

NATO

*Advanced
Specialized*



TOPICS: NATO's Relations in the Indo-Pacific,
Defending Against Unconventional Methods
of Warfare

CHAIRS: Jonah Miller, Lauren Dover

LAIMUN XXVIII

December 3-4

LAIMUN XXVIII

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LAIMUN XXVIII

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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 Izzy Hory and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXVIII! I am the Undersecretary-General of the Specialized Branch this year and cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

This is my fourth year in the Model UN class at Mira Costa, and I can confidently say that everyone in the program has worked super hard to make the 2022 conference a success.

With that being said, we do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

We want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

Don't forget to do your research and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at specialized@mchsmun.org! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXVIII website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of Luck,
Izzy Hory
Under-Secretaries General

Introduction to the Dias

Hello delegates! My name is Jonah Miller and I am thrilled to be your co-chair for NATO Advanced at LAIMUN XXVIII. This is my fourth year being involved with the MUN program at Mira Costa High School and I am now a senior. I have participated in numerous local and travel conferences and I am excited to see everyone in our committee this year and the ideas that you will all bring. MUN has taught me numerous valuable skills and life lessons that I will carry with me to college and for the rest of my life. Debating at conferences has helped me with my confidence, public speaking, and my apprehension of current global issues. This is my third year participating with LAIMUN, my second as a chair. Last year I was a chair for the EU novice committee and I am looking forward to chairing again in NATO this year!

During my time outside of Model UN I am usually playing or watching sports. I love to play basketball with my friends at the local park, and I love to watch college football or the NFL. If I'm not doing this, I am most likely at the beach with friends, coaching kids for basketball, or watching shows on Netflix. I am also a member of the new sports analytics club at Costa and a participant of the AYSO VIP program which is designed to help special needs kids play soccer. If you have any questions please contact me or Lauren and we will get back to you as soon as possible. I am so excited to co-chair this committee and I cannot wait to hear your country's ideas and solutions in debate!

Good luck and see you soon,

Jonah

Hey delegates! My name is Lauren Dover and I will be co-chairing at LAIMUN 2022! I am a junior at Mira Costa and last year I was the legal for African Union novice and I loved the experience of hosting other delegates at our school. I have been in the MUN program for the last 3 years and debating is something that I enjoy so much. I like learning about current conflicts in the world and I really appreciate learning about what I can do to make the world a better place. Next year will be my senior year and fourth year in the MUN program. I hope to improve my debating skills as well as teaching others how to improve their own. Go Costa!

Outside of MUN, I participate in a baking club and the hope for Children's Hospital Los Angeles club which both involve donating books, toys, writing cards, games, and many other items that less fortunate children do not always get to have. I also fundraise for cancer research by participating in the relay 2XU Malibu Triathlon. I swam 800 yards in the ocean and my team and I got 15th out of 125 relay teams at last year's event. I have raised around 40,000 dollars in total from the two years I have participated in this event. In my free time, I enjoy going to the beach with friends, surfing, swimming, and watching the sunset. My favorite thing to do is play beach volleyball. I love the sport more than anything in the world and I enjoy competing every chance I get. I also like to spend time with my younger brother while we study or play video games together. Overall, I absolutely love converts and going to amusement parks.

This year in the specialized NATO Advanced Committee, I am looking forward to hearing creative solutions that have variety and can cover different subtopics. We tried to pick two topics that have many different parts to it so that the overall issue can be tackled in many

different ways. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out

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Sincerely,

Lauren Dover

Committee Description

To counter growing influences of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed during the Cold War. More specifically, in 1947, France and the United Kingdom agreed to align themselves with defending against any possible Soviet attack. This agreement called the Treaty of Dunkirk, expanded with countries in the North Atlantic Treaty.¹ Currently, it is an international group of nations that serve as protection and consensus on a variety of issues.² There are thirty countries in NATO that underwent an application process to become accepted. Although most of its members are a part of the European Union, NATO focuses explicitly on responding to threats through the defense and political tactics. Each member agrees to defend another member nation against an external attack.³ The requirements of how much involvement each member state needs to provide depends on the conflict. For example, in the situation between Ukraine and Russia, the United States can only supply weapons. If they were to involve themselves in the air or with troops, they would be instigating a world war. Some countries, like Hungary, have recently voiced their disapproval of how the European Union and NATO handle the conflict between Russia and Ukraine. There are also countries awaiting approval to join NATO, like Finland and Sweden. The

¹ “All You Need to Know about NATO - from Member States to Map of Countries.” *NationalWorld*, 10 Aug. 2022, <https://www.nationalworld.com/news/world/what-is-nato-what-does-nato-stand-for-member-states-map-of-countries-are-ukraine-and-russia-involved-3541768>.

² Nato. “Enlargement and Article 10.” *NATO*, 5 July 2022, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49212.htm.

³ “What Ukraine Reveals about NATO and the EU.” *Carnegie Europe*, <https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/86325>.

expansion of NATO is an essential aspect of the body as it is the largest military alliance.

Member countries must continue to focus on aligning themselves with those in need of support and coming together if any disagreement unleashes.

