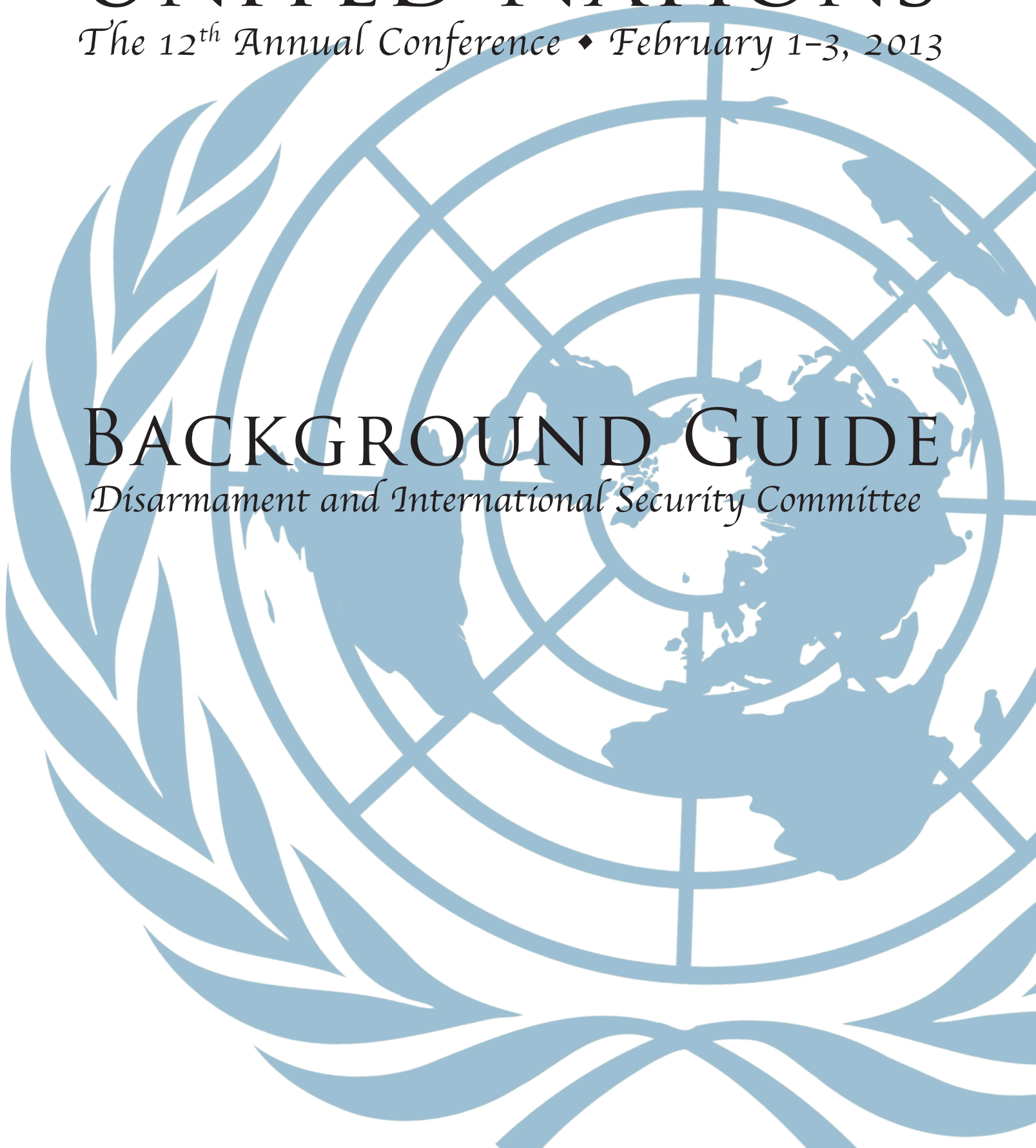


VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 12th Annual Conference • February 1-3, 2013

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Disarmament and International Security Committee





VANCOUVER MODEL UNITED NATIONS

The 12th Annual Conference ♦ February 1-3, 2013

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Dear worthy delegates,

My name is Saman and I am very excited and honoured to be your Director for the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) at VMUN 2013! I am currently a senior attending University Hill Secondary and I must say that from the time I first explored new horizons through the realm of Model United Nations, I have been an intensely passionate MUNer.

This committee will be discussing two very current and controversial topics. Both of these topics require an analytical mind, lots of research, and a well-established understanding of the issue at hand.

The first topic is focused on bioterrorism. The threat of bioterrorism is very apparent and has become a global concern for many decades now. The United Nations tried to strictly prohibit the usage or production of this type of warfare during the 1969 Biological Weapons Convention, but there are still some terrorist organizations that seek these weapons, which raises concerns for both developed and developing nations.

The second topic, foreign military bases, is also quite pertinent. Ever since the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers, the United States of America and other key actors have deployed military troops in other countries to fight terrorism. A close and meticulous observation of the situation shows that these overseas bases come with both advantages and disadvantages; this committee will therefore be tasked with deciding whether foreign bases are necessary at all. Of course, different countries will have different views when it comes to foreign military bases, and it is all up to you, the delegates, to find a reasonable solution through diplomacy.

As the director of DISEC, and on behalf of my experienced dais, I wish you the best in your research and preparation for VMUN 2013 and I hope you will find this extensive background a great resource for your research! If you do have any questions regarding either of the topics or the Rules of Procedure, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you all on February 1, 2013!

Warm Regards,

Saman Arfaie
Disarmament and International Security Committee

Position Paper Policy

What is a Position Paper?

A *position paper* is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format the position paper must follow, it should include a description of the positions your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support.

At Vancouver Model United Nations, delegates should write a position paper for each of the committee's topics. Each position paper should not exceed one page, and should all be combined into a single document per delegate.

For the Disarmament and International Security Committee, position papers are *optional* but recommended.

Formatting

Position papers should:

- Include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee
- Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with a 12-point font size and 1-inch document margins
- Not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Include citations and a bibliography, in any format, giving due credit to the sources used in research (not included in the 1-page limit)

Due Dates and Submission Procedure

All position papers must be submitted by midnight on Friday, January 18, 2013, two weeks prior to the conference.

Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your last name, your first name and send it as an attachment in an email, to your committee's email address, with the subject heading as your last name, your first name — Position Paper. Please do not add any other attachments to the email or write anything else in the body.

Both your position papers should be combined into a single PDF or Word document file; position papers submitted in another format will not be accepted.

Each position paper will be manually reviewed and considered for the Best Position Paper award.

The email address for this committee is disec@vmun.com.

Topic A: Bioterrorism

Overview

“The biological threat is serious, it is real, and it must be dealt with. There is nowhere where we are doing more right now, and nowhere in homeland security where we have further to go.”

—John A. Gordon

For many decades, the threat of bioterrorism has been a great global concern for both developed and developing countries. Strictly speaking, bioterrorism is defined as a form of terrorism involving the intentional usage of harmful biological agents, such as viruses, bacteria or other types of germs, to provoke fear or cause illness and death in living organisms. These agents can be divided into two categories, those that are contagious and can be spread from person to person (e.g. smallpox) and those that are not spread (e.g. anthrax).



Most biological agents are naturally occurring substances but have typically been modified to increase their resistance to many types of medicines. Consequently, in the first few days or weeks when they develop within the human body, the symptoms of biological agents can be easily mistaken for a simple cold or influenza. In addition, biological agents can be particularly dangerous due to the fact that they have disproportionately large impact: a small amount of these agents adversely affect agriculture and human health. Moreover, they can be easily concealed and transported. These factors have made harmful biological substances attractive to terrorist groups all around the world.

Timeline

600 BCE	Assyrians poison the wells of their enemies with rye ergot.
600 BCE	The Greeks use hellebore, an herb purgative, during the Siege of Krissa to poison the enemy's water supplies.
1300s	The Tartars catapult plague-infected corpses over the walls of Caffa, possibly leading to the Second Black Death epidemic in Europe.
1500s	Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro infects the South Americans by presenting them with clothing infected with smallpox.
1864	Louis Pasteur writes about the germ theory and discovers vaccines for anthrax and rabies.
1916	Germany is accused of intentionally exporting infected horses and cattle, spreading harmful biological agents around the world.
1925	The Geneva Protocol bans the usage of biological weapons.

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1932	During the invasion of Manchuria, Japanese troops employ biological warfare against innocent Chinese civilians.
1972	The Biological Weapons Convention prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. The Convention has been signed by 165 parties since then.
1984	Members of the Rajneeshee movement spray salmonella on salad bars in Oregon, causing more than 700 people to become sick.
1991	The UN conducts its first investigation on biological weapons in Iraq.
2001	Letters contaminated with anthrax are sent through the United States postal system to various news agencies and political figures. As a result, 17 people test positive for anthrax and an additional five die of anthrax inhalation.
2002	The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) approves enhanced counter-terrorism measures.
2003	Reports suggest that Al-Qaeda is seeking to develop biological warfare capabilities.
2006	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Global Counterterrorism Strategy.

Historical Analysis

Origin of Biological Warfare

Biological weapons and pathogens, or agents of disease,¹ have been used for malicious purposes throughout history. Polluting water resources and wells of the opposing enemy has been a common strategy since ancient times, when Assyrian warriors in Mesopotamia discovered the devastating effects of rye ergot (a disease caused by the fungus *Claviceps purpurea*)² and used it to poison the wells of neighbouring enemies.

Later, the Greek used hellebore (a plant with purgative and cardiac glycoside effects) during the siege of Krissa to poison the water supply of the enemy.³ In the 14th century, the Tartars used catapults to hurl the corpses of plague victims into the city of Caffa. While this tactic resulted in a triumphant victory for the Tartars,⁴ some historians suggest that many of the refugees who fled from the city carried the plague to Mediterranean seaports and thereby contributed to the Black Death, a pandemic from 1348 to 1350 that killed an estimated 100 million people (close to 25% of the world population at the time).⁵ Whether this is true or not, Caffa nevertheless serves as an example of the devastating consequences of biological warfare. As yet another example, in the 15th century, explorer Francisco Pizarro infected South American natives by offering them clothing contaminated with smallpox.⁶

¹<http://www.medterms.com/script/main/art.asp?articlekey=6383>

²<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/wong/BOT135/LECT12.HTM>

³<http://www.bio-terry.com/HistoryBioTerr.html>

⁴<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1200679/>

⁵<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1200679/>

⁶http://www.ucalgary.ca/applied_history/tutor/eurvoya/inca.html

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Finally, in 19th century, Louis Pasteur proved the germ theory and discovered microorganisms,⁷ leading to a much greater awareness of the idea that there were specific agents contributing to diseases. During this time, scientists developed various methods to combat and prevent the spread of these diseases.

World War I and II

During World War I, the Germans inoculated horses and cattle with disease-producing bacteria such as anthrax and glanders and exported them to the United States and other countries. These bacteria proved to be infectious.⁸

After World War I, the Geneva Convention of 1925 was proposed by the League of Nations. The Convention prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare, but did not ban the future development and stockpiling of biological weapons,⁹ a loophole that would be exploited by several nations.

In the Second World War, biological weapons, including anthrax and cholera, were primarily used by Japanese troops against Chinese prisoners held in Manchuria; thousands of these prisoners died as a result.

The Biological Weapons Convention

In July 1969, Britain proposed to the United Nations the prohibition of the production, development and stockpiling of biological weapons;¹⁰ two months later, the World Health Organization separately presented a report detailing the consequences of using biological warfare. These two events resulted in the creation of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which forbids the stockpiling and use of biological agents for offensive military purposes as well as any research concerning biological agents. As of October 2011, 165 nations have ratified the convention, while an additional 12 have signed but not yet ratified it. To this day, however, there are countries that have engaged in research on biological weapons in spite of their signatures to the convention, including Cuba, North Korea, Syria, and Iraq.



