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Committee: Security Council

Hello everyone,

My name is Michael Poulakis and I have the honor to serve as a chair at the Security Council of MSKMUN 2022. I am 15 years old and am a student of Anavryta Model Lyceum. MUN has been part of my life since the 2nd Grade of Junior High School. MUN has a lot to offer. It is the best way to broaden your horizons and practice public speaking skills, while have the time of your life.

If you are a newcomer you should know that delegates are the heart of each and every conference. The more you participate, the better the conference becomes. So, don't be shy, raise your placard and make speeches, points, motions. You must always keep in mind that you are the heart of the conference, so try to make the most of it.

In case you would like to contact me, you can send an email at the following address m.poulakis@ssa.co.gr

*I am looking forward to seeing you, Your Chair
Michael Poulakis*

Dear Delegates,

My name is Natasha Panagiotou. I have the honor to serve as a chair of the Security Council at MSKMUN 2022. I am 14 years old and I'm a student of Anavryta Model Junior High School. I have quite a few MUN experiences. This will be my second time chairing an MUN committee. I enjoy participating in MUN conferences because I gain knowledge, new experiences and make friends with people from all over the world.

For all the newcomers, I would like to welcome you to the MUN world and urge you to enjoy these moments by actively participating and socializing. I will do my best so as this conference turns out memorable but you, delegates, will make it special.

In case you would like to contact me, my email address is natpanag07@gmail.com

Topic: The question of Palestine and Israel

Timeline of events :

1917	The Balfour Declaration
1917 – 1947	British mandate
1920	Franco-Syrian War
1936-1939	Arab Revolt in Palestine
1947	Resolution 181 (II)
1948	War involving neighbouring Arab States expanded to the territory of Mandate Palestine, including the larger part of Jerusalem
1956	Suez Crisis
1964	Establishment of the PLO
1967	Six-Day War
1967	Security Council Resolution 242
1970	Jordanian Palestine Civil War

COMMITTEE: SECURITY COUNCIL

1973	Security Council resolution 338
1978	Coastal Road Massacre
1975	the General Assembly established the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and conferred on the PLO the status of observer in the Assembly and in UN conferences
1993	Oslo Accords
2005	Israel announces withdrawal from Gaza Strip
2012	Palestine becomes an observer state
2021	Protest in East Jerusalem
2021	Al-Aqsua Mosque incident
2021	Cease-fire comes to effect

Term dictionary:

- **Israel:** is an officially Jewish country located in the Middle East
- **Palestine:** is a set of two physically separate, ethnically Arab and mostly Muslim territories alongside Israel: the West Bank, named for the western shore of the Jordan River, and Gaza

- **“Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO):** political organization claiming to represent the world’s Palestinians—those Arabs, and their descendants, who lived in Mandate Palestine before the creation of the State of Israel in 1948. It was formed in 1964 to centralize the leadership of various Palestinian groups that previously had operated as clandestine resistance movements
- **Oslo Accords:** The first document in a set of Israel-PLO agreements. The agreements called for mutual recognition between the two states and set out conditions under which the West Bank and Gaza would be gradually handed over to the newly formed Palestinian Authority

Countries of major involvement:

Great Britain

UK states that in spite of revolts and terrorism, a national home had been established and a Jewish community of over 600,000 persons had been built up, the Arab population had doubled and social and economic standards had advanced to the advantage of all. It had been suggested that the United Kingdom should carry the full responsibility for the administration of Palestine and for enforcing changes proposed by the United Nations during an indefinite transitional period until independence was attained. The United Kingdom would in no case accept responsibility for enforcement, either alone or in the major role. The illegal immigration into Palestine undertaken with the connivance and assistance of some Governments was a question which aroused bitter feelings in Palestine; proposals for a change in the status quo should not lightly be put forward by those who had no responsibility for the consequences.

The US

One of the major factors that define the course of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the possibility of reaching a viable solution is the position of the United States of America. While the USA are Israel’s most committed ally, the American Foreign Office strategy seems to constantly change and adapt. The ties between the two were only strengthened during the Obama administration when the USA seemed eager to ensure a strong position in the Middle east. The Trump administration did not follow the long-lasting attempt of the States claiming undisputed dominance

in the Middle East and emphasized more in internal affairs. The Biden administration reacted by recommitting to the two-state solution and the Oslo “peace process.” Secretary of State Antony Blinken hastened to Israel to assure Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of U.S. support, and he called on PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas to the same end. Weapons were quickly promised to Israel, seemingly circling around congressional scrutiny, and aid to Gaza. How the PA can oversee Gaza’s reconstruction when it is run by Hamas remains an open question.

Israel

Although Israel has committed since 2008 to withdraw its military power from the occupied lands and work towards the reach of an agreement, not much has changed. The illegal annexation of the West Bank and the colonization of the region with Israeli’s creates an unresolved chaos of poverty, violence, and despair. While the many countries condemn Palestinian anti-violence most of the Western World including the EU are putting up with Israel’s out of proportion responses and constant hostility. It is, although more evident than ever, that Israeli public opinion has turned towards a more peaceful management of the crisis, and a great percentage of the people actually support the two-state solution.

Palestine

Palestinian claims are based on the fundamental right of self-determination widely accepted by the most constitutional democracies of the Western World and the U.N. For the last decades Palestine promotes its claim for the creation of an independent Palestinian State consisted of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank bringing the status quo as it was before 1968. Moreover, Palestine’s call for compensation for the catastrophic missile assaults in Gaza, the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the occupied regions and the terminalization of annexation in the West Bank are also steady demands.

Russian Federation

Russia did well over the years, in mastering the art of keeping equal distances when it is needed. In this -sometimes tense neutrality- Russia seems to support the UN as the organization responsible for ensuring peace in the region and for the moment, refrains from interference except a constant call for a peaceful solution. By this diplomatic maneuver both powers are opposing to the US primacy in controlling the course of events in the Middle East, a region of Major importance to Russia. When promoting the UN as the party responsible to reach an agreement, Russia is trying to make the most from its upper hand in influencing the Security Council and thus overcoming America's efforts to employ its own plans. In this way the good relationships between Moscow and Netanyahu are not disrupted and the interests of other allying powers such as Turkey are not harmed.

Arab League

The Arab league has always been the most passionate supporter of the Palestinian claims to land and self-determination. The long-lasting controversy with the Israelis and the importance of the Israel-Palestine conflict has made the reach of an agreement favorable to the Arab interest as priority. However, historically there are evidence of an internal antagonism among the PLO and other Palestinian groups with powers of the region that either trying to claim strategic positions like Egypt's struggle over the years to put under control the Gaza Strip, or resisting to the claims of Palestinian minorities for a "state within a state" in the case of Jordan or Lebanon. That is why the Arab League does not always achieve to hold a stable and unified position.

Background information :

The birthplace of the Jewish people is the Land of Israel (Eretz Yisrael). There, a significant part of the nation's long history was enacted, of which the first thousand years are recorded in the Bible; there, its cultural, religious, and national identity was formed; and there, its physical presence has been maintained through the centuries, even after the majority was forced into exile.

During the many years of dispersion, the Jewish people never severed nor forgot its bond with the Land. With the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, Jewish independence, lost 2,000 years earlier, was renewed.

The early history and the establishment of the state of Israel

17th-6th C. BCE BIBLICAL TIMES (BCE - Before the Common Era)

In the 17th century, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - patriarchs of the Jewish people and bearers of a belief in one God - settled in the Land of Israel and Famine forced Israelites to migrate to Egypt. In the 13th century, the Exodus from Egypt took place when Moses led Israelites from Egypt. In the 13th-12th centuries, Israelites settled in the Land of Israel. In 1020, Jewish monarchy established Saul as the first king. In 1000, Jerusalem became the capital of David's kingdom. In 930, the kingdom was divided into Judah and Israel. In 722-720, Israel got crushed by Assyrians (10 tribes exiled/Ten Lost Tribes). In 586, Judah was conquered by Babylonia and Jerusalem and the First Temple was destroyed with most Jews exiled.

THE SECOND TEMPLE PERIOD

In 538-142, during the Persian and Hellenistic period, in 538-515, many Jews returned from Babylonia. In 332, the Land was conquered by Alexander the Great (Hellenistic rule). In 166-160, the Maccabean (Hasmonean) revolt happened, against restrictions on practice of Judaism and desecration of the Temple. In 142-63, Jewish independence under the Hasmonean monarchy. In 63, Jerusalem was captured by Roman general, Pompey.

63 BCE-313 CE (CE - The Common Era)

Roman rule. In 63-4 BCE, Herod the Roman vassal king, ruled the Land of Israel. The Ministry of Jesus of Nazareth was in 20-33 and in 66, the Jewish revolt occurred against the Romans. In 70, Jerusalem and the Second Temple were destroyed. In 73 was the last stand of Jews at Masada. In 132-135 Bar Kokhba was uprising against Rome. In 210, the Codification of Jewish oral law (Mishna) was completed.

FOREIGN DOMINATION

In 313-636 was the Byzantine rule, in 390 the Commentary on the Mishnah (Jerusalem Talmud) was completed and in 614 the Persian invasion happened. In 636-1099 was the Arab rule and in 1099-1291 was the Crusader domination (Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem). In 1291-1516, Mamluk ruled and in 1517-1917, Ottoman ruled. In 1564, the Code of Jewish law (Shulhan Arukh) was published and in 1860, the first neighborhood was built outside of the walls of Jerusalem's Old City. In 1882-1903, the First Aliya (large-scale immigration), mainly from Russia took place and in 1897, the

First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl in Basel, Switzerland; Zionist Organization was founded. In 1904-14, the Second Aliya happened, mainly from Russia and Poland. Finally, in 1909, First kibbutz (Degania) and first modern all-Jewish city, Tel Aviv, was founded.

The complexity of the Israel - Palestine Conflict could only be understood through examination of the historical background and previous crisis.

Early Roots

From the late 19th and the early 20th century a burst of nationalistic movements led by Jews and Arabs shocked the Middle East. Both groups tried to gain sovereignty for their people in the region. The Balfour Declaration was an attempt of Great Britain to diplomatically achieve the segmentation of the Ottoman Empire and to facilitate the growth of British imperialism by creating a competitive pole against the rising powers emerging from the Arab revolt. The Declaration announced the support of Britain for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people". An ongoing climax of violence since the Franco Syrian War concluded in an armed struggle between the Palestinian Arabs and the Yishuv Jews with the main ideological motivations of the Jewish side to be the "right for land" and the non-recognition of the Palestinian Arab national entity. The Palestinians, in accordance with a larger coalition of the Arabic powers of the region, based their requests on the British promises during World War I for self determination in the purely Arab areas. The tension resulted in the Arab Palestine Revolt and to a full-scale armed conflict with thousands of casualties until the beginning of World War II.

