UNSC

ACADEMIC GUIDE OF UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

MUNUR XVI

Universidad del Rosario

MUNUR

XVI

UNIVERSIDAD DEL ROSARIO MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS

The Model of United Nations of Universidad del Rosario, MUNUR, is the first of its kind in Colombia. It is constituted as a space led by and for students to develop abilities such as debate, oratory, teamwork, and leadership. MUNUR is a space that allows students to explore the universe of the international system, taking an interest and learning from the different current, historical, and future problems.

MUNUR was born as a project of students from the Colegio Mayor de Nuestra Señora del Rosario in 2009. Following global trends, they decided to venture into these types of academic exercises that promote competition and debate. Additionally, MUNUR is a space of cultural diversity, where people around the country and the world gather to create bonds of friendship and inclusion in a society that so badly needs to strengthen fraternal ties.

For the 16th edition, we decided to bet on innovation and differentiation, without leaving behind our traditions and legacy that characterizes MUNUR. For this reason, we have created a wide range of committees for different passions and interests, with dynamics that challenge delegates so they can demonstrate their abilities and academic excellence.

This document contains the necessary information for delegates interested in this committee. It is important to remind everyone that the academic guide is only a recommended route of investigation proposed by the Honorable Dais. Nonetheless, it is the responsibility and duty of all the delegates to prepare properly for the days of the debate. Finally, we remind all of our attendees that the procedure rules can be found in the Handbook of this edition. We highly recommend that everyone interested in participating in this conference read this document carefully.

See you in MUNUR XVI!

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WELCOME LETTER

SECRETARY GENERAL
LAURA PEÑALOZA

H ello, everyone! Welcome to one of the best experiences you are about to have in your entire life. Yes, I'm talking about MUNUR XVI!

My name is Laura Peñaloza, and I have the great honor to present myself as the Secretary General for this edition. When I went to my first UN model, the only thing that crossed my mind was to win an award. And even though I got the diploma, that very same day, I realized that the reason I stayed and kept going to these events was because I discovered that the true purpose of them is for you to become a better version of yourself. Models of United Nations allow us to evolve into well-prepared professionals, masters of negotiation and oratory, but they also turn us into better people. As years passed by, I also realized that I not only wanted to be part of this growth, but I also wanted to help and lead projects that helped people become better.

That's how I ended up here, in MUNUR. With a dream of creating an event that will allow all its attendees to learn, to grow into better versions of themselves, and, most importantly, a place in which everyone could feel they are worthy and are appreciated. I want everyone to feel the magic of MUNUR, from its majestic history and spaces, through the nerves we all feel during the first session, and until the closing ceremony where we all hope to raise a hammer in our hands. Our mission is to make you feel welcomed and comfortable in every single space of the event, in order for you to live your participation to its maximum.

I invite you to challenge yourselves in this conference and demonstrate what you are capable of. Academic excellence comes with exhaustive preparation, expertise, and skills mastery, but it also comes with the values you share as a person. If you are capable of balancing and demonstrating all of this during the debate, I assure you will become an excellent delegate and an inspiration for many. I hope that MUNUR is the place where you fight out your fears and finally achieve all the goals that you've been working on constantly.

Lastly, I hope that this committee will be to your liking, that all the academic proposal gives you the satisfaction of a prestigious event with the proper preparation. And, above all else, I hope that you will find a safe place where your ideas are listened to and your solutions are highly valued. I will work hard for it, I promise. Can't wait to see you soon!

With love,
Laura Peñaloza

WELCOME LETTER

SUB-SECRETARY GENERAL
SANTIAGO RIASCOS

When I look back and see the whole journey of this road, I'm amazed at how I never imagined everything that would happen. For six years, I have been dreaming of this moment, thinking about representing my university three years ago, meeting the person who would bring me to MUNUR two years ago, and finally assuring that this journey was almost over last year.

It is the paradox of life. The work, the effort, the falls, but above all, getting up again and an unexpected turn of events bring me here today as Santiago Riascos Beltrán, Sub-Secretary General for MUNUR XVI. I am an eighth-semester student at the Universidad del Rosario. Many of the things that have happened during these eight semesters have shaped my path to this point and make sense at this moment, as we near the peak and end of this already long journey.

Six years ago, I started at UN with the sole purpose of learning, teaching, and learning through teaching. My first experience showed me that I wanted to make my path in Rosario, starting as a guy who was afraid to speak, whose hands and voice trembled constantly. But, that later, with hard work, dedication, and perseverance, those weak hands strengthened and turned the guy into someone who seeks academic and human excellence. I turned into a guy who taught people to come even better than me, so that the next leaders of Colombia and the world were formed from the core of this country. Here, in Rosario.

For me, it is a pleasure to receive you in what I call my home to live 4 days of intense debates, negotiations, and challenges that will always be present in MUNUR. A place where you will see reflected not only a dream but a bet for something different and innovative, and an event that I'm sure you will treasure as one of the best experiences and memories in your lives. In MUNUR, not only will you be able to learn, but also through your actions you will be an example for many, regardless of the position in which you find yourselves, because I hope you will handle it as a premise not to stop learning from those who were, are, and will be.
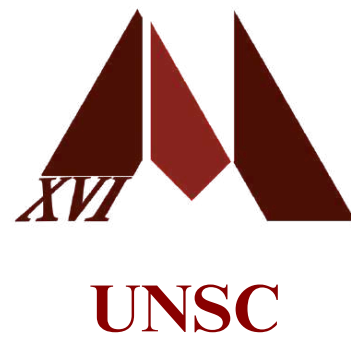
Without further ado, I wish you all, delegates, dais, sponsors, and spectators, to enjoy MUNUR XVI to the fullest, and welcome to my home.

With much love and affection,
Santiago Riascos Beltrán

WELCOME LETTER

GENERAL DIRECTOR
SOFIA PRADA

I It is an honor for me, as General Director, to extend to you the most sincere welcome to the16th edition of the Universidad del Rosario Model of United Nations, MUNUR XVI.

Since I was a girl, I have always dreamed of participating in models of UN. Throughout the years, I have had the privilege to live this experience as a delegate, as dais, as a member of the logistics staff, and today as General Director. Taking this role has been one of the greatest adventures in my life, full of challenges and good memories. But, counting on your participation is surely one of the best memories, which fills me with deep honor and gratitude.

For this edition, we are committed to carrying on the legacy and the tradition that have characterized MUNUR throughout the years. But also focusing on innovation, not only in academics, but in logistics too. We have worked pretty hard on every little detail, surprise, and experience for you to enjoy this year's conference. The team is completely sure that MUNUR will leave a mark on you for the rest of your life, and will let you build your future after this edition.

