

GÖMMUN



STUDY GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
(SC)

Steven Franckoviak & Florian Fermin

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Introduction

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Future United Nations Security Council simulation at Göttingen Model United Nations 2018. This committee, as the title suggests, will take place in the future, and specifically in 2025. At the start of session, the date will be the 1st of July 2025.

We have created this study guide to create a broad overview of the situation in the world and Europe in particular. To keep this simulation as realistic as possible the simulation will heavily draw upon the status quo as it is in 2018, unless it is specified otherwise in this guide.

We hope you are as excited about this committee as we are. If you have any questions, the answer to all your questions is a stern, stoic British no.

From your glorious exalted chairs, also known as the Goosebusters, with much love,

Steven Franckowiak and Florian Fermin

Ze Chairs

Committee Background

Like every Model United Nations Conference, we can only provide you with a simulation. For this crisis we are balancing accuracy with usability. While we are trying to give you as much flexibility as possible, sometimes you might reach the edge of what is possible as part of a simulation. Therefore, we drafted this chapter as a guide for your understanding. Before the session will start we will join you in the committee and you can ask questions.

Procedure

The Back Room is subjectively weighing your directives and assigns a number between 1-20 to them. This is supposed to reflect the likeliness of success. After that we roll a dice with 20 options. This way even highly unlikely directives have a chance of success.

This does of course not mean you should only try the most ridiculous and difficult endeavours, since this could also lead to constant failure. To increase your chances provide us with detailed descriptions of your plan and most importantly: use common sense!

In the Security Council you as a Delegate can send directives to the crisis team. In the following chapter we will try to give you an understanding about how you will be able to influence the debate and world events with directives.

To give you a handy guide to refer to these are the **main principles**:

1. There is a distinction between **open** and **covert** actions.
2. Directives require three inputs: **Who, How and When!**
3. They can be of three kinds: **Military, Economic and Political.**

Open and Covert Actions

	Open	Covert
Description	Open actions will not be concealed. They will become news to every other delegate.	Covert actions are hidden and mainly done by intelligence services. If a covert action fails it will also become public knowledge.
Example	Mobilizing the military	Assassination Attempt

Open Actions

Open actions are everything, that is not deliberately hidden by a country.

1. Example:

Another country has threatened military action against you and you have gathered allies in the council. After that you send a directive to mobilize your military and announce it yourself in the committee in one of your speeches.

2. Example

Taking the example of mobilizing your military, you can decide to try to hide your mobilization. As a small country with a small military this is easier than as Russia or the US. Even as these you might succeed, but the risk of failure is very high. Failure would mean, that your plans become public and other countries can react diplomatically, maybe teaming up against you.

Consider the two examples. While you always have both options, it is all about the right handling of risk and appropriate measures. We will not tell you what to do and whom to talk too. The simulation is still very much a diplomatic one. While you have all your countries powers at hand you still need to be diplomatic and clever in employing them.

Covert Actions

If you hide something it automatically becomes a covert action. We cannot give you an exact estimate of your chance of success with every action. It depends on your description and capabilities. When you are creative you do not need a big intelligence agency in your country for success.

1. Example

You are still sure you want to mobilize your military. Since you are Russia it is however highly unlikely, that no one will notice if you move hundreds of thousands of men around. Do not think like a First World War general and pill up troops in trenches. You can use small infiltration forces, air strikes or strategic deployment to deter your enemies. Large scale invasions are so 20th century.

Some actions are automatically covert. If you are trying to manipulate an election, assassinate someone or sabotage their industry you are always acting in secret. Only if you fail will it become news to everyone, that you have been the perpetrator. If you succeed your action will become news, but no one will know it was you.

Directives

Directives should be of a certain style to allow the Back Room a quick processing. The most important questions are:

1. Who is involved?

This seems obvious, but we mention it nonetheless. Always tell us who you are and what the directive entails, if you are cooperating with another delegate then this also needs to be in the directive.

2. How do you do it?

Describe what you want to do. Be as specific as possible to have the best chances of success. By being creative you can overcome lacking capabilities of your country. More text is not helpful if it does not say something new, so be specific!

3. In what matter of time?

Here you can decide whether to rush or delay your action.

1. If you do not specify anything we just assume your action takes the appropriate time.
2. If you **rush** it, you could race other countries to establish yourself before they can. Please bear in mind, that rushing something usually makes failure more likely so you should always weigh up the benefits with the risk.
3. **Delaying** an action does **not** make it more likely to succeed. It allows you however to initiate something and wait what others do before jumping into the game. If you are a puppeteering mastermind this is your friend. You could prepare something before others even know about the event it is targeting. Your creativity can be boundless!

