



Committee: Disarmament and International Security Committee (GA1)

Issue: Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean especially in the Middle East and Northern Africa

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INTRODUCTION

Spanning 21 countries across the Middle East, Northern Africa and Europe the Mediterranean is one of the most complex and sensitive political and economic regions. To all most all the countries it spans it has provided key trade routes and resources subsequently weaved together their economies and political situations.

Stable governments will ultimately lead to a stable Mediterranean region, and the countries of southern Europe so far have been key to maintaining stability in the Mediterranean as they've introduced EU support, and provide aid to nations currently struggling with economic and political strife. The recent coup in Egypt, the situation in Libya, the escalation in both the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (namely the Gaza strip) and the bolstering of what many call an aggressive foreign policy in Turkey combine with the current threats of climate change and the refugee crisis are recent developments that have only furthered instability throughout the region and harmed the chances of effective and positive cooperation.

There is a growing consensus that the best method to go about establishing the region is to attempt to achieve several sustainable development goals (SDG's) in order to bolster the infrastructure of the Mediterranean and the governance of the surrounding nations to assist in



developing a rapport between Mediterranean nations and building strong cooperative relationships throughout the Mediterranean. To facilitate this, a clear method of communication between the politically and culturally different nations will need to be established. It is ultimately co-operation between the Mediterranean states that will allow us to address conflict zones and radicalization, tackle the refugee crisis and begin preparation for dealing with the impacts of climate change and the development of the Mediterranean economy.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Migrant

Migrants are considered individuals who travel across an international border for personal reasons and generally without the impact of outside factors. Although often employing the same routes from country to country as refugees a migrant is fundamentally¹ different as they are leaving their country by choice and have not been forced out by conflict or other factors.

Refugee

A refugee is someone who leaves their country due to a threat of prosecution violence or war². They generally have a fear of prosecution due to some kind of belief (religious political or otherwise) and usually cannot return to their home country without putting themselves in significant danger. Internationally those seeking safety for any of the above reasons are also considered asylum seekers

¹ "Migrant definition - UNHCR|Emergency Handbook."

² "What is a Refugee? Definition and Meaning | USA for UNHCR."

The Mediterranean Countries

The list of member states that border the Mediterranean include (in alphabetical order): Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey. The UK territory of Gibraltar is also in the Mediterranean (which introduces British interests to the future of the Mediterranean). The Gaza strip also has coastal access to the Mediterranean. Portugal is occasionally included in the list of Mediterranean countries despite it not having direct access³.

The Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip is a section of land on the south-western coast of Israel originally given to Palestine by Israel (even though it remained an occupied territory until 2005) following the Oslo accords of 1999. Recent developments has led to Gaza being mainly controlled a group called HAMAS which is generally regarded as a terrorist organization that is currently in conflict with Israel⁴.

Sustainable Development goals (SDGs)

SDGs are a set of 17 goals put in place by the United Nations every 15 years to be achieved within that time period. These goals aim to push the world towards ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all⁵.

³ Montessori Mun."Strengthening of Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean region."

⁴ "Gaza Strip - CIA."

⁵ "UN Sustainable Development Goals."



In our topic some will be emphasized more than others in order to maintain focus on what is needed most in the Mediterranean region.

The Refugee Crisis

The refugee Crisis here refers to the one that started in 2015. This particular crisis is one of the largest to date, with 65.6 Million individuals being displaced by the end of 2016⁶. It has been caused mainly by civil wars through Syria, Libya and Sudan (countries such as Tunisia have also contributed) as refugees fled from their homes up through Turkey and the Mediterranean into Europe.

The Middle East

The Middle East is a section of western Asia and for the purposes of our topic we will be focusing on the nations of the Middle East that border the Mediterranean, including: Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel as well as the observer state of Palestine.

Northern Africa

Northern Africa is the Northernmost part of Africa and includes the countries of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt and Sudan (the western Sahara is also a N. Africa country however it has a negligible influence on the Mediterranean). All of these nations have a coast across the Mediterranean except for Sudan however it may still come up due to its access to the Mediterranean sea through the red sea and its impact on the current refugee crisis.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historically the Mediterranean has fostered the very beginning of modern civilization. The region provided a means of trade and commerce and even source of food and water. It was once home to the Roman and Greek

⁶ "UNHCR Global Trends - Forced Displacement"

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empires, and it is believed to have even facilitated the Golden Age of Islam. Throughout the years the Mediterranean has developed and various factors of Mediterranean governance and civilization have changed, but despite this its value due to trade and its potential strength as a region have remained the same. Ultimately, in order to rebuild this prosperous image of the Mediterranean we need to take a look at how we ended up with the Mediterranean we have today, what role outside powers play and what crisis and potential crisis we have to deal with.

