

4th SPD

*Advanced
General
Assembly*



TOPICS: Neocolonialism in Sierra Leone,
Economic Imperialism in the Tourism Industry

CHAIRS: Katie Mackechnie, Aidan Merriman

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

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LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates! My name is Tucker and I'm the Under-Secretary General of General Assembly committees. This is my fourth year in the Mira Costa Model UN program and I am ecstatic to welcome you all to LAIMUN XXVIII.

I'm so excited to see various diplomatic strategies in committee regarding the pressing issues we encounter on a global scale. Our chairs will hold the delegates to high standards of research, diplomacy, speeches, and solutions.

At LAIMUN, we have a strict no pre-written resolutions policy—resolutions can only be worked on at your chair's discretion. Please verify that your work is authentic to ensure all delegates experience a fair and accurate simulation of a United Nations conference.

The Mira Costa Model UN program has provided me with incredible opportunities and lasting memories; I hope that LAIMUN XXVIII will be a memorable experience for you as well! Mira Costa MUN provides a profound opportunity for delegates to gain knowledge, confidence, speaking skills, and most importantly, a new understanding of international relations and current events. All LAIMUN XXVIII staff have worked hard to provide the best experience for everyone in attendance and we wish you the best of luck throughout your preparation!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to GA@mchsmun.org or other members of the Secretariat. I can't wait to see you in December!

Regards,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General

Tucker Gauss
Under-Secretary General

Introduction to the Dias

Hi delegates!!

My name is Katie Mackechnie and I am so excited to be your Head Chair for LAIMUN XXVIII! I am a senior at Mira Costa High School and have been in the MUN Program here for the past 4 years. Sadly this is the last time I will chair LAIMUN so let's make 4th SPD Advanced an absolute movie and keep it electric. Currently, I am TA'ing the freshman (aka next gen) in the program and having the best time ever. I love MUN and all the experiences I had, such as debating in New York City. Roaming around Central Park and Times Square was such a fun time and I made so many friends in debate. I have to say traveling is my favorite part about being in MUN but the connections I've made with other people in the class are hard to top. Outside of school you will find me in the water either surfing at the beach, playing water polo in the pool, or wake surfing in the lake. In addition, I have a large sand dollar collection from all the mornings I go for ocean swims and finish it off with a dive. Also outside of school I love to hang out with friends no matter what we are doing. One of our favorite things to do though is go to all Mira Costa sports games and make signs to cheer on the Stangs. I am really looking forward to seeing you guys debate such intellectual topics and I'm excited for an enthusiastic and fun debate. Can't wait to see you guys there!! Don't forget to mark your calendars for International Meerkat Day:

July 3rd!!!

Sincerely,

Katie Mackechnie

Hello Delegates!

My name is Aidan Merriman and I'm excited to be one of your chairs for 4th SPD Advanced! I am currently a Junior at Costa and have been in MUN for three years. I enjoy playing golf, going to the gym, listening to music, spending time with friends, and avidly following baseball. I also love the outdoors and any chance I get, I spend it outside, doing something active. I am very interested in sports, nature, and the many cultures that exist around the world. I participate in the political debate club and am working on creating the business and young entrepreneurs club. One interesting thing about me is that I can do handstand push-ups in the open air.

In 4th SPD, I am looking forward to seeing the numerous and creative solutions that all of you have to offer. We have chosen topics that are specific but also can resonate with almost every country, thus making sure all countries can have an active part in the issues. We are also extremely passionate about these issues, so we are enthusiastic about what you have to bring to the table! I wish you the best of luck to come prepared to debate and competently create quality, innovative solutions! If you are inquisitive about anything else about us, committee, or the topics, don't be afraid to reach out to spd.adv.laimun.xxviii@gmail.com and we will appreciatively answer all of your questions!

Warmest regards,

Aidan Merriman

Committee Description

The United Nations General Assembly's Fourth Committee, (also known as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, SPECPOL, or 4th SPD) is one of the six principal committees of the UN General Assembly. SPECPOL includes every UN member nation. Created in 1949, the Fourth Committee was originally mandated to be responsible for decolonization related issues. The Fourth Committee was combined with the Special Political Committee, the seventh principal committee, in 1993 to form the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.¹

Currently, the main focus of the 4th SPD is to address a wide array of political issues. Specifically, it addresses decolonization, political refugees, especially Palestinian refugees with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and political conflicts, such as the Report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices.² SPD also deals with issues such as the conflict-free uses of space and mine action. This committee additionally reviews the articles regarding the University of Peace triennially and biennially.

¹ https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/47/233.

² <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/>.

Topic A: Neocolonialism in Sierra Leone

I. Background

Neocolonialism is the “economic and political policies by which a great power indirectly maintains or extends its influence over other areas or people”.³ In the majority of cases, neocolonialism has taken place in developing countries, and is mainly caused by the exploitation of natural resource companies and debt slavery from various developed nations. Sierra Leone is a notable example of the destructive impact of neocolonialism, as its lack of infrastructure and abundant diamond, gold, and titanium deposits have attracted major global powers seeking regional influence and foreign revenue sources.

