Internal security, negative migration, up keeping of culture, and trade protectionism.

Germany PEGIDA

The PEGIDA (Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamisation of the West) is a political pressure group who has emerged in Germany before the refugee crisis due to an emerging threat to western culture which was the religion of Islam. This Islamification in the eyes of some citizens necessitated the need to establish a group that held daily rallies and political information evenings throughout many German cities including Munich, Berlin, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Baden Baden, and others. The PEGIDA aims to prevent the destruction of traditional German culture (such as the Oktoberfest's excessive beer drinking, liberally clothed women, and the traditional pork based foods) in the face of Islam. PEGIDA stands for the creation of a safer Germany for Germans and family politics that will help German born families out more than refugees and immigrants.

UK Leave Campaign

Nigel Farage's UKIP backed leave campaign was one of the stepping stones towards the successful Brexit vote. The campaign mainly focused on how immigrants were stealing jobs in addition to depleting the NHS fund. Refugees were said to be stealing from British citizens, this has some shocking parallels to the Nazi party. The campaign used partially false information in

order to gain votes for the leave campaign which won and triggered article 50 which will sooner or later make the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland leave the European Union.

France Marine Le Penn/National Front

Marie Le Penn is the name of French presidential candidate and member of the European Parliament. She ran for France's president in 2017 where she conceded with less than 34% of all votes for the National Front party. The National Front is a nationalist party in France which has since its inception in 1972 has targeted immigration attempting to stop it. Other issues brought forward by the party include Islamification, the face veil, dissolution of French culture and strengthening the economy by preventing a 'left wing state of welfare'.

European Identitarian Movement

Various identitarian movements have appeared in Europe which directly encourage racisms and xenophobia through their white nationalist agenda. These alt-right factions have appeared notably in Swede, Austria, France, and Germany. The aim of this party is to preserve European Christianity and the white race in Europe in addition to European culture and standing up against the Islamification of their countries.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Germany

A country which has suffered under nationalism in the past. Due to its history political parties such as the AFD are quite new and have only emerged in the past year due to the felt direct threat from islamification. These nationalist parties must be analysed in order to ensure that they do not escalate to a more radical form.

France

Whilst in France Marine Le Penn's nationalist party did not win in the elections they still had the support of more than a third of the French people warranting the need to further analyse and intervene peacefully in the situation in order to ensure that radicalisation of the right does not occur. Additionally the Burka/Burkini ban debate that was present in France several months ago remains relevant and has also been adopted by such countries such as Austria. Secularity should be discussed in the resolutions that are crafted on this topic to ensure that culture is upheld whilst also allowing freedom of religion and expression which is a fact in all European countries.

Sweden

Sweden must analyse how to deal with the refugee crisis and the failures that have persisted in the past years with the emergence of No-Go zones, nationalists, and the breakdown of law and order. To prevent a further rise of nationalism the latter must be dealt with accordingly to protect Swedish people and migrants living in Sweden.

UNHCR

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is greatly affected due to the negative stigma refugees are receiving due to nationalism. Nationalist right wing extremists also pose a threat to the peaceful integration of refugees and migrants in many countries as Refugee camps and refugees have been attacked many times by right wing extremists. However the UNHCR must also address issues such as integration to effectively reduce this issue and the possibility of further right wing insurgencies.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
July 1921	Adolf Hitler becomes the leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party in Germany
October 30 th 1922	Benito Mussolini becomes the 'Il Duce' (the leader) of Italy.
November 1923	Hitler attempts to overthrow the Bavarian government with his Beer Hall Putsch or Munich Putsch attempt. This failed coup resulted in the incarceration of Hitler and other members of the National Socialist German Workers' Party.
December 1924	Between November 1923 and 13 months later Hitler was in Jail where he wrote his set of memoirs and ideals in his notorious book Mein Kampf (My Struggle). This book to this day is still an icon or set of rules and ideals for nationalist parties and far-right or alt-right movements.
August 19 th 1934	Hitler becomes the 'Führer' (the leader) of Germany by being both the President and commander of the German military.
September 1 st 1939	World War Two begins
April 28 th 1945	Mussolini killed
April 30 th 1945	Hitler commits suicide
July 16 th – August 2 nd 1945	The Potsdam Conference where the fate of Germany was discussed and also how to deal with Nationalism in the future.

June 26 th 1945	United Nations Charter signed to maintain international order and prevent events such as those which happened due to nationalism in the Second World War.
October 11 th 2014	PEGIDA founded in Germany due to Islamification.
2015-2016	Refugee crisis in western Europe with millions of refugees entering European countries. One of the largest influxes since the Second World War and the largest influx of Islamic members ever.
December 31 st 2015	New Year's Eve sexual assaults in Germany performed by a majority of migrants from Arabic and North African countries.
June 23 rd 2016	Brexit referendum in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
May 7 th 2017	French presidential elections result in loss for nationalist Marine Le Penn
September 24 th 2017	German federal elections result in a major victory for the AFD gaining 94 seats and becoming the largest opposition and first far-right nationalist party to enter the Bundestag since the Second World War.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

There are not many direct treaties discussing the current situation in Europe however it is of immense value to look at how nationalism was dealt with after the First World War and Second World War. Additionally, being well read on the situation regarding the refugee crisis is invaluable to debate as it is a major cause of the rise in nationalist movements and parties throughout Europe.

- Treaty of Versailles January 10th 1920
- Potsdam Agreement September 12th 1990
- New York Declaration for Refugee and Migrants: Declaration (document A/71/L.1) 2016

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions to this topic should be politically neutral or representative of the country you are representing as many countries have a nationalist party which occupy several seats in their parliament. The inclusion of such parties is often vital for democracy as everyone should be represented in a democracy and simply shutting down nationalist parties is an attack on freedom of speech and expression, a human right. Therefore, this topic must be addressed carefully as far-right and nationalist parties at their current state do not pose a threat to peace but they must be analysed to pre-emptively stop any rise in extremist nationalism or a rise in single state leaders and tyrants. Nationalist parties hence should be included in the political process as they are often trying to fix issues which other parties choose to ignore or forget about. The rise in nationalism however can be addressed in a different manor

by analysing where this sudden surge has come from in your respective country and prevent this from happening or address the issue efficiently.

Bibliography

- “General Assembly Adopts Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, as United Nations, International Organization for Migration Sign Key Agreement | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/press/en/2016/ga11820.doc.htm.
- “Potsdam Conference.” *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, www.history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/potsdam-conf.
- “Potsdam Conference.” *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 10 Jun. 2015. school.eb.co.uk/levels/advanced/article/Potsdam-Conference/61076#.
- “Treaty of Versailles.” *Britannica School*, Encyclopædia Britannica, 21 Jul. 2017. school.eb.co.uk/levels/advanced/article/Treaty-of-Versailles/75152.
- Harris, Nathaniel. *The Rise of Hitler*. Heinemann Library, 2004.
- “PROGRAMM.” *Alternative Für Deutschland*, www.afd.de/.
- Comparato, Guido. *Nationalism and Private Law in Europe*. Hart Publishing, 2016.
- “PEGIDA.” *PEGIDA - Patriotische Europäer Gegen Die Islamisierung Des Abendlandes*, PEGIDA - Patriotische Europäer Gegen Die Islamisierung Des Abendlandes, www.pegida.de/.
- Bosworth, R. J. B. *Mussolini*. Bloomsbury Academic, 2010.
- “Kriminalität Im Kontext Von Zuwanderung - Bundeslagebild Kriminalität Im Kontext Von Zuwanderung 2016.” *BKA - Kriminalität Im Kontext Von Zuwanderung - Bundeslagebild Kriminalität Im Kontext Von Zuwanderung 2016*, FEDERAL CRIME BUREAU , www.bka.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Publikationen/JahresberichteUndLagebilder/KriminalitaetImKontextVonZuwanderung/KriminalitaetImKontextVonZuwanderung_2016.html?nn=62336.
- Noack, Rick. “2,000 Men 'Sexually Assaulted 1,200 Women' at Cologne New Year's Eve Party.” *The Independent*, Independent Digital News and Media, 11 July 2016, www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/cologne-new-years-eve-mass-sex-attacks-leaked-document-a7130476.html.
- Elgot, Jessica, and Jamie Grierson. “Electoral Commission Launches Inquiry into Leave Campaign Funding.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 20 Nov. 2017, www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/nov/20/electoral-commission-launches-inquiry-into-leave-campaign-funding.
- Lotem, Dr Itay. “After The Loss, What's Going On With Le Pen?” *HuffPost UK*, HuffPost, 12 May 2017, www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/dr-itay-lotem/marine-le-pen_b_16576764.html.
- Wildman, Sarah. “A European Alt-Right Group Wants to Take to the Sea to Stop Rescuers from Saving Migrants.” *Vox*, Vox, 6 July 2017, www.vox.com/world/2017/7/6/15804196/generation-identity-identitarians-alt-right-migration-islam-refugees-europe.

