



SPECPOL

Modern Slavery and Neocolonialism in Latin America

STUDY GUIDE

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I. Letter from Secretary General

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the Modern Model United Nations Conference. My name is Berçem Aydın, and I will be serving you as the Secretary General for this special event. I have been involved in the Model United Nations world for 8 years, and as the founder of Future Flow Social, I am excited to collaborate with Modern Eđitim College for this event.

Many of you may have your reasons for attending this conference; perhaps some of you were drawn by the excitement of the conference or the chance to connect with new people! However, I can assure you that Model UN is about so much more. It offers a unique opportunity to explore professional life, immerses you in a dynamic diplomatic environment, and helps forge friendships that feel like family. Additionally, it enhances your language, debating, and lobbying skills while encouraging you to find innovative solutions to global challenges, fostering your analytical thinking.

This year, our theme is "Resilience and Innovation in a Changing World." In today's fast-paced environment, the ability to adapt and innovate is crucial. We will explore how we can cultivate resilience and leverage creativity to address the pressing issues our world faces.

I encourage you to approach each session of this intellectual journey with an open mind, a spirit of collaboration, and a commitment to finding innovative solutions that embody resilience in a rapidly changing world. Your active and enthusiastic participation is fundamental to the success of this conference, and I am confident that your contributions will make it truly exceptional. I firmly believe this will be an unforgettable experience for all of us, and my final advice is to make the most of the three days you will spend with us!

With warm regards,

Berçem Aydın
Secretary General, ModernMUN'24
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II. Letter from President Chair

Esteemed delegates of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to MODERNMUN'24 and the SPECPOL Committee. I am İlayda Büyükcay, a junior student at Istanbul University Department of Political Science and International Relations and I will be serving as the President Chair of this committee.

Modern slavery is an issue that has persisted for centuries and whose effects are still felt today. In fact, this situation is not limited to the region, but has made its impact felt all over the world with its trans-Atlantic effects. Although the situation has been officially abolished, we still continue to see its widespread effects in the region in various ways.

The issue of neocolonialism is a phenomenon that continues today, even if some countries deny it, by binding countries to themselves not in a simple sense but in a deeper sense. The fact that the same languages are spoken in different countries is the simplest example of this. No matter how simple and harmless this situation may sound, when we examine it, it actually contains many negative effects in multiple senses. Neocolonialism, on the other hand, is not only limited to simple phenomena, but has also made countries economically dependent on themselves and prevented them from becoming independent.

These phenomena have led to human rights violations, which we call our key rights, and have been the subject of many international cases. As I myself have done indepth work in this field, I wanted to give you examples of practical work and treaties from the perspective of a human rights lawyer. At the same time, we thought it would help you to understand the subject if we divided it into two separate topics for you.

Finally, I would like to thank my deputy chairs Ahmet Kıvanç Şahbaz and Nur Balcı for their great help during our preparation for the Committee. They prepared for you better than you can imagine. Please feel no hesitation to approach us if you have any questions or concerns during the conference.

Best regards,

İlayda Büyükcay

III. What is the United Nation (UN)?

The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 Member States, the UN and its work are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. The UN has evolved over the years to keep pace with a rapidly changing world. But one thing has stayed the same: it remains the one place on Earth where all the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions that benefit all of humanity.



The main bodies of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat. All were established in 1945 when the UN was founded.

The Secretariat carries out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other main bodies. The Secretary-General is the head of the Secretariat, which has tens of thousands of international UN staff members working at duty stations all over the world.

The United Nations is part of the UN system, which, in addition to the UN itself, comprises many programmes, funds and specialized agencies, each of which have their own area of work, leadership and budget. The UN coordinates its work with these separate UN system entities, all of which cooperate with the Organization to help it achieve its goals.

IV. Introduction

A. Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations (UN) system was established to promote inter-state cooperation and secure international peace within the complex and dynamic structure of international relations. Within this system, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) emerged as an important institution responding to the changes in international politics at a time when



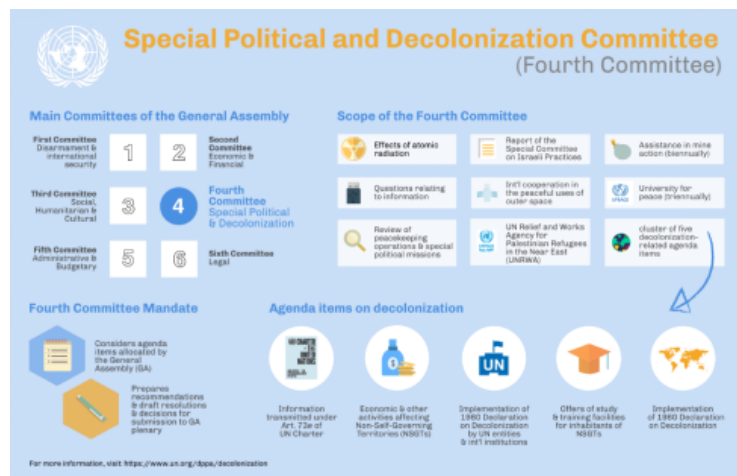
decolonization processes were accelerating. Since its establishment, SPECPOL has been an important example of the importance the UN attaches to the decolonization process and its active role in this process.

The main reason for the establishment of SPECPOL was the importance given by the UN to the decolonization process and the need to find solutions to the problems experienced in this process. In particular, the anti-colonial struggles in Africa, Asia and Latin America made it necessary for the UN to deal with this issue more effectively by creating a special committee.

SPECPOL considers a broad range of issues covering a cluster of five decolonization-related agenda items, the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, a comprehensive review of the question of peacekeeping operations as well as a review of special political missions, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Israeli Practices and settlement activities affecting the rights of the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories, and International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. The Committee works to eliminate the remnants of colonialism

in the world and to solve the problems of newly independent states, supports efforts to resolve regional political problems such as the Cyprus problem and the Western Sahara problem, works on issues such as space law, space non-proliferation, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and mitigation of the effects of nuclear leaks, and works on issues such as access to information, freedom of the press and intercultural communication.