Sierra Leone has played a significant role in the colonization history of Africa, as it has been a part of the British Empire as early as 1808. Until its independence, it remained a protectorate of the United Kingdom throughout the 20th century. Sierra Leone joined the commonwealth of nations, an organization of former colonies of the British Empire, after it gained its independence in 1961 under the leadership of Sir Milton Margai.⁴ After independence, Sierra Leone suffered from a number of ethnic troubles, especially between the Creoles, who were primarily freed slaves that left Britain and its various colonies to the western part of Sierra Leone and who maintained a good relationship with Britain, the Mende of the East and North, who largely despised the Creoles for their embracement of European lifestyle and education, and

³ “Neocolonialism Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/neocolonialism>.

⁴ african, Written by New. “Sierra Leone: How Independence Was Won.” *New African Magazine*, 31 July 2018, <https://newafricanmagazine.com/2793/>.

the Tenme people, who were evenly spread out between all of the country.⁵ Sir Milton Margai, the first prime minister of the country, is largely known for attempting to bridge these ethnic rivalries and stabilize the country.⁶ In attempts to resolve these disputes, he appointed government officials from all groups to increase unity. After his death in 1964, the Sierra Leonean parliament appointed Sir Albert Margai, Sir Milton's brother-in-law. Under his leadership, he made many authoritarian moves to secure power, such as removing many government officials appointed during Sir Milton's leadership, attempting to make Sierra Leone a one-party state, violently eliminating political opposition, and providing affirmative action programs that favored the Mende ethnic group and politically repressed the other ethnic groups. These actions led to violent riots from the people and accusations of corruption. In 1968, Siaka Stevens, the prime minister after Sir Albert, realized the potential profits of diamond mining and nationalized all diamond mines under the National Diamond Mining Corporation, or DNMC.⁷ This resulted in an increase in the illicit mining trade and highlighted the government's corruption in the diamond trade. Between this, three military coup d'états, and a violent civil war, Sierra Leone has been riddled with corruption since its formation, and continues to be today,

⁵United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. "Sierra Leone: Conflicts between the Mende and the Temne Tribes and Particularly the Kamajors [Kamajohs] Targeting of the Temne." *Refworld*, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6ac5a28.html>.

⁶"History of Sierra Leone." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 2 June 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Sierra_Leone.

⁷ Johnson, Eric. "Blood Diamonds: The Conflict in Sierra Leone ." *Blood Diamonds*, <https://web.stanford.edu/class/e297a/Conflict%20in%20Sierra%20Leone.htm#:~:text=The%20diamond%20history%20of%20Sierra,diamonds%20out%20of%20the%20country>.

as its Corruption Percentage Index is 34/100.⁸ This corruption is largely responsible for Sierra Leone's failure to overcome poor infrastructure and poverty, as it has been riddled with these problems since colonial times. Even though Sierra Leone's government receives significant payments from corporations for mining rights and taxes, this money isn't used to benefit the people, such as through building infrastructure or aiding poverty, but rather is mismanaged by corrupt government officials.⁹

Sierra Leone has rich mineral deposits, such as its diamond, gold, platinum, and iron deposits. In 2010, 60% of Sierra Leone's exports were minerals, amounting to \$199.5 million. These deposits have attracted many mining corporations, which have regularly taken advantage of the indigenous people and the cheap cost of labor. These rich mineral deposits were one of the main reasons for the United Kingdom's unjust imperialism throughout the region. As of March 2021, there were 11 large-scale mining companies and 13 small-scale mining companies operating in Sierra Leone.¹⁰ Many companies have given payments to governments to allow them to exploit labor and operate without certain restrictions, a devastating reality of the corruption of the Sierra Leonean government as well as the exploitative tendencies of certain companies. Many of these companies operate their mines without proper equipment, and thus leads to many controversies such as prevalent protests and mining disasters. In addition, many

⁸ "2021 Corruption Perceptions Index - Explore Sierra Leone's Results." *Transparency.org*, <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2021/index/sle>.

⁹ Ravichandran, Sharanya. "Factors of Persistent Poverty in Sierra Leone." *E*, 28 July 2011, <https://www.e-ir.info/2011/07/28/factors-of-persistent-poverty-in-sierra-leone/>.

¹⁰ Thomas, Abdul Rashid, et al. "Sierra Leone's Mining Sector in Focus: 2018 – 2021." *Welcome to the Sierra Leone Telegraph*, 23 Mar. 2021, <https://www.thesierraleonetelegraph.com/sierra-leones-mining-sector-in-focus-2018-2021/>.

companies prevent unionization, as unionized workers would give leverage to workers who desire proper salaries and equipment. Such has happened in 2012, when workers of the African Minerals Limited company went on strike for the company's prevention of unionization.

