

2022

March 18-20th

DIMUNITE

A Perpetual Pendulum



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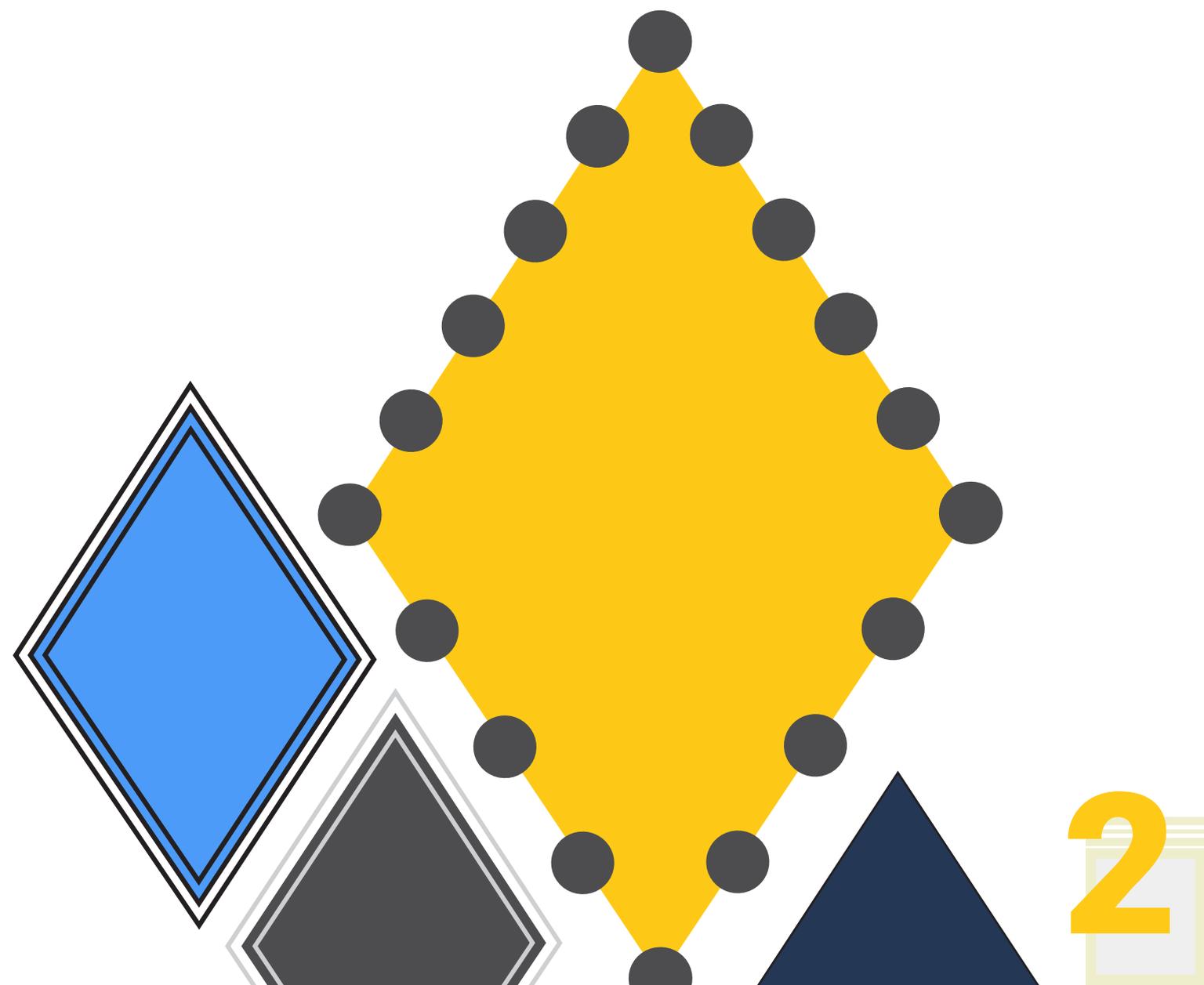
FOREWORD

Dear readers,

It has been a pleasure for The Press Team to witness and document the twelfth Dulwich International Model United Nations conference in a hybrid style. Through this issue of DIMUNITE, we hope to take you to different corners of the conference, with images, interviews, articles and more.

We hope you enjoyed this issue as much as we have enjoyed making it. Thank you for taking part in DIMUN XII this year and we wish you all the best in your future conferences.

