

Vancouver Youth Model United Nations 2019



Advanced Crisis Committee Background Guide

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To my honourable African Liberation Comrades:

It is with great urgency that I welcome you to the emergency assembly of the African Liberation Front (ALF), held in Pretoria, South Africa. Over the last few months and years, China has held our glorious continent under their thumb, imposing their will over our African nations, and using petty excuses to slaughter our people. The world has stood silent in the face of the hundreds of autonomous metal monstrosities that China has used to control our lands and shackle our people. My brothers and sisters, while the world refuses to act, we will rebel. While the world insists on superficial peace and useless bureaucracy, we will reclaim our freedom and our dignity.

China's imperialistic ambitions have produced a series of complex and far-reaching issues within the continent of Africa. With a technological edge and a fearsome military, China has swept through Africa with little to no resistance. However, this grim reality is not set in stone. Fortunately, the US has begun sending us weapons, ammunition, and funding. Though Xi Jinping II has enjoyed forced cooperation from the People's Republic of Africa, no longer will we have to suffer under China's grip. It is your responsibility to consider how certain attacks, or plans may influence how we achieve our ultimate goal. Though some call us terrorists or militants, it is my firm belief that we need to enact any measures necessary in order to secure victory.

We will triumph and assert the power and sovereignty of the People's Republic of Africa so that no world powers dare to provoke us again! We will not submit to China's wave of neocolonialism that has stifled the independence of far too many. Facing many uncertainties, and a fearsome foe, the path to victory will be one with many obstacles. Success rides on your shoulders, and I sincerely hope that through our combined efforts we will be able to ensure glory for our people and for our nation.

Regards,

Edison Tan & Annushka Agarwal
Leaders of the ALF

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Topic: 2050 African Revolutionary War

Questions to Consider

- 1) Given the surveillance state created in Chinese Africa, how can the rebels protect the privacy and safety of anti-China individuals in order to gain access to a wider support base?
- 2) What are the loyalties of African civilians today and how can those be manipulated to accomplish anti-China goals? What role does propaganda play in changing attitudes towards conflict?
- 3) How can rebels improve military technology to rival China's highly developed autonomous weaponry?
- 4) What role do corporations, and political, military, and religious groups play in the African Chinese Revolutionary War? Are they beneficial or harmful to the movement?

Overview

In 2013, Xi Jinping proposed the Belt Road Initiative (BRI). What began as a relatively innocent economic policy quickly grew into a pervasive, militaristic take over of Africa. After the implementation of Operation "Liberate Africa" in 2021, China began making extremely aggressive moves in taking control of Africa. Whether indoctrinating citizens through the education system and media, or forcing cooperation with its military might, the vast majority of Africa fell to China near immediately.

China systematically took control over Africa extremely swiftly. Using its considerable military might and technological advantage, China swept through Africa eliminating all and any opposition. Under the veil of preventing corruption, the Chinese government also used their state-owned industries to create monopolies over African resources, and crippled opposition to their policy with state media and propaganda. After half a decade in power, the People's Republic of China announced the "one people, one nation" policy. A blanket name "The People's Republic of Africa" was given to the continent; as a result, China no longer recognized independent countries (i.e. Kenya, Algeria . . .) were merged into one cohesive "mega state."

Despite the fact that most international governments have chosen to keep silent, the vast majority of citizens in the international community disapproves of Chinese policies. However, with the economic and political power China has in the international sphere, most countries are unable to take action. America took shaky steps in reclaiming their role as international gate keeper. America spearheaded many UN conferences and policies in an

attempt to limit Chinese military power. Critics considered most, if not all, of these attempts to be fruitless. This apathy and resignation can be attributed to the fact that China uses its veto power to strike down any policy by the UNSC to impair their imperialistic goals. In such a dire situation, some say it is possible for the US to back rebel groups in Africa, though no such actions have been taken so far.

