

Joint Crisis Committee – Background Guide



Oakridge MUN 2022

Greetings Delegates,

We're absolutely elated to be serving on the Executive Board of The Joint Crisis Cabinet at Oakridge Model UN 2022, and look forward to having you be a part of the cabinets as well, rendering this a magnificent three days.

We will always be there for you at every step, to encourage you, push your boundaries, and recenter focus when needed. We count on you, as much as you might count on us. We look forward to mutual growth, and learning, albeit within the frame of discipline and cooperation.

Here are a few instructions we'd like to give with this study guide:

- This study guide is a mere framework for your deeper research. It consists of readings from various sources and we have attempted to make it as comprehensive as possible, covering various angles and viewpoints so that you have a good idea about the concepts associated with the agenda. We cannot stress enough that you need to pursue your own sources, especially because the study guides will not cover your individual foreign policies and foreign policy compliance is very important to us. It is very likely that we, in our limited knowledge, have also omitted some crucial insights, perspectives or initiatives that are really effective or could be implemented later on. This background guide cannot be used as a base of proof, as this guide is meant to be a reference only.

- We are following the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure (RoP) in the committee, which looks for consensus-building rather than conflicting and adverse debate. Ultimately the crisis element will alter the RoP based on committee consensus in terms of the action orders necessary for either cabinet. Please base your research various geopolitical and socio-economic elements of the Ukraine-Russia situation and don't limit it to just the military genre. Oftentimes, Delegates may simply pursue research whose approach is more aggressive and accusatory. We would discourage this greatly. Please concentrate on concerns where all states may find common ground.

- The sources used in this study guide is all open-source. The reason we chose not to write it ourselves was because we wanted to avoid a certain bias which may be too evident in the language that it is being written in. We have tried instead to bring a certain balance in the way we assign you readings, but then again, there may be a chance that it may be seen as favouring any one side. We would like to assure you that it is not done by intention, but merely the constraints of time and sources. Read widely and extensively. Be aware of your foreign and domestic policies. We wish you all the best and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have doubts or even if you just want to have a casual chat about the agenda. Please note that all data and research is admissible up and until the freeze date, the committee will operate in an advanced timeline from the freeze date.

Agenda:

“The Russia-Ukraine Situation”

Freeze Date:

16th February 2022

Guidelines:

1. Be thorough with the rules of procedure, in this case the UNA-USA rules of procedures.
2. Know your country's facts and statistics like the government, economy, military, geo-political scenario, etc.
3. Read about the background information on the agendas to be discussed in the committee and try to get an impartial, neutral idea of the situation.
4. Now, know your country's stance towards the agenda at hand. This can be derived through the speeches, statements, etc. made by an official entity of your country.
5. Refer to the UN Charter, a bible(analogy) for any MUNner, with various international instruments, previous resolutions revolving around the agenda at hand.
6. Analyze the situation and derive solutions on how you can tackle the problems, causes of the agenda at hand keeping your foreign policy in mind.
7. Use lobbying, as said, your most important tool to sell your idea and influence the committee in the right way.
8. Read articles and case studies, and prepare your speeches by inferring from them. Do not make speeches by reading out of already existing articles. The aim is for you to understand the situation at hand, and put out your points of view, while keeping in mind your nation's policy for an ulterior motive that is to formulate a draft resolution at the end of the third day.

Nature and Proof of Evidence:

Documents from the following sources will be considered as credible proof for any allegations

made in committee or statements that require verification:

- Reuters: Appropriate Documents and articles from the Reuters News agency will be used to corroborate or refute controversial statements made in committee.
- UN Documents: Documents by all UN agencies will be considered sufficient proof. Reports

from all UN bodies including treaty-based bodies will also be accepted.

- National Government Reports: Government Reports of a given country used to corroborate an allegation on the same aforementioned country will be accepted as proof.
- Al-Jazeera: Depending on the nation's geographical location, it may or may not be accepted as credible proof.

The documents stated above will hold a binding nature of establishment. Sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch or newspapers like the Guardian, the Times of India or Eenadu, this Background Guide, so on and so forth will NOT be accepted as credible proof; but may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a government or a delegate.

Historical Context

The recent Russo-Ukrainian crisis has brought to the fore historical-cultural debates about the legitimacy of Ukraine's national identity—present-day Russian narratives (such as this article by Vladimir Putin) claim that Russia and Ukraine is one whole. On the other hand, Ukraine firmly asserts its cultural and national identity as being distinct from that of Russia. The ongoing crisis therefore, transcends geopolitical and economic considerations, it is a competition of rival historical narratives. Delegates must therefore acquaint themselves with these, in order to have a more holistic understanding of the crisis at hand. For this purpose, we have provided here a brief historical timeline of events, though we urge you to research further into these—this timeline will provide delegates with a minimum of context in order to familiarise you with the issues at hand.