We are well aware that you have assumed the challenge of participating with the purpose of contributing to new ideas and solutions that will help to enrich the discussions over the current global challenges and problems. Your participation represents a precious contribution to the build-up of a more ethical, empathetic, critical, and compromised society with the world and with our people.

During the 4 days of MUNUR, you will find in each committee not only a place for negotiation, analysis, and debate, but also you will find an opportunity to grow personally and professionally. I hope that this experience inspires all of you to keep evolving into leaders who change lives as well.
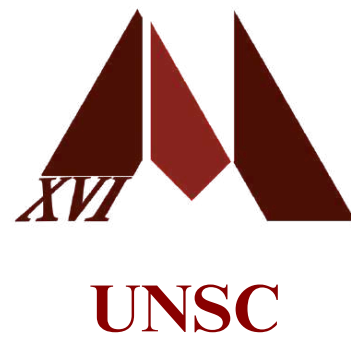
Wishing you the best of luck in this journey. And, lastly, I invite you to live this edition with passion, respect, and always be open to learn new things.

With love and admiration,
Sofia Prada Pachón.

WELCOME LETTER

SUB-DIRECTORA GENERAL
ISABELLA CUARTAS

Dear delegates,

Welcome to MUNUR XVI, a place where you will have the opportunity to challenge yourselves and discover the strength that each of your voices has. Here, every intervention counts, every argument transforms, and each one of you is essential to make this edition as unique and marvellous as ever.

As General Sub-director, for me it is a privilege to have you in this 16th edition that we have prepared carefully and full of love. I firmly believe that we learn the most when we get out of our comfort zones, when we debate with respect, and when we listen before answering. MUNUR is not about perfection; it is rather a safe place where you can feel free to make mistakes, rethink your ideas, and grow into a better version of yourself.

We want every single detail to speak for itself, and for every committee to come to life. Each decision we have taken, from logistics to academics, reflects our wish for all our attendees to feel motivated, supported, and valued. Because MUNUR will not be anything without each one of you, it is your ideas and your passion that give sense to this project. You are not here only to represent a delegation or a university; you are here to leave a mark, to inspire, and to be inspired. I hope that after these 4 days, you will remember your experience, for your performance, and for the new things you discover about yourselves.

Thanks for being here, for believing in us, and for being part of MUNUR XVI.

I wish you the best of luck and hope that you will enjoy every part of this model that was made with love, curiosity, and with our whole hearts.

With love,
Isabella Cuartas Gómez

WELCOME LETTER

Hello everyone, my name is Juan David Rincón, and I have the fortune of being your Under-secretary General for crisis committees for this MUNUR's edition. If I could describe MUNUR in one word, I would say evolution. I had the opportunity to be in three editions, and in each one of them, I have seen the growth of the conference, of the delegates, and of myself. I firmly believe that if you are a person looking for a challenge and trying new experiences that allow you to grow, you are in the right place.

Now, if you are reading this letter, it is because either you will be going to a crisis committee or you are a delegate who seeks to help your delegates. That's why all of you, more than anyone, understand the importance of this USG for everyone who is part of it. Crisis committees are my favourite ones because, beyond bringing your craziest and most fun ideas to life on a sheet of paper, the situations we recreate in debates, directives, and lobbies bring us closer to the challenges we would face in real life. These are situations. that involve taking quick and assertive decisions, which, as future leaders, we will often have to make, that is why, besides the fantasy that characterizes them, for me, crisis committees are the ones that are closer to reality.

At last, I want to give you some advice: believe in yourselves. Sometimes, things that people believe are a bad idea, a wrong plan, or anything that would not work out, it can turn into something great for everyone.
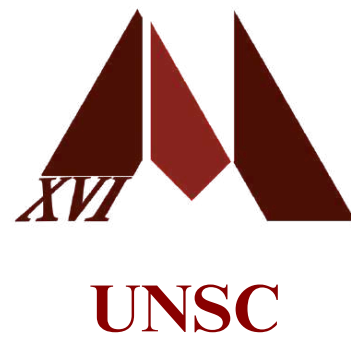
Without further ado, parchense and enjoy this edition of MUNUR XVI.

Juan David Rincón
USG for Crisis Committees
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WELCOME LETTER

USG OF CRISIS COMMITTEES

NICOLÁS GALLEGO

"**I**magination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand."

-Albert Einstein

Dear delegates, it is a great pleasure and honor to welcome you to the crisis committees of MUNUR. My name is Nicolas Gallego, and I'm currently studying Applied Mathematics and Computer Sciences with a double degree in Electronic Engineering at Universidad del Rosario. I'm 20 years old and from Pereira, which makes me proud to have the privilege of being part of MUNUR XVI as the USG for crisis committees.

I hope that this committee will be enjoyable for everyone and that within it, you will feel completely comfortable and safe to delegate and demonstrate your skills. We wish you could let fly your ideas and stand out from the others with your creativity and imagination, in a world where you don't see that freedom often, as it becomes overshadowed by the rules and expectations of everyone else. I will be here to listen to you in every single moment that you need it. Or if you are also looking for someone to count on, I will be here. I hope you can face every single obstacle during the conference, because the idea isn't to make your lives impossible, but rather to demonstrate your capacity to solve problems as creatively as possible.

Finally, thank you for giving yourselves the opportunity to participate in the marvellous crisis world. Welcome to MUNUR XVI.

With the warmest welcome,
Nicolas Eduardo Gallego Quiceno
USG for Crisis Committees
nicolasgq40@gmail.com
(+57) 314 785 3475

WELCOME LETTER

Dais

Mayra Espitia

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUR and to the United Nations Security Council. My name is Mayra Espitia, and I am pursuing a double major in Global Studies and Economics at Universidad de Los Andes in Bogotá, Colombia. My journey in the Models of United Nations began in high school. I was honored to be Head Delegate of the 8th delegation of the Uniandes Crisis Team, which participated at the Chicago University MUN (CHOMUN) in April 2025. I have had the privilege of participating in the Security Council twice before, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to once again be part of this distinguished committee at MUNUR.

The Security Council has been an invaluable space for my growth, not only as a delegate but also as an individual and a professional. I hope this experience pushes each of you to challenge your limits, strive for academic excellence, foster humility, and engage in meaningful cooperation to develop proactive and innovative solutions.

Beyond MUN, I have a deep passion for macroeconomics, altruism, and international politics. I am also a devoted Harry Potter fan and a lover of music in all its forms. However, what I cherish the most is creating unforgettable memories with the people I care about. I hope you all feel safe, inspired, and eager to learn throughout this journey. In case you have any questions before the conference, please feel free to reach out to me via email.

