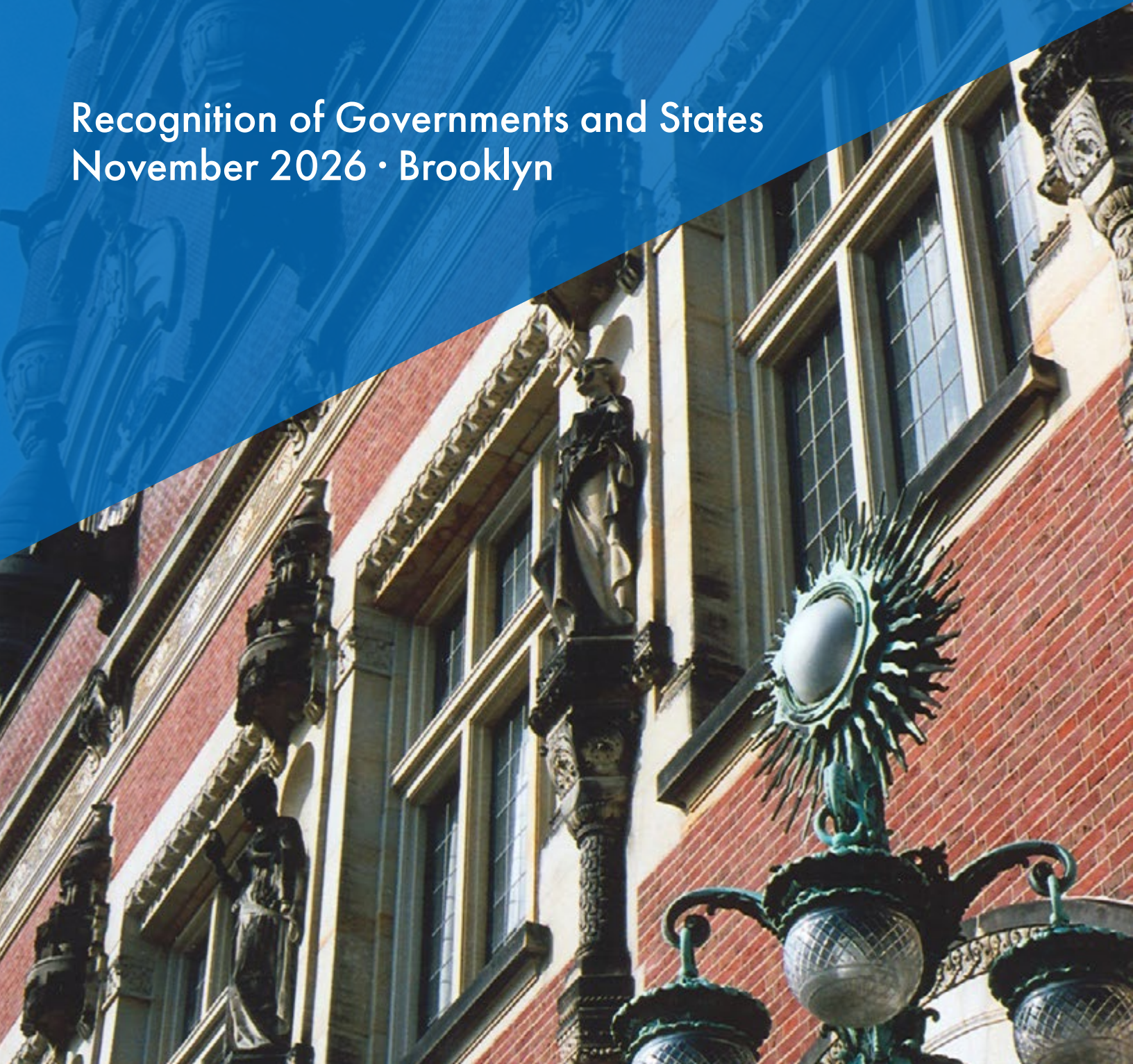




TechMUNIX

General Assembly Legal Committee

Recognition of Governments and States
November 2026 • Brooklyn





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1

Letters from Dais



Courtesy of Jayden Huang

Jayden Huang Chair

jhuang7834@bths.edu

Welcome to TechMUNC IX! My name is Jayden Huang and I will be presiding over this committee as your chair.

I am a senior in the architecture major here at Brooklyn Tech as well as the Director General for TechMUN. Throughout the years, MUN served as an outlet for passion and cooperation. It has been a defining part of my high school career, in part due to the amazing community fostered between the members of our team. It's my hope to share this same energy and enthusiasm with you here at TechMUNC.

Whether you intend to fight for the right of self determination, or outline the legal standards behind self governance, I have no doubt that this committee will be filled with passionate debate, fiery inquiries, and developed resolutions that will determine the final outcome of this committee.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me! In addition, please be sure to send your position papers to the provided email above. Good luck and I look forward to seeing you on conference day!

Kaitlyn Park
Co-Chair
kpark6621@bths.edu

Hello delegates,

My name is Kaitlyn Park and I will be your co-chair for this committee. It is an honor to be a part of this conference, and I'm excited to meet all of you and to see the different ideas, perspectives, and passion you bring.

I am currently a senior here at Brooklyn Tech and this will be my third and final year on the Model United Nations team. Model UN has given me the opportunity to explore universal issues from various perspectives while helping me develop skills in public speaking, diplomacy, and collaboration. Beyond that, Model UN has also introduced me to so many amazing people I never would have imagined myself meeting, and I hope this conference will be a space where you can do the same!

Throughout the committee, I encourage you to be creative and willing to engage with ideas that may differ from your own. I hope to see delegates who are willing to take initiative, network effectively, and think beyond the obvious.

Once again, I am so excited to meet all of you at TechMUNC IX. If you have any questions or concerns leading up to the committee, please feel free to reach out. I wish you the best of luck with your preparation!

