

**Committee:** Special Conference on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SPECON)

**Issue:** Addressing foreign manipulation of domestic political institutions

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**Position:** Deputy President

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## **PERSONAL INTRODUCTION**

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ioanna Syrta and I am a student at the 1<sup>st</sup> High School of Themi, Thessaloniki. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> DSTMUN I will have the honor to serve as one of the Deputy Presidents in the Special Conference on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

First and foremost, I would like to congratulate each and every one of you for seizing the chance to participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> DSTMUN. I believe that it is of paramount importance for young people to learn about the world of politics and diplomacy as it gives us the chance to acquire skills that are needed for an active citizenship.

Moreover, the purpose of this Study Guide is to provide you with the basic information concerning the 1<sup>st</sup> topic of the Agenda, namely: Addressing foreign manipulation of domestic political institutions. Studying it thoroughly will give you the chance to actively participate during the Committee Work, but you should not only depend on it, as conducting research on your own is important as well.

If you encounter any problems, do not hesitate to contact me via email, at the following address: [joannasi350@gmail.com](mailto:joannasi350@gmail.com) . Please bear in mind that I am always at your disposal! I am looking forward to meeting you all in November!

Best regards,

Ioanna Syrta

## TOPIC INTRODUCTION

Hearing the phrase “Foreign manipulation of domestic political institutions”, anyone would think that this topic concerns exclusively modern societies. But it certainly does not limit there. Foreign manipulation and influence date back to the Ancient Times. It would mostly occur between states that forged alliances or had trade partnerships. For instance, the powerful state would try to expand its political influence by all means. In Ancient Greece, Athens and Sparta played a rather influential role in other states’ policy decisions, due to their ongoing antagonism. This resulted in the Peloponnesian War, which is deemed by many as the first example of foreign manipulation and its consequences. After centuries of trial and tribulation, many still question how such a negative effect can still exist in our modern society.

Most countries in our world have adopted the political and financial system of capitalism. Competitiveness is one of the main characteristics of capitalism; thus living in such a society means living in a competitive world. Many would argue that not all countries have adopted this system, but this factor does not prevent them from wanting to expand their influence. Let us not forget that in an interconnected world, the political decisions of a country do not only affect the country itself but also other nations. History has been the one to prove that this situation can cost many innocent lives and can even lead to an armed conflict between nations.

Many experts have analyzed the meaning of foreign manipulation in capitalistic societies. They realized that regardless of the adopted system, every strong economy seeks to influence other nations on a political and financial scale. Consequently, nowadays, countries are becoming more influential and manipulative.



***Figure 1: “In an interconnected world, political and economic interests inevitably reach beyond national borders.”***

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### Manipulation

Manipulation means guiding or even taking control of someone's actions and decisions, either through preventing them from deciding and acting or by taking advantage of them.

### Political Institutions

"Political institutions are the governing bodies responsible for creating, enforcing and applying laws. They arbitrate conflicts, make economic and political decisions, and provide representation for the population. Political institutions include political parties, trade unions and the legal courts."<sup>1</sup>

### Political Warfare

"The term "political warfare" was coined by the former U.S. State Department diplomat George F. Kennan. Political warfare is defined as the excessive and intentional use of national power, such as diplomatic, informational, military and economic, in order to affect the outcome of the decision-making within another state."<sup>2</sup>

### Foreign influence

Foreign influence is closely linked to foreign manipulation. Foreign influence aims to guide and change the outcome of the target country's future policy decisions.

### Foreign Policy

Each country has a foreign policy, otherwise known as foreign relations. Forging alliances and having trade partnerships are the two key factors that affect a country's foreign policy decisions. Countries should regulate their international relations without the influence and interference of other countries.

### Self-determination

"The ability or power to make decisions for yourself, especially the power of a nation to decide how it will be governed."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Boddy-Evans, Alistair. "The Definition and Purpose of Political Institutions." ThoughtCo, Feb. 24, 2020, [thoughtco.com/political-institutions-44026](https://www.thoughtco.com/political-institutions-44026).

<sup>2</sup> Pronk, Danny. "The Return of Political Warfare." Strategic Monitor 2018-2019, [www.clingendael.org/pub/2018/strategic-monitor-2018-2019/the-return-of-political-warfare/](http://www.clingendael.org/pub/2018/strategic-monitor-2018-2019/the-return-of-political-warfare/).