Carla Schueler & Diana Tsang
DIMUN XII Heads of Press



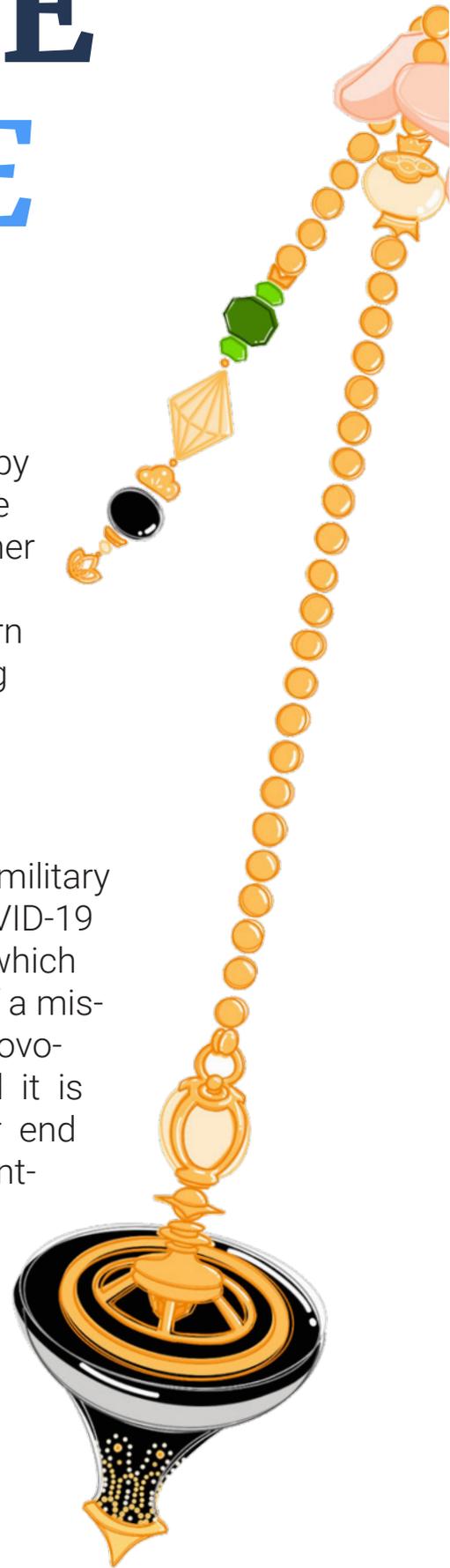
CONFERENCE THEME

A Perpetual Pendulum

The world today is incessantly burdened and disturbed by a multitude of issues, crises, and dilemmas that see no perceivable end. They accumulate upon each other inevitably, lacking adequate or effective discussions, recognition, or resolutions. It is perhaps the same pattern of our history, our mistakes, and our sacrifices repeating itself day after day, year after year; yet the problems persist, while our world progresses – through which we introduce: a perpetual pendulum.

Ranging from global humanitarian crises, long-term military conflicts, to even recent contentions induced by the COVID-19 outbreak, there exists an interminable trend by which pressing concerns are habitually overlooked because of a misleading impression of non-violence. A strong force or provocation lingers on either side of the global pendulum, and it is only when the aftermath is visualized on the farther end that we begin to pledge our least amount of accountability for a world we have already devastated.

With the hope to understand and address this phenomenon, we earnestly await the opportunity to host you at our conference this upcoming March. We invite all avid delegates, directors, and chairs as we embark on a collective effort to confront the rhythm of current affairs, and devise policies to ensure a world of dignity, peace, and security.



COMMITTEES & TOPICS

General Assembly First Committee

General assembly consists of all members states and engages in a variety of issues raised by the member states.

- Addressing the development, ethics, and distribution of vaccines
- Alleviating the global hunger crisis

Chairs Alice Xu
Annie Zhang

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council engages with issues dealing with the welfare of member states.

- The issue of the ownership of personal information shared on digital platforms
- Measures to reconstruct the tourism industry in the post-COVID era

Chairs Edward Zeng
Ruby Farley

Environment Commission

The Environment Commission seeks to protect the environment and the people who depend on it.

- Mitigating the negative environmental impacts of nuclear waste disposal
- Combating the global energy shortage

Chairs Brian Zhu
Grace Farley

Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council acts to safeguard the rights of all based on the United Nations declaration of human rights.

- Countering the exploitation of child soldiers in Africa
- Protecting the rights of Lebanese citizens against government mismanagement

Chairs Lily Wang
Rachael Ho

Security Council

The Security Council seeks to promote world peace, engaging with the most critical issues facing the security of the world.

- The situation in Afghanistan
- The emergence of the Islamic State of West Africa

Chairs Ally Kim
Eric Cho

Special Conference

This committee will center around the topic of The Digital World.

- Validating the authenticity and ownership of cryptocurrency
- The question of the safe implications of artificial intellig

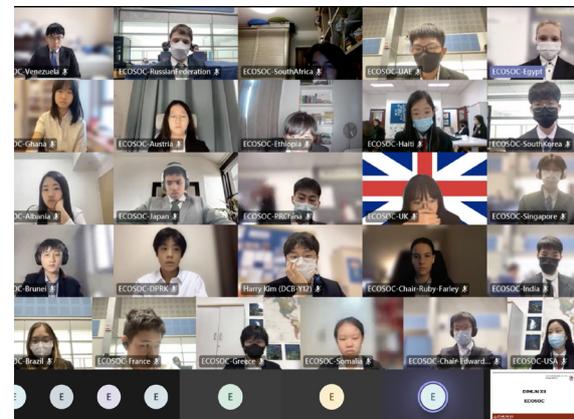
Chairs David Lee
Hyunseung Chang





DAY 01





A Perpetual Pendulum

Jason Liu

What our eyes are glued to changes with the sensationalist news cycle and often times we lose sight of what is truly happening because reporters have moved on to something more exciting. Last summer everyone's attention was turned towards Israel and its issues with Palestine and its people, a conflict over the holiest mosque in the Islamic world being broken into and its worshipers beat senselessly by Israeli police, the eviction of Palestinian people from their homes and so much more. But then Biden pulled out of Afghanistan and our gazes were averted once more.

