

TECHMUNC 2025

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Letters from the Dias

Chair: East Kaufhold

Hello delegates!

My name is East Kaufhold, and I will be a co-chair at your conference. I am a junior in the Law and Society major here at Brooklyn Tech, and this is my second year on the school's Model UN team. Model UN was the first thing to inspire my appreciation for international relations and public policy. From developing my skills in public speaking and diplomacy to meeting many new friends and creating lasting memories, MUN has had a profound impact on my high school experience. This committee tackles a complex topic on an international scale, and I am certain that every single one of you will excel! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email. I look forward to chairing this GA committee, and I will see you soon at TechMunc 2026!

- East Kaufhold

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Chair: Theo Mikesell

Hey delegates! I'm Theo Mikesell, and I'll be co-chairing GA alongside East. I've done Model UN for two years now, and I owe a lot to MUN. It was MUN that helped me discover my passion for advocacy, public speaking, and diplomatic arguing, and the pursuit of those passions motivated me to do Moot Court, Mock Trial, and our Law major here at Tech. It's for this reason that I'm beyond excited and proud to be chairing GA SPECPOL for TechMUN this year. Our topic this year addresses a diverse and nuanced range of grievances that I anticipate will result in interesting and unique

connections in committee, so I can't wait to meet you delegates and see what kind of creative and possibly unanticipated partnerships you'll make! If you have any questions, particularly pertaining to delegate positions, feel free to email me. I look forward to meeting you all!

- Theo Mikesell

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Director: Allegra Gandolfi

Hello delegates and welcome to TECHMUNC 2026! My name is Allegra Gandolfi and I am honored to serve as your General Assembly Director this year. I am currently a sophomore at Brooklyn Tech and have been in Model UN since my freshman year. I originally joined Model UN to improve my public speaking and collaboration skills, but I have learned so far beyond that. Model UN helped me find confidence in speaking publicly as well as helping me foster countless connections during conferences, and I hope that these skills will be shown during the conference. I am so excited to see what strategic and original ideas you all produce during this conference and I hope that you all can thrive in this General Assembly committee! Good luck and see you all soon!

- Allegra Gandolfi

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Rapporteur: Natalia Franco

Hi delegates! My name is Natalia Franco and I'm a senior here at Tech. It's my first year doing MUN here, and I'm reporting this year because I love to see people cooperating

and enhancing their own advocacy skills through collaboration and public speaking! I also do Moot Court and Mock Trial at Tech, which is a way for me to engage with advocacy in a legal sense! I can't wait to meet all of you guys!

- Natalia Franco

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Introduction

Throughout history, the economic prosperity of powerhouse countries has been dependent on their occupation of other countries and their extraction of endless resources from them. This is colonialism: the practice of acquiring political control over another country, occupying it, and exploiting it economically. Many believe that colonialism ended in the late 20th century, when various European empires such as Britain, France, and Belgium conceded their control over African countries, thereby pronouncing them independent nations responsible for their own government, economy, and rule. While colonialism is no longer prevalent in the form of complete political occupation, it has taken shape in various new ways that secondarily exploit foreign labor and resources. Neocolonialism is the indirect control of developing nations by developed countries. First introduced after World War II to refer to the continuity of dependence of formerly colonized countries on other countries, it has established itself as a serious issue well into the 21st century. Neocolonialism has taken shape in economic imbalances, forced labor, and more.

Topic History

Before neocolonialism was established, there was colonialism. Western colonialism is analyzed through the following definition: “a political-economic phenomenon whereby various European nations explored, conquered, settled, and exploited large areas of the world.” This can be traced back to as early as the 15th century, at the dawn of Portuguese and Spanish exploration, with other European powers such as France, Britain, and the Netherlands soon following suit. These expeditions were primarily driven by economic, religious, and political factors. Western countries were on a quest to spread the ideas of the Christian religion, considering their motive behind colonialism to be supported by the will of God. However, the manner in which the colonists treated the indigenous people of their colonies was extremely exploitative. Their practices ensured economic growth on their side, with unjust labor, resource exploitation, and the underdevelopment of foreign economies on the other side. While colonialism is centuries old, it is of the utmost importance to understand its development in the time period from the late 1800s well into the 1900s to understand neocolonialism in the present day.