<sup>4</sup> "Meaning of Self-Determination in English." CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY, Cambridge University Press 2020, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/self-determination?q=Self-determination](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/self-determination?q=Self-determination).

### Power vacuum

“A condition that exists when someone has lost control of something, and no one has replaced them.”<sup>4</sup>

### Economic sanctions

“Actions taken by a country or an organization against the economy of another country, such as refusing to trade with it, in order to force it to obey a law or a set of rules.”<sup>5</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Historical background

Even though there are numerous examples of foreign manipulation and influence even during the Ancient Times, historians claim that the period after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War best describes foreign manipulation, namely the period of the Cold War. Especially during the two first phases of the War (1947-1953 and 1953-1962), the two protagonist countries influenced and guided the actions and policy decisions of fragmented countries.

In 1945, many countries were left devastated due to the consequences, either political or economic, of the previous World Wars, especially the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Let us not forget that during that time a new economic power was developing, the Soviet Union, a factor which undoubtedly played a major role in many national revolutions and civil wars.

### Cold War and foreign manipulation

As the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War came to an end, it was time for peace, justice and independence. With the establishment of the United Nations, everyone thought that any threat for peace had been eliminated. But this situation did not last.

The world felt safe at the hands of the winners, specifically the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Soviet Union and China. No one was expecting things to take such a quick turn. The problem was with the countries that were totally deprived after the ruling of the Axis Powers. There was the need to start from scratch. That was when the strongest economies seized the chance to expand their influence.

The people of the nations that were left vulnerable after WWII believed that the adoption of communism would be by far the most peaceful option. Elections were

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<sup>4</sup>“Meaning of Power Vacuum in English.” CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY, Cambridge University Press 2020, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/power-vacuum](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/power-vacuum).

<sup>5</sup> “Meaning of Economic Sanctions in English.” *Cambridge Dictionary*, Cambridge University Press 2020, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/economic-sanctions](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/economic-sanctions).

held, with communist parties thriving, a fact which urged many countries to protect their international interests.

### **Truman Doctrine**

Only two years after the end of WWII, the President of the United States America, Truman, made a statement, that it is deemed to be the main cause of the Cold War. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, 1947, President Truman delivered a speech before a joint session of the Congress. The President said that the United Kingdom had stopped aiding and assisting the Greek and the Turkish Government in their national civil wars. Thus, he declared that he would ask the Congress to aid these governments themselves.

These actions were taken by Truman because he believed that the Soviet Union would take advantage of fragmented countries so as to expand its political influence. Even though there has been no proof of USSR intervention in any of these civil wars, Truman expressed publicly his desire to support the Greek and Turkish government against their national communist parties. Consequently, the Soviet Union and the United States' relationship quickly collapsed.

### **United States' foreign policy during the Cold War**

The United States has played a significant role in the financial and political shape of our modern world. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, the U.S. has gained the tremendous reputation of a "super-power". But it would not remain as the only super-power. The rising of an ambitious country, known as the Soviet Union, would soon start to threaten the United States.

A factor of paramount importance isolated the two nations. Capitalism was adopted by the US, along with the United Kingdom, and socialism was adopted by the USSR. After WWII, the US became suspicious of the Soviet Union's motives and actions as it was clear that the "newly-born" country started influencing other nations.

With the beginning of the Cold War, each country had carefully "structured" its foreign policy. The American foreign policy had two main aims. First and foremost, the US would help the restoration of Western Europe through military, economic and political aid. The second aim was to weaken the Soviet influence in many nations, especially where American interests were at stake.

### **Soviet Union's foreign policy during the Cold War**

The Soviet Union, otherwise known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), was created in 1922 and officially fell in 1991. The Soviet

Union played an important role in the outcome of the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, as it prevented the Nazis from surpassing the European borders.

Despite the fact that the Union was created in 1922, it soon became one of the most influential countries in the world and even posed a threat to the American interests in many regions. The post-World War II society seemed to prefer socialism instead of capitalism. As the Soviet Union was the only country that had ever adopted this system, it soon became the motivation for other countries to start their revolution. The Soviet Union soon realized its power and its ability to influence other nations; hence it became one of its main aims.

