PacificMUN

Dare to Speak

SPECPOL-Topic B
Backgrounder Guide

Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

Thank you and congratulations on finalizing your delegation to Pacific Model United Nations (PacificMUN). My name is Jimmy Ma, and it is my utmost pleasure to serve as your Director of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

As a student attending Port Moody Secondary, a school with a student body that places great emphasis on Model United Nations, it was natural for me to delve into this passionate community of bright individuals. It has introduced me to the greatest group of friends I could ask for and admirable mentors who have taught me more than school alone ever could. By the vehicle of research, debate, and public speaking, Model UN has encouraged me to take an interest in the world we live in. This is especially important in a democratic country such as Canada where we all have jurisdiction over the fate of our nation. I hope delegates are able to derive a similarly rewarding experience from this conference.

Over the course of three days, two topics will be held for discussion: Developing Autonomous Measures and Proposals for Non-Self-Governing Territories and Preservation of Civil Order in Mass Protests. Being socially concerning and yielding a high degree of significance, addressing the numerous facets of the topics ranging from economic and social developmental hindrances to the chaos caused by groupthink is a priority in the eyes of SPECPOL. I invite delegates to take their country's foreign policy heavy consideration when collaboratively producing resolutions with other delegates in the committee.

I will be joined by your Chairs Jessica Song and Samuel Tung. As your dais, we hope to provide an unforgettable experience yielding applicable teachings and a platform for conducive discussion. If you need assistance or have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Jimmy Ma
Director of SPECPOL
PacificMUN 2019

Committee Overview

SPECPOL, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, was established in 1961 as the fourth of six General Assemblies. It is tasked with resolving issues regarding social, political, and economic development worldwide. Initially, the Fourth Committee solely focused on decolonization matters while political questions were the responsibility of an additional Main Committee: the Special Political Committee (SPC). After the 48th session in 1993, the SPC merged into the Fourth Committee to create the Special Political and Decolonization Committee in conformance to the General Assembly resolution 47/233.

The Fourth Committee allows all 193 Member States in the United Nations to participate in discussion and policymaking. As a principal organ of the General Assembly, SPECPOL often investigates issues prior to passing them onto more exclusive committees, allowing for a broader range of facets to be discussed and grants all United Nations Member States to be aware and place input. However, SPECPOL may not induce actions or enforce resolutions, but only make recommendations on the subjects it considers.

The committee name is deceptively simple compared to the expansive range of issues the committee is responsible for. SPECPOL is one of the most versatile organs of the General Assembly. Besides decolonization, it deals subject areas including the consequences of atomic radiation, collaborative non-combative uses of outer space, ensuring accuracy and precision in the presentation of public information, and such topics belonging to gray areas between various other committees. SPECPOL annually conducts detailed analyses regarding peacekeeping affairs through special political operations. Subjects of such audits include The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the report of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices. Both organizations share the intention of supporting the Palestinian people in recuperation. Biennially, SPECPOL assists in mine action operations including clearance, education, victim assistance, advocacy, and stockpile destruction helping to establish a safe environment for over 50 once war-torn countries. The Committee

considers items in relation to the University of Peace every three years. Politically, SPECPOL also strives to assist to areas where government measures are lacking in order to develop a stable region.

Topic B: Preservation of Civil Order Against Mass Protest

Introduction

Protesting has served as the desperate remedy to political and societal objection since the beginnings of governmental ruling. Throughout history, mass protests were littered at the fall of numerous great empires having exploited its people. Democratic systems of government have had protesting as a cornerstone of its functioning. Protestors engage in collective demonstrations to express concerns and instigate reform; it is a method of placing checks and balances on the government. It is exclusively used after alternative methods have been exhausted but to no avail. This is highly critical to groups whose aspirations are poorly represented or dismissed. Protesting give a voice to those which neither have a platform nor the privilege to directly influence government. It cultivates a culture of engaged, well-informed citizens willing to participate in public affairs.