The competition for colonies was at its height in the late 19th century, a time period which is referred to as “The Scramble for Africa”. With the Industrial Revolution in full force, demand for natural resources skyrocketed due to the increase in the speed of production. Resources such as gold, diamonds, rubber, and cotton were abundant in Africa, making this continent a prime target of industrialized Western colonial powers. Territories such as Congo and Egypt were the first to be acquired. At the Berlin

Conference in 1884, Africa was formally split up into 50 colonies divided between 14 countries, the primary powers being Britain, Germany, France, and Portugal. These divisions were made without the input of a single African representative, and they did not take into account the cultural communities in specific regions.

By the early 20th century, Africa was almost completely occupied by European powers. In what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo, King Leopold II of Belgium empowered his representatives to force the Congolese into slave labor in the mines. In South Africa, families were being torn apart to ensure employment in the mines for British wealth. Trade nexuses, such as the Suez Canal in Egypt and Timbuktu in Mali, were providing endless economic growth to the West. By World War I, the Allied Powers created whole military squads from soldiers indigenous to their African colonies.

While it is undeniable that colonialism was prevalent among Western powers in Africa, it was occurring in the Eastern hemisphere as well. From 1910- 1945, Korea was annexed by Japan. To establish complete control over the country, Japan waged a war on Korean culture, prohibiting the Korean language in schools and universities and enforcing assimilation into Japanese culture and customs. Their labor and land were taken over as well; nearly 100,000 Japanese families settled in Korea, transforming the landscape to be unrecognizable. Around 780,000 Korean workers were conscripted into forced labor in Japan or one of its colonies. Over 10% of all Koreans forcefully mobilized to Japan are estimated to have died or disappeared due to the poor conditions.

After World War II, countries were left devastated economically, socially, and politically. European powers were weakened since they had concentrated a large portion of their resources into the war effort. On the 26th of June 1945, leaders from 50 countries around the world gathered to create the official United Nations, with a benevolent mission to promote world peace. This time period led to a rise in anticolonial sentiment among African and Asian colonies.

India gained independence through its continued efforts against colonial rule throughout the early 20th century. Peaceful protests, such as the Salt March of 1930 led by Mohandas Gandhi, paved the way for an independent state. The “Quit India” campaign was launched in 1942 during World War II, and it gained widespread support to challenge Britain to cede its colony. Finally, in 1947, the Indian Independence Act was passed, which split the secular state of India and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan into two independent states.

Colonial rule in Africa started to end in the 1950s, and these anticolonial movements continued until the 1990s with the end of the oppressive apartheid regime in South Africa. The Algerian War of Independence lasted from 1954 to 1962. In 1959, the French President Charles de Gaulle claimed that Algeria had the right to decide its country’s rule. After an attempted coup by French Algerians, this agreement was finally signed in 1962. In 1960, Congo gained independence from Belgium through a series of nationalist riots. This movement was led by Patrice Lumumba and the Mouvement National Congolais (MNC) party. In response to this movement, the Belgian government

held a conference in Brussels with Congolese leaders to discuss the terms of independence. Similar movements to these occurred across the continent.

Even if the legalities of these independence acts formally ended colonialism, there were still strong economic and political ties between former colonies and Western powers. Kwame Nkrumah, the first prime minister of post-colonial Ghana, was the first to define the term neocolonialism in the context of Africa in the 20th century. He stated, “The essence of neocolonialism is that the State which is the subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality, its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside.”