By the end of World War II the crisis over the relocation of surviving communities in Israel led to renewed tensions between the Yishuv Jews and the Palestinians followed by a huge growth of immigration to the region supported by the British. On 29 November 1947 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Resolution 181(II) supporting the plan to partition Palestine into an Arab state, a Jewish state, and the City of Jerusalem. The Resolution created tension almost immediately, and as a result a full-scale war was again conducted, and this time the Israeli side achieved an almost complete victory that contributed to major changes in the region.

Modern Crisis

The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 was followed by the marching of the Arab league forces into former British Palestine. After a cease-fire in 1949, Israel had great control of the region, the West Bank was occupied by Jordan and

the Gaza Strip by Egypt, where the All-Palestine Government was declared in 1948. The All-Palestine Government faced exile after the occupation of Gaza Strip during the Suez Canal Crisis, which was later restored by the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and the collapse of the British control over the Canal. After tensions between the All-Palestine Government and Nasser's Egypt a new organization arose, the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) under the emblematic Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who soon gained trust of the Arab league governments and was granted a seat in the Arab League.

The Six-day War

A rare example of military readiness in modern history is the Israeli Six-Day War, a triumph that gave to Israel the control of the West Bank from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt. The Jordanian-Palestinian civil War and the defeat of the PLO caused a massive relocation to South Lebanon where soon the Palestinians took over large territories. The Palestinians for almost a decade launched attacks on northern Israel and supported a worldwide airplane hijacking campaign. An important incident widely known as the "Coastal Road massacre" resulted in a full-scale Israeli invasion. However, Israeli forces withdrew quickly and the attacks against Israel continued. Soon an excuse was found in the attempt of the association of an Israeli official and Israel successfully involved in the Lebanese Civil War. Palestinian militants were defeated, and the PLO headquarters were captured. Although successful, the Israeli involvement deteriorated relationships with Syria and Shia militants. Those groups later created Hizbullah and Amal movement which later allied with the Palestinians.

Afterwards:

An Egyptian Israel Peace Treaty in 1982 and the first Palestinian uprising in 1987 after exhausting violence and occupation led to the Oslo Accords of 1993 allowing the PLO to take into control in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. However, failures to reach a peace agreement and the fiasco of the 2000 Camp David Summit resulted to the Second Intifada, a Palestinian uprising against Israel started in September 2000. Violence between the two sides lasted until 2005 when the Israeli Prime Minister Sharon ordered the withdrawal of military forces from Gaza Strip and formally declared the end of the occupation.

The United Nations and many other bodies and NGOs still consider the Israeli

occupation of Gaza ongoing. The following years were characterized by a growing popularity of Hamas that won plurality in the Palestinian Parliament. Internal conflicts between Hamas and Fatah resulted in a Hamas domination of the area and an Israeli naval blockade on the Strip of Gaza. The tensions escalated until late 2008 when “the Cast Lead operation” was launched resulting in thousands of casualties and enormous financial losses. Finally, the Palestinian Authority attempt to gain UN membership failed in 2011, and the nation was upgraded to an observer state only on November 2012.

Previous attempts to solve the issue:

Under the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Since 1948, the Council has addressed the situation in the Middle East and the Palestinian question on many occasions.

When fighting broke out, the Council called for, or ordered cease-fires. It also dispatched military observers, and deployed UN peace-keeping forces in the region. The Council has set the basic principles for a negotiated peaceful settlement, known as the “land for peace” formula, by its resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). The Council has called for the cessation of Israeli settlement activity, which it determined to have no legal validity, reaffirmed the applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention and called for the return of Palestinian deportees.

The Council has repeatedly called for the immediate resumption of the negotiations within the current Middle East peace process with the aim of achieving an early final settlement between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. The Council affirmed the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side within secure and recognised borders, by its resolution 1397 (2002), and endorsed the Quartet’s (UN, Russia, US and EU) Road Map by its resolution 1515 (2003).

The Council receives monthly briefings and holds periodic open debates on the issue. By resolution 2334 (2016) the Council demanded that Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities.

The situation today:

An outbreak of violence in the ongoing conflict burst on 10th May 2021 and continued until the 21st May cease fire. The conflict was marked by protests and police brutality, rocket attacks from Hamas against Israel and massive airstrikes targeting Gaza. 13 Israelis killed, 256 Palestinians killed in Gaza and 27 in the West Bank. Hamas casualties are estimated to be 80-225 militants. Over 72.000 Palestinians were displaced. The growth of tension followed a period of political disbelief and displeasure towards the Netanyahu Israeli government. The conflict was marked by a widespread awareness and propaganda raised via the Social Media and scandalous dormancy from the progressive powers of the Western World to successfully support and protect the civilians by the Israeli aggression and secure coverage of the issue from International Media. The 2021 crisis showed conclusively to the world the uneven measures of powers with the Israeli military machine to be unmatched and ready to climax the aggression. Moreover, the total support of the USA and the Western block empowered Israeli status at an 10 International level and the State is likely to play a more important role in the future developments in the Middle East. However, the unrepresented awareness caused by the brutality of the conflict revealed the desire from a massive majority to reach a conclusive agreement. Latest statistics show that a great percentage of Palestinians and Israelis wish for an agreement based on the Two- State solution.

The problem,oversimplified:

The Israeli–Palestinian conflict is one of the world's most enduring conflicts, with the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip reaching 52 years of conflict. Various attempts have been made to resolve the conflict as part of the Israeli–Palestinian peace process. The occupation of Gaza Strip and West Bank by Israeli forces has been a cause of disagreement for 52 years now. Protests regarding this occupation have been bloody and messy. The reaction and response to the protests have been equally as brutal. That said, politicians and leaders in both countries would be the first to inform the world that what they are fighting for is much more than a question of land. As you will see below, other issues that have continued stoking the fire of the conflicts are mutual recognition, borders, security, control of Jerusalem and freedom of movement.

Possible solutions:

- First, the definition of the borders. It is unlikely that Israel will easily agree

on bringing the borders back to the 1968 status quo, and it seems impossible for Palestine to settle with anything else, as these were the borders before the conflict even occurred.

- Second, the two-state solution is still considered as the only long sustainable solution for most of the parties involved. It is evident that public opinion, the UN and the Palestinian-Arabic side support it.
- Third, the two-state solution did not work beforehand, why will it be effective and accepted by Israel this time?
- Fourth, the two-state solution does not guarantee that the hostilities between the two nations will be over. Nothing seems so far to reduce Israeli aggression nor the fanaticism widespread to the Arabic population.
- Fifth, so as for the solution to be successful, it needs at first to reassure the autonomy of Palestine in finance, energy, and resources. Maintaining peace will also require an efficient Palestinian mechanism in the department of defense.

Treaties on the matter:

- Resolution 181
https://unispal.un.org/dpa/dpr/unispal.nsf/0/7f0af2bd897689b785256c330061d_253
- Resolution 237
<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/E02B4F9D23B2EFF3852560C3005CB95A>
- Resolution 1397
<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1397>

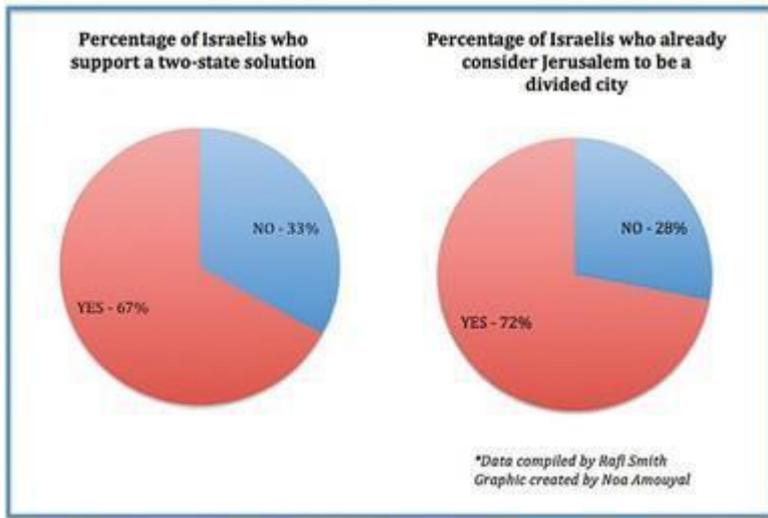


The Gaza Strip

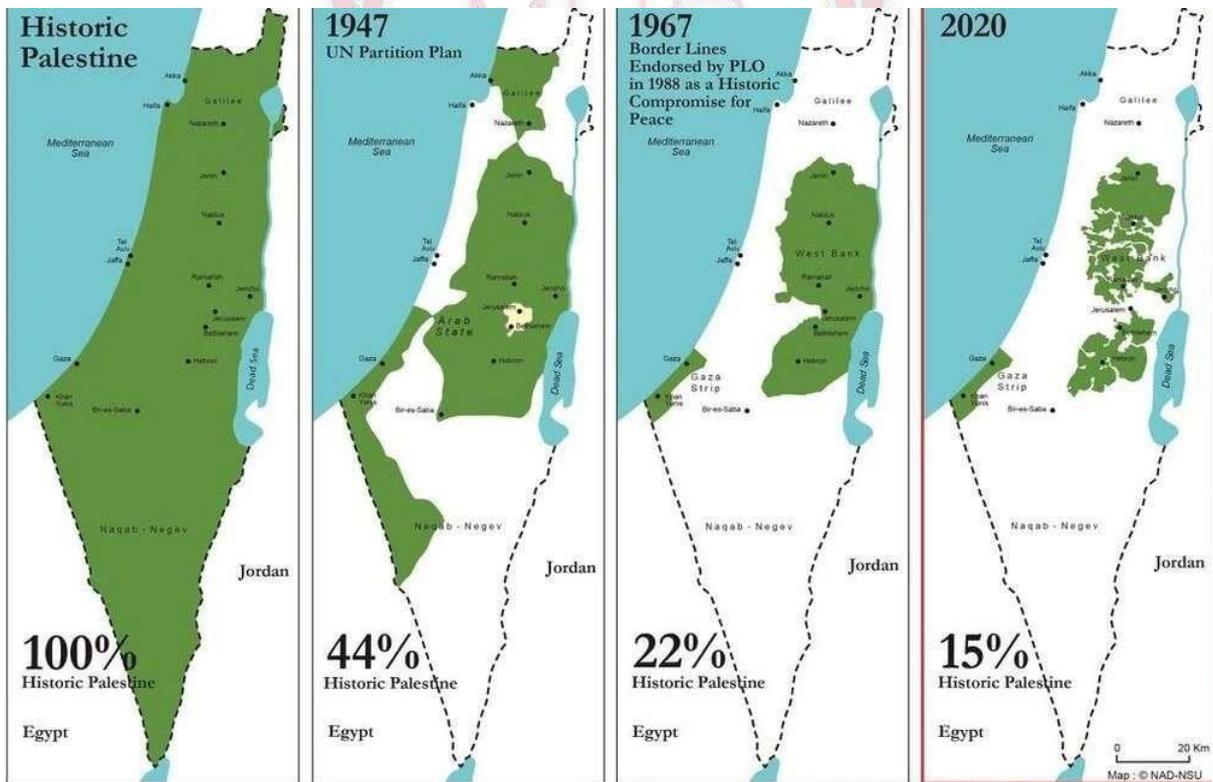


Israel during the time of Jesus

Jerusalem is in the heart of the dispute. Israel is considering Jerusalem as its historical capital city (De facto). Alongside with that, Palestine's capital is ... Jerusalem (De jure). Both states were forced by the situation to have one more capital, accepted by the international community. Israel has Tel Aviv (de jure) and Palestine has Ramallah (de facto)