Gordon Ning
Rapporteur
gning2676@bths.edu

Hello delegates,

My name is Gordon Ning and I will be serving as your rapporteur for this committee. It's an honor to serve you all and I'm excited for all the memories we will be making together.

Currently, I'm a senior here at Tech in the Law and Society major while also having been a part of Model UN for the past two years. Model UN is a melting pot where collaboration leads to constructive arguments where we all introduce new perspectives on different matters, resulting in each of us learning a little bit more every time. Furthermore, Model UN is a very welcoming place even if it can be intimidating at first, speaking up is a core part of our community! Don't be scared to talk to people, everyone is there to learn and contribute just like you. For some of you, this may be one of your first conferences, so really put yourself out there cause there's no place like Tech! I hope you all have a wonderful experience here at TechMUNC!

All in all, show up and show out, each and every one of you guys bring a unique viewpoint to the table and I look forward to hearing them from you all. If you guys have any questions or concerns at all, feel free to reach out to me and I will try my best to get back to you as quickly as possible. Good luck to you all

2

Intro- duction



General Assembly

Intergovernmental and Expert Bodies

Main Committees

- Human Rights Council
- International Law Commission
- Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)
- United Nations Commission on International Trade Law
- Disarmament Commission
- Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Legal Committee Sixth Committee

In recent memory, conflict and tension has faced disproportionate growth due to various overlapping causes. From resources to territorial integrity, a majority of contemporary conflicts can draw a line of association to the underlying debate over the recognition of government and states. Through the United Nations General Assembly Sixth Committee (LEGAL), this committee will seek to provide a resolution aimed at addressing this pressing global issue.

The Sixth Committee was founded in 1946 in order to fulfill Article 13(1)(a) of the UN Charter which requires that the General Assembly (GA)

encourages the development and codification of international law. Since then, the Sixth Committee has evolved to a cooperative international body built on the foundations of not only establishing legal international frameworks, but ensuring state accountability and adherence to international law.

That isn't to say the committee hasn't faced setbacks. Like many of the bodies associated with the UN, international law isn't universally binding, with the enforceability of mandates passed by the committee often left to the domestic legal system of member states. However, that doesn't mean the committee fails to serve a purpose. It continues to act as a global forum in addressing fundamental issues plaguing legal systems across member states and promoting equal justice for all.

For the purposes of consistency and clarity, the committee is placed in the immediate present. This means that any event, no matter how recent, may be referenced on the day of the conference. In addition, the Sixth Committee invites 55 delegations to the floor. With delegates from all six of the inhabited continents, this committee seeks to foster a unique yet diverse array of perspectives on this otherwise contentious global issue.

Delegates will be expected to conduct thorough research on the topic, and aim to represent their delegation's perspective to

the most accurate and best of their abilities. Delegates are required to submit a position paper via emailing jhuang7834@bths.edu prior to conference day in order to qualify for the consideration of awards.

We also ask that delegates consider the unique situation in which this committee places itself within. The committee's topic covers a wide range of recent and ongoing issues, this means that the themes associated with these issues are equally sensitive. While delegates are allowed to reference these ongoing challenges, it is important to understand the weight behind many of these issues. This stands especially true for speeches, resolutions, and even comments made during unmods; at no point should delegates use these platforms to perpetuate racist, misogynistic, or hateful stereotypes of any nature. Doing so will result in the immediate disqualification from the consideration of awards and may warrant further disciplinary action. It's important to remember that while this is a model simulation of the United Nations, delegates must uphold themselves to the standards and respect expected when present within any professional setting.

Finally, due to the complexity surrounding the committee, a short list of notable terms and phrases has been provided below to aid in your research and understanding of the committee.

Recognition of a state - The formal acknowledgement by one or more states that another polity satisfies the requirements for statehood under international law and is accepted as a sovereign member of the broader international community.

Recognition of a government - The acknowledgement by a state that a particular authority is the sole legitimate governing body of another state, regardless of how it came to power or whether they actually have control over the state.

Statehood - The legal status of a polity as a sovereign state, generally determined by the criteria outlined in the 1933 Montevideo Convention: a permanent population, defined territory, government, and the capacity to enter into relations with other states.

De jure recognition - The formal or legal recognition of a state or government as the legitimate authority under international law, carrying full legal and diplomatic implications regardless of whether that recognition is disputed.

De facto recognition - The limited or practical recognition of a state or government based on its effective control over a territory, without necessarily granting full legitimacy.

Self determination - The principle that a people or nation have the right to freely choose their political status, sovereignty,

and system of government without outside interference.

Polity - An organized society, state, or other functional group with a collective identity and a structured system of governance).

Codification - Process of collecting, organizing, and writing down rules or laws into a clear, systematic book or digital code.

Provisional government - Temporary leadership body set up to run a country or region during a time of major political change, crisis, or collapse.

3

Topic History



Section I Respite

Historically, the recognition of government and states was largely treated as a matter of diplomatic practice. Prior to the contemporary era, there were no formal international standards on recognizing a polity, and the matter of recognition was entirely handled by individual states.

To understand the lack of a universal process for recognition, it is necessary to first understand the earliest definition of statehood. One of the most significant early attempts to define statehood was through the 1933 *Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States*, a comprehensive international treaty that attempted to set the legal standard for what defines a state. Signed on December 26, 1933, in Montevideo, Uruguay, during the Seventh International Conference of American States, Article I of the convention identifies four traditional criteria for statehood. To be considered a state, a place must have a permanent

population, a defined territory, government, and capacity to enter into relations with other states.

However, most notably, Article III of the convention says that the political existence of a State is independent of recognition by other States. This statement serves as the foundation for the *declaratory theory of recognition*, which considers a polity a state upon meeting the criteria of statehood. It views recognition as merely an acknowledgement of this fact, as opposed to the *constitutive theory* which sees recognition as crucial evidence needed for fulfilling statehood.