Country modifiers

Every country has three modifiers to simulate its strength. These are military, economic and political capabilities. They are all relative and not absolute modifiers. All range from:

1. Very high
2. High
3. Medium
4. Low
5. Very Low

Capability does not mean, that all your power is represented here, only the power you have access too.

Likewise, you cannot just buy your way to glory, because your economic strength is very high in the beginning. If you dish out investments all around the globe your economy may suffer due to lack of available cash domestically.

We will keep track of long term developments and it is up to you to be sensible about your capabilities. We will make sure, that you always know how the modifiers have been influenced by your actions.

Military Capability

Represents your countries available military resources. They can be deployed and recalled. You can extend them by employing more soldiers or buying more equipment or in many other ways you could think of. This will however always come at a cost of other capabilities, because you need to spend more or face ever stronger opposition.

1. Example

For example, if you use troops to occupy an area or strengthen your border, this will lower your military strength, since these troops are not available anymore. If you recall them you will get your strength back.

Economic Capability

Your economic capability shows you the strength of your economy, but also your ability to direct resources to certain policies. Not every country is alike in its ability to direct its economy towards certain goals.

1. Example

China and the United States are good examples. While China makes 5 yearly plans to direct its economy the US relies on tax laws, regulation and subsidies.

Economic capability is therefore not equal to your GDP. It takes multiple factors into account and you can modify it with domestic and foreign policy.

2. Example

War between China and the United States has been declared. To direct the countries industry against the enemy a new government agency has been created to implement production quotas in the US. This increases the economic capability of the US dramatically.

It is important to keep in mind, that while the economic capability of the US has increased, the health of the economy is tarnished by this move. If this policy is active to long popularity with the people may suffer and stability might decrease.

Political Capability

Your popularity and the support in your chambers of government is represented in your political capability. Sometimes you cannot give to the people what they desire but have to implement harsh or unpopular policies. These can help you a lot in dealing with potential crisis in your country but can tarnish your political capabilities to implement any reform or policy. If your political capabilities are low, you might get voted out of office or you are simply unable to deal with further crises taking the matter out of your hand.

Good economic policy and peace at home, as well as control of the opposition (whether through autocratic or democratic means) can enhance your political capability. This allows you to act and implement reform maybe pulling your country out of misery.

Stability

All your country modifiers are abbreviated in your countries stability. If you have high stability your directives are more likely to succeed, because for example your orders are followed better or there is less opposition. Low stability means more corruption (higher cost), desertion and lack of political support. You influence stability only indirectly with good or bad policy and decisions.

Stability is also represented by a relative factor between 1-5:

1. Very High
2. High
3. Medium
4. Low
5. Very Low

Conclusion

We hope you could follow this guide up to this point. As said above we will have an introductory session before the regular session begins where you can ask questions. It is important to remember, that this is only a simulation and we want to make sure it remains accessible to everyone. Therefore, many simplifications have been made.

Nonetheless we hope you see, that you have a lot of room for ideas and you as a council will shape the events. All modifiers are interconnected, and only clever and reasonable thinking can be successful in the end (except of course you roll a 20 then everything is possible).

Below we have prepared a range of examples about different kinds of directives. Feel free to test them out or think of better ones!

Examples:

1. Military

- Mobilizing the Military (open)

This action is necessary in order to invade another country on a large scale. It might be unpopular and can cost political power. Mobilizing the military when there is no open conflict can be seen as aggression by other countries.

- Exercises (open)

You do not need to invade to show the world your latest shiny military hardware. Sometime, an exercise will be just what you need to show your power without incurring massive expenses.

- Invasion (open)

But if you feel the urge to invade some silly country that foolishly claims sovereignty over its own people you can do this. Be aware that depending on your military capabilities this could be a huge endeavour and have lasting consequences. In general, this will increase political stability as your people will rally behind your countries flag, but if you lose the conflict this could be the end for your government.

- Infiltration (covert)

A delegate can either infiltrate a different country or his own. Invading another country can yield certain benefits like intelligence and can be the first step to more elaborate covert missions. Infiltrating your own country is a way to safeguard your state from other spy's and increases your counterintelligence possibilities.

- Assassination (covert)

This action allows the delegate to kill key personal of another state. It is not an easy action and takes great preparation, but if successful can be very helpful. A botched assassination or if an assassination can be traced back to you it could also be casus belli so be careful. It might shake the confidence your people have in the integrity of your institutions and governments.