Protesting is categorized in different ways, and civil disobedience describes the non-violent option. Civil disobedience can be expressed in an expansive range of ways. There are nearly 200 methods of nonviolent protest, the most popular of which include organized marches, petitions, or sit-ins. These methods are characterized by their, although nonviolent, but assertive nature. While most protests are peaceful, demonstrations can also be violent depending on circumstances. This can be either from external influences purposely seeking chaos, or internally due to especially provocative members of the crowd. Civil disorder is met with riot police or other forms of law enforcement that aim to diffuse the situation. The original intent of the protest is often lost and the relationship between people and the government is put under strain. The outcomes of the situation benefit neither side and, subsequently, creates an atmosphere of fear and distrust. Such circumstances further impede any chance for diplomatic, reasonable, and compromise-spirited discussions. Violent protests often reach a state of chaos at its climax, followed by police confrontation during its falling action. Mass protest, especially when out of control, can prove to be devastating to property, deadly for participants, and damaging to relationships between all parties involved.

It is situations like these which motivate governments to place stringent regulations to prevent future instances of violence and political tension. However, this would mean disregarding universal human rights and diminishing the legitimacy of the democratic government. The people are faced with more difficulty in organizing future protests.

Timeline

1789 - The Storming of the Bastille was the result of poor economic decisions made by Louis the XVI. Protestors stormed into the Bastille, pillaging it of all its weaponry. This event marked the beginning of the French Revolution, as it represented the first step in overpowering the oppressive monarchy.[1]

1791 - The First Amendment was part of the Bill of Rights added to the constitution. It protects the freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, freedom of press, and right to petition.[2]

1886 - Amidst the American labour movement, labour radicals organized a demonstration at Haymarket Square. Its purpose was to protest police brutality directed towards workers during a strike in Chicago. At the moment law enforcement arrived to disperse the crowd, an unidentified individual threw an explosive device at the police.[3]

1930 - Violate by harsh British salt taxes and regulations prohibiting the collection of salt, Gandhi leads a civil disobedience protests against India's administrative power. By the end, millions of people had joined in his movement of making salt. Gandhi was given the chance to negotiate terms regarding the future of India in a London-based conference.[4]

1945 - The Charter of the United Nations adopts the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* in General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) as a standard for the just treatment of all people.[5]

1969 - Police officers conducted a raid on Stonewall Inn, one of the few institutions which allowed patrons of the LGBT community. The situation quickly escalated to numerous spontaneous riots and violent protests in the following days.[6]

1989 - Former Communist Party leader and symbol of democratic reform, Hu Yaobang, passed away. His death instigated a series of protests for a more open governing system. After hunger strikes, marches, and a rally with over 1 million people, Chinese military reached Tiananmen Square and opened fire on civilians and students, bringing the protest to an end. The resolvement was named the *Tiananmen Square Massacre*.[7]

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[1] https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/french-revolutionaries-storm-bastille
[2] https://www.ducksters.com/history/us_government/first_amendment.php
[3] https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/haymarket-riot
[4] https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/gandhi-leads-civil-disobedience
[5] http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/human-rights/
[6] https://www.history.com/topics/19th-century/haymarket-riot
[7] https://www.cnn.com/2013/09/15/world/asia/tiananmen-square-fast-facts/index.html

1990 - United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials entered the General Assembly through resolution 45/166.[8]

1999 - The World Trade Organization scheduled a highly controversial meeting in Seattle. Slews of non-profit organizations and anarchists planned to protest the impending economic agreements. The situation was diffused later on with the use of tear gas and pre-emptive arrests by the police.[9]

2003 - The undemocratic appointment of Abhisit Vejjajiva as prime minister of Thailand induced harsh backlash and violent protesting. The demonstrators crippled the nation's capital from operation, stormed and splattered blood upon parliament buildings, and used lethal weapons in combating police. The prime minister's offer to dissolve parliament and promise for re-election concluded the crisis.[10]

2018 - Sparked by rising costs of living and unsound tax strategies, the "Gilet Jaunes" (Yellow Vest) Movement held demonstrations in France. Protestors arranged blockades, engaged in riots, destroyed property, and vandalized acclaimed landmarks. The French government was forced to rethink its policies to restore civil order.