Foreign influence

Due to its strategic location and its resources the Mediterranean in recent years has drawn the eye of many of the super power outside of the Mediterranean itself, most namely China, Russia and the United States (US). The US and Russian interest in the Mediterranean was mostly brought about due Cold War and the subsequent formation of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). During the cold war era NATO was established in order to strengthen a barrier (the so called Iron curtain) to prevent the spread of communism and USSR influence. It acted a deterrent against the soviets unifying parts of the balkans, other major european players and turkey. By building this network of states, that shared information and military resources the US could monitor and respond to soviet action, right at the USSR's doorstep

In recent years however, NATO has reduced its direct military presence and influence in the Mediterranean and has begun assessing the risks around social and environmental factors, and even some political and economic ones as the alliance began to focus on the Mediterranean as one of its key priorities. Ultimately this means two things, the first is that the US and Russia have begun shifting their goals away from what they used to be back during the Cold War era and have started focusing more on the Middle East more than Southern Europe and Asia minor. The second is that NATO has begun focusing on establishing security and stability by creating a 'mutual understanding' between the Mediterranean nations, and correcting misconceptions.

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With the exception of the United Kingdom's interest in the Mediterranean due to trade and Gibraltar, the next major power that has an interest in the Mediterranean is China. Recently China held a vote that eliminated China's president's term limit. This means that now Xi Jinping (China's President) has gained an extraordinary power in the Chinese government, effectively giving him almost a 'dictator-like' status. Xi Jinping has set out to complete the so called belt and road Initiative as seen below.



An image depicting the trade routes, and shipping routes for the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative

This ambitious initiative aims to establish new trade routes linking almost all of southern Asia to Europe and parts of Africa and may even create Chinese soft influence in the region. It will most likely also heighten the trade tensions between China and America as Europe slowly builds a dependency on China. The effect of this plan is already being seen in Greece as China has started making significant investments in the Greek shipping economy as it is, potentially beginning to strengthen the wider Mediterranean economy which

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may help in bringing stability to the economically turbulent nations of Northern Africa.

Ultimately foreign influence is one of the key helping hands in the effort to establishing security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. Whether it be through the bolstering of trade, provision of aid in northern Africa or military interference in the Middle East, foreign investment and influence can certainly play a positive role if leveraged correctly. If foreign nations are willing to take risks to help Mediterranean nations, and have the infrastructure and means to do so we should definitely acknowledge their intentions and work them into our solutions. Considering the worlds globalization ultimately foreign influence will be hard to avoid and embracing it, in several situations, might just be the better option.

The wake of the Arab Spring

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When discussing the causes for the current state of affairs across N. Africa and the Middle East, the Arab Spring is one of the most commonly referenced series of events that plotted the course for the current situation in the Middle East and in northern Africa. The Arab Spring started in the December of 2011 in Tunisia as Mohamed Bouazizi set himself alight in front of a Tunisian government building as a form of protest against the corrupt and abusive Tunisian government. Mohamed Bouazizi essentially kickstarted the protests that escalated into the Arab Spring and eventually made their way across Northern Africa and into the middle east. When discussing our topic most of our



January 2011: Egyptian government deploys tanks in an attempt to dissolve demonstrations

main issues can be traced back to the Arab spring as it caused substantial change to the governance of the nations involved. To simplify it, the Arab Spring was essentially a democratic uprising across the Arab world.

The Arab Spring caused uprisings across the entirety of northern Africa and the Middle East. It was an explosion of political activity that ultimately proved to the people of the Arab nations that authoritarian rule can be overcome through protest and does not need to be challenged through military

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force (coups). With any forceful and sudden change in power there can be great success but also great tragedy. The people of Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya managed to overthrow their governments and start heading towards establishing a democracy; many governments stayed in power some making small changes to their government and still sustain a degree of civil disorder. At the same time, Libya, Syria and Iraq were all thrown into violent civil wars which all continue to this day. It is the wake of the Arab spring that at the moment has created most of the issues of political instability (unstable governments, power struggles between the military and governments etc) and civil unrest (Caused usually by the varied degree of activism, be it rioting or civil resistance against governments) that we have to tackle while beginning to establish security and stability across the Mediterranean Northern African and Middle eastern territories.

Instead of looking in detail at the timeline of events of the Arab Spring, we should examine the goals of the Arab people throughout the Arab spring. By looking at their goals we can begin to understand what we need to take to reduce civil unrest as achieving these goals will help de-escalate the situation. The main focuses were establishing Democracy and free elections, creating economic freedom and employment, improving human rights and removing the current governments in power. Out of these each has been achieved at varying rates depending on each country and it will be important to push and peacefully accelerate the rate at which each goal is reached. These goals were not set in place by an individual and in a way established themselves as a natural response to poverty and Authoritarianism/Dictatorship in the region and to achieve them methods ranged from peaceful (silent protests, internet activism etc) to violent (Insurgency riots etc). Out of all the nations involved those which exhibited the peaceful means to achieve these goals were the ones that ultimately came out of the Arab spring in a better situation than when they entered. Subsequently continuing this trend is vital to dealing with the wake of the Arab spring.