Topic A: NATO's Relations in the Indo-Pacific

I. Background

On April 4, 1949, leaders from 12 European and Western countries— the United States, France, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, Belgium, Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, and Portugal— came together and officially founded the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or NATO. As the Soviet Union continued to grow in power and geopolitical influence during this period, these countries formed this alliance to provide collective security and action against the USSR. For the United States, NATO became the first military alliance that the nation entered outside the Western hemisphere during a time of peace. The US joined because it needed global partners to protect itself from conflict during the Cold War and the free world's security overall. For over half a century, this was NATO's main agenda, to strengthen the ally's military response to the threat of USSR invasion and protect all member states' freedom and security.⁴ This goal ultimately became successful on December 26, 1991, when the Soviet Union dissolved and the Cold War ended. Since then, NATO's fundamental purpose has shifted away from a military-centered agenda and towards protecting and promoting all the common interests (politically, economically, and militarily) of NATO members.

The shift in NATO's goals can most recently be seen with the new NATO 2030 agenda. NATO itself described this new purpose saying it is an “ambitious agenda to make sure NATO remains ready, strong, and united for a new era of increased global competition.”⁵

⁴ (www.dw.com), Deutsche Welle. “What Is NATO and Why Was It Created?: DW: 08.02.2022.” *DW.COM*, <https://www.dw.com/en/what-is-nato-and-why-was-it-created/a-60688639>.

⁵ *June 2021 NATO 2030*. https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2021/6/pdf/

The organization believes that this can be done through three core pillars: collective defense, crisis management, and cooperative security.⁶ With the Soviet Union gone, these core tasks are no longer directed toward a specific country or region. Still, they are encouraged to promote a more considerable overall global influence for NATO. Despite this, the alliance does have specific target areas, one of which is the Indo-Pacific Region. This region was mentioned in the NATO 2030 Agenda as part of its goal to extend a ‘global reach’.⁷ Within the Indo-Pacific and its surroundings, NATO already has some relationships built up. The alliance has 5 Asia-Pacific global partners: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.⁸ These five members play a vital role in NATO’s globalizing goals, but the organization wants to create more relationships in Asia and the Pacific to have a bigger global influence. An example of this desire can be seen in the creation of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, also referred to as the QUAD, in 2007 and its reestablishment in 2017. The QUAD is a cooperative defense dialogue between the US, Australia, India, and Japan. The group is an example of the US and NATO’s goals to try and gain a more prominent role in geopolitical events in the Indo-Pacific. This same objective was in mind when the AUKUS alliance was formed between Australia, the US, and the UK in September 2021. The primary purpose of this agreement is to enhance the military power of each nation by developing new

2106-factsheet-nato2030-en.pdf.

⁶ Nato. “Strategic Concepts.” *NATO*, 11 July 2018, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_56626.htm.

⁷ Daalder, Ivo H., and James Goldgeier. “Global NATO.” *Foreign Affairs*, 15 June 2022, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2006-09-01/global-nato>.

⁸ Nato. “Relations with Asia-Pacific Partners.” *NATO*, 7 Apr. 2022, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_183254.htm.

technologies alongside one another.⁹ The hidden purpose of this agreement is for European and Western countries to be more active in the Indo-Pacific region. All global partners of NATO are looking to create further and strengthen relationships in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Indo-Pacific region is home to 65% of the world's entire population and it is also home to some of the world's largest economies including China, India, Japan, Indonesia, South Korea, Australia, Thailand, the Philippines, and more.¹⁰ In fact, the region accounts for 63% of the world's Gross Domestic Product and 46% of the world's merchandise related trade. Along with this large economic presence, the world's overall geopolitical center of gravity has been slowly shifting to the Indo-Pacific region. This ultimately decreases the strength of NATO and increases the strength of one of NATO's biggest enemies, China. NATO fears that the rise of China will cause a disruption in the global balance of power which is why they seek more Indo-Pacific partners to back their stance against China. However, China recognizes this and has publicly backed Russia in a stance that opposes NATO's eastward expansion. China believes the organization is trying to form a present day version of the 'Eight Nation Alliance', which was a coalition of military powers in 1900 that invaded China and uprooted its government. The modern issue with China will not become military based though. NATO is most threatened by China's economic and political influence. For example, Beijing has been investing in European

⁹ (www.dw.com), Deutsche Welle. "What Is NATO and Why Was It Created?: DW: 08.02.2022." *DW.COM*, <https://www.dw.com/en/what-is-nato-and-why-was-it-created/a-60688639>.

¹⁰ "Opportunity Knocks for NATO and Its Partners in the Asia-Pacific." *Atlantic Council*, 21 June 2021, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/opportunity-knocks-for-nato-and-its-partners-in-the-asia-pacific/>.

infrastructure and has been gaining a stronger hold on European economies.¹¹ This increasing influence ultimately allows China to use economic threats to impose its will on NATO.

Politically, China's communist government threatens NATO as they fear the expansion of communism and the loss of democratic values amongst the international community. The alliance does not want countries to support the rise of China, so they are trying to make alliances with Indo-Pacific countries first. The reaction and response of Asian countries to NATO's Indo-Pacific strategies are not unified though. For example, some such as Singapore, Japan, and South Korea strongly support NATO, some such as Myanmar and Laos stand with China, others like Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam stay undecided in the middle ground, and the emerging powers like Malaysia and Indonesia simply fear too much power for groups like NATO and AUKUS.¹² However, there is one thing that every country can agree on: containment of China will have a backlash. Experts believe that Beijing would respond to NATO containment by hardening military positions in the South China Sea and along the Himalayan border as well as placing economic threats on European countries.¹² Overall, Indo-Pacific countries support a multipolar world. This means that global power is distributed between several states rather than being dominated by one or two large states.¹³

NATO has refocused and broadened its agenda to extend global reach, but there is still one main aim which is to check the dangers posed by the Rise of China. This objective has

¹¹ Daalder, Ivo H., and James Goldgeier. "Global NATO." *Foreign Affairs*, 15 June 2022, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2006-09-01/global-nato>.