2018 - Right-wing fascist group in Brussels, Germany, organized a violent protest against the United Nations' *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.* Water cannons and mounted police were deployed to disperse the crowd of around one thousand people.[11]

Historical Analysis

Protests have proven to be highly effective in promoting positive social changes and progressing human rights in a historical context. Throughout history, revolts from the lower classes were fairly common. Shackled by punitive tyrannical styles of undemocratic government and oppressed by discriminatory policies, the lower class were forced to take action for political reform. Any attempts for commoners to organize civil disobedience were met with excessive violence, detainment, or even execution. Consequently, for any substantial change to take effect, protestors were compelled to organize rebellions against the government. Those in power usually met their fate of premature death at the hands of protestors.

[8] http://www.facing-finance.org/en/database/norms-and-standards/un-basic-principles-on-the-use-of-force-and-firearms-by-law-enforcement-officials/
[9] https://www.britannica.com/event/Seattle-WTO-protests-of-1999
[10] http://www.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/asiapcf/05/17/thailand.timeline/index.html
[11] https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46585237

Great Britain established the first Metropolitan police force in 1830, which meant increasing the difficulty of organizing civil disorder.[12] This unfamiliar concept diffused across the world to become a societal norm. Prior to the 20th century, there was little evidence suggesting the existence of a force dedicated to riot control. Instead, the regular police force was mobilized first, often failing to prove to be effective. Two lines consisting of from ten to twenty officers would be formed, all armed with batons and battle axes. Officers were ordered to impede the advancement of the crowd but were usually overpowered by the protestors. Protocol usually called for the dispatching of military personnel, who would often only exacerbate the situation.[13] As a result, the conclusion would result in one of two possibilities: either excessive violence or fraternization, both of which are undesirable. However, this observation cannot negate the fact there was significant growth in crowd control strategies.

Instituted in 1921, the "Garde Républicaine Mobile" (GRM) or "Mobile Gendarmerie platoons" served as the primary law enforcement units. Apart from upholding law and order, the GRM were largely responsible for formulating the basic foundations of modern-day riot control protocols. These include avoiding confrontation by exercising restraint and always allowing protestors an opportunity to flee from the grounds. In 1925, colonial Shanghai pioneered a legitimate force trained in modern techniques of riot control. British Assistant Commissioner, William E. Fairbairn, aided the Shanghai Municipal Police in developing a multitude of riot control strategies. These measures were then specifically passed down to a "reserve unit" known as the first modern Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team. The SWAT responded to high-profile crimes in addition to its primary task of dispersing riots. Since them, international police agencies have studied and adapted the techniques and equipment conceived in Shanghai.[14] Most notably, Fairbairn took part in the creation of the riot baton, the armoured vests, and combat knives.

Contemporary riot control strategies are much more complex as compared to those of the past. At the height of the riot, law enforcement arranges in a square formation centred around the team leader. Members of the squadron are assigned specific roles prior to deployment. The arrest team is trailing behind the second row which is consisted of the team captain and two officers in charge of shooting gas canisters. The two rows are protected by the outer echelons of officers. There would be two echelons of officers on both sides of the formation, The unit is designed to easily adapt to the fast-paced environment of a protest, and able to change direction with little hassle.[15] Officers can adjust the distances in between one another for a range of situations. They can space themselves out offer a route of escape for individuals wishing to leave. Conversely, the officers can stay tightly knit together if there is a potential threat.[16]
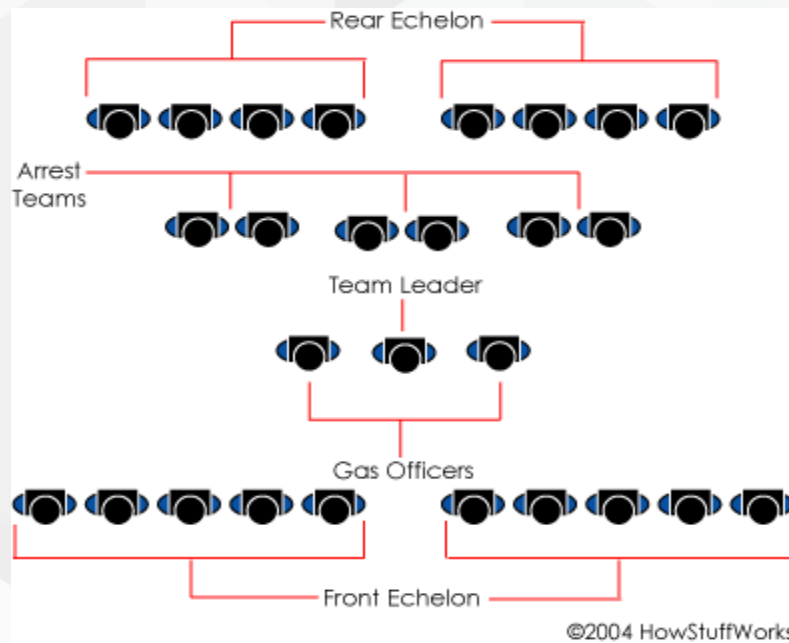
[12] https://www.theguardian.com/education/2001/apr/28/artsandhumanities.highereducation
[13] https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/28/us/lapd-change-since-la-riots/index.html
[14] http://www.warehouse23.com//media/SJG37-1641_preview.pdf
[15] https://people.howstuffworks.com/riot-control1.htm
[16] https://people.howstuffworks.com/riot-control1.htm