Diamonds are extremely important to the Sierra Leonean economy, as they are the third biggest export and account for an estimated \$250 million dollars in revenue.¹¹ Because most of the diamond mining operations occur in remote areas, far from government reach, the mining companies are largely able to exploit resources, land, and labor and avoid punishment. The companies pay very little to workers, middle men cheat diamond miners with low prices, and they are placed under large amounts of debt. As a result, the workers are subjugated to poverty as a result of companies' exploitativeness.

Rutile, a mineral containing titanium, was largely sought after in the region from corporations, such as the Sierra Rutile Limited corporation. While this resource was temporarily hindered from extraction during the Sierra Leone Civil War in the 1990s, extraction resumed in 2006.¹²

Many companies have taken advantage of the government and are notorious for not being transparent about their tax payments. Out of the top five biggest mining companies operating, only one pays corporate income tax (Sierra Rutile).¹³ In addition, many companies fall short on

¹¹ Roy Maconachie Reader in International Development. "How the Wealth from Sierra Leone's Diamonds Fails to Enrich Local Communities." *The Conversation*, 24 Jan. 2022, <https://theconversation.com/how-the-wealth-from-sierra-leones-diamonds-fails-to-enrich-local-communities-96365#:~:text=Diamond%20mining%20remains%20one%20of,areas%20where%20diamonds%20are%20mined.>

¹² "Resources and Power." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/place/Sierra-Leone/Resources-and-power>.

¹³ "Not Sharing the Loot - Velkommen - Danwatch." *Dan Watch*, <https://old.danwatch.dk/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Not-sharing-the-loot.pdf>.

tax payments to the government. For example, the government could be making \$23.5 million annually off of the Koido Holdings company based on their corporate tax rate, mining royalties, and other taxes, but the company is only paying \$2 million annually.¹⁴

Sierra Leone's neocolonial issues may be further exacerbated by China. Sierra Leone is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, a massive project with the ambition of connecting Asia with Africa through a series of roads and railways. In 2021, China made a deal with Sierra Leone to provide a loan of \$55 million to build a large fishing harbor.¹⁵ Since Sierra Leone's government would have trouble paying back a loan such as this, many have warned that China may be using this debt for a debt trap. This could entail China expanding its influence into Sierra Leone, perhaps even influencing elections. However, Sierra Leone is known as one of the only developing countries to oppose China's enormous loans, as they rejected a \$318 million loan to build an international airport in Freetown, the country's capital.¹⁶ Overall, companies and foreign countries profoundly exploit Sierra Leone for its natural resources and further worsen its infrastructure and poverty dilemmas.

II. United Nation Involvement

The United Nations has done relatively little to resolve the economic neocolonialism in Sierra Leone, but have made significant efforts to resolve conflicts, aid people affected by illicit trade, and address other issues caused by the civil war. In 1998, the Security Council passed

¹⁴ "Sierra Leone at the Crossroads - Curtis Research." *National Advocacy Coalition on Extractives*, <https://curtisresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sierra-leone-at-the-crossroads.2.pdf>.

¹⁵ "In Sierra Leone, a Chinese Port-Building Plan Raises Ire." *The Economist*, The Economist Newspaper, <https://www.economist.com/china/2021/08/19/in-sierra-leone-a-chinese-port-building-plan-raises-ire>.

¹⁶ Eom, Janet. "Sierra Leone Only the Latest African Country to Rethink a Chinese Loan." *Axios*, 6 Nov. 2018, <https://www.axios.com/2018/11/06/sierra-leone-latest-african-country-to-rethink-a-chinese-loan>.

Resolution 1181, which formed the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, or UNOMSIL, in order to mitigate the military destruction caused by the Sierra Leone Civil War.¹⁷ It worked with the government along with other organizations to eliminate the rebels and maintain order within the region. It was successful in aiding the government in reclaiming the capital, and effectively aided in restoring peace by ending the civil war in 2002.

In 2008, the UN passed Resolution 1829, which created the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone in order to calm tensions after the civil war.¹⁸ The plan entailed sending over 17,000 peacekeepers to ease tensions. In addition to peacebuilding, it cooperated with the government to address the illicit diamond trade by working closely with the Economic Community of West African States. This plan was relatively successful, as it was able to disarm over 75,000 previous fighters.

2018 introduced General Assembly resolution A/73/208. Sierra Leone will work alongside the UN to reduce impunity of crimes. Sierra Leone especially aims to target crimes related to the Sierra Leone Civil War; thus they formed the Special Court for Sierra Leone. This court is specifically designed to prosecute those responsible for war crimes. This targets neocolonialism because it has prosecuted government officials who have had involvement in the civil war, such as the former Liberian president Charles Taylor, who is currently serving a

¹⁷ “UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED PEACEBUILDING OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE.” *UNIPSIL*, 1 Mar. 2017, [https://unipsil.unmissions.org/background#:~:text=The%20Establishment%20of%20UNIPSIL,\)%2C%20Michael%20von%20der%20Schulenburg](https://unipsil.unmissions.org/background#:~:text=The%20Establishment%20of%20UNIPSIL,)%2C%20Michael%20von%20der%20Schulenburg).