Domestically, multiple rebel groups have banded together to form what is known as the “African Liberation Front” (ALF). Coming into the spotlight after an attack on a Chinese military base in Kenya, the ALF has is portrayed as a vicious militant group that is determined to terrorize the “People’s Republic of Africa”. However, the narrative upheld by ALF is one of freedom and (unsurprisingly) liberation. Citing the pervasive imperialism from China as their main motive. The rising unrest among rebels is beginning to show as small, violent acts against Chinese facilities mostly in the form of shootings and robberies. All in all, the end goal of the ALF is to remove Chinese influence from the continent, and reclaim independence.

Timeline

2013: Proposal of the Belt and Road Initiative by Supreme Leader Xi Jinping

2021: The BRI shifts its focus to Africa, expanding its network through 7 more countries, including Libya, Morocco, Sudan, and Ethiopia.

2021: China officially announces “Liberate Africa”, a Chinese-led military intervention campaign in North African countries, claiming to combat corruption, terrorism, and ethnic conflict.

2022: Egypt and Nigeria sign on to the BRI, ceding control of the East Port, Said Port, and Aqaba Port respectively. China gains influence over the Suez Canal.

2025: China vetoes autonomous weapons regulation resolution at an annual summit of United Nations Security Council.

2027: The installation of prime minister Hao Yi in Algeria marks the removal of the last democratically elected North African leader.

2030: Xi Yiwen is appointed by Xi Jinping as the new Chinese head of state, continuing the Xi Dynasty.

2032: During the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, Xi Yiwen announced the “one people, one state” policy. According to CCTV (chinese state media), the policy aims to make the continent of Africa a cohesive nation in order to “streamline” government processes.

2037: Many North African states secede media control over to Chinese state media “CCTV.” CEO Zhang Hao announces “the advent of truth and accuracy”.

2041: Algerian protests are met with Chinese chemical weapons, killing ten thousand citizens, and wounding over three times as many.

2049: China secures control of South Africa through creating a hostage situation, marking the conquest of the last independent African state.

Historical Analysis

In 2020, the Belt and Road initiative progressed from a mildly coercive foreign policy plan to a highly expansionist takeover of much of the world. In the early 2020s, China aimed to extend its political and economic reach throughout Eurasia. Many of their projects in Asia were successful, but those in Europe were generally not. Due to European countries’ ability to seek alternative sources for investment and the high degree of culpability they faced for unsavoury negotiation techniques employed in Europe (the European Union raised tariffs significantly after China’s attempted takeover of several Western European states). This led China to search further south for places where they could invest more freely, and without repercussions -- and clearly, Africa was the perfect candidate because of the lack of power in centralized governments and the hunger for resources.

The Chinese government named their project Operation: “Liberate Africa” and began the process of gaining control over the continent, beginning with Northern Africa, including the Horn of Africa. In the year 2022, China made massive investments into states such as Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, and Libya, funding hospitals, schools, bridges, and roads for public use. Prior to this point, most citizens had been disillusioned by their local government’s continued inability to provide basic public infrastructure, as well as the inaccessibility of rights such as clean water and healthcare. As a result, China’s willingness to invest created an extremely positive perception of their role in the international community.

Moreover, instead of giving control over these facilities to state governments, China ran their investment projects completely independent of native governments, and used them to pump North African citizens full of propaganda and pro-China rhetoric. For instance, by the year 2025, every single public school in Libya was operated by the Chinese government and used a shared curriculum with evident bias in favour of Chinese nationalism. These tactics in combination with the already-prominent view that China was out to help the African continent meant that approval ratings of Chinese-influenced government rose steadily throughout the mid-2020s. Despite this, there remained a group of individuals who were highly critical of Chinese regional presence. Some independent media sources reported on the similarities between Chinese propaganda and the Libyan primary school curriculum, and small anti-China political groups formed. To combat these, the Chinese government also

launched a large project of data collection within the communities they built infrastructure, including security cameras with facial recognition technology installed without the citizens' knowledge or consent.