The Syrian and Refugee Crisis

The Syrian Crisis is one of the most violent conflicts we have seen in the world to date. When we trace it back, the Syrian crisis started in 2011 when Assad responded with violent action against the peaceful Arab spring demonstrators that had spread throughout Syria. Soon enough protesters armed themselves as well and rebel groups began to spring up across Syria to oppose the Assad regime. In an attempt to delegitimize the rebels in the global eye, Assad released extremists from jail hoping for them to ‘taint’ the rebel militias while encouraging jihadists to join the free Syrian army (the rebels). The idea is to spread extremism through the rebels and further the Assad regime's narrative of them being terrorists rather than rebels. Soon enough Kurdish groups begin seceding from Syria and start to form their own state.

At this point we can see the first signs of the Syrian war escalating to a global scale as Iran begins sending direct support to Syria and the Gulf States, though Turkey and Jordan start funding the rebels. At this point the Syrian conflict is still restricted within the Arab region, and continues to be until Assad’s first use of chemical weapons which provokes America to make advances against Assad. At the same time however ISIS had begun to form and were mainly attacking other rebel and extremist groups which benefited Assad and so he overlooked them. At the time it seemed as though the US was not willing to take direct steps against Assad and instead they started fighting ISIS. Simultaneously, Turkey, a member of NATO, began attacking Kurdish groups that were funded and armed by the US that were south of the Turkish border; this ultimately leads to a NATO ally working against US interests and closely with Russia.

Soon after the presidential elections, president Trump takes a hardline stance against Assad following Assad’s use of chemical weapons by launching several missiles to strike a Russian backed Syrian Airfield. This brings us to the current day, where the Syrian crisis has become a global proxy war involving

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Russia, the US, the Gulf States and even Iran, Iraq and Israel. At the moment Assad seems to be regaining power as the rebels begin to run out of man power; to completely regain control over Syria, the American backed Kurdish groups still need to be suppressed, and with the support of Russia, Iran and Turkey Assad certainly has the upper hand. From the very beginning of the conflict it became clear that Assad's only goal was to stay in power, and that is how he justified violence, indiscriminate bombing and use of chemical weapons.

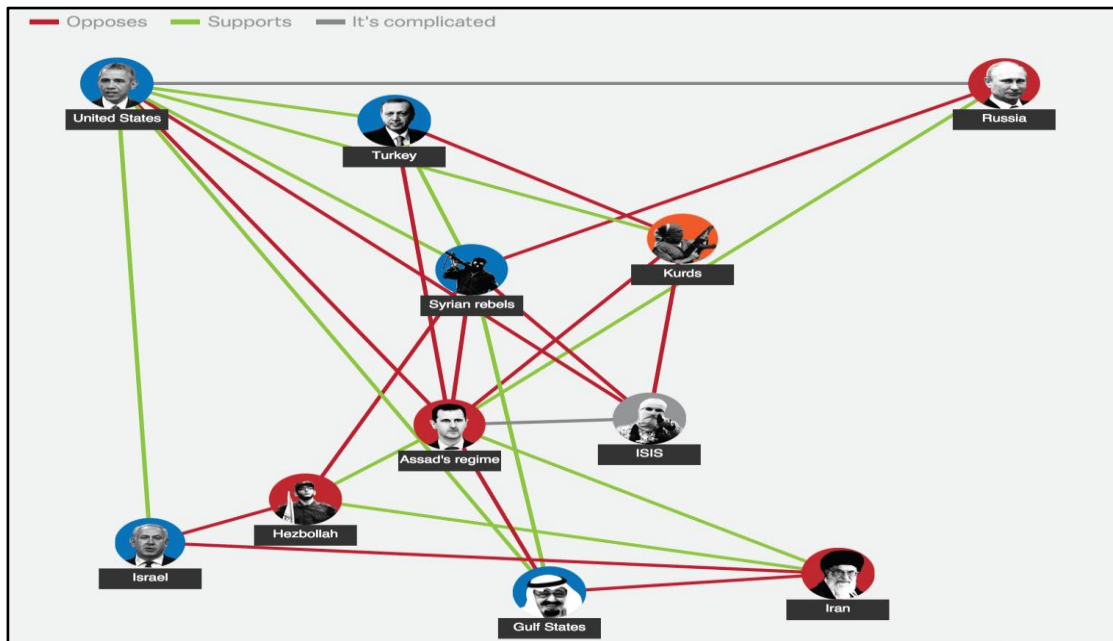


Diagram of Countries involved in svria and their relationships bv vox

The Syrian crisis has built a web of alliances (as seen above) that make cooperation in the Mediterranean increasingly difficult and even challenge what security we already have by pitching countries, who traditionally are allies, against each other. The Syrian crisis has also contributed to the largest refugee crisis the world has seen since the second world war.