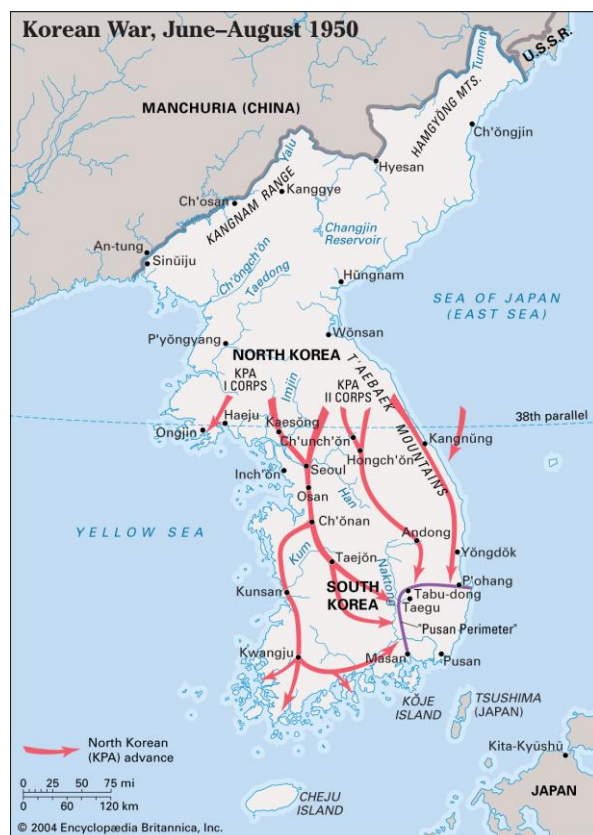
### The Korean War

The Korean War is one of the most significant incidents of the Cold War with many historians claiming that this war shaped our modern world. Historically, the Korean peninsula was under the ruling of Japan from 1910 till 1945. In 1945, Korea was occupied by the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

Every side accepted the suggestion of the US to temporarily divide Korea along the 38th Parallel. Everything was running smoothly until the 25<sup>th</sup> of June in 1950, when North Korea surpassed the 38th Parallel, a fact which caused the beginning of the Korean War.

The Soviet Union and China supported North Korea with military and financial aid. Two days after the “surprise-attack” Truman ordered that the US provide support to South Korea. The North Korean troops almost occupied the entire Korean peninsula by further pushing its troops. It was then, when the United Nations had to intervene and arbitrate the conflict.

Technically, the conflict was ceased in 1953, when the UN Commander, the President of North Korea and the Leader of the Chinese military, decided to conclude an armistice. Both retreated to the 38th parallel forming a



**Figure 2: North Korean troops invading South Korea and almost occupying the Korean peninsula.**

demilitarized zone. The President of South Korea accepted the armistice, but the peace treaty was never signed.

The Korean War left its stigma in our modern society with thousands of casualties and losses. Nowadays, the Korean Conflict is still a matter of great importance as there have been various tries for the unification of Korea, but all of them were unsuccessful.

### **Types of foreign manipulation and influence**

Types of foreign manipulation can differ from one another. Other types can include the use of military power, and others can include means such as: intervention in foreign elections, economic sanctions or loan agreements.

#### **Backed Coup d' etat**

The term coup d' etat means the overthrowing of a government, which has been legally voted, by military power or troop. Backed coup d' etat means overthrowing a government with the help and assistance of a foreign power. This type of foreign influence was excessively put into force during the Cold War.

#### **Intervention in civil wars**

After the end of World War II, many countries were left fragmented and civil wars all around the world broke out. Nations were divided. One side would support communism and socialism while the other side would support capitalism. These ongoing conflicts resulted in the intervention of foreign countries, namely the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Soviet Union. Nowadays, there are numerous conflicts in the Middle East that result in the so-called "power vacuums". Many countries utilize these vacuums in order to support the political groups that will help them to protect their interests.

#### **Loan agreements**

Loan agreements can be deemed as a type of foreign influence as it gives the creditor the chance to influence the borrower's decisions and actions, as the borrower is depended on the creditor. This applies to the loan agreements between nations and banks. For example, the nation that made a loan agreement with a bank will be closely monitored by the creditor. Thus, its actions and decisions will be analyzed or even altered according to the creditor's policy.