Local, The. "So... Are They No-Go Zones? What You Need to Know about Sweden's Vulnerable Areas." *The Local*, The Local, 21 June 2017, www.thelocal.se/20170621/no-go-zones-what-you-need-to-know-about-swedens-vulnerable-aeas.

Appendices

- I. <http://www.breitbart.com/tech/2016/03/29/an-establishment-conservatives-guide-to-the-alt-right/>

Whilst this is from a far-right news source, it became renowned for properly coining the term for the first time ever. Essential reading to understand the motives behind the new right wing groups

- II. <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2017/02/in-europe-nationalisms-rising/>

A fascinating piece published by Harvard's newspaper explaining the rise of nationalistic sentiments in many European countries. Has good scholarly resources hyperlinked throughout the article.

- III. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36150807>

- IV. <http://afd.de>

As the debate may include the most recent German statistics and election (which will be the most recent and noteworthy at the time of the conference) it is vital to understand how this party won.

- V. <http://pegida.de>

As described above Germany is of importance in this issue therefore one must not only analyse political parties but political pressure groups that have been active since before the migrant crisis.

- VI. New York Declaration for Refugee and Migrants: Declaration (document A/71/L.1) 2016

A resolution that discusses how refugees were handled after the crisis. It is important to note how this resolution succeeded but also failed in allowing the rise of nationalistic parties and far-right extremists.

- VII. Your country's parliament website, (e.g. www.bundestag.de, www.aph.gov.au)

Find your nations far-right party, they might be very small but certainly there is one. If they are not represented in the parliament make sure to check if they have made headlines recently or ran in the most recent elections.

Forum:	General Assembly 3 rd Committee
Issue:	Question of the occupied Syrian Golan
Student Officer:	Emir Eskicioglu
Position:	Chair

Introduction

The Syrian Golan is a region the Levant that has experienced much turmoil throughout the years. The heights can be described as geopolitical region due to the fact that the area was captured from Syria and occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War, territory which Israel annexed in 1981. Geographically, this region consists of the western quarter of the geological Golan Heights and Mount Hermon which is occupied by Israel. Starting from 1967 until the beginning of the Syrian War the western two-thirds of the was governed and occupied by Israel. However, the Eastern third was under the control of the Syrian Arab Republic. Due to this land dispute, the UNDOF maintains an area called the buffer zone in order to implement the ceasefire provided by the Purple Line. This situation has caused an endless conflict between the Syrian Arab Army and rebel factions of the Syrian opposition, Islamist factions and Jihadist al-Nusra Front and ISIL-affiliated militant.

Definition of Key Terms

Golan

The Golan is a group of hills in the Middle Eastern area, where possession of this area is disputed between Israel and Syria.

Purple Line

Israel captured the entire length of the Golan Heights including its principal city Quneitra. The resulting ceasefire line, Purple Line, was kept under control by various sites supervised by observers of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. This line became the new effective border between Israel and Syria.

Buffer Zone

A buffer zone is generally a zonal area that lies between two or more other areas, for segregating or conjoint regions.

Geopolitical

Relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors

Golan Heights Law

The Golan Heights Law is an Israeli law that applies to the government and the laws regarding the Golan Heights. This law was ratified by the Knesset on December 14, 1981. However, it was not recognized internationally and determined void by United Nations Security Council Resolution 497.

Background Information

Brief history of the Golan Heights

The Israeli cabinet voted to return the Golan to Syria in exchange for a peace agreement in 1967, but this motion was rejected due to the Khartoum Resolution in September 1967. The problem dates back to the Yom Kippur war which was on October 6, 1973, where Egyptian and Syrian forces launched a joint attack in order to win back territory that was previously lost. Countries like the United States and Russia were even drawn into the war, where the US proposed to aid Israel and Russia was in support of the Middle Eastern countries. After the war, where Syria failed to recapture the Golan, Israel decided to give 5% of the territory to Syria in order to bring an end to the conflict. The part which was given was incorporated into a demilitarized zone that is around the ceasefire line and is under the military control of UNDOF.

The zone after the war consists of more than 30 Jewish settlements with an estimated 20,000 settlers. There is known to be at least 20,000 Syrians in the area as well. The state of Israel started construction in the remainder of the territory held by them and was helped under military administration until the Golan Heights Law was extended. This law applies to the Israeli government and the laws to the Golan Heights and was ratified by the Knesset on December 14, 1981. However, it was not recognized internationally and determined as null by United Nations Security Council. On December 1981 Israel unilaterally annexed the part of the Golan it held. These were condemned by the United Nations Security Council in UN Resolution 497 stating that: "the Israeli decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan Heights is null and void and without international legal effect." In 1991, peace talks between Syria and Israel were initiated at the Madrid Conference where the return of the Golan was the topic of interest. However, negotiations did not progress because Israel's refused to withdraw completely from the Syrian Golan. Even today Israel does not acknowledge U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973); which call for the withdrawal of Israel from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including the Occupied Syrian Golan. Also, the Security Council Resolution 479 (1981) confirms the illegality of Israel's annexation of the Golan but Israel still refuses to retreat.

International Standpoints

The states of Israel did have the right to retain the Golan according to UN Resolution 242 which called for the "safe and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force". Furthermore, the

international states rejected Israeli claims to rightful ownership of the territory and believed it as sovereign Syrian territory. Throughout history Israeli Prime Ministers Ehud Barak, Yitzhak Rabin and Ehud Olmert have always supported the agreement of exchanging the Golan for peace with Syria. However, in 2010, Israeli foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman made statements to Syria about abandoning their "dreams" of recovering the Golan Heights. Along with this, the Syrian Civil War and the rise of ISIS, that at a certain period controlled the Syria administered Golan has added implications to the problem. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asked US President Barack Obama to acknowledge Israeli claims to the Golan because of ISIS's recent actions. The Obama administration disregarded Netanyahu's statements and stated the US is in full support of UN resolutions 242 and 497. They chose this standpoint in order to prevent the threat of American alliances with western-backed Syrian rebel groups to disintegrate.

Strategic Importance

The capital Damascus and Southern Syria are very visible from the top of the Golan Heights. This is important because the location gives Israel a strategic vantage point for observing Syrian military movement while Syrian artillery bombs northern Israel. Since the area is high up in the land it allows for the Israeli army to have a military advantage over Syria. With most Middle Eastern countries struggling with having freshwater sources and droughts the Golan is a key source of water for the region, making it more valuable than it already is. The source is large because rainwater that the Golan collects flows into the Jordan River, which provides more than a third of Israel's water supply. The land is fertile, with the volcanic soil being used to cultivate vineyards and orchards and to raise cattle.

Peace talks

From the beginning of the dispute to this day there have been many attempts to bring peace to the border; however, the most progress achieved is the armistice signed in 1974 that gave Syria a small area of land which was a UNDOF zone. Also, negotiations arranged by the United States failed in 2000 because of the Sea of Galilee dispute. This occurred because Syria requested Israel to go back into its all pre-1967 borders, which gave Syria a vantage point to a viable water source, but Israel was in favor of having a buffer zone between the lakeshore and Syrian territory to protect its water resources. Another example is how the peace negotiations mediated by Turkey collapsed in 2008 because of Israel's incursion into Gaza. Currently the Israeli government is fully opposed to withdrawing from the Golan, whereas previous leaders would consider this to achieve peace. Peace talks fail because Syria asks for Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan as a precondition for negotiations to resume.

Syrian Civil War

As the Syrian Civil War continues the Eastern Golan Heights have become a frequent point for conflict between the Syrian Arab Army and rebel factions of the Syrian opposition, such as, Islamist factions, Jihadist al-Nusra Front and ISIL-affiliated militants.

The cruelty and conflict of the Syrian Civil War has resulted in the advancement of ISIL. This insurgent group which has even had control of the Syrian-administered Golan has added implications to the issue. It was reported that in 2015 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu requested President Barack Obama to acknowledge Israeli claims to the area of dispute because of ISIL's actions in the area and that Syria has "disintegrated" beyond the point of reunification. The American government disregarded Netanyahu's claims by stating how the presidency is in full support UN resolutions 242 and 497. Furthermore, they stated that changes and alterations to this policy could damage American alliances with western-backed Syrian rebel groups.