¹² Daalder, Ivo H., and James Goldgeier. "Global NATO." *Foreign Affairs*, 15 June 2022, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2006-09-01/global-nato>.

¹³ Marschik, Quinn. "An Indo-Pacific Nato Is a Bad Idea." *Asia Times*, 15 Mar. 2022, <https://asiatimes.com/2022/03/an-indo-pacific-nato-is-a-bad-idea/>.

created larger implications for the organizations' overall influence in the Indo-Pacific region. NATO needs to increase peace and security in the Indo-Pacific in order to ensure good relations with countries in the region. NATO must focus on the crises in Taiwan and Tibet, the military hold China has on the South China Sea, the new cyberspace threats created by technological advancements, and overall keeping Asia and the Pacific's freedom to make their own strategic choices. When striving for these goals, the alliance can essentially succeed in containing China and restoring the primacy of NATO.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations and NATO both share the same commitment to maintain peace and security across the entire international community. Cooperation between the UN and NATO began in the early 1990s following the end of the cold war. The two organizations support many of the same objectives, but their influences are different. The UN commands a more global influence and importance, but NATO has more power and implementation opportunities due to its military abilities. Overall, the two alliances have good relations and often work towards the same tasks.

Regarding NATO's relations in the Indo-Pacific, the UN, like always, sides with peace and cooperation. The organization has taken a strong stance against China, specifically against the country's human rights violations and violations of freedom. For example, the UN has accused China of illegally detaining over 1 million Muslim ethnic Uyghurs and the UN office of

human rights has been very active in the country. Another example of UN intervention is their meetings held over disputes in the South China Sea. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) tried to end complications by establishing Exclusive Economic Zones as well as guaranteeing wide-range passage. However, as disputes continue, the UN Security Council has held numerous discussions for members to try and solve the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.¹⁴ Another focus for the UN in the Indo-Pacific is maritime security. To address this, the The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) have followed the standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to try and monitor and remove maritime piracy from the South China Sea and from Southeast Asia overall. The UN has targeted acts of violence and conflict in the Indo-Pacific region to try and maintain peace and security.

Along with numerous meetings, announcements, and conventions to discuss separate conflicts in the Indo-Pacific, the UN has also begun to take a regional approach. The UN created the Regional Collaborative Platform which addresses key challenges specific to certain regions around the world. The RCP for Asia and the Pacific is designed to solve issues such as human rights violations, health crises, environmental problems, and more.¹⁵ The UN wants to act on the conflicts that transcend borders in order to provide overall peace and prosperity. This goes along with NATO's goals of extending global reach and providing aid and support to the

¹⁴ "Opportunity Knocks for NATO and Its Partners in the Asia-Pacific." *Atlantic Council*, 21 June 2021, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/opportunity-knocks-for-nato-and-its-partners-in-the-asia-pacific/>.

¹⁵ *June 2021 NATO 2030*. https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2021/6/pdf/2106-factsheet-nato2030-en.pdf.

Indo-Pacific. However, there is one key difference. The UN is designed to do this while NATO wants to extend support to Asia and the Pacific for its own strategic agenda.

Overall, the UN and NATO have similar objectives in the Indo-Pacific, but the two organizations cannot go about things in the same manner. The lack of ability for the UN to enforce solutions has led to minimal change despite strong efforts to solve the problems in the region. The UN can only encourage change and condemn conflicts, but when they try and truly push for action, China is often there to veto it. China is one of 5 permanent UNSC members which means they hold veto power. This power makes it virtually impossible to pass substantive resolutions or task forces because nearly every issue in the Indo-Pacific involves China, thus stressing the importance of NATO extension of its influence eastward. The alliance has the ability to take further action in the Indo-Pacific to promote peace and decrease the threats posed by the Rise of China.

III. Topics to Consider

A. South China Sea

The South China Sea dispute is a territorial dispute involving China, Brunei, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. China claims sovereignty over the entire sea while the other nations involved have Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) in the sea as well as their own claims to it.¹⁶ However, China has completely claimed and altered the sea by

¹⁶ Marschik, Quinn. "An Indo-Pacific Nato Is a Bad Idea." *Asia Times*, 15 Mar. 2022, <https://asiatimes.com/2022/03/an-indo-pacific-nato-is-a-bad-idea/>.

increasing the size and number of islands, constructing new ports and airstrips, developing new military outposts, and more. Beijing's goal is to protect the military, political, and economic opportunities that the South China Sea provides. In doing so, they have removed all influence in the Sea by stating that it is illegal for other countries to be active in China's EEZ. The nation has also kept its assertive position by threatening to attack maritime passages through the Sea and blocking ports along the coast. Attempts to resolve this conflict have usually sided against China. For example, UNCLOS said the sea should have navigation freedom for all members and military activities do not need to be passed, but China has refused to accept the authority of the rulings.