2. Economic

- Free trade agreement (open)

You and another delegate can decide to have a free trade agreement. This will be negotiated by the backroom and will take a long time. But if you negotiate this successful it can yield great economic benefits and can be a great start for a economic partnership. If the countries in question have long standing partnership beforehand this of course will be helpful to the negotiations.

- Sanction (open)

You can declare sanction on another state. These sanctions can of course harm you so be advised to specify what exactly you are doing otherwise you might stop trade completely. Sanction would be the most successful if not only you, but also other states would support you in this endeavour. Keep in mind that they will also harm you in the sense that your economy also relies on trade so do not be too hasty or could shoot yourself in the foot.

- Currency manipulation (covert)

You can try to destabilize the currency of a Country or your own currency. This could yield benefits in destabilizing the economic capabilities of said country. But keep in mind that this could lead to a global financial crisis that also would affect you. So try to be very specific and careful when doing this.

- Commodities (covert)

You can try to speculate on certain resources in order to harm certain countries. But also be aware that this could really backfire as it is neither long term nor safe.

3. Political

- Implementing New Tax Policy

To increase revenue, you can try to implement a new tax policy. While this might serve you well in the short term it is an unpopular move in the long run. It costs you political capability and gains you economic capability.

- Banning diplomats (open)

You can decide as form of sanction that you ban that you freeze all form of diplomacy to a country. This could diminish their intelligence capabilities in your countries but would come at cost of political stability and also may cripple your intelligence capabilities make sure to not send your unformats back to their country. They probably will not be of use to you once they are home.

- Manipulating an election (covert)

As a delegate you can order your intelligence services to manipulate a foreign or domestic election. Depending on the political structure, democratic tradition and counterintelligence capabilities of this country this could be either hard or easy. In doing so you can maybe help a agent of yours to become more powerful. But like with all covert action if failed this could backfire on you.

The Situation in Southern Europe: Topic Background

The simulation will take place in the not-so-distant future, starting in 2025. The world in which you will operate is not so different from our own. The United Nations Security Council has been called into session at the request of the Spanish delegation to discuss escalating tensions in Catalonia following a regional election which saw remnants of the Junts per Catalunya, now running as Partit de la Independència (PI) seize power again in the region and positioned Catalonia to formally secede. Spain believes that the election was heavily influenced by outsiders (such as the Russian government) and refuses to accept the outcome of the election.

The refusal has led to new protests erupting in the streets of Barcelona in favour of an independent Catalonia. The Spanish federal government has responded stronger than ever before and has been actively cracking down on protests in the Catalanian capital. For the newly installed Spanish government, under the leadership of former minister of Justice Rafael Catalá (PP), this is the first proper test and it appears that they are trying to prove their legitimacy as the government of all of Spain.

Members of the PI have been detained and the Spanish national guard has been sweeping the streets to remove any signs and posters of the political parties. Hard line supporters of the movement have stood up to Spanish security forces, attempting to peacefully resist at first, but resorting to violence following government crackdowns. Clashes between the police and protesters been so violent that a large number of residents of Barcelona has decided to flee the region, including to neighbouring France.

International actors have been surprised by the actions of the Spanish government, with stern statements coming from the Prime Minister of France Philippe as well as the Prime Minister of the UK Thornberry as well as Vladimir Putin.

Russia Today (RT) has been broadcasting non-stop. *“Spain is apparently thinking that if you don’t see the problem on the streets, it doesn’t exist”* - Sergey Lavrov, former Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation on Russia Today

Overview of Separatist Movements

Below are some separatist movements that may receive attention during the crisis simulation. Please note that this list is by no means conclusive and other movements may be covered and/or may emerge as the crisis develops.

Catalonia

Catalonia's independence movement dates back to 1922 with the creation of the party Estat Català by Francesc Macià. In 1931, he declared the Catalan Republic but subsequently accepted autonomy for Catalonia. After the death of Franco, parties in Catalonia mainly focused on autonomy until 2010, when the Spanish Constitutional Court ruled part of the Statute of Autonomy unconstitutional. So began the quest for independence, with symbolic referendums being held across Catalonia. After various further referendums and elections, the Parliament of Catalonia declared independence on 27 October 2017¹.

Following a tumultuous period that featured the arrests and release of a number of leaders of the movement, internal disagreement about the course forward caused the disintegration of PDeCAT, with Partit de la Independència emerging as the effective 'heir' to the movement that declared independence in 2017. Now under the leadership of Neus Munté Fernández, the PI has adapted a hard-line stance towards the Spanish government and is currently refusing to negotiate with the central government in Madrid. Munté Fernández currently remains at an undisclosed location inside Catalonia, on the run from an international arrest warrant issued by the central government. Fernández currently regularly sends video messages into the world and retains a loyal following from the Catalan population.