Bioterrorism in the Late 20th Century

The first incident of bioterrorism in the US occurred in 1984. The agent used in the attacks was salmonella, a rod-shaped, pathogenic bacteria. Perpetrators of the attack, later found to be members of the Rajneesh movement, contaminated salad bars at several restaurants in Oregon, resulting in 751 cases of infection.¹¹

⁷http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/pasteur_louis.shtml

⁸<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1200679/#B10>

⁹<http://www.escet.urjc.es/biodiversos/espa/docencia/micro/biological%20weapons.pdf>

¹⁰<http://www.aarc.org/resources/biological/history.asp>

¹¹https://www.dcmsonline.org/jax-medicine/2005journals/bioterrorism/bioterrorism_history.pdf

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A second case of bioterrorism surfaced in October and November of 2001, when several letters containing anthrax spores were sent to five different parts of the United States. Twenty-three people were infected, eleven suffered serious injuries, and five died as a result.¹²

Current Situation

It is difficult to trace the origins of biological agents; therefore, where exactly these weapons are being used and developed remains uncertain. However, while the state-sponsored use of biological weapons has been banned, terrorist organizations and groups continue to show interest in this type of warfare, and there certainly is speculation that certain states may be violating the BWC by secretly developing biological weapons or by funding terrorist groups interested in this type of warfare. In the past, countries such as Pakistan, Syria, China, Libya, Russia, Iraq, and North Korea have been suspected of engaging in such activities.¹³

Another major concern is the ease and relative safety with which biological weapons can be accessed, transported, and deployed.

Case Study: Al-Qaeda

One terrorist group that has been closely associated with bioterrorism is al-Qaeda. Dating from the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the United States and other Western countries have been deeply concerned about potential further terrorist attacks by such Islamic fundamentalist groups. Indeed, Osama Bin Laden, the former leader of al-Qaeda, was one of the first proponents of bioterrorism.¹⁴

Reports from 2003 suggest that al-Qaeda was pursuing biological warfare and had made significant progress in the development of such weapons. Numerous documents on pathogens and biological weapons have been found in al-Qaeda training camps.¹⁵ Equally concerning, a US intelligence official stated that an intercepted communication between the al-Qaeda leadership in Maghreb and in Pakistan suggested a possible accidental leakage of a biological substance, leading to the death of at least 40 al-Qaeda operatives.¹⁶

If al-Qaeda did succeed in developing a biological weapon, the consequences would certainly be catastrophic; as American President Barack Obama noted:

If an organization like al Qaeda got a weapon of mass destruction on its hands — a nuclear or a chemical or a biological weapon — and they used it in a city, whether it's in Shanghai or New York, just a few individuals could potentially kill tens of thousands of people, maybe hundreds of thousands.¹⁷

By examining al-Qaeda's involvement with biological weapons, two important conclusions can be drawn. Firstly, it is entirely possible for terrorist groups, who may not have the same access to

¹²<http://bioterrorurope.wikispaces.com/file/view/Bioterrorism+and+Homeland+Security.pdf>

¹³<http://www.carnegiendowment.org/files/DeadlyII.Ch01.FINAL.pdf>

¹⁴<http://2001-2009.state.gov/t/us/rm/jan/july/6231.htm>

¹⁵http://www.usatoday.com/news/washington/2003-05-23-us-wmd_x.htm

¹⁶<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/jan/19/al-qaeda-bungles-arms-experiment/>

¹⁷<http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/al-qaeda-wmd-threat.pdf>

laboratories or technology as state governments, to develop lethal biological agents; secondly, bio-terrorism indeed poses a veritable threat to the world — both when deployed properly, and when accidentally leaked.

United Nations Involvement

As previously discussed, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 was the first international treaty on bio-terrorism. Signed into law in 1928, this treaty was a good first step towards banning biological and chemical warfare, but was incomplete as it did not take action to prevent the development and stockpiling of biological and chemical weapons.

The United Nations first discussed the issue of biological weapons in 1969. After much debate and negotiation, the UN Disarmament Forum proposed the Biological Weapons Convention of 1972. Over a decade later, in 1986, a second Review Conference was held to discuss the pursuit of peaceful biological research. At the conclusion of the conference, states were invited to implement confidence-building measures (CBMs) to dispel concerns about their scientific research being linked to biological warfare (thereby alleviating tensions and increasing confidence in the international community).¹⁸ These CBMs were later expanded in the third Review Conference in 1991:¹⁹ states agreed to publish annual reports on specific activities related to the BWC, including data on research centers and laboratories, vaccine production, and infectious diseases. The third Review Conference also established a group of experts, collectively known as VEREX, to scrutinize “potential verification measures”; later on, a second body, the Ad Hoc Group was tasked with negotiating a legally binding protocol to verify compliance with the BWC.²⁰ The Ad Hoc Group held meetings from 1995 to 2001 and ultimately developed requirements for regular inspections of each nation’s facilities.

The sixth BCW Review Conference was held in 2006 and led to the creation of several new initiatives, including a program to ensure biotechnological advancements were kept out of the hands of terrorists. In September of that year, the UN General Assembly also adopted the Global Counterterrorism Strategy; the portions that deal with biological weapons have been excerpted below:

5. To strengthen coordination and cooperation among States in combating crimes that might be connected with terrorism, including...[the] smuggling of nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological and other potentially deadly materials.
11. To invite the United Nations system to develop, together with Member States, a single comprehensive database on biological incidents, ensuring that it is complementary to the International Criminal Police Organization’s contemplated Biocrimes Database...[and to] bring together, within the framework of the United Nations, the major biotechnology stakeholders...into a common programme aimed at ensuring that biotechnology’s advances are not used for terrorist or other criminal purposes but for the public good...
13. To step-up national efforts and bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international co-operation, as appropriate, to improve border and customs controls, in order to...prevent and de-

¹⁸<http://www6.carleton.ca/cctc/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/CC6.pdf>

¹⁹<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Bio/>

²⁰*Ibid.*

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tect the illicit traffic in...nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials, while recognizing that States may require assistance to that effect.

17. To invite the United Nations to improve co-ordination in planning a response to a terrorist attack using nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons or materials...