SPECPOL's main mandate is to take decisions on the issues on its agenda. These decisions, while usually advisory in nature, have a significant political impact on UN member states and the international



community. The Committee's decisions are submitted to the UN General Assembly and, if approved, become part of international law. It prepares comprehensive reports on the issues on its agenda. These reports provide important information to UN member states, civil society organizations and academia. The reports examine in detail the origins of the problems, the current situation and the proposed solutions. It monitors the implementation of UN resolutions by member states. It monitors whether member states fulfill their commitments, especially in decolonization processes. It works in close cooperation with other organs of the UN (Security Council, Economic and Social Council, etc.). In particular, coordination with the Security Council plays an important role in resolving political problems.

Moreover, the complexity and multidimensionality of the issues within SPECPOL's mandate complicate the work of the committee. Issues such as decolonization processes and the resolution of political problems require long-term efforts and do not allow for easy solutions.

It is important to remember that there are different solutions for different committees. For example, in a security committee, proposing an awareness-raising solution would be a distraction from the main purpose of the committee, which is to find solutions to security

problems. In a committee such as SPECPOL, proposing a military solution may be contrary to the committee's quest for peaceful solutions. It is important that the proposed solution is feasible and realistic. For example, a proposed solution that interferes in a country's internal affairs may contradict the principles of international law. Creating long-term and sustainable solutions is the primary goal of a committee such as SPECPOL. At the same time, short-term and temporary solutions may not be effective because they do not address the root causes of the problem.

B. Introduction to the Topic

Latin America is a region of rich natural resources, cultural diversity and historical struggles. But behind this richness also lies the dark side of modern slavery and neo-colonialism.

Modern slavery refers to the forced labor, sexual exploitation or restriction of people's freedom. While it has similarities with slavery systems of the past, in today's globalized world it operates in a more complex and clandestine manner. Neo-colonialism means the continuation of the economic and political influence of former colonial powers through new methods. In this process, the natural resources of developing countries are exploited, their economies come under the control of foreign powers and their political decision-making mechanisms remain under the influence of foreign powers.

Despite their independence, Latin American countries have not fully recovered from the effects of neo-colonial relations and modern slavery. Political instability, economic inequalities and poverty in the region have paved the way for the spread of modern slavery. People working in agriculture, mining and service sectors in particular are subjected to low wages, poor working conditions and the threat of violence. At the same time, criminal organizations such as drug trafficking and human trafficking operate in the region, increasing the dimensions of modern slavery.

Modern slavery and neocolonialism in Latin America is a serious problem not only for the region but for the whole world. In addition to leading to human rights violations, it hinders economic growth, deepens social injustice and causes political instability. Moreover, the presence of modern slavery in global supply chains can lead consumers to unconsciously support these crimes.

Modern slavery and neocolonialism increase regional instability, triggering migration flows and strengthening terrorist organizations. This raises many security challenges in the international arena. Modern slavery reduces the economic potential of countries and leads to unfair competition in global trade. The violation of the fundamental rights of millions of people brings about events that become a common shame of humanity. As a result, these problems undermine Latin America's image in the international arena and make cooperation with countries in the region more difficult.

Modern slavery and neocolonialism in Latin America is a serious human rights violation that must be addressed as a global problem. Solving this problem requires the joint efforts of the international community, governments, civil society organizations and the private sector.

V. Modern Slavery in Latin America

A. Keywords

the Americas: The Americas, sometimes collectively called America, are a landmass comprising the totality of North America and South America. The Americas make up most of the land in Earth's Western Hemisphere and comprise the New World.

Servitude: The state of being a slave or completely subject to someone more powerful.

Chattel slavery: It means that one person has total ownership of another having the ability to command or use them in any way they desire. There are two basic forms of chattel one being domestic chattel, with menial household duties and the other being productive chattel, working in the fields or mines.

Enganchadores, coyotes, polleros, or gatos: Are commonly used slangs for the person you ask to get you across to the United States that originate from Spanish.

B. Definition and Types of Modern Slavery

It would be fair to say that modern slavery is a very relevant issue in our society today, and that it can often be hidden from view. It is possible for people to become enslaved in a number of ways, including making our clothes, serving our food, picking our crops, working in factories, or working in houses as cooks, cleaners or nannies. It is possible that victims of modern slavery may face violence or threats, be forced into inescapable debt, or have their passports taken away and face being threatened with deportation.

It should be noted that while human trafficking can include movement, this is not a prerequisite. It is possible for individuals to be classified as victims of trafficking regardless of whether they were born into a state of servitude, were exploited in their hometown, were transported to the exploitative situation, previously consented to work for a trafficker, or participated in a crime as a direct result of being trafficked. At the heart of this phenomenon is the traffickers' aim to exploit and enslave their victims, which they achieve through a range of coercive and deceptive practices. Many people have fallen into this trap because they were trying to escape poverty or insecurity, improve their lives and support their families. Now, they are unable to leave.

Types of Modern Slavery could be categorised into 7:

1. *Human trafficking:* The use of violence, threats or coercion to transport, recruit or harbour people to exploit them for purposes such as forced prostitution, labour, criminality, marriage or organ removal/harvesting

2. *Forced labour*: Any work or services people are forced to do against their will, usually under threat of punishment
3. *Debt bondage/bonded labour*: The world's most widespread form of slavery. People trapped in poverty borrow money and are forced to work to pay off the debt, losing control over both their employment conditions and the debt
4. *Descent-based slavery (where people are born into slavery)*: It is an ancient form of slavery, where people are treated as property, and their "slave" status has been passed down the maternal line.
5. *Child slavery*: When a child is exploited for someone else's gain. This can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery
6. *Forced and early marriage*: When someone is married against their will and cannot leave. Most child marriages can be considered slavery
7. *Domestic servitude*: Domestic work and domestic servitude are not always slavery, and when properly regulated can be an important source of income for many people. However, when someone is working in another person's home, they may be particularly vulnerable to abuses, exploitation, and slavery, as they might be hidden from sight and lack legal protection.