¹⁸ “United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone Begins Mandate to Ensure Continued International Support for Long-Term Peace, Development | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2008/afr1753.doc.htm>.

50-year sentence in a United Kingdom prison. Their crackdown on foreign interference persists today, as they have prosecuted eight other perpetrators.¹⁹ This government body could potentially be used to target those who weren't necessarily involved in the civil war, but government officials that carry out corruption and aren't prosecuted.

III. Topics to Consider

A. *Unsatisfactory Enforcement of Laws and Regulations*

The government has several laws detailing how companies are to treat their employees in the mines, like the 1994 Mines and Minerals Decree, the adoption of the Environmental Protection Agency Act of 2008, and the Mineral and Mines Act of 2009.²⁰ Many companies have complained that these regulations are too vague, which is one of their justifications to disregard them. In addition, many of these companies have mines that are relatively distant from city centers and close to the borders of Liberia and Guinea, allowing them to regularly get away with human rights violations and smuggling into neighboring countries. Many companies also commit tax evasion from unreported earnings. Because of this, the government loses many potential funds that could be used for public infrastructure, education programs, and national defense. Roads and public transportation are extremely underdeveloped, which further disincentivizes private investment. Most schools in rural areas were built just after Sierra Leone's independence, and schools have deficient supplies of books and supplies, thus rendering them inadequate.

¹⁹ *Sierra Leone -- the Scope and Application of the Principle of Universal ...*
https://www.un.org/en/ga/sixth/74/universal_jurisdiction/sierraleone_e.pdf.

²⁰ Alix, Yann. "Mining in Sierra Leone: An Overview of the Current Legal Framework." *Lexology*, Herbert Smith Freehills LLP, 20 May 2015,
<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=0f68dda3-1d7a-4770-b96a-d6df219e3fd0>.

These issues require solutions designed to better enforce government regulations and report the true earnings of companies.

B. Government Corruption

Many corporations resort to secretive deals between government officials to allow them to avoid restrictions. These companies are then able to get away with child labor and forced labor. The government of Sierra Leone is extremely corrupt, as it ranks 115 out of 180 countries based off Corruption Percentage Index. In addition, an estimated 52% of public service officials have received a bribe in a 12-month period in 2019.²¹ This large-scale corruption and bribery of officials has led to a large amount of private interference within the state, thus empowering neocolonialist companies to exploit the people and resources of Sierra Leone. In addition, corrupt officials create inefficiency within government, as well as increase government payroll, which leaves less money to spend on public services and more.

C. Foreign Influence on Debt

Many countries pour a large amount of investment into Sierra Leone, especially China. These countries can often hold other countries in massive amounts of debt, such as its \$2.3 Billion debt as of 2020. While they presently don't have much debt to China, experts fear that they will eventually take on debt to be able to rapidly develop infrastructure. Furthermore, Sierra Leone is heavily reliant on foreign aid, specifically from the United States, United Kingdom, the European Union, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and China. This foreign aid

²¹ "Sierra Leone." *Transparency.org*, <https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/sierra-leone>.

reliance has been heavily exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, which shrunk by 2.2%.²² As their debt builds, foreign countries will be more inclined to subdue Sierra Leone into their spheres of influence. Thus, it is important to consider solutions that ensure countries do not extort Sierra Leone by burdening the country with debts and foreign economic influence in exchange for the necessary funds for development.

D. Corporate Influence on Government

Companies are very prone to influencing governments and their laws. Many of the companies who belong to industries that can be especially exploitative can and do influence the government by paying off government officials and law enforcement. In return, the government officials enact laws that favor the companies and law enforcement doesn't enforce laws that endanger the company. Many of these foreign corporations escape taxes because of the corrupt government. In a 2012 estimate, 6 mining companies evaded over \$150 million in sales tax alone. This negatively affects the functionality of government as well as its services. In that same year, they spent \$25.7 million on health services, \$32.2 million on education, \$91.6 million on infrastructure, and \$30.2 million on agriculture. Thus, the government lost much of what it could valuably use to benefit the people. In addition to the fiscal corporate influence, many companies are able to avoid accountability for environmental disasters. Mining practices are responsible for water pollution, deforestation, and soil contamination. In urban areas, roughly 75% of people receive clean drinking water. In rural areas, only 46% of people have clean drinking water. There has been lots of community uprising against these environmental dilemmas. For example, 83

²² 75. "Sierra Leone - Market Overview." *International Trade Administration | Trade.gov*, <https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/sierra-leone-market-overview>.

families attempted to file lawsuits against the Koidu Limited company, for polluting air and water supplies. Despite whether it was successful or not, it shows the impacts of mining companies on their local communities and the environment.²³