Possible Solutions

Before discussing possible measures to prevent bioterrorism and biological warfare, it is important to recognize the magnitude and the complexity of the situation. Many different factors play a role in the development of biological weapons. For one, many replicating agents (bacteria and viruses) can be produced in very large quantities in a short amount of time with modern technology.

To prevent terrorist groups from procuring the materials and equipment needed to produce biological weapons, one approach could be to task technical advisors with lead inspections of alleged chemical and biological facilities in countries under suspicion, a role similar to that executed by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission in Iraq.

While seeking to prevent attacks in the first place, countries may also wish to discuss biodefense, or ways to minimize the impact of a potential attack by protecting water and food supplies.²¹ Currently, computers and other automated systems cannot reliably identify harmful biological agents; however, less sophisticated alternatives include the use of Dry Filter Units, apparatuses that collect air samples for analysis.²²

Water supplies are also at risk of being contaminated with biological agents. Though the spread of infections through water is less likely than through other mediums such as air, methods to test for and deal with biological agents in water should nonetheless be considered.

Most importantly, if a biological agent is released, it can take days for symptoms to develop; during this period, those that are infected will inevitably spread the infection to others. An emergency plan involving international collaboration in identifying the agent, limiting its spread, and producing and distributing vaccines should thus be developed.

	Agents	Disease	Route of infection	Possible release
Bacteria	<i>Ba. anthracis</i>	Anthrax	Aerosol	Spores
	<i>Y. pestis</i>	Plague	Aerosol	Vegetative cells
	<i>Br. melitensis</i>	Brucellosis	Aerosol	Vegetative cells
	<i>Br. abortus</i>			
	<i>Bu. mallei</i>	Glanders	Aerosol	Vegetative cells
	<i>Bu. pseudomallei</i>	Melioidosis	Aerosol	Vegetative cells
Viruses	Variola virus	Smallpox	Aerosol	Virus particles
	Ebola virus	Ebola hemorrhagic fever	Aerosol	Virus particles
	Marburg virus	Marburg hemorrhagic fever	Aerosol	Virus particles
	<i>C. botulinum</i>	Botulism	Ingestion food/water	Toxin
Toxins	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	Staphylococcal enterotoxin type B (SEB)	Food/water	Toxin
	Ricin (plant)	Ricin toxin	Food/water	Toxin
	Trichothecene (fungus)	Trichothecene T2 toxin	Food/water	Toxin

Bloc Positions

Bioterrorism is an issue that transcends borders in more ways than one: the raw materials and the

²¹<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biodefense>

²²<http://www.ndu.edu/centercounter/CCR%202003.pdf>

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modified biological agents are often transported between nations, and the impact of a potential biological attack will certainly be international. Therefore, in considering the issue of bioterrorism, it is important to take into consideration the implications of decisions on national sovereignty.

Middle Eastern Bloc

The threat of bioterrorism largely originates from the Middle East; thus, members of this bloc are likely at a heightened risk of facing a biological attack. However, there is a considerable amount of discord within this group. Some nations may be involved in religious conflicts with their neighbours, and others are suspected of secretly developing biological weapon capabilities. Moreover, some members of this bloc do not have a stable government and economy.

Due to these problems, these countries do not necessarily work together and cooperate as a bloc. However, their policies on bioterrorism do overlap in some regards; for example, many members have declared that in the event of an attack, they will be proactive in combating the issue and protecting the lives of their citizens.

South American Bloc

The geographical location of Latin America makes members of this bloc less likely to be the targets of a biological attack. Nonetheless, though countries in this region do have medical facilities and some technologies in place to protect their citizens in the event of an attack, these protections may be inadequate. South American nations may therefore seek to establish some sort of partnership with countries with more advanced medical technology.²³

Asian Bloc

The Asian continent consists of two of the most densely-populated countries in the world, China and India, magnifying the impact of a biological attack. So far, the ASEAN geopolitical and economic organization has been established and has agreed to enhance counter-terrorism measures in 2002.²⁴

African Bloc

Diseases are common in certain areas of the African continent, especially AIDS and malaria. Food shortages decrease the chance of a biological attack in this region. Furthermore, the governments of African countries have explicitly stated that they are against the usage of bioterrorism as warfare. While active measures have been taken over the past years to decrease diseases and illnesses and to improve the health of individual citizens, delegates should understand that this is a lengthy and gradual process, and international assistance may be required for these nations to establish better health systems and defense measures against bioterrorism.

European Bloc

The European Union has been proactive on the subject of bioterrorism, having established the Health Security Committee for member states to communicate with each other during a possible

