

# UN Security Council

*Advanced  
Specialized*



**TOPICS:** The Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
Afghanistan Crisis

**CHAIRS:** Naomi Kim, Ellie Black

*LAIMUN XXVIII*

*December 3-4*

# LAIMUN XXVIII

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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! I'm Naomi Kim, one of your co-chairs for the UNSC advanced committee! I am a junior at Mira Costa, and this is my third year in our MUN program. During these three years, I've been able to attend multiple debates and have come to love public speaking and research. It will definitely be an interesting experience being on the dias side of the committee during LAIMUN, and it is also something I am super excited for!

Aside from MUN, I am a swimmer, and I swim for the Costa team. I'm also involved in multiple tutoring clubs here at Costa, and I spend a lot of my time teaching topics and providing homework help to students without such resources. In my free time, I also love to paint, read, go out with my friends, and watch movies. Currently, my favorite movie is Open Your Eyes, or if you prefer the hollywood remake, Vanilla Sky. Something else interesting about me is that I've lived in 5 countries: South Korea, the UK, Hong Kong (China), and Singapore. For those of you representing those countries, I hope you can impress me with accurate and detailed research on their policies!

I am super excited to meet all of you at debate! Both of these issues are not only relevant but also quite complex, especially historically, so I look forward to hearing diverse, creative, and realistic solutions from you all! Please email us if you have any questions, we'd love to answer them. Good luck delegates!

Best Regards,

Naomi Kim

Hello delegates!

My name is Ellie Black and I am one of the UNSC advanced chairs for LAIMUN XXVIII. I look forward to meeting all of you delegates in person at the debate! I am a sophomore at Mira Costa High School and this is my 2nd year in the MCHS MUN program. I have been playing beach volleyball for 3 years now and before that I played indoor volleyball for 4 years. Along with volleyball, I also love to go to the beach with my friends. This summer I spent a lot of time at the beach surfing with my friends and traveling with my family. In addition to volleyball, I also enjoy playing soccer and I have been playing for 12 years now. On campus, I am on the Mira Costa Beach Volleyball team and hope to stay on the team for my last 2 years of high school and eventually play in college as well. I am also involved in multiple clubs at Mira Costa which participate in beach cleanups and keeping our Earth as clean as possible.

In our committee, we hope you delegates utilize the subtopics we provided to be used in debate, as we specifically chose relevant topics to allow all countries to be able to contribute to certain topics regarding their country's policy. Again, we are looking forward to meeting everyone in the committee and if you have any questions or comments please feel free to reach out to us! Good luck to everyone!

Best regards,

Ellie Black

## Committee Description

The UN Security Council was created post World War II, in replacement of the League of Nations, the previous and failing international framework. The council's first session was held on January 17, 1946. The UNSC first acted in the Cold War, in attempts to de escalate and resolve the conflict between the USSR and the US. Although the UNSC was placing the majority of its efforts in the Cold War, the SC was able to back interventions in the Congo Crisis and the Korean War, along with authorizing several peacekeeping missions in West New Guinea, the Suez Crisis, and Cyprus.<sup>1</sup> Following the fall of the Soviet Union, the UNSC was able to refocus their efforts on issues all over the world. Their peacekeeping forces dramatically increased, and operations were launched in 8 different areas, including Somalia, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and several others.

The UNSC was created with three main jobs to perform. It was required to maintain peace and security on an international scale, approve any changes to the UN Charter, and accept any potential new members to the UN. The SC is able to execute these things with its power of establishing peacekeeping missions, creating sanctions, and using military action by passing resolutions in council sessions. This is the only branch of the UN that has the power to pass resolutions proposed by member states of the UN.

The Security Council consists of 15 members, of which 10 are temporary. The five permanent members are all global powers that remain in the council with special powers. These

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<sup>1</sup>*Subsidiary Organs of the United Nations Security Council*. [https://static.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/subsidiary\\_organ\\_factsheets.pdf](https://static.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/subsidiary_organ_factsheets.pdf).

five countries are Russia, the United Kingdom, the US, France, and China. These five members hold a veto power, and when passing resolutions, if any of these members vetoes it, the resolution cannot pass. The 10 remaining spots are filled by UN member states elected to serve two-year terms. These positions rotate constantly among the other UN members, and many nations have held spots in the security council since its creation.

The UNSC carries out its resolutions and enforces them mainly through peacekeeping task forces, and forces voluntarily provided by individual member states. These forces are funded by the main budget of the UN, and additional supplies and funding may come from member states. Today, the UNSC has completed 59 peacekeeping missions, with 14 active missions, and over 100,000 personnel deployed in these regions.<sup>2</sup> The UNSC has majorly impacted many individual nations and the international community as a whole.

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<sup>2</sup> “Un Peacekeeping.” *Better World Campaign*, 28 Apr. 2022, <http://betterworldcampaign.org/un-peacekeeping/>.



## Topic A: The Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

### I. Background

Ethnic tensions have been re-ignited in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its most recent development causing its Croat and Bosniak citizens and the international community fearing for a second Bosnian civil war. Milorad Dodik, the Serbian leader and one of three of the country's presidents, has increased talks of withdrawing from the national, multi-ethnic government to create a solely Bosnian Serb military, tax system, and judiciary system.<sup>3</sup>

The ethnic tensions in Bosnia and Herzegovina predate the Yugoslav and Bosnian Wars. The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was created in 1918, then renamed Yugoslavia in 1929. In World War II, Germany invaded Yugoslavia, which separated it into two territories, one being the Independent State of Croatia. This state was controlled by the Ustasha government, which, backed by the Nazis, persecuted the Serbians, starting an ethnic divide that would last beyond the end of the Ustasha regime.<sup>4</sup> After the fall of the Nazis, The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was created. It contained six republics: Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its communist leader, Marshal Josip Tito's oppressive rule successfully kept tensions between ethnic groups to a minimum. His death in 1980, however, led to the rise of new leaders who stirred nationalism to garner public support;

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<sup>3</sup>Horncastle, James, and Jack Adam MacLennan. "Bosnia-Herzegovina Could Be the next Site of Russian-Fuelled Conflict." *The Conversation*, The Conversation, 13 Apr. 2022, <https://theconversation.com/bosnia-herzegovina-could-be-the-next-site-of-russian-fuelled-conflict-180745>.