Attempts to address these ongoing issues of recognition continued after the founding of the United Nations, when the International Law Commission was established in 1949. The recognition of states and governments was one of the many subjects selected for possible codification under the commission, however, ultimately failed to see fruition in the form of a comprehensive convention codifying such procedures.

One of the key reasons for this can be found in the United Nations Charter, which attempts to establish a balance between the right to self determination and territorial sovereignty. Under Article 1(2), the principle of upholding and expanding equal rights and self determination is established as one of the

key goals of the United Nations. However, this principle also stands in conflict with Article 2(4) which prohibits member states from threatening military force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other state, a principle reinforced under Article 2(1) emphasizing sovereign equality.

In order to rectify the conflicting interests of the UN Charter, the General Assembly passed *Resolution 2625(XXV)*, also known as the Friendly Relations Declaration (1970). The declaration attempted to reconcile self-determination with territorial integrity by clarifying that self-determination cannot simply be interpreted as giving individuals or groups of people the right to dismember a sovereign state that respects and represents their population.

This declaration birthed two distinct forms of self-determination: external self-determination and internal self-determination. External self-determination is defined by the right of colonized people to establish an independent and sovereign state, while internal self-determination is defined by the right of people to participate meaningfully in the political system of an existing state. Under the Friendly Relations Declaration, as long as a state respected the rights of all minorities equally and provided a national platform for their representation, then the right to external self-determination would more or less be counted out of the

2625 (XXV). Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 1815 (XVII) of 18 December 1962, 1966 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, 2103 (XX) of 20 December 1965, 2181 (XXI) of 12 December 1966, 2327 (XXII) of 18 December 1967, 2463 (XXIII) of 20 December 1968 and 2533 (XXIV) of 8 December 1969, in which it affirmed the importance of the progressive development and codification of the principles of international law concerning friendly relations and co-operation among States,

Having considered the report of the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States,¹ which met in Geneva from 31 March to 1 May 1970,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security and for the development of friendly relations and co-operation among States,

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 18 (A/8018).*

Deeply convinced that the adoption of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations would contribute to the strengthening of world peace and constitute a landmark in the development of international law and of relations among States, in promoting the rule of law among nations and particularly the universal application of the principles embodied in the Charter,

Considering the desirability of the wide dissemination of the text of the Declaration,

1. *Approves the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the text of which is annexed to the present resolution;*

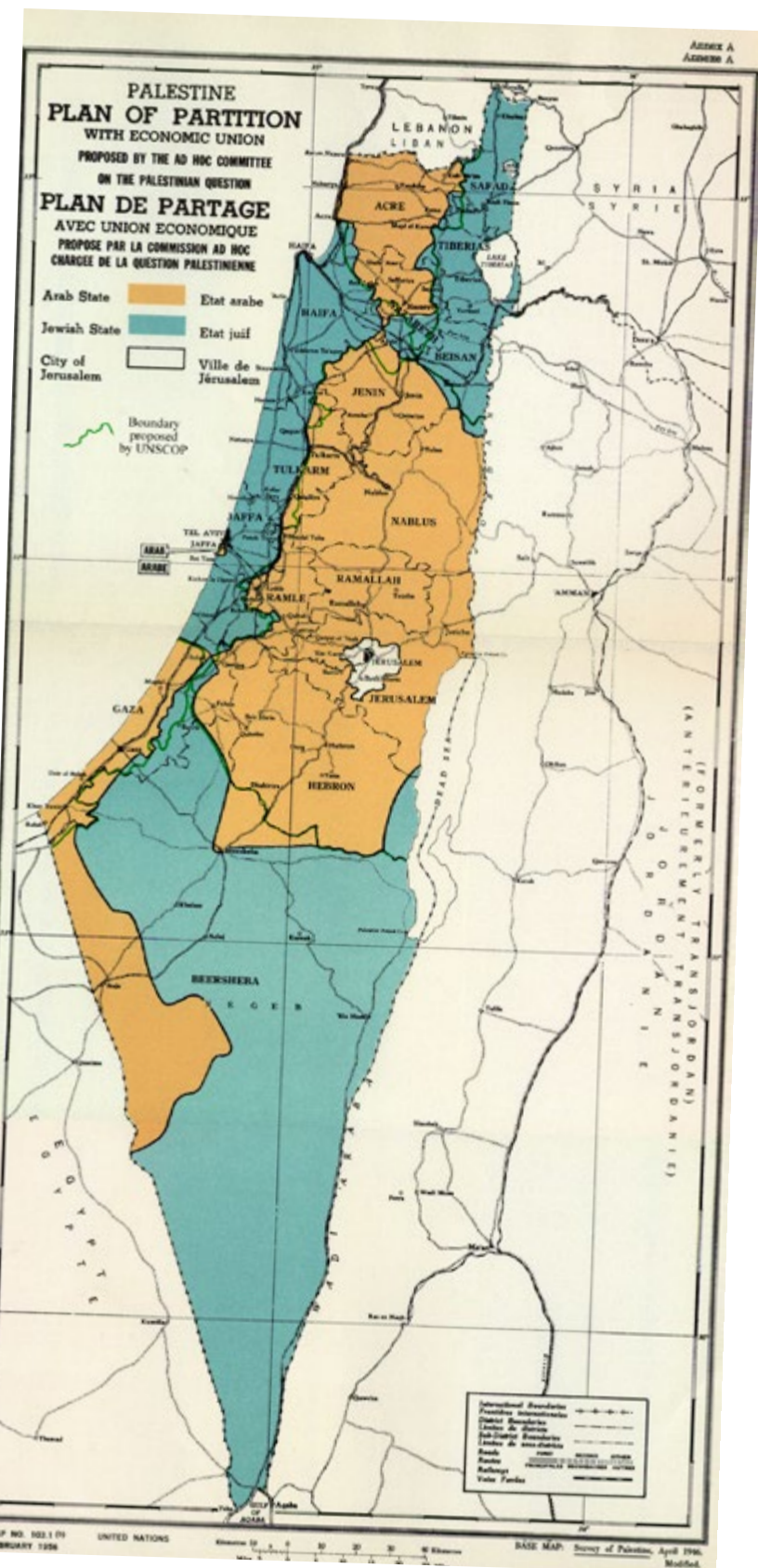
2. *Expresses its appreciation to the Special Committee on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States for its work resulting in the elaboration of the Declaration;*