One form of neocolonialism aimed to maintain military and political influence. Western powers managed their relationships with these new countries by choosing the leaders they preferred to be heads of state. To do this, proxy leaders were appointed to underdeveloped countries; these are sometimes called “puppet regimes”. Such was the case in the Ivory Coast from 1960 to 1993. President Félix Houphouët-Boigny maintained extremely close ties with France. His government often served French business and geopolitical interests, rather than the interests of his own nation. Other examples are Uganda under Idi Amin, Gabon under Omar Bongo, and Chad under Idriss Déby.

To maintain influence over the global economy, specifically to prevent the independent financial growth of former colonies, Western powers created organizations that disproportionately benefit their wealth and keep African countries underdeveloped.

In the latter half of the 20th century, many African nations faced debt crises. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank intervened to aid with their debts, but their conditions were skewed to prevent these nations from developing their own independent economies. These conditions were called Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), and they comprised of privatization, currency devaluation, and trade liberalization. Trade liberalization allowed an overwhelming influx of Western goods, which repeats the cycle of the West increasing its wealth. Other organizations, such as the British Commonwealth, kept trade ties extremely close and promoted African dependence on Western economies.

Current Situation

In spite of the global denunciation of political colonialism, Neocolonialism has reinforced the global inequalities and international power dynamics characterized by colonialism. Nowadays, Neocolonialism refers to the phenomenon by which powerful, developed countries indirectly exert power within developing nations through patterns of debt, trade dependencies, extraction of resources, and newer technology. Put simply, developed nations offer to help developing ones advance by way of investments that often leave recipient nations dependent on the developed ones in ways that mimic colonial-era dynamics.

Debt dependency is often what makes a nation subject to patterns of neocolonialism. This phenomenon is characterized by a developing country encountering or often being coerced into debt with a foreign power due to their inability to pay for their own development, and often their freedom. The pattern of debt dependency is not unique to the post-colonial period; Haiti and Congo suffered similar fates with France and Belgium, respectively, shortly after gaining independence, paying off insurmountable debts for freedom that rendered them essentially crippled. This made it so that they had to resort to international economic conditions that were by nature or by circumstance exploitative, ultimately upholding the previous colonial dynamic and undermining independence.

The main takeaway from this phenomena is that a formerly colonized or exploited country is, by one way or another, economically coerced into pursuing the structure of colonialism that they politically denounced. It is by capitalizing off of that

inequality that foreign superpowers are able to exert control mimicking that which they once had, ultimately undermining the self determination of recipient countries. The rationales for these economic initiatives vary in nature, but they can be characterized into themes of infrastructure, defense, and maintenance. The persistence of these dynamics has not gone unnoticed, and has sparked several collateral conversations about the relationship between east and the west, north and south, and oppressor and oppressed.

There is no continent in the world which has been more subject to colonialism and neocolonialism than Africa. In spite of the twentieth century's uprooting of the political dominance by European powers in Africa, we still see those powers' influence persist. Most prominent of these powers is France. In spite of France's lack of continuous political influence in Africa, France still pursues trade relations that benefit France more than the recipients, and maintains military operations in order to suppress threats of terrorism, especially within Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Subsequently, these three countries have unilaterally advocated for cooperation and development among and between developing nations; not between Africa and Europe.

But what happens when the nation effectively pursuing neocolonial objectives is, by acclamation, developing? Thus is the dilemma of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative (BRI.) Launched in 2013, the BRI was initially aimed at reestablishing silk road levels of connectivity through central and East Asia in order to stimulate the economies on the respective ends and those through which the silk road passed. The belt and road initiative is thus a series of investments and finances towards infrastructure projects, but has since been subject to excess scrutiny for, allegedly, pursuing and furthering an

objective of Sinocentrist supremacy akin to that of the pre-colonial era. China insists that its cooperation

Questions to Consider

- How has colonialism affected worldwide economies and governments?
- Has your country taken action to prevent forms of neocolonialism?
- How did colonialism affect your country in the past? Was it a major colonial power, a colony, or a neutral power?
- How do modern forms of forced labor shape global economies?
- Does forced labor benefit or hurt your country?
- What global efforts have been made to tackle neocolonialism?
- Should former colonial powers remove themselves from the government economies of former colonies? How?
- What are the ethical means of extracting resources, if any?
- How do we ensure sustainable labor practices with the growing demand for resources in technology?
- Which Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) challenge the practices of neocolonialism?