<sup>4</sup>"A Guide to the United States' History of Recognition, Diplomatic, and Consular Relations, by Country, since 1776: Kingdom of Serbia/Yugoslavia." *U.S. Department of State*, U.S. Department of State, [https://history.state.gov/countries/kingdom-of-yugoslavia#:~:text=In%201929%20the%20Kingdom%20of,Republic%20of%20Yugoslavia%20\(SFRY\)](https://history.state.gov/countries/kingdom-of-yugoslavia#:~:text=In%201929%20the%20Kingdom%20of,Republic%20of%20Yugoslavia%20(SFRY)).

among these were Franjo Tudman, who wanted a Greater Croatia, and Slobodan Milosevic, who desired a Greater Serbia.<sup>5</sup> In 1991, Slovenia and Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia, followed by Macedonia, triggering the breakup of the state and bringing the Yugoslavian army, predominantly Serbian, to attack both Slovenia and Croatia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina was the next to secede. Under Yugoslavia, in 1990, a coalition government was created in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Only a year later, many Serbian officials had withdrawn from the Bosnian Parliament to join the Serbian National Assembly, a solely Serbian government. After Slovenia and Croatia seceded, Bosniak and Croatian populations pushed for Bosnian independence. However, the Serbian citizens wanted to stay as part of Milosevic's vision of a Greater Serbia. Furthermore, the Serbians did not want to be in a state with a Muslim majority, with 44% of Bosnia's population being Muslim Bosniaks. On January 9th, 1992, the Serbian government declared the establishment of the state Republika Srpska, a Serbian state within Bosnia. Nevertheless, on March 1st, 99.7% of the population voted in favor of secession in a referendum with a 63.4% voter turnout (the Serbians citizens boycotted), and on April 5, 1992 Bosnia and Herzegovina officially declared themselves an independent state, gaining international recognition the same month.<sup>6</sup> In retaliation, the Serbians announced their own independence, and backed by Milosevic; they launched the Siege of Sarajevo. Led by General Ratko Mladic, the siege destroyed many cultural heritage sites, killed 11,000 by targeting civilians using firearms, and triggered the civil war.<sup>7</sup> In 1993, the Serbian military

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<sup>5</sup>History.com Editors. "Bosnian Genocide." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 14 Oct. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/1990s/bosnian-genocide>.

<sup>6</sup>Duggal, Hanna. "Infographic: 30 Years since the Bosnian War." *Infographic News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/4/6/infographic-30-years-since-the-bosnia-war-interactive>.

<sup>7</sup>"Bosnian War- A Brief Overview." *Remembering Srebrenica*,

began to target Bosniak towns, including Zvornik, Foca, and Visegrad, forcing Bosniak civilians to flee to Srebrenica, Zepa, and Gorazde, which were UN designated safe areas.<sup>8</sup> Many peace proposals and ceasefires took place, none being successful. Military means were also unsuccessful: the Bosnian army, composed of Croats and Bosniaks, was largely ineffective against the Serbian military. Furthermore, the alliance between the two ethnic groups was tentative, with the Croats creating their own Croatian Republic of Herzeg-Bosnia in 1993 and only finally rejoining the Bosniaks in the Washington Agreement to form the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On July 2, 1995, Serbia attacked Srebrenica and then conducted genocide on the Bosniak people, killing male civilians and raping the females. A month later, a bomb was released by Serbia in a civilian marketplace, killing dozens. These acts of violence resulted in a UN ultimatum, which the Serbs rejected. Consequently, a three-week bombing of the Bosnian Serbs was orchestrated by NATO, and Serbian forces were further weakened by losing ground to their Bosnian counterparts.<sup>9</sup> Finally, both sides agreed to the Dayton Accords, ending the war and establishing a coalition government between Republika Srpska and the Federation. One hundred thousand civilians had died by the end of this war, Bosniaks making approximately 80% of this number.<sup>10</sup>

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<https://srebrenica.org.uk/what-happened/bosnian-war-a-brief-overview>.

<sup>8</sup>History.com Editors. "Bosnian Genocide." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 14 Oct. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/1990s/bosnian-genocide>.

<sup>9</sup>History.com Editors. "Bosnian Genocide." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 14 Oct. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/1990s/bosnian-genocide>.

<sup>10</sup>History.com Editors. "Bosnian Genocide." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 14 Oct. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/1990s/bosnian-genocide>.

The agreement was able to put an end to the war; nevertheless, it established an overly intricate government that was unable to settle ethnic tensions for good. The national government consists of a parliament and a tripartite presidency. Bosnian parliament consists of a House of Representatives, with proportional representation, and the House of Peoples, with equal representation. Meanwhile, the presidency transitions between three presidents from the three corresponding ethnic groups every eight months. The presidents can nominate a Chairman of the Council of Ministers, who is tasked with choosing and managing subordinate ministers. In addition, both Republika Srpska and the Federation have their legislative bodies. Republika Srpska has a National Assembly, a prime minister, and sixteen ministries; the Federation has a House of Representatives, a prime minister, and sixteen churches, and it is organized into ten cantons, each with its own municipal government. Furthermore, international envoys are still thoroughly involved in the Bosnian government. The Office of the High Representative(OHR) is tasked with maintaining peace within the country. The High Representative, an international envoy, has the power to suspend laws it deems unconstitutional. The representative is overseen by the Peace Implementation Council(PIC), which consists of the countries involved in the Dayton Accords and administers the implementation of the agreement. However, this system has been problematic due to the ambiguity of each government body's responsibilities.

Ethnic tensions have been rooted within Bosnian society since the war; however, Dodik's successionist threats have mainly resulted from a genocide denial law enacted in 2021. Such a law had been blocked by Serbian government officials since 2007, leading to it finally being passed by the High Representative. This triggered anger from the Serbian government, leading to

secessionist rhetoric from its politicians.<sup>11</sup> Since then, Serbian officials have tried to pass a law giving only Serbians the right to own state-owned properties in their autonomous territory. Moreover, in February 2022, the Serbian government created a draft resolution to create an independent judiciary system.

With the Ukrainian war nearby, the international community fears a conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina more than ever. Along with the terrible economic conditions and the territorial aggression in other parts of the region, a conflict could be the spark that sets off a much bigger disaster.