We looked at Afghanistan and we saw the horror, the brutality of a long US and NATO occupation but also the horrors brought on by the Taliban and their extremist beliefs. We talked about the rights of women, the ability for children to have a secular education, withholding aid, and a burning economy. We watched a country starve and its people suffer until Ukraine cried out a bellowing call after Putin's ambition spread across their border.

Now we watch Ukraine, we see their struggle and we observe their Tiktoks and Zelensky's videos. We are ensnared by it all, the feeling of the end of the world and an international disaster. We watch millions of Ukrainians cross into Europe as refugees who seek a better life, we watch Russian and Ukrainian boys give their lives in a war none of them asked for but none of this is new.

There has been an ongoing genocide in Yemen for 10 years already, a civil war in Ethiopia threatens to put millions under famine and plague and create the worst humanitarian crisis known to man, but because our gaze is forever tinted by that of western shades we only see what is deemed important by the developed countries, by America, by Great Britain and all the others.

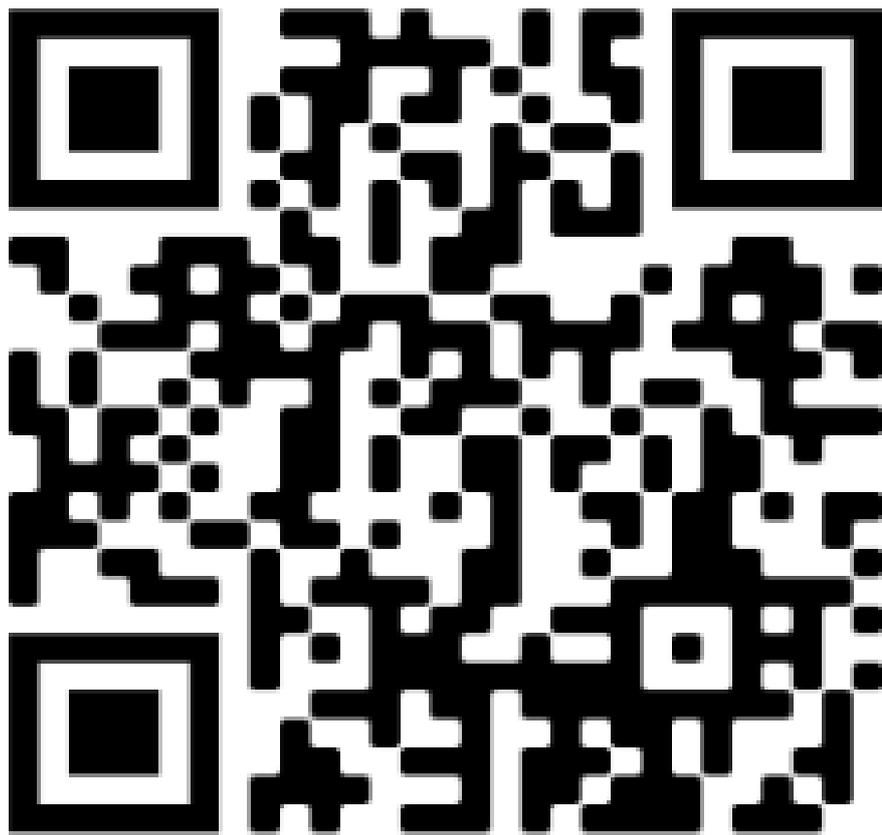
Millions of Ukrainian refugees cross into Poland in an attempt to find a better life but in 2016 when the same number of Syrian, Iraqi, Middle Eastern and North African refugees came under the same pretense they were rejected. An Islamic panic spread across Europe, the far-right spun conspiracies about a great replacement of the white man. We need to recognize the biases that we still have, the only difference between Ukrainian and Syrian refugees is their skin color and religion and if these are the grounds on which we deny the humanity and rights of others then I am left speechless.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing since 1948, a constant struggle over the ability to give Palestinians equal rights and a right to return to the homes they were displaced from while providing peace and security to Israeli citizens. Yemen plunged itself into a sectarian civil war with the Shiite Houthis fighting against a joint coalition of Sunni Arab states led by Saudi Arabia, drone strikes kill dozens in weddings and nobody cares because the pendulum has swung to the Ukraine and its staying there before it swings to somewhere else.