Looking forward to an incredible experience together!
Best regards,
Mayra Espitia
myaesmo@gmail.com
(+57) 3124528668

WELCOME LETTER

Dais

Carlos Medina

Dear Security Council delegates,

My name is Carlos Medina Rincón, and I am honored to introduce myself as your DAIS for this year's MUNUR Security Council, known as the most rounded and balanced committee in the country. Thanks to my legal studies background and passion for diplomacy, I am committed to fostering an intellectually rigorous and solution-based environment in which only the best will prevail. However, taking into consideration that MUN is also about having fun, my passions are sports, rap, and physics. I encourage everyone of you to be sincere with yourselves, make speeches about whatever makes you happy, and show your true self. Regarding academics, I'm a 10th semester law student currently studying a minor in criminal justice and criminalistics; sadly, I have never managed to leave MUN's because let me assure you that those soft skills transfer to the real world, and greed can get a real hold of you.

I have around 2 year experience in Criminal Law Firms and my MUN experience goes way too far back (perhaps more than I'd accept) but everything came together when I had the opportunity to go to HNMUN (Harvard National Model Of United Nations) in Boston, Massachusetts, where I managed to win an Honorable Mention at DISEC, the biggest committee you can be part of, so let me assure you again, MUN is not just a game as some may tell you.

In that order, my commitment to fostering critical thinking and diplomacy is unwavering. I am eager to lead you into a great experience and even better debate, where fairness, enthusiasm and hard work will hopefully work harmoniously into an experience you won't forget.

Let me know if you have any doubts or just want to say hello. We'll be in touch.

Carlos Medina
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WELCOME LETTER

Center Director
Mariana Fuquene

Welcome delegates,

My name is Mariana Fuquene, and I'm a 21-year-old student currently in my seventh semester studying Political Science and Business Administration at Universidad de los Andes. This is my fourth time participating in the Security Council committee, and I'm excited to dive in with high expectations. This committee serves as an essential forum for rigorous analysis and debate on global issues, providing us with a platform to enhance our critical thinking and problem-solving skills. More than just an academic exercise, it's an opportunity to stretch our minds and challenge our perspectives. These experiences push us beyond our comfort zones and help us grow, not just as students, but as individuals preparing to make a meaningful impact in our future careers.

My academic and personal interests are quite varied. I have a strong passion for soccer and sports in general, which have imparted valuable lessons in teamwork and discipline. Additionally, I am actively involved in social and environmental activism, dedicating time to volunteer efforts aimed at fostering positive societal change. I find a lot of joy in gardening, which I see as a way to connect with nature and cultivate patience and growth. In terms of my academic pursuits, I am particularly interested in corporate social responsibility, negotiation and conflict resolution, social movements, innovation and entrepreneurship, and strategic project management. These areas inspire me because they are integral to creating effective solutions and driving meaningful change. As I join this committee, I am excited to engage in the dynamic discussions and collaborative efforts that will come our way. I look forward to learning from each of you and contributing to our collective journey of exploring complex issues and developing innovative approaches.

 I'm eager to see what we can achieve together.

Mariana Fuquene
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ABSTRACT

The 2011 Arab Spring presented the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) with one of its most complex challenges in the post–Cold War era. As popular uprisings swept across the Middle East and North Africa, the crisis in Libya rapidly escalated into a violent conflict between government forces and civilian protesters. This academic guide will examine the historical context that led to this moment in the region and how is affecting it nowadays.

The guide and the committee will explore the legal, moral and political obligations of the UNSC in responding to the uprising movements in the Arab world, regarding protection of human rights but also sovereignty of States. It examines the scope and limits of the Council's mandate under the UN Charter, particularly with regard to maintaining international peace and security and upholding the emerging doctrine of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the principal body of the United Nations (UN) responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Established under Chapter V to VII of the UN Charter, the UNSC plays a critical role in the global governance of conflicts, peacekeeping operations, and the enforcement of international law. The Security Council is uniquely empowered to make decisions that member states are obligated to comply with, giving it a level of authority unmatched by any other UN body. It can impose sanctions, authorize the use of force, deploy peacekeeping missions, and act as a mediator in global disputes. Given its mandate and jurisdiction, the UNSC is one of the most influential bodies within the international system, shaping major geopolitical outcomes across decades.

Since its creation in 1945, the UNSC has served as the primary forum for addressing crises, including armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and threats to global stability. However, its authority and decisions are often the subject of controversy, as its structure allows five permanent members to wield veto power, which can block any substantial resolution regardless of majority support.

As we engage in this committee, delegates will be expected to navigate the complexities of diplomacy, realpolitik, and international law, balancing national interests with global peace and security imperatives.

During this session, the UNSC will be facing the topic of the Arab Spring, specifically the case of the military intervention in Libya in 2011. Thus, it is crucial that aside from the UN charter, delegates prepare themselves with historical context.

Taken from: Council of foreign relations

On the morning of September 1, 1969, the streets of Libya awoke to a new reality. While King Idris I was receiving medical treatment abroad, a group of young military officers, led by Muammar Gaddafi, seized control of the country in a coup d'état. Inspired by the revolutionary ideals of Arab nationalism, these officers overthrew the monarchy, abolishing the Kingdom of Libya and establishing the Libyan Arab Republic. What followed was a radical transformation: Libya, once aligned with the West, adopted anti-colonial policies, expelled Western military bases, and nationalized its vast oil reserves, positioning itself as a key player in the emerging geopolitical struggles of the Middle East and North Africa.

Though the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) took little notice of Libya in the immediate aftermath of the coup, Gaddafi's growing ambitions soon made his regime a subject of international concern. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, Libya became a vocal critic of Western imperialism, aligning itself with revolutionary movements and funding militant groups across the world. This defiance placed Libya in direct confrontation with global powers, and by 1992, the Security Council imposed economic sanctions following accusations of Libya's involvement in international terrorism, including the 1988 Lockerbie bombing. The measures, which restricted trade, air travel, and arms sales, effectively isolated Libya from the international community for over a decade.

Taken from: The New York Times

Yet, it was not until the Arab Spring of 2011 that Libya became the center of one of the UNSC's most controversial interventions. As revolutions spread across the Middle East, Libyans rose against Gaddafi's four-decade rule, demanding democracy and political reform. The government's response was brutal, protests were met with military crackdowns, airstrikes, and mass arrests, prompting fears of an imminent humanitarian catastrophe. The international community stood at a crossroads: should it intervene in what was, at its core, a domestic conflict, or uphold the principle of state sovereignty?

Though hailed by some as a victory for humanitarian intervention, the aftermath of the UNSC's actions in Libya remains deeply contested. With no clear plan for post-conflict governance, Libya descended into chaos, plagued by civil war, competing militias, and political instability. The same intervention that had been justified as a protection of civilians ultimately led to the fragmentation of the Libyan state, raising difficult questions about the long-term consequences of foreign military involvement.