Because of the improving perception of Chinese influence, China's role in the economy began to play a role in North African politics. In procedural democracies within Africa, the stances of main parties started playing to this new political issue by adopting a "pro-China" or "anti-China" stance. Overwhelmingly, pro-China parties began to take power, resulting in even more room for China to take root in the African continent. Meanwhile, in non-democracies, Chinese and Chinese-backed officials moved their way up social hierarchies and gained influence over the upper class of society that consisted of politicians and important military officials. By 2033, almost every African nation north of Chad had a pro-Chinese head of state, and all of them had past Chinese diplomats and government officials in high-ranked governmental positions, effectively turning these countries into Chinese puppet governments

China's quick entry into North African politics had a few consequences. For one, the pro-China administrations were happy to allow the Chinese military to set up many bases throughout their territories, and suspended most laws that would have limited China's influence on the economic systems; for instance, trade barriers were removed from the African end, and China became the provider of most if not all government services. Another result was increased Chinese purview over major African media sources. In 2037, Chinese officials in several North African countries voted in bills, each of which created an unelected committee that would hold complete authority over media sources, passed under the guise of "ensuring accuracy and truth." These committees were made exclusively of officials from China, many of whom didn't even live in Africa. What this meant was that all media sources became a tool that the Chinese government used to manufacture propaganda and eliminate freedom of speech and thought. This turned into a cycle of China gaining more control, which was used to manipulate more of the population, which was used to get more control. By 2040, all fair elections had essentially been dissolved in North Africa and replaced rigged elections installing autocrats who served China's interests under the disguise of shiny policy plans that appeared to help citizens. And the citizens, for their part, all subscribed to (or at least appeared to subscribe to) Chinese ideologies.

By early 2041, Algeria was the only North African country to not be under Chinese control. Unrest in Algeria had been brewing since the beginning of Chinese expansion because of violent ethnic conflict leading to highly xenophobic feelings and fear of Chinese influence. The takeover of social systems by China had not worked in the same way as it had for neighboring countries, and as a result, China never enjoyed the same approval ratings in Algeria as it had in the rest of the region. Furthermore, Algeria had an underground network of news distributors who printed monthly publications of a rebel newspaper: the paper sought to expose Chinese lies while revealing the extensive control China had over the region.

Unrest was brewing, but tension really exploded in May of 2041, when one hundred thousand Algerian citizens nationwide launched violent protests (coordinated by the underground newspaper). In response, Chinese-controlled military forces unleashed newly developed weaponized drones without warning, killing ten thousand protestors and injuring almost thirty thousand. The underground newspaper was destroyed, and the country was forcibly returned a state of unwilling submission, with control tighter than ever.

Despite Chinese control of news sources, citizens across North Africa rapidly became aware of these occurrences and started to question the authority around them. Throughout the summer and fall of 2041, small-scale protests began to pop up in North African states that had previously been completely sold by the Chinese propagandist narrative. In Tunisia, notably, a group of citizens set themselves on fire in an act of protest inspired by the one that started the Tunisian Revolution of 2010. In Egypt, everyone from schoolchildren to religious leaders had engaged in widespread protests. Governments sent out repeated messages to stop, and brutal police forces dispelled riots, but protests were still somewhat effective. By the beginning of 2042, protests had risen to a maximum, and the Chinese government had not responded significantly apart from cracking down on individual acts of civil disobedience. The reason for this became clear in February 2042, the month the Chinese government began to use the lethal autonomous weapons that had, as it became apparent, been in development for years. Not only were they unmanned and incredibly precise, they also had the power to seek out specific individuals via facial recognition technology and kill these individuals along with their entire families. In order to link faces to known rebels, the data collection software developed in initial infrastructure development was utilised, as well as Chinese intelligence agencies with new technological tools.

This strategy worked as intended: North Africa was quickly enveloped in an atmosphere of uncontrollable fear and suspicion of others that essentially destroyed the budding rebel movements in most of these countries. China also decided to merge their invaded territories into one large state which they named “The People’s Republic of Africa.” By summer of 2042, the Chinese government had Northern Africa exactly where they wanted it.

While the expansion into Northern Africa was done gradually and often through structural mechanisms such as elections and investment, expansion into Southern Africa was done quickly, aggressively, and unlawfully.