NATO has maintained a policy that supports freedom of navigation and the organization supports the creation of a code of conduct for the Sea.¹⁷ NATO is interested in this conflict because of the political and economic influences it has. Politically, NATO wants to contain China and prevent the rise of the country's influence and power. To do so, they must stop China from controlling an important military and economic body of water. Also, NATO activity in this dispute may help the alliance extend its reach and create stronger relationships with Indo-Pacific countries. On the economic side, the organization is interested in the estimated 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. NATO wants these resources in the hand of a country that its global partners can trade with instead of in the hands of China who can use the resources as leverage. Overall, the South China Sea conflict involves more than just the water's

¹⁷ "Opportunity Knocks for NATO and Its Partners in the Asia-Pacific." *Atlantic Council*, 21 June 2021, <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/opportunity-knocks-for-nato-and-its-partners-in-the-asia-pacific/>.

bordering nations. The dispute has global implications due to the military and economic potential it holds.

B. Taiwan and Tibet

Taiwan and Tibet face similar circumstances in that they are both being claimed by China despite their own desire for independence. For Taiwan, Beijing believes that it is a breakaway province that needs to be reunified with the mainland. Taiwan and China split in 1949 after World War II, but China has never recognized this split. There has since been increasing conflict as China threatens to use military force to reclaim the island nation. China has sent military aircrafts into Taiwan's air and all signs point towards an eventual military intervention. This conflict is important to NATO and the rest of the world because much of the world's electronics such as laptops, phones, video game consoles, etc. are powered by Taiwanese computer chips.²² If China takes control over Taiwan, they will control this resource and its distribution. Along with this, Taiwan would provide China with powerful military possibilities due to its location in the Pacific Ocean. NATO wants to contain the spread and rise of China's authority throughout the region which means they must not allow Beijing to take over the island.

The Tibetan dispute is similar to the Taiwanese conflict, but it is centered around China's human rights violations against the religious and ethnic minorities in the country. Tibet has been oppressively controlled by China since 1951, but the Tibetan people have held numerous uprisings and they strongly desire their own sovereignty.²³ As Tibet seeks independence, there is debate on whether Tibet was officially independent at parts in their

recent history or if they have always been a part of China. Many people in the international community believe that Tibet was independent for centuries until more recent years when the People's Republic of China (PRC) took control in 1959. NATO is interested in this territorial dispute because it is another example of China's rising control and power on the world stage. As NATO wants to maintain its primacy, it recognizes the need to step into these conflicts to extend global influence and protect the free world. In fact, a NATO chief even publicly stated in 2020 that NATO urges countries to fight back against China's 'bullying' of Tibet.¹⁸

Overall, the disputes in Taiwan and Tibet are similar to one another and they both influence NATO's action in the Indo-Pacific. NATO desires the containment of China so they want to engage in the attempts to solve these two territorial conflicts.

C. Cybersecurity

With increasing developments in technology and technological abilities, cyberwarfare attacks are becoming more threatening and more common each day. In fact, in late March of this year, the Check Point Research (CPR) organization observed a 116% increase in cyber attacks on NATO countries that were carried out by Chinese computers.¹⁹ Chinese hackers have been caught engaging in cyberhacking, cyber extortion, cryptojacking, and ransomware. NATO, the EU, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan have all come together to publicly condemn and blame the Chinese Ministry of State Security for these attacks, specifically a cyberattack on Microsoft

¹⁸ "NATO Chief Urges Nations to Stand up to 'Bullying' as China Power Rises." *Central Tibetan Administration*, 9 June 2020, <https://tibet.net/nato-chief-urges-nations-to-stand-up-to-bullying-as-china-power-rises/>.

¹⁹ *NATO*, <https://www.nato.int/cyberdefence/>.

Exchange in 2021. The security threats Beijing poses on the global partners of NATO threatens both the strength of the organization and their plans to contain the power of China. The allies have worked to use information-sharing systems and cooperative assistance to prevent, reduce, and recover from cyber attacks, but they still occur at a high rate

In the Indo-Pacific specifically, NATO recognizes the need to help protect countries in the region from Chinese cyber attacks. Cooperating cyber security resilience between NATO and the Indo-Pacific has the potential to provide a framework for overall cooperation and alliance in the region. Cybersecurity is an integral part of NATO's plan to extend its global reach as countries around the world recognize the need for increased protection from cyber threats and a majority of countries agree that China is the most common source of attacks. Cybercrime costs are expected to reach \$10.5 trillion annually by 2025, and it is vital that NATO collaborates to create a better cyber defense system to decrease the cost and frequency of attacks.

IV. Case Study: Mumbai Power Outage

In October of 2020, a power outage in Mumbai, India shut down trains, closed the stock market, forced hospitals to use emergency generators, and complicated every technological aspect of life. At first, there was nothing suspicious about the grid failure and it seemed to be an unfortunate power outage, but new studies in February of 2021 found that the event was part of a larger cybercampaign carried out by Chinese sponsored hackers. The cyber attacks were against the India power grid as a threat to show China's control and stop India from pursuing its border claims.

The cyber attack came after months of conflict between India and China at the borders

along the Himalayas. For example, 4 months prior to the attack, a battle in the Galwan Valley killed a mix of both Chinese and Indian troops along the border. Officials believe that the outage in the country's biggest business center was strategically carried out by Beijing as a punishment and a threat for India's border disputes.²⁰ The suspicion is supported with proof of a chinese-origin code sent at the Indian power grid. Evidence provided by a Recorded Future study found that there were other parts of the nation's electric grid targeted as well. Chinese malware was found in multiple systems that manage the power supply for all of India. The cyberattack ultimately provides an example of how cyberattacks are becoming the newest form of aggression and threats, and the common culprit is Chinese backed hackers.