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The refugee crisis itself has been caused by the Syrian crisis, several of the other civil wars and the north-south economic divide in the Mediterranean. Subsequently the main reasons people are leaving their countries is due to their nations being at war, in a state of civil unrest or economic instability. Migrants and Refugees follow three main routes out of the southern Mediterranean: the Eastern Route which flows from Turkey into Greece and subsequently the Balkans, where the majority of refugees are either from Syria or Afghanistan, the Central Route which flows through the center of the Mediterranean from Egypt and Libya up to Malta and Italy, and the Western Route from Morocco to Spain. Out of these the eastern route is the mostly widely used, with twelve million people having fled Syria by the end of 2016 alone⁷ almost exclusively to seek asylum in Europe. Despite this, the central route is still generally considered the most dangerous route mainly due to the distance of sea the migrants have to cross in undersized overcrowded boats; for this reason 1,067 migrants have been recorded as diseased or missing⁸ in 2018 alone, but this most likely is lower due to the amount of attempts to cross the Mediterranean we most likely do not actually know about.

In the past few years the refugee crisis has been one of the most divisive issues across the Mediterranean. Put simply, the EU and the UN were both unprepared for such a large influx of refugees in such a small period of time, and this ultimately put strain on the border countries of the Mediterranean (Italy, Greece, Turkey) and relatively quickly governments of these nations started withdrawing from the idea of sheltering these asylum seekers. A similar sentiment spread across Europe and parts of the Middle East, as countries refused to accept asylum seekers despite evidence showing that the majority of asylum seekers actually become productive members of society as most are already highly educated and want to contribute to the country's giving them what is fundamentally shelter. Countries in and around the Mediterranean disagree on how the crisis should be dealt with, some opting for to spread the

⁷ "Refugee Statistics | USA for UNHCR."

⁸ "1068 Deaths of Migrant recorded in the ... - Missing Migrants Project." 3 Jul. 2018,

burden while others want to completely ignore it; it is misconceptions about refugees and the lack of an unfixed objective or plan that has hindered the improvement of the situation.

The Israeli Palestinian conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict started in the early nineteen hundreds following the “British mandate of Palestine” (put in place after the First World War) as tensions grew between member of the Zionist Jewish community, which had migrated into Palestine to form a new state (Israel) and native Arabs who had begun forming their own state, Palestine. During the period of the British mandate, both groups slowly made steps towards more and more violent action against one another, until Britain stepped in and divided the region into two states, Palestine for the native Arabs of the region and Israel for substantial and growing Jewish population leaving the city of Jerusalem as an international zone due to its religious importance to the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith respectively. Palestine gained its own independence and the Jewish peoples of the region finally got their own state forming what is now known as Israel. The UN proposal was accepted by Israel but the surrounding Arab nations saw it as European colonialism taking more land. Subsequently they launched a campaign against Israel. Failing to reach its goal of suppressing Israel, the campaign promoted retaliation from Israel leading the nation seize more palestine land then they had before the start of the campaign; most namly the regions of the west bank and the gaza strip

The next major event, was the so called ‘six day war’ between Israel and the surrounding Arab regions. Israel emerged from this war with even more land the before, having completely occupied the Palestinian territory and the Sinai desert (which was later given back to Egypt as part of the peace treaty). This now brings us to the Israeli-Palestinian territories of the west bank, Israel and the Gaza strip as we know them today. Leading up to the current state of

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Israel however there were still a few key events. First was the Oslo Accords which formed the Palestinian authority which gave Palestinians a degree of autonomy, but any hope of significant progress soon fizzled as an Israeli extremist shot the Israeli Prime Minister accusing him of betraying Israel. Prior to this the terrorist group HAMAS had also been formed in the Gaza strip, which dedicated itself to the destruction of Israel. Soon after the Palestinians held a second violent intifada (riot), which quickly backfired as the Israeli government started restricting Palestinian movement and building walls and checkpoints. Subsequently, the Israeli government felt as though it couldn't trust the Palestinians to remain peaceful, and the Palestinian people felt that neither peace nor violence could help them.

Israel's next move, was to withdraw occupation of the Gaza strip in 2005, surrendering the region to HAMAS which splits from the Palestinian authority. Israel also slowly suppressed Palestinians as they promoted settlers moving into Palestinian territory and starting new Israel townships and cities as a form of soft power. Throughout the entirety of the Israeli occupation of Palestine the international community had taken a hard line stance in condemning the occupation, until 2018 where the US President moved the US embassy to Israel into Jerusalem. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a polarizing situation that has significant effect on maintaining a good level of cooperation between all nations involved. Taking into account the history of this conflict is key as it is deeply rooted in many of the nations and heavily influences their current opinions on the matter.

