



JUNIOR ACADEMY MODEL UN X

UNSC

TOPIC GUIDE

Jason Goodman
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JUNIOR ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

– Tenth Annual Conference –

JAMUN IX SECRETARIAT

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Hello Delegates and welcome to JAMUN X!

My name is Jason Goodman (He/Him), and I am one of the co-chairs in the UNSC committee at JAMUN this year. I'm a freshman in The Academy for Business and Finance here at Bergen County Academies.

I was actually in your shoes last year, as I attended JAMUN IX when I was in 8th grade and greatly enjoyed my experience there. In fact, I enjoyed my experience at JAMUN so much last year that I decided to pursue Model UN at the High School level. I have been able to attend conferences such as Yale Model UN and Washington Area Model UN, and I've loved all of my Model UN experiences. I've met many amazing people and made many friends through Model UN. I have improved my public speaking and research skills, learned more about the world, and gained a greater understanding of diplomacy and international relations. Model UN has provided me with many amazing opportunities and experiences, and I hope that you can all find such value in Model UN as well.

I do actually do some things with my life outside of Model UN. I am a part of BCA's math team and Quiz Bowl team, volunteer at a local food pantry, attend DECA competitions, and love studying geography (In fact, I'm attending the national geography bee this year). In a less academic setting, I enjoy watching American football, fishing with my uncle, and playing casual basketball and baseball.

I'm very excited to chair this committee and see what fascinating ideas you can come up with. I hope to cultivate an environment for intense yet respectful debate to find creative solutions to the issue at hand. Please reach out to me or Yaseen with any questions or concerns about the committee, and let's make a great JAMUN X!

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Hello Delegates from far and wide and welcome to JAMUN X!

My name is Yaseen Saeed, and I am one of the co-chairs in the best committee in this entire conference, UNSC. I am a freshman at BCA, in the Academy for Medical Science and Technology,

I did not even know what Model UN was until this year, yet I have made it my home. I started this year, yet I have been to many different conferences such as YMUN in Yale and WAMUNC in Washington DC. Model UN has taught me great public speaking methods, and has helped me improve my presentation skills significantly, and I hope that through this conference, you all break out of your shells here. I also met great friends during Model UN, showing that it is not all about being a “power delegate.” You can get to meet many people across the world through Model UN, like I, and many others in this club, have.

My entire life, believe it or not, is not just Model UN. I try to pick up community service opportunities across this county. As well as this, I play a few sports, such as soccer and tennis, and I am an avid soccer and football fan (Go Giants!). I also do some medical research here at BCA, which is so much fun!

I am happy to chair this committee and I hope that you all are even more excited about resolving the issues that come up throughout this committee. This committee, and this entire conference is nothing without you all from all across the area participating, learning, and sharing your ideas with others. If you have any questions about the committee, Model UN, or BCA life in general, please feel free to reach out to me or Jason.

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INTRODUCTION

It's a common story on most Western news outlets to say that North Korea has violated some international law in their quest for nuclear weapons, but the heart of the issue on the Korean peninsula is far more complex than just that. Since the utter destruction of the small East-Asian nation by American bombs in the Korean war of the 1950's, North Korea has sought nuclear weapons. The North Korean government has claimed that they only want weapons as security for defense. Whether these weapons are for the purpose of defense or revenge is something that has been highly debated, but what is certain is that the North Koreans have succeeded. While it is unknown when North Korea first acquired nuclear weapons, the first successful test of a North Korean nuclear weapon occurred in 2006. As of 2023, North Korea is believed to have between 20 and 55 nuclear weapons, including at least one ICBM. North Korea has claimed success in creating an even more powerful hydrogen bomb, but this is currently unconfirmed. North Korea has conducted at least 6 nuclear tests over the last two decades, many of which in the areas very near to South Korea and Japan.

TOPIC: North Korean Missile Crisis

Introduction (Continued)

This move, perceived by some as a direct threat of an offensive North Korean nuclear strike, has exacerbated the conflict in the region. In addition to these nuclear developments, North Korea has access to uncountable non-nuclear missiles and weapons that could just as well be a threat. With North and South Korea's diplomatic relations becoming even more heated than usual and the crisis seemingly soon to reach a boiling point, delegates must find some middle ground to deescalate the situation and prevent nuclear war.



