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LEADERS SUMMIT

VESMUN XI

TOPIC A: Rise of post-fascism and populism

TOPIC B: U.S. China tech war

PRESIDENTS:

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Vermont School

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THE FUTURE BEGINS HERE AND NOW

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1. WELCOMING LETTER

"The future well-being of humankind rests increasingly on the courage and foresight of its leaders to realize the full meaning of interdependence, and to translate it into practical actions" (Kofi Annan).

In the course of history, decisions taken from leaders worldwide have been decisive for the future of the nations and the relations existing between them. The legitimate power of the heads of state has changed the course of many global aspects such as economic, political, environmental, social, and cultural. Many of the decisions taken have come to cause negative effects affecting the order of the international arena as well as the peace and security established in the purposes of the United Nations

But for obvious reasons, there aren't always going to be followed by the rules and there almost are going to be positive cases . For example, bad decisions were made by rulers like Dilma Rousseff, the former president of Brazil. She was accused of serious crimes such as the use of funds from public banks to cover government responsibility programs, and therefore, she underwent a long process of impeachment. Another example of this can be seen in actions taken by former US President Donald Trump which made the US the first country in the world to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change formally. This has caused unreliability and uncertainty among the country's citizens regarding government leaders within the country and the actions taken by them.

However, not all decisions made by the country's leaders have led to bad consequences. There have been numerous leaders who, thanks to their mandate, have changed the functioning of the world order for the better. Examples like president Emmanuel Macron president of France who was re-elected for their positive impact and great changes on such a nation. Indeed, the first time he was elected he established beneficial measures like the so-called tactic of the "Macron Miracle" which defined the "stunning reshaping of French politics" . This made him one of the leaders with the most positive changes in French history. That is why, "the evolution and

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strengthening of effective, transparent, accountable and responsive government, subject to the rule of law, is a condition for sustainable development, not a result of it" (Kofi Annan).

For this reason, we invite you all during these three days to take responsibility in the best possible way for the position you are about to assume and act under the domestic norms of each country, generating significant changes for the good of the world.

We encourage you to take this opportunity and unleash its full potential. Allow yourself to research, debate, ask, negotiate, and exchange ideas that will expand your knowledge and skills. Join us in this three-day journey that hopefully will add value to your life experiences.

Finally, we hope that this experience will not only be enriching to learn about global issues and the positions of the heads of state regarding world problems but also that it will be a pleasant contribution to your training as individuals and leaders of today. Remember, "the future begins here and now."

Sincerely,

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Note: all the citations for the images are at the end of document

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2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

2.1 Committee's History

This committee was first introduced in a meeting made by Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the UN from 1997-2006, inspired by the G-20, an organization where 20 world leaders would discuss conflicts on a social and/or economic level. The idea of making a similar organization to the G-20 was rooted in the desire for all UN member states to have the ability to engage in a committee of such a nature, hence, being party to solutions that incurred their well-being as a state. As a result, its first meeting took place on June 24th, 2004, whereby delegations, and/or leaders who before weren't able to assist, because of not being in the G-20 or financial conflicts, were now able to intervene in situations that are in the interest of their own country and manifest it to the international community either financially or politically.

Going back to the first meeting on June 24 2004, Secretary-General Kofi Annan convened the Global Compact Leaders Summit at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Nearly 500 leaders attended the Summit - including chief executive officers, government officials, and the heads of various labor groups, civil society organizations, and UN agencies — to discuss and debate the Global Compact and the topic of global corporate citizenship (or corporate responsibility for short) and to produce strategic recommendations and action imperatives related to the future evolution of the initiative.

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2.2 Committee's Objectives

The word "Summit" is defined by the Cambridge dictionary as "a meeting of leaders from different groups or countries" or " to hold a summit on Economic affairs" The three prime objectives Kofi Annan proposed when establishing this summit were as follows:

1 | Making the Global Compact principles part of business strategy and operations everywhere: To identify significant innovations and achievements in support of human rights, decent working conditions, the environment, and anti-corruption.

2 | Promoting an inclusive and sustainable globalization process: To realize a shared vision of global markets that benefit all of the world's people and advance a new understanding of the relationship between business and society in support of development.