According to the global estimates of modern slavery (2022) from Walk Free, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration: 49.6 million people live in modern slavery – in forced labour and forced marriage. Roughly a quarter of all victims of modern slavery are children. 22 million people are in forced marriages. Two out of five of these people were children. Of the 27.6 million people trapped in forced labour, 17.3 million are in forced labour exploitation in the private economy, 6.3 million are in commercial sexual exploitation, and nearly 4 million are in forced labour imposed by state authorities. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the conditions that lead to modern slavery. Migrant workers are particularly vulnerable to forced labour.

C. Historical Background

Latin America provides a historical laboratory for the study of African slavery and abolition. Plantations with enslaved workers of African descent existed from Cuba to Venezuela, Colombia, and Peru—not to mention Brazil, the greatest slavery-saturated society of all. In addition, slavery was also a profoundly urban phenomenon in Latin America. Even in regions like Argentina, without plantation agriculture, slaves worked as artisans and domestic servants in every colonial city founded by the Spanish and the Portuguese. In the early 1800s, a quarter of the population of Buenos Aires was made up of black slaves. Lima and Mexico City, places not associated today with inhabitants of African descent, were once full of slaves, too. In most parts of Latin America, slavery declined immediately after independence and was abolished totally around 1850. The great exceptions are Brazil and Cuba, where the importation of slaves actually accelerated during those years and abolition did not come until the 1880s.

The process of slave emancipation in Latin America and the Caribbean was protracted and tortuous, beginning in the late eighteenth century with the Haitian Revolution, an event with profound consequences for slave regimes everywhere in the New World, and finally coming to an end with the abolition of Brazilian slavery in 1888. During that century, slavery was more pervasive than ever before in terms of the number of slaves working in the Americas, while also being more vulnerable given the rise of abolitionist movements, the spread of antislavery sentiment, and the numerous military and political crises that gave slaves opportunities both to escape enslavement and to take up arms against the institution. A comprehensive discussion of all the twists and turns in Latin American and Caribbean emancipation is impossible in these pages. Instead, this brief entry will offer a broad description of the forces that set the stage for emancipation and highlight them with specific examples from several countries, such as Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, and Jamaica. Though there was great variation in slave regimes and in the pressures leading to slavery's destruction across this geographically, economically, and politically diverse region, one overarching typology of slave emancipation will suggest the varieties of experience: on the one hand, emancipation via anti-colonial rebellions, on the other emancipation through the legal process of abolition, keeping in mind that this division was not hard and fast and that in some cases both causes were at work in the same country.

After the gradual emancipation of most black slaves, slavery continued along the Pacific coast of South America throughout the 19th century. Peruvian slave traders kidnapped Polynesians, primarily from the Marquesas Islands and Easter Island, and forced them to perform physical labour in mines and the guano industry of Peru and Chile.

Although on September 16, 1825, President Guadalupe Victoria, on the occasion of the Independence celebrations, ordered the erection of a stage in front of the Diputación, whose words engraved in wood expressed the right to freedom for slaves, Mexicans, the majority of whom were indigenous people from all parts of the Mexican Republic, continued to be segregated and used as slaves until the end of the Mexican Revolution.

Another example is in the 20th century The Amazon rubber boom and the associated need for an increasing workforce had a significant negative effect on the indigenous population across Brazil, Peru, Ecuador, and Colombia. As rubber plantations grew, labor shortages increased. The owners of the plantations or rubber barons were rich, but those who collected the rubber made very little, due to a large amount of rubber that was needed to be profitable. The rubber barons rounded up all the Indians and forced them to tap rubber out of the trees. One plantation started with 50,000 Indians, but when discovered, only 8,000 were still alive. Slavery and systematic brutality were widespread and in some areas, 90% of the Indian population was wiped out. These rubber plantations were part of the Brazilian rubber market, which declined as rubber plantations in Southeast Asia became more effective.

D. Current Situation and International Efforts

An estimated 50 million people were living in situations of modern slavery on any given day in 2021, according to the latest Global Estimates of Modern Slavery. Of these people, approximately 27.6 million were in forced labour and 22 million were in forced marriages.

The most vulnerable — women, children, and migrants — remain disproportionately affected. More than 12 million of all people in modern slavery are children, and women and girls account

for over half of them (54 per cent). Migrant workers were three times more likely to be in forced labour than non-migrant workers.

Modern slavery occurs in every country, regardless of wealth. More than half (52 per cent) of all forced labour and a quarter of all forced marriages can be found in upper-middle income or high-income countries.

The new Global Estimates revealed that the situation is worse than when they last measured in 2016. Since then, the number of men, women, and children forced to work against their will or in a forced marriage has risen by 10 million. The worsening situation has occurred against a backdrop of increasing conflict, environmental degradation, over a decade of global democratic decline, a global rollback of women's rights, and the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it. These compounding crises have led to significant disruption to employment and education, increases in extreme poverty, and forced and unsafe migration, which together heighten the risk of all forms of modern slavery, particularly for those who are already vulnerable.

Latin America continues to grapple with the pervasive issue of modern slavery, despite ongoing efforts to combat it. According to the Global Slavery Index 2018, Mexico leads the region with an estimated 7.1 million victims, followed by Colombia (2.2 million) and Brazil (1.4 million). Prevalence rates vary across countries, with Mexico having the highest at 0.42% and Costa Rica the lowest at 0.02%.

The region's vulnerability to modern slavery is exacerbated by factors such as economic inequality, poverty, lack of education and opportunities, weak governance, and organized crime. Common forms of modern slavery in Latin America include forced labor, sex trafficking, and debt bondage. The most affected sectors are agriculture, mining, construction, and domestic work.