## II. UN involvement

During the Bosnian Civil War, the UN was largely unsuccessful at deterring the conflict. Despite the ongoing violence, the UN could not provide fully equipped peacekeeping forces. Instead, the UN stance was merely humanitarian, and peacekeeping efforts were focused on delivering humanitarian aid from the UNHCR.<sup>12</sup> The UN attempted to arbitrate between the groups and establish ceasefires. Yet, these agreements were regularly broken by the Serbians, as there was no clear outline for the consequences of such violations; throughout the war, thirty-five ceasefires were established. Despite the lack of success, the UN continued not to intervene due to concerns about provoking Serbia and making any peaceful resolution more difficult to attain. As

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<sup>11</sup>Donine, Tallan. "Genocide Denial, Rising Tensions, and Political Crisis in Bosnia." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, 18 Feb. 2022, <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/blog/genocide-denial-rising-tensions-and-political-crisis-in-bosnia>.

<sup>12</sup>"Focus on Humanitarian Aid." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, <https://www.ushmm.org/genocide-prevention/countries/bosnia-herzegovina/case-study/response/focus-on-humanitarian-aid>.

for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), a peacekeeping mission which was deployed to aid citizens, no precise mandate existed, leading to the attack of Srebrenica. This protection force was lightly armed, and when the attacks occurred, requests for backup were ignored. Finally, the force was coerced into compliance with the Serbian military.<sup>13</sup>

After the war, the UN worked toward bringing justice to the perpetrators of the genocide. The UN established the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), tasked with prosecuting the criminals of the war. The body also defined the war in Bosnia as a genocide. Other international courts have prosecuted those responsible, such as the International Court of Justice, which ruled in 2007 that Serbia had not upheld the Genocide Convention Agreement.

The UN has also actively ensured peaceful development in post-war Bosnia. In 2004, the UN-administered EUFOR, the EU peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mission was created after the NATO withdrawal to oversee stability and the implementation of the Dayton Accords' military components.<sup>14</sup> The mission also works with Bosnian law enforcement to prevent crime and involves itself in local communities through Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT).<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, they work to dismantle leftover landmines from the war. The EUFOR mandate is set to expire in November 2022; China and Russia are expected to

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<sup>13</sup>“Bosnia-Herzegovina: The Fall of Srebrenica and the Failure of U.N. Peacekeeping.” *Human Rights Watch*, Human Rights Watch, 13 Oct. 1995, <https://www.hrw.org/legacy/summaries/s.bosnia9510.html#SUMMARY>.

<sup>14</sup>“Bosnia and the European Union Military Force (EUFOR): Post-NATO Peacekeeping.” *EveryCRSReport.com*, Congressional Research Service, 14 Mar. 2005, <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RS21774.html#:~:text=The%20EU's%20Political%20and%20Security,quickly%20adding%20reinforcements%20if%20necessary.>

<sup>15</sup>“Bosnia and the European Union Military Force (EUFOR): Post-NATO Peacekeeping.” *EveryCRSReport.com*, Congressional Research Service, 14 Mar. 2005, <https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RS21774.html#:~:text=The%20EU's%20Political%20and%20Security,quickly%20adding%20reinforcements%20if%20necessary.>

veto any potential renewals, especially after the EU increased EUFOR's troops from 600 to 1,100 after the Ukraine invasion.<sup>16</sup>

The UN has urged for peace to be maintained in Bosnia; yet, disagreements have occurred over the action required to settle these tensions. The UN oversees the High Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and they are tasked with writing reports on Bosnia's stability for the UN's understanding. In recent Security Council meetings, the High Representative, Christian Schmidt, has brought attention to the glorification of Serbian war criminals in Bosnia. In response, Russia and China, which both support Serbian secessionist rhetoric, have attempted and failed to remove the High Representative position. Russia has also stopped funding the OHR.

### **III. Topics to Consider**

#### *A. Croatian Voting Reforms*

The Bosnian Serbs are not the only ethnic group that desires greater autonomy in government. The Bosnian Croats have been pushing for election reforms, with the Croatian National Parliament in Bosnia threatening not to participate in the upcoming October elections unless the change is brought to the electoral system. These calls for reform have taken place after two successive politicians from multi-ethnic, not solely Croat, parties were elected to be Bosnia's Croat president with the influence of Bosniak voters. The Bosnian Croats demand a stricter voting system that allows only Croats and those living in exclusively Croat communities to vote

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<sup>16</sup>Siebold, Sabine, and Daria Sito-Sucic. "Berlin Says It Will Work for EUFOR Bosnia Extension amid Russia Concerns." Edited by William Maclean, *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 4 May 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/berlin-says-it-will-work-eufor-bosnia-extension-amid-russia-concerns-2022-05-04/>.

for the Croat President. In 2021, the Bosniak and Croat governments met to discuss such reforms, but none have been implemented.<sup>17</sup>

### *B. Minority Groups in Government*

Bosnia's government is one that was carefully constructed to provide representation to the three ethnic groups. However, there is no political representation for other ethnicities in Bosnia, such as the Roma and the Jews. Additionally, Bosnia's government officials must identify with only one of the three main ethnic groups to run for office, further restricting diversity.

This lack of representative equality was brought to the European Court of Human Rights in 2009, where the court ruled that other minority ethnic groups should be represented in the Bosnian government. Despite the ruling, no reform has been made in the government or electoral system. The Council of Europe has imposed multiple deadlines on Bosnia to make such reforms, and these deadlines have not been kept. Moreover, in addition to lacking representation, the Roma have had limited access to government services such as healthcare and education compared to the other ethnic groups.<sup>18</sup>

### *C. Economic Instability in the Balkans*

Economic instability is currently perpetuating the political crisis in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and the rest of the Western Balkans. Bosnia and Herzegovina has one of the highest youth

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<sup>17</sup>Sito-Sucic, Daria. "Bosnian Croats Say May Push for Own Region Unless Election Law Changes." Edited by Helen Popper, *Reuters*, Thomson Reuters, 19 Feb. 2022, <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/bosnian-croats-say-may-push-own-region-unless-election-law-changes-2022-02-19/>.

<sup>18</sup>"Second Class Citizens." *Human Rights Watch*, 4 Apr. 2012, <https://www.hrw.org/report/2012/04/04/second-class-citizens/discrimination-against-roma-jews-and-other-national>.



unemployment rates globally, reaching 63% in 2015.<sup>19</sup> These dim prospects have led to the mass departure of youth to other countries in search of opportunity.