Taken from: Andalou Anjasi

The case of Libya reflects the Security Council's struggle to balance international security, humanitarian concerns, and geopolitical interests. While the 1969 coup d'etat had been a domestic affair, Libya's trajectory from Gaddafi's rise to the Arab Spring and its ongoing instability demonstrates how quickly internal political shifts can become global security issues. As the UNSC continues to navigate the challenges of sovereignty, intervention, and post-conflict stability, Libya serves as a stark reminder of the unintended consequences of international action and the responsibility that comes with it.

COMMITTEE HISTORY

The Security Council was established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter, and it is established as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. It works as a non-static committee guided by the five permanent members of the Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, The Soviet Union, and the United States. (Later, Russia replaced the Soviet Union following its fall in 1991). These five members, with the help of six (6) non-permanent members (which were then increased to 10 by the UNGA in 1965), were supposed to collectively resolve all necessary crisis and wars; most of them, through the usage of peacekeeping operations around the world. The first meeting of the UNSC was held in 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. A representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises. (United Nations, n.d.).

The five permanent members were all decided through the principal Allied Powers; they each held a veto power, allowing them to block any substantive resolution, regardless of majority support. On the other hand, the non-permanent members are elected based on regional representation and require a two-thirds majority vote in the UNGA, all serving a two-year term. The vacancy for the different States is chosen by the following rule: 3 seats for African States, 2 seats for Asian States, 2 for Latin America, 2 for Western Europe, and 1 seat for Eastern European States.

In this order, capable of imposing sanctions, intervening and making quick-minded decisions, this council had, and will forever have, an immense effect on the stability and prosperity of countries around the globe.

COMMITEE COMPETENCE

Taken from: Canva

At the heart of its power lies its ability to act under Chapter VI and Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which outline the mechanisms through which the Council can address international conflicts. Chapter VI encourages the peaceful settlement of disputes through diplomatic negotiations, mediation, and arbitration, whereas Chapter VII empowers the Council to take coercive measures, including sanctions, military interventions, and peacekeeping operations, in cases where international peace is under threat. This dual mandate allows the UNSC to serve as both a forum for dialogue and a body capable of enforcing its decisions through means ranging from diplomacy to force.

However, according to the United Nations Charter (1945), the UN has four main purposes, which are:

1. To maintain international peace and security
2. To develop friendly relations among nations
3. To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights
4. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Furthermore, in addition to these, the Security Council can also make recommendations to the General Assembly on issues related to international peace and security, and it has the power to refer cases to the International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution under International Criminal Law.

In this way, while the UNSC is considered the most powerful UN organ, its effectiveness is often challenged due to the veto power held by its five permanent members. Political rivalries among the P5 frequently stall action, particularly on issues where national interests conflict, such as the Syrian Civil War, North Korea's nuclear program, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

ABOUT THE TOPIC
INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

Arab spring:

The Arab Spring can be defined as one of the most significant waves of civil resistance, defying long-standing regimes and reshaping the Arab world´s political discourse. It started as a series of uprisings within countries such as Tunisia, Libya, Yemen, Egypt, Syria, and Bahrain. Activists, political opposition parties, middle-class professionals, and ordinary citizens organized themselves to carry out mass protests across these countries. They demanded democracy, freedom of speech and justice for the people.

Arab countries had been ruled by authoritarian regimes for decades, limiting the population from having any political impact. The wealth and power remained in the hands of a few, subjecting the general population to extreme poverty and stripping them of basic human rights, such as freedom of speech, press and assembly. The start of this series of protests can be attributed to a Tunisian man called Mohamed Bouazizi, who set himself on fire as a form of protest in the city of Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia on the 17th of December 2010.

Taken from: Vox

This is considered to be the catalyst for the protests that would take place in Tunisia and later be widespread into its neighbouring countries, lasting from 2010 all the way through 2011.

Though it is difficult to determine just how big the impact of these protests was, it is safe to say that hundreds of thousands of people died during this period, predominantly in Libya, Yemen and Syria. Peaceful protests quickly started developing into civil wars, violent conflicts marked by mass atrocities, with the use of chemical weapons and mass torture, resulting in war crimes. This was followed by millions of people being displaced from their home countries and turning to Europe for refuge, turning the situation into a humanitarian crisis. These outcomes raised the attention of the international community along with critical questions about its failures to protect and keep peace in the Middle East.

Taken from: Arab Center Washington DC

The creation of R2P:

The Right To Protect also known as R2P is defined by the United Nations as "the responsibility to protect the State's populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This responsibility entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means." (2005 World Summit Outcome Document, paragraph 138).

While the R2P was applied during the Arabic Spring, it varied significantly across different contexts. The only clear application of it is in Libya, where it was put into action through the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973. This resolution gave NATO authorization to intervene in order to protect civilians which were caught in the violent crackdown of Gaddafi's regime. NATO's intervention played a critical role in the fall of the Libyan government, resulting in political chaos all throughout the country, raising the question of whether this intervention had fulfilled the ultimate goal of the R2P which is to protect and safeguard the population.

Countries such as Yemen and Syria were neglected by the international community, being victims of the same war crimes which led to NATO's intervention in Libya but didn't receive any aid from their part. This was caused by repeated vetoes by Russia and China within the Security Council. These inconsistencies exposed a fundamental flaw in the application of R2P: it was vulnerable to political interests leading to its selective enforcement. Critics called it more of a geopolitical maneuvering strategy aimed to bypass countries' sovereignty than a safeguard against atrocities. The Arabic Spring case put in doubt the credibility of this doctrine along with the international community commitment to protect civilians in an impartial manner.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Before 2011, the Arabic world found itself submerged in a series of political oppression, economic closure, and cultural repression. In this way, inspired by the hope of a better life, people from the Middle East saw other countries having prosperity and decided they wanted to fight for their rights. But, before this, we must understand the events and causes that led to the uprisings and protests in the whole region.

Political context:

First of all, we must remember that the Middle East and North African region of the world possesses a rich variety of religions, cultural communities, and ideological positions. And, most of them have been constantly fighting for centuries. Nonetheless, after WWII and with the decolonization processes, many Arab nations evolved into the known conception of a Western state. Leading to the uprising of a unique religious or ethnic group to control and administrate each country, and leaving other groups marginalized and out of the decision-making process inside their governments.

