



International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



Historical Security Council

Topic: Dealing with the dissolution of the USSR and organizing the division of territories

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I. Committee Background

The Security Council (SC) focuses on maintaining international peace and security, accomplishing this task by determining the existence of a possible act of aggression or threat to peace. When such risks are detected, the council must call upon the parties to settle their disputes in a peaceful manner, recommending methods of adjustment or settlement. In extreme cases, the council has the authority to impose sanctions or authorize the use of military action for the purpose of maintaining order. In addition, the SC is also involved in the recommendation of Secretary Generals to the General Assembly (GA) and in the election of the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) judges (*Charter of the ... Justice 1945*).

The Security Council is one of the main six bodies of the United Nations (*Main Bodies n.d.*). It is made up of five permanent member states and ten non-permanent member states. The five permanent member states, also known as the P-5, include China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (*The United Nations ... Council 2021*). These countries hold the power to veto any resolution they disagree with. The rest of the SC member states are elected by the General Assembly and serve for two-year terms. In the case that a non-member state holds a valuable and relevant position in the issue being discussed by the Council, the nation may participate in the discussion but cannot vote on a resolution. Non-member participation is decided and regulated by the member states of the SC. According to the UN Charter, decisions made by the SC are binding and member states of the UN must carry out the resolutions agreed upon (*The United Nations ... Council 2021*). Therefore, resolutions passed by the committee are final. Finally, in order for a resolution to pass, at least 9 of the 15 members need to approve the proposal. The only exception to this rule is when a P-5 country vetoes the proposal, meaning it will not pass (*The United Nations ... Council 2021*).

II. Introduction

Description and Definition of the Topic

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), formally established in 1922, was made up of fifteen republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (*Dissolution of the ... 1991 2009*). Through the years, the USSR developed severe

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economic problems; in 1985 Mikhail Gorbachev, former USSR leader and chief of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, implemented policies such as economic restructuring and political openness, as a manner to solve their economic problem. The Cold War with the United States (US), which was happening at the same time, was mainly responsible for Russia's economic strains. Therefore, Gorbachev placed Soviet foreign policies as a hope to end the Cold War and Russia's economic struggles (*Lithuania rejects Soviet ... independence*, 2021). Despite Gorbachev's reconstructive policies, he was unsuccessful in resolving Russia's economic decline. Later on, in 1990, when Boris Yeltsin was elected President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, Yeltsin made proposals to detach from the USSR system and grant Russia economic autonomy; it was not long before Russia left the Soviet Union. During the summer of 1990, the other fifteen republics followed Russia's lead and left the Soviet Union. Mikhail Gorbachev tried to bring the republics back to the Soviet Union with incentives such as autonomy and an All-Union Treaty; however, when he was about to reach an agreement, the Soviet loyalist coup spurred and Gorbachev was blamed for aggression, causing him to finally leave the Soviet Union in 1991.

The collapse of the USSR had major implications for US foreign policy. The Cold War created bipolar stability as both powers balanced one another. The expectation was that the end of the East-West conflict would mean international stability, but this hope would not keep up, as civil wars and other conflicts in the world presented new challenges. In the spring of 1991, as the USSR was shattering, the US faced its first post-Cold War challenge in the form of the Gulf War. For the first time since World War II, the US went to war with the full support of Soviet leadership, a sign of a potential future partnership, creating a more secure world.

The Problem

The complete collapse of the Soviet Union is taking many countries by surprise. Over the past decade, the USSR had been trying to become economically and politically stable, but there was no success. The Cold War competition with the US that fueled the Soviet economic expansion and the arms race helped to establish the economic conditions that predicted the collapse of the USSR (*Dissolution of the ... 1991* 2009). In November 1972, Washington and Moscow both agreed to continue being part of a treaty named SALT I & SALT II, signed on June 1979, which limited bomb nuclear forces to 2,250 distiviusion vehicles and made an array of other restrictions on deployed nuclear forces. This arrangement would demand the Soviets to diminish their forces by approximately 270 delivery vehicles, while the US forces were below the limits. US President Jimmy Carter begged the Senate not to regard SALT II. However, the Senate gave in after the USSR invaded Afghanistan in December 1979, and the treaty was not ignored again. Both countries finally promised to obey the agreement's terms regardless of its