During the COVID-19 crisis, this poor economy suffered a recession. Yet, it recovered a year later, with a 7.4% economic growth rate in the Western Balkans in 2021. This year also saw an increase in export goods, investment funding, and employment rates. Despite this development, the Western Balkans also experienced debt rates at 57% the same year, followed by rising inflation rates towards the end of it.<sup>20</sup> In 2022, the Ukrainian War stopped any continued growth; not only was there a reduction in trade and tourism, but the crisis also significantly slowed the supply chains of goods and energy supplies, causing prices to soar.<sup>21</sup> Bosnia's government has not yet arranged packages to aid struggling lower-income citizens.

Bosnia's long-term economic prospects are also dim: the economy relies heavily on consumer spending, which is decreasing due to financial hardship. Consequently, the economic growth rate will fall by 50% in the next year.<sup>22</sup> This insecurity provides the perfect conditions for political instability, exacerbating ethnic tension and increasing secessionist rhetoric in Bosnia.

#### *D. Refugees*

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<sup>19</sup>Borger, Julian. "ISIS Targets Vulnerable Bosnia for Recruitment and Attack." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 25 June 2015,

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/25/isis-targets-vulnerable-bosnia-for-recruitment-and-attack>.

<sup>20</sup>Record, Richard, et al. "Overlapping Crises in the Western Balkans." *Brookings*, Brookings, 23 May 2022, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2022/05/23/overlapping-crises-in-the-western-balkans/>.

<sup>21</sup>Record, Richard, et al. "Overlapping Crises in the Western Balkans." *Brookings*, Brookings, 23 May 2022, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2022/05/23/overlapping-crises-in-the-western-balkans/>.

<sup>22</sup>Macdonald, Ingrid. "No Time to Lose: 2022 Must Be the Year of Social and Economic Recovery in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Bosnia and Herzegovina." *United Nations*, United Nations, 3 Feb. 2022, <https://bosniaherzegovina.un.org/en/170720-no-time-lose-2022-must-be-year-social-and-economic-recovery-bosnia-and-herzegovina>.

The influx of migrants into Bosnia has sparked anger from the locals, further destabilizing the country. Refugees have traveled from the Middle East, predominantly Syria, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, to cross through the Balkans and seek refuge in Italy. This route leads refugees through Bosnia and into Croatia, from where they will move further West. More migrants have arrived in Bosnia recently, with 70,000 coming between 2019 and 2021. This uptick resulted from the closure in 2016 of the previous route, which crossed through Serbia and Hungary.

Many refugees have attempted to cross into Croatia from Bosnia, only to be brutalized by the Croatian border police. As a result, these refugees have temporarily stayed in the Federation as Republika Srpska has banned such migrants. Six thousand refugees live in one of the UN's five Bosnian refugee camps. However, one of these camps, the Bira camp, was shut down due to protests from angry locals, while another, the Lipa camp, is currently rebuilding from the damage of a fire. The conditions of the other camps are poor, with the refugees given no healthcare despite a supposed 89 million Euros channeled to the Bosnian government through the International Organization of Migrants(IOM). Some of the towns containing camps have reported that they have not received any of these funds. Meanwhile, the remaining refugees have taken shelter at abandoned buildings or makeshift structures in the forest. Police occasionally evict these refugees but they typically return to their shelters immediately after.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>Oddone, Elisa. "For Migrants in Bosnia, The 'Game' Is A Perilous Journey To A Better Life." *NPR*, NPR, 27 Mar. 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/27/976648642/for-migrants-in-bosnia-the-game-is-a-perilous-journey-to-a-better-life>.

Finally, the influx of predominantly Muslim migrants has stirred sentiments among the non-Bosniak population, with Serbian politicians accusing Bosniaks of accepting refugees to make the country majority Muslim. Therefore, Bosnia's refugee crisis heightens the tensions between its ethnic groups and governments.

#### *E. International Involvement*

Dodik and his Serbian separatist agenda have been supported by both Russia and China. Russia claims to back Dodik due to the cultural ties derived from their ethnic Slav roots. The reasoning behind Russia's support has alarmed the international community as it mirrors the rhetoric used in the justification of the Ukrainian War. The international community has accused Russia of instigating Serbian separatism to perpetuate another war in the Balkans. Russia is also a member of the PIC steering board and, in recent years, has disagreed with its rulings. China has also been involved in Bosnia, and its backing of Serbia directly ties in with its Taiwan policy.<sup>24</sup>

Dodik's rhetoric has drawn the attention and condemnation of the United States and the European Union (EU). The US has imposed sanctions on Dodik for his role as a corrupt government official and as an instigator of instability. Sanctions have been placed on the pro-Dodik Alternativna Televizija d.o.o Banja Luka news source as well. The US has also recently passed an executive order to intervene in the Western Balkans to prevent any threat of peace from triggering conflict.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, the United Kingdom has issued sanctions while the EU has threatened to impose them.

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<sup>24</sup>Seidel, Jamie. "Bosnia Herzegovina Conflict: Russia, China Stir up 'Flashpoint' | News ..." *News.com.au*, News.com.au, 1 May 2022, <https://www.news.com.au/finance/work/leaders/russia-china-stir-up-flashpoint-as-impossible-country-set-to-explode/news-story/6139f44e4299183c3ed6a221ade3d78b>.

<sup>25</sup>Al Jazeera. "US Imposes Sanctions on Bosnian Serb Leader Dodik." *Conflict News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 5 Jan. 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/5/us-imposes-sanctions-on-bosnian-serb-leader-dodik>.

Due to these differences in stance, the international community's inability to establish a standard policy could further polarize Bosnia's politics, widening the ethnic divide.

#### **IV. Case Study: The Glorification of Bosnian War Crimes**

Less than two decades after the Bosnian Civil War, Serbian war crimes are glorified by its Bosnian Serb population. This glorification was exemplified on January 9th, 2022, when the Serbian citizens celebrated a holiday declared illegal by Bosnia's Constitutional Court. The holiday commemorated the 30th anniversary of Republika Srpska, a day honoring the Serbian region's establishment but also memorializing a critical event that triggered the war.

Additionally, this holiday had been ruled religiously discriminatory by Bosnia's Constitutional Court as the celebration also took place on the day of a Serbian Orthodox holiday.<sup>26</sup> In Banja Luka, this illegal anniversary was celebrated with artillery displays and other weaponry. Serbian law enforcement took part, as did Serbian government officials, including Milorad Dodik. Furthermore, the politicians of other countries were also present; the prime minister and a parliament speaker of Serbia attended, while Chinese, Russian, and even right-wing French officials also participated.<sup>27</sup> The celebration has brought the US to call for an investigation.