Palestine is located, practically, inside the state of Israel. Both sides assume the territory to be their fatherland



Sources:

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Topic: The situation of piracy in the horn of Africa

Timeline of events:

2007	Resolution 1772
2008	The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) recorded 111 attacks in the waters off the Horn of Africa.
2008	Ransoms paid to Somali pirates and their supporters, estimated at over \$30 million.
2008	The U.N. Security Council issued four resolutions (1816, 1838, 1846, and 1851) to facilitate an international response to piracy off the Horn of Africa.
2008	The UN Security Council authorized other countries to enter Somali territorial waters to stop pirates.
2009	Resolution 1872 authorizes member states to participate in the training and equipping of the TFG security forces in accordance with Resolution 1772 (2007).

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2009	A multilateral Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) was established to coordinate anti-piracy efforts. U.S., NATO, European Union, regional, and other naval forces are currently patrolling near Somalia in coordination with a U.S.-led Task Force.
2009	The U.S. State Department reported 156 attacks had occurred in those waters since January 2009, with 33 successful hijackings.
2009	The United Nations Secretary General warned that "as a result of the military presence in the region, pirates have employed more daring operational tactics, operating further seawards, towards the Seychelles, and using more sophisticated weaponry."
2012	35 ships were attacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia, compared with 163 in 2009.
2015	There was a 15 percent drop in time on station dedicated to counter-piracy operations, compared to 2014. The burden has shifted from international coalitions to independent deployers, with counter-piracy activities becoming more concentrated on escort operations.

2015	78 percent of vessels involved in suspected piracy related incidents reported having a privately contracted armed security personnel team aboard.
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Term dictionary:

- **Piracy:** The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea defines piracy as “illegal acts of violence or detention” committed on the high seas against ships or aircraft.

Organisations involved:

- **SEALs:** The United States Navy Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) Teams, commonly known as Navy SEALs, are the U.S. Navy's primary special operations force and a component of the Naval Special Warfare Command. Among the SEALs' main functions are conducting small-unit special operation missions in maritime, jungle, urban, arctic, mountainous and desert environments. SEALs' typical tasks are capturing or eliminating high level targets and gathering intelligence behind enemy lines.
- **UNODC:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime's mission is to contribute to global peace and security, human rights and development by making the world safer from drugs, crime, corruption and terrorism
- **IMO:** The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is responsible for measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent marine pollution from ships.
- **DFID:** The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK's fight against global poverty, delivering aid to those in need all over the world.
- **IMB:** The International Maritime Bureau is a specialized department of the International Chamber of Commerce. The IMB's responsibilities lie in fighting crimes related to maritime trade and transportation, particularly piracy and commercial fraud, and in protecting the crews of ocean-going vessels.

Countries of major involvement:

China:

China, although a distant country, yet was affected severely by the piracy. A pointer in this case is the capture in November 2008 of two Chinese commercial ships by Somalian pirates

and many Chinese taken as hostage. The fear of many more being captured and disrupting Chinese commercial traffic and sea lanes of communication loomed large prompting China to take steps to counter it. Whereas the West sees Somalia and the problem of piracy as one associated with its failed status and the consequent threat posed by terrorist groups such as Al Shabaab, China's approach is markedly different in that it has sought to engage with Somalia a la other African countries by building its capacity in order that piracy can no more thrive and thereby provide a stepping stone to strengthen its relationship with Somalia.

Accordingly, China has played a constructive role with regard to the piracy issue by cooperating with the multinational task force to combat piracy and simultaneously taking steps to adopt a comprehensive approach to maritime security. China's participation was a response to the piracy threat as per the UN Security Council resolution 1851 of 2008, which authorizes states to cooperate to counter piracy.

Besides, it was with the sovereign consent of the Somali Transitional Federal government that China had sent its naval task forces to the Gulf of Aden.

UK:

The UK continues to work with the international community to provide humanitarian and development assistance. This helps to tackle the underlying causes of piracy: long term instability and lack of development in the Somali region.

The UK is working with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Maritime Organization to develop sustainable livelihoods in coastal communities, which complements DFID's programme of building long-term and sustainable jobs and economic opportunities in Somalia.

One example of such work is the Sustainable Employment and Economic Development Programme, a joint project with UNDP Somalia. The programme is aimed at working to improve the livelihoods of various stakeholders in the fisheries sector in Puntland. It will result in improved regulation and development through public-private partnerships, with the aim to create 20,000 long-term jobs.

The UK has lead responsibility in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia for working group one, whose focus is on regional capacity development and military engagement.

US:

The US seeks and needs to maintain influence and stability in the horn of Africa. Piracy is a threat to the political stability of the area.

The horn of Africa is a strategic geographical point of high importance. The US keeps deploying armed forces to ensure and strengthen their presence in the area. The Virginia and Kentucky National Guard deployed 1,000 troops to the horn of Africa.

Virginia and Kentucky's mission will be to provide security at various forward operating bases across the horn of Africa and to "improve safety and stability in the region," according to a Guard press release.

Previously:

Some members of the 111th Congress have expressed concern about the threat posed by piracy, and President Obama has stated that his Administration is resolved to halt the growth of piracy in the Horn of Africa region. The Obama Administration has outlined its policy response to the threat of piracy and pledged to continue working through interagency and multilateral coordination and enforcement mechanisms established during the Bush Administration. Most experts believe that the reestablishment of government authority in Somalia is the only guarantee that piracy will not persist or reemerge as a threat. The 111th Congress has explored a range of options to address both the threat posed by piracy as well as its underlying causes, and has sought to influence U.S. policy through oversight of U.S. military operations and diplomatic efforts and through defense and foreign assistance appropriations and authorizations.

EU:

The EU's engagement in the Horn of Africa is defined by the region's geo-strategic importance, the longstanding EU engagement with countries of the region, the EU's desire to help lift the people from poverty into self-sustaining economic growth, and the need for the EU to protect its own citizens from security threats.

Background information:

Piracy is a serious problem and it poses a real threat not only to the safety of vessels and their crews, but also to the economies of affected countries.

Although there were attacks off the Somali coast, historically piracy was rare in the Horn of Africa waters, the 1990s saw an upsurge in piracy, with another significant surge in 2005, due to a combination of factors such as statelessness, poverty, illegal fishing, toxic waste dumping, and opportunistic criminal behaviour. Somalia represents a perfect collision of means (extensive small arms), motive (poverty) and opportunity (lack of governmental authority and proximity to shipping) for effective pirate operation. Prior to 2005, pirate attacks had been more sporadic and opportunistic, targeting slow moving vessels hugging the coastline, compared to organised and highly repetitive attack patterns from 2005 onwards. Between 2007 and 2014, the highest occurrences of piracy incidents were in the waters off the East African coast; which were by far the most dangerous area for ships to become a victim of piracy. Somali pirates were capturing ships as far away as Madagascar and

Mozambique.

A distinctive feature of Somali piracy is its 'hijack-for-ransom' business model, requiring supporting infrastructure on land and attaching high economic value on hostages. The high value of hostages has meant Somali piracy has been relatively non-violent. This form of piracy has arisen because Somalia does not have the harbours which could accommodate a modern tanker or bulk carrier or landside infrastructure which would allow pirates to move cargo off the ships and sell it in regional markets, or the ability to sell off ships.

However, efforts to counter piracy reduced the number of piracy incidents over time and in 2015 fewer seafarers were affected than in West Africa or the Strait of Malacca. Pottengal Mukundan, Director of IMB, suggests that a main factor in the drop in world piracy is the continued deterrence of Somali pirates off East Africa. The drop in hijackings off the coast of Somalia in 2011 and 2012 is attributed to robust targeting of pirate groups by international navies in the high-risk waters off Somalia; better implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMP) by ship operators and masters; and the increased use of privately contracted armed security personnel. However, the problem has not gone away and several recent hijackings of regional vessels could signal an increased threat again. In addition, many pirates have diversified into other criminal activities such as arms smuggling, human trafficking, and protection of illegal fishing vessels.

Factors encouraging piracy

1. Lack of economic opportunities

A 2016 study carried out by Oceans Beyond Piracy which involved interviewing Somalis found that lack of economic opportunities was the principal driver of pirate recruitment. All respondents cited one or more of the following: unemployment, lack of education, poverty, and hunger, rather than ideological, nationalistic, or clan-based concerns, as the motivation for involvement in piracy.

Another study carried out with Somalis jailed for piracy in 2015 also found that economic motives were commonly cited as a reason for becoming involved in piracy, especially poverty. There is some suggestion from imprisoned pirates that once they generate enough income from piracy they leave, trying to invest their income in something else.

Poverty and lack of economic opportunities has been a factor in Somali piracy in the past too. A report looking at the surge in piracy in 2005 found that the effects of the Indian Ocean tsunami on 26 December 2004 in relation to the breakdown of the coastal economy in northeast and central Somalia had a key role to play. That 'tsunami-induced destruction of the fishing sector was the most likely cause of the dissolution of fishing companies, and the subsequent formation of pirate groups in 2005 and later years'. Through its destruction of the dominant livelihood of central and north-east Somalia, the tsunami contributed to the development of a predatory environment conducive to piracy. The problem of piracy in Somalia appears heavily entangled with the state of the coastal economy, especially the fishing sector.

However, poverty alone is an insufficient explanation, as piracy occurs in regions that are not poorer than other parts of Somalia and the numbers of unemployed youth turning to piracy is miniscule compared with those that do not. Economic dislocation is a highly important factor, with communities who tend to engage in piracy economically marginalised and removed from economic development and globalisation processes.