The Kievan Rus

9th Century: Establishment of the Kievan Rus, located in present-day Ukraine. The city of Kiev, which is today the capital of Ukraine, is chosen as the capital of the Kievan Rus.

10th Century: The reign of Prince Vladimir the Great ushers in the introduction of Eastern Orthodox Christianity to the region.

11th Century: The Kievan Rus rises in primacy, with Kiev becoming a major political and cultural centre of Europe.

The Mongols

1237-40: The Mongol invasion leads to the destruction of numerous cities and the erosion of the Kievan Rus' power. The Tatar Mongols establish the Empire of the Golden Horde.

14th Century: This period marks the rise of Muscovy (Moscow) as a new centre of power in the Eastern Slavic territories. Ivan I of Muscovy rises to become Grand Prince after supporting the Tatars against a rebellion. In this same period, Poland successfully annexes most of the territory of Ukraine.

These territories are governed by the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth for the next four centuries, allowing a distinct Ukrainian culture and language to emerge.

15th Century: The Muscovite princes, led by Ivan III, now mobilise under the banner of "gathering the Russian lands," and by 1480 succeed in ending Tatar rule.

1547-84: Ivan IV becomes the first Tsar of Russia.

The Romanovs

1613: Beginning of the Romanov dynasty, with the ascendancy of Michael Romanov as Tsar.

1667: The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth cedes Ukrainian territories east of Kiev to Russia.

1689-1725: Peter the Great introduces reforms to Europeanise and modernise Russian government, military, and society.

1721-1814: Multiple conflicts occur, resulting in the Russian Empire's successful conquest of the territories of Estonia, Latvia, Crimea, Ukraine, Georgia, Belarus, Moldova, and parts of Poland.

1812: Napoleon's defeat in Russia, which ends his conquest of Europe.

1857: Russian defeat in the Crimean War against Britain and France.

1905: Russian defeat in the Russo-Japanese War, resulting in greater internal dissent against the monarchy and a decline in the Russian Empire's international status.

1917: Following Russia's poor performance in the First World War, the October Revolution takes place, leading to the end of the 300 years old Romanov dynasty and the establishment of the first socialist experiment. Following the collapse of the Russian Empire, Ukraine declares its independence

The USSR

1918: Signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which was effectively a Russian surrender to the German forces occupying its Western territories, intended to prevent further invasion by the Germans.

1919: Formal end to the First World War, resulting in a German withdrawal from Russian territories. The advance of the Red Army westwards brings it to a standoff with Polish forces.

1920: Poland signs a treaty of alliance with independent Ukraine. Following this, Polish forces advance into Ukraine, occupy Kiev, and fight back against Red Army forces. This marks the beginning of the Russo-Polish War.

1921: The Treaty of Riga is signed, which effectively partitions Ukraine between Poland and Soviet Russia.

1922: The Bolsheviks win the Russian civil war, thus ending all major imperialist and anarchist opposition to Communism. In the same year, the Bolshevik government recognises all territories of the former Russian Empire as part of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

1933: Economic mismanagement and political repression by Joseph Stalin's regime results in a massive man-made famine in Ukraine, known as the Holodomor (presently recognised by 16 countries as genocide), leading to over three million deaths.

1939: Colluding with Nazi Germany, the USSR invades and occupies Eastern Poland, along with Polish-occupied territories of Ukraine. For the first time, all of Ukraine comes under Soviet rule.

1941: German invasion of the USSR, which results in a complete occupation of Ukraine. A regional Ukrainian government is set up under occupation. Despite hopes of independence, Ukraine faces mass atrocities orchestrated by the Nazis.

1942-45: The Red Army pushes back the Nazis, eventually culminating in the fall of Nazi Germany and an Allied Victory in WW2. The USSR retains its military occupation of Eastern Europe.

1991: End of the Cold War and collapse of the USSR. The republics of Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus are the first to declare their independence.

Post-Independence

2000: Vladimir Putin is elected as President of the Russian Federation.

2002: Ukraine formally announces its intentions to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

2004-2005: Amidst widespread claims of electoral fraud, mass protests flare up in Ukraine against pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich. He is forced to step down, and loses the subsequent re-elections. This turn of events strains Russo-Ukrainian ties.

2010: Yanukovich returns to power in Ukraine, soon after which the Ukrainian Parliament formally votes to abandon aspirations to join NATO.

2013: The Yanukovich government pulls out of the process of joining the European Union. Perceived as caving to Russian pressure, the government faces strong public opposition, culminating in the Maidan Protests in Kiev. This results in Yanukovich fleeing the country and the opposition parties coming to Power.

2014: Following claims of a referendum in Crimea, Russian special forces enter the region and formally annex it. This results in the US and European nations imposing stringent sanctions targeting the Russian economy. Later that year, Russian ethnic separatists in the Donbass region commence conflict against Ukrainian forces.

