



T&T MUN 2024



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Position Paper Expectations

- a. 1 Page
- b. Times New Roman 12pt font
- c. 1-inch margins
- d. Header
 - i. Committee:
 - ii. Delegation:
 - iii. Name, School
- e. Paragraphs:
 - i. Background of the issue (based on background guide)
 - ii. Country stance / past United Nations actions (what has your country and the UN done about the issue)
 - iii. Proposed solutions (how do you and your country think this issue should be solved)



Letter to Delegates

Welcome delegates to the fifth session of T&T MUN. My name is Yared Fente, and I am glad to serve as your head chair for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee. I am currently a junior at Preuss. My first experience in MUN began when I attended SDRJMUN in ninth grade. Since then, I have enjoyed attending other conferences like KnightsMUN and Harvard Model Congress San Francisco. MUN has taught me public speaking skills, diplomacy, and research strategies. MUN is also important because it educates delegates about historical/current events. My MUN experience has been crucial in helping me make connections, meet others from new schools, and engage in debate.

Outside of MUN, I am a member of my school's robotics club and tutor others in math. My hobbies include squash, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, reading Robert Greene books, computer science, and the UFC.

I aim to create an inclusive environment where new and experienced delegates learn from each other and have a great conference experience. We will be investigating Neocolonialism in Africa. I strongly recommend you research heavily into this topic to ensure a debate-filled, energetic conference. If you have any questions, email me at yafente@preuss.ucsd.edu.

Sincerely,

Yared Fente

Head Chair, Fourth Committee



Key Terms

- **Neocolonialism** - using economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, especially former dependencies.
- **Decolonization** - the action or process of a state withdrawing from a former colony, leaving it independent.
- **Emancipation** - the fact or process of being set free from legal, social, or political restrictions; liberation.
- **Imperialism** - a policy of extending a country's power and influence through diplomacy or military force.
- **Independence** - the fact or state of being independent.
- **Hegemony** - leadership or dominance, especially by one country or social group over others.



I: Committee Introduction

The Special Political & Decolonization Committee, also known as the Fourth Committee, part of the General Assembly of the United Nations, was established in 1990 as a combination of the Decolonization Committee and the Special Political Committee. These two committees merged when the United Nations labeled 1990-2000 the “International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. At the genesis of the United Nations, 750 million people lived in colonized territory. However, because of the Fourth Committee, that number has decreased to approximately 2 million people living in colonized territory today. Still, the Special Political & Decolonization Committee remains committed to decolonization and other issues in their scope. The scope of the Special Political & Decolonization Committee is(un.org):

- The effects of atomic radiation
- Review of peacekeeping operations and special political missions
- Report of the Special Committee on Israeli practices
- Assistance in mine action (bi-annually)
- International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
- UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East
- Cluster of five decolonization-related agenda items:
 - Information transmitted under Article 73e of the UN Charter



- Economic and other activities affecting Non-self governing territories(NSGTs)

- Implementation of the 1960 Declaration on Decolonization by U.S. entities and international institutions

- Offers of study and training facilities for inhabitants of NSGTs

- Implementation of the 1960 Declaration on Decolonization



II: Topic Background:

“The term ‘Neocolonialism’ generally represents the actions and effects of certain remnant features and agents of the colonial era in a given society” (Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy). Neocolonialism also relates to policies, laws, customs, and traditions that exist in a newly independent society that are continuations of remnants from colonial rule. Neocolonialism also correlates to the control that an outside entity, whether it be a country, organization, or institution, has over an independent state.

Africa is the most colonized continent on Earth. European powers, such as Britain, France, Portugal, Spain, et cetera, began by subjecting Africans to slavery in the New World, and pitting African tribes against others between the 16th and 20th centuries. Western powers also created colonies in Africa, such as West Africa, Cameroon, South Africa, Kenya, Djibouti, Mali, et cetera. After many of these colonies gained their freedom, mainly after World War II, these European powers began their last stage of imperialism, Neocolonialism. Neocolonialism kept the sheen of independence, but colonizers were able to retain their power through monetary means in particular.

An example of this is Cameroon. Cameroon achieved its independence after the conjunction of French Cameroon with British Cameroon in 1961. However, this was dependent on agreements of defense, foreign policy, economy, and technical assistance. Cameroon today



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uses the French constitutional model and the Franc CFA, which is the general currency of many former French colonies. The Franc CFA is also tied to the euro, the official currency of the European Union, which is the official currency of France. Through this, France established economic dominance. Then, France created linguistic links with its former colonies, incorporating the French language and culture into Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Ivory Coast, and Mali.

Furthermore, the Western powers maintain their grip on Africa through International Monetary Fund loans. The economic dominance that comes with this is that African countries accept conditions that come with these loans. The loans as well as their conditions make the neocolonial country subject to the whims of the donor.

Neocolonialism also enabled European powers and multinational corporations to freely exploit the numerous amounts of natural resources available, such as cobalt, gold, and silver, without any of the responsibility. These corporations and countries also force Africans, including children, to work in these unsafe areas.

One can argue that Africa is still colonized today. Africa receives the most support from the Western world and has the most developing and third-world countries. This is because when European colonizers took over Africa, they made the indigenous Africans dependent on them. Then, when they finally achieved independence, the Indigenous Africans were so far behind the



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likes of Asian, North American, and South American countries that today, they are still dependent on support from outside entities. But as long as Africa still depends on the world, it will be subject to the whims of other countries, allowing them to amass more power than the rest of the world.



V: UN Involvement:

Over the years the United Nations has put in many efforts to protect and provide help to African countries with decolonization. In 1945, right after World War 2, many parts of Africa were prone and open to the ideas and acts of colonization. However, after the establishment of the United Nations in 1945, the freeing and decolonization of Africa as a continent became very common. In 2011, South Sudan became the newest country that has gained its independence, in addition over 80 other colonies that have gained their independence through the UN. Another way that the UN has helped is by creating Resolution 1514 (XV) which proclaimed that all acts and forms of colonialism were to come to an end, it also discussed current and future goals that will go into supporting Africa. These and many other steps that have been taken by the United Nations have helped the people of Africa with self-expression, a sense of freedom, and recognition of their fundamental rights.

During the time of Neocolonialism, many European countries endeavored to control every part of their daily life. As a result, Africans became dependent on Europeans when they were introduced to mono-cultural life. Europeans also dehumanized their labor and trade forces, and to some extent displaced them from their lands. In recent years the UN has helped Africa with economic and political funds. They have also created many peacekeeping operations to solve internal conflicts between the African colonies, and are helping to strengthen national



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security and promote human rights. Although the acts of Neocolonialism can't be forgotten, the

UN has done its best to ensure the safety and freedom of African people.



VI: Questions:

1. How has Neocolonialism affected Africa internally and externally?
2. What further actions should be taken by the UN?
3. What should other countries and nations do to help combat these problems?
4. Why was Africa so prone to colonization by many European countries?
5. Should there be consequences to the actions of the European nations?
6. Is China's extraction of raw materials in Africa today similar to the way earlier European countries exploited Africa?



VIII: Bibliography

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