3. *Recommends that all efforts be made so that the Declaration becomes generally known.*

*1883rd plenary meeting,
24 October 1970.*

二七五八(二十六). 恢復中華人民共和國在聯合國的合法權利

大會，
回顧聯合國憲章的原則，
考慮到，恢復中華人民共和國的合法權利對於維護聯合國憲章和聯合國組織根據憲章所必須從事的事業都是必不可少的，
承認中華人民共和國政府的代表是中國在聯合國組織的唯一合法代表，中華人民共和國是安全理事會五個常任理事國之一，
決定：恢復中華人民共和國的一切權利，承認她的政府的代表為中國在聯合國組織的唯一合法代表並立即把蔣介石的代表從它在聯合國組織及其所屬一切機構中所非法佔據的席位上驅逐出去。



UN Palestine Partition Version UNGA Resolution 181

equation. However, as history would show, this is rarely the case.

Arguably one of the most controversial topics of both discussion and action is the development of the Palestine-Israel conflict. In 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted *Resolution 181(II)*, recommending the partition of Mandatory Palestine into a separate Arab State and Jewish State, with Jerusalem under a specialized international mandate. In 1948, Israel declared its independence, with the United States recognizing the provisional government as the *de facto* authority over Palestine. This form of recognition established a distinct difference between the recognition of government and state, as the recognition of the state differs from the recognition of government.

Previous examples of such recognition can be seen in the form of exiled governments. During WWII, following the Fall of France, the Vichy government under Marshal Philippe Pétain held *de facto* control over the entirety of France. However, the Allied powers, notably the United Kingdom and United States, though briefly recognizing

the new Vichy government, switched recognition to the government of Free France under Charles de Gaulle, who held *de jure* control over the French government and people prior to the liberation of France itself.

Another example would be that of Manchukuo: the Japanese puppet-state established shortly after the Japanese invasion of Manchuria. Under the Stimson Doctrine, countries argued that states should not recognize territorial changes produced through unlawful force, an idea that later carried into UN principle as *ex injuria jus non oritur*: unlawful acts should not create legal rights. It's a principle that continues to be relevant today, especially in regards to conflicts between Russia and Ukraine as well as Russia and Georgia.

However, the most critical turning point in how the international community viewed the matter of recognition in relation to government and states was during the Cold War; recognition became intertwined with the era's ideologies, proxy conflicts, and frequent points over competing legitimacy that defines the issue to this day. The most notable example of this would be the recognition of the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Republic of China (ROC/Taiwan) following the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Although the Communist Party of China (CPC) held *de facto* control over the entirety of the Chinese mainland, major western powers that opposed the spread of

communism refused to recognize the newly declared government, and instead, continued to recognize the ROC until 1971 following the passing of *GA Resolution 2758* which recognized the PRC as the sole legitimate government of China. The case regarding China was not about the recognition of whether a Chinese state existed, but rather which government represented the Chinese people in the eyes of the international community.

It's important to also note that there are cases where the matter of recognition is considered unlawful, a case illustrated in the conflict over South Africa's presence in Namibia. Under the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the court ruled that South Africa's continued presence within Namibia was illegal, and published the *1971 Namibia Advisory Opinion* in response. It called upon member states to refrain from dealings that implied recognition over South Africa's authority over Namibia, a decision based on the principle where self-determination overruled territorial integrity.

The matter over the legal measures around recognition is further considered when looking back on the dissolution of Yugoslavia. Under the European Community (EC), the Badinter Arbitration Commission was established to provide legal opinions regarding the dissolution and recognition of the various Yugoslav republics. First came the question of whether Yugoslavia

was dissolving or were states breaking away from the existing Yugoslav state. The key distinction was that by suggesting the state was dissolving, it assumed that the individual republics were in the process of becoming independent states separate from one another. And by suggesting that states were breaking away from Yugoslavia, it implied that Slovenia, Croatia, and the other various republics were attempting to secede from it in an act of rebellion, a distinction that would've hindered recognition.

The commission concluded that Yugoslavia was dissolving, and in their pursuit of ensuring a smooth recognition process, the commission authored the *Guidelines on Recognition of New States in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union*. The guidelines required that newly declared states recognized certain international principles, shifting recognition from a matter of whether the polity best suited the domestic interests of the states in question, but rather the aspiring state was capable of adhering to international standards and satisfying the legal obligations expected with statehood.