3 | Supporting multilateral cooperation to promote good governance at national and global levels: To build common agendas and actions in support of multilateral cooperation through voluntary networks

2.3 Committee's Functions

Similar to most UN committees, a leader's summit does not have the direct power to interfere in a conflict and/or situation that it sees fit. Instead, leaders from around the world come together to discuss topics of interest, make a series of conclusions and plans that may help

resolve the problem in question or develop a series of plans to improve a certain area of life. In other words, the summit only has direct power to convene and discuss the way one-another are going to carry out a set of agreed-upon points will be carried out , while also maintaining a good relationship between states.

3. TOPIC 1: Rise of post-fascism and populism

3.1 Introduction to the Topic

To understand the topic, one must first embrace the terminology of both "Fascism" and "Populism." The definition by the Cambridge dictionary is the following; Fascism is "a political system based on a very powerful leader, state control, and being extremely proud of country and race, and in which political opposition is not allowed" Meanwhile, populism is defined as: "political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want."

To understand the idea that went from "Fascism" to "Post-Facism" acknowledge M. Mann's sociological framework for this purpose. In Mann's definition, "fascism is the pursuit of a transcendent and cleansing nation-statism through paramilitarism" (Mann, 2004, p. 13). In this way, the author manages to bridge the limiting gap between ideological and class theories and thus build cumulatively on a long-standing tradition of research concerning fascism. With this, he

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explained fascism by understanding fascists, and their interest in what they ought to achieve with fascist movements or groups. Since fascism is neither an oddity nor merely of historical interest, that's what kept Mann in continuous research to look for fascism. This concluded him to see that the fascists were just the followers of a " Political Icon" following the nation-state, together with its ideologies and pathologies. And all this to have a major political doctrine of world-historical significance. Mann since the beginning of the book wanted to separate fascism into four main primary sources of social power in human societies: ideological, economic, military, and political. (He wanted to define those four sources to conclude what they work on fascism) ideology. Yet all four sources of social power are needed to explain the most important social and historical outcomes. To attain their goals, social movements wield combinations of control over ultimate meaning systems (ideological), control over means of production and exchange (economic), control over organized physical violence (military), and control over centralized and territorial institutions of the regulation (political). All four are necessary to explain fascism. And all around the main idea is to get to the definition of "fascism is the pursuit of a transcendent and cleansing nation-statism through paramilitarism"

Now the explanation of how fascism became post-fascism: A strong, hierarchical, and authoritarian nation-state representing the organic nation is the ultimate political goal and at the same time the organizational form that fascism takes once in power. Transcendence refers to the goal of transcending class conflict and national divides, first by repressing or eliminating the revolutionary left and by removing political and racial enemies, and second by integrating

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interest groups, different economic sectors, and socio-economic classes into the nation-state through corporatist institutions. The cleansing aspect directly follows from transcendent nation-statism: political opponents and strangers within the organic nation are defined as eliminable enemies to be cleansed if the ideal of the transcendent and organic nation is to be achieved. The cleansing is carried out by bottom-up paramilitary organizations. Those militias, structured along male comradeship, represent the key value and organizational form of fascism.

Populism was also known as a "Populist radical right party" Take an example the *" Mudde 2007"* which was a radical party in Europe, that ended up being a scandalous and problematic choice for the left parties and fascism itself, to know about the "Mudde" it was a party made by the populists in Europe which silenced the historical legacy of far-right collective actors, makes them seem like a new feature within other political landscapes, considers itself "the successful party in Europe", it's a result of an explicitly party-centric approach which is typical of a political science approach that represents having "ownership of the topic" when in conclusion it doesn't.

3.2 Key Concepts

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- *Transcendence:* exceeding normal limits. In this context, of having a lasting impact on something or someone.

- *Post-fascism:* the development of the fascist ideology a posteriori world war two.

- *Populism:* refers to the political idea of appealing to the "people" and uniting them for the greater good.

- *Ultranationalism:* the extreme application of nationalism, where the interests of a state and its subjects are highly placed above all others.

- *Euroscepticism:* the rejection of the European Union and its ideals

- *Segregation:* the action of isolating a group of people for x or y reason

- *Constitutional monarchy:* a political system that has a monarch in place but has a representative government

- *Liberal democracy:* a political system where the separation of powers is prime and the citizens get to choose their representatives.

3.3 Historical Background

Fascism and populism have had various historical conflicts with one of them being the German fascist political icon, the Japan and Italy entangled history, and the Italian Mussolini's Fascist State. But one of the most important is the Entangled story of Japan-Italy which was the dawn of Fascism and Fascist states.