#### **Intervention in foreign elections**

The election of a governing party is a matter of great importance in every nation, as it is a clear sign of each country's self-determination. But, still, foreign powers often seek to change the outcome of a country's elections as they believe that their interests will be at stake. For instance, during the Cold War, most of the countries of South America elected communist and socialist governing bodies, and there were many attempts by other nations to change their outcome.

### **Economic sanctions**

Foreign influence has an ambiguous meaning. Its negative meaning applies to the situation when countries meddle in other nations' decisions. Despite its negative meaning, foreign influence has a positive meaning too. Economic sanctions are an example of foreign influence, but not such a negative one. The United Nations even actuates its members to impose sanctions on nations that do not comply with international law or violate human rights.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

### **United States of America**

The United States of America is a country with a tremendous economic state. As not only an economic but also a military power, its contribution to both World Wars was substantial. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, the US became interested in expanding its political and financial influence to other nations. The US was also one of the main countries involved in the Cold War.

As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and as the nation with the largest contribution in the UN it is apparent that the help and aid, provided by the US, has been essential to many nations. But still, many nations criticize the US as they believe that it excessively uses economic sanctions resulting in the economic recession of other states.

### **Russian Federation**

The Russian Federation, along with China and the US, is one of the world's economic powers. Adopting a different political and financial system than capitalism was a pioneering move in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Soviet Union wanted to help the countries in need after WWII while expanding its influence on a political and economic level. The country itself has been involved with numerous cases of foreign manipulation and influence during the Cold War. Since the establishment of the UN, in 1945, Russia has been a P5 member and a large contributor not only to the UN but to other organizations also.



But still Russia is being accused of protecting and supporting specific political institutions in the Middle East that will guarantee the protection of their international interests. The country has been also blamed for altering the outcome of numerous national elections, but these accusations are groundless as there is no evidence.

### **China**

China is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest contributor to the UN and a P5 member. During the Cold War, China was in favor of the Soviet Union's actions; thus nowadays the Russian Federation and China have close cooperation. Both China and the Russian Federation are members of the New Development Bank, an organization that aims to aid developing countries. Furthermore, China itself has its own agency for foreign aid, China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA).

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom has been an important financial contributor to the UN. Before the establishment of the UN many countries took out loans from England, taking Greece as an example during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in order to start its Revolution. The UK has been involved in many incidents even before the Cold War, for example, in the Greek Civil War and the Turkish Civil War.

### **World Trade Organization (WTO)**

The World Trade Organization has not been linked to any incidents of foreign manipulation or influence. Moreover, WTO does not permit its member states to impose economic sanctions on other nations. Something which goes against the certain circumstances about imposing economic sanctions set by the United Nations. For example, if a country has violated international law or violated human rights, the UN does not prevent its members from imposing economic sanctions.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an institution that provides military and political assistance to its member states. Nowadays, many still question the transparency in NATO's actions and often accuse the organization of the excessive use of military power so as to counter and manipulate a state's decisions. In spite of these accusations, NATO carries out its operation under the UN mandate and article five of the Washington Treaty.

### **New Development Bank (NDB)**

The New Development Bank was founded by 5 countries with emerging economies, otherwise known as the BRICS. The term BRICS stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The NDB was established in 2014 with the Fortaleza Declaration, and one of its main aims is to conduct several sustainable projects but to

also help through financial aid other nations. Several countries have accused the Bank and its member states of influencing target-countries' decisions.

**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of event</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> of October, 1945	The establishment of the UN Trusteeship Council.
30 <sup>th</sup> of March, 1946	The beginning of the Greek Civil War.
1 <sup>st</sup> of January, 1947	The beginning of the Cold War.
12 <sup>th</sup> of March, 1947	Truman Doctrine.
16 <sup>th</sup> of October, 1949	The end of the Greek Civil War.
25 <sup>th</sup> of June, 1950	The beginning of the Korean War.
27 <sup>th</sup> of July, 1953	The end of the Korean War.
1 <sup>st</sup> of November, 1955	The Vietnam War.
21 <sup>st</sup> of December, 1965	The adoption of the GA Resolution A/RES/2131(XX).
30 <sup>th</sup> of April, 1975	The end of the Vietnam War.
1986	The conflict between the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua.
31 <sup>st</sup> of December, 1991	The end of the Cold War.
1994	The ceasing of the Trusteeship Council activities.
31 <sup>st</sup> of October, 21 <sup>st</sup> of November and 26 <sup>th</sup> of December 2004	Ukrainian presidential elections.