A visual representation of the square formation.[17]

Current Situation

Civil disorder can be motivated by a wide range of events. Examples of which include political grievances, economic crises, or societal discord, followed by either spontaneous, but usually planned protests. The type of civil disobedience to be explored are cases where the demonstrations were initially peaceful, but conclude in violence. Studies have shown that the number of violent protests began as peaceful demonstrations. However, the tendencies in human psychology allow such events to drift towards uncontrollable conditions. The controversy lies within governing bodies may wish to place stringent restrictions or regulations to interfere with protestors to further its own agenda.

Peaceful protestors generally look to fulfill an agenda or have a demand to be met. This transformation is largely attributed group psychology; the study of individual behaviour in the presence of others. People are willing to conform to the ideals of the group given they derive benefits such as recognition, a sense of belonging, achieving the goal of the team, etc. Holding membership in a group consequently brings about deindividuation; arguably the overarching reason for disorderly conduct.[18] Individual behaviour becomes increasingly radical due to the sense of anonymity provided by the crowd. Crowd members are able to shift the moral responsibility to the masses, hence experiencing only a fraction of the liability,

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[17] Ibid.
[18] https://www.sparknotes.com/psychology/psych101/socialpsychology/section8/

ultimately leading to irresponsible acts of violence, vandalism, or any act which normally would have been excluded in their moral conscience. All it takes is for one individual to break the ranks of peaceful protest for chaos to erupt. While there are special cases where demonstrators rejected those attempting to stir chaos, they are infrequent in occurrence. As mentioned previously, a number of protests may have been planned in advance. Herein lies the phenomenon of group polarization where the prevailing opinion of the group gravitates towards the more extreme end conceding group discussion.[19]

The Elaborated Social Identity Model (ESIM) attempts to offer an explanation to pushback against government dispatched riot control forces. In the perspective of protestors, it is unjust to experience hostility from the police for exercising their rights to protest and performing genuine activities. Demonstrators begin to see law enforcement as an illegitimate opposition.[20] At this time, protesters begin to subconsciously disregard any differences they had with each other to unify under a single category. The mindset is shifted from *you* and *me* to *us* and *them*. This could essentially draw the crowd into conflict despite the initial hesitancy of the individuals in the crowd." The sheer size of the group also provides reassurance to challenge the police. Similarly, law enforcement senses the imminent threat and reacts to constrain demonstrators. The situation escalates into altercations with law enforcement. Law enforcement is pressured to begin utilizing the appropriate tools such as tear gas, batons, and other non-lethal measures to immobilize the crowd.