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Fascism back in the 1930s was where it influenced all the European territories including the Asian territory affecting Japan and in European the Italian nation. But Mussolini's Italy was the driving force behind this development, whereas in Asia the center of gravity lay in the Japanese Empire. But the relationship between Japan and the mother country of fascism, Italy, in the interwar period has been hardly examined. These two countries are the representatives of fascism and populism back in the days which nowadays has still impacted some political leaders. Japanese fascism back in the day wasn't considered now that historians and the people themselves did not consider japan had a type of fascism in the government or fascists "icons"

 during World War I and World War II, however, after long years the historians, and the books of Japan's history change the vision now that Imperial Japan in the period between the 'Manchurian Incident'

and Hiroshima was fascist. Nowadays this has dissipated but there are doubts and still debates between historians that disregard every piece of information.

Granted that Japan itself contradicts history about its fascism position and acts, there are still references that imply Japan's actions; The case of imperial Japan that justifies the reasons are the Tokyo-Rome-Berlin Axis and the war in East Asia, just as important Japan was a non-European country researched about fascism for the study of it globally. However, the Japanese case is pretty demanding due to the fact that a series of questions are brought up that question the study cases about fascism like: in which ways was East Asia part of fascism's globalization in the early

1930s? How was Japan's radicalization in the 1930s connected to European fascism? And last but not least, what was the role of the war in East Asia in fascism's globalization?

3.4 Current Situation

Although for many the term "fascism" may connote the meaning of concentration camps, ethnic cleansing, and others as explained in the historical background, post-fascism, along with modern populism is very different from what it used to be in the past. While it is true that "post-fascist" politicians and the ideology itself, promote a strong sense of ultranationalism and pride in one's nation, it does not directly segregate subjects or elements of society "undesirable to such an ideology. This is due to many factors, firstly, at a national scale, most constitutions have provisions underlying the equal treatment of all individuals, no matter their race, sexual orientation, or overall preferences, therefore, making it hard for such an ideology to directly exclude certain groups or individuals from the operation of society as a whole. On the other hand, it is foolish in politics or in public relations as a whole, to reject the past horrors of fascism and other similar ideologies that went on to create events like the holocaust where millions were killed, thus, making "fascism" in the present day, similar, but laxer than it was 70 years ago.

At this point, it is important to acknowledge the difference between the two words: nation and state. A nation is a group of people that are made up of similar characteristics (usually ethnic) while on the other hand, a state is a body that governs a nation, or in the case of many countries a

multination state, whereby many nations reside. This is said because what fascism at many levels aims to accomplish is to protect a certain nation living within a state, from outer "interference" This has led post-fascist parties to lobby for two main things at an international scale:

1. The attempt to reject incoming immigrants in search of a better life. The arguments for this are that a particular group of immigrants may be endangering the sovereignty of a state by taking the jobs of citizens, looting, and promoting other illegal activities that harm society.

2. The rejection of supra-national organizations. In this particular case, the main worry is that the decisions taken by global organizations (which will be further explained in the next point) are harmful or not in the interest of a country. Such decisions are usually linked to immigration, LGBTQ rights, economic issues, or others that are dear to post-fascists. Lastly, as one of the essential principles of post-fascism, the core meaning and following of a country's constitution, there is the concern that international law will one day be above national law, thus, going against the interest of having an independent nation-state, that rules itself only according to its rules and interests.

On the other hand, at a more national level, post-fascism makes an important focus on populism (another essential aspect of this topic) as is the political instrument that

The rise of nationalism across Europe
% of votes won by nationalist parties in Europe's most recent national elections

Denmark 21.0
Danish People's Party

Germany 4.7
Alternative for Germany

Netherlands 10.0
Freedom Party

France 14.0
National Front

Switzerland 29.0

Finland 18.0
The Finns

Sweden 13.0
Sweden Democrats

Slovakia 8.0
Our Slovakia

Hungary 21.0
Jobbik

Austria 21.0

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@StatistaCharts Source: BBC   INDEPENDENT   statista

yields popular support. In most cases, post-fascist parties have a narrative of "us against them" meaning that there is a smaller, elite group attempting to hurt the interests of the majority, and failure to take action against those groups will result in disaster. Usually, those groups include certain politicians, companies, or organizations that are supposedly on an agenda that only benefits them while harming the rest of society.