The geography and current borders of the Korean Peninsula

History of the Issue

To understand this complex issue, it is important to first understand the history behind Korea and how its political situation has arrived to where it is today. While the history of Korea is long and fascinating, this will only focus on the modern history of the peninsula, that of its situation in the 20th and 21st centuries.

To begin, Korea entered the 20th century under the control of the Japanese. This would only change in 1945 after the defeat of the Japanese in World War II. Korea, which had largely supported the Allies throughout the war, was promised independence by the Allies in the Cairo Declaration. When Soviet and American forces were closing in on Korea at the very end of the war, it was agreed that all Japanese forces North of the 38th Parallel would surrender to the Soviets and all forces South of the 38th Parallel would surrender to the Americans. This agreement was the first step towards the division of Korea into North and South, (13).

From here, peace was temporarily achieved in Korea from 1945-1950 as both the Americans in the South and Soviets in the North built up fighting forces to potentially fight a war for the peninsula.

On June 25th, 1950, Soviet troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the South. At first, the invasion was very successful, with Soviet troops taking Seoul and pushing the South Koreans to the edge of the peninsula. The Americans alongside the UN itself quickly responded, condemning the invasion and sending in troops and funds. Though most of the troops fighting for the South were South Korean or American, Great Britain, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand and South Africa also provided soldiers and money. The forces fighting for the South initially saw much success, driving the North Korean soldiers up to the border with China near the Yalu River. However, in 1951, China entered the conflict on the side of the North and drove the South Korean armies back near the 38th parallel. From here, the war turned into a stalemate. Sides continued to fight for the next two years with significant death tolls, but no side could make much progress. An armistice was signed in 1953, establishing borders near the 38th parallel that remain to this day, (4).

In between the chaos and strategic mess of the Korean War, one of the greatest atrocities mankind has seen occurred in North Korea. American and UN forces dropped more than 635,000 tons of bombs on North Korea including 32,000 tons of napalm, killing almost 20% of the North Korean population in the process. It is additionally estimated that about 85% of all buildings in North Korea were destroyed, including almost all urban areas.

History of the Issue (Continued)

This level of destruction and death is unprecedented, and, in the eyes of some, a war crime. No matter the reasoning behind these actions, they would undoubtedly establish an anti-American sentiment in North Korea that persists to this day, (5,6).



An image of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, in 1953

The political situation in both South Korea and North Korea was incredibly problematic following the end of the Korean war. After years of foreign involvement and conflict, neither society could quickly get back on their own feet with a functional, independent government. In the South, 6 Constitutions would be ratified between 1953 and 1987 as several military coups occurred and martial law was declared 4 separate times. It was not until 1987 with the Sixth Constitution that South Korea achieved a relatively stable democratic government, (7).

In the North, things were actually looking better than in the South for the first few decades after the Korean war. Kim Il-Sung, the leader of North Korea in the Korean war, was able to build an authoritarian state with close ties to the Soviet Union that was at least politically stable. However, this mirage of stability was broken in the mid 1990's with the North Korean famine. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, North Korea was unable to produce enough food on their own and the consequences were disastrous. Estimated death tolls range from 240,000 to 420,000. Throughout this time, many peace negotiations were attempted, but they all turned out to be futile. Occasional military skirmishes and simple ideological differences had caused any attempt at reunification negotiations to fail quickly, (8).

A new and alarming development to many in the West arose in 2006 when North Korea tested their first successful nuclear weapon. It was small compared to most nuclear weapons, but the fact that an authoritarian nation now had nuclear technology was incredibly alarming to the United States. North Korea admitted to the test internationally, but stated publicly that its, "Nuclear test was entirely attributable to the US nuclear threat, sanctions and pressure,".

North Korea would face significantly increased international pressure and sanctions to disband their nuclear program after this test, but it proved to be useless. North Korea would test another, even larger nuclear weapon in 2009, and then again in 2013. The UN continued to call for sanctions against North Korea, but they again proved to be useless. North Korea would launch a fifth test in 2016 despite these sanctions and threats of more. The most recent and largest of North Korea's nuclear tests was in 2017, in which the North Korean government claims to have detonated a hydrogen bomb, (2,3). While this cannot be confirmed, it is true that the explosion was larger than all of their previous tests. This mostly brings us into the situation today.