²³<http://www.paho.org/english/ped/bioterrorism.htm>

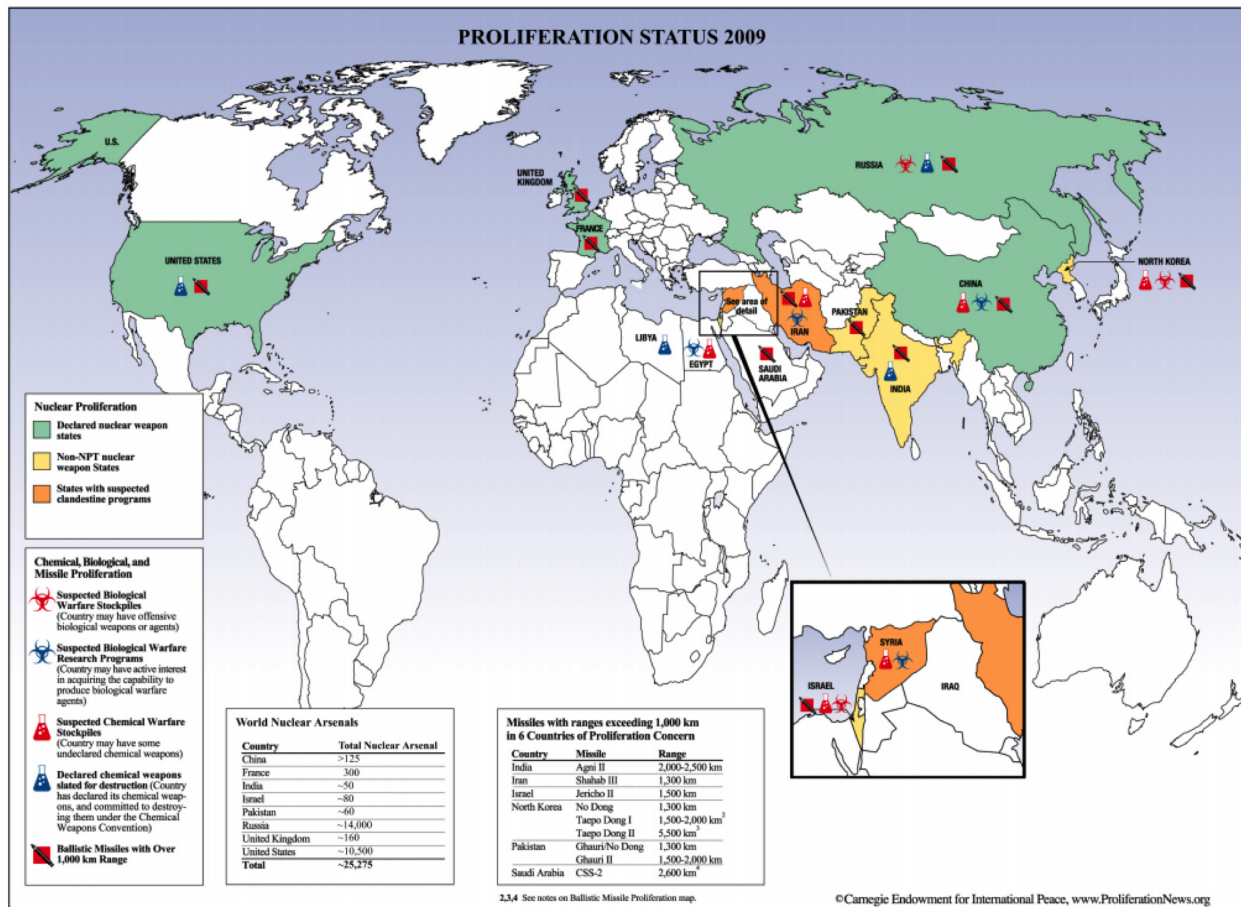
²⁴<http://www.aseansec.org/12648.htm>

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outbreak.²⁵ It has also been active in developing its vaccination production capabilities.

North American Bloc

This bloc is perhaps the best prepared to defend against a bioterrorist attack. The United States, for example, has taken several steps to protect American citizens against possible threats, including implementing a system to identify pathogens within 24 hours and establishing 3,000 air-quality stations worldwide; the Defense Department is also active in research and detection biological pathogens.²⁶ Similarly, Canada has also established a Public Safety and Health agency to deal with bioterrorism and has an emergency response system in place to deal with outbreaks.²⁷



A map showing countries suspected of having biological and chemical weapon and ballistic missile programs

Discussion Questions

1. Should protection against bioterrorism and potential biological attacks supersede considerations of national sovereignty?
2. Has your country been threatened by biological attacks in the past?

²⁵http://www.idsa.in/cbwmagazine/EUApproachtBioTerrorism_dcasale_0409#.UB-QOk1mROU

²⁶<http://bioterritoreurope.wikispaces.com/file/view/Bioterrorism+and+Homeland+Security.pdf>

²⁷http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/about_apropos/index-eng.php

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3. What steps has your country already taken to protect its civilians in the event of a bioterrorist attack? Does your country have sufficient medical resources to deal with an outbreak of a lethal biological agent?
4. How can the Biological Weapons Convention be improved?
5. How can biological agents, once released, be most effectively contained, considering that people may often not realize they are infected at first?

Additional Resources

http://ww.dead-planet.net/chemical-terrorism/med_cbw/Ch20.pdf

Uses of Biological Weapons

<http://www.ndu.edu/centercounter/CCR%202003.pdf>

Toward a National Biodefense Strategy

<http://www.armscontrol.org/pdf/BWCreaderWebVersion.pdf>

The 2006 Biological Weapons Convention Review Conference

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Bio/>

The Biological Weapons Convention

<http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/DeadlyII.Ch01.FINAL.pdf>

Assessments and Weapons

<http://belfercenter.ksg.harvard.edu/files/al-qaeda-wmd-threat.pdf>

Al-Qaeda Weapons of Mass Destruction Threat: Hype or Reality?

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response

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Topic B: Foreign Military Bases

Overview

“We stand for the dismantling of foreign military bases. We stand for a reduction of armed forces and armaments in areas where military confrontation is especially dangerous.”

—Leonid Brezhnev

Ever since humans first dwelled within walled cities, foreign military deployments have been used to conquer other civilizations. From the mighty Persian army of the Achaemenid Empire to the Greco-Roman warriors, military bases have impacted millions and changed history. Though the end of the Cold War, also widely known as proxy war, resulted in a huge decline in the usage of foreign military bases, over the last two centuries, several countries have built a mass network of still-operational foreign military bases.

A military base is defined as “a facility directly owned and operated by or for the military or one of its branches that shelters military equipment and personnel, and facilitates training and operations.” Specifically, a *foreign* military base is “a military base that is geographically located outside of the territory of the country whose armed forces is the principal occupants of the base.” These bases tend to provide accommodation for one or more units and serve as training grounds.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9/11 on the World Trade Centres and the Pentagon, a rapid increase in the number of military deployments has been seen. At this very moment, military bases exist in over 100 countries and territories. The United States of America alone maintains an international network of some 1000 military bases and installations. Other notable countries with considerable active military bases include Germany, France, China and the United Kingdom. These countries justify the use of foreign military bases by stating that their main intention is to maintain peace and security for the citizens of nations ruled by dictatorships. Critics, however, note that military bases would make civilians feel anything but secure, and are violations of national sovereignty. This raises many serious questions on how effective foreign military bases are, and if they should be allowed by the international community. Here, we will mainly focus on the historical, political, social, economic impacts of the topic.