To add on, post-fascism trends also tend to be authoritative, pursuing a "law and order" rhetoric and enforcing the country's laws to its utmost powers, while in some cases, affecting political plurality and democratic participation of citizens in elections. To elaborate on the topic of authoritarianism, post-fascists use this tool to promote a certain ideology, reject/embrace a certain religion, suppress the freedom of the press (and expression), and pave the way for morally questionable activities (which will be explained later) to be carried out against a certain group. In sum, favoring a strong central government.

We have discussed the essential principles that post-fascism and populism follow; but what do they specifically reject? The model we know today as a liberal democracy or parliamentarian, which is applied in many if not most of the UN member states, is rejected by the core post-fascist ideology. Then again, the argument for this is that this model is completely ineffective as a governing body, due to it being bureaucratic and going against a country's interests in many forms. Likewise, similar to traditional fascism it goes against ideologies of communist, socialist, liberal, and Marxist nature. As a result, post-fascism is bound to intervene in the economy, favoring protectionist policies as well as cutting taxes for the working class. On

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the other hand, intervening socially by limiting the freedom of speech and promoting a uniform populist ideal that goes in the "favor" of society.

3.5 Cases and Response

It is common wisdom that post-fascism has gone through many stages in the development of its ideology and the application of its beliefs in the real world. Let's begin by stating that shortly thereafter the defeat of Nazi Germany and imperial Japan in 1945 by the allied powers, most of its sister fascist republics fell, marking mostly an end to traditional fascism in Europe and if not the rest of the world. But did it end? the most notable case of a fascist regime in Europe, was nationalist Spain, under Francisco Franco's rule, albeit it was mostly traditional fascism it had to integrate some elements of post-fascism to strive, until 1975 when the dictatorship finally fell and Spain transitioned to a constitutional monarchy. However, the country has seen a rise in post-fascism with the political party of VOX, with many Spaniards seeing the party as a threat to society.
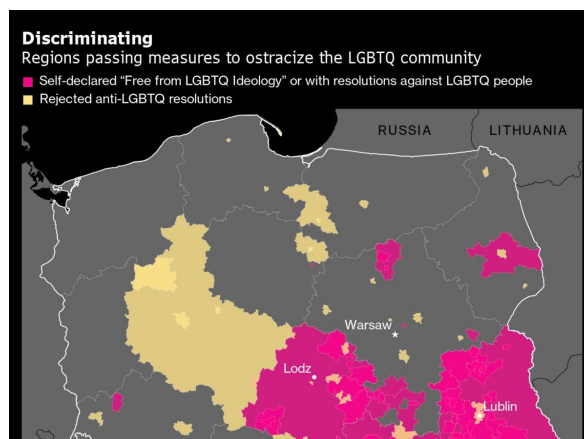
It is to be noted, that as mentioned, many political parties in Europe endorsing pure Nazi ideologies or of the same nature, did not survive because of the stigma surrounding it. However, post-fascism proved to be the solution in being the "camouflage" to extremist ideologies. Let's continue with the spread of post-fascism to Latin America in the 60s through the 80s. In the continent, political polarization from both left and right was rampant, thus, a more belligerent form of neo-fascism came to be. The model was simple: be in a country with a democratically
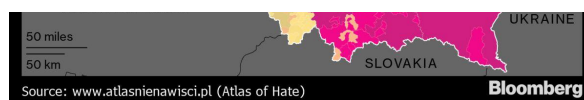
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elected government, and overthrow it with the military to promote a special agenda. Take the case of Augusto Pinochet in Chile, where through his dictatorship Communist sympathizers disappeared never to be seen again, while the private industry strived. Similarly, in the case of Jorge Rafael Videla, dictator of Argentina, enemies of the state where disappeared out of the blue, with their families asking questions as to their whereabouts, left unanswered as to this day. However, the rise of this form of post-fascism, quickly saw a decline in the 90s, as not only global organizations like the UN, were asking for accountability concerning their actions, and the essential right to democracy, but because of internal problems, that eventually lead to those regimes being overthrown and being replaced.