The Importance of a sustainable Mediterranean

The Mediterranean is one of the most diverse regions in the world and has a impact on the entire globe. If we want to truly improve security and cooperation in the long term we need to act with caution and maintain the idea of sustainable development along the way. Climate change and pollution are predicted to have a substantial impact on the future of the Mediterranean. The

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Mediterranean region offers a vast supply of resources that if used correctly can lead to significant maintained growth and stability across the region.

In terms of security the three main focuses are water availability, energy and climate change. A lack of water availability has slowly become a growing concern across the global community especially as significant droughts hit countries across the world like America and South Africa this year. The northern Mediterranean region is one of the largest sources of freshwater in contrast to the southern Mediterranean. Establishing a framework to use this source of water sustainably is key to maintaining future stability in the region, as a lack of basic resources like water in the south, may lead to furthering the stark economic divide between the Mediterranean in the future. Climate change and pollution may also impact the region as tourism (a key form of income for the area) begins decline.

Ultimately we need to establish sustainable infrastructure across the Mediterranean and not exploit the resources we currently have at hand. Trying to minimize the economic division between the north and south will significantly help in regaining stability across the regions of northern Africa and the middle east, improving security. Building strong relationships between the nations through trade and joint projects will also be key to establishing a strong line of communication and subsequently cooperation for all the nations involved. Moving in this sustainable direction is key to maintaining a degree of stability in the Mediterranean for years to come which will allow us to make the necessary steps to securing the region and building that strong rapport between its nations. To preserve this option of having mediterranean nations cooperate to build a stronger mediterranean we also need to make sure that there is not a struggle for resources within the mediterranean itself. To do this we should look at how climate change and marine pollution have been affecting water supplies and biodiversity; to insure that if climate change were to worsen food and water would not be a point of conflict for the different mediterranean issues. Already we're seeing changes in weather patterns



across the northern mediterranean and preparation for the future impact of these changes is key to maintaining a steady mediterranean.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Southern Europe

As mentioned previously Southern Europe at the moment is one of the most stable regions in the Mediterranean. Due to financial, political and trade support from the EU these nations growth has been relatively steady compared to the other Mediterranean states. If we look at tourism statistics and shipping statistics it is clear to see why, countries like Greece have held the record largest merchant fleets for years and, despite their economic situation, their shipping industry has remained intact and continued to bring imports into Europe and take exports out of Europe. These nations also have support form external players like China due to their “Belt and Road” initiative which aims to improve trade with Europe most notably through shipping paths across southern Asia, through the Red Sea and up through the Mediterranean.

Countries like Italy, Greece and Spain also hold some of the largest tourism industries in the world further improving their economy and stability. Ultimately southern Europe will most likely act as a ‘base of operations’ when improving the situation in the Mediterranean as these states offer robust infrastructure that connects the more developed northern Mediterranean to the Less Developed South which can help establish a degree of communication between the nations that would subsequently lead to the development of infrastructure and economic growth contributing to a greater stabilization of the region.

Northern Africa

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Nations across Northern Africa (along with the Middle East) in the past few years has broken into several violent protests and civil wars most notably the Tunisian protests in 2016, the current Libyan Civil war and the protests across Egypt which was once one of the most stable countries in the region. Most of these protests were caused by the Arab Spring in 2011 as people began to speak out against abusive government regimes who abused Human rights, mismanaged economies and were prone to corruption. Lasting effects of the Arab spring are clearly visible today, with the war Libya, the situation in Tunisia and the current unrest in Egypt and Algeria. These nations are all highly unstable as Algeria is risking protests over a lack of infrastructure, political discontent and social imbalances⁹. Meanwhile Tunisia's "War on terrorism" seems to be focusing more on Islam then extremists subsequently contributing to radicalization and worsening the situation. Northern Africa if far from regaining stability as despite the protest, governments like Egypt's continue oppressive behaviour, increasing the mistrust for governmental institutions¹⁰. Ultimately it is situations like these and the civil war in Libya that are responsible for the instability in the region.

The Middle East

For the purposes of our topic we will be focusing primarily on Israel, Syria and Turkey. At the moment Syria is amidst one of the most complicated civil wars in the past decade, complicated government, civil and religious factors as well as an international overshadowing as the US and Russia pick sides and other Arab states begin to turn it into more of a proxy war then a civil war. The Syrian crisis quickly turned into what is now the current refugee crisis or at least sparked it, as Syrian citizens began to seek asylum in Europe. In terms of security and cooperation it is very hard to make a direct impact on Syria and its people due to the current waring state of the nation. Especially considering the current condemnation of the Assad regime's potential use of

⁹ "Algeria, serious risks to the economic and political stability...."

¹⁰ "Warning signs of instability in Egypt | Global Risk Insights." 19 Feb. 2018,

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chemical weapons. Several global powers have a role in syria at the moment which also certainly complicates things and is important to keep in mind, as decisions made in syria will affect the rest of the mediterranean (and potentially the globe) as member states may be forced to pick sides.