Territorial claims

Claims on the territory include the fact that an area in northwestern of the Golan region, which is in the shape of a triangle that is near the owns of Banias, Quneitra and the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee, was part of the British Palestine Mandate where the construction of a Jewish settlement was promised. Also another reason Israel pursues for claims is the aspect of Water which is the most valuable resource the region. After gaining control of the Golan Heights in 1967, Israel was able to attain full control of the Sea of Galilee and its second part which consisted of runoff into the Jordan River. This area is critical because it provides Israel with a third of all of its fresh water.

Shebaa Farms

The separation of the Blue Line was established by the UN on 7 June 2000 to reaffirm Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, according to UN Security Council Resolution 425. The moment Israeli military retreated from Lebanese soil the UN acknowledged how the UN resolution had been respected. The problem is that Lebanon still continues to have territorial rights to small portion of the area held by Israel and administered as part of the Golan Heights. This area is called the Shebaa Farms and sits on the border between Lebanon and the Golan Heights. The maps produced by the UN during the demarcation of Blue Line failed to clearly display the border between Lebanon and Syria in the area. The problem of this piece of land is that, Syria does acknowledge that fact that the Shebaa Farms are within Lebanese territory; however, Israel considers the area as Syrian land and still occupies the territory.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Israel

One of the most important countries involved in the dispute. According to UN Resolution 242 the states of Israel did have the right to retain the Golan but Israel still persists on rightful ownership of the area after the war of Yom Kippur. Israel administers most of the area except for the 5% part which was given that is a demilitarized zone around the ceasefire line and is under the military control of UNDOF. Currently the Israeli government is fully opposed to withdrawing from the Golan, whereas previous leaders would consider this to achieve peace

Syria

Syria is another major country involved in the dispute because of its continuous disagreements regarding the Golan Heights. The chaos in certain Syrian regions, fueling civil war and rising insurgent groups makes this problem worse as claims over the heights become tenser.

Turkey

Turkey's geographical location makes it inevitable for them to intervene and as a result the Turkish government mediated peace negotiations in 2008.

United States

The US has also played a major role in the dispute as they seek to both support their allies and have mutual agreements. The American government disregarded Netanyahu's claims and stated that the presidency is in full support UN resolutions 242 and 497.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)

The UNDOF called for an immediate ceasefire and implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242. They are tasked with observation of the buffer zone between Israel and Syria by operating in the zone and supervising the ceasefire.

United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)

This organization's primary task is providing the military command structure to the peace keeping forces in the Middle East to enable the peacekeepers to observe and maintain the cease-fire. UNTSO has the ceasefire in the Golan Heights following the Six-Day War of June 1967.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1967	Israel occupied two-thirds of the Golan Heights, originally part of Syria, after the Six Day War.
1973	The Yom Kippur war started where Egyptian and Syrian forces launched a joint attack on Israel to win back territory that was previously lost.
1981	Israel unilaterally annexed the part of the Golan it held. Security Council Resolution 479 confirmed Israel's illegal actions regarding annexation of the Golan.

1991	Peace talks between Syria and Israel were initiated at the Madrid Conference where the return of the Golan was the topic of interest. However, negotiations did not progress because Israel's refused to withdraw completely from the Syrian Golan.
2000	Negotiations between Syria and Israel arranged by the United States failed because of the Sea of Galilee dispute. This occurred because Syria requested Israel to go back into its all pre-1967 borders
2008	Peace negotiations mediated by Turkey collapsed because of Israel's incursion into Gaza.
2010	Israeli foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman made statements to Syria about abandoning their "dreams" of recovering the Golan Heights.
2015	Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu requested President Barack Obama to acknowledge Israeli claims to the area of dispute because of ISIL's actions in the area and that Syria has "disintegrated" beyond the point of reunification. The American government disregarded Netanyahu's claims

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- United Nations Security Council Resolution 497 of 17 December, 1981
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 November, 1967
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 338 of October 22, 1973
- United Nations Security Council resolution 479 of September 28, 1980
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 425 of March 19, 1978

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Over the years various Israeli leaders have developed various methods for resolving the issues and reaching peace in the Golan. These solutions range from returning parts of the heights in exchange for peace to legalizing their full incorporation into Israel. An example is how the government proposed to grant Israeli citizenship to Syrians living in the heights in 1970. The problem was that a large portion of the Druzes declined the offer.

The Purple Line was created and supervised by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and became the new effective border between Israel and Syria in order to keep the peace.

This idea was effective at first but it still stays under Israeli influence and there are still minor disputes between the two sides.

As an attempt to mediate negotiations between the two countries both the USA and Turkey have had efforts. President W.B Bush initiated the Madrid Peace Conference in October 1991. This conference was attended by Israeli, Egyptian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations, as well as a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Even though the conference was progressive on the matter it failed to achieve deeper negotiations because Israel refused to withdraw from the Golan. Other than this, negotiations held in Istanbul which were mediated by Turkey sought to achieve some progress but again failed to do so because of Israel's situation with the Gaza strip.

Possible Solutions

A good solution for this problem could be that the UN could act as a court of international law to seek justice for the violation of human rights and illegal actions committed by both parties in the Golan. In the situation, Israel could be prosecuted for violating some human rights, such as forcing citizenship and claims in a foreign territory. Also, for the Syrian Government which is under the rule of Bashar al-Assad, a crime committed would be transporting large artillery to a buffer zone and violating the ceasefire which has been active for up to 50 years.

A problem in the region is how the ceasefire line is concurrently violated by both The Syrian Armed Forces and insurgent groups on various instances since the original conflict started. These actions damage the UN's efforts to gain peace in the area and follow international laws. It's evident that UN shouldn't act as just an observer as its rules and policies are ratified by its 193 sovereign Member States. The UN should be able to offer environments for peace negotiations and encourage peaceful solutions for the dispute. In the instance where both groups are willing to negotiate by using Chapter Six of the UN Charter, the UN would be able to deploy peacekeeping forces to aid in monitoring and building confidence in the settlement.

Bibliography

"Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations." The Syrian Golan | Syria, www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan

"Golan Heights Profile." BBC News, BBC, 27 Nov. 2015, www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842.

Kershner, Isabel. "Secret Israel-Syria Peace Talks Involved Golan Heights Exit." The New York Times, The New York Times, 12 Oct. 2012, www.nytimes.com/2012/10/13/world/middleeast/secret-israel-syria-peace-talks-involved-golan-heights-exit.html.

Grunfield, Lilach. Jordan River Dispute Case Study. American University, School of International Service. The Mandala Projects. 1997. <http://www1.american.edu/TED/ice/jordan.htm>.

"Mandate." UNDOF. November 12, 2012. <http://web.archive.org/web/20140908112310/http://www.undof.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tab id=9228&language=en-US>

"Israel–Syria Relations." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%E2%80%93Syria_relations

Appendix or Appendices

I. "Resolution A/HRC/RES/19/14" http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/a_hrc_res_19_14.pdf

Please refer to this resolution to take direct information or quotes from The Human Rights Council regarding "Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan."

II. "Resolution S/RES/350" [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/350\(1974\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/350(1974)) <http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/dpko/undof.pdf>

Refer to this resolution in order to understand the how the Security Council implements the Israel-Syria conflict and the decisions made.

III. <https://www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan>

This link contains the Permanent Mission of The Syrian Arab Republic to The UN. Use it to understand Syria's full diplomatic viewpoint on the topic and the Syrian Government's standpoint on the history of the conflict.

IV. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Golan-Heights>

This is an accurate encyclopedic description of the history of the Golan and some of the current issues. You can refer to it for a short and concise understanding of the topic.

Forum: General Assembly 4th Committee

Issue: The Question of New Caledonia

Student Officer: Asterios Dougalis

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

New Caledonia is a collection of smaller islands that is located in the continent of Oceania, and despite of the fact that it does not share its land borders with others states it finds it self near Australia and New Zealand. New Caledonia is made up of 4 islands: The Island of New Caledonia, which is by far the biggest out of the four and also is where the capital, Nouméa is located, the Bélep Islands, the Loyalty Islands, and the Île des Pins.

New Caledonia has a truly unique flora and fauna. Its flora consists of over 2,500 endemic species, many of which are only found in New Caledonia including the New Caledonian barrier Reef which is the second largest barrier reef in the entire world. New Caledonia's fauna is impressive as well, and despite of the fact that it is not as rich as its flora, it still has over 142 species of birds, 67 species of reptiles, 80 species of fish and 521 species of insects, many of which are also unique to the region. New Caledonia's biodiversity is further by it reinforced by its geographical position and isolation, that gave its flora and fauna the opportunity to develop with minimal influence from external species, creating the daunting and unique biodiversity that we see today.