In the present day, however, post-fascism is not reflected as being specifically anti-democratic or even having a secret police force that would take out your enemies, but instead, promoting their ideologies on every electoral cycle. As every country is bound to have a social-democrat party, every country is also bound to have a party labeled as being "post-fascist" Nonetheless, such movements have failed to yield enough votes to control any branch of government. However, there are some notable cases to look at when talking about fascism in the 21st century:

- *Poland:* since its last general election, two remarkable right-wing parties have risen to the upper levers of power in the country, with one, having the prime minister. By many accounts, the parties in question "law and justice" and "United

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right" are post-fascist as their ideologies consist of Euroscepticism, right-wing populism, and national conservatism. Recently, in 2020, many municipalities of Poland declared themselves as "LGBTQ-free zones" meaning that people belonging to the community were no longer welcome, this was done of course, under the permission of the prime minister and with the endorsement of the parties mentioned. Since then, Poland has had extreme backlash as the European council has voted to condemn these zones, and the future is uncertain as to what actions may the Polish government take in the future concerning other topics of interest.

- **Brazil:** the most powerful country in South America. Since 2018, the Brazilian electorate chooses Jair Bolsonaro as their president from the social liberal party. However, one must not let the name deceive the true ideology of the party. Bolsonaro rose to power, by the means of populism, creating an "us against them" rhetoric, in the pro of family values, the protection of capitalism, and the overall well-being of the country. Thus, paving the

way for a new political current named "Bolsonarism" which many consider being the root of modern post-fascism in Latin America. Similar to Poland, Bolsonaro has unleashed attacks blaming the LGBTQ

community, ethnic minorities, and political opponents for being harmful to Brazil. Nonetheless, he is no longer the President, and under the current social democratic government, the country expects a change. This is not to say that half of the electorate

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that voted for Bolsonaro, still has strong nationalist beliefs that can wreak havoc upon society if a political clash (already being taken place) were to happen.

3.6 Recommendations from the Chair

In this specific topic, it is of the essence to correctly be able to define the terminology in question and to know what parts of the topic are to be addressed. Moreover, it is also important to look into the legal prospect of the problem and to observe to what extent the freedom of expression goes before actually causing real harm to society. Also, make sure to discuss the political impacts of post-fascism and what actions or recommendations can the committee take to eliminate the problem. Lastly, these are some standard recommendations for the committee:

- Answer the guideline questions
- Research to its fullest extent the topic
- Research the powers of the committee concerning what can be done with the topic
- Make sure to be prepared for the committee
- Do not hesitate to ask your presidents any questions or concerns about the committee or topic

3.7 Guideline Questions

1. What is your country's stance on post-fascism?

2. Are there any post-fascist parties in your country? and if yes, elaborate.

3. Do you think post-fascism falls under the category of "freedom of speech"?

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4. Identify and elaborate on the effects of post-fascism yielded on society.

5. What is the difference between fascism and post-fascism?

6. What do you think of populism as a political element?

3.8 Useful Links

1. **https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/article_306jsp/**

2. **https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/post-fascist**
3. **https://time.com/5556242/what-is-fascism/**

4. **https://www.livescience.com/57622-fascism.html**

4. TOPIC 2: U.S. China tech war

4.1 Introduction to the Topic

With every day that passes, every place in the world, no matter how isolated, becomes more dependent on new technologies to operate as a society, economy, and government. Another important aspect of the topic is information. If we refer to modern technology to gather data and statistics about society, we can identify the areas of improvement and also the areas in which we are doing well. As a result, citizens will be benefited in the long term, and governments will know the key areas where they can make a difference for the better. By a different order of ideas, we ought to think that 21st-century inventions, as simple as a smartwatch, a smartphone, or even a fridge, are meant to facilitate our lives in a way that we don't have to do activities that we used to in the past. The same goes for governments, modern military equipment or advanced

data-gathering servers, have paved the way not only to win wars under this context, but also to save countless lives, and as mentioned, ensure a great quality of life for all of its citizens.

Even though in today's reality, most of the aspects mentioned above are true and indeed technology might be changing our lives for the better, it might be also sparking a non-belical conflict between the two biggest economies of the world: The United States of America and The People's Republic of China. Although the U.S. surpasses China in terms of GDP by around 7 trillion USD dollars, by many accounts, China is set to become the world's biggest economy, as early as 2030 some experts predict. Some might question the integrity of the Chinese government concerning its society, but its structure as an economy cant be questioned, as the last decades have proven, the Chinese have scrambled a mighty plan that has made them not only the biggest tech producer in many areas of the industry but also has virtually taken over most of the manufacturing industry in the world.