## **RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS**

### **GA Resolution A/RES/2131(XX), 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1965**

The General Assembly Resolution 2131 (XX) of 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1965 Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty lays the foundation of every country's self-determination. This Resolution does not allow member states to intervene in other states' decisions. Political warfare is not tolerated according to the Resolution as it condemns the use, either intentional or excessive, of national powers in order to compel their will.

### **The Greek Civil War**

The Greek Civil War is one of the main incidents taking place prior to the Cold War with external powers meddling in the country's political matters. Months after the end of WWII, the Greek Civil War broke out with two separate sides; the Greek Government Army that was supported by the UK and the US after 1947, and the Democratic Army of Greece supported by Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Albania. This war is deemed by many experts as the preparation of the world for the upcoming civil wars that were supported by foreign agents such as the Vietnam War and the Korean War.

### **The conflict between the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua**

Eleven years after the end of the Vietnam War, a conflict between the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua broke out. The case was even examined by the International Court of Justice which ruled against the United States of America. The verdict of the ICT held that the US was mining Nicaragua's harbors, in order to help the Contras start their rebellion against the Sandinistas.

### **The Ukrainian presidential elections of 2004**

In 2004, a matter of great importance for the Russian Federation took place; the Ukrainian presidential elections. No one can accuse the Russian Federation of altering the outcome of these elections by directly intervening in, but the arrival of President Putin in Ukraine just a few days before the elections and his public declarations that firmly supported Viktor Yanukovich were considered by many as "suspicious".

## **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

### **The establishment of the Peace Observation Commission**

The establishment of the Peace Observation Commission was deemed by many as the ultimate solution in order to end the international disputes; thus, ending the Cold War. The purpose of the Council was to make reports to the UN Security

Council and General Assembly with recommendations on how to counter and resolve conflicts under the UN mandate.

### **The establishment of the Trusteeship Council**

In 1945, the United Nations was established along with its six main organs; the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, the UN Economic and Social Council, the UN Secretariat, the International Court of Justice and the UN Trusteeship Council that ceased its activities in 1994. Many people have misinterpreted the main aims of the Trusteeship Council, claiming that the P5 members influence the non-independent nations. These accusations stand groundless as its goals were strictly adhered to the progressive development of the Trust Territories towards self-determination; self-governance and independence. Hence, in this case, foreign manipulation and influence should not be linked to the aims of the Trusteeship Council, as its purpose was to give guiding lined to the Trust Territories.

### **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS**

Combating foreign manipulation and influence of domestic political institutions is a challenging topic as it requires measures that should be implemented by every national government and international institutions such as the United Nations. The most challenging part is tackling foreign manipulation and influence on a global scale. As aforementioned our modern society is interconnected resulting in the expansion of nations' international interests. Apart from these challenges, this subject can be resolved if certain steps and measures are taken.

#### **Regulation of foreign relations**

First and foremost, each country should regulate its foreign relations and form a foreign policy. It is only up to the discretion of the country to regulate its external relations. This decision plays a significant role in each country's ability to be self-governed.

#### **Transparency and integrity regarding each country's motives and actions**

Transparency and integrity in each country's motives and actions is a factor that can certainly tackle foreign manipulation of domestic political matters. For instance, if a country agrees to accept help from a foreign power, then this decision shall be respected by all parties. Moreover, the foreign agent must adhere to the norms of the UN and offer assistance without compromising the country's future financial or political development.

#### **Restricting the use of economic sanctions**

It has been apparent to every nation that for the past few years, there has been an excessive use of economic sanctions that ultimately lead to the economic recession

of countries. This situation does not comply with the norms either of the WTO or the UN. Thus, economic sanctions, according to the UN mandate, shall only be imposed on the state that has violated the international law or violated human rights.

### Stable governments and economies

Stable governments and economies can play a significant factor in order to combat foreign manipulation of domestic political institutions. For example, if a country manages to achieve stability regarding its policy and economy, then foreign powers will not be able to influence or guide it according to their will, as the nation will be completely independent.

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## FIGURES

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