In the case of Syria, the government system has long been tied to religious divisions. Since the rise of the Ba'ath Party, political power has been concentrated in the hands of the Alawite minority, particularly through the leadership of the al-Assad family. This religious group, despite representing a small percentage of the population, came to dominate the state and its institutions, while the Sunni majority and other communities were systematically excluded from meaningful participation in politics. This imbalance, rooted in religious affiliation, allowed the regime to remain in power for more than five decades, consolidating an authoritarian system that has endured across successive generations.

Another important point regarding the political context in the Arab territory is the government model within these countries. After the decolonization processes, many North African and Arab states adopted different forms of government, such as monarchies or democracies. However, what truly characterizes the political situation in these regions is the instability caused by constant coups d'état and frequent changes in government models.

Taken from: E-international relat

Nevertheless, the name of the government system, or even whether leaders are elected through democratic processes, often becomes irrelevant. What matters is that many of these governments resemble authoritarian regimes rather than genuine democracies. This is mainly due to the limited number of political groups within each country, or the overwhelming dominance of one over the others. As a result, when a balance of power is absent, the system collapses, leaving governments without real checks or limits to their authority.

*Taken from: Los Angeles Times*

A clear example of this phenomenon is Tunisia. After independence, Habib Bourguiba, leader of the Neo-Destour political movement, became Prime Minister in 1956. One year later, he abolished the monarchy and declared the Republic of Tunisia. Bourguiba served as president from 1957 to 1987, during which his party controlled all government seats, granting him unchecked power. In 1987, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali overthrew Bourguiba through a coup d'état, establishing himself as the new dictator of Tunisia until 2011. His rule was characterized by fraudulent elections, widespread corruption within his party, and systematic abuses of power against the population.

Economic context:

Before the Arab spring, the economics of the involved country were divided in the ones who were dependent on petroleum and the other ones that were more diversified. In this way, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates were extremely dependent on fuel, and that brought richness to the high class of the country. However, this also came up with high inequality among the population. Libia, Iraq and Iran also were fuel economies, but they also had extreme corruption which led to a problematic economic management.

On the other hand, countries such as Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan had their economies more centered in tourism and international aid. Besides that, Syria and Yemen economies were in crisis, they had a high international debt and dependence on international aid. Nevertheless, what all the economies of these countries had in common was their high levels of social inequality, their lack of opportunities and the corruption. Here are some of the behaviors of the economics during this time in comparison.

Tunisia GDP Per capita (2004-2020) expressed in USD
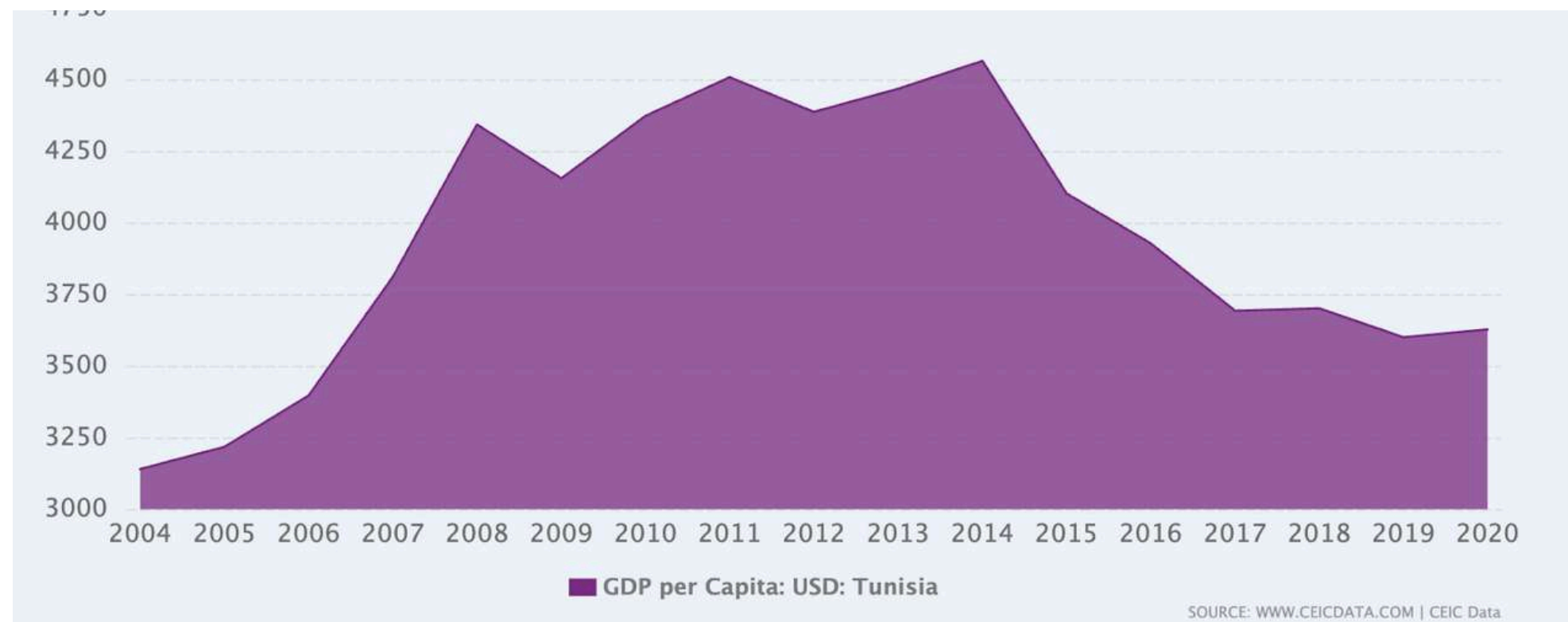
Egypt GDP per capita (2006-2019) expressed in USD
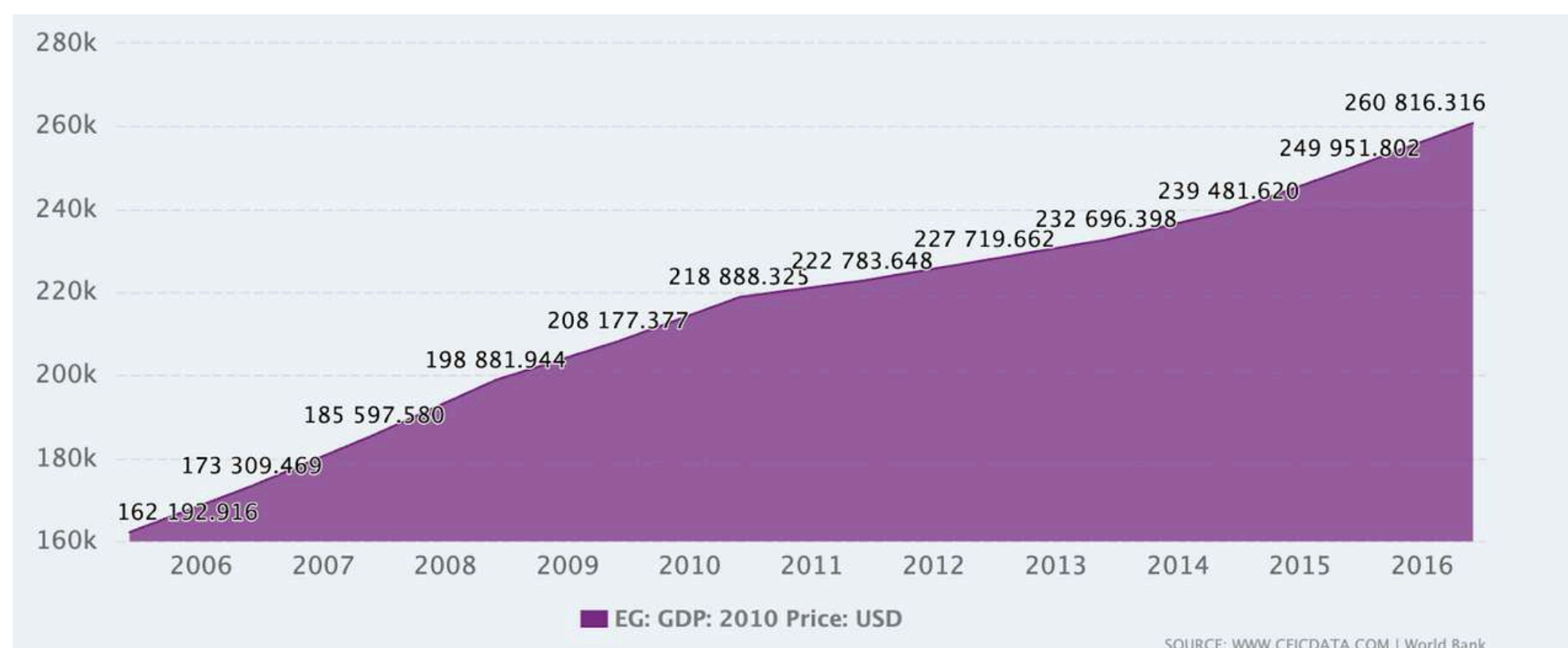
Social-Cultural context:

The Arab Spring was not only a political uprising, it was also a profound social and cultural awakening across the Arab world. Beneath the surface of authoritarian rule, decades of social frustration, generational disconnect, and cultural stagnation had been building, especially among youth.

At the heart of the social unrest was a young, educated population facing few opportunities. In countries like Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Syria, large segments of the population were under the age of 30, and many had college degrees but no jobs. Despite improvements in education, these youth were excluded from political life, trapped in unemployment, and frustrated by nepotism and corruption. This sense of exclusion led to deep social discontent.

Meanwhile, freedom of expression was heavily restricted, with state-controlled media, censorship, and surveillance limiting open dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Independent civil society organizations were weak or banned altogether, and cultural production, such as literature, film, and music, was often subject to state oversight. The result was a widespread feeling of cultural suffocation, especially in urban centers.

Taken from: The times of Israel

However, the 2000s saw the rise of new digital spaces where people, especially youth, could express themselves more freely. The emergence of social media platforms, particularly Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, offered a virtual public square that had never existed before. These tools allowed protesters to organize, document state violence, and spread awareness, often faster than governments could respond.

Culturally, the Arab Spring reflected a growing rejection of fear and fatalism. People began to believe that change was possible, even in countries where regimes had been in power for decades. The uprisings were filled with symbols of unity and resistance, chants, poems, street art, and slogans like "The people want the fall of the regime."

Additionally, traditional divisions, such as tribal, sectarian, or regional lines, were temporarily set aside in many places as people united around common demands for dignity, justice, and freedom. While these divides would later reemerge in some countries, the early stages of the Arab Spring were marked by a powerful sense of collective identity and solidarity.

In essence, the social and cultural context of the Arab Spring was defined by a generation reclaiming its voice, challenging both political repression and cultural silence, and demanding a future built on inclusion, accountability, and human dignity.

CURRENT SITUATION

The movement was ignited in Tunisia, during the Jasmine Revolution. The protests were convoked as corruption, unemployment, lack of political liberties, and poor life conditions triggered most of the population of the country. Furthermore, in December 2010 ,Mohamed Bouazizi, a young street vendor, set himself on fire in protest of police harassment and economic hardship. His act of desperation resonated with millions and led to massive demonstrations across the country. In January 2011, long-time President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled the country, becoming the first Arab leader to be overthrown by popular protest in the modern era. Tunisia's uprising set a powerful precedent and sparked similar movements across the region.

In Egypt, the protests erupted shortly after, inspired by Ben Ali's, with hundreds of thousands of people gathering in Tahrir Square, calling for the end of President Hosni Mubarak's 30-year rule. The dictatorship made Egypt go through Political censorship, corruption, unemployment and rising food prices. The Egyptian government also tried and failed to control the protest by offering concessions while cracking down violently against protesters.

Taken from: The Cristian Science Monitor

In Libya, protests against Muammar Gaddafi's 42-year dictatorship quickly escalated into a full-scale civil conflict. Unlike Tunisia and Egypt, where transitions were relatively swift, the Libyan regime responded with extreme violence. Gaddafi 's forces attacked civilian populations, prompting international condemnation.This dictatorship put all the Libyan population into authoritarian control, suppression of dissent, and a unique political ideology outlined in this "Green Book", which will be later explained.

Meanwhile, in Syria, the regime of Bashar al-Assad met peaceful protests in the city of Daraa with brutal force. The violent suppression triggered a civil war that would evolve into one of the world's most devastating humanitarian crises, drawing in regional and global powers.

Taken from: The guardian

Taken from: Al jezeera

Other countries also experienced significant unrest. In Yemen, protests led to the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, but the country soon collapsed into civil war. In Bahrain, mass demonstrations, largely led by the Shia majority against the ruling Sunni monarchy, were crushed with the assistance of neighboring Gulf states. Though protests occurred in Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, the regimes there survived through a combination of repression, limited reforms, and economic concessions.

While each national uprising had its own causes and outcomes, the Arab Spring was united by common demands: political freedom, government accountability, economic opportunity, and dignity. Protesters, especially youth, relied on social media to organize, mobilize, and share information, often circumventing state censorship. For many, it was the first time fear was cast aside in favor of collective action.

From the perspective of the United Nations Security Council, the Arab Spring had far-reaching implications. The uprisings challenged the boundaries between national sovereignty and the international community's responsibility to protect civilians from mass atrocities. The Council faced urgent decisions regarding sanctions, humanitarian access, peacekeeping, and military intervention. In Libya, it acted swiftly. In Syria, it became paralyzed by geopolitical divisions.

