

Committee: General Assembly**Topic: Addressing the Legitimacy of Dictatorships and Their Place in the United Nations**
Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

This committee aims to assess the legitimacy of dictatorships and their place in the United Nations. Dictatorships can often be aggressive and a source of tension in the international community; however, many nations have differing opinions on how to resolve such tensions. This committee hopes to explore a variety of solutions ranging from the validity of complete isolation from international power structures (specifically the United Nations) to equal representation for all nations regardless of governmental systems. The human rights of civilians are this committee's priority. Dictatorships that suspend civil liberties violate human rights; however, isolating these dictatorships from the international community further violates human rights. Dictatorships have threatened every region of the world at some point in time. This committee must visualize a future in which human rights are protected for all. Delegates will push to ensure that the correct measures are taken to successfully accomplish that vision.

III. Background of the Topic

This committee defines a dictatorship as an authoritarianism government characterized by strong central power and limited political freedoms, often led by a dictator. Modern-day

examples of dictatorships that fit the above definition include the People's Republic of Korea, Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, and Iran, among others. The People's Republic of Korea serves as a prime example of the negative repercussions of authoritarian policies. North Korean citizens live without any freedom of movement, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and are isolated from any media other than state propaganda.² The limiting of civil liberties has affected every aspect of civilian life. The North Korean government has caused chronic food shortages, dismal public health, political prison camps, public executions, widespread sex trafficking, and a refugee crisis due to its authoritarian policies.² Situations similar to the one in the People's Republic of Korea happen all too often.

In the past, especially during the World Wars, wartime politics have heavily relied on authoritarian means of control. During World War II, many countries suspended a significant amount of civil liberties in order to push a wartime agenda. The following Cold War-era conflicts further instituted an international mentality of empire-building without concern for civilian liberties. For example, the United States of America has come to be seen as a leader in "regime change," especially after pushing to establish democracy throughout Latin America, yet they have only succeeded in establishing authoritarian systems in areas such as the Philippines and Haiti.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Dictatorships have a strong history in the United Nations, especially considering that one of the founding nations was the Soviet Union under Stalin, one of the world's most infamous dictators.³ As a result of this history, many have criticized the UN for lack of decisive action on the place of dictatorships in the international community. In an attempt to address this issue, the United Nations has ensured since its origin that the Security Council has the power to "authorize punitive measures such as sanctions or military action against a state." Such mandatory sanctions have been placed against Iraq, the DPRK, and Iran in order to minimize international security threats. The United Nations' website states that "[d]emocracy is a universally recognized ideal and is one of the core values and principles of the United Nations. It provides an environment for

the protection and effective realization of human rights.”⁴ The enforcement of this ideal has come about via the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, both of which outline staunchly anti-authoritarian forms of government in order to protect the unalienable rights of human beings.⁴

V. References and Research Resources

1. Human Rights Foundation. (2018, October 12). UN Elects Dictatorships to Human Rights Council Yet Again. Retrieved from https://hrf.org/press_posts/un-elects-dictatorships-to-human-rights-council-yet-again/
2. Liberty in North Korea. (n.d.). The People's Challenges. Retrieved from <https://www.libertyinnorthkorea.org/learn-nk-challenges/>
3. Rosett, C. (2015, September 30). The U.N.'s Parade of Dictators. Retrieved from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/claudiarosett/2015/09/25/the-u-n-s-parade-of-dictators/#72695b354f5f>
4. United Nations. (2019, February 28). Democracy. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/democracy/index.html>
5. Abrams, E. (2017, September 18). “Like-Minded” Dictatorships and the United Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/blog/minded-dictatorships-and-united-nations>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Welcome to *MUNSA XXIV: Envision!* The Chairs are so excited to hear your debate on such an important topic, and we anxiously await to hear your opinions! Please be sure to remain informed on all prevalent current events in order to be the best delegates possible. We hope that you are as excited as we are, and don't be afraid to reach out to us if you have any questions.

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