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failure to enter into force. On May 26, 1986, President Ronald Reagan stated that future decisions on nuclear forces were to be based on the danger of the Soviet forces (Kimball & Reif, 2020). The Soviet Union has an extremely large amount of artillery, which could jeopardize the future of the earth (*Dissolution of the ... 1991* 2009). The Soviet Union is on the brink of extinction and it's safe to say that the small territories conquered during WWII will have to become independent in the near future. The committee is tasked with dividing the USSR's resources amongst the resulting nations, integrating these countries into modern society, settling any land disputes that remained, choosing a successor for the USSR in the Security Council, and maintaining peace throughout this process.

III. History of the Topic

Chronological History of the Topic

In 1922, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, the Transcaucasus, and more republics joined to establish the Soviet Union. However, it was not until 1928, that they established the first action plan, which set goals for the Union's economic aspects (*Soviet Union Timeline* 2013). During the 1960s and 1970s, many Communist Party members gained wealth and power while millions of Soviet citizens starved to death. Bread lines were common during this time and there were often shortages of food and consumer goods like clothes and sanitary products. This led to a lot of backlash, especially from younger people, who refused to adopt the Communist Party ideology seeing all of the misery that it created amongst the Soviet people. Despite the situation, there was not much they could do since speaking out against the government was not allowed and could lead to serving time in prison (*Soviet Union* 2021).

On November 10, 1982, the leader of the Soviet Union, Leonid Brezhnev, died. Yuri Andropov took the role as the new emerging leader. Due to numerous reasons, military tensions rose between the US and the Soviet Union until 1983. The first reason was due to the Soviets having signed a treaty with Adolf Hitler that the US did not agree with. The second reason was that after WWII, both the US and the USSR became really powerful nations and developed a sense of competition amongst themselves. Lastly, the ideological and political differences of both powers led to the start of the Cold War (*Revelations from the Russian Archives* n.d.). In 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev came into power with a stagnant economy and crumbling political system. His goal was to bring back the Soviet Union to its days of glory and power. He initiated deep reforms within the government, including increasing the freedoms of expression of the people and the media, and the government was no longer completely totalitarian. There were also planned democratic elections to give the citizens a choice. These reforms were meant to keep the Soviet Union together, but they had the opposite effect. They loosened the control that the

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government had on its people. As a result, the citizens utilized their new rights to protest and call for a new reform, which led to instability in the government and economies from bordering territories (*Mikhail Gorbachev, 2021*).

Due to the dissatisfaction in communism that most citizens and governments had, some members of the Soviet Union began to desert. On March 11, 1990, Lithuania officially declared its independence from the Soviet Union and many other governments soon followed. After losing the Russian elections to an independent candidate, the Communist Party panicked seeing its power drift away and thus, on August 19th 1991, they organized a coup that was defied and lasted two days. During the chaos, Latvia and Estonia declared themselves independent from the Soviet Union. By the 1st of December, almost all of the members had declared themselves independent and finally, on December 21st, the Alma-Ata protocol was signed, declaring the dissolution of the Soviet Union (*Soviet Union Timeline 2013*). Previous to its fall, the Soviet Union became one of the most powerful regions. It controlled a vast part of Europe, had a strong army, and was one of the biggest oil producers in the world. Shortly after this, on July 1991, the price of oil decreased drastically in worldwide trading (*The Fall of... Timeline 2021*). It did not take long for the Soviet Union to sink into economic problems due to the fact that they used most of their resources to improve the military and nuclear arsenals, and they had little to none left in order to trade and grow their economy. For this reason, the Union was torn apart.