So why? What makes China so great that it can exponentially increase its economy over the years and in the process, overtake what has been the world's greatest economy? Most argue that the fact that it has the world's biggest population contributes in some sort, which is in part true.

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However, many other states also host immense populations, as seen with examples in Africa or South East Asia, that don't prosper as much, and on the contrary, have struggling societies, where it is hard to even feed its society. It might come as a surprise, but China was like this 50 years ago (which will be further explained) but now it has prime advantages that have paved the way for growth. For instance, the fact that the Chinese government controls all the information in and out of their society, thus, controlling what its population thinks and how it acts. Furthermore, as it has an immense population, job opportunities appear to be scarce, making an individual take any occupation no matter how terrible the conditions (giving an incentive to foreign companies for cheap labor) Last and most importantly, the fact that even though the country claims to be Communist (and is in a way) it opens up to be a market economy for the wealthy, as well government "friends" allowing for a tremendous exporting and importing capability, all at the hands of the private sector.

  But why is this so problematic? It is clear that the plan of the Chinese has worked perfectly, and most likely, will continue to work for years to come, however, western countries like the U.S. are against this. While we have mentioned the topic of cheap labor as an incentive for foreign companies to be present in China for them to yield more profit, we haven't gone into the specifics. In the tech industry or not, China has been accused of and proven guilty to use ethnic minorities as free labor to provide for big companies. As a result, many corporations have pulled out of the country and the UN has called into question the ethics of growing the economy by suppressing information and using forced labor. On a different note, by having the incentive to move their operations to China, corporations have to lay off their employees in their home

country, as such, under the law are entitled to a better salary and better benefits, making them more costly for their employer. Lastly, by companies transferring their operations abroad, in this case to China, capital is removed from a certain country, in this case, the U.S. hence, leaving that other country with less ability to expand economically, with some side effects being less consumption and less tax surplus for social programs or the general operation of government.

To finalize, let's look at the most important aspect and possibly the root of this conflict between superpowers: dependency. As mentioned, China's plan for expansion has been and for the time being, will continue to be successful. But what does this mean? It means that if ten years ago the manufacturing or tech industry was diversified throughout the world, but as of the present day most of it is in China, what will happen in another ten years? Some worry that the answer might be complete domination over the economy, thus over the world, making virtually every country reliant on China for the imports and exports of their technologies. That same logic leads to the downfall of national industries (as seen with the U.S.) all while China gets stronger by the second.

4.2 Key Concepts

- Habeas data: the right to information and the legality of using such
- Semi-conductors: chips in computers that allow for the main operation of such
- Espionage: the practice of spying on one's enemies to acquire privileged information, usually of a confidential character
- GDP: Gross Domestic Product

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- Imports: products or services brought from another country

- Exports: products or services shipped out of the country

- Industrialization: the development of industries in a region and/or country. In this case, transitioning from an agricultural-based economy to an industrial-based economy.

- Tariff: a tax imposed by a government on exports and imports for a certain reason

4.3 Historical Background

The opium wars were the first major conflict between China and the western power, The United Kingdom. Said conflict did not happen because of territory, but because of a deficit in imports and exports. Back in that period, China was exporting way more than it imported, the U.K. Didn't like this, thus their solution was to make the Chinese population addicted to opioids to satisfy this deficit. Moving on, China's economy was mostly backed up by the farming sector, which was mostly comprised of local farmers, at the same time, struggling to make ends meet. Due to a weak government and an almost non-existent military, during the second world war, Imperial Japan controlled the province of Manchuria, or for context northern China. It did so, to grab as many natural resources as it could to help fuel the war effort, as mainland Japan didn't have any. As history taught us, Japan along with the axis powers, lost the second world war, thus, granting China independence. However, internal conflicts in the country led to a war between the nationalists and the communists, led by Mao Zedong, the founder, and chairman of the party. The communists ended up winning, with the capitalist side feeling to a nearby island Taiwan.

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As a communist republic, the now the People's Republic of China was now a close ally to the Soviet Union, which provided aid and other resources for the country to strive. However, from 1958-1961, the country was subject to a period known as "the great Chinese famine" which as the name states was a famine in which tens of millions died, with some attributing the responsibility to the reforms of the Communist party. While this was happening, across the pacific, the U.S. economy was striving and its military intervened in many worldwide conflicts, sometimes clashing with China as seen with the Korean war. Apart from the rivalry between both countries, U.S. President Richard Nixon paid a visit to China in 1972, to establish diplomatic and possibly economic ties.