III. Case Study: The Dayu Mining Company Dilemma

When the Dayu Mining Company established a gold mine in the small town of Masumbiri, in northern Sierra Leone, many locals were excited to receive a steady job with an acceptable salary.²⁴ The company employs over 350 locals, a large number for the town of 5,000. In order to be able to mine, the company paid roughly \$500,000 for mining rights in the grounds. Many people, however, feel as though they had no choice in determining which lands were given. While the town received cell service and water pumps, poverty within the town grew more prevalent. Many people's jobs before the mines paid more, like 29-year-old miner Abdulai Kargbo, who gave people rides on his motorbike. He made \$10-15 dollars per day on his motorbike, more than twice that than what he makes at the mine. Workers only make enough to survive and have little to no discretionary income, meaning that they have less money to spend on consumer goods. Many workers have also reported that they have been subject to long hours with dirty working conditions. The company is also required to use 0.01 percent of profits to return back to the community, specifically on public infrastructure, but Dayu pledged to contribute 1 percent of their revenues. Three neighboring towns have requested community

²³ Fitzgibbon, Author: Will. "Sierra Leone: BSG Resources Diamond Mine Faces Lawsuit over Alleged Human Rights Abuses Incl. Water Pollution & Crop Destruction." *Business & Human Rights Resource Centre*, <https://www.business-humanrights.org/it/latest-news/sierra-leone-bsg-resources-diamond-mine-faces-lawsuit-over-alleged-human-rights-abuses-incl-water-pollution-crop-destruction/>.

²⁴ Malay Mail. "No Pot of Gold for Locals as China Mines Sierra Leone." *Malay Mail*, Malay Mail, 23 Aug. 2019, <https://www.malaymail.com/news/life/2019/08/23/no-pot-of-gold-for-locals-as-china-mines-sierra-leone/1783186>.

development projects: one has requested a school, one a healthcare center, and the last is drinking water. However, Dayu has only contributed to the development of the water pump. Furthermore, the water pump directly connects to a river and dispenses unfiltered water. This company's mining operation is a microcosm of the issues caused by neocolonialism in Sierra Leone, as many other mining companies similarly exploit their workers and fail to meaningfully contribute to economic development in their respective communities.

IV. Guiding Questions

- A. What are some ways to prevent foreign countries from neocolonizing Sierra Leone?
- B. How does the neocolonialism of Sierra Leone affect the global economy?
- C. Is your country subject to neocolonialism from private companies? If so, to what extent?
- D. How involved is your country in the Belt and Road Initiative?
- E. Has your country ever exerted substantial influence on other countries?
- F. Does corruption play a role in your country and does it result in neocolonialism in your country?
- G. Is your country's sovereignty hindered by other countries?

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Roy Maconachie Reader in International Development. "How the Wealth from Sierra Leone's Diamonds Fails to Enrich Local Communities." *The Conversation*, 24 Jan. 2022,

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-wealth-from-sierra-leones-diamonds-fails-to-enrich->

local-communities-96365#:~:text=Diamond%20mining%20remains%20one%20of,areas%20where%20diamonds%20are%20mined.

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“UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED PEACEBUILDING OFFICE IN SIERRA LEONE.” *UNIPSIL*, 1 Mar. 2017, <https://unipsil.unmissions.org/background#:~:text=The%20Establishment%20of%20UNI%20PSIL,%20Michael%20von%20der%20Schulenburg>.

Topic B: Economic Imperialism in the Tourism Industry

I. Background

Imperialism is known as the policy of extending a country's power in influence either through diplomacy, military²⁵, and now tourism. Imperialism can be seen throughout the history of the world with Alexander the Great and Rome expanding their empire from Egypt to Britain. In United States history, the Monroe Doctrine was an attempt to fight against imperialism from Europe. Today, imperialism can be seen in vacations and travel from the average person. Tourism incentivizes investment by Western countries - thereby shaping the local economy to align with Western economic interests and customs. Traveling comes from inequality between those that have the capability to travel, income gaps, and is an occupation of a foreign land. Countries which are major tourist destinations often experience culturally destructive economic shifts, as their core industries may change from traditional services to a full service industry to satisfy the foreign guests they receive. Cultures have been altered to meet the needs of those visiting, at the expense of preserving their traditional customs. For example, instead of local traditions, these visited lands will change the things they sell to hamburgers, fries, and chicken tenders to fit the average diet of those in the west. An additional example is Bloemenmarkt, Amsterdam where signature flower shops which once attracted tourists are being replaced with cheap souvenir shops²⁶. This takes away the original charm of many places which drew in tourists in the first

²⁵ Amadeo, Kimberly. "Imperialism." *The Balance*, The Balance, 20 Jan. 2022, <https://www.thebalance.com/imperialism-definition-and-impacts-on-us-history-4773797>.