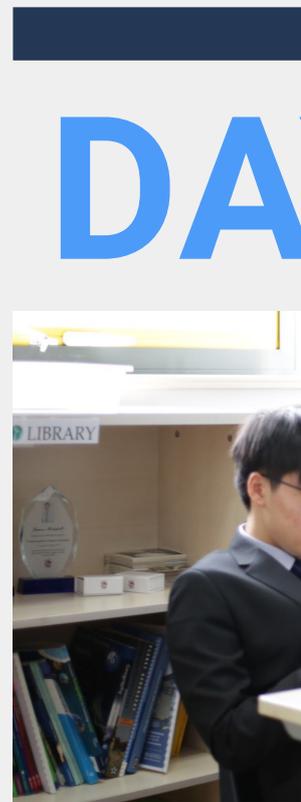
WORDLE PUZZLE

SCAN ME



<https://mywordle.strivemath.com/?word=qbzwp>







DAY 02



10

Rights off a Cliff

Jason Liu

The United States completed its withdrawal from Afghanistan on the 30th of August in 2021, in less than a week the Afghan government was toppled by the Taliban and the once-terrorist group became the defacto government of Afghanistan. But how have things changed over the 7 months since?

Unsurprisingly the seizure of power in Afghanistan by the Taliban has led to a humanitarian crisis. First, are the rights pertaining to Afghan women, the ability to seek a divorce, the clothes that they can wear, and the education of young Afghani girls. Education as a whole has taken a turn, being a theocratic state, the Taliban brings up the youth of their country in religious education with boys and the few girls still in public education seeing a massive overhaul of their schooling.

Journalism has gone unhampered with the Taliban allowing foreign news agencies to operate in their country and comment on current events, this has been crucial for understanding the developing situation in the country. Of course, tackling the issues related to Afghanistan requires the proper understanding and grasp of the country's history, its relations to other countries, and the archaic world in which international relations take place.

The Taliban has long been considered a terrorist organization by the US government, the invasion of Afghanistan in 2003 by the US was an attempt to find and kill Osama bin Laden and because Afghanistan was seen as a safe haven for terrorists, and the invasion was how the US would stop terrorists from using Afghanistan as a springboard for future attacks.

The occupation, though brutal and long, was a success, US troops prevented terrorist groups from using Afghanistan as a massive base, bin Laden was killed in a special operation and the Taliban was driven into the countryside where they would continue a guerilla war from there. The government set up the US and its NATO allies were known as the ANA, notoriously corrupt with funds being siphoned off by local officials and military commanders, its army was lacking in all qualities, being unmotivated, low on equipment, and unable to function effectively. There were advances in human rights, namely that of the rights of women, a secular government was established, and a fragile democracy. However, democracy proved to be too fragile, the government institutions set up were shown to be too broken to fundamentally exist without continued US and NATO support.

It can be argued that many of the medical and food shortages within Afghanistan are caused by the withholding of foreign aid by the IMF and WB. The ANA under the 20 years of US occupation required as much, but there were also failings in the US's ability to properly build a government and nation that could sustain itself without its aid.