Her repeated calls for restraint by protesters against the National Guard has given Fernández numerous international allies, and the actions by the Spanish government appear to be producing counterproductive results for the government of Rafael Catalá. Fernández however realizes that finding a solution in one way or the other is ever so urgent, with the Catalanian

¹ Jones, S., Burgen, S., & Graham-Harrison, E. (2017, October 28). Spain dissolves Catalan parliament and calls fresh elections. Retrieved from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/oct/27/spanish-pm-mariano-rajoy-asks-senate-powers-dismiss-catalonia-president>

economy and its dependency on tourism suffering heavily from the political instability. The longer she waits, the more likely her support will dwindle.

Basque Country

Various entities in Basque Country have been promoting independence since the late 19th century. Already back then, the Basque sought to maintain their own position within the Spanish Kingdom.

Troops of the Autonomous Basque government played (in the eyes of the Spanish government) a questionable role in the Spanish Civil War by surrendering to the Italian allies of General Franco.² As it turns out, it was only a prelude to what was to come.

The Basque separatist movement took a violent turn in the 1960s, after it was revealed that the Spanish government tortured Basque activists. ETA, originally a Basque political movement decided to resort to violence, with the first acts committed in 1968³. A series of violent actions including bombings and assassinations occurred from the 1980s on in a continued quest for independence, even after Franco's rule had ended. Ceasefires were signed in 2010 and 2011. ETA did denounce violence but not separatism and even was briefly dissolved in 2018⁴ and 2019. Following the refusal of armistice by the Spanish government, the group reformed in early 2020. Inspired by the success of Catalonia, it has sought a popular vote in Basque Country to separate itself from Spain.

The Spanish government deeply concerned about the development in Basque Country has stepped up efforts to track down (former) ETA suspects and put them on trial⁵. This however has taken the movement even further underground than before, and it primarily communicates through the news and social media. Opinion polls have shown that a majority of the inhabitants of Basque country would be in favour of seeking independence from Spain.

² Clark, R. P. (1979). *The Basques, the Franco years and beyond*. Reno: University of Nevada Press. Page 73.

³ Tremlett, G. (2010, September 05). A brief history of Eta. Retrieved May 22, 2018, from <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/sep/05/eta-history-in-dates>

⁴ Masters, J., & Rebaza, C. (2018, May 02). Spanish Basque separatist group disbands. Retrieved May 22, 2018, from <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/05/02/europe/eta-spain-dissolution-intl/index.html>

⁵ Salako, T. (2018, May 04). Spain rejects mediators call for dialogue as ETA disbands. Retrieved May 22, 2018, from <http://www.euronews.com/2018/05/04/spain-rejects-mediators-call-for-dialogue-as-eta-disbands>

The resurgence of ETA has made numerous political parties uncomfortable, with the Basque Nationalist Party (EAJ) and the People's Party of Basque Country (PP) taking stances to support further autonomy from Spain. These currently present a majority of the seats of the Basque Parliament (34 and 9 seats out of 75 respectively) This has led the central government to brand the parties as 'traitors', alienating them in the process. The EAJ has called a party congress for 1 August 2025, and many expect the party to adopt a new, secessionist agenda.

Galicia

Galicia has been generally an 'outcast' in the Spanish Kingdom. Galicia, and overwhelmingly rural state has traditionally identified itself much more with Portugal which it borders. The idea to become independent rose first in the 1920s, and a Galician Republic was briefly declared (for a few hours) in 1931. In 1970's, Galicia saw an independence movement similar to ETA though it ended in the late 70s due to the death of the leader of the movement.

A guerrilla movement briefly existed in the 1980s which carried out over 90 attacks. Another organization known as the "Resistencia Galega" has been active from 2005 to 2011 but has largely been dormant since. In politics, the Galician National Bloc (BNG) has been seeking separation from Spain. Though the group seemed to have lost all ground in the late 2010s, the BNG regrouped in late 2019 and saw a resurgence in the early 2020s. The BNG has been advocating secession heavily and was given a majority in the regional election of 2024.