New Caledonia's history is especially important when considering the issues that have been plaguing the region in recent years. Much like many of the countries located in Oceania and the Pacific Ocean as a whole, New Caledonia has been characterized by colonialism by the British and primarily the French. Ever after it became a French overseas territory in 1946, New Caledonia has experienced levels of political instability that were unique to its history. Despite of the fact that conflict between the two major ethnic groups: the indigenous people of New Caledonia and the French was always existent, did not peak until the late 1970s, when major conflicts between the two groups broke out. The outbreak of violence as well as the political, racial and financial instability in the region were the main factors that ultimately lead to the signing of the Nouméa accord in 1998. It is the Nouméa Accord of 1998 that makes the often-forgotten question of New Caledonia relevant once again as the same issues that were bedevilling the region in the past have returned to once again threaten New Caledonia's overall stability.

¹There are many issues that surround the question of New Caledonia. Firstly and most importantly, the issue of the ratification of the Nouméa Accord especially when considering the upcoming independence referendum is threatening New Caledonia's political and social stability as it creates

¹ Indigenous People Literature

division and conflict between the region's ethnic groups. New Caledonia's independence referendum also brought up other aspects of the Nouméa accord that are yet to be ratified, such as the transition of governmental powers to the local government as well as the reassurance for economic independence from France should the people of New Caledonia vote for the country's independence. Furthermore, the tension that is caused by the upcoming independence referendum is leading to a rise in terrorist attacks and has created a serious concern for security in the region. The question of racism and of the aforementioned division between the region's ethnic groups are also not being answered. In addition, the socio-economic imbalance among different social classes that is created by the centralization of the economy, is also a very important element of New Caledonia's instability that have not been successfully undertaken by the Nouméa Accord; and thus causing further instability in the region in light of the upcoming independence referendum. Lastly, rapid urbanization, uncontrolled tourism and industry expansion are posing a huge threat to New Caledonia's biodiversity as magnificent dry forests are being cleared and strikingly beautiful coral reefs are being destroyed.

Finally, even though the question of New Caledonia has only recently re-entered the headlines, the issues surrounding the region as well as its stability have been existent for a number of years, thus emphasizing the fact that viable and feasible solutions ought to be found in the name of establishing and maintaining stability and development in the region of New Caledonia.

Definition of Key Terms

Indigenous People

“Indigenous people are people defined in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their historical ties to a particular territory, and their cultural or historical distinctiveness from other populations that are often politically dominant.”¹ The main type of indigenous people that this research report will be examining through the course of this research report will be the Kanaks.

Referendum

“A vote in which all the people in a country or an area are asked to give their opinion about or decide an important political or social question”² The referendum that this study guide will be looking at will be the independence vote of 2018.

Sovereignty

“The power of a country to control its own government”²

In this case sovereignty will be defined in the context of New Caledonia's political, social, and economic independence from France, in light of the upcoming independence referendum.

Inequality

² Cambridge English Dictionary

“The unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, money, etc. than other people.”²

Colonialism

“Colonialism is the practice by which a more economically developed country directly controls less economically developed countries and uses their resources to increase its own power and wealth.”³ In the context of this research report, colonialism will be looked at as the dependency that New Caledonia has on France on a political and economic level.

Socioeconomic Status

“Socioeconomic status is the social standing or class of an individual or group. It is often measured as a combination of education, income and occupation.”⁴

Background Information

Colonial New Caledonia

Initial Colonization by France (1853-1946)

Despite the fact that the British were the ones to first colonize New Caledonia in 1774, it was the French who had the biggest impact in the country after they annexed New Caledonia in 1853. Even Though New Caledonia had been in official French control since 1853, the French flag was not raised in the region until 1864. Following the colonization of New Caledonia by both the French and the British, Melanesian uprising were very often. Some of the most major Melanesian uprisings include the rebellion of 1856 near the capital, Nouméa, which lasted until 1859 and the uprising of 1878, that ended 1 year later in 1879. Both uprisings seriously threaten the control the French authorities had over colonial New Caledonia. Most of the aforementioned reactions came as a reaction to the policies that French Authorities had implemented, aiming at the disposal of indigenous land as well as hindering the rights of the region’s indigenous populations. Such policies include the regrouping of indigenous tribes as well as setting up a system of representation of the tribes in the government by appointed tribal chiefs. As a result of those policies, by the end of the 1800s, considerable amounts of land that belonged to indigenous tribes had been taken away by the French as their inhabitants of which were sent away to the army. In order for the authorities to establish the much-needed control over the region policies that included limitation of travel, forced labour, and strict curfews were also established making up the collection of ‘native laws and regulations’ becoming known as the indigénat which was not abolished until 1946.

³ Collins English Dictionary

⁴ American Psychological Association

New Caledonia as a Penal Colony

The initial plan that French authorities had in mind after the annexation of New Caledonia in 1853 was not the establishment of a settler's colony but a Penal Colony. Following the annexation of New Caledonia in 1853 thousands of convicted felons were shipped to New Caledonia, as its location (in the other side of the world) was perfect for France to send prisoners that were convicted for a wide array of crimes, including an abundance of political prisoners. It should be noted that both female and male convicts were sent to New Caledonia as an attempt to increase the region's population. The power of the administration of the Penal Colony was considerably large, being often looked as a 'state within a state', and was often abused as the administration increased the land allocated to the penal colony to numbers as high as 110,000 acres which lead to the oppression of the local Melanesian population due to the spoliation of their land that was caused by the expansion of the Penal Colony. The reason that the Penal Colony ultimately failed and ceased being put into effect by 1897 was that the initial goal of having the convicts becoming a part of the society, becoming settlers had not been met. The fact that from the 22,500 convicts that were sent to New Caledonia, only 1,700 became penal settlers is a strong indication of the system's failure. Instead of becoming contributors to society most of the convicts that were freed were ostracized by society due to their past and were often forced to live a nomadic lifestyle that provided no use for them in creation of a settler colony in New Caledonia.

New Caledonia as a French overseas territory

One year after the end of the Second World War in 1946, New Caledonia officially became a French overseas territory, meaning that New Caledonia now had representation in the French National Assembly and the Senate. Everyone permanently residing in New Caledonia were also given the French citizenship. Following an explosion of the nickel industry in the late 1960s and early 1970s, a fluctuation of Polynesian and European populations were observed, an increase that made the Melanesians a minority group, despite the fact that they had the largest population in the region. An increase of violent uprisings of the Kanak Populations were witnessed between 1976 and 1988 leading to the signing of the Matignon and Nouméa accord. Both the uprisings and the signing of the Matignon and Nouméa accord will be covered in a later a section.

Kanak revolts and uprisings

The Great Kanak Revolt of 1878

The Great Kanak revolt of 1878 was triggered by the land conflict that followed the expansion of the settlers away from Nouméa. The constant expansion and land degradation that was unleashed by the settlers fuelled the anger and distress of the Kanaks that up to this point, was only limited to isolated and unsuccessful revolts. Chief Ataï was the instigator of the revolt, as he had selected Nouméa as his main target, hoping to destabilize the colonist authorities. The rebels were able to attack multiple settler outposts, killing more than 200 settlers, but were never

able to reach their original goal of capturing Nouméa. The rebellion was eventually put down by the French army on the 1st of September of the same year, killing more than 1,000 Kanaks, including Chief Ataï, whose head was sent as a trophy to France. Chief Ataï became a martyr of the Kanak struggle for independence and was used as a symbol for the Kanak Independence movement in future revolts.

The Kanak Independence Movement

With the formation of an institutionalized pro-independence Kanak Front, the questions of kanak independence and sovereignty in New Caledonia, as well as the protection of the Kanak heritage, culture and identity were at the core of the newly born, Kanak Independence Movement. Another key problem that ignited the Kanak's wish for autonomy and equality was the clear imbalance of land distribution as well as the blatant economic gaps between New Caledonia's different social classes. It was in 1975 and 1976 when the aforementioned issues became more relevant than ever, with the fall of nickel prices that caused a region wide economic crisis. The failure to recognize the land rights of the Kanak people as well as the seemingly 'unfair' distribution of land led to the protests of the Independence movement that wished the return of the ancestral lands to the Kanak people, a request which was denied by the government. The crisis that began with the protests regarding land transformed into a nationwide struggle for independence, demanding the implementation of a set timetable for New Caledonia's independence from French authority. The plan consisting a 5-year transition period, including a referendum for independence in 1989, which was proposed by the French government in 1983 was denied by the Independence movement, causing an intensification of the crisis. Following the creation of the FLNKS (Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste) in 1984, a Kanak boycott was imposed on the 1984 elections, introducing a period of violence and political tension in the region. With killings taking place on both sides, New Caledonia was put into a stage of emergency, with frequent eruptions of violence taking place in the form of roadblocks all over the region, frequent gun battles and the constant destruction of property. Violence in the region reached its climax with the hostage crisis in Ouvéa where in light of the upcoming French elections, 4 French officers were killed by members of the Kanak Independence Movement and 27 were taken hostage. The Kanak militants were requesting a timetable for New Caledonia's Independence, however the French government did not negotiate with, leading to a violent hostage rescue operation in which 19 people died. In an effort to avoid the imminent Civil War the French government facilitated the negotiations that first led to the signing of the Matignon Accord in 1988 and was followed by the signing of the Nouméa Accord on the same year.