To address this pressing issue, governments in Latin America have implemented various initiatives, such as national action plans to combat human trafficking and forced labor. These

plans often involve law enforcement measures, victim protection programs, and public awareness campaigns. Additionally, regional organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS) have adopted frameworks to promote cooperation and coordination among member states in combating modern slavery.

Despite these efforts, modern slavery remains a significant challenge in Latin America. Continued international cooperation, national action, and public awareness are essential to eradicating this scourge from the region.

We will briefly talk about the 4 figure treaties created to prevent this situation. Firstly, *The Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery*, the full title of which is the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery, is a 1956 United Nations treaty which builds upon the 1926 Slavery Convention, which is still operative and which proposed to secure the abolition of slavery and of the slave trade, and the Forced Labour Convention of 1930, which banned forced or compulsory labour, by banning debt bondage, serfdom, child marriage, servile marriage, and child servitude.

The subjects of some of the items that we will characterize as key are briefly as follows:

Article 1: The parties commit to abolish and abandon debt bondage, serfdom, servile marriage and child servitude.

Article 2: The parties commit to enacting minimum ages of marriage, encouraging registration of marriages, and encouraging the public declaration of consent to marriage.

Article 3: Criminalisation of slave trafficking.

Article 4: Runaway slaves who take refuge on flag vessels of parties shall thereby ipso facto attain their freedom.

Article 5: Criminalisation of the marking (including mutilation and branding) of slaves and servile persons.

Article 6: Criminalisation of enslavement and giving others into slavery.

Article 7: Definitions of "slave", "a person of servile status" and "slave trade"

Article 9: No reservations may be made to this convention.

Article 12: This Convention shall apply to all non-self-governing-trust, colonial and other non-metropolitan territories to the international relations of which any State Party is responsible.

Secondly, *The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (OPAC)*, also known as the child soldier treaty, is a multilateral treaty whereby states agree to: 1) prohibit the conscription into the military of children under the age of 18; 2) ensure that military recruits are no younger than 16; and 3) prevent recruits aged 16 or 17 from taking a direct part in hostilities. The treaty also forbids non-state armed groups from recruiting anyone under the age of 18 for any purpose

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the treaty as a supplementary protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child by resolution 54/263 on 25 May 2000. The protocol came into force on 12 February 2002. The treaty consists of thirteen articles.

As of January 2023, 173 states are party to the protocol. A further 7 states have signed but not ratified it.

Thirdly, *The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (commonly abbreviated as the CRC or UNCRC)* is an international human rights treaty which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The convention defines a child as any human being under the age of eighteen, unless the age of majority is attained earlier under national legislation. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, composed of 18 independent experts, is responsible for supervising the implementation of the convention by

the states that have ratified it. Their governments are required to report to and appear before the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child periodically to be examined on their progress regarding the advancement of the implementation of the convention and the status of child rights in their country.

The UN General Assembly adopted the convention and opened it for signature on 20 November 1989 (the 30th anniversary of its Declaration of the Rights of the Child). It came into force on 2 September 1990, after it was ratified by the required number of nations. As of 31 August 2024, 196 countries are party to it, including every member of the United Nations except the United States.

Two optional protocols were adopted on 25 May 2000. The First Optional Protocol restricts the involvement of children in military conflicts, and the Second Optional Protocol prohibits the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. More than 170 states have ratified both protocols. A third optional protocol relating to communication of complaints was adopted in December 2011 and opened for signature on 28 February 2012. It came into effect on 14 April 2014.

The convention deals with child-specific needs and rights. It requires that the "nations that ratify this convention are bound to it by international law." Ratifying states must act in the best interests of the child.

In all jurisdictions implementing the convention requires compliance with child custody and guardianship laws as every child has basic rights, including the right to life, to their own name and identity, to be raised by their parents within a family or cultural grouping, and to have a relationship with both parents, even if they are separated.

The convention obliges states to allow parents to exercise their parental responsibilities. The convention also acknowledges that children have the right to express their opinions and to have those opinions heard and acted upon when appropriate, to be protected from abuse or exploitation, and to have their privacy protected. It requires that their lives not be subject to excessive interference.

The convention also obliges signatory states to separate legal representation for a child in any judicial dispute concerning their care and asks that the child's viewpoint be heard in such cases.

The convention forbids capital punishment for children. In its General Comment 8 (2006) the committee stated that there was an "obligation of all state parties to move quickly to prohibit and eliminate all corporal punishment and all other cruel or degrading forms of punishment of children". Article 19 of the convention states that state parties must "take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence", but it makes no reference to corporal punishment. The committee's interpretation of this section to encompass a prohibition on corporal punishment has been rejected by several state parties to the convention, including Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Fourthly, *The 1926 Slavery Convention or the Convention to Suppress the Slave Trade and Slavery* is an international treaty created under the auspices of the League of Nations and first signed on 25 September 1926. It was registered in League of Nations Treaty Series on 9 March 1927, the same day it went into effect. The objective of the convention is to confirm and advance the suppression of slavery and the slave trade and was extended in 1956 with the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, under the auspices of the United Nations.

The convention established concrete rules and articles to advance the suppression of slavery and the slave trade.

Slavery was defined in Article 1 as;

the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised,

The slave trade was defined as including;

all acts involved in the capture, acquisition or disposal of a person with intent to reduce him to slavery; all acts involved in the acquisition of a slave with a view to selling or exchanging him; all acts of disposal by sale or exchange of a slave acquired with a view to being sold or exchanged, and, in general, every act of trade or transport in slaves.