The central government in Madrid has given relatively little attention to the issue brewing in Galicia and perceives the more 'advanced' separatist movements in Basque Country and Catalonia as a bigger threat to the unity of Spain. The Galician independence movement is however very much enjoying momentum thanks to the Mel Gibson-directed Hollywood blockbuster *Sons of Galicia* which won the Oscar for Best Picture at the 97th Academy Awards. This unexpected external support has propelled the independence movement into the international spotlight and the BNG is attempting to capitalize on the movie to advocate their cause.

Padania

Padania refers to the proposed independent state in Northern Italy by the political movement Lega Nord.⁶ The most southern provinces included are Liguria and Emilia-Romagna. Contrary to other independence movements, that of Lega Nord is relatively young: the term ‘Padania’ was rarely used until the 1990s and since then has become a politically charged term.

Lega Nord generally has been supporting a reform of Italy into a federal state. However, the party has gone back and forward between this and full on secessionist rhetoric. Slow reform of the Italian government has reenergized the movement and may seize the opportunity during these volatile times as it previously did in 1996 and 1999⁷.

The increasing pressure from Lega Nord (and the popular support it enjoys) has made politics in Italy even more complex than before. With Lega Nord and Forza Italia standing further and further apart from each other in terms of political viewpoints, the left centre Democratic Party seized and booked a significant victory in the general election in 2024. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Matteo Orfini, the central government in Rome is determined to keep Italy together as it is and will thwart any efforts of Lega Nord supporters to declare independence.

⁶ Gumbel, A. (1996, September 11). Padania: New European country, or just an excuse for a party? Retrieved from <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/padania-new-european-country-or-just-an-excuse-for-a-party-1362868.html>

⁷ Baldwin, A. (1996, September 16). North Italian Secessionists Raise the Flag of Padania. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1996/09/16/north-italian-secessionists-raise-the-flag-of-padania/8fc7634c-d6ce-4a67-8067-1f7d7a35851b/?utm_term=.f28290eef538

Global Economic Situation

The global economy can be described as fragile at best. The world experienced a recession during 2023 and 2024, one that saw Greece need a bailout once more from the European stability mechanism. Other states that were hit noticeably hard were Italy, Spain, the UK and some emerging markets such as China, Malaysia and India. In Latin America, Argentina defaulted once more on their loans in 2023.

As of the 1st of July of 2025, things are looking slightly better. The most recent employment numbers from the United States and the EU were better than expected and there are some signs of progress. However, many people still need to start feeling the economic progress in their wallets. Economic analysts warn that instability is the last thing the world needs right now.

“The situation in southern Europe is one of a kind that we wish to avoid. If there is one thing that the United Nations Security Council can accomplish this year is avoiding another unnecessary global recession.” - Paul Krugman in the New York Times, 28 June 2025

Overview of member states.

Below is an overview of the current member states of the United Nations Security Council as of 1 July 2025. We have provided a brief description for every country. If issues are not mentioned in the description, please assume that they are still the same as they are as of 2018.

China

The Chinese government is riding a wave of success. The heavy investments done in the One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR)⁸ has meant that China has significantly increased its sway around the world. The United States slowly needs to come to terms with having an equal on the world stage. President Xi Jinping has been touring around the globe in a display of increased power and influence.

⁸ Huang, Z. (2017, May 15). Your guide to OBOR, China's plan to build a new Silk Road. Retrieved from <https://qz.com/983460/obor-an-extremely-simple-guide-to-understanding-chinas-one-belt-one-road-forum-for-its-new-silk-road/>

Instability in the ‘old world’ is perfect for China and sees it as a proof that the democratic system is flawed. It has stated that it would consider investing in newly declared states in Europe. The conditions for such investments however have not been publicly announced.

China is not only flexing its muscles in Europe, but also closer to home – China has realized that its economic and military strength is now strong enough to dictate its wishes in the region. For example, it has doubled down on the Nine-Dash Line in the South China Sea, leading to rising tensions in this area. Additionally, China has taken action in the Hong Kong issue, trying to further restrict freedoms in the Special Administrative Region.

Internally, not much has changed. The control of the Chinese state is growing every stronger, utilizing new technologies in the process to better track its citizens and its behaviour. According to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, the number of political prisoners in China is the highest ever recorded. At the same time, there appears to be growing dissatisfaction among the Chinese population, though reports on this are sparse. Such suggestions have been vehemently denied by the Chinese administration, but reports suggest there have been increasingly large protests, some that were met with violence by the government.

France

France is about to finish its second term under Emmanuel Macron, which saw a continued fight with labour unions. Now, it appears that the French government is succeeding in putting reforms in place, with strikes and protests becoming less frequent.

