



USA Position Paper

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I/ Background Information on the USA

The United States of America, identified as a relatively new country, was established in 1776. Once host to many European civilizations the North America continent was united to become a conglomeration of many cultures. Shortly before World War Two, the Wall Street stock market crashed which resulted in the Great Depression. However, the United States recovered to become more powerful than ever and proved itself during the Second World War. The US-allied against Germany and Japan; gained victory over both. Subsequently, the US economy thrived with its achievements. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) witnessed a massive increase due to events such as the expansion of the car industry, growth of major companies, the drop in labor costs overseas and improvement of the use of resources like agriculture in America. As of today, the USA is maintaining its superpower status as the world's largest economy and thus is a magnet for talent from all around the world. Furthermore, the USA's success in the war resulted in it being a Permanent 5 member in the United Nations and having veto power in the Security Council. All of these created the opportunity for the US to have influence over certain regions in the world including the Caucasus region.

II/ Past Achievements and Attempts of France on the Issues

- A. **The Question of the Caucasus:** The Caucasus gathered attention after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. The US was not in the expectation of three new foreign states in the Southern Caucasus; Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. The Northern Caucasus however, was not much in the interest of the US due to them being Republics within the Russian Federation, a nuclear threat. A rather friendlier policy was to be established in order to avoid backlash from Russia. On the other hand, relationships were being formed with the Independent States. Georgia wanting to become a member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Azerbaijan having great oil reserves and Armenia's Nagorno-Karabakh conflict brought them and the US into good terms. The US supported independence and more vitally peace in the region. Humanitarian issues were a priority due to the rise of Islamic terrorists and Jihadists in the Caucasus. Before tackling political and international relations the states had to be neutralized. Subsequently, eight states in the US recognized the independence of the Artsakh Republic supporting the Armenian population residing in the region and promoting stability with Azerbaijan. Moreover, with the Caucasus not having major



importance in the US global agenda, the US did not play an active role concerning military actions.

- B. The Question of the Caspian Sea and Surrounding Territories:** The Caspian Sea has always created a dispute between littoral countries throughout history even before the US was formed. Therefore, the US has never been one of the major countries involved in the conflict. Soon after the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) the issue at hand enlarged due to the increase of littoral States from two to five. Thus, to this day the US maintains its policy to support independence, open embassies and resolve humanitarian issues in the area. Since there are many countries involved including external forces such as the United Kingdom (UK) (their oil company British Petroleum (BP) is still operating on the resources from the Caspian Sea within Azerbaijan borders), there is a presence of tension in USA's international relations with Russia and Iran the US prefers to stay out of the shares in the Caspian Sea and to focus on the Middle-Eastern region. In addition, the ongoing humanitarian conflicts in the bordering States are a concern and a reason for the US to remain not involved. On the other hand, if the Caspian Sea is identified as a "sea", the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf states that with the presence of an "open sea" non-littoral nations will have a legal basis to use the waters. This would create an opportunity for other countries including the US to become more closely involved. All in all, the USA's aim is to get sufficient energy and petroleum from the Middle-East which explains their lack of interest in the Caspian Sea in the time being.
- C. The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** The United States having the biggest economy in the world and China rapidly developing as the second biggest economy the issue at hand becomes one of the most important in the USA's global agenda. China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Eurasia contradicts the US policy that supports financial independence and free trade while exchanging goods that are not restricted with only one route. As it attempts to marginalize the US from global trades it also increases China's political and economic power with the debt traps. Furthermore, most of the production of American companies are based in China due to the low labor costs and high population. If China were to become successful with the One Belt One Road (OBOR) project this would make them less dependent on US trades and production, thus affecting the US economy in a negative manner. Even though President Donald Trump attended the Belt and Road Forum in May 2017 and believes this project may also create infrastructure opportunities for American companies, in the long run, the project could backlash towards the US. In conclusion, the US suggests that China's approach to the shift of trade routes in Eurasia is not smart to pursue for nor countries included neither the US.

III/ Objectives, Aims and Possible Solutions Proposed by France on the Issues



- A. The Question of the Caucasus:** The region requires major actions to be taken in order to overcome the issue once and for all. The US believes that the concerning republics should begin with neutralizing internal and external conflicts, targeting the terrorist and Islamic Jihadists that disrupt the peace. When the threat of violence is tackled and humanitarian issues are resolved via aid from external forces that are unbiased which could be ensured by the involvement of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), then the sovereignty of the republics' and political relations may be addressed. However, in this process, it is vital to be aware of the factors causing violence, such as the inability of people from different ethnic cultures residing together. In order to overcome this, republics in the Caucasus may re-establish laws that prevent one ethnic group, in particular, having superiority against others. Another important reminder is that internationally some countries recognizing certain states in the area and some accepting them parts of existing countries increases controversy and escalates the ongoing conflict. All Member States should unify under one common statement whether or not to recognize Artsakh, South-Ossetia, and Abkhazia without interfering with internal relations. For this to be achieved the US urges for conferences to be held that would attract willing countries to contribute to the solution of the issue.
- B. The Question of the Caspian Sea and Surrounding Territories:** The USA suggests that the "Caspian Five" should address the issue at hand by gathering conferences that involve only them and UN experts in order to tackle the main concern of the Caspian Sea's status of sea or lake and come to means by forming a treaty that would be applicable for each littoral country. The UN officials would ensure that the necessary actions are taken parallel with the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS) and the United Nations Convention on the Continental Shelf. In addition, the environmental concern of the current status of the Caspian Sea should not be disregarded. Littoral countries may gather annual reports on their concerning are and later share them with the UN with the utmost priority of non-disclosure which will help them develop solutions that would carry with the support of the UN.
- C. The Question of the Shift of Trade Routes in Eurasia:** The shift of trade routes in Eurasia is a major concern for the US and its economy. US's support of free trade is now being challenged. With China's aim to establish a new Silk Road, the US suggests to form unilateral trade pacts with countries that have a part in the new Silk Road. This would ensure global inclusivity and give more opportunities to export markets. Moreover, with China creating debt traps to gain economic hegemony the US proposes to buy in debts of other countries to China in exchange for them to gain economic independence and establishment of democratic rule. Also, the US could counter the negative effects of the shift of trade routes to the East by incentivizing domestic production and manufacturing.



IV/ Bibliography

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