Historical Case Studies

The Fall of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia

The League of Communists of Yugoslavia (SKJ) was formed in 1919 by Josip Broz Tito. By May 1920, the party had accumulated 50,000 members and won 58 out of 419 seats in the Constitutional Assembly. Due to their communist beliefs, the People's Radical Party—their opposition—advocated for the prohibition of communist activity; they saw the SKJ as a threat to their democratic system of government. On December 30th of the same year, the government outlawed the SKJ, banned them from legislation, annulled their seats on the Constitutional Assembly, and police agents infiltrated the SKJ (Perovšek & Godeša, 2016). The harsh and violent suppression by its opposition, caused the party to turn into an illegal underground group. In 1924, the party's members had reduced significantly to 688; after many years of fighting, the Communist party ban was lifted in 1941 and Tito came back to power (*Communism in Yugoslavia: ... Power 2018*). In 1952, after the Yugoslav People's Liberation War, the League of Communists of Yugoslavia assumed control over Yugoslavia. Tito was finally able to change Yugoslavia and the government turned to a communist model. Yugoslavia underwent big changes, communism created new beliefs and values, which also formed a sense of brotherhood and eradicated religion. With all the ideologies, communism in Yugoslavia had a dictator—Tito,

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who was the first Communist Party leader of the Eastern Bloc. After Tito died in 1980, the party began to change and adopt new policies (*Communism in Yugoslavia: ... Power* 2018). In 1990, the SKJ dissolved, completely leaving Yugoslavia a democratic country again.

The Fall of the Polish United Workers' Party

Poland was governed by the Polish United Workers' Party (PUWP; Polska Zjednoczona Partia Robotnicza), the country's communist party, which was an imitation of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (*Polish United Workers' Party* 2021). The PUWP, 'party of the new type', was based on the principle of centralism and performed the leading role in the state, seeking to accomplish the leading role in society (Sulek, 1990). The administrators of the party, also known as 'party centre', would administer society. It considers itself to be the exponent of the 'objective interest' of society and particularly of the working class. The centre determines social, economic, and political goals, and passes them downwards, supervising their implementation. It is capable of doing so due to the nomenklatura system, through which it controls legislative and representative bodies, the state and economic administration, judiciary bodies, mass media and education, the army, and the police (Sulek, 1990). The party centre also controls itself as an organization. The so-called allied parties accepted the hegemony of the PUWP—youth unions acted under its ideological and political leadership, and solidarity between the years of 1980-1981; it was the only trade union independent of the party (Sulek, 1990). The basic function of the party and other political organizations is the mobilization of society to achieve goals set by the centre. Their second principal function is articulation and representation of the interests of various strata and social groups (Sulek, 1990). The situation in which mobilisation dominated representation took shape towards the end of the 1940s. At that time, it constituted an element of the strategy of the construction of socialism and imposed industrialization. This domination had been criticised for some time but it was not until the collapse of the economy and the mass protests of the 1980s that it became perfectly clear that the party and political organizations were unable to perform. Moreover, it became equally clear that they do not constitute open channels for representing the interests of various social groups and society as a whole. The party lost its capacity for mobilization and remained unable to secure representation. Only the equilibrium of these two functions made harmonious social development possible (Sulek, 1990).

Eastern European Economy and Trade Collapse

When Mikhail Gorbachev took charge as the Soviet Union leader, the economy was already decreasing drastically and there was minimal trade. Oftentimes, grocery stores would have empty shelves and limited resources for the citizens. Due to the fact that the Soviets had

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lots of raw materials, they did not rely much on trading. In fact, “in 1985, exports and imports accounted for just 4 percent of the Soviet GNP” (*Consequences of the ... Union 2017*). Having long food lines and a decrease in resources led to many angry Soviets. Likewise, another event that shifted many Soviet citizens against the leader was when “Gorbachev rejected Russian economist and politician Grigory Yavlinsky’s 500-day economic reform plan” (*Consequences of the ... Union 2017*). Since then, the Soviet powers lost many allies and began making desperate attempts to modernize their system. For example, having a smaller budget for the military, stopping the sale of alcohol, and leasing land to farmers. In April of 1988, the Soviet trade delegations had a meeting to explore new ideas for trade. The leaders wanted to compensate for the times of scarcity and encourage trade with other countries. This improved the relationships between the Soviets and other powerful nations like the United States and the United Kingdom (UK). However, these actions were not enough to stop the collapse of the Soviets in 1991.