Bloc Positions

Africa

Ethiopia - Reflecting on its unique history as one of the only African nations to never be colonized on the long term, Ethiopia is most weary of economic activities that could result in levied influence on politics and society to international powers. However, the developing nation also acknowledges the importance of infrastructure projects in realizing development. Thus, Ethiopia is an advocate of local empowerment and domestic control of resources with the help of international support.

Ghana - As a former British colony, Ghana emphasizes the importance of true political and economic sovereignty, and is likely to criticize neocolonialism as a remnant of colonial era hemispherical dynamics. Ghana is familiar with the negative effects on independence that foreign investments and multinational corporations can perpetuate, and thus advocates for empowerment reform.

South Africa - A fierce critic of neocolonialism and former colony, South Africa is a staunch opponent to unequal trade conditions that uphold international dynamics of the past. It has sported South-South economic development and cooperation solutions to counteract Western economic dominance.

The Democratic Republic of Congo - A former colony to Belgium, the DRC suffered heavily from resource exploitation and later incurred insurmountable debt to the Belgian government. The DRC is extremely resource-rich, with foreign corporations and nations exerting varying levels of influence via the extraction of natural resources such as cobalt, and often backing political factions to prolong political ineptness. The

government tends to cobalt mining as a fundamental part of the economy despite numerous human rights concerns.

Uganda - A former British colony, Uganda has fallen victim to foreign land grabs and debt inducing infrastructure projects. Recently, concerns have cited international influence on policy as a weakening instrument to local agency. Uganda advocates for debt relief, protections to sovereignty, multinational regulation and equitable trade conditions.

Mali - Mali is a former French colony turned fierce anti imperialist proponent of pan-Africanism. It gained independence in 1960 but continued to be subject to the French will via economic means such as use of the CFA Franc alongside postcolonial debt. It's allied with Russia in the past to end French military presence in Mali, advocating for an end to counterterrorist operations. It has also previously allied itself with Niger and Burkina Faso in the alliance of Sahel States to reduce reliance on colonial powers.

Niger - Another former French colony. Niger's dependence on exports of uranium and oil and investments by foreigners persisted after independence from France in 1960. Niger staunchly supports the African Union against foreign domination, and is cautiously supportive of Africa Corps operations. Niger maintains diplomatic opposition to Western interference in African affairs, and is likely to call for nonconfrontational African partnership.

Burkina Faso - A French colony until 1960, Burkina Faso suffers from an exploitative colonial economic structure that persisted after independence. It's critiqued Western exploitation of natural resources, citing semi-dependence on it. Sought alternative, nonwestern means of upholding security such as the Russian Wagner Group instead of

accepting French military influence. Burkina Faso staunchly aligns itself with Pan-African and Anti-Western rhetoric, and is a proponent of South-South relations.

Senegal - A French colony until 1960, Senegal has been under persistent french influence in Dakar as an administrative hub even after independence. Senegal is heavily linked to France and Western powers economically, and thus emphasizes pragmatic cooperation with France while acknowledging neocolonial patterns. Senegal is a member of the African Union, but far less confrontational and critical of the west than Pan-African counterparts. Independent analysts maintain that this may be partially due to the fact that it doesn't face as much terrorist activity as Burkina Faso and Mali.