VI. Neocolonialism in Latin America

A. Definition and Concept of Neocolonialism

Neocolonialism is a term derived from the word colonialism therefore it is important to first understand the concept of colonialism. Colonialism is the practice of gaining partial or full authority and control over another country, occupying their land with settlers and exploiting their economic resources. Colonialism has had a major impact on the world including Latin America, the region was colonized by Spaniards and the Portuguese from the late 15th century to the 18th century. To put the effect of colonialism into perspective, The Spanish Crown had only allowed Christians to migrate to Latin America in order to impose European culture over the natives. Now several Latin American countries speak Spanish and are Christian, most of them being Roman Catholic, this indicates that the culture that predated the arrival of Europeans into Latin America was changed by the acts of colonizers, therefore changing their own culture to some extent.

Neocolonialism as we know today refers to the control of an independent state by a further developed state through indirect means. The term is seen as the modern form of colonialism where instead of a country's government directly colonizing another country, the colonial exploitation is done through other organs such as but not limited to: transnational corporations, global and multilateral institutions. In 2024 the term "Neocolonialism" is unmistakably a

negative one. It is an act achieved through causing economic dependency, cultural assimilation, ideological domination and sometimes even foreign aid to create colonial-like exploitations of countries. Despite that, the term wasn't always something negative. On the contrary, when the term was first proposed it didn't carry any meaning that could be understood as colonialism.

When the term was first proposed it applied to the continued political relations between European countries and their former colonies in Africa that had been liberated after the Second World War. The idea was first used in the context of decolonization of African countries during the 1960s by Kwame Nkrumah, the president of Ghana from 1960 to 1966. For him Neo-Colonialism was complex, a way of exploitation that gradually developed overtime without being noticed and a far more dangerous act than colonialism. He also showed that without economic independence, political freedom does not carry a meaning.

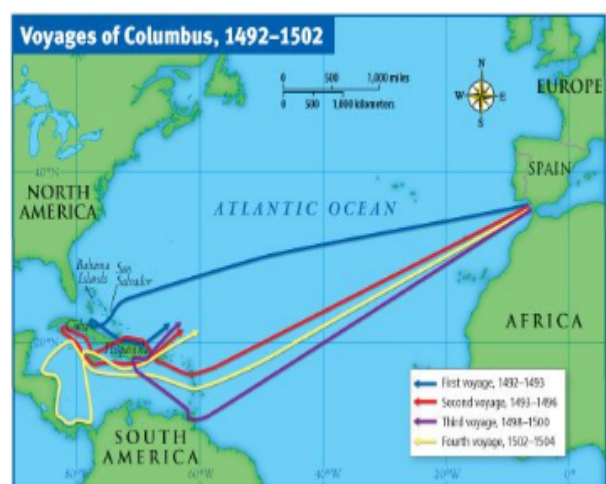
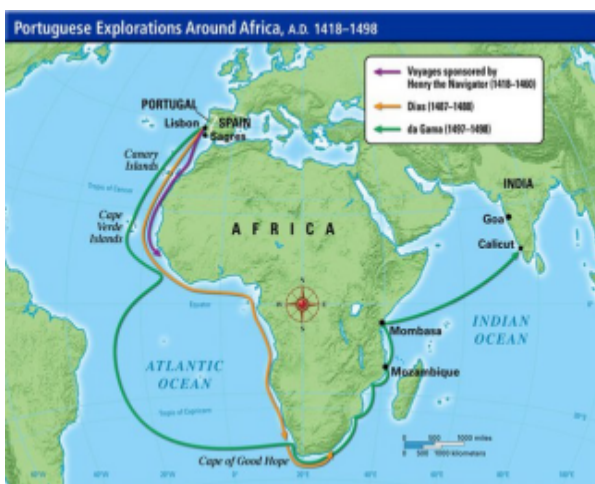
B. Historical Context

1. The Colonial Era

The colonial era in Latin America began in the 15th and 16th centuries when discovery voyages were done by explorers such as Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci to the “New World”, the unexplored lands of the Americas. In 1532, the first Portuguese settlement was created in Brazil. The Portuguese explorations in the Americas also gave roots to European colonialism in other parts of the world.

The main motives of European colonialism in the world were religious and financial motives. When the Portuguese began their colonization attempts their goal was to reach the source of the spice trade in Asia by encircling the Ottoman Empire which at the time held control of the spice routes into Europe from Asia, The Portuguese wanted to reap the profits of the spice trades for themselves by not having to rely on the Ottomans to give Europe access to the trade. In 1488 Bartolomeu Dias demonstrated that it was possible to sail around Africa through the “Cape of Good Hope”. The success of the Portuguese led the Spanish to begin financing a mission by Christopher Columbus to find alternative routes to Asia in 1492. The mission of Columbus to find alternative routes to Asia was thought to be possible by sailing towards the West, this led to him ending up in the Caribbean and thinking he made it to the coast of India but in reality he had set foot to a new continent unknown to Europeans.

With the new discoveries disputes quickly rose over claims of newfound territories and sea routes. These disputes were solved by the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 which divided the New World between Spanish and Portuguese monarchies. With this treaty the Spanish and Portuguese influence over South America was established and for centuries both monarchies had gained significant economic profit from the resources and labor of the region while imposing European culture and religion over the natives of the region. The Roman Catholic Church established many missions in Latin America to spread the word of Christianity and allow Christians to migrate to Latin America. Spanish and Portuguese settlers arrived in the



region with increasing numbers, they enslaved the local population and treated them poorly which resulted in the deaths of many slaves and natives. The decimated population of local slaves did not stop the settlers, soon the lack of forced labor in their hands were replaced by slaves that had arrived from Africa which allowed them to further exploit Latin America.