The Splitting of Czechoslovakia

The country of Czechoslovakia was established on October 28, 1918 (Bradley et al., 2016). Geographically, it was located in central Europe, south of Germany and Poland. The country was founded after World War I, yet during World War II it was almost completely taken over by the Nazis before being freed by the Allied Powers (*Nazis take Czechoslovakia 2019*). Shortly after, it became a communist state for the majority of the 20th century. In 1989, a lot of protests against the communist government surfaced, leading to the country having its first democratic elections. However, the protests continued through the 1990s, leading to Czech and Slovak leaders Vaclav Klaus and Vladimir Mecia deciding to split the two regions. On January 1st, 1993, the countries officially split into two through a peaceful agreement. All assets were divided equally proportionate to population. The Czech Republic got roughly two thirds of the resources since it had around 10 million people and Slovakia got the rest since it had about 5 million people (Engelberg, 1993).

The Collapse of the Romanov Dynasty

The Romanov family was the last imperial dynasty to rule Russia. They first came to power in 1613, and over the next three centuries, 18 Romanovs took the Russian throne, including Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Alexander I, and Nicholas II. Czar Nicholas II had left Saint Petersburg to command the Russian army in World War I; he left a government corruption and a decreasing economy all created because of WWI. The outcomes of the war had made the citizens of Russia lose faith in the Czar's leadership and created a rebellion called the Radical Socialist Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin (*Romanov Family 2020*). In November 1917, the royal family was sent to live in house arrest in Siberia. In May 1918, members of the

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Romanov family were relocated to the Ipatiev House, a merchant's house in Yekaterinburg. On the night of July 16, 1918, the family was ordered to leave their sleeping quarters and to go down stairs to the cellar of the house where a line of armed rebellion troops shot them down—the Romanov dynasty had ended after three decades of ruling (*Romanov Family 2020*). The decline of the Romanov dynasty shows how the lack of strong leadership along with economic hardships lead to the uprising of people, and their demand for change; something similar to what happened with the USSR.

Past UN Actions

Along with the United States, the Soviets established the United Nations in 1945. However, in 1950, the Soviet Union lost a lot of power in the making of political decisions (Gaiduk, 2006). The Soviet Union did not have a good political relationship with the rest of the members of the UN. They believed that the UK and the US would team up eventually to take power from the Soviets. The Security Council was no longer a place of cooperation, but a place for confrontation and disagreement. This lack of power led to the Soviet Union leaving the Security Council after their request to kick out the Chinese Kuomintang Party and replace it with the People's Republic of China (PRC) was ignored. They thought that if they boycotted, the Security Council would be reshaped and they would become a greater influence. Nonetheless, they continued to struggle to influence the UN. The Soviets believed that the United Nations needed to have limited power: “they were against the idea of granting power to the UN to resolve economic, cultural, or humanitarian issues” (*Soviets boycott United ... Council 2020*).

While the Soviet Union boycotted the Security Council meetings in June of 1950, decisions kept being made, but the Soviets had no power. The rest of the nations kept making decisions on important issues and the Soviets disagreed with a lot of them, but had no power to veto since they were not part of the meeting. An example of one of these decisions was a vote on military intervention in Korea which would later incite the Korean War between North Korea and South Korea. This was a downside of the boycott. The Soviet Union was unable to be present for the vote; therefore did not have a voice in what the Security Council would do. Not having a voice in these decisions is what eventually led the Soviet Union to rejoin the Security Council just a few months later (*Soviets boycott United ... Council 2020*). With the fall of the Soviet Union, one of the remaining nations must take up the place of the USSR as a permanent member of the Security Council with veto powers.