Anarchist groups are capable of infiltrating peaceful demonstrations, influencing the protest to become violent. They intentionally use activist groups to fulfill anarchist objectives. The deviation from the original purpose of the protest weakens the message which supposed to be delivered.[21] They often exercise the practice of counter-protesting, where two ideologically opposite groups protest in close vicinity to each other, causing violence to erupt. In the example of the 1999 World Trade Organizations protests in Seattle, the anarchists formed a "black bloc" and were mostly responsible for the predicament. Police did not respond immediately as the peaceful protestors claimed they were capable of impeding the black bloc's intentions during the protest-permit process. Instead, a number of nonviolent protesters engaged in harassing the police.[22] Extremist groups are no stranger to demonstrations. Recent gatherings contained emblems indicating connections to extremist groups devoted to neo-Nazism, anarchists, far-left, far-right and other eccentric organizations whose ideas conflict with those of the United Nations. Certain extremist groups disagree with the UN's role in international affairs, particular aspects of its mandate, or specific actions taken by it. For example, the protests instigated by Flemish far-right groups against the UN migration pact.[23]

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[19] Ibid.
[20] https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/2ed1/dacbd7177d6c1709dda3a8254e7e58a6d1af.pdf
[21] https://www.policeone.com/police-products/less-lethal/articles/468164006-16-police-tactics-for-crowd-control-during-modern-demonstrations/
[22] https://www.britannica.com/event/Seattle-WTO-protests-of-1999
[23] https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46585237

Planned protests are commonly the work of non-profit organizations (NGO). In recent years, NGOs have steadily gained traction in becoming a major component on the international political stage. They work to alleviate poverty, uphold human rights, protect the environment, and a variety of humanitarian causes. Profound organizations such as Amnesty International and other non-violent NGOs have gained notoriety amongst government institutions across the world. A majority of organizations have left protesting to engage in policymaking institutions such the United Nations, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Trade Organizations. However, in the purview of the aftermath of the "9/11" incident, it has been proven that NGOs have the possibility of being used a front for terrorist or extremist operations. This is especially worrying due to their newfound role in policymaking and international affairs. This has led to major concern over the accountability, transparency, and credibility in NGOs.[24]

Even with the advanced crowd control equipment today, governments would agree that the absence of riots would not be missed. Around the globe, select governments have treated protests as inconveniences threatening its authority. Seeing the possibility of domestic and international outcry, governments recognize protesting cannot be simply outlawed. Subsequently, governmental bodies prompt subtle legislative changes to hinder activists' capacity to organize protests. Countries requiring protest permits legislators may expand the definitions of terrorism or rioting to more easily sentence harsher punishments. Judicial systems could be manipulated to criminalize civil disorder or justify police misconduct. The threat of detainment or violence dissuades individuals from participating in demonstrations.[25] The judiciary can allow the unjust surveillance of activists as well.

The technological advancement in the 21st century brings about both exciting opportunities and challenges to the subject of protesting. Social media platforms are central to both coordinating protests and a space to protest. On the contrary, it also allows governments to easily monitor activist movements. The United States Department of Defence (the Pentagon) has recently diverted funds into a Big Data research project with aims to monitor social media platforms to predict Anti-Trump protests.[26]

Occurrences of police brutality is common in violent mass protests. Law enforcement units arsenals of non-lethal combat equipment such as: tear gas, batons, rubber bullets, stingball grenades, and more. Although labelled non-lethal, such weaponry are capable of inflicting serious injuries nonetheless. Rubber bullets can cause catastrophic injuries, often long-lasting and forming disabilities. This is the result of random firing into crowds at a height above the waist. Equipment with coverage over an area, such as stingball grenades or tear gas, cannot be selective in its victims. The effects not only harm

[24] https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/176/31423.html
[25] https://medium.com/@amnestyusa/how-to-silence-peaceful-protesters-in-four-easy-steps-and-how-to-stop-those-who-try-308f69679a1
[26] https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/7x3g4x/pentagon-wants-to-predict-anti-trump-protests-using-social-media-surveillance

violent protesters, but also peaceful ones and bystanders.[27] This may cause non-violent demonstrators to develop a stigma against law enforcement. In less affluent countries, governments have used live ammunition on protestors, making riot control seem closer to execution. The Zimbabwean government is leading a crackdown on anti-government activists. Military personnel are accompanied by armed, unidentified men in performing door-to-door searches in the nation. Residents are being beaten or shot, then detained without charge to be held in overcrowded prisons.[28]