Reforms in the tax and labour code allowed France to book reasonable progress economically in the last couple of years, though a considerably part of the electorate feels left out and believes it has not benefited as much from the economic growth as they could have. While elections are still some time away (2027) Marine Le Pen has been regaining ground to Macron’s En Marche. Given the tendencies around Europe some fear that this will be Le Pen’s ultimate chance to gain power. Le Pen’s National Front already gained a significant amount of seats in the European Parliament election last year, similarly to other secessionist parties in Italy and Spain.

The National Front also appears to be intensifying the working relationships with secessionist movements within France, of which there are numerous. Le Pen is hoping for their support on a national level in exchange for greater autonomy from the traditionally centralized French government.

At this point in time, Le Pen appears to be waiting for Macron to make a mistake in dealing with the refugee flows into France from Spain, which could provide grounds for a snap election. Emmanuel Macron is obviously trying to avoid any such scenario and desires to finish his term.

Russian Federation

Russia finds itself in a difficult place. The (accusations) of meddling in foreign elections through different means possible has led to deteriorating relations with many Western states. Observers note that the relations to between Russia and the West have in many ways returned to what they used to be to the USSR era.

Part of the current anger between Russia and the West is the postponement of the 2024 election, which Vladimir Putin claimed was for the sake of 'internal stability'. The elections are currently planned for the 10th of August 2025. It is unclear whether these will actually take place at this time.

In response to the events in Russia, the US passed the strongest sanctions to date towards Russia in late 2024, which share a lot of similarities with sanctions put on for example Iran. At the present, Russian companies are for example barred from buying Boeing aircraft.

These sanctions are taking their toll on the economy as well, though Vladimir Putin has as usual done a good job in blaming outside parties for the poor economic conditions. There are signs though that something maybe changing at the Kremlin: close friends appear to be significantly enough hit by the sanctions that Putin may have to take a more reconciliatory stance towards the West. A shift in media consumption of the Russian population also means that the state television no longer can exert as much control over the opinion of the Russian population. Independent polls suggest dwindling support for the current government.

In recent weeks, there have been talks between the EU and Russia though it is unknown whether they have produced anything at this point. The EU is particularly concerned about Russia's very vocal support of separatist movements in Spain and Italy: further talks are planned for the coming weeks, with the US expected to join the discussions as well. Whether this will lead to any serious negotiations, remains to be seen.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has been through some turbulent times. Following a postponement of Brexit, the UK finally exited the European Union in 2021. While the UK has in some respects fared better than some analysts might have expected, the economic performance of the UK has been less than stellar. Following the recession of 2022-2023, the UK has recovered much more slowly than its peers.

Following a snap election in 2024, the UK government is now in the hands of the Labour Party, led by Emily Thornberry. Labour profited from a wave of dissatisfaction concerning the economic situation in the UK to obtain a majority in parliament. Labour, promising support for low-income families is set to skyrocket the deficit, which got the markets worried for the long term.

Economics is not the only thing the government has to deal with it, following the Brexit the Scottish independence movement has renewed their efforts, with a referendum set for the August 30th, 2025. Opinions polls indicate that the Scottish population will vote in favour of leaving the UK. Dissatisfaction also lives in Northern Ireland, where border controls were reintroduced following the failure between the UK and the EU to negotiate a deal that would honour the Good Friday agreement signed in 1999. While the situation has been peaceful, observers say that it is prone to escalating.

United States

Like the UK, the United States has had some eventful years. President Trump became a one-term president and was defeated by Kamala Harris in the 2020 presidential election, who became the first female president in US history. The election followed numerous victories for the Democrats, having previously already gained control of the House and the Senate in the 2018 midterms. The investigations into the 2016 general elections resulted in numerous charges against Trump associates, though intentional collusion with the Russian government was never proven.

In the international policy arena, the US has been recovering from damage done by the Trump administration. The administration left a significant number of spots vacant, which hurt relations with numerous countries around the globe. The Harris administration has been rebuilding some of these ties, but it is very much work in progress. The US has been trying to foster relations with both its European allies and China and has sought the revival of the TTIP and TPP agreements. The situation in Europe is bothering the US government and views the matter as an obstruction to its greater global objectives.

Like the rest of the world, the US suffered a mild recession in 2022 and 2023. This enabled the Republicans to regain control of the House but not the Senate. This has given the Republicans considerable leverage over the administration. The Republicans, decrying the deficit largely created by the tax cuts of former President Trump, have been trying to return to their old 'small government' rhetoric, which has resulted in the House refusing to raise the debt ceiling. The US government ran out of money on June 30th and as of July 1, 2025 (the start of session), the US government is shut down. The United States is obviously concerned about the events across the Pond, though it has not picked a side. For the time being, the US administration appears focused on making sure that things at home are going the way they should.