2. Independence of Latin American Colonies

The decolonization of the Americas had occurred over several centuries and the first independence movement in the Americas was the American Revolution which resulted in the defeat of the British in the American Revolutionary War (1773-1783). The defeat of the British Empire was not a simple defeat, it was a revolution against a major world power where the revolutionaries came out victorious and with the revolutionary wave influenced by the French Revolution colonies in Latin America had started to question their allegiances to their colonizers which resulted in the creation of several independent countries in Latin America. The Haitian Revolution which lasted through 1791 to 1804 resulted in the independence of the

French colony. Spanish colonies or the Spanish Creoles had started to question their allegiance to Spain after the occupation of Spain by France during the Napoleonic Wars and in 1803 the Spanish American Wars of Independence started. The Portuguese colony Brazil gained its independence following the French invasion of Portugal where Pedro I of Brazil declared himself the emperor of an Independent Brazilian Empire in 1822. These events had liberated most of the colonies in Latin America with only three Caribbean colonies of Spain remaining by the end of 1800s. With the Spanish-American War in 1898 which resulted in the United States gaining Guam and Puerto Rico, territories of Spain in the Caribbean. The colonial influence of Spain in Latin America has ended.

3. Present Day Independent Latin America

Today Latin America consists of 33 countries with many distinct properties. Some are small island nations and some are massive countries. While some of them are home to sweeping deserts, some of them consist of rainforests that are home to the biggest ecosystems in the world. Though these countries can be very different from each other, they share similarities in culture, most speak the same language and majority of the population believe in the same religion. These were all a product of European colonialism in the region and unfortunately it wasn't just their culture that was affected by colonialism. There are many ex-colonies throughout the globe that exist today and to this day we can still see the problems that were caused by colonialism. Ex-colonies including Latin American countries struggle to become an important part of the global economy and trade even though these countries in question are very lucky when it comes to their geography. Many of them contain important natural resources yet we don't see these countries capitalizing on these opportunities, these countries don't make the choice of not turning the goods they have in their hands into profits in their case they simply cannot. Colonialism has paved the way for Neocolonialism in the region, for centuries Latin American countries remained under the control of their colonizer where their natural resources were extracted and exported to the will of the colonizers. Creating an economy based on solely exporting and not processing these goods, which is a perfect opportunity for many multinational corporations to make profit off of this economic structure. To face Neocolonialism, Latin American countries need to find ways to become self reliant and change their economic structure that remains from the colonial era.

C. Contemporary Forms of Neocolonialism

1. Contemporary form of Neocolonialism

Economic dependency is the problem many developing countries today face. One of the most common ways a developed country can exploit off of a developing country is to create trade imbalances. Latin American countries mostly export raw materials and import finished products which are produced from the raw materials they export. A developed country can easily take advantage of this by simply importing cheap raw products from Latin American countries, processing the raw materials and selling the manufactured end product back to Latin America for profits. This makes Latin American countries rely on other countries in order to both export raw materials and purchase manufactured products. The reason Latin America does not hold a significant industrial power is the lack of infrastructure for logistics and industry, which also makes it harder to become a major power in global trade.

Industrializing Latin America: When it comes to industrialization Latin America faces three major problems. Not being able to compete with European, North American or Japanese firms, lack of capital for projects and corruption. The problem we face with industrialization projects is the lack of infrastructure such as roads, ports and electricity. Latin American countries need to develop a strategic industrialization policy by identifying the sectors that have high potential for growth. Though focusing on a couple key sectors could solve the issue temporarily, in the long term it would create an economy even more reliant on natural resources and ultimately harm sectors outside of industry. Many Latin American countries also heavily depend on a few commodities. Some examples to this would be how Venezuela is dependent on crude oil or Chile with copper which made up 45% of Chile's exports in 2022. It can also be said that many Latin American countries depend on agriculture to some extent with Brazil being the country that exported the most agricultural goods with roughly 86 million tons in 2024 Brazil also supplies more than 60% of sugar cane production every year. Brazil is followed by Argentina which is 3rd on the most agricultural goods exported list with roughly 37 million tons exported in 2024. When economies are built around a few commodities like this, the economy also becomes vulnerable to global price changes where a change in a single product could affect an entire country's economy. Efforts in order to diversify exports and industrialize developing countries could be accelerated with allocating more capital. Governments need to provide financial support for research and development projects in industrialization and vocational

education to provide an efficient labor force. The other factor that makes industrializing challenging is logistics infrastructure. Latin American countries are countries with very diverse geographical conditions. Roads are often unpaved and in remote areas roads aren't even big enough for multiple vehicles to pass at the same time. Latin American countries need investment on their ports, railroads and roads to create an efficient supply chain inside the country.

Not being able to compete with foreign corporations: Latin American businesses often struggle against multinational corporations (MNCs) and many developed countries use this to their advantage to exploit Latin American resources. This can be explained by Latin America being less technologically advanced. Technological development isn't a quick solution, though it is necessary it simply won't help Latin America in the present. Multinational Corporations are a key factor in development and a path to internationalization, they can be a source of foreign direct investment which would allow Latin America to secure the funds they need for future projects. While this does come off as something positive, not being able to compete against MNCs would simply make local businesses lose importance which would make a country very vulnerable to neocolonialism. The way to both attract foreign direct investment while not solely relying on foreign direct investment is to create an efficient supply chain between Latin American countries. As mentioned earlier, Latin American countries often rely on a few commodities that are present in their countries. This does put individual countries into disadvantage but also creates an opportunity for Latin America as a whole. Free trade agreements and providing labor mobility is a great solution for this problem. A significant free trade agreement would be Mercosur. Its goal is to provide free trade; fluid movement of goods, currency and people with its member states. Right now Mercosur has 5 member states, 6 associate states and 2 observer states with all of them being Latin American countries except observer state New Zealand. All Latin American countries need to collaboratively work to establish trade agreements in the region and make use of the existing agreements by ensuring that local companies trade under the agreements and their rules of origin. Arguably, the backbone of an efficient supply chain is the labor force. Without qualified workers a country simply cannot operate no matter how technologically advanced they might be. Latin America has diverse demographics when it comes to the labor force. While certain regions might suffer from lack of qualified workers another region could be more advanced when it comes to training and education of workers. Latin American countries could use this to their advantage

for further development by providing opportunities for labor movement in the region. This can be achieved through agreements like free trade agreements but a less thorough approach that would affect individual countries would be to allow the movement of temporary workers in their countries with guest worker programs or temporary work visas, this would allow less developed countries in Latin America to make use of the labor force of more developed Latin American countries. An efficient supply chain would decrease the risk of the investments done therefore attracting foreign investment while creating a more competitive market inside Latin America.