The glorification of war criminals has also increased in Bosnia. The High Representative has stressed to the Security Council the importance of maintaining the Dayton Accords to combat the homage to the leaders of the Bosniak genocide, including Ratko Mladic.

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<sup>26</sup>Al Jazeera. "Bosnian Serbs Hold Nationalist Celebration despite Ban, Sanctions." *News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 9 Jan. 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/9/bosnian-serbs-celebrate-statehood-day-defying-bans-sanctions>.

<sup>27</sup>Al Jazeera. "Bosnian Serbs Hold Nationalist Celebration despite Ban, Sanctions." *News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 9 Jan. 2022, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/1/9/bosnian-serbs-celebrate-statehood-day-defying-bans-sanctions>.

In Bosnia, this glorification has partially been due to the increasing levels of ethnic discrimination against the Bosniaks. In Foca, a town in Republika Srpska with a sizable Bosniak population, a mural of a Serbian World War II figure, Dragoljub Milailovic, and a mural of the war criminal Ratko Mladic was erected.<sup>28</sup> However, these are not trends that have only been observed within Foca. Recently, in Republika Srpska, guns have been fired near Bosniak mosques by Serbian citizens. A fire was also lit outside of Alzada Mosque, a Muslim heritage site. There have also been cases of Serbian citizens threatening their fellow Bosniak citizens. Additionally, on January 9th of this year, Bosniak Serbs led an anti-terrorist exercise outside the city of Sarajevo, which has a predominantly Muslim population.

This behavior has been supported and even inspired by Milorad Dodik's anti-Bosniak rhetoric. Dodik's rhetoric, which has stirred islamophobia within the country, accuses the Bosniaks of attempting to convert the country to a predominantly Muslim one. He has also claimed that the Bosniaks have tried to create an Islamic state ruled by Shariah law within Bosnia.<sup>29</sup>

Similar accusations have been made by Croatian politicians in the past, including Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Croatia's president. This anti-Bosniak rhetoric, which has portrayed Bosnia as an unsuccessful and unstable state with excessive levels of terrorism, has been used by politicians to foment Croat nationalism within Bosnia. The international community has accused

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<sup>28</sup>Sorguc, Albina. "Homage to Ratko Mladic Provokes Fear in Bosnian Town." *Balkan Insight*, 26 Apr. 2021, <https://balkaninsight.com/2021/04/26/homage-to-ratko-mladic-provokes-fear-in-bosnian-town/>.

<sup>29</sup>Gadzo, Mersiha. "Large Increase in Anti-Bosnian, Anti-Muslim Bigotry": Report." *Islamophobia | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 23 Sept. 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2019/9/23/large-increase-in-anti-bosnian-anti-muslim-bigotry-report>.

these Croatian officials of stirring anti-Bosniak sentiments to encourage Bosnian Croats to create their state and unify with Croatia. This same tactic is employed by Serbia's officials, who back Dodik's calls for Republika Srpska to later merge with Serbia.<sup>30</sup>

The ethnic discrimination against the Bosniaks mirrors the ethnic tensions propelling the country towards genocide only decades ago. Without intervention, the conflicts sparked by such underlying tension could further set off hostilities in the Western Balkans.

#### **V. Guiding Questions:**

1. How can Bosnia create a government that provides the Serbs, Croats, and Bosniaks with ethnic autonomy while maintaining a functioning central government? Should the central government be emphasized over the governments of the autonomous regions?
2. How can Bosnia and Herzegovina combat islamophobia and anti-Bosniak sentiment without triggering Serbian anger and nationalism?
3. How can minority groups be given representation in a government founded on satisfying the rights of the three main ethnic groups?
4. What is the best way in which the international community can be involved in Bosnia to ensure peace without provoking even more division within Bosnian politics? Should foreign countries be involved in government at all?

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<sup>30</sup>Gadzo, Mersiha. "Large Increase in Anti-Bosnian, Anti-Muslim Bigotry": Report." *Islamophobia* | *Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 23 Sept. 2019, <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2019/9/23/large-increase-in-anti-bosnian-anti-muslim-bigotry-report>.

5. How could internal problems, such as the economic instability caused by the Ukraine crisis and the migrant inflow, best be combatted as to reduce overall tension in Bosnia?

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## Topic B: Afghanistan Crisis

### I. Background

Afghanistan is a country in Central Asia which is known for being very culturally diverse and along with this, Afghanistan holds many trade routes within its borders. The overall geography of Afghanistan consists of mainly mountainous and desert filled areas, and in addition to this, Afghanistan borders China, Pakistan, Iran, and many Central Asian countries.<sup>31</sup>

Currently, in Afghanistan, 318,000 people are displaced inside the country, 23 million people need food, and 80% of women and children have been forcibly put into danger within the borders of Afghanistan. Afghanistan currently consists of people who are in need of humanitarian aid and a safer place to go. Luckily, the neighboring countries of Iran and Pakistan have been bringing these refugees into their countries for over four decades. Iran and Pakistan currently hold 85% of displaced Afghans, over 2.2 million registered refugees.<sup>32</sup> After dealing with malnutrition and poor sanitation, these suffering people have recently taken a hit from the COVID-19 virus, natural disasters, and chronic poverty. The main reason for this displacement issue is the violence that has recently occurred in Kabul by the Taliban, causing families to flee their homes.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> “A Brief History of Afghanistan.” *New Internationalist*, 5 July 2017, <https://newint.org/features/2008/11/01/afghanistan-history>.

<sup>32</sup> “Afghanistan Refugees 2021: Facts & Crisis News: USA FOR UNHCR.” *Afghanistan Refugees 2021: Facts & Crisis News | USA for UNHCR*, <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/afghanistan/>.

<sup>33</sup> “Afghanistan Refugees 2021: Facts & Crisis News: USA FOR UNHCR.” *Afghanistan Refugees 2021: Facts & Crisis News | USA for UNHCR*, <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/afghanistan/>.