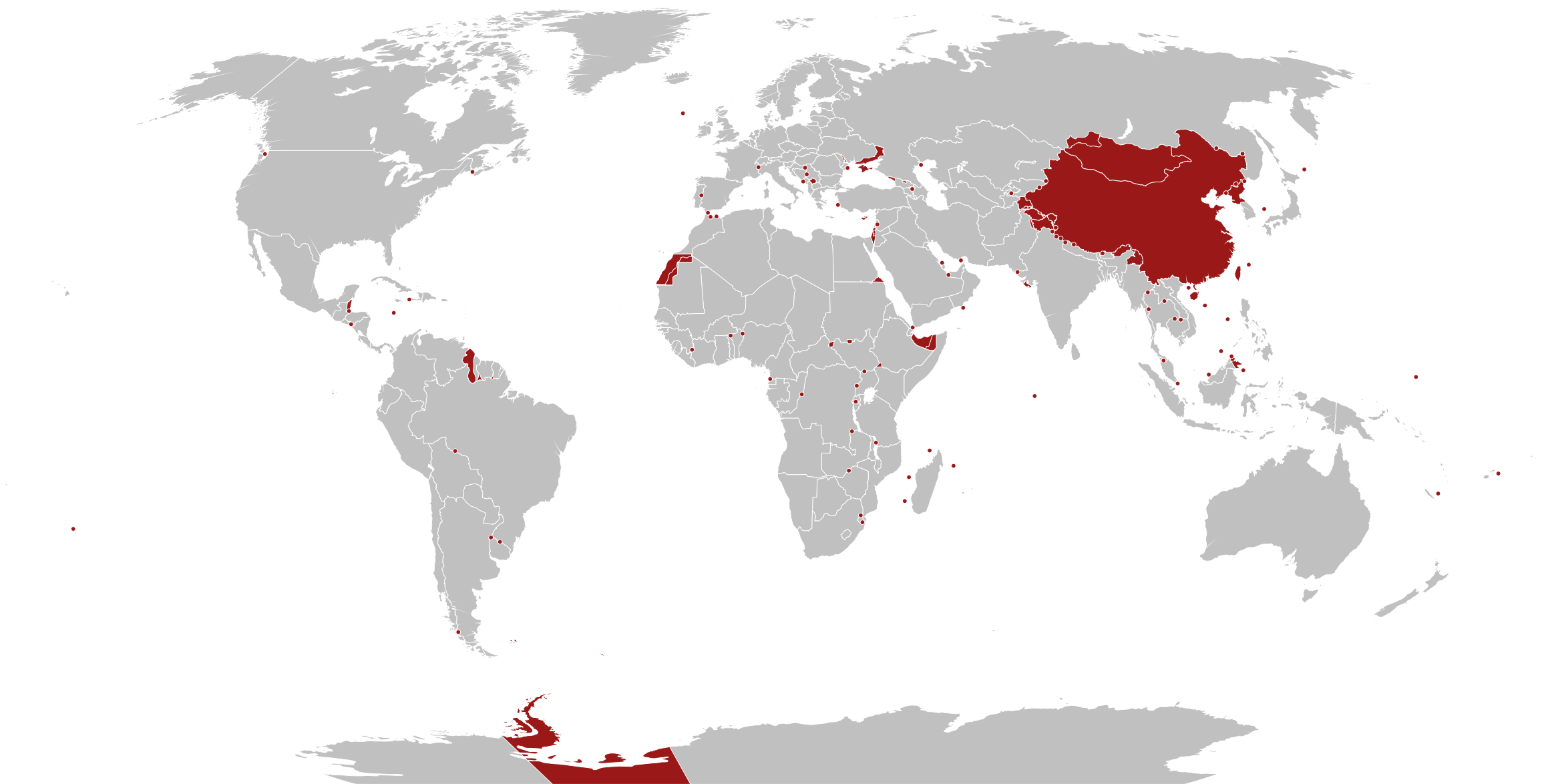
The case of Yugoslavia becomes more complex when the consideration over how territorial integrity and self determination comes into play. Though the dissolved republics largely kept the original administrative boundaries of the former Yugoslav state, advocates argued that populations within certain areas had the

right to determine their own borders. In the case of Croatia, the state adopted the borders that existed during Yugoslavia, however, in areas where there was a Serbian majority, many argued that the people of these areas had the right to determine the boundaries of the state. It's an argument that draws back to the very conflict found within the UN Charter, and continues to be the main point of contention to this day. What is the line between upholding territorial integrity and

promoting the right of self determination?

Since the tumultuous era of the Cold War, the matter of state recognition has been intensified across the globe. Today, dozens of unrecognized states, governments, and polities operate outside of the broader international context (with cases such as Somaliland, Taiwan, Kosovo, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, Palestine, and many other such states operating in a legal grey area).

It risks isolating millions across the globe, preventing their broader representation and access to the global stage as greater powers continue to argue for the case of recognition that best fulfills their own domestic interests.



Map of Territorial Disputes, VesperUnicorn57, w.wiki/Z85m

4

Current Situation



Section I Prospice

The matter over recognizing governments and states remains one of the most complex and contentious topics within global affairs. By recognizing one government over another, it risks isolating hundreds of thousands to millions of individuals from having a form of broader representation on the global stage. On the other end of the spectrum, by recognizing states based simply on the principle of self-determination, it risks antagonizing various members of the international community and poses a broader threat of retaliation that may result in greater harm for the population in question.

Today, the divide between the declaratory and constitutive theories of recognition are most evident when considering the cases of Palestine and Kosovo. In recent years, the number of states formally recognizing the State of Palestine has grown substantially, with many Western powers reversing their longstanding



ICJ-CIJ/UN Photo

International Court of Justice

“The adoption of the declaration of independence of 17 February 2008 did not violate general international law.”

ICJ Advisory Opinion on Kosovo 2010

positions on the state. However, despite holding a non-member observer status within the UN General Assembly, full membership remains blocked due to the Security Council, where the repeated use of veto powers by permanent members acts as the de facto gatekeeper to full-fledged statehood. Similarly, Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008, and though the ICJ’s 2010 Advisory Opinion concluded that the declaration did not violate international law, the opinion notably avoided definitively ruling whether Kosovo could be considered a recognized state. This has resulted in Kosovo being recognized by dozens of states, while being rejected by notable international players such as Serbia, China, Russia, and various member states of the European

Union. This has left Kosovo in a legal grey area, with no formal representation within the UN and subdued participation within various international organs, the international community continues to face significant challenges in resolving the state’s status.

The recognition of governments has also become increasingly contested in the wake of domestic conflicts that have resulted in civil wars, coups, and regime collapse. In Afghanistan, the Taliban has established de facto rule over the country since the US withdrawal in 2021, yet the vast majority of sovereign states have withheld recognition of the regime, citing concerns regarding human and women’s rights, treatment of minorities, and absence of an inclusive government. In recent years, a small number of states have steadily begun to engage with, some even moving to recognize, the authorities in Kabul. Comparable disputes continue across other regions as well, including the Sahel, where military governments in Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have faced suspension and sanctions from regional bodies, and in Myanmar, where competing claims between the military junta and civilian backed National Unity Government have resulted in an all-out civil war, further complicating the question on who holds the UN seat.