First, China invaded several small countries on the coast of West Africa. This was done fairly easily because of the lack of centralized government in many of these countries, although the geography did pose some risks. Military bases were set up throughout the region, with a number created in Sierra Leone. After this, the Chinese military moved south down the coast of Africa, conquering Nigeria, Cameroon, and all coastal nations down to Namibia. This was achieved manipulating ethnic tensions to fragment power, and using drone

strikes to decimate local populations, particularly men of fighting age who posed a potential risk to the autocracy. Military units began to be deployed further east, reaching across to countries, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, and Tanzania. In order to gain complete control over these areas, Chinese intelligence identified anti-China political groups and used their facial recognition to either kill the individuals or identify those who were then sent to internment camps.

In short, from 2043 to 2048, the Chinese government used a variety of tactics to secure control over most of Africa. With some southeastern states, China was able to use leverage created by past investment to coerce states into giving up authority to China. In some, Chinese operatives assassinated large groups of government officials and installed Chinese leaders. In some, outright invasion was used, and in the case of South Africa, the last independent state, the families of government members were held hostage. No matter which tactic they used, the Chinese emerged successful. For each state that was acquired, the People's Republic of Africa gradually expanded, until, in the year 2050, it encompassed the entirety of the African continent.

Current Situation

Until one month ago, South Africa was the only state that functioned independent from the People's Republic of China due to its high level of technological and social advancement relative to other African countries, particularly in the field of military technology. However, two weeks ago, the Chinese government abruptly kidnapped the families of over forty-six important governmental and military officials and flew them into a torture facility in the tropics of Madagascar. They were held hostage for three days before the government of South Africa gave in and ceded control to the Chinese.

International Community's Role in Conflict:

As major media outlets picked up the story of this outrageously aggressive foreign policy decision, there was immense public pressure on Western governments to intervene in some form. Most Western leaders, including President Ethan Lamb of the United States, condemned China's expansionism but did not make substantial foreign policy changes. In fact, the U.S. ambassador to China later contradicted this statement when it began to infringe on the large trade deals, and the Lamb administration was hesitant to clarify their stance in later press conferences. The European Union did not comment on the situation when asked, and the Prime Minister of Liechtenstein, Damian White, was the only European head of state to acknowledge the crisis in a significant way.

Formation of Rebellion Groups:

Due to the lack of international action, uprisings against Chinese forces has, up until this point, mostly been left up to internal actors. After the Algerian protests, a number of small rebellion groups formed throughout Africa, many of which were uncoordinated and lacked resources. In particular, it was difficult to inform the public of the existence of these

organisations due to the totalitarian nature of Chinese authority. The ALF was able to circumvent these measures through recruiting skilled cybersecurity specialists to hack into Chinese databases. Consequently, they have been able to wipe out some of the data relating to facial recognition of known past protestors while themselves seeking out these protestors to recruit for the ALF. This method has largely worked successfully because it minimizes the possibility of accidentally attempting to recruit pro-Chinese individuals.

Strengths and Weaknesses of the ALF forces:

The ALF has some useful assets at their disposal. Many ALF members have strong cyber warfare knowledge and skills, allowing them to target the Chinese policy of storing and weaponizing large quantities of data. Moreover, many domestic corporations were hurt by Chinese influence regionally, due to foreign Chinese corporations harming them. This means major corporate figures, many of whom have familial wealth and social influence within local communities, have proved willing to provide resources to rebellion efforts, and many skilled workers are involved with the liberation movement.

However, the ALF still faces many obstacles in its battle against China. For one, giving information to members is difficult given the lack of privacy in traditional communication methods post-Chinese invasion. In order to not be noticed and swiftly eliminated by Chinese forces, the ALF is currently hiding in tropical jungles near South Africa, making it even more difficult to get support from the broader African continent. Another problem is the lack of military technology relative to the Chinese government. Lethal autonomous weapons have not been developed by the ALF, leaving them at a severe disadvantage, because making military advances will require the sacrifice of human lives.

Chinese Control and Military Power:

The Chinese military within Africa has been structured through creating massive military strongholds in specific regions, and using these to enforce obedience in the rest of the continent. Along the northwest coast, the region previously referred to as Sierra Leone, is responsible for many of the military resources of the Chinese. The other main strongholds are Morocco, Eritrea, the Central African Republic, and Namibia. Furthermore, the development of Chinese military technology has progressed significantly, with lethal autonomous weapons being highly refined and numerous within strongholds. Currently, unmanned drones are used to patrol urban areas, for instance.