Mozambique - A former Portuguese colony, Mozambique has been reliant on the IMF for fiscal stabilization since the 1980s, and generally considers those effects as limiting sovereignty. Thus, Mozambique warns against donor-driven political influence and overreliance on any single external partner, emphasizing fiscal non-alignment. It supports reform to global institutions and global-south partnership, while emphasizing African-led security responses to African affairs over power intervention.

Angola - Angola suffered a long history of colonial extraction under Portugal. It criticizes external attachment of government conditionalities to aid, and recently joined in some IMF initiatives but sees it as intrusive. It seeks to diversify its economy despite vulnerabilities requiring external financing, and thus advocates for African-led initiatives, South-South cooperation, and rebalancing global decision making power. Angola is one of China's largest African BRI partners. It is skeptical towards powerful interference in peacekeeping operations after support from the USSR, and emphasizes domestic responses to security concerns.

Pacific

New Zealand - New Zealand's complicated history as a former colony with simultaneous Western alignment shapes its advocacy for benevolently Western-supported Pacific self-determination. An advocate of non-aligned, Pacific-led regional organizations, New Zealand supports IMF assistance for disaster relief and other light measures, while also being the first Western nation to participate in the BRI with China. New Zealand warns that the military action of any one foreign power in a global South nation can quickly lead to dominance, and thus advocates for multilateral responses to necessary threats.

Solomon Islands - Historically dependent on Western financing, the Solomon Islands work with the IMF for technical assistance but not large programs. The island nation stresses national sovereignty from small nation vulnerability, and is a supporter of bilateral security partnerships, opposed to any one power's assistance. It participates in BRI and sees infrastructural projects with China as pursuits of multi vector foreign partnership. The Solomon Islands advocate for development of infrastructure, even if partially from foreign actors, but stresses the importance of sovereignty.

Australia - Reflecting on its settler-colonial, trust paternalistic historical influence in the Pacific, Australia generally advocates for Western-aligned, *notably unconditional* assistive loans. Current policy endeavors such as the Pacific Step-Up emphasize and prioritize development led locally rather than internationally. It's important to Australia that its Pacific neighbors aren't subject to neocolonial patterns from China, but it's of similar importance that Australia vacates from its paternalistic history in the region as well.

Vanuatu - Vanuatu's sensitivity to foreign domination stems from its dual colonial history with France and England. It advocates for international assistance that recognizes the environmental vulnerability of small island nations while promoting regional Pacific solidarity over foreign dominance. Vanuatu prefers Chinese infrastructural aid to Western aid for its lack of political conditions, but maintains relationships with New Zealand, Australia, France and the United States for disaster relief operations.

Papua New Guinea - A former German and British colony turned trust territory to Australia, Papua New Guinea became independent in 1975, and since has remained wary of economic and political foreign dominance. Lately, PNG has increasingly embraced Chinese investment in infrastructure, but expresses intent to counterbalance Chinese influence by maintaining traditional partnerships with Australia and the United States. PNG supports somewhat Nkrumah-inspired Pacific-lead political cooperation, such as the Pacific Islands Forum and Melanesian Spearhead Group.

Fiji - A British resource colony until 1970, Fiji's independence has seen it be subject to a period of political instability characterized by back to back military coups in the 1980s and 2000s. This resulted in special wariness of homogenous international influence in politics, prompting Fiji to support Pacific-lead cooperation initiatives for the region over international ones. Thus, Fiji has one of the largest standing militaries in the region, and regularly contributes to multilateral UN peacekeeping missions. Fiji, like some of its Pacific neighbors, has close economic ties to New Zealand and Australia, but also is open to BRI infrastructure projects to balance the scale.

Europe

Belgium - A former colonial power turned beacon of European democracy. Belgium established an extremely brutal colonial system of economic dependence in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi via extraction of rubber and bloody policies. Vacating from its barbaric past, Belgium is a proponent of transparency and local empowerment over malicious neocolonial endeavors in order to address global inequalities. It's also an advocate of strong international cooperation.