Argentina

Argentina went suffered from ‘woes’ that are all too common in Argentinian history. Following a brief recovery after the initial collapse of the peso in 2018⁹, the value of the peso collapsed once more in 2020, following the election of Gabriella Michetti to the presidency. This led Argentina into what has now become known as Argentina’s second great depression from which the recovery has been very slow.

In 2023, Daniel Scioli was elected to the presidency which has meant a return to Peronism and Kirchnerism. As things are everything but good on the mainland, Scioli has made increasingly threatening comments about the Malvinas (commonly known as the Falkland Islands) to drive up Argentinian nationalism, causing a diplomatic row by openly threatening an invasion of the islands in January 2025. While the citizens of the Falkland Islands are obviously concerned, spectators doubt that Scioli will consider further action at this point: while the government has been investing heavily in Argentina’s navy as an employment project observer do not consider it capable of carrying out a successful takeover. That said, chaos in Europe may present a perfect opportunity to do something while the world is looking away.

Democratic Republic of Congo

The Democratic Republic of Congo has continued to struggle. President Joseph Kabila remains in power, having used almost every excuse imaginable to not hold democratic elections in the country. The DR Congo appears to profit from generally improving economic conditions in the wider region such as Uganda and Rwanda, though the gains have been relatively modest by comparison. Kabila continues to enjoy significant support from the West given the strategic importance of the DR Congo. However, in recent years Kabila has allowed China to make considerable investments, allowing Chinese companies to extract natural resources in the DR Congo.

This increasingly competing activities has put the West and Congo on a collision course, and whether Kabila can remain in power remains to be seen.

⁹ Puglie, F. (2018, May 17). Peso plunge: Collapse of currency dredges up old frustrations, threatens Argentina's president. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/17/argentinas-peso-plunge-incites-frustration-mauricio/>

Cuba

Cuba has seen gradual improvements in its economic fortunes following the appointment of President Miguel Díaz-Canel in 2018, who became the de facto leader in 2021. Díaz-Canel has continued to focus on addressing internal matters, as he faces a heavy backlash from the status-quo¹⁰ in trying to implement basic economic reform.

In recent years, Cuba has been increasing its presence on the global stage, mainly to attract more foreign tourists and hard needed currency to the island, finding partners in the European Union. Following the elections of Kamala Harris to the presidency in the United States, relations have been improving there as well.

Díaz-Canel is stuck in a tough place: accelerating reform will anger the establishment, but not doing so may result in a uprush from the Cubans who got now their first taste of their potential.

India

India has been doing well. Following last year's election, the nation is now under the leadership of Prime Minister Piyush Goyal which means a continuation of the policies of Narendra Modi in strengthening ties all over the globe but most notably neighbouring countries. Its economic fortunes meant that India has been able to further increase its power on the world stage. Its quest for natural resources has led to increasing investments abroad, including in Africa. Part of this is to counter the OBOR initiative from China, and observers note that this could become a power struggle between the two most populous countries in the world.

Morocco

Morocco has seen a relatively stable period after the 2012 protests that led to the country's new constitution. However, the 2021 general election saw an upset which saw pop singer turned politician Oussama Belhcen become prime minister. His *Pour le Maroc* movement asserted power in the House of Representatives as well. The election was generally seen as a

¹⁰ Chan, M. (2018, April 19). Cuban Communism Is at Its Reform-or-Die Moment. Retrieved from <http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/04/17/cuban-communism-is-at-its-reform-or-die-moment/>

way for the Moroccan population to express its dissatisfaction with the lack of progress following the 2012 protests.

While the most pressing issue on his agenda should be the economy, his policies have been off tune and little has been accomplished. In an attempt to cover his government's shortcomings, Belhcen has been stirring up Moroccan nationalism, putting issues such as the Western Sahara and Spanish enclaves front and centre on his agenda. In April 2025, Belhcen began once more to voice Morocco's claims over the enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla, who he claims to be Spanish colonies in Africa. While the Moroccan government hasn't yet taken any official steps towards these enclaves, Belhcen has made the upcoming elections will essentially become a referendum concerning this issue.