²⁶ Diamond, Madeline, and Frank Olito. "20 Places around the World That Are Being Ruined by Tourism." *Insider*, Insider, 28 Oct. 2019, <https://www.insider.com/cities-hurt-by-tourism-2017-12#bloemenmarkt-amsterdam-6>.

place. Instead, places like Bloemenmarkt are solely focused on the profits they can make off of gifts and trinkets. In many cases, just like Machu Picchu in Peru, the expansion of tourism leads to the relocation of traditional communities and the dissolution of traditional family structures. From 1990 to 2018, tourism has more than tripled with an estimated 1.8 billion tourist arrivals by 2030. This expansion does not benefit the country, but stockholders and large corporations, adding on to western imperialism. The expansion of the tourism industry benefiting only corporations means that investments are not directed towards projects that would help the local population (such as infrastructure and education) - thereby contributing to an unsustainable business market reliant on foreign tourists that fails to properly provide education, humanitarian aid, healthcare, and other resources. In these visited lands, there is an over-consumption of scarce resources to service the tourist industry which harms the natural environment. Soil erosion, more pollution, habitat loss, and pressure on endangered species further add onto negative effects that come with tourism. These journeys to areas are usually objectified as just places to visit, and the local cultural traditions are often ignored.²⁷ Locals are neglected and used to service visitors. In the summer of 2021 there were multiple instances of Christopher Columbus statues being torn down because of his colonization, but many see these people as hypocritical because they are traveling to the Caribbean as a vacation destination. Additionally, there have been major increases in pollution in the areas of tourism hot spots furthering the example of disrespect from visitors.

²⁷ Riendeau, Christopher. "Tourism, Colonialism, and Disease." *Blog of the APA*, 20 June 2021, <https://blog.apaonline.org/2021/06/21/tourism-colonialism-and-disease/>.

Experts have noticed that supply chains are running tourism that are being controlled by western imperialism. When traveling, one needs basic necessities to live, yet they are buying from places that have been curated to draw in tourists, not something authentic to the place they are visiting. These supply chains have been defined as “a network of tourism organizations engaged in different components of tourism,” which includes flights, accommodations, marketing, and the profits that are made in tourism.²⁸ These supply chains have a very strict agenda: satisfaction, sustainability, reduced demand uncertainty, and monetary value. Performance of the supply chain is measured solely on financial gain, meaning that these supply chains often ignore cultures for money. These supply chains come into underdeveloped countries and crush their local competitors, increasing Western dominance in the business market. In addition to the growth of unsustainable tourist industries which fail to contribute to long term economic development, the trend of developmentalism is also a significant issue. Tracing its beginnings to the 1950s when countries like Guatemala started to develop, developmentalism is the economic trend whereby an economic gap decreases between nations that the West previously tried to improve. With this development, multinational companies no longer could exploit cheap labor, leading to the attempt to take down the developmentalist movements²⁹, to continue their rule over these countries. Large nations aren't looking for an increase in development because it means less money they have to put into building an area. Western nations want to be the ones that want to improve nations through their own methods and imperialism.

²⁸ Dewi, Nyoman Indah Kusuma. “Tourism Supply Chain Framework: A Case on Tourism Village.” *Microsoft*, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=57072>.

²⁹ Kopp, Carol M. “Understanding Development Economics.” *Investopedia*, Investopedia, 8 July 2022, <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/development-economics.asp>.

There are more issues that imperialism causes in these countries including water overuse, pollution, local displacement, increased carbon footprint, and it can harm ocean health³⁰. For instance, most hotels use the same amount of water in 55 days that residents use in 3 years. This can contribute to a shortage of water for the citizens that live in these areas³¹. There is an uneven use of freshwater by tourists, which results in the spread of disease for locals and increases poverty. Tourists at these hotels use around 16 more times the amount of water locals do in a day. Additionally, environments are polluted by food containers, water bottles, packaging, and all sorts of plastic. Even if trash is properly disposed of, this waste overloads the waste management systems. Furthermore, tourists are often not educated on the different waste systems, which creates problems with groundwater and soil contamination³². Another issue is the displacement caused by the construction of tourist destinations. Major chains out buy residents so their local businesses cannot persevere. Without any local business, the economy goes down, community goes down, and culture decreases; eventually being replaced with western ideals. Additionally, the carbon footprint that tourism leaves accounts for 8% of the world's total carbon footprint. The transportation it takes to get to foreign places and the transportation that occurs within the place of travel all contribute to climate change. The United States, China, and India all had very high carbon emission rates for tourism specifically, but small islands were high contributors too³³

³⁰ “5 Ways Tourism Can Have a Negative Impact.” *DoSomething.org*, <https://www.dosomething.org/us/articles/5-ways-tourism-can-have-a-negative-impact>.

³¹ “Charity Condemns Tourists' Use of Fresh Water in Developing Countries.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 8 July 2012, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/jul/08/fresh-water-tourist-developing>.

³² “Managing Waste in Tourist Cities.” *Resource Magazine*, 22 Aug. 2016, <https://resource.co/article/managing-waste-tourist-cities-11319>.

³³ Harvey, Chelsea. “Global Tourism Has a Bigger Share of Carbon Emissions than Thought.” *Scientific American*, Scientific American, 8 May 2018, <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/global-tourism-has-a-bigger-share-of-carbon-emissions-than-thought/>.