Current Situation

Today, North Korea is in the midst of a crisis that will likely determine the future of nuclear weapons on Earth. Currently, North Korea has access to many nuclear explosives that are illegal under international law. Additionally, North Korea has access to unknown numbers of non-nuclear missiles, including ICBMs capable of hitting targets all over the world. With this seemingly representing a major threat to the safety of the world's people, various nations have worked for peaceful solutions to this problem, but none of them have been at all successful, (11).

The current gravity of the situation is simple: North Korea has access to between 20 and 55 nuclear explosives. This could also potentially include the even more destructive hydrogen bomb, a device capable of destroying a city. This firepower is in the hands of the volatile leader of North Korea, Kim Jong-un. He has repeatedly and directly threatened to take nuclear action against South Korea, Japan, and the United States in recent years. North Korea has claimed that they've made many nuclear advancements and have the proper technology to launch a nuclear weapon at the mainland United States. It's unknown how much of this is actually true, but it is certain that they have some nuclear capability and that Kim Jong-un's rhetoric indicates that he would be willing to use them, (1,3)

Current Situation



Hwasong 15, a North Korean Missile

These direct threats in addition to North Korea's ability to actually carry out these threats have caused the UN and world to be incredibly concerned about North Korea's actions. A variety of steps have been taken against North Korea to deter future nuclear development, but they have not been effective so far. The largest part of this has been the implementation of many sanctions against North Korea by the governments of various nations including the United States, United Kingdom, France, South Korea, and Japan. Current sanctions by these nations include bans on most international trade, something significantly damaging North Korea's economic viability. However, North Korea is currently continuing with its nuclear program despite these sanctions and the damage they have caused to North Korea's economy.

Estimates from 2021 place the GDP per capita of North Korea at about \$600, the tenth worst of any nation on Earth, (9). The North Korean people are suffering economically because of Western sanctions, but North Korea is continuing their nuclear program nonetheless, (11).

In addition to sanctions, a variety of other plans are being considered to deal with this crisis. For one, it has been proposed that, rather than attack the North Korean economy, nations should use spyware and military technology to hinder North Korean nuclear developments and stop tests. This idea has long been considered by Japan, with Japan's government claiming that they will "Shoot down any threatening North Korean projectile" in future tests. Additionally, some nations such as Russia and China wish to not interfere in North Korea at all. They believe that, as long as no nuclear war is started, nations such as North Korea should be able to build up the ability to defend themselves from the perceived oppressors of the West.

Currently, North Korea is expanding its nuclear arsenal and has declared their intention to use it. This is perceived by some as a direct threat to global peace and by others as a nation simply defending its own sovereignty. The fates of North Korea and the nuclear world will be decided by the United Nations Security Council. It is crucial that whatever decisions you make allow for a prosperous and peaceful future for humanity.

Country Policies

North Korea

North Korea is currently interested in keeping its nuclear arsenal intact, as well as continuing its nuclear missile tests. North Korea is also interested in building more nukes, which is in direct violation to the many treaties which banned this. North Korea currently has a very negative attitude towards the West in general, and especially the United States, due to the horrors of the Korean War. North Korea is friendly with other nations that also have a nanti-Western attitude such as China and Russia, (3).

South Korea

South Korea's take on this situation is that North Korea should get rid of all of their nuclear bombs. They feel very threatened by North Korean nuclear bombs, for they are on terrible terms with North Korea, due to their differing policies on running their countries, amount of freedom, and the Korean war 75 years prior to now. They are receiving support from NATO and Japan, which are all big allies. South Korea does not observe North Korea as a country, (3).

United States

The United States has imposed many sanctions towards North Korea, including an import and export ban. This is due to the North Korean growing nuclear arsenal, as well as their growing number of human rights violations. The UNited States has been directly funding North Korea's rivals, South Korea.

In addition to this, the United States feels especially threatened by the growing range of these missiles, which may be used against Pacific Ocean naval bases, Hawaii, or even west coast cities such as San Francisco or Los Angeles. The United States considers North Korea to be a direct threat to global peace and intends to use a variety of means to hinder the North Korean nuclear effort, (2).

Japan

Japan is another country that is physically very close to North Korea that is fully against their possession of nuclear weapons. They, like the United States, have imposed many sanctions on the North Korean government and economy. They have felt very threatened by North Korean actions, with test missiles landing uncomfortably close to their mainland. Thus, they are strongly against North Korean missiles, and against their government. They are working with the governments of the United States, South Korea, and many NATO nations to end the perceived threat of North Korean nukes, (14).