CASE OF STUDY

Military intervention in Lybia

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Libya's history is characterized by its strategic geographic location in North Africa, its interactions with various civilizations, and its own internal tumultuous political and economic developments.

For decades before the 2011 uprising, Libya was ruled by Muammar Gaddafi, who seized power in a 1969 military coup d'état that overthrew King Idiris I. In this way, Gaddafi established a government based on some communist, socialist and islamist ideals. Although he used Libya's oil wealth to fund development projects and boost living standards early on, his rule became increasingly authoritarian. Political dissent was brutally suppressed, opposition parties were banned, and thousands of Lybians lived under fear of arbitrary detention, torture, or execution.

With this in mind, while the arabic world was facing enormous challenges and transformations, Libya became one of the most striking examples of how deeply these shifts could unravel a nation. For over four decades, Libya had been ruled by Muammar Gadaffi, a dictator whose regime maintained control through repression, censorship, and a complex system of patronage. Inspired by uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, Lybians began protesting in February 2011, demanding political reform and greater freedoms.

Before Gaddafi:

Libya has been inhabited since prehistoric times with evidence of early human settlements dating back to the Neolithic period. From the first millennium BCE, Libya's geographic position ensured it was a center of trade. Libya's coastal areas were influenced by the Phoenicians who established trading posts in modern-day Tripoli and the Greeks who founded civilizations within the region. When the Roman Empire brought Libya under its control, Libya became an integral part of the province of Africa Proconsularis. Its cities prospered because of trade, agriculture, and integration into Roman networks. However, the decline of the Roman Empire and subsequent invasions by the Vandals in the 5th century CE destabilized the region. It later became part of the Byzantine Empire before falling to Arab Muslim conquerors in the 7th century. Nonetheless, it's time as a part of the Greek and Roman spheres of influence will influence trade patterns and culture for centuries to come.

The Arab conquest brought Islam and the Arabic language, which remain central to Libyan identity. The region became part of the Islamic Caliphates, first under the Rashidun and then the Umayyad and Abbasid dynasties. By the 10th century, Libya was ruled by various local dynasties, including the Fatimids and the Ayyubids, and was influenced by Berber tribes. During the Ottoman period, beginning in the mid-16th century, Libya's strategic location made it a hub for Mediterranean trade and a base for corsair activities. The Ottoman Empire's control was often tenuous, with power largely delegated to local rulers, such as the Karamanli dynasty in Tripoli during the 18th century. The weakening of Ottoman authority in the 19th century created opportunities for European colonial ambitions.
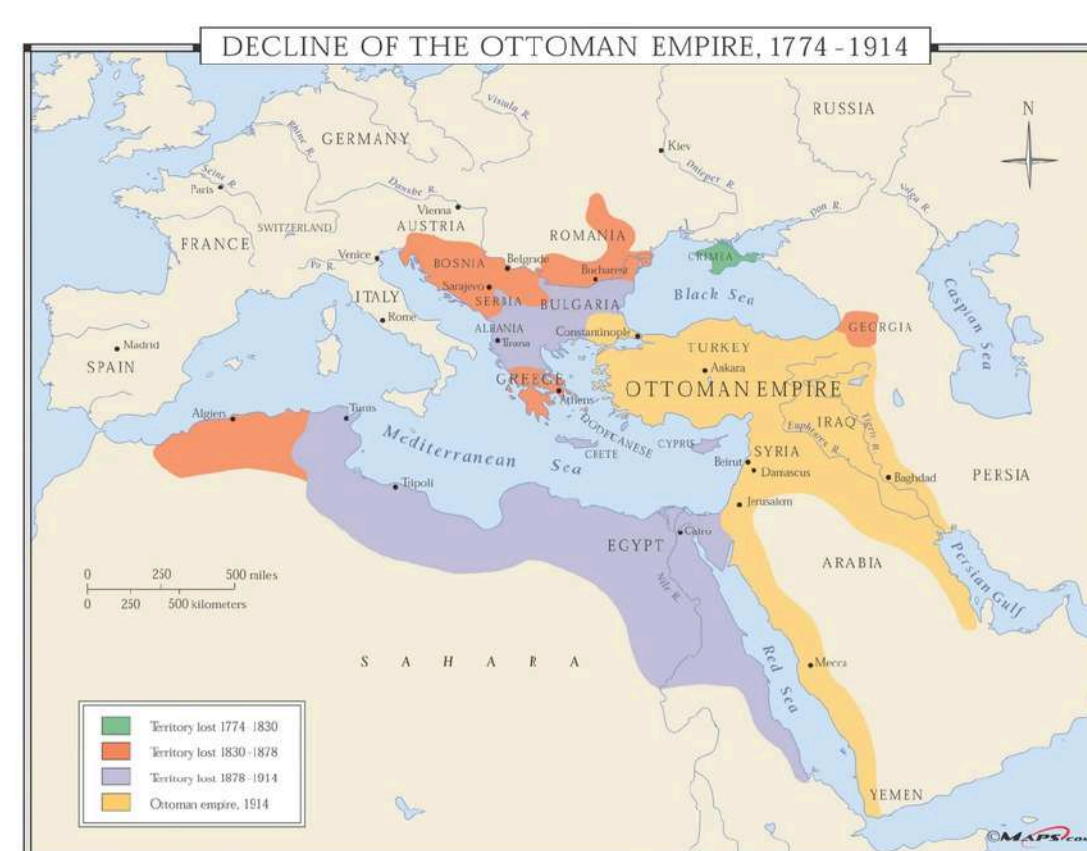
Taken from: Ultimate Globes

Italy invaded Libya in 1911, looking to expand its colonial empire and its control of Mediterranean trade (Pack, 2000). The Italian occupation forces were met with fierce resistance, particularly from the rebel group, the Sanusi Order in Cyrenaica (a major trading city). Leaders like Omar Mukhtar became symbols of Libyan resistance and identity. Nonetheless, through brutal military campaigns, including the use of concentration camps and systematic suppression of the local population, Italy eventually subdued Libya. Under Italian rule, Libya underwent infrastructure modernization, including roads and urban development. However, these benefits were unevenly distributed. Largely aimed at supporting Italian settlers and urban areas, rural populations were sidelined. Furthermore, the indigenous population faced
marginalization and dispossession of land

World War II marked the end of Italian rule. Libya became a battleground for the Allies and Axis powers, with significant campaigns such as the battles of Tobruk and El Alamein. The fight for North Africa saw brutal fighting involving both foreign troops and indigenous forces. After the war, Libya fell under British and French administration. It would soon gain its independence.