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IV. Key Players and Points of View

Lithuania

Lithuania had been part of the USSR for nearly fifty years. Ever since August 1940, when Lithuania became part of the Soviet Union, groups like the Lithuanian Activist Front (LAF), and the Union of Lithuanian Freedom Fighters (LLKS) were established to fight against the Soviet Government. In turn, Soviet troops executed and deported around 14,100 Lithuanians. From there on, the LLKS and LAF fought the Soviet troops for many years, leading to over 400,000 deaths and deportations of Lithuanians. By June 3, 1988, the European Parliament noticed the gravity of the situation and “condemned the Soviet occupation of the Baltic countries” (29. *Soviet Union ... 1991* n.d.). Consequently, the Lithuanian Reform Movement (LRM) was established in Vilnius on June 3, 1988; through demonstrations and elections, finally on September 6, Lithuania was the first nation to leave the Soviet Union and become an independent state. Lithuania became a model for all other USSR nations, showing them that becoming independent is an option. Consequently, the rest of the states followed their lead, leaving the USSR to face its fall.

The United States

Relations between the United States of America and the Soviet Union were driven by a complex combination of political, social, and economic ideologies. After working together as allies during the Second World War, the relationship between both states grew increasingly tense, with the term ‘Cold War’ being coined after the Truman Doctrine of 1947 (*Revelations from the Russian Archives* n.d.). In the years that would follow, events such as the Berlin Blockade and Korean War continued to expand the influence of each global superpower, and divide world countries as either aligned with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Communist Bloc. Nuclear war grew increasingly likely, with close calls being marked by the Cuban Missile Crisis, proxy involvement in the Vietnam War, and the Soviet invasion of the Middle East (*Chronology of the ... War* n.d.). While the US is not directly involved in the dissolution of the USSR, spending by the Soviet Union during the Cold War contributed to its economic deterioration. After coming to power in 1981, US President Ronald Reagan’s policies towards the state led to increased military spending in the east. The establishment of the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) by the US in 1983, a technological program that established a space-based shield to detect and destroy enemy missiles, prompted an arms race between both superpowers (*Cold War History* n.d.). In the years that followed, each state spent large portions of their economic budget in war preparations, an action that took a toll on the economies of both states. Eventual negotiations for nuclear disarmament and the destruction of ground missiles were reached during the late 1980s, in events that largely decreased the threat of a global

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conflict. The political events and economic changes of Eastern Europe in 1989 radically altered the geopolitical situation across the entire continent, in a series of occurrences that led to the eventual collapse of the Soviet Union. The Berlin Wall fell, as Germany was reunified. Communist states in the Eastern Bloc fell, and the eventual democratization of Russia in 1991 marked the end of the USSR (*Chronology of the ... War* n.d.). While the United States was not directly involved in this process, the country can now expand its influence in Asia and the Middle East by setting up alliances and trading treaties with the newly formed nations.

Cuba

The delegation of Cuba has been a Soviet Union ally since 1959, after the end of the Cuban Revolution. The Soviet Union had protected Cuba from American influence and helped the country economically. In 1962, Soviet Premier Khrushchev agreed to help Cuban President Castro in creating a defense mechanism so that Cuba would defend itself if the US planned to launch an attack against the country. However, this plan had to be aborted as the transportation of nuclear weapons from the USSR to Cuba almost ended in a nuclear war between both powers (Cuban Missile Crisis n.d.). In 1968, President Fidel Castro made a public gesture towards the Soviet Union about spotting it invading Czechoslovakia. President Castro had a really strong bond with president Khrushchev, seeing as Castro visited Moscow frequently to discuss plans. The end of the Soviet Union created devastating setbacks for Cuba (Tsokhas, 1980). For instance, valuable aid and trading privileges ended, and the country is now looking at entering a severe financial situation unless it is able to find sympathizers in the newly independent nations.