. Lastly, there is the ocean that is heavily affected by all forms of tourism. Boats and snorkeling have killed coral reefs along with the littering of tourists. Chemicals in the sunscreen used by tourists have killed over 50% of corals in Maya Bay, which was once considered one of the most beautiful coral reefs in the world³⁴. Tourists have been continually harming the areas around them and further spreading imperialism ideas. Tourists are leaving their western mark on previously culture-rich areas. Places such as Boracay, Philippines were very rural which led to their own sewage system that was not seen in very developed places³⁵. As a result, Boracay was covered in sewage and had to be shut down to the public. Without tourism, the sewage systems that were normal to citizens of this isolated island would not have been harmed. All of the damages they cause end up being fixed by western nations who attempt to get more control over these developing nations being used as tourist destinations with methods such as developmentalism.

I. United Nations Involvement

One thing the United Nations has done for tourism is to create The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)³⁶. The members of this organization are focused on creating stronger partnerships between countries to have safe tourism. There are five pillars that make up UNWTO's mandate and goals: smarter tourism, more competitive tourism, better jobs through tourism, safe and seamless travel, and protecting cultural heritage. In UNWTO, there are 160

³⁴ Reporters, Post. "Maya Bay's Coral 50% Destroyed." *https://www.bangkokpost.com*, 8 Oct. 2018, <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1553730/maya-bays-coral-50-destroyed>.

³⁵ Blair, Olivia. "8 Holiday Destinations at Risk of Being Ruined by Tourism." *Country Living*, 21 July 2018, <https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wildlife/countryside/g22127274/holiday-destinations-ruined-by-tourism/>.

³⁶ "World Tourism Organization." *UNWTO*, <https://www.unwto.org/who-we-are>.

member states that all advocate for positive forms of tourism. There is a drive for competitive tourism as it produces less poverty in these visited countries. The UN recognizes that tourism creates economic growth, development, and sustainability, but are still conscious of the negative effects that it brings with it. UNWTO is very focused on these sustainable development goals and follows Sustainable Development Goal One (reduction of poverty) and Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities). This is why they seek to implement the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) . This code would minimize the possible negative effects of tourism—such as environmental destruction, economic dependency on visitors, and other facets of imperialism—and would increase all positive socio-economic effects. There are 10 articles in this document that address respect between peoples and societies, the fulfillment that comes from traveling, how tourism leads to sustainable development, contributions to enhance foreign cultures, each countries’ right to tourism, jobs created from the tourism industry, and ethics that need to be established when it comes to tourism. Yet, the GCET is not legally binding yet which is why in 2003, the World Committee on Tourism Ethics was established to promote universally accessible tourism. This committee is very active and reports back to the Assembly of UNWTO. At this time the committee has shown tremendous success in their communication rates. With regular meetings there is a lot of dialogue that is being spoken between countries. While they are lacking in some implementation of new laws and legislation to solve the issue, there are plans in the future for bills with the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to GCET, there was also an ethics convention³⁷ in 2019 located in San Petersburg. They looked at the success of the

³⁷ “World Tourism Organization.” *UNWTO*, <https://www.unwto.org/ethics-convention>.

GCET and further improved it. This led to changes in the original framework such as means of implementation and the mandate of the framework.

When it comes to imperialism, the United Nations is very focused on decolonization and neo-colonialism. At the UN's origins, almost a third of the world's population lived in areas that were non-self-governing. In Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations³⁸It mentions that decolonization stems from "equal rights and self-determination of peoples."The United Nation believes in all peoples agreeing with their rule, going against imperialism. With the establishment of these committees, the UN is looking to giving exploited countries some of their original culture back; meaning prevention of imperialism from western colonies,

II. Topics to Consider

A. *Economic Effects of Tourism on Developing Nations*

In an attempt to end imperialism, it may end the tourism industry which will further affect the money that countries are making. Some countries such as the Maldives, British Virgin Islands, Macao, and so many more focus solely on tourism to sustain their economy³⁹. It is important to consider the juxtaposition between the sociopolitical interests of countries seeking to avoid economic imperialism and the economic interests of tourist companies.

B. *The Sustainability of the Tourism Industry*

³⁸"UN Charter." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter#:~:text=United%20Nations%20Charter,force%20on%2024%20October%201945>.

³⁹ Frost, Natasha. "These Are the Countries Most Reliant on Your Tourism Dollars." *Quartz*, Quartz, <https://qz.com/1724042/the-countries-most-reliant-on-tourism-for-gdp/>.

While the current method of tourism is creating lasting negative effects on countries, it still provided a source of income for almost every country and leads to 5.81 trillion dollars to the national economy and global GDP⁴⁰. Additionally, tourism sustains over 10% of the world's GDP. Because of this, the tourism industry needs to be kept in this world so countries can maintain some form of economy. Delegates should focus on creating solutions that allow tourism to continue so countries are still able to profit off of the money made from tourism while also implementing regulations to address the negative social, environmental, and economic effects of the tourist industry. Tourism is one of the most competitive businesses in the world, so delegates should look into their countries to see if they prefer more of a competitive business or not. Countries focus on talent competition, image marketing, management, and human resources to make their country more appealing to visitors⁴¹. With more competition, it further promotes tourism, therefore leading to the development of more imperialism in these countries. It is up to the country of the delegates to look at if keeping tourism would be acceptable.