This attack relates to NATO and the Indo-Pacific because it is an example of the exact thing NATO is trying to prevent. The two Indo-Pacific countries in this case study are representative of the types of countries NATO is trying to form alliances with, India, and the country that NATO is trying to contain, China. The alliance is trying to decrease the power of China in order to protect the global order of power, but events like this show how much influence and control China already has. The nation is using their technological advancements to control the decisions of other countries through extreme threats. NATO condemns these actions and wants to protect the freedom of strategic choices for all countries in the Indo-Pacific to ensure China's control is mitigated and their allies are limited. Along with this, NATO is

²⁰ Sanger, David E., and Emily Schmall. "China Appears to Warn India: Push Too Hard and the Lights Could Go Out." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 28 Feb. 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/28/us/politics/china-india-hacking-electricity.html>.

trying to increase cyber security for both its allies and other global partners. The organization recognizes the increased frequency and cost of cyber attacks and they have even stated that the Chinese Ministry of State Security has hired criminal hackers to carry out cyber attacks for their own personal profit.

Overall, the power outage in Mumbai is a great example of why NATO is extending their influence eastward. The alliance fears the rise of China and they are doing everything in their power to form relationships with Indo-Pacific countries that will stand with them in their opposition against the authoritarian state. Specifically, cybersecurity is one aspect of NATO's agenda which needs to be strengthened and addressed.

V. Guiding Questions

1. Does your country support NATO, China, or is your country unwilling to pick a side amidst NATO's expanding reach? How does this affect the solutions your country is willing to develop?
2. How can we ensure that NATO plays an active role in the Indo-Pacific while simultaneously allowing Indo-Pacific countries to maintain their freedom of decision making and their overall sovereignty? In other words, how is cooperation possible?
3. With the dangerous threat of military intervention, how can violence be avoided while

NATO still seeks to contain China and limit their rise of power?

4. How will the South China Sea Dispute be solved in a manner that the economic and military operations on the Sea are open to all countries that lay claim? How will NATO be involved in solving this Dispute?
5. What methods can be used to increase cyber security for Indo-Pacific countries as well as NATO allies? How can cyber attacks be mitigated, prevented, and recovered from?

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<https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/4/21907/NATO-Eyes-the-Indo-Pacific-Again->.

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<https://www.france24.com/en/tv-shows/the-debate/20220523-indo-pacific-nato-biden-china-and-the-quad-alliance>.

Topic B: Defending Against Unconventional Methods of Warfare

I. Background

Unconventional warfare creates violence and aggression that harms many individuals and causes more problems than it solves. It can be defined as using any methods of warfare that does not include sending troops to another country, while working with an auxiliary group where the leader isn't involved with the corruption of the targeted government. Cyber warfare, biological warfare, nuclear warfare, and economic warfare are all methods of unconventional warfare that have been used in past events and are continuously used today on a larger scale. Some examples of unconventional warfare in recent history include: NATO developing more forms to defend against unconventional warfare, Belgians starting more efficient unconventional weapons production, the threat of unconventional warfare if certain outcomes do not occur, and the progression of the Russia Ukraine conflict.

In 2016, NATO started to establish procedures to strengthen the alliance between all the countries involved while also ensuring the safety of civilians against unconventional warfare. Civilians are unnecessarily harmed during irregular warfare, which has prompted the creation of a new defense system. ²¹For example, during the Balkan wars alone, there were 140,000 total

21 Khorram-Manesh, Amir, et al. "Estimating the Number of Civilian Casualties in Modern Armed Conflicts-A Systematic Review." *Frontiers in Public Health*, Frontiers Media S.A., 28 Oct. 2021, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8581199/>.

deaths, and the mortality rate was between 52%-56%. The first adjustment that was made clear to all NATO members is that if a NATO country is under attack by unconventional methods of warfare by another country, it is the responsibility of the victim country to proceed in the way they feel best. NATO has strengthened its international community to assist if necessary after the victim country makes the first call. The following procedure was straightforward: if a NATO country was attacked, it could force the alliance to invoke article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

²²Later, in 2018, NATO started to put together tailored responses to specific countries if any of these countries were attacked by unconventional warfare. However, these tailored methods would need to be requested by the victim country only when under attack and if the victim country feels it is the best way to proceed. An example of these strategies would be the request for technology to be transported to the victim country to enforce resistance against the attacks. Irregular warfare is initiated by a separate NATO country in assistance to another NATO country. In other words, the leader of the special forces used for aid is not on the battlefield. This is only one form of unconventional warfare. ²³Along with the EU, NATO has responded to past invasions by developing an analysis branch that helps form tailored methods for each country. It focuses on what certain countries have done in the past to take advantage of others. This is especially useful to LDCs to defend against guerilla warfare, as it is the most common method of unconventional warfare. Financial protection and resistance against nuclear threats are also other examples of how NATO would get involved. The support of the NATO community and the

²² Nato. "NATO's Response to Hybrid Threats." NATO, 22 June 2021, https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_156338.htm.

²³ NATO's Hybrid Flanks: Handling Unconventional Warfare in the ... - Eth Z. https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/190786/rp_112.pdf.

new emphasis on protection against irregular warfare has strengthened defensive systems and sparked a new era of battle tactics. NATO is planning on assisting with unconventional warfare, especially with LDCs, to help weaken the enemy before the actual battles start.