Finally, the complex relationship between recognition and the use of force continues to brew turmoil within regions

across the world. Following Russia’s annexation of Ukrainian territory, the General Assembly adopted various resolutions calling for member states to not recognize the annexations, echoing the principle of *ex injuria jus non oritur* first established through the Stimson Doctrine. However, the use of non-recognition and its use as a deterrent, is a point of ongoing debate, particularly as time passes and territorial changes gradually cement through acts aimed at legitimizing claims. Ultimately, this committee is left to address a fundamental question: in the absence of binding codes on recognition, can the international community establish a consistent standard that respects both territorial integrity and the right to self determination, or will recognition continue to be driven by political interests of the states vested with the power to grant it?

5

Questions to Consider



~7

Should state recognition be granted based on a legal criteria, as the declaratory theory suggests, or as a political act left to the discretion of individual states, as the constitutive theory suggests?

How can the UN protect a people's right to choose their own future while also protecting the territorial integrity of existing states? Is the difference between internal and external self-determination still useful today?

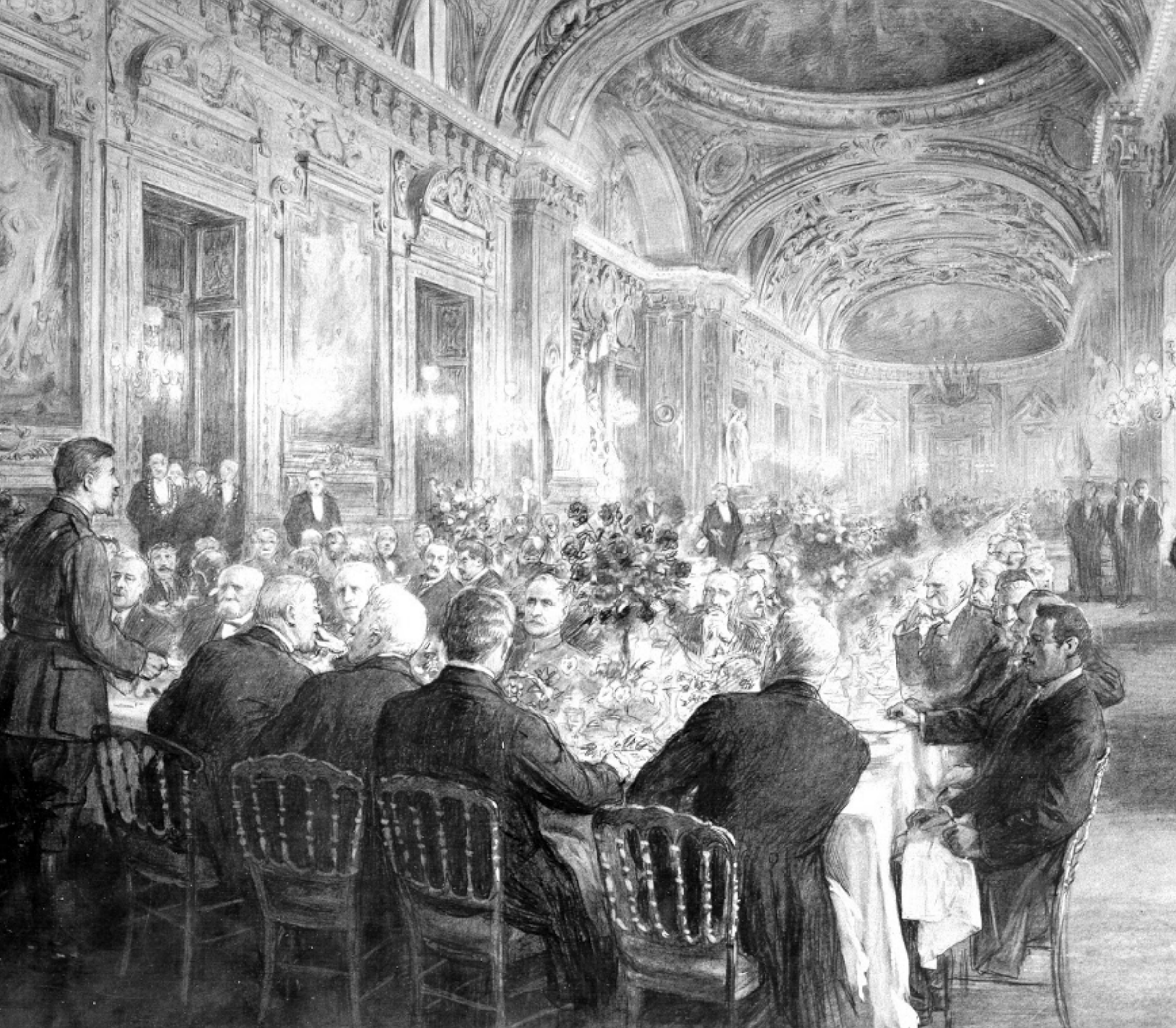
Should the recognition of government depend on how it came to power, or should effective control over a territory be a deciding factor? At what point, if any, does de facto control become legitimate?

Given past unsuccessful attempts to codify recognition, is a binding international framework even desirable? Could non-binding guidelines, similar to the Badinter Commission's approach, offer a more feasible alternative?

What role should regional organizations, such as the European Union, African Union, or ECOWAS, play in shaping recognition practices?

Is non-recognition an effective tool for responding to territorial changes achieved by force, or does it lose meaning as time passes and claims become more entrenched?

How should the international community respond to the humanitarian consequences for populations living in unrecognized or isolated polities without implying recognition of the governing authority? This can include limited access to aid, financial systems, and international legal protections.