Not only has this conflict caused the displacement of millions of Afghans, but due to the failing infrastructure and lack of resources, children are struggling to receive an education. 3.7 million children in Afghanistan are currently not receiving an education, 60% being girls. One of the main obstacles holding children back from attending primary schools is the lack of transportation in Afghanistan. Due to the recent acts of violence in Afghanistan, such as murders, beatings, and harassment, infrastructure has been burned down and demolished, and it's nearly impossible to renovate or rebuild with the current state of the country's economy. In addition, many schools are placed further away from rural towns, making the walk to school difficult due to the mountainous regions and geographical barriers. Another obstacle preventing these Afghan children from receiving access to education is the teachers who are underqualified and unable to attend work. Only 48% of teachers in Afghanistan have access to the minimum academic qualifications, which prevents these children who can attend school from receiving a proper education.<sup>34</sup>

Afghanistan's Taliban has put restrictions on women and have recently been regulating what they must and must not do in their daily lives. Required by the Taliban, women have been told to cover their faces in public by wearing a veil. The international community has seen this as one of the harshest controls on women's lives. Because of this, the allies of Afghanistan including countries such as Iraq, and the Afghanistan civil society are willing to do whatever it takes to repair Afghanistan and protect its people. After the US-led invasion in 2001, women won back many fundamental human rights that they lost in 1996-2001 to the Taliban. In

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<sup>34</sup> "Education." *UNICEF Afghanistan*, <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/education>.

Afghanistan, many women choose to wear a hijab as part of their culture; however, only some women wear an all-covering burqa. Due to the recent restrictions imposed by the Taliban, women are unable to make their own decisions on how they choose to identify themselves through their appearance.<sup>35</sup> Women have also recently lost their main sources of income and employment. Many women who were working in the fields are now required to stay at home, crippling their main source of income. Only healthcare workers and educators are allowed to leave their homes for work and as stated by the Taliban, as they find it unnecessary for women to be in the workfield.<sup>36</sup>

Only 42% of Afghans have access to clean and safe drinking water and only 27% of those living in rural communities have access to sanitation facilities.<sup>37</sup> With the new generation of Afghan children being born constantly in the country, the need for basic sanitation and hygiene essentials are crucial to the survival and development of children. In Afghanistan, disease is the second most common cause of death for children under five, which is why the death rate is so high. Specifically, malaria is one disease that has recently had rapid growth in Afghanistan and has caused serious long term issues for the Afghan citizens. Due to open defecation, many families are at risk of contracting illnesses and diseases. The main issue with open defecation is waste placement near waterways and open environments. It pollutes the air

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<sup>35</sup> “Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity.” *Human Rights Watch*, 18 Jan. 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/18/afghanistan-taliban-deprive-women-livelihoods-identity>.

<sup>36</sup> “Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity.” *Human Rights Watch*, 18 Jan. 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/01/18/afghanistan-taliban-deprive-women-livelihoods-identity>.

<sup>37</sup> “Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Fact Sheet: Afghanistan.” *U.S. Agency for International Development*, 11 Dec. 2019, <https://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan/fact-sheets/rural-water-sanitation-and-hygiene>.

and environment around the area of waste, ultimately causing unsafe living conditions.<sup>38</sup> Another factor that explains the high risk of infectious disease in Afghanistan is the high elevation above sea level and the environment's temperature. Although these are two uncontrollable factors, Afghan citizens must begin eliminating the other, more controllable causes of infectious disease in Afghanistan through working together to keep their country a clean and healthy environment.

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The Taliban has recently returned to power in Afghanistan, and they have abused basic human rights, neglected the Afghan people, and imposed harsh rules against the country overall. The return of the Taliban was due to regrouping in Pakistan and an insurgency against the US-backed governments in Kabul. The Taliban consists of a group of predominantly Pashtun people. Pashtun is an Islamic fundamentalist group that makes up most of the Taliban that have recently invaded Afghanistan by neglecting the people and disrespecting the state. The Taliban has recently regrouped at The Durand Line to slowly take back the territory of Afghanistan, as they intend to rule and make it their own. The Durand Line is the 1,640 mile border that separates Afghanistan from Pakistan. By August of 2021, the Taliban had seized control of most of the major cities in Afghanistan, including the capital city of Kabul. While capturing these cities, they also impose harsh rules on the people in the towns, which typically neglects the human rights of these targeted people. In hopes of countering these attacks by the Taliban, the United States has removed its troops from Afghanistan and proposed a peace agreement with the

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<sup>38</sup> "Rural Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Fact Sheet: Afghanistan." *U.S. Agency for International Development*, 11 Dec. 2019, <https://www.usaid.gov/afghanistan/fact-sheets/rural-water-sanitation-and-hygiene>.

<sup>39</sup> "Wash: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene." *UNICEF Afghanistan*, <https://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/wash-water-sanitation-and-hygiene>.

Taliban. However, despite their pledges to the United States as a peace agreement, the Taliban is likely to disobey and disregard these pledges through the strict laws they enforce upon the Afghans.<sup>40</sup>

The Taliban is the leading cause of the dire situation in Afghanistan as they have imposed harsh rules on the Afghan people while neglecting their human rights and freedom to live in their country. The Taliban have attacked these citizens through hit and run attacks, ambushes, bombings, sexual assault, and many high-profile attacks. The Taliban poses a significant threat to Afghanistan, and if they are not stopped, the humanitarian crisis, lack of education, and struggle to rebuild infrastructure. The crippling economy will crash even further. Although the cause for disaster in Afghanistan seems apparent, the Afghan citizens are unable to put an end to this crisis on their own due to their failing economy and lack of resources.<sup>41</sup>

## II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has been present in Afghanistan since 1949 and have recently recognized the importance of providing for this country during this dire situation. In March 2022, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, also known as UNAMA, as resolution 1401. Ultimately, the mandate of this resolution is to achieve peace for the disturbed and violated Afghan citizens.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> “What Is the Taliban?” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/taliban-afghanistan>.

<sup>41</sup> “What Is the Taliban?” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/taliban-afghanistan>.

<sup>42</sup> “UNAMA | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://dppa.un.org/en/mission/unama>.

In addition to the UNAMA resolution, the United Nations has also taken steps to overthrow the Taliban. In late 2001, the Security Council granted access for the United States to proceed to defeat the Taliban. By doing so, the Afghan government and community would essentially be able to live freely without laws against their human rights. The Security Council also authorized the United States and its NATO allies to set up the International Security Assistance Force, also known as ISAF, to provide military support for Afghanistan.<sup>43</sup> The United Nations has also been responsible for raising money for Afghanistan to rebuild their country. The UN Office for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been sent to Kabul to evaluate the needs of the people and to estimate the total amount of funding that would be necessary to restore Afghanistan. This year alone, the UN has launched a \$1.3 billion appeal for the country, which is less than 40% once wholly funded..<sup>44</sup>

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) has recently urged the international community to take action on the displacement crisis in Afghanistan. Not only has the UNHCR been working to provide refugee camps for these refugees, but they are also involved in providing humanitarian aid to these citizens.<sup>45</sup> The UNHCR also promotes the rights and dignity of affected populations to spread awareness for the Afghans. Along with this, the UNHCR has been present in Afghanistan through disease outbreaks, violence, crimes, and humanitarian crises and have been

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<sup>43</sup> “UNAMA | Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://dppa.un.org/en/mission/unama>.