East Germany

In 1965, Prime Minister Will Stoph made a sudden visit to Moscow to have a intense three day meeting with Alexei Kosygin, Soviet Union Prime Minister, to plan out an exhibit commemorating the 15th anniversary of the German Democratic Republic (GDR), which was proposed to make the GDR an ally of the Soviet Union. Months later, Mikhail Suslov and Leonid Brezhnev asked Stoph to visit Moscow again because the Soviet Union wanted to discuss becoming allies with East Germany (*German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact* 2019). The Soviet Union reassured the East Germany leaders that their intentions were to purely help restore their economy, and thus, the East German Prime Minister agreed and signed a treaty stating their alliance. In 1979, Brezhnev visited East Germany for his 30th anniversary, where both leaderships agreed and signed a mutual support where East Germany would provide ships, machinery, and chemical equipment to the Soviet Union, and the Soviet Union would provide fuel and nuclear equipment to East Germany (*German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact* 2019). With the fall of the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic seeking to rejoin with the

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Federal Republic of Germany, the GDR has several economic opportunities in joining NATO and renegotiating commerce treaties with the newly independent nations.

Ukraine

On December 1, 1991 the population of Ukraine voted to leave the Soviet Union; out of all the eligible voters, 84% came out to vote on the future of their country. At this point, the country had already eradicated the communist party and had built the infrastructure for the Ukrainian armed forces (Hajda et al., 2021). Currently, the country has quite the anti-nuclear sentiment after the disaster near the city of Pripjat in the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant; therefore nuclear arms and nuclear power were not popular amongst Ukrainians. However, the country inherited “the world’s third-largest nuclear arsenal” (Oliylyk, 2019). Shortly after the Soviet Union dissolution, thousands of Crimean Tatars, deported to Siberia in 1994, returned to Crimea, Ukraine (*Ukraine Profile - Timeline* 2020). As a result, a newly formed Ukrainian government, that is still settling, has to deal with the return of thousands of people to a region in their nation, which Russia claims has is of Russian heritage. At the time of the separation, Ukraine had the fifth largest European population with a devastating low GDP at \$1,307 per capita (Sutela, 2012). With the resources currently available to the country, and some intelligent negotiation into certain European and Asian commerce treaties, Ukraine has the potential to grow significantly into a strong economic state.

V. Possible Solutions

There were a lot of resources that still needed to be distributed once all of the member States declared their independence from the Soviet Union (*Consequences of the ... Union* 2017). There are many ways that these could be distributed amongst all of the members equitatively. A possible distribution includes each country keeping the resources found within their land at the time of their departure from the Union. For example, if there was land owned by the government in Ukraine, the Ukrainian government gets it. However, since the USSR capital was geographically in Moscow, Russia would receive an unbalanced amount of resources and land (*Consequences of the ... Union* 2017). Another way it could be distributed is based on population density, meaning that resources are given a total value and that value is distributed per citizen. For instance, if a previous member’s population was four percent of the total USSR population, the country would receive four percent of the resources. This is probably the fairest way to distribute resources, but the governments should meet and discuss further details. Additionally, it would be wise for easy trading between the newly formed countries, and with other countries in the world, in order to jumpstart the economy of several of the newly formed nations.

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After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the main solution needed was for the territory to be divided in order to boost the economy. The union should be split into 15 countries, also known as: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan (Ray & Lotha 2021). However, the independence of the regions may lead to even more problems with the economy. In Russia alone, it is urgent to find a way to boost the economy since it has fallen by about one-sixth of what it used to be (Hosking et al., 2021). A possible solution is to transition into a market economy in which the goods would be more accessible. Nonetheless, this solution could lead to an increase of prices and decrease in salaries, and people would become desperate. It is also essential to establish a national currency for each independent country, and this can be done through loans from oil production. The intelligent distribution of resources and establishment of trading agreements is essential in order to maintain stable economies within these nations, without any single one having more power over the others.

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