6 Bloc Positions

A-B

Afghanistan

Represents the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which continues to hold Afghanistan’s UN seat while the Taliban control the territory. It argues recognition should follow legitimacy and inclusive governance, not force. It opposes transferring the seat to the Taliban until human rights and representation conditions are met.

Algeria

Supports Sahrawi self-determination and recognizes the SADR. It frames Western Sahara as an unfinished decolonization case. It calls for a UN-supervised referendum and adherence to ICJ opinions.

Argentina

Aligns closely with the U.S. and Israel and is skeptical of unilateral recognition of Palestine. It highlights territorial integrity, including its Falklands claim. It supports a rules-based order and non-recognition of annexations.

Armenia

Historically supported self-determination in Nagorno-Karabakh but now stresses negotiation and border delimitation. It recognized Palestine in 2024. It seeks legal frameworks that protect minority populations and prevent forced displacement.

Azerbaijan

Defends territorial integrity, citing the reintegration of Karabakh. It opposes recognition of separatist entities and views them as violations of sovereignty. It argues that internal security operations to restore control are legitimate.

Belarus

Recognizes Abkhazia and South Ossetia and aligns closely with Russia. It opposes Western-led recognition and sanctions as interference in sovereignty. It favors a multipolar approach that respects the choices of de facto governments.

B-E

Brazil

Recognizes Palestine and prefers multilateral, UN-led processes. It emphasizes non-intervention and adherence to international law. It is critical of selective application of recognition norms.

Cuba

Supports Palestinian statehood and rejects Western-led recognition norms. It defends absolute sovereignty and non-intervention. It condemns sanctions and coercive measures as tools for influencing recognition.

DPR. of Korea

Rejects Western-led recognition norms and defends absolute sovereignty. It recognizes Abkhazia and South Ossetia and aligns with Russia and other states that oppose Western influence. It condemns external interference in the internal affairs of any government.

Canada

Recently recognized Palestine, conditioned on reforms and an end to Hamas’s role. It supports the rules-based order and non-recognition of annexations. It backs Ukraine’s territorial integrity and multilateral legal frameworks.

Cyprus

Rejects recognition of Northern Cyprus under Security Council Resolutions 541 and 550. It argues that entities created through force and occupation are legally invalid. It rejects the Turkish-recognized “TRNC” under Security Council Resolutions 541 and 550. It calls for firm non-recognition of entities created through force.

Egypt

Recognizes Palestine and supports a two-state solution on the 1967 lines with East Jerusalem as the capital. It acts as a key mediator in regional conflicts. It emphasizes stability, territorial integrity, and negotiated settlements.

F-I

Ethiopia

Balances its interest in Somaliland, including port access, against its relationship with Somalia. It favors recognition frameworks that respect sovereignty and regional stability. It stresses African Union principles and dialogue.

Georgia

Considers Abkhazia and South Ossetia Russian-occupied territories and rejects their recognition. It calls for a binding international norm of non-recognition of territory taken by force. It supports Ukraine and pushes for legal accountability through international courts.

Holy See

An observer state that recognizes Palestine and advocates dialogue and human dignity. It stays neutral on most contested cases and urges peaceful, negotiated resolutions. It emphasizes protecting vulnerable populations regardless of political status.

France

Favors legal criteria and multilateral, UN-based frameworks for recognition. It recently recognized Palestine as part of its push for a two-state solution. It rejects recognition of any territory gained through force.

Germany

Recognizes Kosovo but has not recognized Palestine, tying it to a negotiated two-state outcome. It prioritizes international law and the principle that unlawful acts create no legal rights. It supports codified, legally grounded recognition standards.

Hungary

Recognizes Kosovo but takes a cautious, sovereignty-first approach to recognition disputes. It prefers bilateral pragmatism and often resists coordinated punitive measures. It has not recognized Palestine and favors negotiated solutions.

B-E

India

Does not recognize Kosovo, fearing secession precedents, but recognizes Palestine. It stresses territorial integrity and has grown its engagement with the Taliban. It rejects outside involvement in disputes such as Kashmir.

Iran

Does not recognize Israel and strongly supports Palestinian self-determination. It opposes Western influence over recognition decisions and criticizes double standards. It engages with de facto authorities such as the Taliban while defending its own sovereignty.

Israel

Opposes unilateral recognition of Palestine, arguing statehood must follow direct negotiations and security guarantees. It views premature recognition as rewarding violence. It seeks broader regional recognition through normalization agreements.

Indonesia

Strongly supports Palestinian statehood and has no formal ties with Israel. It values territorial integrity and non-interference, drawing on its own experience with separatism. It promotes dialogue and Global South leadership on legal norms.

Ireland

Recognized Palestine in 2024 and champions self-determination as a core principle. It supports stronger UN norms that balance self-determination with international law. It is a vocal advocate for the ICJ and for accountability.

Italy

Recognizes Kosovo and supports Ukraine’s territorial integrity. It backs a two-state solution but has been cautious about recognizing Palestine before negotiations progress. It favors EU-coordinated positions and multilateral frameworks.

J-M

Japan

Prioritizes the rule of law, the international order, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. It maintains unofficial ties with Taiwan and opposes changing borders by force. It supports Ukraine and stresses the importance of consistent legal standards.

Libya

Considers Abkhazia and South Ossetia Russian-occupied territories and rejects their recognition. It calls for a binding international norm of non-recognition of territory taken by force. It supports Ukraine and pushes for legal accountability through international courts.

Morocco

Claims sovereignty over Western Sahara and offers autonomy under Moroccan rule. It rejects recognition of the Sahrawi Republic and highlights growing international support for its plan. It frames the issue as one of territorial integrity.

Kenya

Supports African Union principles of inherited borders and stability. It engages pragmatically with Somaliland while formally respecting Somalia’s territorial integrity. It favors regional mediation and peaceful dispute resolution.