France - Not necessarily keen to dissolve its influence on Francafrique, France rejects the term neocolonialism to refer to what it describes as supportive partnerships with foreign nations. Critics, however, describe its actions as neocolonial, especially when considering the former French military presence in various parts of Africa. Before withdrawing militarily from Africa, France defended its actions as benevolent attempts to suppress terrorist organizations, and now generally supports broader multilateral solutions to neocolonial endeavors. However, France tends to be opposed to the idea of getting rid of the CFA Franc.

Portugal - A former colonial power itself, Portugal rejects the contentions framing it a neocolonial power, citing cultural ties and consensual cooperation. Thus, Portugal is a likely defender of mutually beneficial, culturally significant actions.

United Kingdom - The United Kingdom has rhetorically vacated from its colonial past, but defends IMF austerity, which has garnered consistent, neocolonial criticism. The UK invests heavily in infrastructural projects, particularly in Africa, and is a regular promoter of free trade agreements, scrutinized for endeavors believed to disproportionately benefit British companies. The UK is likely to advocate for partnership and defense for existing trade practices.

The Americas

Chile - A former Spanish colony and victim of international extraction of resources and political interference, Chile encountered debt as a result of war of independence against its exploitative ruler. In 1973, a coup backed by the United States overthrew a popularly supported Salvador Allende. Thus, Chile is most concerned about resource exploitation and international interference in politics. Chile emphasizes equitable trade conditions with foreign corporations and powers in order to realize a balance between foreign investment and sovereignty, while especially noting the effect of foreign economic influence on politics.

Cuba - Reflecting on its history of economic dependency, Cuba views neocolonial endeavors as persistent foreign dominance and thus calls upon the nations of the global South to resist external pressures and maintain policies of independent development. A supporter of South-South development, Cuba most strongly emphasizes autonomy and equitable partnerships. Cuba would define one of such equitable partnerships as its BRI energy program with China.

United States of America - The United States was a star of neocolonial furtherance of intentions during the Cold War, and while it rhetorically vacates from the policy of neocolonialism, its involvement with multinational corporations, the IMF and World Bank combined with its staunch opposition to the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative leads many nations to distrust many of its endeavors regarding aid. The US has the most influence in these global economic entities, and is likely to resist measures seeking to change that.

Venezuela - Among the most vocal critics of the IMF, Venezuela decries it as a tool of Western influence, and has completely severed itself from IMF aid for decades. It

emphasizes circumventing Western financial systems, maintaining economic cooperation with China, Russia and Iran. Venezuela has denounced foreign intervention from Western nations, often citing the history of American interference in Latin America. It praises China's 'non-conditional' approach to the BRI.

Brazil - Brazil has exercised long standing criticism to IMF conditionality, arguing that it diminishes sovereignty in recipient countries. A staunch advocate of South-South financial alternatives such as the BRICS New Development Bank, Brazil emphasizes economic reforms to counterweight Western dominance. Brazil also advocates for a demilitarized Latin America, and would be likely to defend similar sentiment in other global South nations.

Mexico - While Mexico maintains a pragmatic relationship to the IMF, it reflects on its history of privatization and thus recognizes the threats to sovereignty that Western-dominated economic systems pose. Mexico advocates for multilateral and multipolar debt reforms, and is generally opposed to foreign military intervention.

East and Southeast Asia

China - China's history as a repeat victim of brutal occupation and exploitation by neighboring Japan and European powers gives it the ability to classify itself as a developing country in its own right, especially with its engagements in economic development pursuits such as the 2013 Belt and Road Initiative with second- and third-world nations. Western powers have criticized this acclamation as misleading due to China's increased influence on the global scale. China's identification as 'developing' allows it to bypass the distrust of developing nations towards global superpowers and

frame its operations as mutually beneficial, benevolent, South-South cooperation. To date, up to 149 countries, especially those in Central, South, and Southeast Asia, Africa, and South America have participated or expressed intent in participating in the BRI. Western powers criticize the BRI as sinocentrist neocolonial endeavors, partially due to increased global preference for counterbalancing Western economic influence with Chinese alternatives.