²⁴In 2013, Belgium started to update the guns that they used in the past to sell the more improved weapons to larger countries such as the United States. This is a primary example of the significance of how irregular warfare has developed and become more deadly. In response to recent progress, NATO has carefully watched specific conflicts and used its analysis to understand why certain countries were prosperous, and others were not. This ultimately came down to battle tactics and weapons. A new gun was developed in Belgium to help NATO countries have more vital unconventional warfare forces so that if a conflict arises, NATO countries are prepared. This new gun is an assault rifle that Belgians have completed developing. It is a more improved model of the SCAR M4 assault rifle. With the weapon, NATO countries now have the advantage of guerilla warfare in more rural settings. Previously, the outdated version of the gun from the 1960s was only valuable for unconventional warfare in more urban environments because it was meant not to harm civilians but required more close contact with the opposition. The updated assault rifle is tailored to countries with more rural areas. It can aim and hit targets at longer distances, even more accurately than the previous model. The Special Operations Command has spent nearly 19 million dollars on research and development of new weapons such as this one for improvements in unconventional warfare.

²⁴ Press, Associated. "Unconventional Belgian Rifle Becomes Favorite of US Special Operations in Afghanistan." Fox News, FOX News Network, 27 Mar. 2015, <https://www.foxnews.com/world/unconventional-belgian-rifle-becomes-favorite-of-us-special-operations-in-afghanistan>.

NATO has fully supported the progress with weaponry in Belgium. The United States has also started to produce this new weapon at full force showing how NATO has begun to address unconventional warfare and how other non-NATO countries are taking advantage of the advancements.

²⁵More recently, NATO is considering accepting Finland and Sweden into the alliance, and other countries see this as a danger because the coalition could become too powerful. Some argue that this will provoke a nuclear war, another form of irregular warfare. “The Pacific Four” participated in the Madrid summit, where they signed a military partnership with Columbia to back Turkey, which is NATO’s second-largest military. The Turkish army is accused of using air strikes and chemical weapons to persuade and have the permission of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan to allow Finland and Sweden into NATO. If these two countries cannot join NATO, more aggression will occur, including the expansion of unconventional warfare tactics. These two strategies are used as a threat and method of persuasion that would weaken one country before arguments arise. This is a primary example of how governments use their irregular warfare strengths to weaken others without the events being considered a battle.

²⁶In the Russia and Ukraine war, the United States has helped train the Ukrainian forces in unconventional warfare. Not many methods have been used as of currently, but both sides say that more tactics will be used in the remainder of the battles. The United States has trained the

²⁵ “Sweden, Finland Move Closer to NATO Membership.” U.S. Department of Defense, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3083359/sweden-finland-move-closer-to-nato-membership/>.

²⁶ “NATO Establishes Program to Coordinate Rapid Response to Cyberattacks.” POLITICO, <https://www.politico.com/news/2022/06/29/nato-cyberattacks-russia-00043149>.

Ukrainians in guerrilla warfare to target the parts of the Russian forces that are weak.

Ukrainians want to close in on Russia's numerical and technological superiority as well as the "logistical chain," which is how Russia organizes their troops, because it is already in chaos and has no order to it. In other words, the Ukrainian forces are aiming for holes in Russia's organizations so that they can create the largest impact without facing Russia's army head on.

For this reason, the

United States has trained Ukrainian soldiers to also hinder the Russian soldiers morale to weaken them as much as possible.

To summarize, unconventional warfare is used to weaken the enemy in other ways than just on the battlefield. The leader of the warfare can not participate in the plan for the action to be described as unconventional warfare. Guerilla warfare is the most common and it attacks the enemy when they are unprepared. Other methods, such as psychological warfare, cyberwarfare, biological warfare, economic warfare, and nuclear warfare have all been used in different historical events. Each method has harmed civilians, created more damage, and caused a long process of rebuilding as well as costing a lot of money to execute. Some countries, such as Russia, have even used this type of warfare to spark conflicts and also weaken the enemy before the battles even begin to give them a greater advantage. Therefore, it is critical that unconventional methods of warfare can be defended against and prevented to stop future conflicts from escalating.

II. UN Involvement

²⁷The United Nations supports disarmament of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. The UN works hand in hand with IAEA, OPCW, and the CTBTO PrepCom along with upholding treaties such as Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Biological Weapons Convention to accomplish disarmament. The goal of the United Nations is to reduce small arms first and then tackle larger dangers such as landmines. In the past, the UN worked to eliminate nuclear weapons with the first resolution adopted in 1946. This outlined that atomic energy is only used for peaceful purposes and to find solutions to new discoveries of atomic energy to make sure they are under control. These two objectives were overseen by a Commission that was also created by the first resolution. When it comes to biological weapons, the United Nations has addressed the fear of toxins poisoning civilians, damaging land, and economic losses by organizing the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) to prevent the overall use, creation, and transportation of biological weapons. This was the first treaty to ban a specific type of weapon, that weapon being, weapons of mass destruction. For chemical weapons, the UN created the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1993 to remove all current forms of chemical weapons as well as eliminate the creation of them all together.

However, these methods of unconventional warfare are still problems that the world faces today because technology has advanced so quickly that new forms and battle tactics keep arising. Specifically to nuclear weapons and the first resolution passed regarding them, the United Nations has not facilitated the goal of supporting the prevention of creation and removal of weapons of mass destruction. A proposal of having a session specific to nuclear disarmament

²⁷ “Disarmament.” United Nations, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/disarmament>.

was not entertained. In addition, no support has been given to the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament. Biological weapons are still an issue for many reasons.