NATO

The NATO alliance (France, United Kingdom, Slovenia) firmly agrees with the stances of Japan, South Korea, and the United States. They believe that the North Korean government is endangering the world. They feel threatened by the government style, with one of the only pure dictatorships in the world. That is one reason why they have imposed sanctions on North Korea.

Another reason that NATO feels threatened by NATO is that North Korea has threatened the entire western world with nukes, attacks, etc.

Non-NATO Western Europe

Many nations in Western Europe that are not part of the NATO alliance including Switzerland, and Malta hold a similarly anti-North Korean sentiment to the NATO nations. The key difference is that these nations are less interested in getting militaristically involved and are overall in support of less foreign intervention in North Korea. They have the same distaste for North Korean nuclear programs, just less of a desire to directly address it.

China

China is one of a few countries that has directly announced their support for the North Korean nuclear programs. They have violated the sanctions against North Korea, which has earned them some sanctions as well. They have relations with North Korea, and have helped with North Korean nukes. One interesting fact is that China has nuclear bombs as well. China has a favorable opinion on Russia and North Korea, while an unfavorable opinion on NATO, Japan, and South Korea.

Russia

Russia is another country that supports North Korea, although not as much as China. Russia has sour relations with almost every western country, including NATO. This is due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which has caused many sanctions against Russia.

Russia does not directly support the North Korean nuclear program, but a shared anti-Western sentiment causes Russia and North Korea to work together in opposition to the West. This has manifested itself in several joint military operations between North Korea and Russia that deeply concern the West, (10).

Africa

North Korea actually has deep economic ties with a variety of African nations, as Africa is the region that has placed the least sanctions on North Korea overall. Many African nations do not directly support or denounce North Korea's nuclear operations, but their decisions are largely motivated by economics. At the moment, that means working with North Korea, but that could change if more sanctions are placed on North Korea's trade partners, (12).

South America

North Korea and South America simply do not have that much to do with one another. There is some trade between the two regions, with North Korea importing a modest amount of goods from the Continent. Politically, South America takes a very neutral stance, often acknowledging international sanctions of North Korea but not actively seeking to end the North Korean nuclear program because they simply do not feel threatened. Like many African nations, many South American nations will make decisions based upon money and who can provide them with the most trade.

Potential Solutions

There are currently several schools of thought in terms of the proper way to deal with the North Korean Missile Crisis. They are:

1. Sanctions – A variety of nations have already placed economic sanctions limiting trade with North Korea so long as it maintains its nuclear program. The idea is that expanding international sanctions on North Korea so long as it has access to nuclear weapons will force North Korea to end its nuclear program to preserve its economic viability. This plan has been used often in the past, but has not been particularly successful. While expansions on current sanctions are thought of as something to potentially help, this plan is often criticized for the fact that North Korea does not seem to respond to it, making it ineffective, (11).

2. Direct Military Action – A variety of nations have claimed that the best response to this issue is to take direct military action against North Korea. It is believed by some that North Korea will inevitably start a nuclear war unless direct action is taken now. This plan would involve war, and has been criticized because of the various issues for human rights and world peace that such a war would cost, (2).

3. Forcibly Stop Nuclear Development – This plan mostly involves doing whatever possible to stop North Korea from furthering their nuclear program and destroying current components of North Korea's nuclear arsenal through military techniques and espionage. This is not full scale attacks on North Korea, merely the promise to methodically destroy North Korean missiles and shoot down test rockets, (14).

4. Nonintervention – It has also been widely considered by many nations that the best strategy is to simply not interfere with North Korean affairs. This stance is held for many different reasons. Some nations believe that North Korea has the right to defend itself against the West, some believe that North Korea isn't really a threat, some believe that foreign nations and the UN should not interfere with the affairs of small nations and that interference sets a bad precedent. Whatever the reason, this plan would allow for North Korea to develop nuclear missiles unhindered by the world, (10).

Questions to Consider

- Does your nation have access to nuclear weapons? If so, does your nation believe that more nations have the right to attain them? If not, does your nation want to attain them?
- Does your nation believe that sanctions can be an effective strategy in dealing with the North Korean government?
- Has your nation established official diplomatic ties with North Korea?
- Has your nation ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons? If so, how much does your nation prioritize nuclear disarmament? If not, why not?
- Does your nation prioritize preserving national sovereignty or enforcing international law in North Korea?
- Does your nation believe that North Korea has a right to defend itself against the West?

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