The fact that narratives used to frame piracy suggest that it is an alternative means of livelihood and an unremarkable activity that is merely capitalising on Somalia's marginalisation within the global economy through existing local entrepreneurial norms and clan based collective security arrangements' as part of a political economy that encourages rent seeking, while its profit seeking nature is underplayed.

2. Community support

Somali piracy is unique because of the level of community support that Somali pirates have enjoyed in the past and the ability to hold crews and their vessels for months, or even years, in "safe havens" just off the coast during ransom negotiations. Somali pirates were able to exploit narratives of existing grievances to garner the support of local communities. The narrative of the benevolent protective character of piracy has been a crucial factor in recruitment as well as for ensuring the support of local communities. Somali pirates nurture relationships with clan elders, other local elites and businesses to maintain access to supplies and security during ransom negotiations, enmeshing piracy in a variety of local economic, social, and political networks. Local communities, at anchorage points where hostages are held, benefit as they provide various services and labour during the long negotiations.

Some studies suggest that piracy has had a positive impact for many groups within

Puntland, boosting investment in real estate and consumption, particularly among the working poor and pastoralists, as well as fuelling investment and contributing to resurgence in the fisheries sector

Such consumption and investment fuelled by illicit capital flows may not be positive for long-term development; there is little investment in pastoral or export sectors, while the spending of ransom payments can also cause inflation. In recent years, the ability to use these safe havens has decreased as a result of a more vigorous international naval presence and shifts in support on the ground in Somalia. However, research conducted in 2015 suggests that attitudes toward piracy seem increasingly sympathetic again, and piracy may again receive increased support.

3. Opportunistic criminal behaviour

Opportunistic crime is the primary cause of piracy in the Horn of Africa, leading to the development of professionalised criminal networks. Conditions in Somalia enabled the development of a business model around holding ships for ransom which resulted in high rewards, attracting opportunistic criminals. In the beginning, ships passing by the Somali coast were unarmed and were therefore easy targets and there was no capable guardian preventing the piracy as both local and national authorities were unable to guard their coast and stop pirates from docking captured vessels in coastal towns while waiting for ransoms to be paid.

Over time, piracy in Somali has been increasingly seen as organised crime. A single hijack can lead to ransoms ranging from USD 500,000 to USD 9 million. Most poor Somalis are not able to raise the resources (weapons, motors for boats, telecommunications) to mount successful piracy expeditions, whereas criminal organisations can. Somali piracy is so difficult to control because it is a land-based organised criminal activity and benefits from a level of stability within Somalia that allows criminal gangs to operate. Local authorities have little incentive to clamp down on pirate behaviour, as it does not victimise the community. There are suggestions that the proceeds of piracy are contributing to increased corruption in Puntland and that it is becoming the pirate version of a narco-state. Therefore even if the state (or local state) had the capability to end piracy, it may not want to as a result of it 'working' for the local community and the absence of a similarly lucrative legitimate industry.

Private security

The deployment of privately contracted armed security personnel in the region has



contributed to a reduction in piracy incidents. Many shipping companies use private armed guards to protect vessels from attacks, although as 2015 progressed, private maritime security companies' teams were used less and less frequently, and when they were employed, shipping companies increasingly opted for smaller and less expensive teams. Somalis jailed for piracy did mention that armed guards were a concern, but much less so than international navies.

Naval forces

Naval forces from over 40 countries are active in reducing the number of piracy incidents around the Horn of Africa, although initially they had little impact. Good and close cooperation between these naval forces has been an important part of their success. The navies have set up the heavily protected Internationally Recommended Transit Corridor in the Gulf of Aden. The Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) meeting is held every three months and focuses on improving cooperation and coordination of naval forces operating in the region, as well as looking for new ways to disrupt and prevent pirate attacks. They also maintain the Mercury information sharing platform which provides a very quick way for navies and governments' Rescue Coordination Centres to communicate suspicious activities and pirate attacks in the area. Naval forces have moved from just responding to pirate attacks at sea to attempting to kill off pirate ventures in their planning stages by targeting pirates onshore and along the coastline. High visibility along the coastline, including through aerial reconnaissance aircraft, appears to have been one of the most effective means of deterring pirates.

The activities of naval vessels have been enhanced by improved Maritime Situational Awareness (MSA) along the coastal areas, through close communication with onshore stakeholders. The Friendly Approach is used to encourage local fishermen to report potential movements of pirates in return for aid kits, replenishments, repairs and other gifts, as well as humanitarian aid missions to coastal villages.

Efforts have also been made to avoid cases of mistaken identity, through for example a database for Puntland fishermen. Formal talks between coastal district officials, police authorities and elders, known as LLEs are a centrepiece of naval-coastal interaction. While some welcome this naval vessel interaction, others report negative experiences.

There are concerns over the lack of oversight, legality, use of firearms, and human rights violations by these private security firms, as they often engage in preemptive

attacks against suspected pirates, while facing no consequences for their actions. Ignoring the abuses of the private marine security companies contributes to local narratives that justify piracy. Interviewed Somalis felt that the international community is indifferent to the suffering of Somalis and do not care that Somalis, some of them fishermen, are being killed by these private companies.

Having weapons on board also exposes seafarers to higher risk of torture and death if pirates successfully board a target ship and take its crew as hostages. The presence of armed guards also brings confusion in relation to hierarchy onboard the ship in the event of a pirate attack. There are also concerns about the use of floating armouries, which can create opportunities for illegality and abuse. The presence onboard of private marine security companies has to be agreed with flag States in consultation with ship owners, companies and operators.

It appears that ship owners feel that private armed guards are a clear second best choice to military personnel and that they are a necessity that is being forced on them by the international community's inadequate response to piracy. Despite the short-term benefits of private marine security companies in reducing piracy incidents, ultimately they do not offer a long-term solution to the problem of piracy in the Horn of Africa.

Private maritime security companies have also worked onshore with Somali authorities at national and regional levels to combat illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping, and provide coastguard training and revenue generation. This work predated their offshore work protecting vessels from hijacking and emerged in response to lack of action by the international community to combat illegal fishing and toxic waste dumping. In addition, they were involved in creating and training the Puntland Marine Police Force (PMPF), an active anti-piracy force tasked with disrupting pirate bases on land. None of these private companies have fully succeeded in accomplishing their goals and Somalia remains without a coast guard and illegal fishing flourishes. Some of these private companies were allowed to sell fishing licences to foreign companies to fund their operations.

In general, contracts have not been renewed or have been blocked over concerns about their activities and disagreements about profits and funding, as well as changes in political leadership. In addition, these companies trained staff to use sophisticated radio equipment, GPS, satellite phones, speed boats and mother ships, Internet resources to locate sea vessels, as well as boarding

techniques, and when these staff were fired en masse as new companies took over, some joined pirate gangs.

Prosecutions of pirates

The development of a judicial system and the prosecution of pirates, including by other countries, is suggested to be a factor behind the decline in Somali piracy incidents. UNODC has supported a variety of countries with judicial, prosecutorial and police capacity-building programmes in order to encourage the prosecution of Somali pirates. The European Union has been active in prosecuting pirates and supporting the capacity of regional states to do so. Imprisoned Somali pirates reported concern about future prison sentences as a major reason why they would avoid piracy in the future, although it is possible this finding reflects the context in which the interview took place.

Earlier failures to prosecute captured pirates due to political and legal complications forced the international community to practice “catch and release” of Somali pirates. This led to a sense of impunity and an increase in piracy as the incentives for capturing and ransoming a ship were high whereas the consequences for committing those offenses were quite low. The introduction of pirate transfer agreements with eastern African countries helped overcome these problems. The Seychelles, Mauritius, Kenya and Tanzania accept suspects captured by navies, and receive international support to ensure that their justice sector is capable of providing fair trials and adequate imprisonment.

Piracy as a law enforcement issue

Interpol encouraged states in East Africa to maintain intelligence on piracy and transnational criminal activity at a Law Enforcement Sensitive level so as to promote easier information sharing. INTERPOL works in partnership with a number of international organisations, including the African Union, Baltic and International Maritime Council, Eurojust, European Union, Europol, IMO and the United Nations, along with various military organisations and companies in the private sector, to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of piracy. Another benefit of treating piracy predominantly as a law enforcement sensitive issue is that it assists in the link between marine policing, land-based policing and the financial crimes-based task forces that ‘follow the money’.

The Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) for the Horn of Africa has been running for two years with the objective of strengthening government control over territorial waters and has seen a notable improvement in capacity to carry out patrols, including against illegal fishing.

Funding for capacity building programmes is likely to drop before they can significantly alter the problem of weak law enforcement in the intermediate and long term, although they could provide the seeds for long-term improvement in the quality of law enforcement. Good law has not necessarily resulted in good law enforcement.

Previous attempts to resolve the issue:

A variety of cooperative efforts have been made to discourage piracy off the Horn of Africa.

- **UN Convention on the Law of the Sea**

Several international legal instruments are in place to combat threats posed by piracy. The key agreement is the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which prescribes exclusive economic zones over which individual states have the rights for exploration, energy production from water and wind, and the use of marine resources.

- **The African Union**

International institutions are crucial for counter-piracy efforts, but they require long-term commitment. The African Union has already declared that its objective is to implement the African Maritime Security Strategy by 2050. Among the strategy's goals are to "ensure security and safety of maritime transportation systems," and to "prevent hostile and criminal acts at sea, and to coordinate/harmonize the prosecution of the offenders."

- **Djibouti Code of Conduct**

Implemented in 2009, it is intended to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea, specifically in the western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, by providing a platform for information sharing, capacity building, providing regional training, and updating of national legislations to include anti-piracy law. Signatories also agreed to cooperate in:

- i. the investigation, arrest and prosecution of suspected pirates;
 - ii. the interdiction and seizure of pirate ships;
 - iii. the rescue of ships, persons, and property subject to piracy;
 - iv. the conduct of shared operations.
- **Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia**

This international forum facilitates the discussion and coordination of actions among states and organisations to suppress piracy off the coast of Somalia . Various working groups focus on:

- i. facilitating effective naval coordination and international efforts to support the building of the judicial, penal, and maritime capacity of regional states;
 - ii. providing specific, practical, and legally sound advice on all legal aspects of counter piracy;
 - iii. the concerns of participant states, maritime industry, and labour groups in relation to self-defensive actions to protect vessels from hijacking by pirates;
 - iv. raising awareness of the dangers of piracy and highlighting best practices to eradicate it;
 - v. advancing information sharing internationally and between industry and government authorities to disrupt pirate enterprises on shore.
- **Trust Fund to support the initiatives of states to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia**

The Trust Fund supports state initiatives to counter piracy off the coast of Somalia. Established in 2010, it aims to help with the costs of prosecuting suspected pirates and other counter piracy activities.