Mexico

Follows the Estrada Doctrine, which rejects formal recognition of governments as interference in sovereignty. It supports Palestine and the principle of non-intervention. It favors dialogue and multilateral solutions.

Myanmar

Torn between the military junta, which holds effective control, and the National Unity Government, which claims democratic legitimacy. The junta insists its rule is legal and rejects outside interference. Opposing voices argue recognition should reflect the will of the people rather than control by force.

N-P

Netherlands

Recognizes Kosovo and emphasizes the rule of law and the role of the ICJ. It has been cautious on Palestine, tying recognition to a negotiated process. It supports legally grounded, consistent recognition standards.

Norway

Recognized Palestine in 2024 and supports mediation and multilateral processes. It advocates clear legal criteria for recognition and strong minority protections. It emphasizes that recognition should support peace rather than deepen conflict.

Pakistan

Does not recognize Israel until a Palestinian state is established. It supports Kashmiri self-determination and engages with the Taliban de facto authorities. It calls for consistent application of self-determination under UN resolutions.

Nigeria

Prioritizes territorial integrity under African Union principles, given its history with Biafra. It is wary of secession-friendly recognition precedents. It supports negotiated solutions and regional stability.

Palestine

Seeks full UN membership and universal recognition, arguing that statehood is an inherent right of self-determination. It maintains that withholding recognition prolongs conflict and delays peace. It points to growing international support, including recent recognition by multiple states, to press for a two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders and international law.

People’s Republic of China

Insists Taiwan is part of China under Resolution 2758 and opposes secession everywhere, including Kosovo. It champions strict sovereignty and non-interference in domestic affairs. It engages with de facto governments such as the Taliban while avoiding precedents that could support separatism.

P-S

Philippines

Follows a one-China policy and upholds the 2016 South China Sea arbitration ruling. It supports rules-based recognition and peaceful dispute resolution. It emphasizes the importance of respecting international legal decisions.

Qatar

Acts as a mediator and engages with de facto authorities, including the Taliban and Hamas. It supports Palestinian statehood and favors dialogue over isolation. It argues that non-recognition can worsen humanitarian conditions.

Russian Federation

Recognizes Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and argues Kosovo set a precedent for self-determination outside the parent state’s consent. It has also moved to formally recognize the Taliban government. It opposes Western-led recognition norms yet rejects Ukraine’s territorial integrity claims.

Poland

Recognizes Kosovo and stands firmly with Ukraine on non-recognition of annexations. It prioritizes territorial integrity and the security of Eastern Europe. It supports collective, coordinated responses to unlawful territorial changes.

Republic of Korea

Supports international law and territorial integrity, and seeks eventual peaceful reunification. It is wary of recognition precedents that could destabilize East Asia. It favors multilateral diplomacy and consistent standards.

Saudi Arabia

Supports Palestinian statehood under the Arab Peace Initiative. It ties regional normalization to a credible path to a Palestinian state. It generally favors stability and engagement with governments that hold effective control.

S

Serbia

Rejects Kosovo’s independence, citing territorial integrity and Security Council Resolution 1244. It argues unilateral declarations of independence cannot create statehood. It supports the ICJ’s role and opposes recognition without consent of the parent state.

South Africa

Champions self-determination, drawing on Namibia and its own history. It strongly supports Palestine and the Western Sahara cause. It encourages the use of the ICJ and multilateral legal mechanisms.

Sudan

Faces competing authorities, with the army-led government and the RSF-backed parallel government both claiming legitimacy. It insists on sovereignty and rejects recognition of parallel governments. It argues that legitimizing armed factions would entrench the conflict.

Somalia

Rejects Somaliland’s independence and insists on territorial integrity. It views any state recognizing Somaliland as violating its sovereignty. It calls for strong African Union and UN backing of existing borders.

Spain

Refuses to recognize Kosovo, citing concern over secessionist precedents. It recognized Palestine in 2024 and strongly supports a two-state solution. It stresses territorial integrity while backing self-determination in colonial and occupation contexts.

Syrian Arab Republic

Represents the transitional authorities that took power after the fall of the Assad government. It seeks broad international recognition and the lifting of sanctions. It stresses territorial integrity and opposes foreign-backed autonomy or secession.

T-V

Türkiye

The only state to recognize Northern Cyprus, and it also recognizes Kosovo and Palestine. It supports self-determination in cases aligned with its regional interests. It engages pragmatically with de facto authorities and criticizes selective Western recognition practices.

United Arab Emirates

Normalized relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords, favoring pragmatic diplomacy and economic ties. It still supports a two-state framework. It tends to engage with whichever authorities hold effective control.

United States

Recognizes states and governments largely on national interest and strategic alliances, and has recognized Kosovo. It opposes unilateral recognition of Palestine and favors a negotiated two-state solution. It also rejects recognition of territory acquired by force, particularly in Ukraine.

Ukraine

Demands non-recognition of Russia’s annexations under the Stimson Doctrine and ex injuria jus non oritur. It defends territorial integrity as the foundation of the international order. It seeks stronger codified rules against recognizing territory taken by force.

United Kingdom

Follows a practice-based approach that focuses on effective control and willingness to meet international obligations. It recognizes Kosovo and recently recognized Palestine, while stressing negotiated outcomes. It strongly upholds non-recognition of annexations, especially in Ukraine.

Venezuela

Has faced disputed election legitimacy, with many states withholding recognition, and recent upheaval over its leadership. It rejects foreign-led recognition decisions as interference and upholds non-intervention. It argues recognition should not be used as a tool for regime change.

Y

Yemen

The internationally recognized government, the Presidential Leadership Council, contests control with the Houthi authorities in Sanaa. It argues that recognition should follow legitimacy and adherence to UN resolutions rather than territorial control. It calls on states not to legitimize the Houthis or other armed factions.



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Back matter

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And hope everyone has a great time at Model United Nations this year.



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