Matignon Accord

The Matignon Accord, that was signed in Paris served as an agreement between the French government, the pro-independence and the anti-independence groups that approved the direct rule to the French government for one year, followed by a local government rule for 9 years. The Accord also divided New Caledonia into three self-governing regions that held separate provincial elections. Lastly,

the Matignon Accord aimed to decentralize the economy and provide equal economic opportunities for all people, notably planning to give considerable funds to the Kanak populations of New Caledonia. The actions of the Accord were permanently frozen after the leader of the FLNKS was assassinated.

Noumea Accord

The Nouméa Accord was signed in 1988 following the failure of the Matignon Accord. The Nouméa Accord served as a promise given by the French government to gradually grant political and financial powers to the Kanak People over a 20-year period, until the the independence referendum takes place on 2018.

Issues following the signing of the Nouméa Accord

Racial Issues

The racial problems surrounding New Caledonia are evident in both the past and the present and were highlighted by UN affiliated agencies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination considers the report of France as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Both agencies express their concern over the violations of the rights of the Kanak People as well as the uneven distribution of resources among different ethnic groups in New Caledonia which have been an issue for a number of years. The atmosphere of hate that exists between the French and the Kanaks has been at an all-time high especially with the independence referendum looming.

Financial Issues

Despite the fact that New Caledonia holds one of the biggest nickel reserves in the entire world and has a relatively high per capita income, New Caledonia has economic disparities that do not the above facts. The biggest issue surrounding New Caledonia's economy is the centralization of the economy and the misdistribution of income and resources, both ethnically and geographically. To illustrate the above statement, $\frac{3}{4}$ of businesses and industries, including tourism and nickel mining are located in the Southern part of New Caledonia while the rest of the region, and primarily the rural areas are severely lacking in economic development. In addition, Nickel mining, which is at the core of New Caledonia's economy, has been improving although it nowhere near where it used to be in past years. The Fall in Nickel prices that has been witnessed in recent years as well as the effect that it has had on the New Caledonian economy highlights the vulnerability of the region's economy as far as its dependence on Nickel is concerned. Furthermore, the imbalance of employment opportunities among different ethnic group has been plaguing New Caledonia for a while now as most Kanaks for example, lack the proper training and skills to participate in a rather competitive job market. The government has introduced a number of training programmes to help battle the aforementioned phenomena however they have been largely unsuccessful in helping New Caledonia reach a level of equality in the distribution of wealth, resources and job opportunities among all of its ethnic groups. Finally, due to the recent political developments that have put the values of stability and security

in question, tourism, a mean that has been a steady producer of income for New Caledonia, has taken a significant hit and is yet to bounce completely back.

Political Turmoil

Political Turmoil has been existent in New Caledonia ever since it was annexed by the French in 1853. The Nouméa Accord of 1988 played a big role in ending the political turmoil of the time however the problems that the Nouméa Accord had promised to address have resurfaced as a result of the upcoming independence referendum. In addition, the guidelines under which the referendum will take place, like the referendum question to be asked or the people that will be eligible to vote have not been decided, causing a further escalation of political turmoil to take place. The massive division between the anti-independence and pro-independence groups has left no room for negotiations regarding the upcoming independence referendum and thus hindering efficiency. The public's dissatisfaction as far as the failure of the Nouméa Accord and the government to address the pressing issue of the misdistribution of wealth and resources among different ethnic groups (which is an issue that has been in the core of all political unrest in New Caledonia) has erupted a wave of violence that is similar to the one observed in the 1980s. As a result, the deployment of additional police forces in the region by the French government has been taking place but it is still unable to battle the rise in violence and terrorism that is witnessed in New Caledonia, as attacks against the government, different ethnic groups and police forces continue to take place.

Environmental Issues

As mentioned in the introduction, New Caledonia's flora and fauna as well as its overall biodiversity is quite admirable. However, several factors have put New Caledonia's biodiversity in serious risk. For instance, as a result of the expansion of the Nickel industry, as well as New Caledonia's rapid urbanization have unleashed a large wave of deforestation in the region. An example of the negative effect that the aforementioned deforestation has had on New Caledonia's biodiversity is the one of dry forests, a product of New Caledonia's isolation has been severely hit by the expansion of the above industries, with only 2% of the original number of dry forests remaining. The increase in mining in New Caledonia has also had extremely negative effects on the environmental wonders that one can witness in New Caledonia, as species ranging from dry forests to coral reefs are affected by the expansion as well as the waste generated by the Nickel Industry. Finally, the introduction of invasive species has hindered New Caledonia's unique biodiversity as they are being threatened by imported species such as goats and different types of cattle.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

France

France has been closely connected to New Caledonia both politically, economically and socially as it is a recognized French overseas territory ever since 1946. After the signing of the Nouméa Accord

in 1988 France has been transferring powers to the local government however it still holds control of certain administrative powers such as the police force, foreign policy, and the military. France's interest in the affairs of New Caledonia especially in the upcoming independence referendum is evident and understandable since French interests in the area do exist.

Vanuatu

Vanuatu, having gained its independence from the United Kingdom and France has been a strong supporter of the independence movement in New Caledonia, with anti-colonialism being on the top of both Vanuatu's domestic and foreign policies. However, after elections were held in 1990s, Vanuatu changed its policy and redirected support to France. At this time Vanuatu's foreign policy, is an avid-supporter of the anti-independence movement and thus supports the the continuation of New Caledonia being a French overseas territory. Lastly, land disputes have been taking place in over the ownership of the Matthew and Hunter islands between New Caledonia, Vanuatu and New Zealand however the aforementioned disputes have not seriously hurt the diplomatic relations between Vanuatu and New Caledonia which were further reinforced by a cooperation agreement, signed on 2002.

New Zealand

New Caledonia and New Zealand have strong diplomatic ties in multiple levels including trade, politics, defense, and education. New Zealand have been providing much needed expertise to the New Caledonian government as it was making the steps necessary for the 2018 independence referendum to take place. An example of the developed relations between the two governments is the signing of a Joint Corporations Plan by government officials from both states, aiming to further develop bilateral cooperation in the form of trade, education and more.

Australia

Australia also has strong diplomatic ties with New Caledonia as it is represented (along with the aforementioned countries) through a consulate in Nouméa that celebrated the 75th anniversary of its establishment. New Caledonia and Australia have been engaging in trade, defense, and natural disaster relief operations for a number of years. Finally, Australia supports the Nouméa Accord as well as the increasing level of autonomy granted to New Caledonia in light of the upcoming independence referendum.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1774	Initial Colonization of New Caledonia by the British; marks the beginning of the colonization of New Caledonia by Western powers.

1853	New Caledonia is annexed by French authorities; the ex-British colony is taken under the control of the French government, subsequently becoming a Penal Colony.
1878	The Great Kanak Revolt takes place; marks the first major organized Kanak uprising against the French government.
1897	Convicts are no longer transported to New Caledonia; New Caledonia stops being used as a Penal Colony.
1946	New Caledonia Becomes a French overseas territory, more political independence is given to the New Caledonian citizens and government. All New Caledonians are granted French citizenship despite of their previous nationality or background.
1947	Voting rights are given to the Kanak populations after major protests take place. This event marks the first significant success of the Kanak Independence movement.
1957	FLNKS is founded. The Kanak independence is institutionalized in the form of a recognized political party.
1984	The Ouvea hostage crisis takes place, causing an global outcry and putting the issue of Kanak independence on an international spotlight.
1988	The Matignon Accord is signed after mass protests take place all over New Caledonia.
1988	The Nouméa Accord is signed after the ratification of the Matignon Accord permanently freezes, marking the start of the 20 year period over which a transfer of political and economic powers to the New Caledonian government was to take place.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Matignon Accord, 26 June 1988
- Nouméa Accord, 5 May 1988
- The question of New Caledonia, 16 December 2014 (A/RES/69/102)
- The question of New Caledonia, 15 December 2015 (A/RES/70/99)
- The question of New Caledonia, 28 December 2016 (A/RES/71/119)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Numerous attempts have taken place in order to tackle the question of New Caledonia however none of them seem to completely solve the issue at hand and with the deadline for the 2018 referendum that was imposed by the Nouméa Accord looming, the flaws or the issues that each attempt failed to address are rising.