A main focus of Chinese authority is invasion of personal privacy to target civilians throughout Africa, similar to the methods used in mainland China historically. Using technology established in infrastructure development, the Chinese have only extended data collection and essentially transformed Africa into a surveillance state. In urban areas especially, China has installed cameras in every household to monitor any possible acts of deviance from Chinese law. These issues occur predominantly within urban areas, which are

densely populated, while rural areas often aren't closely watched due to the logistical difficulties with putting cameras in jungles.

Possible Solutions

The singular goal of the AFL is to strategically rebel against Chinese authority and reclaim the African continent once and for all. That said, there are a few potential ways for this to occur.

Military

The Chinese government was able to take over Africa mainly because their military forces were strong enough that many hesitated to fight back, and the ones who did were squashed by China. Without more military strength, it will be difficult for the ALF to emerge victorious from a battle with China. Delegates should consider, though, that China's military covers massive areas and has unrivaled technology. Moreover, they have fairly developed lethal autonomous weapons, giving them clear advantage of not having to expend human lives in order to make military advances. On the other hand, rebel forces do not currently have autonomous weaponry, but we likely have the potential to develop these in the near future, which would help our forces compete with those of the Chinese.

Another possible advantage of rebel forces is the ability to collect military intelligence on Chinese forces. The Chinese are not currently aware of the rebel's access to their mainframe and databases, meaning it is possible for rebels to determine the location of major military bases and to find information on their weaponry. Chinese military forces are structured around their main strongholds across the continent -- this knowledge should be used to inform the military choices of the committee.

Incite Civilian Revolution

Another asset that China has in Africa is a citizen population that submits to their authority without question. In some places, this might be because of genuine trust in China, but in others, there are varying degrees of dissatisfaction and frustration with Chinese rule. Part of this stems from the aversion to invasion of privacy and desire for popular representation. Appealing to these sentiments using propaganda (potentially through social media or using data on who might have rebel sympathies) could yield greater support for the rebel movement. In some ways, greater public support could be our greatest asset — with the population of Africa still on the rise, a united group of African civilians could rival any military force on the planet. However, note that this will be difficult given China's enforcement of a surveillance state in Africa. Communication to citizens will have to be conducted carefully and without leaks, otherwise all of the ALF's progress might be lost.

Exploiting Religious Support

Many regions of Africa have civilian populations with strong religious loyalties. In North Africa, the primary religion is Islam, while other areas of Africa also have a large

Christian demographic. The Chinese Republic of Africa is secular and has no relationships with religious organisations in any form. However, the vast majority of civilians subscribe to a major religious group, and it is likely that most of these would prioritize religious loyalties above political ones. Currently, no head of a major religious organisation has voiced an opinion on the African-Chinese situation (with the exception of Norman Marks, the leader of the Church of Scientology, who has unilaterally supported Chinese action with little consequence to the conflict). Hence, it is still possible for the ALF to sway a religious group in its favour, which would have far-reaching consequences for rebel support. This could be pursued through diplomatically attempting to create ties with religious authorities, but it is likely that without clear motivations, these groups would prefer to stay uninvolved. A more effective strategy might be to motivate religious leaders through other means, including unorthodox ones such as creating a system of “incentives” and “deterrents” to persuade leaders to voice support for the rebel movement.

Seeking External Resources

A major obstacle of the ALF in this conflict is a lack of resources. China is, simply put, far more financially and militarily powerful than a small rebel organisation in Africa. While there are strategies that the ALF can use given this power inequality, it is also viable to obtain more resources from other organisations. The options for this path are twofold. One, the ALF can seek help from the international community. It is unlikely that major Western powers would openly support African rebels, both because of the potential of negative perception from citizens and because of jeopardizing trade relations with China. Moreover, it is important for delegates to consider the likelihood of the West supporting a violent rebellion as it is inconsistent with most democratic ideals. However, pursuing a backdoor deal with Western intelligence is a possibility, especially if we are willing to make some choices that benefit the West. The other option, and perhaps the more likely one, is to ask for corporate funds. Overall, domestic African corporations were harmed by the Chinese invasion of Africa, meaning that many will have sympathies with the rebels. If the ALF can subtly make alliances with corporate leaders or global political leaders, this could be a huge asset, allowing for greater financial and military strength.