Following this, in 1979, the U.S. Officially recognized the People's Republic of China, as sole China, thus, cutting ties with the Republic of China, otherwise known as Taiwan. As a result, this allowed for the industrialization of the country as well as the opening to the world's economy.

To follow the topic, in the early 2000s, shortly after the tech bubble hit most tech start-ups in the world, corporate power was consolidated in American companies like Microsoft or Apple. However, corporate giants like Alibaba (a.k.a the Chinese Amazon" also rose to the top,

marketing their products in mainland China under the leadership of Jack Ma. Bearing this in mind, in the early 2010s, the Chinese saw an excellent opportunity to prompt the industry, and thus, incentivized the production of tech products as well as for Chinese society to become engaged to the utmost extent in the use of new technologies (ideally Chinese ones) As a result, western tech and manufacturing companies shifted their production to China, and since then have been able to maximize their profits while selling their products at sky-high prices back home. This all sounded too good until the COVID-19 pandemic started in the city of Wuhan, Hubei. The first case triggered a nationwide lockdown, in measures known as the zero-covid policy, where quarantine was enforced on suspected cases and the manufacturing industry virtually came to a halt. It must be noted that the United States, under President Trump's leadership also started a tariff war over imports and exports, further contributing to the troubles in question. As a result, in May of 2022, companies like Apple announced measures to shift production out of China, because of a poor supply chain, products from the zero-covid policy as well as what some might suspect, avoiding dependency on only one country for manufacturing their products.

4.4 Current Situation

There is no doubt whatsoever that the problem of just depending on either the U.S. or China for the production, distribution and consumption of tech products needs to be solved. However, in the present, there is a greater question regardless of whom produces more tech products or increases their economies more, about how tech products are used in real life. Espionage has been a factor that subjects entire countries to danger in times of conflict, whether violent or not. In this case, the conflict is between the United States and China. It has been said that industrial

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espionage and cyber theft go back to the start of the century, nonetheless, it was first in 2018, that the Trump administration brought to notice that Chinese tech products could potentially be used for corporate or governmental espionage.

On the other hand, over recent years, it has been discovered that the Chinese government uses espionage to garner foreign tech designs, to then replicate them into their own. Because of an advanced workforce as well as having the necessary surplus of capital, they can successfully recreate those products to fit their purposes. Also, having the ability to sell those same products domestically without the foreign competitor that previously made them. As a result, the United States is striking down Chinese companies that operate on its soil, as well as using Chinese tech products for strict government use. Logically, this has prompted U.S. sanctions on China (also endorsed by president Biden) that amount to hundreds of billions of dollars. Talking about the financial sector, the United States has also stated that it would be barring the presence of certain Chinese firms from selling participation in the stock market, and by that fact, removing capital from the federal pension fund currently being invested in Chinese companies.

Apart from the interests of either China or the U.S. in the tech industry, the effects that have been yielded by the tech war on the world have been disastrous. Consider for instance, how the application of tariffs to products (tech ones) imported from either party, will have an impact on the world's economy. Or on the contrary, if either party suddenly started to restrict its exports to the industry just for the sake of "winning the war" In sum, the possibilities are endless, but one thing that cant be brought up to debate is the fact that China and the U.S. are completely

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dependent on one another, as China wouldn't be anything with U.S. consumption and the U.S. would be nothing with Chinese manufacturing. As a result, the international community must find a solution before it is too late, and tech products become a bargaining chip in the world's economy.

4.5 Cases and Response

As mentioned, geo-political tension between both countries has never been higher before, not only with the tech industry but also because while the U.S. fiercely defends Taiwan, China's greatest foe, China is pouring billions into Africa in a so-called "new imperialism" to seize important lands. With this in mind, the topic of espionage has become of paramount importance, especially for the U.S. On various occasions, its intelligence agencies have reported the attempt from China to interfere with communications in regards to the top branches of U.S. politics, or even the notable attempt, where China tried to spy on the African Union's main headquarters. Consequently, the U.S. and its allies have taken measures like removing Chinese telecommunications from their soil. A notable consequence of the removal of Chinese tech from the United States was when in 2020, wildfires erupted in California, unable of being stooped, because the drones used ad-hoc were Chinese-made, and despite their perfect condition, they were scrapped, taking into account that they could be used to send crucial information about U.S. territory and technology back to Beijing. Or when the Trump administration came very close to banning the social media app "TikTok" because there was a growing worry that data from its

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U.S. users could be sent back to Beijing for some type of review, also falling under the category of espionage.

