



## TEXAS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020-21



### Chair Report

### SPECPOL

Chair: Kate Markham

The primary role of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee or SPECPOL is “ is tasked with a wide range of political issues focused around decolonization, peacekeeping efforts, and peaceful uses of outer space.”

#### **REPORT: Neocolonialism in Africa**

#### **Introduction**

Africa has faced colonialism for almost all of its history. The country holds a wealth of natural resources- over 30% of the world’s mineral reserves, including salt, diamonds, and gold. They also possess a significant amount of oil and natural gas. These resources have been one of the main factors drawing other nations toward Africa. Countries such as Spain, Portugal, Britain, and France, among others, began global exploration in the 14th century, and the repercussions of these actions still affect life for African citizens and the development of African countries today. Though colonialism in its original form of pillaging, murder, and military force isn’t the norm, the concept has adapted to fit our new world. Advanced nations have found more modern, surface-acceptable ways to dominate less developed countries and by extension, continue to control their people.

There have been quite a few tactics used over the years- conflict intervention, conditional aid, financial deals, and economic dependencies are just a few of the most well-known. These policies have been enacted in application to many different countries, but for this conference, the most applicable will be African nations, especially former colonies, and developed countries, especially those with former colonies in Africa, such as Britain, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Keep in mind that neocolonialism comes in many different forms and fashions- not all policies are blatant grabs for power. Some will probably look like they come from a place of genuine kindness. It will be important to study the original goals and repercussions of



## TEXAS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020-21



neocolonialist policies, not just the policies themselves. The goal of the developed countries relying on neocolonialism is to gain power and control, possibly blocking growth in the countries they exploit in the process.

### General Overview

Neocolonialism is the use of “economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, particularly former dependencies.” (Oxford dictionary.) In other words, it’s taking control of a less-developed country through indirect means. Since the 1950s, when many African nations finally gained their independence, powerful countries have had to change their strategies of control. Outright military violence and beating nations into submission clearly wouldn’t work anymore, and it would damage their reputations. But the recently freed countries weren’t particularly powerful. They didn’t have much economically, politically, or governmentally. So developed countries like Britain, France, and the United States, among others, began attempting to seize control in other ways. In 1947, one of the first neocolonialist policies was enacted. The US offered money to governments that were willing to accept American defense from communism. This was called the Truman Doctrine, and was recognized by critics, even at the time, to be a way for the US to claim more power. Though this policy didn’t really affect African countries, it opened the door to more controlling policies in the rest of the world. In 1957, European countries included newly freed African nations in their global trade networks, called the European Economic Community, or EEC. There have been countless neo-colonialist policies enacted on Africa in the year since the EEC and Truman doctrine.

The repercussions in Africa have been undeniable. The stunted growth and third-world of many African countries correlates, directly or indirectly, with the interference of developed nations. Africans today suffer not just from the past actions of powerful countries, but from those countries’ current policy, too. By maintaining an unbalanced power dynamic between highly developed countries and less developed countries, which keeps those less developed countries reliant on and thus loyal to the powerful countries, Africa’s growth is stunted, which continues to trap them in a cycle of poverty that stretches down to their poorest citizen.



## TEXAS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020-21



### Major Parties Involved

- African countries, especially former colonies; a few are listed below
  - Ghana
  - Eritrea
  - Tunisia
  - Guinea
  - Mali
  
- Former colonial countries; major power players are listed below
  - France
  - Britain
  - Italy
  - Belgium
  - The Netherlands
  - Spain
  - Portugal

### Timeline of Key Events

March 12, 1947: The Truman Doctrine, (one of the first-ever neocolonialist policies,) is enacted by President Harry S. Truman and the acting congress. Though it didn't affect Africa, it set an important precedent that paved the way for future policies.

1957: The Treaty of Rome establishes the EEC (European Economic Community,) which will stunt growth in Africa until it's revoked.

2000: The ACP and EU sign the Cotonou Agreement.

2002: France provides military intervention in the Ivory Coast

2003: The US establishes long-term military bases in Iraq; some critics refer to them as a form of colonialism.

2020- The Cotonou agreement is renewed until Dec. 2020. Negotiations are active.



## TEXAS MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020-21



### **Past Attempts at Resolving This Issue**

2000- The UN, acting heads of state, total of 189 countries: Millennium Development Goals (MDG) are signed

2015- The UN General Assembly (GA): Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) are signed

2020- EU and ACP: Negotiations for a new Cotonou Agreement are ongoing

### **Suggested Websites**

- [History of Colonialism in Africa](#)
- Britannica-
  - o [Neocolonialism](#)
  - o [EEC/Common Market](#)
  - o [Truman Doctrine](#)
- [United Nations- Decolonization](#)
- [Europe's History of Military Intervention in Africa](#)