²⁸The Biological Weapons Convention did not have enough members in the convention to truly make an impact and progress on the issue. There was also no way of verifying that a country had followed through with what the convention had addressed. This caused the illegal usage of biological weapons and countries going against the convention itself. Lastly, with the advancements in biotech and biosciences, biological warfare has taken on a new form and has become even more deadly. Conventions such as the BWC struggle to find ways to address the new weapons as they continue to develop. Regarding chemical warfare, The Chemical Weapons Convention struggled because countries all wanted different aspects of the problem to be addressed. Some wanted nuclear warfare to be mentioned while others wanted assistance for defending against chemical attacks. Because of all the disagreements, free trade of chemical weapons increased leading to more global dangers. Overall, the UN has failed to make an organized agreement that has specifically addressed unconventional methods of warfare and gain support for such a measure.

III. Topics to Consider

A. Nuclear Warfare

Nuclear warfare is very destructive and harmful to the environment. It causes sickness and death from toxins, damages valuable land, and costs money. Most damage comes after the

²⁸ “The Biological Weapons Convention.” *The Nuclear Threat Initiative*, 14 Oct. 2021, <https://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/biological-weapons-convention/>.

conflict is settled when nuclear war is used. Many nuclear bombs are still implanted and ready to explode. Nuclear warfare has only been used twice in history; Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is estimated that 13,400 bombs are still active and can cause harm to neighboring areas. Civilians near active bombs can experience sickness, burns, and respiratory problems. To stay protected from nuclear blasts and gasses, one must stay inside buildings and not go near the walls. This means if a town is exposed to nuclear radiation, then the entire functioning of the city would need to stop. No economic input or output, transportation, or certain medical supplies could be operating in this area.

In addition, less developed countries that do not have as advanced technology will not be able to defend, execute, or rebuild from nuclear warfare. This means that if an LDC was bombed, it could not protect itself, perform offensive tactics, eliminate toxins from the targeted area, help civilians, or rebuild damaged land.²⁹ Military bases such as Fort Greely in the United States, a developed country, cannot stop a nuclear attack, nor is research able to help complete this. This is because today's homeland system is hugely expensive, counterproductive, and offers no proven capability to protect the United States. The United States' nuclear functioning relates to NATO because NATO claims that they have the power to prevent nuclear attacks because they have allies, including the United States. The latter have nuclear weapons set up in case of an attack. If the United States can not prevent an attack and has no strategy for finding a way, nuclear warfare is fair game and can escalate quickly.

Additionally, this method of unconventional warfare proves not to produce the desired

²⁹ February 2022 NATO's Nuclear Sharing Arrangements.
https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/2/pdf/220204-factsheet-nuclear-sharing-arrange.pdf.

political, social, and financial results. This is because irregular warfare means that the tactic used is limited because of the actual fighting on the battlefield. In other words, the real conflict is where the resources are spent and used. However, nuclear warfare requires a lot of financial and political strategizing as well as the dispersal of resources that challenge the limitedness of unconventional warfare. Nations conflict over if specific actions are considered unconventional warfare because of how dramatic they turn out. Nuclear warfare creates the most conversation because it can devastate an entire nation. For example, in the Hiroshima bombing, 140,000 people died from the bombing alone, accounting for 40% of their population. In Nagasaki, 160,000 people were killed by bombing, which equaled 60% of the population. Japan is a nuclear ally of NATO, which is a primary example of the international community's lack of defense against this military strategy. This explains why nuclear warfare causes more problems than it solves and leads to more conflict because it is an action that requires multiple large-scale resources and can be argued as an action that is not limited. Therefore, political ties are tested.

B. Biological Warfare

Biological warfare harms the environment and forces less genetic biodiversity by ruining certain species of plants and animals. Because of this, more types of animals are considered endangered. A specific harmful battle tactic that is used frequently is bioterrorism. This can be defined as the intentional release of toxins into the environment to harm humans, plants, and animals. With the quickly changing natural environment and the rapid development of new technologies, both impacts are more dramatic. Some new technologies do not respond to the environment as planned due to recent changes. This relationship can

cause more immediate effects that civilizations can not adjust to in time. In other words, biological warfare can harm the environment on a catastrophic scale because of the loss of land, animals, and environmental dangers, jobs such as farming and herding struggle to make money and keep their animals alive. This starts to take a toll on the economy and production of an area. With this imbalance, especially in LDCs, it is hard for countries to defend against biological invasions leading to a long and miserable recovery. No NATO member countries have biological warfare programs due to NATO's determination not to use all forms of weaponry, mainly arms unless provoked by another country.³⁰ However, some of NATO's allies are suspected of possessing biological weapons. Libya is one of the countries in question, along with many others. The significance of this is that harmful toxins are still in the environment, which is changing daily. With some of these biological weapons, there is no guarantee that they will respond as planned because their surroundings change frequently. This poses a threat to civilians and the international community.

C. Cyberwarfare

Cyberwarfare is strategic interference with another country's communication and technology to weaken the opponent without fighting a physical war. Cyberwarfare is specifically used for military purposes to harm another country.³¹ A cyber attack can start with any average civilian, business organization, or nation-state making it a concern for protection and privacy. Countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and NATO have

³⁰ "Fact Sheets & Briefs." Chemical and Biological Weapons Status at a Glance | Arms Control Association, <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cbwprolif>.