To further elaborate on the topic of information, the Chinese have the upper hand, as previously mentioned, they control the influx of information in and out of the country, which is different from the U.S. That by its first amendment right grants the complete freedom of speech. As an illustration, when the COVID pandemic started, videos by Chinese doctors reporting on the situation were immediately taken down. Additionally, billionaires from China like Jack Ma have criticized the Chinese government for their actions regarding the tech industry, however, this resulted in Ma disappearing from public sight for months, with some, even speculating about his death. As a result, international organizations like the UN have called out China, because the right to information (habeas data) in the UN charter is legally binding to all member states, nonetheless, China doesn't seem to comply.

As mentioned, following the dot-com bubble, tech development consolidated in the hands of the few. In many cases, this has resulted in big corporations like Microsoft, paying fines up to tens of millions of dollars, while the private sector in China gets bigger and more concentrated

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by the second, due to poor government regulation. Consequently, as an individual developer, it is very complicated to introduce new technology to the markets, as such will be instantly taken by the power and resources of big tech. Lastly, a realm of technology where the U.S. and the west exceeds is in semiconductors, or the chips that give the capability for a computer and/or technology of any type to operate. In light of this, China is set to invest 150 billion USD over the next years to exceed in this industry, to possibly stop being reliant on western chips, to put in computers, or even military equipment, which is the main concern within this context.

4.6 Recommendations from the Chair

For this topic, it is important to understand the risks of being dependent on the U.S. or China for tech products, as well as crafting effective solutions that are within the committee's reach and are beneficial to all the parties involved. Lastly, here are some recommendations for the committee:

- Answer the guideline questions

- Research to its fullest extent the topic

- Research the powers of the committee concerning what can be done with the topic

- Make sure to be prepared for the committee

- Do not hesitate to ask your presidents any questions or concerns about the committee or topic

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4.7 Guideline Questions

1. What is the root cause (s) for the U.S. China tech war?

2. What is your country's stance on tariffs?

3. Who is the main buyer of goods/services from your country? And what goods/services?

4. What consequences should there be for those that engage in cyber theft?

5. What do you think needs to be done to reduce dependency on either the U.S. or China for tech products?

6. What international regulations should be in place to control corporate monopolies?

4.8 Useful Links

1. https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/19/demarais-backfire-sanctions-us-china-technology-war-semiconductors-export-controls-biden/

2. https://www.scmp.com/knowledge/topics/us-china-tech-war-rivalry/news

3. https://time.com/6234566/how-us-win-the-tech-war-with-china/

4. https://www.mei.edu/publications/chips-table-escalating-us-china-tech-war-impacts-mideast

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5. LIST OF COUNTRIES

1. China - Xi Jinping

2. USA - Joe Biden

3. Russia - Vladimir Putin

4. India - Narendra Modi

5. Italy - Sergio Mattarella

6. Japan - Fumio Kishida

7. Germany - Frank- Walter Steinmeier

8. Romania - Klaus Lohannis

9. Iraq - Abdul Latif Rashid / Tim Cook - CEO of apple

10. Israel - Isaac Herzog

11. Brazil - Jair Bolsonaro

12. UK - Rishi Sunak

13. France - Emmanuel Macron

14. South Korea - Yoon Suk Yeol / Jack Ma - co-founder of Alibaba Group

15. North Korea - Kim Jong-un

16. Spain - Pedro Sanchez

17. Pakistan - Arif Alvi

18. Iran - Ebrahim Raisi

19. Argentina - Alberto Fernandez

20. Vietnam - Nguyen Xuan Phuc

21. Lebanon - Michel Aoun

22. Bolivia - Luis Arce

23. Egypt - Abdel Fattah El- Sisi

24. Nigeria - Muhammadu Buhari

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25. Netherlands - Mark Rutte

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https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/11/19/demarais-backfire-sanctions-us-china-technology-war-semiconductors-export-controls-biden/

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