<sup>44</sup> “Afghanistan Refugees 2021: Facts & Crisis News: USA FOR UNHCR.” *Afghanistan Refugees 2021: Facts & Crisis News | USA for UNHCR*, <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/afghanistan/>.

<sup>45</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “UNHCR Warns Afghanistan's Conflict Taking the Heaviest Toll on Displaced Women and Children.” *UNHCR*, <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/briefing/2021/8/611617c55/unhcr-warns-afghanistans-conflict-taking-heaviest-toll-displaced-women.html>.

able to get the Afghans on the right track to eventually return to their old lives before the invasion of the Taliban.<sup>46</sup>

Although the presence of the United Nations in Afghanistan has been helpful to the citizens since they have passed many resolutions and mandates to end this crisis in as many ways as possible, it has been shown that this situation is not entirely preventable and unavoidable. Progress cannot be made without peace within the country, and for that to be accomplished, Afghanistan must first work towards being stable and supportive of its own country.<sup>47</sup>

### **III. Topics to Consider**

#### *A. Famine*

After the serious levels of disaster Afghanistan has been facing within the last few years, their country still continues to struggle with a lack of food and resources. 18.9 million people are facing life-threatening extents of hunger, along with an additional 6 million people facing “near-famine” conditions. Although many nearby countries are sending aid and emergency care into Afghanistan in major cities such as Kabul, these organizations are only reaching just under 8% of the population.<sup>48</sup>

As the war in Ukraine escalates, the crisis in Afghanistan is being forgotten and left to suffer, without much help from organizations and neighboring countries. The economy plays a major role in the current state of Afghan citizens who are suffering from malnutrition and famine. Over 130,000 children in Afghanistan are on the brink of death as the country collapses

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<sup>46</sup> “Emergency Handbook.” *UNHCR*, <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/44765/humanitarian-principles>.

<sup>47</sup> “Emergency Handbook.” *UNHCR*, <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/44765/humanitarian-principles>.

<sup>48</sup> Constable, Pamela. “U.S. agency warns of Afghan famine, more suppression of women’s rights.” *The Washington Post*, The Washington Post, 2 Aug. 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/08/02/afghanistan-women-food-taliban-inspector-general/>.

into an economic crisis which leaves the poor country without basic necessities. The main reason for this famine rapidly spreading throughout Afghanistan is the upcoming winter. Food is becoming scarce and agriculture is slowing down tremendously. In addition, other desperate Afghan citizens have been stealing the firewood from homes of people who left with their families for the summer to neighboring cities and countries.<sup>49</sup>

Now that there are serious wars and crises occurring in major countries, capturing the attention of the entire world, Afghanistan is being left behind to fight on their own. With the current state of their declining economy, the Afghan government and citizens do not have the money or the resources to come out of these terrible conditions successfully.

*B. The Spread of Infectious Diseases Including the Strength of the Measles in Afghanistan*

The Afghan citizens have recently been struggling to prevent the spread of infectious diseases that are rapidly wiping out towns in Afghanistan. The poor sanitation throughout the country ultimately causes these diseases. Defecation has become a significant issue in Afghanistan as people place their waste near waterways, causing an unsafe environment for the citizens living nearby in rural areas.<sup>50</sup>

Measles is one disease in Afghanistan that has recently caused the suffering of many Afghan citizens. Measles is one of the only diseases currently in Afghanistan to affect every single province of the country. Since July 2021, measles cases have been reported constantly,

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<sup>49</sup> “On the brink of famine, Afghanistan’s forgotten humanitarian catastrophe puts two decades of gains at risk.” *World Vision International Homepage*, World Vision International, 24 Apr. 2022, <https://www.wvi.org/newsroom/afghanistan/brink-famine-afghanistans-forgotten-humanitarian-catastrophe-puts-two-decades>.

<sup>50</sup> “Afghanistan: Infectious Disease Outbreaks Situation Report#15 (21 November 2021).” *HumanitarianResponse*, <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/document/afghanistan-infectious-disease-outbreak-s-situation-report15-21>.

increasing the death rate throughout these provinces. Specifically, the most affected areas with the highest reported cases are Balkh, Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Kabul, Paktika, and Paktia. Measles is a disease that targets children under the age of 5 due to poor hygiene and sanitation.<sup>51</sup>

The primary source of the problem of infectious diseases is almost always tied back to the poor sanitation within the country. Diseases such as malaria, measles, and pneumonia have been spread rapidly throughout the country due to unsafe drinking water, malnutrition, defecation, and a lack of hygiene. Of the 4,990 cases of dehydration, 17.9% (890) are children below five years of age, and 48.8% (2,437) of cases are females. People are hesitant to drink the water due to the bacteria and dangerous build-up that has been put into the main waterways for Afghanistan, causing people to die and suffer from dehydration out of pure terror that they will ingest bacteria and contract a disease.<sup>52</sup>

### *C. The Failing Economy*

Due to the invasion of the Taliban, people have lost their jobs, causing them to lose their main source of income. Overall, the economy in Afghanistan has been struggling for decades, and it is only getting worse. People cannot purchase food because the food prices in Afghanistan have risen 40% in the past eight months. 95% of Afghans do not have enough money to buy food; therefore, they starve for weeks. In addition to the lack of money for food and necessities, shelters are also a necessity that nearly 64% of Afghan citizens lack access to due to the high

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<sup>51</sup> “Measles – Afghanistan.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/measles-afghanistan>.

<sup>52</sup> “Afghanistan: Infectious Disease Outbreaks - Epidemiological Week # 3, 2022 (16-22 January): Situation Report #24 - Afghanistan.” *ReliefWeb*, 22 Jan. 2022, <https://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-infectious-disease-outbreaks-epidemiological-week-3-2022-16-22>.



cost of shelters.<sup>53</sup> All of this is due to the loss of jobs resulting from the local businesses being put out of business and the terrorism and crime they suffer from.