C. Alternatives to the Tourism Industry

Currently, there are 3 forms of tourism: inbound, outbound, and domestic. Inbound tourism means that someone is traveling to another country than the one that they live in as a tourist⁴². This is recognized as the most popular form of tourism and supplies the economy in a

⁴⁰ This text provides general information. Statista assumes no liability for the information given being complete or correct. Due to varying update cycles, statistics can display more up-to-date data than referenced in the text. "Topic: Tourism Worldwide." *Statista*, 2022, https://www.statista.com/topics/962/global-tourism/#topicHeader__wrapper.

⁴¹ Cao, Qian, et al. "Tourism Competitiveness Evaluation: Evidence From Mountain Tourism in China." *Frontiers*, *Frontiers*, 1 Jan. 1AD, <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2022.809314/full>.

⁴² "Inbound Tourism Explained: Understanding the Basics." *Tourism Teacher*, 17 Oct. 2021, <https://tourismteacher.com/inbound-tourism/#:~:text=Inbound%20tourism%20is%20the%20act,peak%2C%20shoulder%20and%20low%20seasons>.

lot of countries with the introduction of foreign exchange. Outbound tourism is recognized as the activities that people are involved in when they are traveling outside of the environment that they usually live in⁴³. Lastly, domestic tourism is tourism that is involved within the home country of the traveler⁴⁴.

D. Impact of COVID-19 On The Tourism Industry

Prior to the disease, tourism made up 10% of the global GDP. Yet, in 2020 when COVID-19 started to take over the world, 100 million jobs in the tourism industry alone were lost. A lot of vulnerable countries were focused solely on tourism prior to the shutdown, and were not thrilled to know that regular tourism levels aren't supposed to return until 2024⁴⁵. A lot of countries such as Barbados and Seychelles, out of economic desperation were forced to open back up much earlier than anticipated, leading to even more economic vulnerability as they were not ready for the return of guests. These countries need significant economic support, but delegates need to consider if it is worth the help of Western nations which would gentrify and modernize these all-natural tourist destinations. With the decrease of local businesses in these areas with no customers to support them, is it worth having these cultural stores be replaced by McDonald's and large chains so these nations can recover, but lose their individuality?

III. Case Study

⁴³ "Outbound Tourism." *Outbound Tourism | Concepts | Statistics Finland*, https://www.stat.fi/meta/kas/ulkommatkailu_en.html#:~:text=Outbound%20tourism%20comprises%20the%20activities,leisure%2C%20business%20and%20other%20purposes.

⁴⁴ "What Is Domestic Tourism and Why Is It so Important?" *Tourism Teacher*, 14 Mar. 2022, <https://tourismteacher.com/domestic-tourism/>.

⁴⁵ ADAM BEHSUDI is on the staff of Finance & Development. "Impact of the Pandemic on Tourism – IMF F&D." *IMF*, <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2020/12/impact-of-the-pandemic-on-tourism-behsudi>.

With the growth of the tourism industry, countries are often overrun by foreign visitors and the locals' needs are ignored by visitors and leaders of imperialism. For example, this trend can be seen in Venice where their population has dropped two thirds because tourism has taken over the city. Locals have been overcrowded by the tourists in this location and have mentioned that it's no longer a pleasant place to live with so many foreigners. In order to counteract this, the city has decreased tourism spots and added more police to these areas. Additionally, take out restaurants have been banned from Venice to decrease the amount of negative influence from other countries⁴⁶. Without these take out restaurants, there will be a decrease in chain restaurants so tourists can enjoy true Italian charm, not plots to make money. This new law is considered to preserve the culture in this area after protests from locals against the loss of culture. Additionally, there have been protests about allowing franchises from Western food companies like McDonalds to be located next to classic Italian architecture. As one of the most visited countries in the world, an "anti-conflict" team works to make sure that there are no issues. They are able to work along-side city leaders to discuss their vision for the city, and how to decline tourists' affect culture.

IV. Guiding Questions

- A. Why are western countries spreading these western ideals to vulnerable countries?
- B. How has your country benefitted or been harmed by the tourism industry?

⁴⁶ So they're taking action: The city council has approved a rule that prohibits the opening of new takeout joints that sell meals such as kebabs or pizza the slice. "Venice Bans Cheap Takeout Joints to Keep City Beautiful." *CNNMoney*, Cable News Network, <https://money.cnn.com/2017/05/10/news/venice-italy-takeout-fast-food-tourism/index.html?iid=EL>.

- C. Does your country view tourism as a positive force for economic development, or an imperialist economic sector which contributes to environmental destruction, cultural erasure, and economic exploitation?
- D. How can tourism be reformed to address social, political, and economic concerns without eradicating the industry?

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