UN Involvement

The United Nations was founded upon securing human rights for all people. The development of a comprehensive body of human rights law is one of the United Nations' proudest achievements. In 1945, the General Assembly proclaimed the UN Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Then, later on, women, children, people with disabilities, minorities, and other vulnerable groups were considered in policy-making.[29] The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) is an organ of the United Nation leading the fight for the promotion and protection of human rights for all.[30] The United Nations General Assembly has produced a myriad of resolutions regarding human rights laws and law enforcement in the purview of protesting. These resolutions are fully embodied by the OHCHR. A document of particular significance is the International Bill of Human Rights. It consists of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).[31] The UDHR document declares universally protected fundamental human rights principles. Established in December of 1948, representative in the United Nations General Assembly, of diverse cultural and legal backgrounds drafted the document in hopes to incorporate concerns from all over the world.[32] The UNGA adopted the ICCPR later on, which attempts to uphold civil and political rights in the form of an international human rights treaty. Members States endorsing the Covenant are obligated to serve as bastions of basic human rights, including: the right to life and human dignity, freedom of speech, assembly and association, religious freedom and privacy, freedom from torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention, right to fair trial, etc. The treaty necessitates governments to utilize administrative, judicial, and legislative means to reflect the values of agreement.[33] Lastly, the ICESCR concerns the economic, social, political and cultural rights of all individuals, as well as a focus on Non-

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[27] https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/12/police-must-end-use-of-excessive-force-against-protesters-and-high-school-children-in-france/

[28] https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jan/18/zimbabwe-activists-protests-crackdown-spectre-of-mugabe-era

[29] http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/human-rights/

[30] https://www.ohchr.org/en/aboutus/pages/whoweare.aspx

[31] https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/our-human-rights-work/monitoring-and-promoting-un-treaties/international-covenant-economic-social

[32] http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/

[33] https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/ccpr.aspx

Self Governing Territories. The Covenant states all people's right to self-determination, labour rights, and entitlement to social services.[34]

In addition, the UNGA adopted guidelines concerning law enforcement with the United Nations Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. The Eight UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders adopted the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.

Seeking Resolutions

Both the government and its citizens must work to associate protesting with an expression of the people rather than violence. However, even with a solid understanding of group dynamics, human beings are essentially fallible; people do not necessarily have the capacity to manage their emotional whims; especially in group settings. Protestors are still susceptible to impulses generated by their surroundings. The governing body needs to work around the limitations of human psychology. Greater supervision is required to ensure the peace of protests.

Government Supervision

The process of applying for protest permits is an effective way to monitor protesting. It would give law enforcement an opportunity to review the protest proposals and rule out those deemed suspicious or threatening. These can be protests applied for by NGOs, background checks can be done to ensure their credibility. This solution could have the potential to prevent violent protests from taking place at all. However, it is crucial to note the threshold by which governments can complicate the application process. Stringent regulations and demand which nearly deny the right to protest may ironically cause a protest in itself for breaching human rights laws. Meanwhile, lax guidelines having little to no effect in impeding malicious organizations allow them to bypass policies. Governments may look into surveilling social media platforms for hints of violent protesting.

Law Enforcement

Acknowledging that the non-lethal riot control equipment utilized in the status quo are capable of inflicting devastating damage to protestors, substantive measures should be taken to ensure they are only used in most dire situations. The United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials proclaims police or riot control "may use force only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty." Non-violent means of control should be implemented as much as possible.[35] Law enforcement must take extra precautions before resorting to using force that is restrained and to the extent appropriate in the situation. Regardless of the

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[34] https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/cescr/pages/cescrindex.aspx
[35] https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/useofforceandfirearms.aspx

behaviour of the demonstrators, police should maintain force at the minimum level necessary to contain the discord and re-establish civil order. Being attentive in differentiating particular individuals acting maliciously and innocent protestors. In the event combat is unavoidable, police should be particular in their usage of weaponry to avoid unintentional, serious, or long-lasting injuries. Firearms loaded with non-lethal rounds should only be used on specific, individual targets. Explosive devices carrying objectiles, gasses, or any equipment capable of area coverage is appropriate for dispersing large groups engaging in violence, or if the threat cannot be contained by solely focusing on individuals. Law enforcement is required to present clear warnings prior to the onslaught and provide adequate time for people to disperse.