The Matignon Accord for instance, aimed to create a 10-year period of stability by giving administrative power to the the French government for one year, and to the elected local government for 9 years. However the Accord failed as it wasn't properly ratified due to the assassination of the FLNKS' leader in 1989.

Furthermore, the Nouméa Accord, which was signed in the same year provided stability for close to 20 years, however it failed to completely meet its goals and has also caused the escalation of political instability in the region in light of the upcoming independence referendum. Specifically, the Nouméa Accord of had the gradual transition of administrative powers to the New Caledonian government as its primary goal, however such transition has not yet been completed putting the idea of complete political and financial independence of New Caledonia from France into question. Furthermore, the socioeconomic gap that the Nouméa Accord aimed to reduce and hopefully eradicate is still existent, causing civilian unrest all over New Caledonia, especially with the deadline for the independence referendum approaching. Finally, regulations regarding the actual independence referendum of 2018 were not successfully set, since major problems such as the eligible electorate body are up for debate and are yet to be decided, causing the division of multiple ethnic groups in the area that have different interests as far New Caledonia's independence is concerned.

Possible Solutions

When trying to create viable and feasible solutions for the issues regarding New Caledonia it is important to consider the wide array of issues that surround it as well as their diversity, ranging from political and racial issues to environmental ones. All sides of the question of New Caledonia need to be carefully examined and solved in order for the issues involving New Caledonia as a whole, to be successfully tackled.

Firstly, regarding the upcoming Independence referendum, the reassurance of complete transparency during the 2018 independence

referendum will make sure that results will not be tampered with, and thus giving credibility to a referendum whose integrity and reliability have been heavily criticized and questioned in the past. Making sure that the referendum would also be monitored by external UN forces would also help in the eradication of the aforementioned effect. Furthermore, giving all ethnic groups in Group Caledonia the right to vote in the referendum would prevent any type of discrimination as far as the electorate body is concerned and will also make sure that the results represent the whole population of New Caledonia, in the true spirit of democracy.

Secondly, the issue of the protection of the culture and the rights of indigenous populations in the region (primarily the Kanaks), also needs to be addressed as they have been under siege for years. One of the ways that the aforementioned goal can be achieved is through raising awareness about the socioeconomic gap between different ethnic groups and provinces in an effort to reduce a gap that has been hindering the position that different minorities, including the Kanaks hold in different sectors of society.

Lastly, the protection of the environment in New Caledonia is an issue that has been often overlooked, causing the significant destruction of New Caledonia's biodiversity that can be seen today. One way to combat the factors that contribute to the aforementioned effect is to create 'protected' areas which contain rich levels of flora and fauna. Those 'protected' areas will hopefully shield the environment from the expansion of the Nickel mining industry as well as the rapid urbanization that is witnessed in New Caledonia in recent years.

Bibliography

BBC Authors. "New Caledonia Profile." BBC News, BBC, 16 June 2016, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16740838.

"France's Development Plans for New Caledonia." *Cultural Survival*, www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/frances-development-plans-new-caledonia.

Review, Overseas. "Overseas Territories Review." *New Caledonia Economic Issues Examined*, 1 Jan. 1970,

<http://overseasreview.blogspot.gr/2011/03/new-caledonia-economic-issues-examined.html>

Fontenay, Patrick de. "New Caledonia: Problems and Promises—a Survey." *New Caledonia: Problems and Promises—a Survey*, vol. 16, 2 Nov. 2001, pp. 15–16., doi:https://openresearch-repository.anu.edu.au/bitstream/1885/93181/2/162_02.pdf.

Foster, Sophie, and D.L. Shineberg. "New Caledonia." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 23 June 2017, www.britannica.com/place/New-Caledonia-French-unique-collectivity-Pacific-Ocean#toc53935.

"New Caledonia." *World Travel Guide*, World Travel Guide, www.worldtravelguide.net/guides/oceania/new-caledonia/history-language-culture/.

Paterson, Lorraine. "Convict Voyages." *Convict Voyages*, Convict Voyages, convictvoyages.org/expert-essays/new-caledonia.

Morini, Daryl. "The Great Revolt: Franco-Kanak Conflict In Historical Retrospect ." *CROSSROADS*, vol. 3, no. 1, 2008, pp. 75–79., doi:[http://www.uq.edu.au/crossroads/Archives/Vol%203/Issue%201%202008/Vol3Iss108%20-%2012.Morini%20\(p.75-79\).pdf](http://www.uq.edu.au/crossroads/Archives/Vol%203/Issue%201%202008/Vol3Iss108%20-%2012.Morini%20(p.75-79).pdf).

Chappell, David. *The Kanak Awakening: The Rise of Nationalism in New Caledonia*. University of Hawai'i Press, 2014. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wqwb1.

McMah, Lauren. "Could Clive's Big Fail Trigger a Civil War?" *NewsComAu*, 20 Jan. 2016, www.news.com.au/finance/business/mining/fears-for-civil-unrest-in-new-caledonia-over-possible-closure-of-queensland-nickel-refinery/news-story/633e200716384a60ec2448d4b4f8c3df

"New Caledonia Economy 2017." *New Caledonia Economy 2017*, *CIA World Factbook*, CIA, 12 Jan. 2017, theodora.com/wfbcurrent/new_caledonia/new_caledonia_economy.html

"New Caledonia Country Brief." *Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, 10 Aug. 2017, dfat.gov.au/geo/new-caledonia/pages/new-caledonia-country-brief.aspx.

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. "New Caledonia." *New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/pacific/new-caledonia.

Willemez. "Flashpoint: South Pacific - Vanuatu and New Caledonia." *Center for International Maritime Security*, 20 Jan. 2014, cimsec.org/south-pacific/935.

"Tensions Rise in New Caledonia as It Mulls a Break with France." *Nikkei Asian Review*, 16 Mar. 2017, asia.nikkei.com/magazine/20170316/Politics-Economy/Tensions-rise-in-New-Caledonia-as-it-mulls-a-break-with-France.

Hill, Bruce. "Matthew and Hunter Dispute Unlikely to Harm Vanuatu-New Caledonian Relations." *ABC News*, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, 7 Aug. 2017, www.abc.net.au/news/programs/pacific-beat/2017-08-07/matthew-and-hunter-dispute-unlikely-to-harm/8782182.

Chappel, David A. *The Noumea Accord: Decolonization without Independence in New Caledonia?* www.jstor.org/stable/2672227?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents.

"Land and Independence in New Caledonia." *Cultural Survival*, www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/land-and-independence-new-caledonia.

"Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Considers the Report of France." *OHCHR | Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Considers the Report of France*, United Nations, 29 Apr. 2015, www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15904&LangID=E.

Espirat, jean-jacques. "The Great Kanak Rebellion." *Croixdusud*, www.croixdusud.info/hist_eng/hist_1878_eng.php.

Espirat, Jean-Jacques. "New Caledonia as a Penal Colony." *Croixdusud*, www.croixdusud.info/hist_eng/hist_bagne_eng.php.

"The Contemporary Pacific: Melanesia in Review: New Caledonia." *The Contemporary Pacific: Melanesia in Review: New Caledonia* | *Pacific Islands Report*, www.pireport.org/articles/2007/09/28/contemporary-pacificmelanesia-review-new-caledonia.

"Practical Information : History and Economy." *Discover New Caledonia*, www.newcaledonia.travel/en/history-economy.

"New Caledonia." *The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th Ed*, Encyclopedia.com, www.encyclopedia.com/places/australia-and-oceania/pacific-islands-political-geography/new-caledonia.

Appendix or Appendices

I. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/119

This link is provided because it is a UN voted UN resolution on the question of New Caledonia and can be used to formulate arguments and ideas.

II. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/99

The link provided is another voted UN resolution on the question of New Caledonia which can be used to get a better understanding of the topic at hand.

III. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/69/102

The link provided is a UN resolution that is once again regarding the question of New Caledonia and can also be used to formulate key arguments and ideas as well as getting a better overall understanding of the issues that surround the question of New Caledonia.

IV. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/country_profiles/default.stm

The link provided can be used to get more information on one's delegation as well as assist in becoming aware of the policies of one's delegation.

Forum: General Assembly 4th Committee

Issue: Question of the Comorian Islands of Mayotte

Student Officer: Poorvika Mehra

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

Until 1939, Africa was primarily dominated by Europe and was home to many resource-rich European colonies. But this changed drastically after the second World War, which completely destroyed the myth of the supremacy of the colonial system. The participation of the United States in the war, combined with the paradigm shift that the inception of the United Nations marked in the world order – from anarchical to cooperative – meant that a greater emphasis was placed on the right to self-determination. Thus, in the year 1945, a strong wave of decolonisation swept over Africa, leading to the slow but sure increase in the number of independent nations throughout Africa in the coming decades.