Japan - Divergent from its imperial past, Japan avoids framing its economic activities as neocolonial. Instead, the island nation justifies its actions as mutually beneficial. Thus, Japan is a proponent of sustainable development and economic cooperation following rules-based engagement and anti-exploitation principles.

South Korea - The Korean peninsula has historically been a pawn of territory between China and Japan. The 1945 partition of Korea led South Korea to be supported and driven fiercely by US economic and military influence. South Korea rapidly modernized, but grew very heavily dependent on US economic frameworks. Nowadays, it's heavily influenced by the United States, and in some ways unable to fully exercise political authority. South Korea advocates for fair development with a diplomatic, nonconfrontational tone.

Vietnam - Vietnam was victim to a century long colonial rule by the French, then the Japanese, and was politically subjugated and materialistically exploited by both. Vietnam an economic puppet to the USSR and USA during the Cold War. Now, there's been an eventual shift to the market economy, gradually reducing foreign domination. Vietnam's history has rendered it a staunch opponent of foreign interventionism.

The Philippines - A former Spanish and American colony, the Philippines historically have been subject to political, educational and economic institutions that led it to inherit

a colonial economic structure with heavy reliance on international powers. This has beared a dynamic of widespread labor devaluation and exploitation in furtherance of that colonial dynamic. The government maintains pragmatic economic partnerships, but calls for greater autonomy in foreign policy.

Indonesia - A former Dutch colony, Indonesia is no stranger to issues of foreign domination, and has in the past found itself at odds with the chamber for issues of including powers it saw as “neocolonial.” However, Indonesian palm oil production has sometimes taken precedence due to the nation’s dependence on it. Thus, Indonesia advocates for a balance between development and sovereignty.

South, Central and West Asia

United Arab Emirates - The UAE is a heavy investor in African infrastructure projects, and has thus proposed investment-friendly policies to diversify its economy beyond oil dependency. However, the UAE has been heavily scrutinized recently for subimperialist support of militant groups such as the Rapid Support Force in Sudan, with heavy Emirati prioritization of interest in investments. The UAE advocates for investment friendly policies and is opposed to regulations.

Russia - The USSR was a historical perpetrator of colonialism in Central Asia despite being staunchly anti-Western and anti-imperial. Nowadays, it frames neocolonialism as Western interference with global-South nations, and considers itself exempt from the definition of ‘Western.’ Russia is likely to downplay its own neocolonial furtherances in Africa, while staunchly criticizing those of Western nations.

Iran - Iran was a repeated victim to British and Russian efforts to extract oil from the region. When Iran tried to resist it, a 1953 coup backed by the United States deposed the

popular government, kindling an Islamic Revolution and solidifying fierce anti western sentiment. Nowadays, Iran is a staunch proponent of anti-imperialist rhetoric with an emphasis on self-reliance, partnering with 'Eastern' nations such as Russia and China in furtherance of its anti-Western sentiment. However, Iran has been scrutinized for support of extremist rebel groups in the Middle East.

Pakistan - A vocal critic of IMF conditionality, Pakistan sees strict loan conditions as effective neocolonialism, and only engages in reluctant aid projects with it. Pakistan is one of the largest participants in the BRI through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, and views Chinese investments as respectful to sovereignty and a better option than Western institutions. Regular advocate for global South solidarity.

India - Left economically dependent on Britain after two centuries of raw material export-oriented colonialism, India incurred a massive drain of wealth and subsequent debt. This made it subject to various neocolonial pressures after independence, such as the IMF and World Bank which shaped the Indian foreign economy. Consequently, India sees Western cultural influences as subtly neocolonial, and advocates for a furtherance of South-South cooperation.

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