- **United Nations Political Office on Somalia**

UNPOS, established in 1995 to help establish peace and reconciliation in Somalia, has a number of piracy related capacity building tasks. These include assisting the government and regional authorities to establish a system of governance, rule of law, and police control where land based activities related to piracy are taking place such as:

- supporting the creation of national fisheries and port activities
- assisting in the creation of specialised Somali courts.

UNPOS provides secretariat functions for the Somali Contact Group on counter- piracy and is Somalia's focal point in the Djibouti Code of Conduct . The office also assists with hostage support.

Captain Phillips

Captain Phillips' story is a very informative example of a man who was taken as a hostage by pirates after his ship was hijacked by them.

On April 8, 2009, four pirates armed with AK-47s clambered up the side of the U.S.-flagged container ship Maersk Alabama, sailing off the coast of Somalia. But after a brief scuffle with some of the 20 crewmembers, the pirates opted to abandon the 508-foot long ship, sailing off in one of its motorized lifeboats. They may not have captured Maersk Alabama, nor looted its millions of dollars' worth of food and humanitarian aid bound for Kenya, but they didn't leave empty handed. The pirates had a captive: Maersk Alabama's captain, Richard Phillips.

Four days later, three of the four pirates were dead, each from a single .30-caliber rifle bullet to his brain, courtesy of the U.S. Navy's SEAL Team Six. The fourth pirate, just 16 years old, was in Navy custody. And Phillips was on his way home, unharmed but for the psychological strain from four days in captivity in a sweltering lifeboat, unsure whether he would live or die.

The precision killing of the three pirates by six members of SEAL Team Six, the same unit that would later kill Osama bin Laden in his Pakistan hideout, has rarely been described in detail. Retired Rear Adm. Terry McKnight, who commanded U.S. naval forces off Somalia during the Maersk Alabama standoff, devotes 45 pages of his new book *Pirate Alley* to the people, methods, equipment and even politics behind Phillips' daring rescue.

From January to early April 2009, McKnight commander Combined Task Force 151, a rotating mix of a dozen or so warships from the U.S. Navy and its European and Asian allies that patrols more than a million square miles of the Indian Ocean, stretching from Kenya to the Persian Gulf and east to west from Somalia to India. Since the collapse of the Somali government in 1991, sea banditry has steadily risen, with impoverished former fishermen and hardened criminals alike arming

themselves with guns and rockets and taking to the sea in captured trawlers and fiberglass boats called "skiffs." In 2008, Somali pirates hijacked 44 large commercial ships, an increase from 12 the previous year. The average ransom rose from a few hundred thousand dollars to millions.

Piracy was an old problem by the time McKnight took command of his task force. But the attempted hijacking of the Maersk Alabama and the kidnapping of Phillips were new. The Maersk Alabama was the first U.S.-flagged ship, that is, an American-owned vessel registered in the U.S. and subject to U.S. laws and protection, had been boarded by pirates for two centuries.

McKnight had stepped down as CTF-151 commander just three days before the Maersk Alabama incident, so he did not directly participate in the U.S. response. But with his high-level relationships, intimacy with counter-piracy methods and many inside sources, his account of the pirate-takedown is the most detailed yet.

CTF-151's destroyer USS Bainbridge was the first to respond to the maydays from Maersk Alabama, which bobbed near the pirates and Phillips in the stolen lifeboat, preventing it from escaping to land. The 9,200-ton Bainbridge had swapped its helicopters and pilots for a catapult-launched Boeing ScanEagle drone plus the robot's operators. It also had a beefed-up intelligence team that included one of the Navy's few, and prized, Somali interpreters. While technically part of CTF-151, the Bainbridge had her own unique missions.

Under the command of Cmdr. Frank Castellano, Bainbridge raced toward the Maersk Alabama at top speed. On the day it took the destroyer to reach the scene of the attempted hijacking, the crew began synthesizing intelligence from multiple sources, including the ScanEagle, an orbiting Navy patrol plane and reports from Maersk Alabama's crew. According to McKnight, the interpreter added a dash of local knowledge, including the fact that pirates often chew narcotic khat leaves to ward off seasickness. In this case, "it turned out the pirates had run out of khat," McKnight writes.

The pirates were already on edge when Bainbridge reached the lifeboat on the night of April 9, freeing the Maersk Alabama to continue to Kenya. The destroyer "lit up the place" with spotlights, sirens and loudspeakers. "They were pissed," Castellano said of the pirates, according to McKnight. The bandits threatened to kill Phillips. In fact, they really just wanted to reach shore and ransom the merchant captain,

McKnight writes. But if they could escape the American navy, the pirates seemed willing to die, according to the retired admiral.

Three more U.S. warships were on their way, but Castellano realized he needed more specialized help. "I don't have sniper rifles on the ship," he recalled in an interview with McKnight. According to McKnight, the Bainbridge skipper specifically requested Navy SEALs. Perhaps Castellano was familiar with the naval commandos' skillset, having spent part of his deployment supporting them with his drone. More or less simultaneously, the White House determined that SEAL Team Six was the best force to handle Phillips' rescue.

But those SEALs were based 8,000 miles away in Virginia. So in the meantime, another group of SEALs "working in the Horn of Africa" deployed to the warships. "This group would keep the situation at bay until the Team Six operators dispatched from the United States came in," McKnight writes.

According to McKnight, on April 10 six Team Six SEALs flew from Oceana, Virginia, direct to the Somalia coast. Their Air Force C-17 cargo plane refueled in the air no fewer than three times during the 16-hour flight. "SEALs are understandably concerned about stealth," McKnight writes. "That tells me that the operation was planned so that they would parachute into the ocean under cover of darkness, probably a high-altitude low-opening jump so that the pirates weren't alerted."

McKnight cites the log book from the frigate USS Halyburton, recently arrived alongside Bainbridge. The log mentions six SEALs embarking the ship at 2:30 in the morning on April 11, then transferring via small boat to Bainbridge. McKnight says the SEALs brought their own sniper rifles, described elsewhere as .30-caliber SR-25s.

At 4:45 that afternoon, President Barack Obama, who had just been in office for three months, authorized the use of lethal force in Phillips' rescue. Minutes later, the pirates radioed Castellano's interpreter, announcing they were going to start the lifeboat's engine and "make it to shore, no matter what," according to McKnight. On his interpreter's advice, Castellano informed the pirates that they had drifted 80 miles from their own clan's territory. The pirates would need to negotiate with the elders of a rival clan in order to even consider going ashore. Castellano proposed that the meeting take place at sea. The pirates agreed.

Later, they also agreed to let Bainbridge take the lifeboat under tow, ostensibly to

keep the boat stable as the weather worsened. Sailors hooked a cable to the lifeboat and the destroyer slowly, imperceptibly, began winching the boat closer and closer to itself, until it was just 25 meters away. The SEALs were apparently already lying prone on Bainbridge's flight deck, scanning the lifeboat with the crosshairs of their sniper rifles.

In McKnight's telling, the tension ratcheted up the next morning, April 12. One of the pirates, only 16 years old, had been injured battling the Maersk Alabama's crew. He asked to go aboard Bainbridge for medical help, effectively giving himself up to the Americans. At the same time, another pirate radioed that Phillips needed to see a doctor. A Navy corpsman motored over to the lifeboat with a change of clothes for the kidnapped captain: blue pants and a bright yellow shirt. "Captain Phillips didn't figure it out right then, but there were people aboard Bainbridge who wanted to make sure that he more or less glowed in the dark," McKnight writes.

Stressed near the breaking point, on the night of April 12 Phillips wrestled with his captors in a failed escape attempt. In the scuffle, a pirate fired his rifle into the sea. That was enough for the SEALs. The next time all three remaining pirates showed their heads, three SEAL snipers fired one shot each. "Each of the three pirates was struck in the head, a deliberate shot that is used to kill a target while making sure that he doesn't have an involuntary muscle response and pull the trigger on the automatic weapon in his hand," McKnight writes.

"BAINBRIDGE RETURNED FIRE," is all the destroyer's log book said, according to the admiral.

Phillips' captors were dead; the captain was free. A pirate standoff that could have ended in disaster instead resolved itself without any American blood shed thanks in large part to a small team of far-flying, night-parachuting, sharpshooting Navy commandos, with an assist from a Somali linguist. And their exploits off the Somali coast would remain relatively obscure, if not for McKnight's revealing book.

This story has been filmed with Tom Hanks as captain Phillips

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEyM01dAxp8>

The situation today :

Pirate attacks continue to threaten commercial shipping and relief shipments bound for East Africa and the Horn, amid a regional humanitarian crisis that experts are calling the worst since 1984.

At present, Resolution 1851 has authorized international naval forces to carry out anti-piracy operations in Somali territorial waters and ashore, with the consent of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG).

The problem,oversimplified:

Piracy negatively affects any kind of supply chain. Although the number of piracy attacks has decreased, piracy is still a threat to global commerce and harms many economies.

Possible solutions :

- First, the key is for affected states to share information on what's happening on their coastlines and their neighbours'.
- Second, joint training activities are required so countries can develop procedures and learn how to use technology. Training not only educates future generations of maritime security professionals, but also creates confidence and trust between different agencies.
- Third, states that face maritime and piracy challenges should develop strong legislation to prosecute criminals.
- Finally, states should set aside enough money to build local capacity. "Even if a state has the information, even if the state has well-trained coast guards, and even if the state has incorporated all the right laws," Dr. Bueger explains, "without vessels, the state is powerless."