Turkey itself has begun to take on a more authoritarian style of regime following the recent Coup d'etat. Focusing however on its foreign policy we see that it uses its power rather aggressively, whether it be through intimidating smaller countries like Greece or directly becoming involved with the Syrian war, by capturing land from the Syrian-Kurdish forces. Many nations believe turkey is overstepping its authority and abusing its powers as one of the stronger mediterranean nations. this is often attributed to president Erdogan's recent power plays in turkey which have gained him alleged 'dictator-like' powers in the nation by securing the military, media and state to be controlled by him.

Ultimately, the middle east is a difficult region to develop cooperation and subsequently a sense of security in. The conflict zones within the Middle East create a barrier that will not be easily passed and will require the cooperation of several stakeholders that may not initially want to contribute to a stronger Mediterranean as a whole which is one of the many challenges we face when examining this region.

United Nations High Commission for refugees (UNHCR)

The UNHCR is the main UN authority on the refugees. They manage everything from establishing the rights of refugees to gathering data on their routes, numbers and place of origin. In this topic the UNHCR comes into play when dealing with the refugee crisis which has been a divisive issue for most all of the Mediterranean nations. The Mediterranean is essentially split into three groups, the nations willing to hold and shelter refugees and asylum seekers, the nations which refuse to shelter refugees and instead try to transfer them and the nations which are in conflict and are in fact the home country of many of the asylum seekers (such as syria). The UNHCR will play a

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key role in facilitating cooperation and providing the guidelines for the development of the correct infrastructure needed to tackle the refugee crisis as a joint effort.

European Union (EU)

The EU is a joint Union of almost all the European nations. It has provided an economic backbone for many of the countries currently in the Mediterranean, and has helped to relieve pressure during the refugee crisis by assisting in resettlement programs throughout Europe. This has ultimately provided a sense of security for the southern European nations as well as facilitating a cooperation. One of its greatest contributions to the Mediterranean is the UfM which has made significant contributions to developing the Mediterranean countries relations

The Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)

The UfM is an Organization funded by the EU with the purpose of bringing together twenty eight European nations, as well as fifteen Middle Eastern and Northern Africa Mediterranean nations¹¹. They follow a methodology that incorporates developing a political framework, regional dialogue platforms and projects and initiatives. Ultimately what this means is that they focus establishing communication with the nation's government officials to establish a common agenda (their political aspect), and they bolster this relationship by working with key Mediterranean stakeholders (Governments, international authorities, financial institutions, the private sector and so on); They take advantage of these partnerships and enhance them by running projects and initiatives that improve development by focusing on both regional sustainable development and regional human development (or improving a region's infrastructure and improving a region's education,

¹¹ "Member States - Union for the Mediterranean - UfM."

business and social affairs)¹² . The UfM has been a key organization in facilitating cooperation throughout the Mediterranean and developing infrastructure that will help not only strengthening these nations bonds but also maintain them.

North-Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

NATO was originally established during the Cold War as a way to strengthen bonds between the US and European nations in reaction to the Soviet-Warsaw pact, and it includes several Mediterranean nations, most notably Turkey.

In the Post-cold war era however, despite the US 6th fleet still being stationed in the Mediterranean (a powerful naval fleet intended to respond to Soviet activity) both American and European ideas and priorities towards security have shifted towards a more non-military focus¹³. One of key factors to this new focus was the economic differences between the northern Mediterranean (Europe) and southern Mediterranean (The Maghreb Area which is essentially most of northern Africa) which caused a great amount of migration north, and a significant economic crisis in the south. Europeans also shifted to a focus on security of energy and resources while America focused on 'soft influence' (an underlying influence in a region that does not require military presence and instead is more cultural and trade oriented) as well as the growing threat of Turkey to Greece and the risk of a war. Ultimately NATO is a key player here from the perspective of what is considered security especially as they (due to the US influence) have expressed opposition to the French position of the Europeanisation of the Mediterranean and NATO.

¹² "What we do: the work of the Union for the Mediterranean - UfM."

¹³ "security and co-operation in the mediterranean - SAM."

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

| Date | Description of Event |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1967 | The Israeli-Arab '6 day war' that effectively transformed the Israeli-Palestinian relations into what they are today and greatly increase Israeli-Arab tensions |
| 1975 | The Mediterranean Action Plan gets adopted as 16 mediterranean countries begin to take steps in protecting the sea from pollution |
| 1995 | The Barcelona Process (Euromed partnership) was organised by the EU laying the groundworks for the UfM |
| 2005 | Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) was introduced. The start a secure future for the Mediterranean. |
| 13th July 2008 | UfM was founded ultimately turning a new page for the EU and the Mediterranean |
| 10th December 2010 | The start of the Arab Spring |
| March 15 2011 - Present | Syrian Civil war began between Bashar al-Assad and several militant groups |
| 26th January 2014 | New Tunisian constitution is put into place after revolution and protest |