The Comoros archipelago, located in the Mozambique channel near Madagascar on the east coast of Africa, consisted on four major islands: Grande Comore, Moheli, Anjoua and Mayotte. In 1974, a plebiscite was organised in the region to determine whether or not the region should be freed from the political control of France. The result of the same was to be considered, not just on an island to island level, but on a global basis.

In accordance with the referendum's result, Anjoua, Moheli and Grande Comore all received independence from French influence and together formed the Union of Comoros. The island of Mayotte, on the other hand, voted to remain a political part of France. Later, as a result of a second referendum in 2009, Mayotte became an overseas department of France and, in 2014, it became the outermost region of Europe.

This status of Mayotte has been a strong point of contention between Comoros and France, as Comoros states that such control over a region that has been claimed by the Union of Comoros with support of the African Union should be considered unlawful and 'occupation by a foreign power.' Many Comorian politicians and members of the Civil society organisation went so far as to call such a status of occupation a 'declaration of war.' Tensions and protests continue to grow in both frequency and magnitude. The international community has made an effort to step in and resolve this situation, but no concrete solutions have been found yet.

Definition of Key Terms

Colony

In simple terms, a colony can be defined as a territory with defined boundaries whose social, economic and political structures are primarily controlled by a foreign, more powerful, distant entity. In the 21st century, the United Nations refers to such an area as a ‘non- self governing territory’, and define it as “a territory whose people have not yet attained a full-measure of self-government.”⁵

Overseas Department

According to the National Institute of Statistic and Economic Studies in France, “overseas departments (DOM) are territorial authorities integrated into the French Republic in the same capacity as the departments and regions in Metropolitan France. Each of these departments makes up a single-department region, called an "overseas region" since the constitutional revision of 2003. The five DOMs are: Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Reunion Island and Mayotte (since April 2011).”⁶

Overseas Collectivity

An overseas collectivity (COM) of France refers to the category of French control created via a constitutional reform March 28, 2003 by the French government. COMs have their own laws and are governed by their local bodies, the Parliament of France and the government of France.⁷ The Minister of Overseas France, a cabinet minister in the French government has the mandate of solving any problems relating to any overseas collectivity.

Referendum

According to the definition provided by the International Law department at Oxford University, “a referendum is defined as a direct vote by the electorate of a country to advise or decide on a specific issue, in contrast to votes for individual candidates to national or local elections. The terms referendum and plebiscite are used interchangeably as they both involve a vote by the whole electorate on a specific issue. However, the term referendum is now preferred as generally used by democracies under democratic conditions. Plebiscites, on the other hand, are legitimately used at times to decide on territorial or sovereignty issues.”⁸

⁵ <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/pwks7.pdf>

⁶ https://www.revolvy.com/main/index.php?s=Overseas%20departments%20and%20territories%20of%20France&item_type=topic

⁷ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2009/gaspd422.doc.htm>
<http://springtimeofnations.blogspot.in/2012/06/what-is-colony-united-nations.html>

⁸ <http://opil.ouplaw.com/view/10.1093/law:epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e1088>

Clandestine or Irregular Migration

The International Organisation for Migration defines clandestine migration as “movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving countries. From the perspective of destination countries, irregular migration is entry, stay or work in a country without the necessary authorization or documents required under immigration regulations. From the perspective of the sending country, the irregularity is for example seen in cases in which a person crosses an international boundary without a valid passport or travel document or does not fulfil the administrative requirements for leaving the country.”⁹

Territorial Integrity

Territorial integrity is a fundamental principle in international law, fortifying the ideal that states should avoid catalysing or supporting pro-secessionist and border changing movements in other nation-states.¹⁰ This principle is reinforced and protected in Article 2.4 of the United Nations Charter.

Background Information

The background of this conflict is multi-layered and of utmost importance. It is through understanding the history and updates of this slow burning conflict that one can truly charter a meaningful course towards the resolution of the same.

Colonization of the Comorian archipelago, 1841

In the late 15th century, Mayotte (then Mawuti) was under the control of a sultanate, when it was studied, but not colonized by the Portuguese explorers and traders. This marked the first significant European investigation of that region.

The governance of Mayotte traded handed constantly. It was first seized by the sovereign of Madagascar in 1831, followed by the Mohéli sultanate in 1833, then the Anjouan sultanate in 1835. This instability was a source of great hardship and dissatisfaction for the people, to the extent that the French purchase of the Comoros in 1841 was a source of great relief.

Formation and fragmentation of the Union of Comoros

Negotiations for the Union of Comoros

⁹ <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>
<http://opil.ouplaw.com/view/10.1093/law:epil/9780199231690/law-9780199231690-e1088>

¹⁰ <https://www.lawteacher.net/free-law-essays/international-law/self-determination-and-the-territorial-integrity-international-law-essay.php>

By 1961, the Comoros were considered autonomous French territory. The masses heavily approved of this arrangement, and thus, at that point, Comoros was not swept up in the tidal wave of African decolonization in the 1960s. But in 1970, as the majority of French colonies in Africa proudly gained independence, public support for French control wavered, leading to the signing of a treaty on 15th January 1973, allowing the Comorian islands to gain independence in five years post talks with the residents of the islands. This treaty was ratified by the French authorities in October, and directed a set up for a single referendum for the entire colony as opposed to separate referenda for each island.

Dispute over the Comorian referendum of 1975

The existence of a single referendum was condemned by the leader of the Mayotte's Mahoré People's Movement, Mr. Marcel Henry. Mayotte's populace was strongly for the retention of French rule in Mayotte, and thus invoked their right to self-determination according to article 53 of the French Constitution, arguing that such a secession cannot, and should not occur without the consent of the electorate, leading to a separate referendum in Mayotte regarding secession. The result of this referendum was that, by an overwhelming majority, the islands of Anjouan, Grande Comore and Mohéli (henceforth to be referred to as the Union of Comoros) were to gain independence from France, while Mayotte was to remain a French dependency.

Aftermath of the Referendum of 1975

A new constitution was to be drawn up after the results of the referenda were released. President Ahmed Abdallah released a statement declaring that the new constitution by the Chamber of the Deputies would maintain a federal structure in the Comoros, thus including Mayotte despite requests from the French government to allow the island to secede from the rest of the nation, on account of the fact that such a secession would open the doors for 'too much decentralisation'.

Such inconsideration of what France thought to be a legitimate referendum reflecting a direct democracy led to the judiciary in France determining on July 3rd 1975 that, for the new constitution to hold any weight, it must be individually approved by each island. If turned down in the first presentation, the Chamber must present a second draft in a time period of three months. If this second draft too is met with dissatisfaction, the island would have no obligation to abide by it.

This decree was disregarded by the Comorian authorities, with President Abdullah asserting that "Comoros people disapprove of interference by the French Parliament in the internal affairs of the future Comoros state, condemn all manoeuvres to balkanise the Comoros, and consequently reject the provisions of the act of 30 June 1975."

As a result of this decision, France held a second referendum in Mayotte in 1976, which reaffirmed Mahoran will to remain under French control.

Possible motives behind France's claims on Mayotte

Bruno de Paiva, a researcher with Australian think-tank Future Directions International (FDI) stated in a research report collaborated with the political website Equal Times that “France maintains a 270-strong rapid reaction force, in Mayotte. The Foreign Legion Detachment in Mayotte (DLEM) which conducts maritime surveillance in the Mozambican channel is a part of the French Foreign Legion. The French bases in La Re Union, Mayotte, Djibouti and UAE have led to a *quadrilatere Français* in the Indian ocean region. “This “French Quadrilateral” covers the areas of the region that are most significant to France interests which contain France Southern and Antarctic territories and its former island colonies. It also covers the sea lines of communication from the Middle East to Europe which includes Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.” This strategic position of Mayotte, along with its resource-rich nature may provide a compelling explanation for France’s incessant need to control this region.

Insurgency in 1997

Comoros struggled after gaining independence from France. The island became synonymous with political instability, having had multiple successful coup d’états in the span on a mere 15 years. The land was plagued with destitution due to poor economic regulations and rampant corruption. In stark contrast to this picture of destitution lay the island of Mayotte, with better living standards and significantly better policies due to French regulation and influence. Such disparity in living conditions between the Comorian Islands and a region considered to be a sister island of the Union led to festering discontent amongst the people of Comoros. This ultimately led to Anjoua and Mohéli requesting reintegration into French rule in 1997, but this request was denied by the French government. This rejected sparked insurgency in both these islands, but this was quickly crushed by the government. This was the first glimpse of discontent in the Union, and marked the beginning of an era of clandestine immigration to Mayotte.