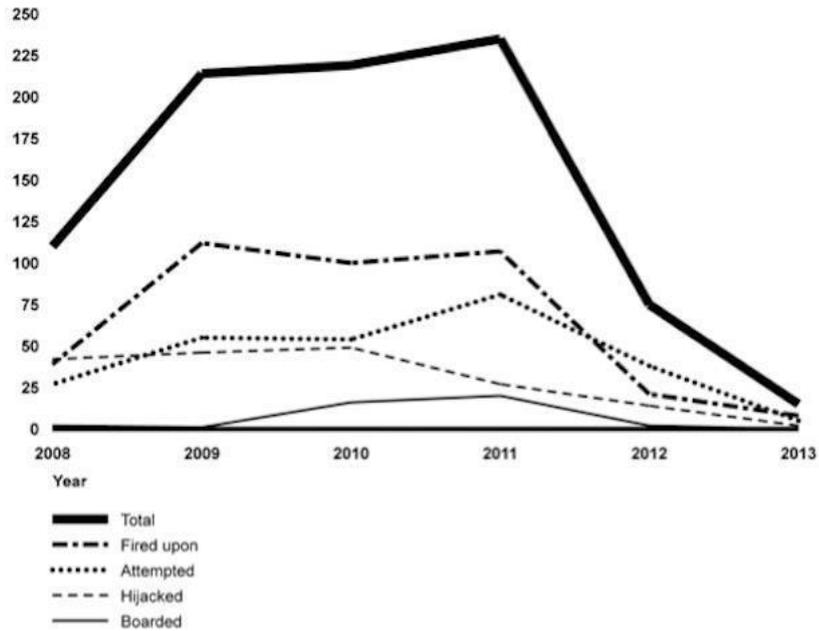
Treaties on the matter:

- Resolution 1772 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1772>
- Resolution 1816 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1816>
- Resolution 1838 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1838>
- Resolution 1846 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1846>
- Resolution 1851 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1851>

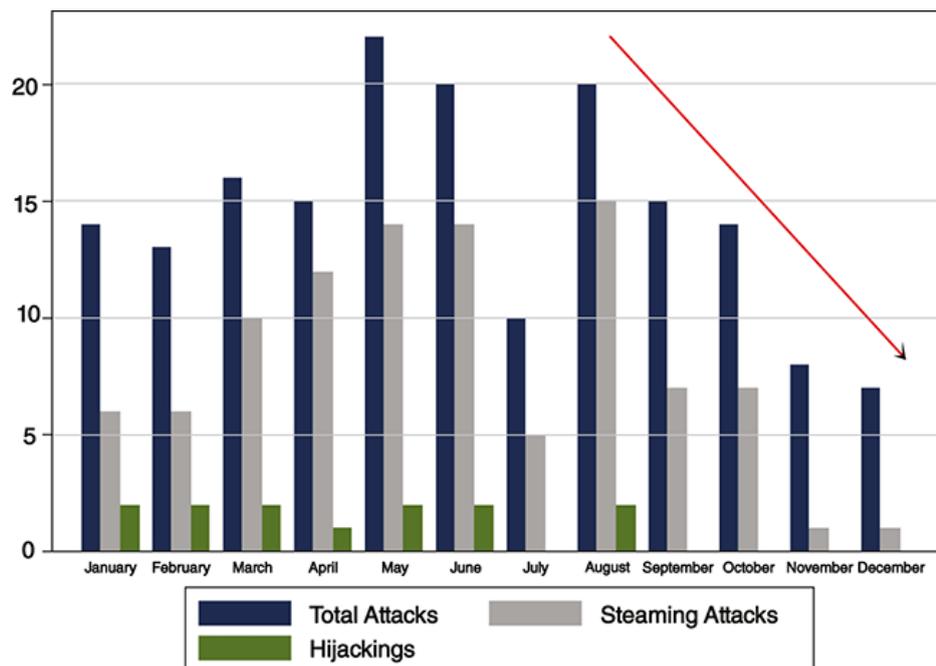


- Resolution 1872 <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1872>

Charts:



Here it becomes visible how piracy is rising /decreasing .One way or another its very existence as a phenomenon is disturbing.



Sources:

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Topic: Worsening western tensions with China

Timeline of events :

1999	U.S. aircraft bombed China's embassy in Belgrade amid the war in Yugoslavia, killing three Chinese
2001	Collision of a Chinese fighter aircraft with a U.S. Navy surveillance aircraft in international airspace near Hainan Island
2004	U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell talked about "the best relationship that the United States has had with China in over 30 years"
2007	China Increases Military Spending
	China Becomes Largest U.S. Foreign Creditor

2008	
2008	The trade volume between China and Germany surpassed 100 billion U.S. dollars
2013	Sunnylands Summit
2015	U.S. Warns China Over South China Sea
2018	Trump Tariffs Target China
2018	The President of the French Republic made his first state visit to China
2018	U.S.-China Trade War Escalates
2018	Canada Arrests Huawei Executive
2019	Huawei Sues the United States

2019	Trade War Intensifies
2020	'Phase One' Trade Deal Signed (US - China)
2020	U.S., China Close Consulates in Diplomatic Escalation
2021	More than 40 mainly Western countries criticised China over the reported torture and repression of Muslim Uighurs and other religious and ethnic minorities in Xinjiang

(US – China timeline <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china>)

Term dictionary:

- **Uighurs:** The Uighurs are the people whom old Russian travelers called "Sart" (a name they used for sedentary, Turkish-speaking Central Asians in general), while Western travelers called them Turki, in recognition of their language.
- **Trade war:** A trade war is an economic conflict resulting from extreme protectionism in which states raise or create tariffs or other trade barriers against each other in response to trade barriers created by the other party.
- **Scrutiny:** The careful and detailed examination of something in order to get information about it
- **Multilateralism:** A situation in which several different countries or organizations work together to achieve something or deal with a problem:

Countries of major involvement:

China:

China has been growing stronger the last few years. The advancement made in China is of major importance. China intends to preserve its economical development and influence on other countries. China seeks a higher “place” on the “powerful” countries “ranking”. This is not welcome by most of the powerful nations. In addition, China’s policies and goals come in contrast with the policies of many states, specially the US.

China’s diplomatic corps stands at the front line of the country’s expanding ambitions on the world stage, but while its main rival the US is increasing overseas spending, Beijing has been doing the reverse. President Xi Jinping has said China’s diplomacy must serve his vision for the “new era” marked by his leadership – to achieve “a great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation”.

Key to his vision is the belief that China will ultimately survive an unprecedented time of upheaval brought on by the widening ideological and geopolitical divide with Washington. The message was reinforced by Foreign Minister Wang Yi in July. “As we stand today at a new point in history, we face more geopolitical complications, we have bigger responsibilities and harder missions,” he told cadres, according to official transcripts.

“We have to form an iron army of diplomats who have the invincible political will, unwavering determination, high ability, and tough spirit to turn new pages for diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in the new era.”

France:

France’s recognition of the People’s Republic of China on 27 January 1964 marked the beginning of official relations. The French-Chinese relationship was raised to the level of “global strategic partnership” in 2004. Strategic dialogue (last session from 23 to 24 January 2019), which began in 2001, deals with all areas of cooperation and aims to strengthen dialogue on global issues, such as reform of global economic governance, climate change and regional crises. High-level economic and financial dialogue (last session on 7 December 2018), which began in 2013, covers all economic issues. The high-level dialogue on human exchanges (last session on 26 November 2017) which began in 2014, involves academic, scientific and cultural exchanges, as well as the promotion of women’s rights and gender equality.

The President of the French Republic made his first state visit to China from 8 to 10 January 2018. This visit was an opportunity to set out the main themes of the French- Chinese partnership for the years ahead. The visits to China of the Prime Minister from 22 to 25 June

2018, the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs on 13 and 14 September 2018 (25th Joint Commission on Trade and Investment), the Minister of Agriculture from 3 to 6 November 2018 (China International Import Expo in Shanghai) and the Minister of the Ecological Transition and Solidarity on 19 November 2018 (launch of the French-Chinese Year of the Environment) helped to make progress in these new directions.

Chinese President, Xi Jinping, made a state visit to France in March 2014 and an official visit in November 2015, at the time of the Paris Climate Conference. The Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang made an official visit to France in June and July 2015. The State Councillor and Foreign Minister, Mr Wang Yi, travelled to France on 16 May 2018, then on 23 and 24 January (15th session of the strategic dialogue).

Economically, rebalancing our trade “from the top” is a main priority, as was recalled during the presidential visit. China is France’s 7th largest customer (France has a 1.4% market share in China) and 2nd largest supplier (China has a 9% market share in France). Our trade is significantly imbalanced: China represents France’s largest bilateral trade deficit (€29.2 billion in 2018), ahead of Germany. Investment in both directions is booming. France has a long-standing presence in China (foreign direct investment stock of €25 billion in 2017) in all sectors, including agrifood, industry, transport, urban development, major retail and financial services. More than 1,100 French companies are present in China where they employ around 570,000 people. Chinese investment in France has grown significantly in recent years (€6 billion in FDI stock). A total of 700 subsidiaries of Chinese and Hong Kong companies are set up in France and employ 45,000 people. France supports Chinese investment which creates jobs and forges long-term, balanced partnerships. The economic partnership is reflected by the consolidation of structuring industrial cooperation in civil nuclear energy and aviation (Hinkley Point C, the EPR reactor in Taishan in reprocessing and recycling nuclear waste, assembly line of the A320 and completion of the A330 in Tianjin) and its expansion to new sectors (sustainable development, health, the economics of ageing, innovation and financial services).

Scientific and technological cooperation is focused on combating emerging infectious diseases (creation of a Pasteur Institute in Shanghai and a P4 laboratory in Wuhan accredited in January 2017) and the space industry (CFOSat (Chinese-French Oceanic SATellite) and SVOM (Space Variable Objects Monitor) satellite projects). Over 3,000 researchers from the two countries and from 600 research units cooperate within some 60 joint public research structures. In the area of artistic and cultural exchanges, the “Croisements” festival has become the most prominent foreign festival in China. As regards academic cooperation, 37,000 Chinese students are benefitting from student

mobility in France (the second-largest group of foreign students), while there are 10,000 French students studying in China (the largest group from Europe). Cooperation on the environment and sustainable development has three priorities: climate change, sustainable urban development, and water issues. The Agence Française de Développement has been working in China since 2004 (24 projects). Some 140 decentralized cooperation projects are currently being undertaken by 60 French local government bodies and 47 Chinese ones, through which concrete issues of mutual interest can be addressed.

France regularly voices its concerns about the human rights situation in China during high-level meetings. It has publicly expressed these concerns, including at the United Nations Human Rights Council, on the issues of the death penalty, freedoms of expression, religion and conscience, the situation in Tibet and Xinjiang, as well as individual cases. France is actively involved in EU-China dialogue on human rights.

Germany:

The Federal Republic of Germany and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations in 1972. Since then, German-Chinese relations have become multi-faceted while developing considerable intensity and greater political substance.

China was once again Germany's most important trading partner for goods in 2020, with a volume of trade of over 212 billion euro. International crises and mounting global challenges (including COVID-19, climate change) are placing a premium on German-Chinese cooperation and coordination. China views Germany both economically and politically as a key partner in Europe. The regular high-level coordination of policy conducted through a large number of dialogue mechanisms, as well as dynamic trade relations, investment, environmental cooperation and cooperation in the cultural and scientific sectors, are key elements in bilateral relations. Furthermore, Germany advocates substantive and reciprocal relations between the EU and China, as well as increased EU unity towards China.

Despite the close relations in the aforementioned spheres, fundamental differences of opinion remain, in particular with regard to human rights, above all individual freedoms and questions regarding the validity of international law, the international order and the interpretation of multilateralism. Germany continues to have a major interest in China opening its markets further to German companies and their products, establishing rule of law structures and social systems, allowing more political and economic participation, resolving minority issues peacefully and in this spirit shaping its commitment in international institutions and in support of a rules-based

international order.