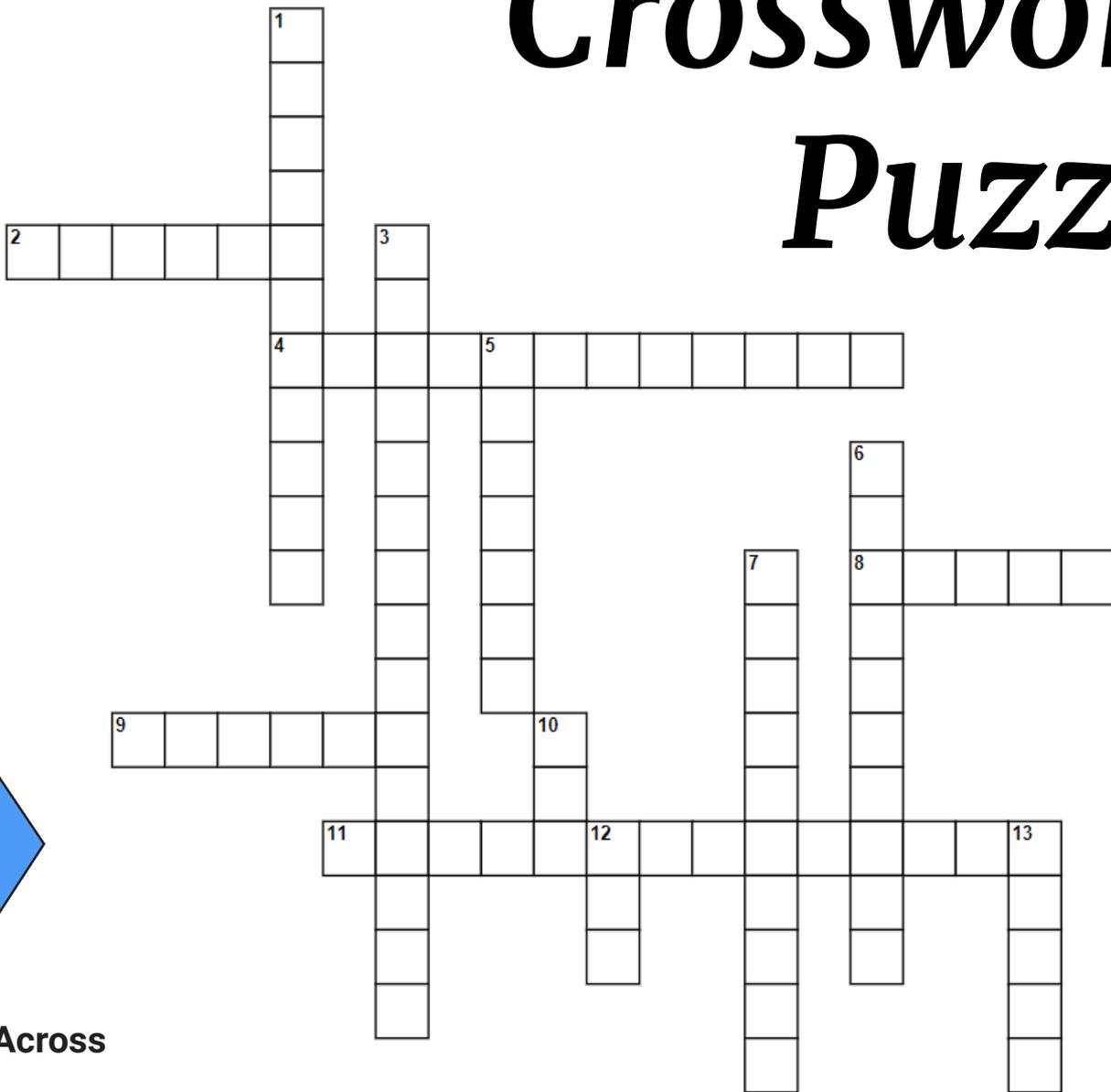


The ANA has now collapsed, the Taliban hails an end to American imperialism and the world moves on as our eyes turn towards Ukraine. But what is to be done about Afghanistan?

All countries are recognized to have sovereignty, at least in the traditional framework of international relations, states are seen as sovereign entities who have ultimate control over their own countries. Operating under these assumptions there seems to be a few key ways of changing the way in which Afghanistan develops. Using economic incentives to influence the Taliban is key, the withholding of aid from the IMF and WB have been crippling to the Afghan economy, and using it as leverage in negotiations with the Taliban could secure the rights of women, secular education, or whatever the Taliban is willing to give as a concession. The threat of sanctions worked on Iran, another theocratic state (one that borders Afghanistan), in ending its nuclear weapons program, a similar application of sanctions could easily help shape the way in which the Afghan government works. The simple model of the carrot and the stick works quite effectively in the world of international relations and could prove to work again in the case of Afghanistan.



Crossword Puzzle



Across

- [2] A line separating two political or geographical areas, especially countries.
- [4] Interference by a country in another's affairs.
- [8] A politically organized body of people usually occupying a definite territory.
- [9] A large body of people united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory.
- [11] The use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, especially former dependencies.

Down

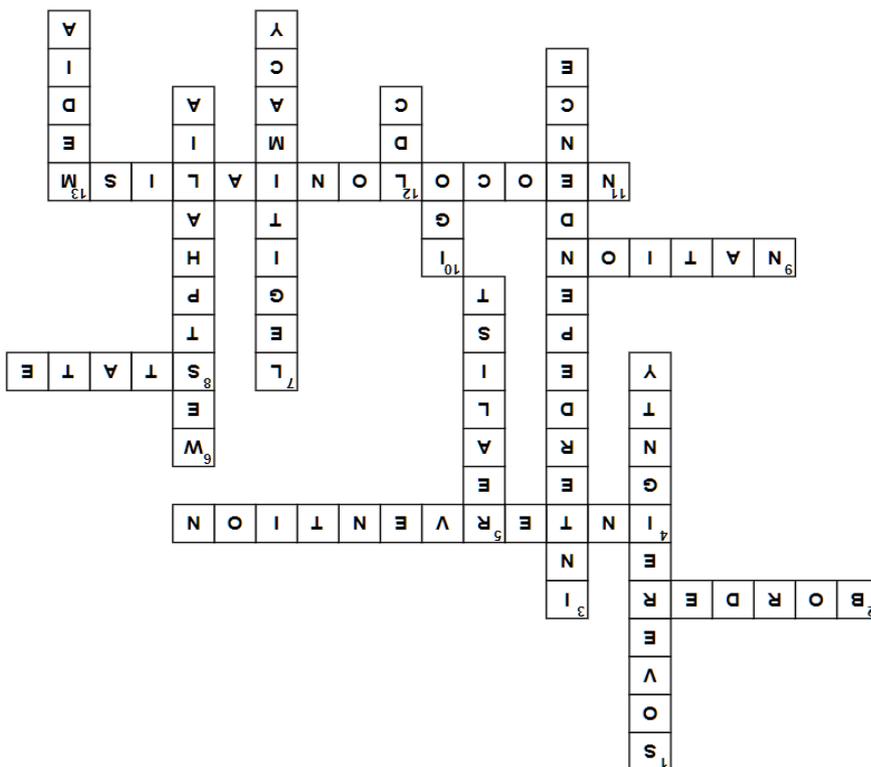
- [1] Supreme power or authority.
- [3] The degree to which members of the group are mutually dependent on the others.
- [5] People who believe in the political theory that power is (or ought to be) the primary end of political action, whether in the domestic or international arena.
- [6] Name of two peace treaties signed in October 1648 that provided a system of states that respected a certain definition of a state.
- [7] An actor or an action being commonly considered acceptable and provides the fundamental basis or rationale for all forms of governance and other ways of exercising power over others.