Timeline

1914	With the adoption of the Schlieffen Plan, Germany violates the neutrality of Belgium.
1914	The Oslo Guidelines are established to improve foreign military standards.
1914–1942	Nazi naval bases in the Atlantic prove effective at destroying Allied ships.
1950	Kim Il Sung leads the North Korean army across the 38th parallel, starting the Korean War.

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1968	During the Vietnam War, American troops murder hundreds of innocent Vietnamese civilians in the My Lai Massacre.
1988	Following the Iran-Iraq War, the United Nations sends a ceasefire force, the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG), to both countries.
1990	Saddam Hussein amasses his troops on Kuwait's borders, starting the Gulf War.
2001	Terrorists attack the Twin Towers and the Pentagon in the United States.
2003	The UN Security Council passes Resolution 1510, expanding the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to support the government of Afghanistan beyond its original mandate of securing the capital, Kabul.
2004	The International Network for the Abolition of US Military Bases is established with the objective of pursuing disarmament and demilitarization of military bases in foreign countries.

Historical Background and Analysis

Because foreign militaries have been used since the establishment of ancient civilizations and empires for the purpose of control and domination, it is difficult to determine an exact date when this issue first arose.

World War I & II

Near the start of the First World War, in 1914, the Germans created the Schlieffen Plan to avoid a two-front war. Germany planned to defeat France, and then move to the eastern front for a major offensive against Russia. As part of this plan, Germany invaded the neutral Belgium to establish military bases, an event that played a considerable role in the events of WWI.

The establishment of foreign military bases was again significant in the Second World War. By mid-1942, Nazi U-Boats were sinking Allied ships faster than they were being built. This success of the Germans challenged Allied strategies and led to the pivotal Battle of Atlantic, the longest continuous military campaign in WWII.

Meanwhile, in North Africa, British General Bernard Montgomery deployed tanks and heavy artillery sixty miles from the Suez Canal to defeat the German forces led by German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel. Rommel's forces were forced westward in Tunisia and the Afrika Corps (the German African Army) surrendered on January 31, 1943. This paved the way for the liberation of Italy, and by April 1945, the Allies had reached Berlin, forcing Germany to unconditionally surrender a few weeks later.

Cold War

After the end of World War II, a bipolar globe was created with the emergence of two superpowers: the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (also known as the Soviet Union). Many wars during this time illustrate the use of overseas military installations, including the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Gulf.

North Korea's invasion of South Korea marked a watershed in the Cold War, suddenly turning it

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hot and bloody. Under the guidance of the Soviet Union, on June 25, 1950, Kim Il Sung's North Korean army crossed the 38th parallel, the set boundary between the two nations. This belligerent manoeuvre brought about the United Nations' police action against the aggressor: a UN force composed of sixteen nations, most prominently the United States of America (the US provided half of the ground forces and 86% of the naval bases), countered the North Korean advance. This was one of the first and most significant operations involving foreign military bases under the direction of the UN. After three years of continuous battle, negotiations concluded and the fighting ended.

The military conflict in Vietnam is another important historical example of foreign military installations. The war occurred in the 1960s and early 1970s and was fought between North Vietnam and the Viet Cong— supported by other Communist nations including the Soviet Union and China — against South Vietnam, supported by the US. The United States sent 200,000 troops in 1965 to fight against the Viet Minh after an American destroyer was torpedoed, viewing the war as a measure to prevent the communist takeover of the South Vietnam (cf. the domino theory, which predicted that if a single state fell to communism, surrounding countries would soon follow). The apex of this conflict occurred in March 1968: the My Lai massacre. American army troops murdered hundreds of Vietnamese civilians, mostly elderly men, women, and children. Tragically, many victims were also sexually tortured. As a result, the US army was internationally criticized and was convicted of inhumane actions. To this day, the My Lai massacre is a powerful reminder of a negative effect of overseas military bases.



Just prior to the conclusion of the Cold War ended in 1991, tensions flared one final time. In July 1990, Saddam Hussein amassed his troops on Kuwait's borders. Hopes for stability in the Middle East were once again shattered with this deployment of military troops in foreign territory. George H.W. Bush, the US President at that time, countered by sending American forces into Saudi Arabia, and urged other countries to do the same, as did the United Nations Security Council, under the principle of collective security. Later on, Iraq faced economic difficulty as the price of oil fell from \$20 to \$14 per barrel.

Finally, in 1991, a coalition of countries led by the USA destroyed much of the military capability of Iraq and drove the Iraqi army out of Kuwait. Iraq's defeat seemed to open the possibility of a US-brokered settlement of the Palestinian issue, one of the most vexing problems of the Middle East.

Current Situation

The modern era of foreign military bases began after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 (known as the 9/11 attacks). In the wake of the shocking events of that day, the United States viewed terrorism more than ever as a veritable threat to world peace. Thus, the US asserted its right to

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intervene in any matter related to terrorism. Some other countries implicitly followed suit, including the UK, Russia, France, and even China.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Foreign Military Bases

A close examination of the advantages and the disadvantages of foreign military bases is essential in understanding their current status.

On one hand, there are some advantages within using overseas military bases. For example, the US has the military capacity to maintain global security: the US successfully protected civilians in Panama by sending in 27,000 troops in 1998, used limited military tactics to protect civilians in Sarajevo from Bosnian Serb forces (ultimately leading to a peace agreement), and forced Iraqi troops to retreat from Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War. Moreover, foreign military bases enhance the ability of intelligence officials to monitor all forms of communications, which allows for the early detection of terrorist activities.

On the other hand though, the construction and maintenance of these facilities can also be viewed as a preparation for war, and thus undermine international peace and security. Even in peacetime, there are unresolved questions concerning the accountability of military forces abroad. Notably, during the Korean War, the United States maintained a robust military presence abroad, in Korea; the Status of Forces Agreement (see below) between the two nations stated that US would enjoy the privilege military impunity. This agreement was put to the test in a controversial case in 2002, when two teenage girls were run over by an American tank; the US subsequently refused to allow the driver of the tank be tried in South Korea and was instead ordered to appear before US military tribunal, where he was found not guilty.