Pakistan

Like its neighbour to the East, Pakistan has also seen a steady increase in the nation's prosperity. Under prime minister Imran Khan, the leading *Pakistan Movement for Justice* party has kept anti-Indian rhetoric relatively quiet and as a result tensions with India are at a historic low, although the issue of the Kashmir region is still a thorn in the two nations' formal relations. En lieu of warmer relations on the Indian subcontinent, Pakistan has instead looked to its North and to the West, strengthening its ties with China, Iran, and even making headway with the government in Kabul, bringing Pakistan and Afghanistan the closest they've been since the 1960's. As a result of Pakistan's warm relations with Beijing however, the fragile state of affairs with their Eastern neighbours could unravel at the slightest hint of Pakistan siding with China on any issue.

South Africa

South Africa remains under the control of the African National Congress under the firm grasp of Cyril Ramaphosa. After decades of mismanagement and corruption, ethnic tensions are at their worst point since Apartheid. The country is firmly divided along ethnic lines, and with the slowly declining Boer population in the West of the country, the various other ethnic groups in South Africa are beginning to blame one another for the state of affairs in the Rainbow Nation. To make matters worse, climate change has caused this year's crops to fail, pushing Eastern South Africa to the brink of famine, and flooding Pretoria and Johannesburg

with refugees. This has only worsened animosity towards the Boer population, who have been lucky in so far as the change in climate having had a minimal effect on farming in the West of the country.

Spain

While Spain had shown signs of economic recovery, Brexit led to an increase in separatist sentiment which was expressed in Spain's regional elections. With increased dissent, consumer confidence wavered, halting Spain's economic growth and tipping the country into a recession. The areas least affected by the economic downturn were Catalonia, and the Basque and Galicia regions, leading the central government to implement a localized tax increase. To make matters worse, the effects of the localized tax increase on the people of Catalonia was compounded by an EU-wide increase in the cost of consumer goods, making life harder for a population already living with a relatively low income.

By 2022, the recession hit Spain, further crippling the country's economy and leading to increased support for secessionist movements which had taken roots in the wealthier regions of the country, feeling that it wasn't their job to support the failed policies of the rest of Spain.

Turkey

Turkey has seen itself slide further from the West under the rule of Erdogan, who in 2020 announced himself to be "*Leader of the Turkish and Turkic People*", essentially making himself president for life. Continuing the troubling trend started with the attempted coup d'état in 2016, those who protested were met with stiff resistance from the state, and arrests were made in line with various stipulations allowed under the state of emergency. Facing harsh criticisms from abroad, Turkey has positioned itself further from its allies in NATO, and has seemed to come to an understanding with Russia in that Turkish led militias in northern Syria have driven the Kurds from the Turkish border, effectively surrounding Turkey's own Kurdish population. Continuing this trend, the country exercises much more influence in the middle east through the use of its military for example in Iraq, where Turkey is pressuring the national government to prevent the possibility of an independent Kurdistan.

Ukraine

Ukraine has made great strides in strengthening its ties with Europe. Having granted the Eastern portion of the country a state of autonomy, the country is starting to return to a state of peace, though relations with neighbouring Russia are still at an all-time low. In the meantime, the Ukrainian government has undertaken an anti-corruption campaign which has greatly improved the state of affairs in the country. The prime minister Vitali Klitschko, of the “Solidarity” bloc, has also taken steps to join the European Union, and while some have welcomed the move, the bar has been set quite high as far as requirements are concerned.

Conclusion

As the United Nations Security Council, you will face close to a perfect storm in this session of Gottingen Model United Nations. As individual delegates you will face many different forces at the same time. You'll need to cooperate on an international level, but you'll also need to make sure that your own backyard stays in an orderly fashion.

Below are some questions for you to consider in your preparation. We look forward to seeing you in June!

Questions to consider

- Are the developments in Europe in some way in your state's interest?
- Are there any internal separatist movements that you may fuel by supporting those in Europe?
- What can your state do in this regard?
- What is the most urgent matter you need to address internally?
- Is your current position as Head of State somehow threatened?

Position Paper Guidelines

A Position Paper is a document in which a Delegate states the position of their assigned country regarding the topics discussed in their committee. The Position Paper should show that you did your research about your topic and have a general understanding of your country's intentions and solutions to the problems at hand.

While there are various guidelines and recommendations for Position Papers, differing from conference to conference, the GöMUN Position Paper guidelines are the following:

- Your Paper should
 - a. depict your country's individual perception of the topic,
 - b. your country's previous relation with the problem and
 - c. the policies, measures and ideas that you would like to promote and implement as a delegate of your country.
- Overall, Position Papers should be about one and a half to two pages long.
- All Papers should be written in a standard, easily readable typeface with font size 12 and 1.5 spacing.
- If you choose to include works or ideas that are not your own, you are obliged to cite their origin.