[10] Acronym for a type of organization composed primarily of sovereign states, or of other organizations through formal treaties for handling/serving common interests and governed by international laws.

[12] Acronym for low-income countries confronting severe structural impediments to sustainable development, including Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Togo.

[13] The main means of mass communication (broadcasting, publishing, and the internet) regarded collectively.

Answer Keys:







DAY 03



Committee Recap: SPECIAL CONFERENCE

Benjamin Zhang

The Special conference of this year's DIMUN conference convened to discuss validating the authenticity and ownership of cryptocurrency. Led by the committee chairs David Lee and Hyunseung Chang, the delegates debated over how best the international community ought to address these advancements in technology.

Led by the delegate of Thailand, the delegates of Sweden, Somalia, the United Kingdom, Venezuela, and Vietnam submitted a resolution moving to regulate and control the risks of cryptocurrency. The resolution pushed for international regulation on the use of existing cryptocurrencies to reduce their use for unlawful purposes including money laundering, sustaining criminal networks, and financing criminal activities. The legislation would require transfers to be registered at a central control authority to monitor trading activities, helping crime control track down illicit activities. The delegate of the Russian Federation led an objection on the grounds that the motion was too vague and proposed no substantive solutions to the problems faced by international crime control. The resolution also asked for countries to invest in the development of cryptocurrency and establish international banking institutions to moderate transfers between governments and institutions





while controlling the value of crypto. Clauses further call for preventative measures against fraud and security breaches through technological innovation and integration with states' centralized banking.

The debate concluded in the passage of the resolution and three amendments that struck one clause and two sub-clauses from the resolution. The first amendment proposed by the delegate of Brazil struck the sub-clause that called for the placement of infographics on social media due to the redundancy of the policy and how ineffective it would be due to the lack of equal access to social media across all countries. The second amendment proposed by the delegate of the Russian Federation struck a sub-clause establishing an awareness month for cryptocurrency internationally due to the infeasibility of such a holiday. The third amendment proposed struck the clause which called for countries to establish an international regulatory organization to control the use of cryptocurrency on account of its infeasibility and infringement upon national sovereignty.



March 18th
(4:00 PM)

Committee Recap:

SECURITY COUNCIL

Benjamin Zhang

As always, the Security Council (SC) of this year's DIMUN conference met to discuss the complex and timely issues such as situation in Afghanistan since the withdrawal of the Western presence. Our SC was led by veteran committee chairs Ally Kim and Eric Cho, overseeing the delegates debating over appropriate responses to how best to manage the after-effects of the Taliban government takeover.

On the morning of March 19th, the resolution submitted by the delegate of the People's Republic of China was tensely debated. It proposed that member states cooperate with NGOs to deliver humanitarian aid to civilians in Afghanistan which would construct valuable safety infrastructure, provide food, water, and other essential resources to those in need, as well as give medical aid to the injured and ill. The resolution also proposed that allied states in the UN should uphold peace within Afghanistan, to further facilitate the development of Afghanistan, and to provide counter-terrorism measures to the Taliban government without infringing upon their territorial integrity. A further clause of the resolution required that the UN Office for Humanitarian Assistance provide financial and material assistance to civilians in the affected area. As could be expected, the SC delegates were initially quite divided in their response. Revealing fissures in the tectonic plates of politics, the delegate of Ireland challenged the clause on partnerships with NGOs by questioning the allegiance of NGOs and their involvement with the Afghanistan government, citing the fact that this would entail collusion with what they deemed as violent agents. However, attempting to bridge this potential gulf was the People's Republic of China, which emphasized that partnerships with NGOs would only include those that were not in any way affiliated with the Taliban or any other government. Potentially driving another wedge in the SC caucus

was the delegate of the United States, which objected to the clause pertaining to giving financial and material aid to Afghanistan citizens on grounds of its vagueness and lack of substantial legislation that would have a tangible effect on the situation in Afghanistan. The delegate of the United Kingdom objected to the same clause on the grounds that it could pull other countries into dangerous positions as it would involve excessive, entangling interference within Afghanistan. Along similar lines to the delegate of Ireland, the delegate of the UK objected to the clause pertaining to upholding peace within Afghanistan on the grounds of the authoritarian nature of the Taliban government, noting that the price of peace might be the death of the country's citizens. The delegate of Ireland deepened their entrenched position by objecting to the same clause due to the unwillingness of the Taliban government to allow international peace-keeping teams to enter the country. In a quite rare and nearly unprecedented breakdown of MUN procedures designed to attain consensus, all the clauses were rejected.