Bloc Positions

Ambassador to the United States

The Ambassador to the United States is a covert position that is responsible for any communication with the US. The Ambassador can represent the ideas and opinions of the US government. Further, they are able to take and introduce ALF plans and ideas to the US for possible support.

Battalion Commander

The Battalion Commander is the frontline leader of troops. A representative of the fighters on the ground, the Battalion Commander has access to and must consider the training, ability, and quantity of soldier in the ALF.

Chief of Security

The Chief of Security is responsible for the general security of the rebellion. From ensuring key secret locations are not leaked, to protecting key figures, the Chief of Security must prevent the Chinese government from compromising the movement. The Chief of Security is able to allocate defenses, increase different types of security (cyber), and respond to any threat to the ALF from China.

Director of Finance

The Director of Finance is in charge of the financial operations of the ALF. Responsibilities include the allocation of funds to certain areas and generation of funds. The Director is able to pursue directives that fund the ALF, and change the allocation of certain budgets.

Director of Foreign Intelligence

The Director of Foreign Intelligence controls all the information that the ALF receives. They are generally responsible for espionage and intelligence gathering operations, and ensuring that the ALF has an edge on the Chinese government. They are able to initiate covert intelligence missions, and other forms of spying.

Director of Human Resources

The Director of Human Resources is responsible for the mental health of the rebels. They are tasked with monitoring, maintaining or improving the state of the rebels.

Director of Northern African Affairs

The Director of Northern African Affairs is the leader of all relations with the Northern regions of Africa. They are responsible for assessing the geopolitical status of Northern Africa, including the consideration of how religious institutions affect conflict. They should also communicate and attempt to gain support from citizens of North Africa.

Director of Propaganda

The Director of Propaganda is responsible for creating pro-ALF propaganda. In some cases, the objective is to recruit more members, but the other function is to harm the perception of Chinese forces in the region in order to gain popular support should a revolution occur.

Director of Southeastern African Affairs

The Director of Southeastern African Affairs is the leader of all relations with the Southeastern territories of Africa. They have the ability to obtain specific demographic information on Southeastern territories of Africa, and are responsible for expanding the ALF's influence in the area.

Head Military Strategist

The Head Military Strategist is responsible for the long-term strategies of the ALF military operations. From broad objectives, to specific missions, the Head Military Strategist has control over all official military missions. However, it is also important to cooperate with the Battalion Commander in all military initiatives.

Head of Agriculture

The Head of Agriculture is the representative of the agricultural industry within Africa. They can access information about the availability of food, as well as influence rural areas across the continent and control food distribution. Responsibilities include ensuring that food is distributed in a logical and fair way.

Officer of Medical Operations

The Officer of Medical Operations is responsible for protecting the health and wellbeing of civilians and rebels. In areas with high rates of famine and disease, in some cases intentionally provoked by the Chinese withholding humanitarian aid and using biological weapons, this officer should aim to manage public health in a responsible way.

Officer of Youth Affairs

The Officer of Youth Affairs represents the viewpoint of African youth. Given that military forces often consist of youth aged eighteen to thirty, this officer should consider the values and interests of African youth in order to advance ALF interests. Moreover, this officer should ensure that the influence of Chinese forces in schools and on youth is minimized.

Recruitment Officer

The Recruitment Officer is in charge of enlisting new recruits to fight with the ALF. The recruitment officer needs to ensure that recruits are both fit (physically and mentally) and service in the ALF. Furthermore, the officer should encourage citizens to fill specialized roles like medics, educators, and spies.

Social Media Specialist

The Social Media Specialist deals with the perception of African-Chinese conflict on social media. Since social media is a large influence on how citizens think both in Africa and in the West, it is important to pay attention to how the rebellion movement is portrayed, if at all. Ensuring the accessibility of social media to citizens is also a priority.

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