Expanding the Latin American companies to other Latin American countries outside their origin country is a major step to take if a country wants to compete against multinational corporations that are present in the region. Latin America is home to almost 500 million people and promising industrial opportunities which provides a massive market for multinationals. This pressured Latin American companies that originally only served their home country's markets to expand into other Latin American countries' markets for a chance to compete, thus transforming themselves into "Multilatina" companies. The next step after this would be to expand into the global market. While establishing a common market in Latin America, countries need to work towards the region's development too. Associations like the Latin American Integration Association work towards both creating a common market and enhance the development of the region. What makes a country competitive in global trade is the value of goods they produce. While raw materials are often cheap and could be imported with ease, manufactured products add so much more value to the original raw material it is derived from. For value addition technological development is necessary with modern technological equipment and industrialization. Latin America needs to expand into other common markets with focusing on trade with regional bodies such as the European Union, Arab League, African Union etc.

The last challenge for not being able to create a competitive market is corruption. Corruption often decreases both public support and political will for projects. A significant foreign investment is needed for possible solutions to be implemented, corruption makes investors less interested in Latin American sectors due to the risks and non-clear economic policies and goals.

2. Cultural Assimilation

The less economic side of neocolonialism is attempting to assert one culture over a developing country. During the colonial times this was done through force which of course isn't the case today. If we look at how a country's culture can be influenced today we can see the huge role the media and the digital world plays. The dominant content in these platforms are mostly Western which could be used to disseminate Western ideologies and culture into Latin America. Local media needs to be supported and expanded in order to prevent the mass consumption of major global media and promote local media alongside them. Another way a developing country could be influenced by Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), while they generally do not carry ill intent, they could be used to expand the ideologies and political agendas of developed countries. In conclusion, the way cultural assimilation could be prevented would be to educate the masses on the potential dangers and support local NGOs in order to prevent the ill use of international NGOs.

D. International Responses

We will mention 3 important treaties here.

Firstly, *The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP or DOTROIP)* is a legally non-binding resolution passed by the United Nations in 2007. It delineates and defines the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, including their ownership rights to cultural and ceremonial expression, identity, language, employment, health, education, and other issues. Their ownership also extends to the protection of their intellectual and cultural property. The declaration "emphasizes the rights of Indigenous peoples to maintain and strengthen their own institutions, cultures and traditions, and to pursue their development in keeping with their own needs and aspirations." It "prohibits discrimination against indigenous peoples," and it "promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them and their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development".

The goal of the declaration is to encourage countries to work alongside indigenous peoples to solve global issues, such as development, multicultural democracy, and decentralization.

Due to the past and ongoing violence and abuse of indigenous individuals and peoples, the UN created this non-legally binding declaration as an aspiration for how indigenous individuals and peoples should be treated.

This declaration is a resolution, meaning it is not a law-bearing document. Indigenous peoples are not considered political nation-states and do not have access to international law protection through the international court of justice. Article 40 states that indigenous peoples have the right to fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with countries or other parties, because indigenous people cannot use the International Court of Justice, UNDRIP has no indication of which judicial power indigenous peoples are to bring disputes to.

The declaration's purpose is not to create new rights, but rather addresses topics such as indigenous reconciliation in regard to restoring and protecting culture, traditions, and indigenous institutions and the pursuit of self-determined development.

Secondly, *The United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs)* is an instrument consisting of 31 principles implementing the United Nations' (UN) "Protect, Respect and Remedy" framework on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Developed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) John Ruggie, these Guiding Principles provided the first global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse impacts on human rights linked to business activity, and continue to provide the internationally accepted framework for enhancing standards and practice regarding business and human rights. On June 16, 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council unanimously endorsed the Guiding Principles for Business and

Human Rights, making the framework the first corporate human rights responsibility initiative to be endorsed by the UN.



business-related abuses

The UNGPs encompass three pillars outlining how states and businesses should implement the framework:

- The state duty to protect human rights
- The corporate responsibility to respect human rights
- Access to remedy for victims of

Thirdly, *Framework for Effective Land Administration* is presented to the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management for endorsement. The Framework is developed for all countries both developing and developed, all jurisdictions and all other stakeholders. It is composed of two parts. The first part describes contextual background, provides relevant definitions, a high-level vision statement, and includes an outline of specific goals and objectives. The second part responds to the vision by elaborating on nine pathways for effective land administration and includes a series of priority actions as a guidance for implementation.

Effective land administration caters to all people, and must:

- Accelerate the proportion of population with tenure security,
- Develop confidence and trust, promote security, safety, peace and peace building,
- Promote efficient and vibrant land markets, where appropriate, and taking into consideration

aspects of land value and land development,

- Allow economic development through revenue systems that are equitable and fair,
- Contribute to smart and resilient societies,
- Cater to all circumstances, situations and people – in times of peace and prosperity, in times of stress and hardship (disaster and conflicts, migration and human displacement, poverty, food and water scarcity), and
- Promote and respect the inherent rights of indigenous peoples to their lands, territories and resources and recognize traditions, customs and customary tenures; and
- Promote preparedness, resilience (with increasing climate vulnerabilities), sustainable consumption and strong institutions.

This Framework is intended as a living document, to be periodically reviewed, updated, and tailored to suit local circumstances, the changing global context, and evolving political, technological, economic, environmental and societal landscapes.