³¹ Robinson, Michael, et al. "Cyber Warfare: Issues and Challenges." Computers & Security, Elsevier Advanced Technology, 29 Nov. 2014,

created programs that address cyber threats in many ways. However, each country has a different definition of cyber warfare; therefore, more conflicts are created that escalate to all-out war because of disagreement. In addition, governments can not build successful programs and defensive systems because of the diverse definitions and restrictions for cyber attacks. There is no understanding of what each country is capable of and willing to do. In late June, NATO worked with Madrid to help respond to cyber attacks as quickly as possible. NATO and Madrid were able to form a program that put together a new NATO strategy when responding to cyber warfare.³² This new strategy has NATO spending over 1 billion dollars in research money, partnering with countries such as the United States, and acknowledging the threats from Russia and China. The strategy itself is not to enforce Article 5 of the North Atlantic treaty if NATO countries are attacked with cyber warfare. With this in mind, other countries now must create programs or develop new technologies such as early warning systems, defending against cyber warfare, applying cyber warfare laws, and cyberwarfare ethics. All these unknowns have made 20% of all national organizations consider cyber warfare the number one threat to their country. Lastly, countries have difficulty with the difference between cybercrime and cyber warfare. A blurry line forces more tensions and dramatic large-scale events to occur. Between 12 and 25 cyber warfare methods have been used for attacks every day since 2016. This new cyber warfare has caused uncertainties among populations, vast expenses of money for national programs, conflicts between governments, and the rise of tensions all around the globe.

³² (PDF) Cyber Warfare: Issues and Challenges - Researchgate.
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/276248097_Cyber_warfare_Issues_and_challenges.

IV. Case Study: Afghanistan Conflict Against the Taliban

³³In the Afghan war with the Taliban, the Taliban successfully weakened their opponent without putting most of their forces into battle. The entire war was based on using unconventional methods of warfare that ultimately led to the United States intervening and the eventual outcome of the removal of its troops because that became a conventional battle tactic that could not fight with unconventional methods successfully. Pakistan used Taliban forces to fight a proxy war against the Afghans to have control over the Durand Line. In 2011, Pakistan launched over 340 artillery rockets into Afghanistan, which damaged entire towns and villages and forced more migration of Afghans to other countries for protection. When the United States brought troops to this conflict, it was clear that fighting with conventional methods against unconventional methods of warfare was more destructive than productive. The goal of the Pakistan and Taliban forces was to put fear into the hearts of the Afghans, which is a clear sign of unconventional warfare. In addition, Afghanistan defined unconventional warfare as using battle tactics to overthrow a government. Therefore, from the Afghan perspective as well, irregular warfare methods were used continuously with unconventional goals. Because of this conflict, people in Afghanistan have seen more impacts on their health and environment than in any other aspect of their lives. Poverty, malnutrition, minimal access to healthcare, and an overall degradation in the population's health. In addition, there has been an increase in killings

³³ Tue, et al. "Pakistani Unconventional Warfare against Afghanistan." *Pakistani Unconventional Warfare Against Afghanistan* | *Small Wars Journal*, <https://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/pakistani-unconventional-warfare-against-afghanistan>.

and murders of Afghans by the Taliban and ISIS. Therefore, the United States started to arm the Afghan militia to help combat the murders and attacks.

To add to the military struggles, Afghanistan also faces divides among populations and a lack of unity within the country. ³⁴Because of this, psychological warfare is a productive battle tactic used in this war to weaken the enemy. There are 13 main ethnicities in Afghanistan, each with its own values. The Taliban shifted its strategy halfway through the war and targeted specific civilians. The plan was to send packages as mail to the targeted person's house. The box has a smaller bomb than was previously used in the war. With slight movement, the bomb would explode, kill the civilian, and damage the living space. This new tactic was part of psychological warfare, creating many more deaths and significantly impacting the Afghan community. The Taliban needed to understand their target's way of life and close contacts to succeed with this strategy. The ethnic divides made it easier for the Taliban to track individuals and divide the population even more.

This is a prime example of a country that can not defend itself because it does not have the resources or the strategy to do so. Afghanistan also lacks the technology and environmental resources that help it prosper and defend itself as a nation. The multiple types of unconventional warfare show how versatile and difficult it is to protect against it. For this reason, wars and battles in history leading up to World War I were more conventional and planned. War had more rules, and strategizing was purely only on the battlefield. With technology becoming more

³⁴ Singer, Peter W. "Winning the War of Words: Information Warfare in Afghanistan." *Brookings*, Brookings, 28 July 2016, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/winning-the-war-of-words-information-warfare-in-afghanistan/>.

developed, LDCs have a more challenging time keeping up, and MDCs do not have the resources or communication to defend themselves. With this being said, it is clear that unconventional methods of warfare need to be addressed and spoken of. In addition, clarification and legal action must take place to prevent countries from being demolished.

V. Guiding Questions

1. Why do countries not have a universal definition of what unconventional warfare is and how does that make conflicts worse?
2. Which countries use certain unconventional warfare tactics the most and how do other countries anticipate what is coming next and prepare to defend them?
3. How can less developed countries prevent devastating attacks on themselves or rebuild faster from them?
4. Why were most United Nations treaties and documents not successful in lessening the degree of defending certain battle strategies that can be classified as unconventional warfare?
5. Why has NATO not made as much of an impact on solving the problem and developing ways to help more countries?

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