The status of Mayotte

Referendum on the Paris Agreement, 2000

A third referendum in Mayotte saw a change in its status into an overseas collective of France, an assertion severely rejected by both Comoros and the African Union (AU), and the cause of multiple riots in Comoros.

The Mahoran Status Referendum, 2009

This referendum marked complete integration of Mayotte into France as an Overseas Department of France. This decision is questioned by the United Nations, AU, Arab League and heavily protested by Comoros.

Clandestine Migration Crisis

The overarching problem and arguably the main focus of the conflict, the clandestine migration crisis has caused a strong undercurrent of racism to appear amongst the people of Mayotte due to the

strain the crisis has caused on their resources. As hoards of people migrate every month from Comoros, the small island gets more and more populated, land resources stretched thin and fissures appearing in the law and order systems. A sharp increase in youth gang activities has been noted against suspected migrants or people from Comoros, causing extreme tension to permeate in the atmosphere of the region.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

French Republic

The French Republic is central to this conflict. By asserting much-contested control over the island of Mayotte, France sparked mass discontent and riots in the Comorian Islands, leading to clandestine migration and racism in Mayotte. France has actively prevented any strong action on this conflict in the United Nations Security Council by using the veto power bestowed upon it. The country has also been heavily criticised by the African Union, United Nations and Arab League for what citizens around the globe perceive as an attempt to bring back the act of colonization.

Union of Comoros

Since gaining independence, Comoros has been fraught with coups and general political instability, leading to destitution and unemployment in the region. The population in the Union is pushed to seek a better lifestyle elsewhere, leading to migration to Mayotte. The secession of Mayotte from the Union has been constantly denied by Comoros, with the representatives of the islands repeatedly voicing their concerns against French control and ‘colonisation’ of the region, and repeatedly marking Mayotte as a part of the Comoros. All referenda held in the region of Mayotte by France are considered illegitimate by Comoros, and are seen as a threat to their territorial sovereignty.

Department of Mayotte

Mayotte was formerly a dependency of France in 1975, and then became the 101st overseas department of France in 2009. Such integration into the French Republic was heavily condemned by the United Nations itself, which stated that “inclusion of the Comorian island of Mayotte in the Constitution of the French republic is contrary to international law.” Since the increase in the number of irregular migrants in 2017, incidents of violence against Comorian people in Mayotte have drastically amplified, which is a major cause for concern for the international community.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1841	France establishes Colonial rule over Comoros with the signing of the Treaty of April
1973	Agreements were reached with the French authority to ensure Comorian independence by 1978 at the most. Mayotte refrained from voting on the matter
1975	Referendums are organised by France in Mayotte. These referendums are termed as ‘serious violation of the territorial integrity of the Comoros’ by the African Union.
6th July 1975	In spite of Mayotte dissent, Comorian parliament passes a unilateral resolution declaring independence from French authorities for all four major islands. Ahmed Adbullah proclaimed the independence of the Comorian state and becomes its first President.
1997	Anjoua and Moheli seek reinstatement of French autonomy but their request is denied by France. Insurgency in the region is contained by Comorian’s federal forces. The discontent in these islands marks the beginning of the exponential growth in the number of illegal immigrants in Mayotte.
2000	Another referendum is held by France in Mayotte and it results in the change of Mayotte’s status to ‘ <i>Collectivite Departementale Francais</i> ’. This, once again is not accepted by Comoros, the Arab League and the African Union.
29th March 2009	The Mahoran status referendum resulted in Mayotte becoming the 101st French overseas department. The very organisation of this referendum was contested by Comoro, the AU, the Arab League and the United Nations itself, which stated that “inclusion of the Comorian island of Mayotte in the Constitution of the French republic is contrary to international law.”

2017

Due to the sharp increase in clandestine immigration (which further incites racial tensions) and the increasing discontent amongst the Comorian people due to the requirement of a passport to enter Mayotte, violence in the area increases- particularly the activities of youth gangs.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People, December 14, 1960 (**Resolution 1514**)
- Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, December 3, 1982 (**A/RES/37/65**)
- Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, October 6, 1991 (**A/RES/46/9**)
- Question of the Comorian Islands of Mayotte, October 27, 1992 (**A/RES/47/9**)
- Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, November 28, 1994 (**A/RES/49/18**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

For years now, the United Nations has been discussing the status of Mayotte in the General Assembly and despite assertions that, according to the principle enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter, Mayotte is rightfully a part of Comoros, no active steps have been taken to enforce such a decision. This is primarily because of the deadlock in the Security Council on this agenda. France, being one of the permanent five members of the Council, actively exercises its veto power in this effect and the conflict has thus never been fruitfully discussed in this forum. Organisations like the African Union, the Arab League and the Comorian Civil Society Organization eagerly back Comoros' claim to the island and have supported many demonstrations by the citizens of the Union as well. Despite this domestic and international pressure, France has not made any indication towards giving up control of this recolonized island.

Possible Solutions

Facilitation of bilateral talks between France and Comoros

In an interview with a local business magazine Mr Azali Assoumani, the President of Comoros said that the Union would be open to direct dialogue with French authorities with the arbitration of the Indian Ocean Commission and the States of the region. Such dialogue, if fruitful, could possibly be a step in the right direction to solving the pressing migration crisis as well.

Facilitation of infrastructural and economic growth of the Union of Comoros

One of the root problems of the migration crisis is the undesirable living conditions in this nation. In depth research into the causes of the festering discontent in the region and implementation of solutions for the same is a possible long-term solution for this problem.

Determination of a mutually agreeable status of Mayotte, and consequently the determination of the necessity of visas for Comorians to enter the region.

It is of utmost importance that the status of Mayotte should be defined in tandem with international law, keeping with the will of the people and more or less satisfactory to the Union of Comoros. Such determination of status may also occur alongside alteration of the visa requisites for Comorians travelling to Mayotte, which may also ease the flow of the clandestine migrants from that region.

Bibliography

Administrator. "Afrique En Ligne." Comorans Demonstrate against French Referendum for Mayotte. N.p., 28 Mar. 2009. Web. (web.archive.org/web/20090405203621/http://www.afriquejet.com/news/africa-news/comorans-demonstrate-against-french-referendum-for-mayotte-2009032824544.html.)

"A/RES/37/65. Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte." United Nations. United Nations, 3 Dec. 1982. Web. (<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/37/a37r065.htm>.)

"A/RES/47/9. Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte." United Nations. United Nations, 27 Oct. 1992. Web. (<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/47/a47r009.htm>.)

"Comoros Country Profile." BBC News. BBC, 09 Aug. 2017. Web. (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13229685>.)

Donaldson, Maggy. "Mayotte: Home to the "biggest Marine Cemetery in the World"." Equal Times. N.p., n.d. Web. (<http://www.equaltimes.org/mayotte-home-to-the-biggest-marine?lang=en-.WfRKixOCz-Y>.)

Dwyer, Matthew B. "Comoros: Big Troubles on Some Small Islands." Comoros: Big Troubles on Some Small Islands | Center for Strategic and International Studies. CSIS, 14 Apr. 2008. Web. (<http://www.csis.org/analysis/comoros-big-troubles-some-small-islands>.)

Jazeera, Al. "Island of Death." Desperate Journeys. Al Jazeera, 03 Feb. 2016. Web. (<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/aljazeeraworld/2016/02/island-death-160203115053532.html>.)

"Mayotte Backs French Connection." BBC News. BBC, 29 Mar. 2009. Web. (news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7970450.stm.)

"Mayotte Votes for Full French Integration." France 24. France 24, 30 Mar. 2009. Web. (<http://www.france24.com/en/20090329-mayotte-votes-full-french-integration->.)

Shariff, Ahmed. "Re-Colonization: A Response to Failure of Democratization; the Case of Comoro Islands." Re-Colonization: A Response to Failure of Democratization; the Case of Comoro Islands. University of Pennsylvania, 17 Oct. 1997. Web. (<http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Workshop/shariff.html>.)

User, Super. "Comoros Uneasy with France over Mayotte." The Indian Ocean Observatory. IOO, 30 Aug. 2014. Web. (<http://www.theioo.com/index.php/en/diplomacy/item/350-comoros-uneasy-with-france-over-mayotte/350-comoros-uneasy-with-france-over-mayotte>.)

Appendix

- i. Declaration of the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and People, December 14, 1960 (Resolution 1514):
<http://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml>
- ii. Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, December 3, 1982 (A/RES/37/65): <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/37/a37r065.htm>
- iii. Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, October 6, 1991 (A/RES/46/9): <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r009.htm>
- iv. Question of the Comorian Islands of Mayotte, October 27, 1992 (A/RES/47/9):
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/47/a47r009.htm>
- v. Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte, November 28, 1994 (A/RES/49/18):
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/49/a49r018.htm>