This failing economy also prevents these Afghans from receiving the desperately needed aid. Due to their collapsing infrastructure and weakening economy, the Afghan citizens are unable to pay for health care, education, food assistance, energy, or shelters. Afghanistan's per capita GDP has recently dropped to the bottom of the international ranking within the last couple of years. Afghanistan is currently facing one of the worst droughts and winters at once ever reported in the country, making heat and electricity very necessary. However, they cannot afford electricity or fuel from other energy sources, which ultimately leads to people freezing and developing dehydration.<sup>54</sup>

#### *D. Refugees*

Millions of people are in great danger and are desperate to flee the country after the Taliban has seized control of Afghanistan for a second time. Luckily, borders have stayed open to the countries of Iraq and Syria, giving these citizens a safer place to go. The US led an operation to evacuate people by air to bring them to the United States. These refugees would be picked up at the Kabul airport, which was very overpacked for the millions of people wanting to escape the country. The rescue mission led by the United States was very successful as the US officers took more than 123,000 civilians from the seized capital of Kabul to a safer country.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>53</sup> Team, The Visual Journalism. "Afghanistan: How Many Refugees Are There and Where Will They Go?" *BBC News*, BBC, 31 Aug. 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58283177>.

<sup>54</sup>Kaura, Vinay, and Richard Weitz. "Afghanistan's Economy: Collapse and Chaos." *Middle East Institute*, 9 May 2022, <https://www.mei.edu/publications/afghanistans-economy-collapse-and-chaos>.

<sup>55</sup>Team, The Visual Journalism. "Afghanistan: How Many Refugees Are There and Where Will They Go?" *BBC News*, BBC, 31 Aug. 2021, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58283177>.

Although the US military saved these families who gathered at the airport, thousands of people still live in hotels in America because there is no place for them to go. These poor Afghan families cannot buy property in America due to their lack of income and the high prices of houses in the US. All Afghan refugees who were evacuated in the Kabul airlift last summer have left the military bases where they lived for months in America (nearly 76,000 Afghans).<sup>56</sup>

#### **IV. Case Study: The Effects of the Cold War on Current Day Afghanistan**

Before the invasion of the Taliban in Afghanistan, leading to many other problems within the country, the Cold War had many effects on the outcome of current day Afghanistan. Through infrastructure investments and military interventions, the US and the Soviet Union fought to gain control of certain provinces in Afghanistan. After the US and the Soviet Union withdrew their troops from Afghanistan, the country entered a civil war, ultimately leading to the Taliban's invasion.<sup>57</sup>

While both troops were still involved in Afghanistan, they were active and invested in many projects and organizations. The main project that the United States heavily worked on was the Helmand Valley Project. This project was an irrigation/agricultural project that worked to make dams in southern Afghanistan. In terms of the involvement of the US in Afghanistan, it was very mixed. Some troop members restrained from funneling money to resistance groups because they were worried that it would cause the Soviet Union to invade, which is exactly what

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<sup>56</sup> Rose, Joel. "Thousands of Afghan Refugees Are Still Living in Hotels While They Wait for Housing." *NPR*, NPR, 15 Mar. 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/15/1084918623/thousands-of-afghan-refugees-are-still-living-in-hotels-while-they-wait-for-hous>.

<sup>57</sup> Stewart, Emily. "The History of US Intervention in Afghanistan, from the Cold War to 9/11." *Vox*, Vox, 21 Aug. 2021, <https://www.vox.com/world/22634008/us-troops-afghanistan-cold-war-bush-bin-laden>.

happened. In 1978-1979, they funneled money to Pakistan's intelligence services, who were then funneling the money into the hands of the resistance groups, causing the invasion of the Soviet Union.<sup>58</sup>

Although trying to avoid going against the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978, The Soviet Union decided to invade Kabul with over 30,000 men. The Soviet troops entered Afghanistan from the north, and they seized control of the capital city of Kabul. Although the Afghans did not have much of a fight against these armed Soviet troops, there was a resistance group called Mujahidin who were willing to put up a fight. The Mujahidin group recognized the Christian or atheist Soviets controlling Afghanistan as a defilement of Islam and their traditional culture. The Mujahidin group employed guerrilla attacks on the Soviet Union, where they would rapidly attack the troops and then quickly disappear into the mountains or forests. This attack strategy was beneficial to defeating the Soviets because it consisted of sudden attacks that gave the Soviet troops no time to prepare for battle. Since the Mujahidin troops were at a disadvantage due to their small number of people, these guerrilla attacks were the only way for them to affect the Soviet Union.<sup>59</sup>

The Afghan and Soviet War settled down, leaving 100,000 Soviet troops ruling the cities of Afghanistan. The Soviets then attempted to eliminate the Mujahidin group by bombing and depopulating the rural areas. These tactics started a massive flight in the countryside of Afghanistan. By 1982, 2.8 million Afghans had sought asylum in Pakistan, and another 1.5

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<sup>58</sup> Stewart, Emily. "The History of US Intervention in Afghanistan, from the Cold War to 9/11." *Vox*, Vox, 21 Aug. 2021, <https://www.vox.com/world/22634008/us-troops-afghanistan-cold-war-bush-bin-laden>.

<sup>59</sup>"Soviet Union Invades Afghanistan." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 24 Nov. 2009, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/soviet-tanks-roll-into-afghanistan>.

million had fled to Iran. The Mujahideen eventually neutralized Soviet air power through the use of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles supplied by the Soviet Union's Cold War adversary, the United States. The Soviet Union withdrew its troops on February 15, 1989, and Afghanistan returned to nonaligned status. After all this war and chaos, Afghanistan has never been the same, and they are still struggling for their human rights.

## V. Guiding Questions

1. How can we ensure that neighboring countries such as Iraq, Syria, and Pakistan provide a safer environment for the Afghan citizens, including the necessities they are lacking in their home country of Afghanistan?
2. How can Afghanistan begin to reemploy teachers and educators who have been suffering from low incomes for decades, and ensure they are properly qualified for teaching children as many of the current teachers are underqualified?
3. How can we ensure the lives of the members of organizations in Afghanistan are not being controlled or restricted by the Taliban, who has seized control of many cities in which these organizations plan to help?
4. What is the most efficient way to counter these infectious disease attacks with the suffering economy and poor medical infrastructure that Afghanistan is facing?
5. In the future, how can the Afghan government restore the police and military forces to ensure the feeling of protection from the people of Afghanistan?

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Farr, Grant, and About The Author(s) Grant Farr is Professor Emeritus at Portland State

University. He has worked and lived in Afghanistan and Iran for many years and has

written widely on both countries. His next book will focus on the Afghan refug. “Female

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