Committee: Special Political

Topic: Offsetting the legacy of slavery and colonisation

Background Information

In an increasingly globalised world, the legacy of slavery and colonisation can be seen in many cultures around the world. There are hundreds of examples in the earth's history of nations, who are deemed to be more powerful, attempting to colonise elsewhere on a nation that may have primitive or inferior technology. Such examples could include the slave trade around the mid-17th century, or the British in India and Pakistan. The repercussions that these acts leave behind are seen in Modern times. Some of which are causing problems even today for which need addressing.

One important example of colonisation causing problems for today's world is the example of Britain's involvement in Hong Kong. Whilst they cannot be accountable for all of what is happening in Hong Kong at the moment their actions in the 19th century with China and the Opium War can be seen as to having some kind of involvement in the riots that occurred through 2019. The Opium War which lasted from 1839-1842, resulted in the island of Hong Kong being given to Britain as a colony for the British Empire. Under British rule Hong Kong's growth skyrocketed meaning that in 1997 when it was handed back to the Chinese it made up 18.4% of China's GDP. The legacy of the UK's rule could then be seen in the years that followed 1997, as Hong Kong were still their own state and so followed the UK's same judiciary laws and the same political system which is different to China's political system. This mismatch in systems, and perhaps the same ideology to pre-1997, caused tensions to boil in Hong Kong. Riots therefore followed both with the Umbrella movement of 2014 and the summer riots of 2019. Resolutions should therefore be drawn out to explain how the legacy of colonisation should effect a country and who has control over a region in the transition period between two ruling States.

Another important example of there still being a lasting reminder of colonisation is in Pakistan and India with the border skirmishes of 2019 in particular the area of Kashmir. After the independence of India in 1947 numerous conflicts occurred in Kashmir from the independence of the two countries including three wars. The main reasons why these acts of violence were due to the borders drawn by the British after they left the region due to India's independence. These borders were decided by religion and by a Brit who hasn't visited either India or Pakistan before in his life. This was also done in a hasty time as the British wanted to remove themselves as quick as possible. This example can therefore express the detrimental effects of hastily planned out decolonisation. Therefore a resolution should focus on how to offset these effects and make sure that there is no further conflict in regions that are effected by a colonised state.

The largest example that can still be seen in modern times is that of the Atlantic Slave Trade from Europe to Africa to the USA. The effects of the freeing of slaves in 1865 were monumental and resulted in severe prejudice and racism towards African-

Americans in the following hundred and fifty years. The segregation in Southern States in particular in the 1950 and 1960's led to the civil rights movement and further acts against suppression by Black Americans, some resulted in violence and riots in the later years of the civil rights movement. The effects could even be seen today, with the hate group of the KKK still prominent and effecting Americans in the 2010's. Resolutions should therefore focus on the years after colonisation and slavery making sure that conflicts about race of religion should be kept minimal and that current racism and wars should be resolved.

There are many more examples of how colonisation and slavery effects a country in a negative way. Therefore delegates should research these and create resolutions that alter these negative effects via reducing the conflicts and racism that occur as a result of slavery and colonisation and perhaps correcting major errors made by past nations that colonised a country, or even reducing a state's power in a colonised country.

Defining Key Terms

Colonisation: According to the Oxford dictionary Colonisation is the action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area.

Slavery: The definition of Slavery being the practice or system of owning slaves. Where slaves are further defined as a person who is the legal property of another and is forced to obey them.

Legacy: In this context legacy is describing the conflicts that proceed the acts of colonisation and slavery. This legacy is how these two events change a countries cultures and their view on the world as a result.

The Emancipation Proclamation: Is the bill signed by Abraham Lincoln which changed the legal status under federal law of more than 3.5 million enslaved African Americans in the Confederate states from slave to free.

Timeline of events

1839-1842	The first Opium war, resulted in the creation of a British ruled Hong Kong.
1863	The emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln
1857-1947	The India Independence movement.
1947	The creation of Pakistan and India as independent states. Also the first Indo-Pakistan war over Kashmir
1958-1968	The American civil rights movement ending with the Fair housing act of 1968 and the assassination of Martin Luther King
1997	Hong Kong back to China from British rule. The creation of the "One Country Two Systems" State.
2014	The umbrella movement in Hong Kong

2019	Further conflict in India and Pakistan over Kashmir
2019-2020	The riots in Hong Kong resulting in 2600 injuries and 2 deaths as well as thousands of dollars worth of property damage.

Bibliography

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