The above timeline of events should provide a useful background to the roots of the present crisis. We expect delegates to be up to date on the recent developments of the past year, in order to tackle the crisis effectively.

Additional research material:

Overview of Major Stakeholders

Russia

Russia is a primary actor in the current situation, as the issue at hand raised by many nations is to dissuade a Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine were both a part of the Soviet Union, and had fairly good relations with each other post the dissolution of the USSR. Though there were a series of tensions when Ukraine had proposed joining NATO, which was highly protested by Russia as it would bring NATO forces to the Russian border. Further Crimea was annexed by Russia due to its strategic position in the Black Sea, from Ukraine and tensions have been high between the two countries since then. In the present situation, Russia has amassed large amounts of its military forces along the Ukrainian border and in Belarus, which many nations claim to be for an imminent invasion of Ukraine. Russia, however, claims to have no intention of invading Ukraine. Further, in what is seen to be a provocative move, Russia recently recognised the sovereignty of the rebel held areas of Luhansk and Donetsk and further promised military support to them.

Ukraine

Ukraine is the other primary actor in the situation as it faces the threat of a Russian invasion. Ukraine has been drifting towards the west, particularly the European Union and NATO since the 2000s. This has been a primary concern for Russia and from time and time Russia has warned NATO against the consequences of accepting Ukraine into NATO. This bid for membership in NATO was only strengthened after the Russian annexation of Crimea. Ukraine, like many other countries, sees Crimea as being under the illegal occupation of Russia. Further, Ukraine has had a Russian ethnic separatist movement in its Eastern region bordering Russia. There has been dialogue and agreements to solve this issue through Minsk Protocols. In the current situation, Ukraine wishes to dissuade Russia from invading any of its territory. Further, the Ukrainian President and many officials have called for a diplomatic solution to the issue.

UNSC Resolution 2202 (Minsk Agreements)

UNSC Presidential Statement 2018

UNGA Resolution 68/262 - Territorial Integrity of Ukraine

Letter from Ukraine to Secretary General 2019 (5th anniversary of Russian annexation)

UNSC 17 Feb 2022 Meeting Coverage - Ukraine
UNSC 21 Feb 2022 Meeting Record - Ukraine
UNSC 23 Feb 2022 Meeting Coverage - Ukraine

Belarus

Belarus and Russia have been very close allies since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, even to the extent that they have formed a supranational organisation known as the “Union State of Russia and Belarus”. With this they have very deep economic and military ties, and even share an integrated air-defence system. In the current situation Russia has been conducting military drills in Belarus, which many nations mark as concern for a cover to start an invasion. Belarus’s defence minister, while commenting on the drills said, “to ensure an adequate response and de-escalation of military preparations of ill-wishers near our common borders”.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO was formed during the Cold War, with the express goal of countering the Soviet Union. After the fall of the Soviet Union, its relationship with Russia has been relatively better than that with its predecessor, but yet deterrence of Russian aggression seems to be one of the primary goals of NATO. The United States in particular, which is the most powerful member of NATO, has been very vocal in countering Russian aggression. Ukraine has been attempting to become a member of NATO, while Russia has threatened war should such a situation transpire. Wishing to avoid armed conflict with Russia, NATO has been reluctant with regards to granting Ukraine membership. In the current situation however, there has been speculation as to whether Ukraine would drop its bid to join NATO to avoid war with Russia. Further, many members of NATO, particularly the US, have been alleging that the current situation may be leveraged by Russia as a pretext for an eventual invasion of Ukraine.

Past Resolutions and Other UN Documents

Sources for Timeline

Hastings, Max, “Poland Betrayed.” All Hell Let Loose, written by Max

Hastings, Harper Press, 2011, London, pp.1-24.

Russia Profile-Timeline, British Broadcasting Network, 26th April 2019,
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17840446>.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/events-leading-up-russias-invasion-ukraine-2022-02-28/>

Patel, Mira. What Russia means to Ukraine: A long complicated history, The Indian Express, 22nd February 2022,

<https://indianexpress.com/article/research/what-russia-means-to-ukraine-a-long-complicated-history-7773826/>

Düben, Björn Alexander. "There is no Ukraine": Fact-Checking the Kremlin's Version of Ukrainian History, The London School of

Economics, 1st July 2020, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/lseih/2020/07/01/there-is-no-ukraine-fact-checking-the-kremlins-version-of-ukrainian-history/>.

Smogorzewski, Kazimierz Maciej. Russo-Polish War, Encyclopedia Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Russo-Polish-War-1919-1920#ref345483>.

Additional Links for Further Research

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/growing-divergence-in-europe-over-russia/>

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/the-ukrainian-crisis/>

<https://sgp.fas.org/crs/row/R45008.pdf>

<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/SR366-The-Ukraine-Russia-Conflict.pdf>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1112412>