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|--------------------------------|--|
| 16th May 2014 - Present | Libyan Civil War began as militant faction try to seize oil and other resources |
| 10th of August 2014 | Taip Erdogan elected president of turkey, being a change in the direction of Turkish foreign policy |
| 2015 | The Start of the modern Refugee Crisis |

UN INVOLVEMENT: RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

- **13 July 2008 - Joint Declaration of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean Paris - added to and emphasized the importance of the barcelona process and supported the Israeli-palestinian peace process as well as the completion of the millennium goals.**
- **5th December 2016 - A/71/455 “strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean” - this resolution was a attempt to re-enforce security across the mediterranean by uniting legal processes in the region and attempting to ease tensions.**
- **1993 - Oslo I Accord - an attempt to the guideline that would slowly ease Israeli-palestinian tensions and eventually end the conflict**
- **1995 - Oslo II Accord - A secondary agreement aimed to improve palestinian authority and tackle the regions of the west bank and gaza**
- **16th September 2011 - United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) - a UN mission launched following the libyan civil war to assist in political affairs to promote order and rule of law**

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Focusing on specific previous attempts is hard to do as in this topic we are dealing with such a large region. It would be easy to pinpoint UfM as an attempt to solve the issue or the UNHCR's efforts to solve the refugee crisis but by doing that we undermine what a broad range of causes have contributed to our current situation and the interplay between the political, economic and societal causes between each one of those reasons.

It is fair to say that there has not been a general attempt to solve this issue but much rather several far more focused ones. Establishing security and cooperation throughout the Mediterranean especially in the middle east and N. Africa is an increasingly difficult task as each nation has its own definition of security and its own idea of how we should cooperate to actualize it. This is why organizations like the UfM are successful on this matter as they allow nations to find a collective way to tackle part of the issue, in the UfM's case they are allowing nations from Europe and the Mediterranean to begin working on common infrastructure goals and working on the road to clear friendly diplomatic relations. However, their main focus is on Europe's relation with the Maghreb (Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Morocco and Mauritania) region and not with Egypt or the Middle East.

Furthermore, if we take examples like the UNHCR's efforts to tackle the refugee crisis by working with European partners and using humanitarian and monetary assistance to help support accommodation and conditions for refugees or the approach to sustainable development across the Mediterranean it's clear to see how there is an effort to provide very precise solutions. Ultimately as stated earlier the difficulty in this topic is finding a broad but effective solution. Perhaps there are too many important details for an effective broad solution to be put in place, and in that case it would be important to focus on setting up the necessary infrastructure and legislation to



facilitate a more long term and sustainable improvement of the situation where ever possible.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

When it comes to proposing new solutions to this topic we need to take careful consideration of not only the stakeholders as what the people and the governments need in each region of the Mediterranean (for example N.Africa vs Middle east) will be different but also to take into consideration what your timeframe is and whether, within that time frame, the clauses would be necessary or justified.

General and Governmental solutions:

Ultimately we are looking at several ways to approach solving this topic. The first is forming a general solution or kind of regulation/monitoring program. What we are looking to do with a wide scale application like this is supervise the countries growth in order to ensure that sustainable steps are being taken. This means one would be looking to help facilitate each nation to develop positive diplomatic relations with its neighbours and the rest of the Mediterranean over a decent amount of time. One would also want to ensure this growth is founded on an economic basis that is relatively sustainable. This kind of steady growth would be helpful for nations like Tunisia, Egypt or Algeria as it would put them back on a path towards a stable government. Of course we also need to deal with gaining beginning cooperation beforehand so that it is easier to implement these security measures because we would be working with these states rather than around them. However, in situations like Turkey or Israel when the governments are arguably stable such predictions wouldn't be necessary.

The Refugee Crisis:

The fundamental root causes of the Refugee Crisis really come down to the civil wars in the southern mediterranean nations like Syria and Libya and the economic difference between the north and the south mediterranean; thus approaching those issues would be key to tackling the problems root but as will be discussed later on in the study guide, each of those root causes is going to take an extensive amount of time and effort.

Therefore, in addition to tackling root causes in order to eliminate or slow this influx of refugees we should also focus on dealing with the refugees already within European nations and the attitudes and misconceptions of the European peoples about the Crisis and refugees themselves. To begin with we need to focus on changing negative preconceptions of who refugees and migrants are, and establishing a safe and regulated way for refugees and migrants to move into Europe and be distributed proportionally across it. This is one of the largest challenges in terms of cooperation in the Mediterranean; It is also fundamental to strengthening the Mediterranean's security as countries whose peoples accept and help one another are less likely to provoke one another. Each member state has its own policy regarding the crisis and it will be important to try to reach a compromise in any potential solutions.