Status of Forces Agreement

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is a framework agreed between the host nation and the nation sending its forces to outline the rights of foreign military personnel. For example, the right of jurisdiction in the case of a crime, military uniform, and the transportation of personnel are all outlined by SOFAs. They are an essential component in preserving authority and guaranteeing fair treatment of individuals. At the end of the Cold War, the US had SOFAs in place with approximately 40 countries; today, that number has grown to over 90. The biggest issue that some countries have with American SOFAs is that in some cases, these agreements can be nebulous and lacking specifics.

National Sovereignty of the Host Country

The largest complaint of host nations with regards to foreign military bases is the protection of the national sovereignty. Sovereignty is defined as having independent authority over a geographic area. Countries that are strong proponents of overseas military bases stress out the fact that their only intention of maintaining an existing military body in a foreign country is to provide peace and security for those people, but critics point out that in spite of this stated objective, civilians in host countries have, on several occasions, been the victims. One particularly egregious example of this is the previously discussed My Lai Massacre, in which civilians were indiscriminately killed. In other

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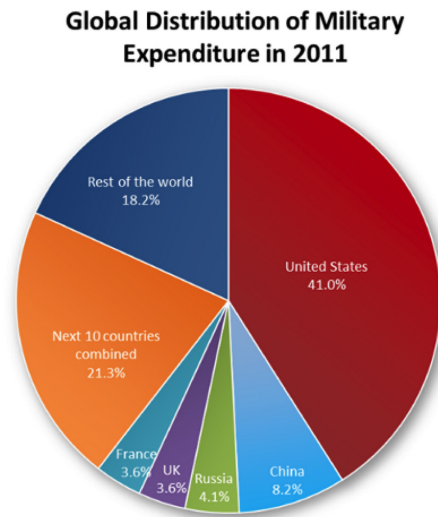
cases, citizens have seen military personnel taking over their farmland; resistance often resulted in imprisonment and torture.

The presence of military bases also causes social and environmental problems locally. In certain cases, communities living around these bases experience high rates of rape committed by military soldiers, or are exposed to hazardous substances resulting from the testing of weapons.

Military Spending of Foreign Military Bases

The global military expenditure stands at over \$1.7 trillion at current prices for 2011 (or \$1.63 trillion dollars at constant 2010 prices), and has been rising in recent years.¹

As the pie chart shows, countries owning foreign military bases tend to have extremely high military expenses. In addition, the chart shows that a small number of countries spend the largest sums. The United States of America, for example, is the principal determinant of the current world trend and its military expenditures are just under half of the world, followed by China, Russia, the UK and France.



The War in Afghanistan

An important ongoing situation involving foreign military bases is the war in Afghanistan. Since the September 11 attacks, the USA has launched a mission to dismantle and destroy the al-Qaeda organization's bases in Afghanistan and to find and capture Osama bin Laden and other high-ranked al-Qaeda members (considerable progress towards these objectives has been made since the death of bin Laden in 2011). It is important to note that during the military invasion of Kabul, thousands of innocent civilians have died because of the US military bombings. In 2011, President Obama announced that 10,000 US troops would be withdrawn by the end of that year and an additional 23,000 troops would leave the country by the summer of 2012. An agreement was also signed between both countries in 2012 concerning the removal of all US military troops by 2014 except for a small contingent that would execute specific missions against al-Qaeda.²

UN Involvement

Over the past years, many efforts have been made to resolve the various issues regarding overseas military bases, primarily to replace SOFAs with an internationally accepted framework.

The Oslo Guidelines were formulated in 1994 and were intended to outline the main principles and standards of military bases and civil defenses. The guidelines state, among other ideas, that "all humanitarian assistance must be provided in accordance with the core principles of humanity,

¹<http://www.globalissues.org/article/75/world-military-spending>

²<http://livingstories.googlelabs.com/lsp/afghanistan#OVERVIEW:false,false,false,n,n,null;>

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neutrality and with full respect for the sovereignty of the states.”³

The United Nations has also tried to stop the rising conflicts regarding foreign military bases throughout the recent years. For example in August of 1988, after eight years of war between the Iraq and Iran wars, the United Nations took strong actions to stop the military intervention of Iraq to control the Arvand River and the annexation of Khuzestan. United Nations reached a consensus with the two foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq to bring forth a ceasefire force. “The United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) was established to verify, confirm and supervise the cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of all forces to the internationally recognized boundaries without delay.”⁴ It was deployed in the region several days before the formal commencement of the ceasefire on 20 August 1988.

Worldwide resistance to foreign military bases — particularly those of the United States — has grown for the last few years. Since 2004, the International Network for the Abolition of US Military Bases NO BASES Network have been established with the objective of pursuing the disarmament and demilitarization of military bases in foreign countries.⁵ In addition, a number of places around the world such as the Philippines and Puerto Rico have established popular grass root movements in opposition to the activities of foreign military bases and are constantly adding social pressure to terminate the agreements and negotiations between the foreign militaries and the host countries.⁶

Also recently in 2003, the UN Security Council established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to secure Kabul and the surrounding areas from foreign threat. NATO assumed the control of the ISAF in 2003 and these forces are trained to advise and assist the Afghans and fight alongside with them whenever needed.

Possible Solutions

In considering the possible solutions to this issue, delegates must be very cautious to view the situation from each of the political, economic, and social aspects.

One of the main concerns that the host countries have is related to national sovereignty. The deaths of thousands of innocent civilians in countries such as Afghanistan and Iraq are a clear contradiction to the stated intention of nations possessing foreign bases: to bring security to unstable regions around the world.

In addition, foreign militaries must ensure that individuals under their authority are abiding by the laws of the host country, and that in the event of an individual is charged with a crime, a trial must be held without delay.

A successful solution will consider methods to coordinate stability and security operations, improve and develop the capabilities of the host country’s own security forces, support humanitarian assistance, and most importantly, initiate joint civilian-military infrastructure projects.