Russia:

Nevertheless, China and Russia currently enjoy the best relations they have had since the late 1950s. Although they have no formal alliance, the two countries do have an informal agreement to coordinate diplomatic and economic moves, and build up an alliance against the United States.

Foreign Minister Lavrov recently hailed Russia's relations with China as "unique", characterised by "comprehensive partnership and strategic interaction". And there's no doubt bilateral cooperation has become both broader and, in some areas, deeper. The relationship is guided by the excellent personal relationship between Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping.

Closer alignment with Beijing is, pragmatically, a strategic imperative for Moscow: as a counterweight offsetting Russia's post-2014 estrangement from the US and European Union, and the associated negative political and economic ramifications.

But there are also wider benefits: Putin perceives that closer Russo-Chinese relations will be unsettling for America and its Western partners, complicating strategic calculations for the US, and underscoring Russia's relevance in Washington.

United States:

During the past several years, the U.S.-China relationship has reached its lowest point in decades. Recently, after a virtual summit with Xi Jinping that lasted more than three hours, President Biden referred to "commonsense guardrails" that were needed to keep the relationship from spiralling further downward. But the summit did not end with any concrete agreements—or even a joint statement—on the issues affecting the relationship, which run from trade and technological development to human rights in Hong Kong and Xinjiang to the future of Taiwan. The lack of agreement underscored the reality that the problems between the two countries appear largely intractable, despite an urgent need for coöperation on issues such as climate change.

The US is one of the most powerful countries. China advancing in various domains has been seen as a threat. The US tries to preserve its power. Two of the most important things the US needs to preserve is it's economy and its influence on other countries.

(more info about U.S. Trade Policy <https://www.csis.org/analysis/conversation-ambassador-katherine-tai-us-trade-representative>)

United Kingdom:

A major new report from the British Foreign Policy Group, co-authored by the BFPG's Director Sophia Gaston and Prof. Rana Mitter of Oxford University, warns the UK still has a long way to go before it can effectively and constructively engage with China, and secure the nation against the challenges China poses now and into the future.

The report recognises the UK Government has made important progress in implementing new safeguards and in building a more robust strategy on human rights and global norms. But it argues the UK's 'reset' on China remains a work in progress, and there is still much to be done to strengthen the UK's position so we can pursue China engagement from a more confident position. Significant, structural change to policy-making processes will be required to effectively balance security and openness, as pursuing a 'balanced' relationship will involve regular points of tension. We must build systems capable of accommodating these in a principled and consistent fashion.

In light of the ongoing scrutiny that will be required towards different points of engagement, the report proposes a "triad" model for making decisions about actions towards China – categorising choices around the nature, sphere and stakes of such decisions, to ensure the Government can consider their implications in the round.

(more info <https://bfpg.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Resetting-UK-China-Engagement-2021.pdf>)

Background information :

Dominance Around the Pacific

The United States has used its naval and air might to enforce order across the Pacific region since the end of World War II. As China has built up its military presence in the region, the Biden administration has sought to widen America's alliances with Australia, Japan, India and other nations. Beijing regards such actions as dangerous provocations meant to secure American "hegemony."

A major potential flash point is Taiwan, the self-governing, democratic island that the Communist Party regards as Chinese territory. Mr. Xi has vowed to achieve the "great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," a project that includes bringing Taiwan under Chinese control. China has flown more and more warplanes into the airspace

near Taiwan, sending a reminder that it has never ruled out annexing the island by force. American presidents have long been vague about how forcefully the United States would come to Taiwan's defense. This "strategic ambiguity" is meant to avoid provoking Beijing and signal to the island's leaders that they should not declare independence with the idea that America would have their back.

Even so, the administrations of both Mr. Biden and former President Donald J. Trump have stepped up U.S. support for Taiwan. American warships have sailed through the Taiwan Strait. Small teams of troops have conducted training with the Taiwanese military.

Asked in October whether the United States would protect Taiwan, Mr. Biden said bluntly: "Yes, we have a commitment to do that.", but the White House quickly said his remark did not represent a change in U.S. policy.

Strength in Commerce

The cycle of tariffs and counter-tariffs that began in 2018 showed how interconnected the two countries' economies are — and how vulnerable they remain if either side goes further to "decouple" them.

The tariff conflict has prompted Mr. Xi to declare that China's economy needs to be driven primarily by domestic demand and homegrown innovation and only secondarily by exports, in what he calls a "dual circulation" strategy.

Beijing officials say this does not mean China is closing the door to foreign investment and foreign goods. But the climate of economic nationalism has already ignited new interest and investment in homegrown brands. Chinese consumers are increasingly intolerant of foreign companies that fail to toe the party's line on Hong Kong, Tibet and other hot-button issues or are otherwise seen as disrespectful to China.

High-Tech Supremacy

Silicon Valley's internet giants have mostly been shut out of China for years.

Plenty of American tech companies still do big business in China, including Apple, Tesla, Qualcomm and Intel. This feeds all kinds of concerns in Washington: that Chinese agents are siphoning the companies' technology and secrets; that the products they make in China are vulnerable to cyber meddling; that they are

compromising on professed values in playing by Beijing's rules.

It's a vicious cycle. The Trump administration's crippling of Huawei, the Chinese telecommunications giant, has made Beijing more conscious of how easily the United States can use its economic clout to limit China's access to advanced technology.

"Technological innovation has become the main battleground in the global strategic game," Mr. Xi told a conference in May. China, he has said repeatedly in recent years, needs to achieve "self-reliance."

That, in turn, has made U.S. officials even more alert about stopping sensitive American know-how from ending up in Chinese hands. Washington agencies are more closely scrutinizing Chinese tech investments in the United States. Chinese-born scientists working in America have been arrested on accusations of concealing ties to the Chinese state, though the Justice Department has dropped some of those cases.

Human Rights and Freedoms

China has been criticized about Human Rights and Freedom and was often accused of violating them.

More than 40 mainly Western countries have criticised China at the United Nations over the reported torture and repression of the mostly Muslim Uighurs and other religious and ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, keeping a spotlight on a region where foreign governments and researchers say one million people or more have been confined in camps.

China's UN Ambassador Zhang Jun spoke soon after, condemning "the groundless accusations" and "lies", and accusing the United States and a few other unnamed signatories of the statement of "using human rights as a pretext for political maneuvering to provoke confrontation."

In general there is a tension between China and the world's liberal democracies over human rights. Those tensions have escalated especially with the US, and include

other issues including the COVID-19 pandemic, Taiwan, trade, and Beijing's expansive claim to the South China Sea.

A Voice in World Leadership

China wants a bigger voice in global leadership, but the Chinese leaders have in most cases faced the American decline. They have sought a greater role in Western-dominated institutions like the World Health Organization. They have created their own version of the World Bank to finance development in poor countries. They have tried to expand the loose coalition of nations — including Russia, Iran and Cuba — that share their frustration with Western bullying and meddling.

Negotiating with China

China has some of the best diplomats in the world. Putting aside the current generation of wolf-warrior diplomats, many senior Chinese negotiators are experienced and skilled. They are sometimes known in the West as "foreign devil handlers" given that one key function is to deflect Western criticism or demands. Party officials and military officers can be less urbane and more dogmatic, and in some negotiations, there is a palpable fear of displeasing the Party and suffering the consequences hanging over the Chinese side (especially those who are more junior). This can introduce a degree of rigidity in Chinese negotiating styles that can also make reaching agreement difficult.

It was always difficult to extract concessions from China, and now it is even more so. The Chinese believe that the United States and the West are in decline and they are in the ascendant, so there is less incentive for them to agree now, since they will get a better agreement later as they wait for the United States to weaken. This creates a complex negotiating landscape. The possibilities for agreement are shaped by these Chinese expectations of changes in relative power. China's ability to advance its own interests in any negotiation, often in ways that are not obvious, should never be discounted.

Previous attempts to solve the issue :

- Sunnylands Summit, June 7-8 2013, between President Obama and President Xi
- 'Phase One' Trade Deal Signed, January 15, 2020, President Trump and

Chinese Vice Premier Liu He

- Virtual summit in November 15 2021 between President Biden and China's top leader, Xi Jinping

The situation today:

The trade war started by the Trump administration is technically on pause. But the Biden team has continued protesting China's economic policies that led Mr. Trump to begin imposing tariffs on Chinese goods, including Beijing's extensive support for steel, solar cells, computer chips and other domestic industries.

Beijing officials insist that America must not see China as a threat. In September, China's foreign minister, Wang Yi, told Mr. Biden's climate envoy, John Kerry, that America's "major strategic misjudgment" was behind the two nations' deteriorating relations. Mr. Wang cited a Chinese saying: "He who tied the knot must untie it." "The ball is now in America's court,"

The problem,oversimplified:

China's growth has been seen as a threat by some Western nations, especially the US. The different views regarding freedom and human rights, separates China from most of Western states.

Possible solutions :

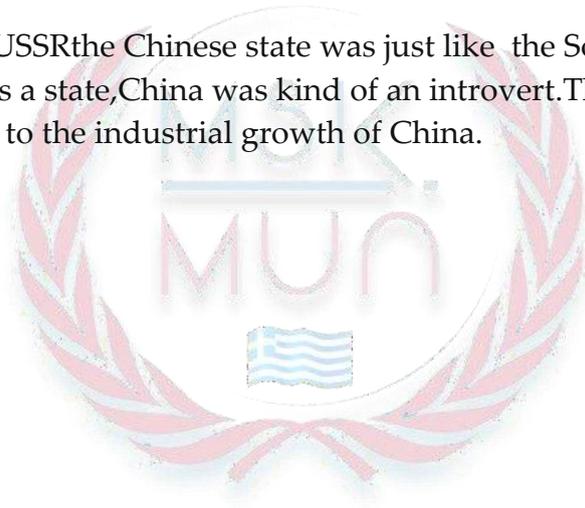
- Is China a threat to western nations?
- Should China be accepted by the western nations as a friend and not a foe?
- What should be done regarding the commercial "conflict" between China and western nations?
- What should be done about dominance around the Pacific?
- How can Chinese technologie be connected to the rest of the world?
- Are there going to be any control measures regarding China?