Clifford Stott, one of the creators of the ESIM warns "the indiscriminate use of force would create a re-defined sense of unity in the crowd in terms of the illegitimacy of and opposition to the actions of the police."[36] Working to make the crowd see law enforcement as legitimate, ensuring that they know the police will only apprehend those who are violent, keeping forces with menacing appearances hidden, and other tactics can help to ease protestors.

Bloc Positions

Almost every country has a tradition of protest, but statistics suggest affluent countries experience more frequent protests. This can be attributed to the politically aware, well-educated citizens of those developed nations. People residing in these countries usually hold far more progressive views on social issues, resulting in events protesting traditional, oppressive legislation. However, progressive activists are certainly not alone in the protesting space. The decision for developed nations to accept displaced persons is regularly challenged by from anti-refugee groups. Developing nations, especially those with oppressive governments and law enforcement, experience far less protests. However, dissatisfaction within the people is accumulated over time. Then, released in violent uprisings often toppling the former government.

Numerous governments around the world have used legislative decisions to hinder protesting efforts. The legislative changes create situations where the right to civil disobedience is contested. Such policies make it difficult to organize demonstrations, but not to the extent of complete restriction. Controlling demonstrations follow a similar thought process. The differing in blocs stems from the extent each respective state deems appropriate to preserve civil order. This is directly correlated to the health of relationships between states and their people. A regime endorsing policies particularly benefitting all but the people, may tackle the recurring demonstrations with forceful tactics designed to instill fear in the people. Different regions might choose varying degrees of police intervention, ranging

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[36] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0963662516639872

from supervising the entire event to only intervening once the functions of society have been disturbed, or even not interfering at all.

States with Restrictive Policies Against Protesting
Democratic nations have recently place legislative restrictions on certain aspects of protesting. These include: the Spanish government recently revoked the freedom of assembly; protests regarding Palestinian solidarity have been banned in France, the government of Mexico amended their legislation to condemn unauthorized gatherings; in Turkey, obscuring ones face at a protest or yelling slogans is punishable by jail time; Australia can ban demonstrators from certain public areas for up to a year, Québec restricts unauthorized gatherings of over fifty people. While Egypt, Ukraine, and Russia have outright outlawed protesting in all its forms.[37]

France
France is infamous for the frequency of violent protests. The recurring revolutionary uprisings part of France's history extends to the present. The government is easily targeted by anger in the centralized and divided political structure. Unlike neighbouring countries, the French government listens to the aspirations of protestors, encouraging this behaviour in the process. People residing in nations with structurally sound governments would simply vote for other leaders rather than protest. Governmental services play a major role in its people's everyday lives, any displeasure related to injustice is immediately directed towards the government. Populists direct the people's frustration towards all elites of the cultural, financial, and political spectrum. Starting as small demonstrations, picking up pace to become movements, eventually reconstructing the system.[38]

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people protest in your country?

2. How can you end protesting with respect to international human rights?

3. How does government corruption affect protesting?

4. What regulations are in place to regulate protesting in your country?

5. What is the estimated mortality rate for protests in your country?

6. What are some ways NGOs can be checked?

[37] http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/5/countries-across-world-are-revoking-freedom-of-assembly.html
[38] https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-12-18/why-france-has-more-protests-than-britain-or-germany/10626198

7. What existing framework exist in your country which regulates protesting?

Further Reading

1. https://www.aclu.org/files/projects/foiasearch/pdf/DODDOA008742.pdf

2. https://hbr.org/2017/01/how-protests-become-successful-social-movements

3. https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/08/22/environmentalists-say-new-pipeline-protest-laws-restrict-their-freedom-speech/?utm_term=.9a00f5a4c6ff

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