VII. Case Studies

A. Child labour situation in Peru

Peru is an Alliance 8.7 Pathfinder Country and a member of the Regional Initiative “Latin America and the Caribbean Free of Child Labour”. The country has thus committed to accelerate action towards the eradication of child labour. Peru has ratified the relevant international instruments, such as ILO Convention No. 138 on minimum age of employment and Convention No. 182 on the worst forms of child labour. It also adopted laws and policies at national level to address it, like the National Strategy for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour 2012-2021. However, child labour remains an issue in Peru. The national household survey of 2019 showed that 18.9 per cent of children aged 5-13 were in child labour,

and that 9.1 per cent of children aged 14-17 were in hazardous child labour. These figures are likely to increase due to the negative impact of the Covid pandemic on the country.

The sectors that are the most affected by child labour are agriculture (including cotton production), fishing and mining, regrouping almost 60 per cent of all children found in child labour. Cotton production has existed in Peru since



pre Columbian cultures, and has stayed a traditional crop. But its cultivation involves all the members of the family, including children, often at the expense of their school attendance.

The project aimed at contributing to the elimination of child labour and forced labour in the cotton, textile and garment value chains in target producing countries. The project worked following an integrated approach, both by production area – covering all producing regions in the target countries – and by value chain – acting at all levels of the national cotton value chain. This approach allowed the project to address the basic needs of children and families at risk, working with local and national actors in the cotton sector.

B. The Maquiladora Industry in Mexico

Maquiladoras (also known as "twin plants") are manufacturing plants in Mexico with the parent company's administration facility in the United States. Maquiladoras allow companies to capitalize on the less expensive labor force in Mexico and also receive the benefits of doing business in the United States. Companies operating in the United States can send equipment, supplies, machinery, raw materials, and other assets to their plants in Mexico for assembly or

processing without paying import duties. The finished product can then be exported back to the United States or to a third country.

The concept was created by the Mexican government in 1965 to stimulate industrialization in northern Mexico. The idea was formulated in response to rising unemployment and growing global demand for low-cost production. Through maquiladoras, Mexico's primary objectives include



job creation, technology transfer, and generation of foreign exchange. There are now more than 570 maquiladora plants operating in Tijuana, providing more than 100,000 jobs.

Maquiladoras allow for one plant to perform labor intensive processes and another plant to perform capital intensive processes. The following are other advantages of the maquiladora industry by country:

- U.S. firms become more competitive in world markets by combining American advanced technology with the lower costs of Mexican labor and materials.
- Mexico offers lower wage rates than many Asian countries.
- The average company can save nearly \$1 million a year in labor costs.
- The United States experienced an increase in employment opportunities for skilled workers in warehousing, product finishing, and administration.
- Maquiladoras create employment opportunities and additional income in the border region.
- Exportation of maquiladora products brings needed foreign exchange into Mexico.
- Commercial deficit with the United States is reduced.
- Plants in Mexico that manufacture for export can temporarily import foreign components without payment of customs duties.

The impoverished maquiladora workers really have few choices and are forced to choose between working for starvation wages or not having employment at all. A husband and a wife working full time jobs in these factories still cannot earn enough money to decently support a family of four. It is economic subjugation. In too many instances, workers put in grueling 10 hour shifts 6 days a week doing difficult unhealthy jobs at an unreasonable work pace often around hazardous and toxic elements.

Maquiladora plants in general have an especially dismal record of exploitation relative to women and children. It has not been uncommon to find young children as young as 12 years old working in these factories under forged documents.

In 1999 the net wage for the average maquiladora worker was \$55.77 per week, after slicing the 4% union dues of \$2.32. The weekly minimum living expense for one worker was \$54. In addition to the pathetic wages and disregarded labor standards, the living and health conditions around these maquiladora factories are beyond belief.

A recent New York Times article said that because these workers have no financial resources, a nutritious meal for their family is an unattainable luxury. Many live in a squalid grid of dirt streets, rotting garbage, swamps of open sewers with unsafe water, overburdened or none existent schools and violence against the women.

VIII. Questions to be Covered

- How can we strengthen regulations and enforcement mechanisms to ensure transparency in global supply chains and prevent the use of forced labor?
- What measures can be taken to hold corporations accountable for human rights abuses, including modern slavery, in their operations and supply chains?
- How can we improve the protection of victims of modern slavery, including access to legal assistance, rehabilitation services, and safe shelters?
- What strategies can be implemented to empower workers and reduce their vulnerability to exploitation, such as strengthening labor unions and promoting fair labor practices?
- How can we strengthen existing international conventions, such as the International Labor Organization's Forced Labor Convention, to combat modern slavery more effectively?
- What role can regional organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS) play in coordinating efforts to combat modern slavery and neocolonialism in Latin America?
- How can partnerships between governments, international organizations, and businesses be leveraged to address modern slavery and neocolonialism?
- What policies and programs can be implemented to reduce poverty and inequality, which are key drivers of modern slavery?
- How can access to education and vocational training be expanded to reduce the vulnerability of individuals to exploitation?
- What strategies can be adopted to promote rural development and reduce the reliance of rural communities on exploitative forms of labor?
- How can Latin American countries diversify their economies to reduce their dependence on foreign investment and reduce the risk of neocolonial exploitation?

- How can Latin American countries negotiate fairer trade agreements that protect workers' rights and prevent exploitation?
- How can Latin American countries promote technology transfer and develop their own industries to reduce their reliance on foreign corporations?

IX. Extra Suggestions from the Committee President Chair

After you have finished reading the study guide, I recommend that you, as your president chair, research your country's policy and decisions regarding this situation.

When you have finished reading the study guide, you will realize that the information we have given you is more than sufficient in terms of general subject matter and is very instructive for you. The information provided in the topics will also be very helpful for you to raise your motions.

Our subject is both comprehensive and historically important and has been carried to the present day. For this reason, I have prepared a table of contents from my own perspective as a researcher of human rights and criminal law. Since there are also case studies, you will also have access to information in terms of case examples.

Do not forget that each of your opinions and thoughts are very important to me. Each of you is an important delegate to this committee as your countries have been carefully selected. Never forget that you can speak without hesitation. You are here as bright faces of the future, so your opinions are very important.

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