Libya gained independence on December 24, 1951, under King Idris I, becoming a constitutional monarchy. The discovery of significant oil reserves in the late 1950s transformed Libya's economy, making it one of the wealthiest countries in Africa by GDP per capita. It was this dramatic growth that helped Libya consolidate its national identity and made King Idris a legend in Libya's history

Taken from: Britannica

Nonetheless, despite economic growth, political power remained centralized under the monarchy, and wealth was unevenly distributed. The regime faced criticism for corruption, nepotism, and failure to address social inequalities. These factors created conditions for political instability and dissatisfaction among the population.

In 1969, a group of young army officers led by Muammar Gaddaf overthrew King Idris in a bloodless coup. Gaddafi established the Libyan Arab Republic, later renamed the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, based on his ideology outlined in the "Green Book".

Gaddaf sought to replace traditional governance structures with his concept of "direct democracy," implemented through People's Committees and General People's Congresses. In practice, power remained highly centralized, with Gaddaf and his inner circle exerting tight control. Political dissent was harshly suppressed, and Libya's political system became characterized by authoritarianism and surveillance.

Initially, Gaddaf pursued socialist policies, nationalizing key industries, including oil. The state used oil revenues to invest in infrastructure, education, healthcare, and housing, improving living standards for many Libyans. However, the economy remained heavily dependent on oil, creating vulnerabilities to global price fluctuations. In the 1980s, Gaddaf's regime faced economic challenges due to falling oil prices, international sanctions, and mismanagement. Efforts to diversify the economy and reduce reliance on oil largely failed. Corruption, inefficiency, and Gaddaf's erratic policymaking exacerbated economic problems.

Taken from: BBC

Gaddaf's foreign policy was marked by his Pan-Arab and Pan-African ambitions. He sought to position Libya as a leader in the Arab world and Africa, funding liberation movements and intervening in regional conflicts. His support for groups labeled as terrorist organizations, such as the Irish Republican Army and the Palestine Liberation Organization, brought international condemnation.

The 1980s and 1990s were particularly tumultuous for Libya's international relations. Accusations of involvement in terrorism, including the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, led to severe sanctions by the United Nations and Western countries. These measures isolated Libya and further strained its economy.

Despite state propaganda and efforts to build a personality cult around Gaddaf, opposition to his rule persisted. Islamist groups, ethnic minorities like the Amazigh, and political dissidents faced systematic repression. Gaddaf's use of violence to maintain power deepened societal divisions and fostered resentment.

By the early 2000s, Gaddaf sought to rehabilitate Libya's international standing. He renounced weapons of mass destruction, implemented limited economic reforms, and agreed to compensate victims of terrorist attacks. These efforts led to the lifting of sanctions and a thaw in relations with Western countries. However, political freedoms remained restricted, and economic benefits were unevenly distributed, leaving many Libyans dissatisfied.

CURRENT SITUATION

In the NPR, Melissa Block was telling the world about the Human Rights Status in Libya. She spoke with Heba Morayef, a member of HumanRights Watch who stayed in Benghazi. Heba told ms. Block about how in the city there were something like 427 deaths in the city since the opposition seized control from Gadaffi's Government. And that "We've seen from very early on, former political prisoners, facebook activists as they're called in Libya - I mean, people who were sort of actively calling for the February 17th demonstration" (Block, 2011).

In the broadcast, they were referring to the protests happening in Libya due to the anti government movement taking place. Michael Norris (2011) spoke about the topic on the next day after the protests, and in her broadcast, she spoke with Breka, a woman who asked for her full name to be censored for she believed she could be tracked against her own security, who stated:

> *"It's a critical situation right now. The police attacking (sic.) us with tearing gases and with hot-water cannon (sic) and with live munition shot (sic). So it begins from there. It started just as a small protest before. The last day of rage was supposed to start yesterday, and now, it got larger, larger and larger as our rage is going larger day by day."*

On February 18th, 2011, the Canada Newswire said that "news agencies are having difficulty reporting on Libya due to government restraints on journalists. The government is cracking down on anyone in Libya caught disseminating information" and that "civil unrest has spread to cities throughout Libya including Al-Bayda, Derna, and Az-Zintan. The capital, Tripoli, has also seen some sporadic protests".

RELEVANT ACTORS

- **Muammar Gaddafi (Libyan Leader)**

An authoritarian leader of Libya, Gaddafi mercilessly bashed Protests in Libya during the Arab Spring. His regime's harsh violence faced global scorn and military action.

- **Libyan Protesters / Rebel Groups**

These groups solicited the overthrow of Gaddafi's rule after getting inspired from the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt. Their fight became central to the civil war in Libya.

- **NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)**

Gained worldwide attention after they supported the military action in Libya through R2P (Right to Protect) policies. They enforced a no fly zone in Libya and bombed Gaddafi forces in 2011.

- **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

NATO's involvement got validation through resolution 1973 declaring international interference permissible. R2P had seldom been used, this instance sparked vast debate.

- **France, the United Kingdom and the United States**

They are US and UK allies who strongly encouraged military intervention in concern for humanitarian crises. The three were key players in forming the military annihilation and diplomacy.

- **African Union (AU)**

Proposed a treaty to end armed conflict while probing NATO for potential escalation of violence and a call for stability in the area.

- **Transitional National Council (TNC)**

The group opposing Gaddafi and aiming to overthrow him was recognized as the new leadership body of Libya. A considerable number of nations supported this change.

QAR

1. What role can peacekeeping, mediation, or sanctions play in the current situation in Libya?

2. To what extent should the UNSC intervene in internal uprisings that are framed as demands for democracy and human rights?

3. How should the UNSC balance state sovereignty with the responsibility to protect civilians?

4. How can the UNSC ensure that military interventions do not lead to unintended consequences such as regime collapse and civil war?

5. What role should the UN play in supporting democratic movements while respecting state sovereignty?

6. Under what conditions, if any, should the Security Council consider authorizing the use of force in Libya?

MAS

GLO

- **Arabic Spring:** It was an event in the arabic world that was marked by constant waves of protest. Its start in Tunisia, and it expands to other parts of middle east and Africa. This event was so important because a movement of this magnitude was unbelievable taking in count the traditions, and culture that the arabic world manages. (Rodríguez, 2017)

- **United Nations:** An organization created in 1945 to maintain the peace in the world.

- **Security Council:** One of the six main organs that conform the UN. According to the UN "It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council"(United Nations, S.F.

- **R2P (Responsibility to Protect):** An international political agreementsigned by every member of the UN in 2005, which states that states have a responsibility to protect their citizensfrom genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. If the state fails to do so, the international community must act collectively by peaceful or, if necessary, coercive means.

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