Understanding and Improving Security :

When dealing with established and relatively stable governments like we just mentioned it would be important to carry out steps that build cooperation as fast as possible. The sooner we can begin working on issues within those nations and beginning to establish that rapport and establish that sense of security the faster this forward motion will begin to spill into their surrounding regions. Earlier we briefly touched upon the idea of security and how different nations may view security from different perspectives and value it differently (i.e. some nations may value economic security, others cultural or border security) and this will be key when providing the necessary incentives for Mediterranean states to begin cooperation and begin taking those steps to

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a more stable, predictable and secure Mediterranean (effectively tackling the refugee crisis and radicalization across the Mediterranean would be key in this situation). When thinking about the topic, environmental factors also start coming into play. The Mediterranean and its surrounding nations have plenty of strategic resources that will ultimately come into play sooner rather than later; water reserves, vast amounts of building materials, potential renewable energy sources as well as those trade routes we discussed earlier are already or will be highly impactful in the global trade scene. Setting up the necessary infrastructure to harvest those resources sustainably and taking the necessary steps now to prevent the impacts of climate change and pollution will be fundamental to securing a powerful Mediterranean for the future.

Helping with stability in Northern Africa:

In order to regain an essential steady and stable growth and overall stability in northern Africa it is key to root out corruption, insure the governments are taking steps to provide their citizens with the human rights they deserve and set a up infrastructure which can help regulate and protect the people of these nations. Achieving a greater economic balance between Southern Europe and the Northern Africa will be fundamental to stabilizing the region, providing job growth and ultimately fostering a better public opinion of the government's and a happier peoples. If this economic stability is achieved it will pave the way to a secure Northern African region and a stronger Mediterranean even eliminating a some of the flow of migrants to the northern Mediterranean who are looking for work.

Tackling Situations in the Middle Eastern Mediterranean:

The middle eastern mediterranean comes down to three main powers and conflicts that threaten security and cooperation in the region Turkish disputes, the Syrian Civil war and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Each one of these cases needs to be approached delicately and carefully in order to achieve long standing solutions and avoid repeating the mistakes of the past.

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First of all we have the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, which as we have seen thought the study guide has a long complex history and in order to attempt to bring about a solution we need to take into account the religious and cultural history of the conflict and facilitate communication between all sides. From a security point of view it is also important to try to control the level of violence in the region as extremists on both sides have used violence in the past to escalate the situation and derail any form of peace talks and so we should be prepared for similar situations in the future. As the international community is fairly divided among this topic it is fair to say there is no simple solution, but we can be certain that solving this dispute will require redistribution of land and power across the region and will most likely need to deal with the heavy burden of international criticism and division about this situation.

Next we have the Civil war in Syria, which as we mentioned earlier has escalated into more a Cold-War-esque proxy war between the varied factions and parties which has made the situation even harder to find a satisfactory solution to. Syria is essentially in a state of all out war, combine this with the Assad regime's use of chemical weapons and their hesitation to cooperate with the UN, the possibility of a direct UN involvement to improve Syria's situation is improbable. An attempt to stabilize the region around it however, may be beneficial, and if successful could open the doors to negotiation about leading internal projects to help improve security and cooperation in a long term viable way. What makes this difficult however is the number of factions in the war itself, finding a compromise that works for everyone seems unlikely, and the judgment of several powerful member states may be clouded due to their own interests in Syria; most probably solutions put forth here will attempt to side with a faction or several factions in the war respectively, despite this we must try to implement a long standing solution so conflict does not resurface in the following years.

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Finally we shall take a glance at Turkey. In the past few years Turkey has been making more and more aggressive moves against nations like Greece and factions like the Kurds in Syria; it is important that we begin taking steps towards working alongside Turkey rather than against. At the moment it is one of the most powerful nations in the region and gaining its support to strengthen the Mediterranean as a whole will be a big step forward as it would de-escalate tensions across both the Middle East and parts of Southern Europe especially the Balkans. Many nations have already begun to criticise Erdogan's (Turkey's current President) for what seem to be very aggressive power plays, which they fear could turn Turkey into a strong dictatorship. Your nation's policy towards this must of course be taken into account when trying to draft a feasible solution to this problem.

Overall, it is important to keep in mind security and cooperation can only be achieved if we establish that initial dialogue, a process that will need a fair amount of support from the local stakeholders. Even just finding ways to work together on efficiently tackling issues such as the refugee crisis could be that first step in securing that line of communication and beginning the steps that will lead to successfully tackling the other issues and ultimately a stable and secure region.

The Overview:

These are just a few options we can take to effectively tackle this issue and the range of possibilities here is fairly large as here as we could even delve deeper into the issues here and begin to try to help untangle the Syrian war form is complicated geopolitics, assist with deescalating the Libyan civil war and even begin settling Turkish disputes with Greece and Kurdish people of northern Syria. Keep in mind that security in the Mediterranean and cooperation in the Mediterranean has implications of international security as almost all major players in the global scene have a tie to the Mediterranean one way or another be it through, trade, politics or even war. To effectively

tackle this issue we will need new innovative ideas, that are effective in practice and come across as justified to the global community.

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