³http://www.clingendael.nl/publications/2008/20081000_cscp_art_homan_armex.pdf

⁴<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/uniimogbackgr.html>

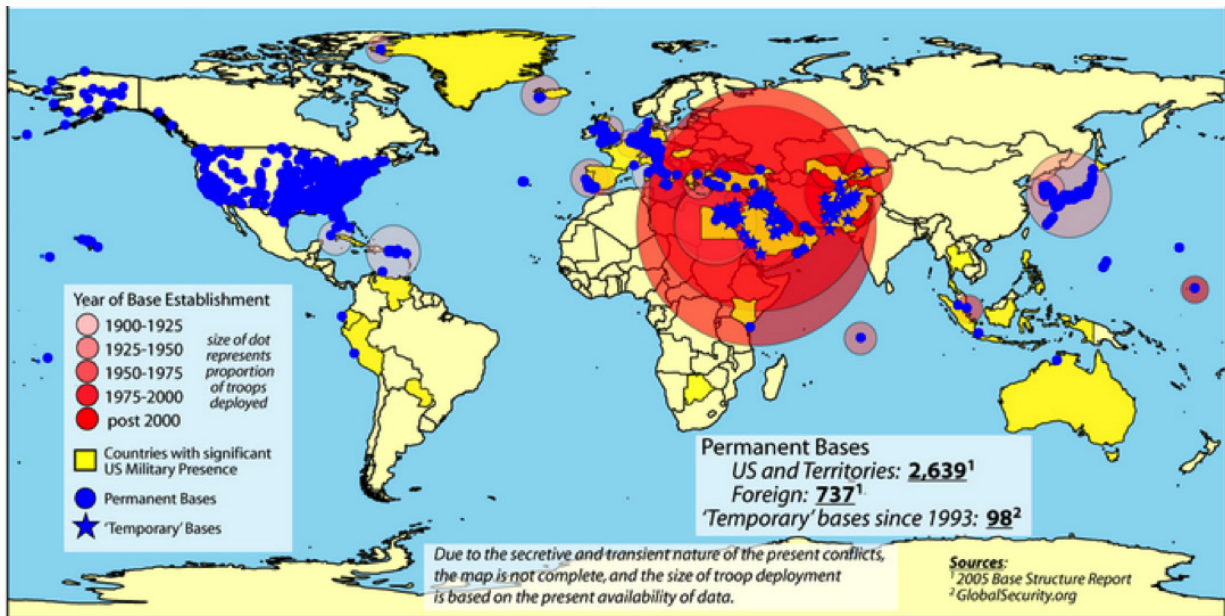
⁵<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-worldwide-network-of-us-military-bases/>

⁶http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/American_Empire/NO_BASES_Network.html

Bloc Positions

The first uses of foreign military bases in World War I was observed as a desire to increase a nation's sphere of influence; in the 21st century, this largely remains the case. Thus, it is of particular importance to scrutinize the actions countries that maintain bases in their former colonial empires such as the UK, Russia, Germany, and Italy.

USA



Illustrates the expansion of US military involvement from 1900–present. Note the focus on the Middle East region.

The USA has established itself as one of the leading nations in the world, militarily and economically. The Cold War demonstrated the growing influence of this superpower. Particularly during the Korean War, it became evident to the world that the United States can make sudden decisions that have dramatic international consequences. Today, the USA likely maintains foreign military bases for the protection of its own interest: since 9/11, the number of American bases abroad has increased significantly.

UK

The number of British troops deployed across the globe has declined, but it must be noted that Britain has been active in military training exercises in Afghanistan and has participated with the US in the War on Terror.

Russia

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the number of foreign military bases operated by Russia has seen a notable decline, but it maintains a presence in countries that it previously possessed, such as Georgia, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan.

Other European Nations

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The military of the European Union includes troops from the armed forces of 27 member states, pursuant to the Common Security and Defense Policy. Individually, the majority of these European countries do not have large enough military budgets to be as active as some of the world's super powers; thus, when they do contribute militarily, they typically can only volunteer a small number of troops to multi-nation organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Middle East

Most foreign military bases can be found in the Middle East. The majority of American military bases, for example, are located in Afghanistan and Iraq. The main goal of nations that have established a strong military presence in this region is to counter terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda that operate here. It is important to note that few civilians in the Middle East would be tolerant of a further increase in the number of foreign bases and troops.

African Countries

Almost no African countries operate military bases outside of their own borders; however, some have been the victims of foreign troops. Therefore, most African nations are seeking diplomatic solutions to reduce the number of foreign military deployments.

South American Bloc

The US is seeking to establish a military presence in the so-called West-East corridor extending from Colombia in South America to North Africa. In South America, the American presence is largely motivated by the possibility of access to natural mineral resources in the Amazon Basin.⁷ South American countries themselves do not allocate a large amount of money to foreign military presences, and thus do not have a significant presence abroad.

Asia

Certain countries in this bloc, particularly China, have become very active with foreign military deployment in the last few decades. For other Asian and Pacific countries, they may not show much interest in this area themselves, but this issue is nonetheless relevant to them, as it is predicted that the US will maintain close to 100,000 troops in East Asia for the next 20 years.⁸

Discussion Questions

1. How important is national sovereignty and what role does it play when considering foreign military bases?
2. Should there be universally established guidelines for Status of Forces Agreements?
3. Has your nation been affected by foreign military bases and if so, to what extent?
4. Do foreign military bases ever truly contribute towards greater security and peace, and if so, in what contexts?

⁷<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-worldwide-network-of-us-military-bases/>

⁸http://www.fpif.org/reports/women_and_the_us_military_in_east_asia

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5. What is your country's policy on no base networks?
6. How much military expenditure does your country spend on foreign military bases?
7. What consequences should personnel of overseas military base who undermine the rights of the host nation face?

Additional Resources

<http://livingstories.googlelabs.com/lsp/afghanistan#OVERVIEW:false,false,false,n,n,n:null>
The War in Afghanistan

http://www.clingendael.nl/publications/2008/20081000_cscp_art_homan_armex.pdf
Military Support to Civilian Authorities

<http://zfacts.com/metaPage/lib/Overseas-Military-Base-Closures.pdf>
Overseas Military Base Closure

<http://www.globalresearch.ca/the-worldwide-network-of-us-military-bases/>
The World Wide Network of US Military Bases

<http://books.sipri.org/files/PP/SIPRI18.pdf>
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