After the dust had settled a little, in the afternoon of March 19th, the council convened again to continue debating the clauses submitted by the PRC in the hopes of pulling some of the 'swing' positions across the divide. The PRC tabled a resolution

involving the following mediatory clauses, bridging the cracks: that the UN members should collect accurate information about the situation in Afghanistan and promote it internationally, that member states should work together with other actors to provide materials necessary to aid Afghanistan's recovery, and that member states should receive refugees escaping Afghanistan. Whilst the glimmers of a potential unity shone for a moment, they were quickly extinguished as the United States and United Kingdom firmly objected to the clause pertaining to the collection of accurate information due to its impracticality - the Taliban has been historically unwilling to work with the UN. The debate resulted in the passage of the 5th and 6th clause pertaining to providing financial aid to Afghanistan and receiving refugees. However, in a cataclysmic collapse of diplomatic relations and due to 4 of the clauses failing, the resolution overall was not passed.



INTERVIEWS

Key Director

Nathan Royters

Could you tell us your name and position in the DIMUN conference?

My name is Mr. Nathan Royters, my position is the Key Director of DIMUN XII.

What is your job so far and what have you done? Tell us about your preparations for this event.

My preparations have been sweating and anxiety so far! Actually, for this conference, to make sure it works perfectly online. We originally decided for this to be hybrid: half online, half offline in our campus. But the pandemic intervened, so we quickly rescheduled things. Overall, my job has been to make sure our core team is all supported as much as I can support them, in terms of room bookings, finances, that sort of thing. Making sure everything runs smoothly.

What's your favourite thing about MUN conferences?

My favorite thing about MUN is, you have to become a delegate. You have to become a UN delegate. Of course, we're modeling it, but the students take it so seriously that they are delegates. I love that. The quality of research, the quality of discussion, the maturity. They develop such an awareness of global issues that you don't really get in any other opportunity. Not in a sense like 'playing' or 'acting', but really 'becoming' part of the United Nations delegates.

Is there anything you'd like to say to the participants?

Almost reiterating what I said in the opening speech: just have a great time! Meet the people you're talking with fully, fully inherit the role of delegate, get to know your country back to front, get to know those policies and issues. Build on your vocabulary and your critical thinking and your expression, and really have a lot of fun. Meet new people, build these laugh-on connections, and finally, never forget this.

Secretary-General

Brian Lee

Please tell us your name and position in DIMUN team. What is your job?

My name is Brian Lee, and I'm the co-Secretary General of DIMUN XII, alongside Victoria Hong. We are overseeing the entire DIMUN team, including the executive team, the core team as well as the admin, Press and Tech team, and we are the ones that take responsibility for most of the action that is carried out. We're working towards creating a safe haven for participants to talk about MUN and fully enjoy themselves.

Tell us about your first MUN experience. What inspired you to first start MUN?

I think I started MUN with a couple of my friends, such as Zion—the current Deputy Secretary-General—in the ECOSOC committee of SHASMUN. At that time, I remember I tried to submit an amendment, and got a majority of votes against it. Although it wasn't an extremely exciting experience (as I was upset my amendment didn't get passed), I think I learned a lot from there. Throughout my journey I've learnt a lot from previous MUN participants in our

What do you think makes this session a rewarding experience, and is there anything you've taken or learned from it?

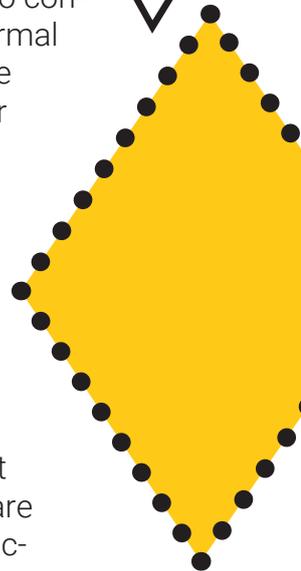
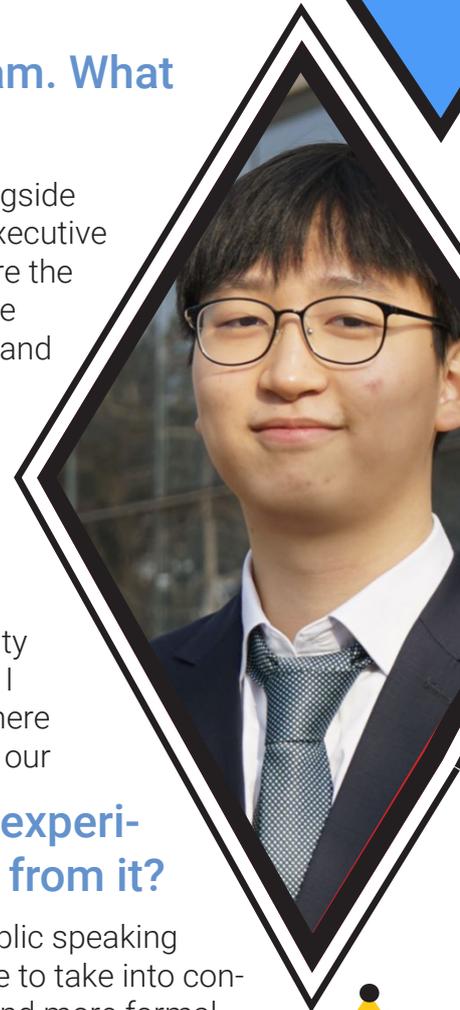
As mentioned in my opening ceremony speech, I think you gain a lot of public speaking skills. MUN not only allows you to express your own opinions, but you have to take into consideration your own country's stance, so you have to be more diplomatic and more formal as opposed to casual debates. This comes together with your research skills. Because you're taking a different country's stance, you have to have prior research to what your country's stance is on various issues, and hence, take appropriate actions or make according speeches regarding that specific stance as you won't like to have a contrasting stance with your opinion and the country's.