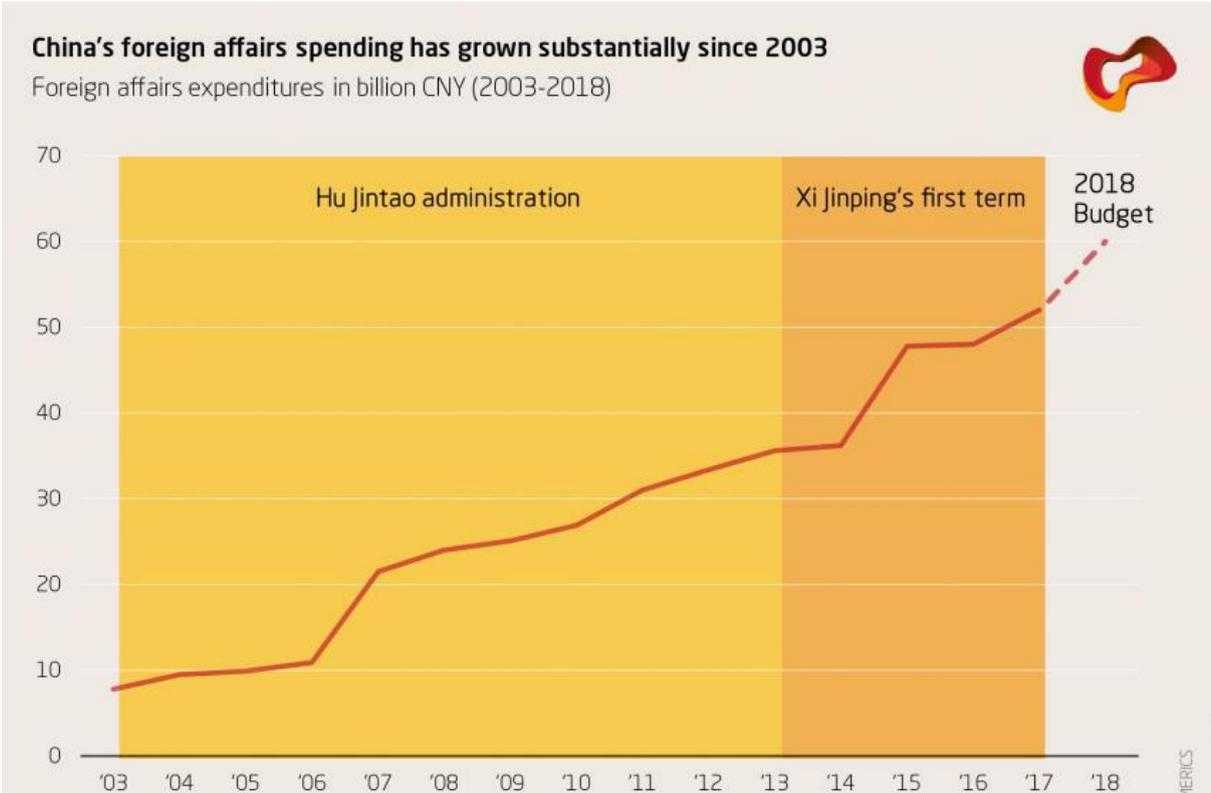
Treaties on the matter:

- Sunnylands Summit, June 7-8 2013, between President Obama and President Xi https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/at-us-china-shirt-sleeves-summit-formalities-and-suspicious-abound/2013/06/09/2ab97c06-d125-11e2-a73e-826d299ff459_story.html
- 'Phase One' Trade Deal Signed, January 15, 2020, President Trump and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/files/agreements/phase%20one%20agreement/Economic_And_Trade_Agreement_Between_The_United_States_And_China_Text.pdf
- Virtual summit in November 15 2021 between President Biden and China's top leader, Xi Jinping <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-xi-virtual-meeting-china-united-states-strategic-risk/>

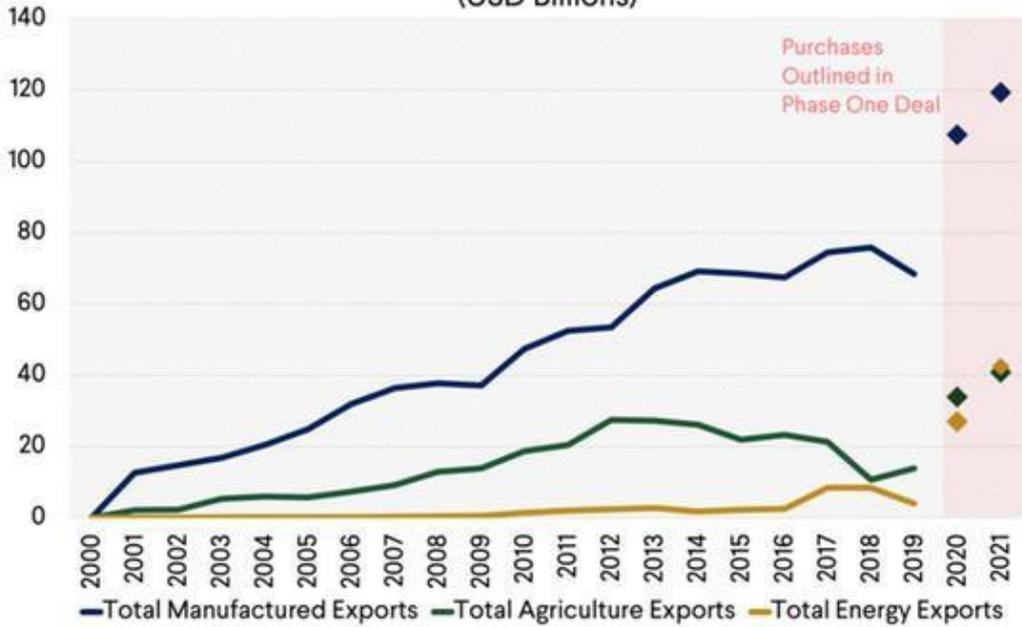
Charts

Before the fall of the USSR the Chinese state was just like the Soviet Union when it comes to foreign affairs. So as a state, China was kind of an introvert. This changed as depicted on our given charts, due to the industrial growth of China.





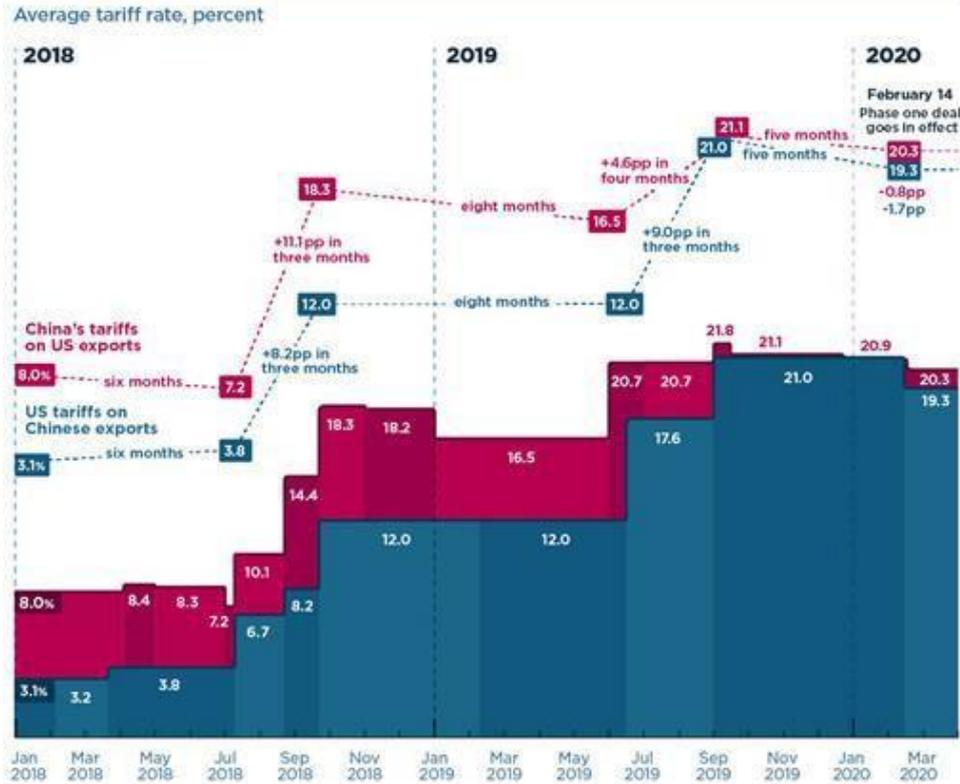
Phase One Trade Deal: Proposed Increases in U.S. Exports to China (USD Billions)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau/Haver Analytics

Brad Setser
cfr.org/blog/Setser

US-China Trade War Tariffs: An Up-to-Date Chart



2018

February 7

US Section 201 tariffs on solar panels and washing machines

March 23

US Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum

April 2

China's retaliation to US Section 232 tariffs

May 1

China's MFN tariff cut on pharmaceuticals

July 1

China's MFN tariff cut on consumer goods, autos, and IT products

July 6

US Section 301 tariffs (\$34 billion) and China's retaliation (\$34 billion)

August 23

US Section 301 tariffs (\$16 billion) and China's retaliation (\$16 billion)

September 24

US Section 301 tariffs (\$200 billion) and China's retaliation (\$60 billion)

November 1

China's MFN tariff cut on industrial goods

2019

January 1

China suspends retaliation against US autos and parts (Section 301) and reduces MFN tariff rates for 2019

February 7

US Section 201 tariffs reduced on solar panels and washing machines in second year of policy

June

US Section 301 tariffs (10% to 25% increase on \$200 billion, effective June 15) and China's retaliation on some US products (subset of \$60 billion, June 1)

July 1

China's MFN tariff cut on IT products

September 1

US Section 301 tariffs (15% on subset of \$300 billion) and China's retaliation on some US products (subset of \$75 billion)

September 17

China implements product exclusions on less than \$2 billion of US exports

December 26

China implements product exclusions on less than \$1 billion of US exports

2020

February 7

US Section 201 tariffs reduced on solar panels and washing machines in year two of policy

February 8

US Section 232 tariffs extended to imports that use aluminum and steel

February 14

US Section 301 tariffs of 15% imposed on September 1, 2019 (subset of \$300 billion) cut in half, and China's retaliatory tariffs imposed on September 1, 2019 (on subset of \$75 billion list) cut in half

#PIIECharts

Learn more at [pii.com/research/pie-charts](https://www.pii.com/research/pie-charts)



pp = percentage point; MFN = most favored nation

Note: Trade-weighted average tariffs computed from product-level (6-digit Harmonized System) tariff and trade data, weighted by exporting country's exports to the world in 2017.

Source: Updated on February 14, 2020, with data available in Chad P. Bown's forthcoming blog post, "Tariff worries remain after two years of trade war and despite a phase one deal"

Sources:

- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2020/06/17/commentary/world-commentary/u-s-china-tensions-worse-time/>
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- <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-relations-china>
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- <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/china-node/china/228916>
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- <https://merics.org/en/analysis/china-races-catch-foreign-affairs-spending>
- <https://www.oav.de/iap-22020/artikel-1418.html>

Chair's personal message to the delegates:

For further research check out:

- <https://www.un.org/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/>
- <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/>
- <https://www.dw.com/>