How do you think MUN has influenced your everyday life and your studies?

Back when I started MUN, I wasn't that interested in global affairs. I didn't actually read the news a lot, and thus was not really aware of the situation happening around the world. But ever since I started MUN and 5 years have passed, I think it was a great decision, because it really helped shape me into a person. Now, I'm more globally aware of situations around the world, and it's taught me many great skills such as how to successfully speak publicly, how to write a good speech, and make challenging questions.

What's one word that would describe you?

I would say probably 'Brian'. After all, a person can't fully introduce and define themselves by one adjective.



Secretary-General

Victoria Hong

Please tell us your name and position in DIMUN team. What is your job?

Hi, my name is Victoria Hong. I'm one of the Secretary Generals for this year's DIMUN conference, and as the name implies, it pretty much parallels to what we would envision the secretary-general at normal UN conferences would do, such as planning much of the logistics and organization during the conference. It includes checking up on delegates, checking up on committees, and dealing with the administrative sides.

What was one challenge you faced during the preparations, and how did you get over it?

I would say probably the biggest challenge, especially facing this year's DIMUN, was the uncertainty of it. We were constantly working between online and offline possibilities, and as something that we obviously couldn't be very flexible with and something that we couldn't really predict, we were extremely fortunate on logistics and timing. We were prepared in advance, and taking my time—along with the rest of the leadership team—was what helped in motivating us until the final days of the conference.

What is your favourite part about the MUN conference?

Among all the benefits, I would say socializing with people from around the world is a very valuable opportunity. Because often, when we're in school, we're stuck with the same group of people, but meeting more people just allows for that further cultural lens. The friendships I've built—not only with chairs but also with delegates and secretariat members—have been incredible.

Describe yourself in one word.

Hardworking!

Finally, do you have any tips and advice for those who have just started MUN?

Definitely. This is what I say to a lot of people, but be yourself and take the risk, because at the end of the day, it's a very safe environment. The fact that you're allocated a country, and that you're solving world issues not even politicians can solve can be scary, but just enjoy the process. After all, you're just KS3 students: socializing with your friends, having a good time, and exploiting all the online opportunities would be my biggest advice. Just have fun!

CLOSING REMARKS

Honorable directors, distinguished chairs, fellow core team members and most importantly, most esteemed delegates,

What a conference! Although held online, we could definitely assert that this year's DIMUN has yet been another tremendous success. It has been of utmost honor to serve as your deputy Secretaries-General in such a conference packed with such passionate and diplomatic MUNers. Over 3 action-packed days, the heated yet fruitful and constructive conversations circulated around the committees, making the both of us so inspired. Across 5 committees, 10 pressing issues of our time have been debated in search of a resolution for the better of our world amidst the situation the world is in currently. Delegates, your diligence and passion to engage in these debates really have been the heart and soul of this conference. Thank you for making one of our last MUN conferences so valuable and memorable. Admins, your initiative to volunteer as Admin, whether or not you have been involved in MUN before, have genuinely been a valuable addition to the entire DIMUN team, and I am confident that your chairs think likewise. Core team, your efforts before, during, and even after the conference to further enrich the MUN experience for young KS3 delegates are definitely highly appreciated. We would also like to thank all the directors, especially Mr Nathan Royters and Ms Klaudia Tomaszun from our school, for organizing the conference in different schools amidst COVID times and for approving resolutions in the Approval Panel. Last but not least, we would like to express our special gratitude to our Secretaries-General, Brian and Victoria. They have worked tirelessly over the last 5 months in organizing and facilitating the conference, and it has been such a privilege and honor to work with you guys this year.

Looking forward, I hope this conference has offered you invaluable experiences for you to cherish for a long time and aid you in further continuing your MUN journey. With that being said, we would like to thank everyone for participating in this year's MUN, and we hope to see you again at future conferences!

Zion Kang and Eva Chan
Deputy Secretaries-General

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