

Forum: Population Movement Council

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TOPIC 2: The Question of Impermeable Borders.

I. Introduction to the Topic

Impermeable borders can be physical or non-physical borders that aim to restrict one's ability to cross the border from one nation to another. Despite the possible preconceived notion that an impermeable wall is limited to physical walls, impermeable walls can include areas where military presence/surveillance may prevent people from crossing across. More abstractly, impermeable borders can include non-physical borders that prevent migrants/refugees from entering a nation due to unwillingness. The purpose of these impermeable borders can be attributed to various factors. This can range from the desire to isolate a nation's citizens to the desire to stop foreign threats from entering a nation. Within ancient history and contemporary times, impermeable borders have remained a common spectacle. However, the effectiveness of these barriers has been and should continue to be debated. Delegates are urged to contemplate whether or not there is a necessity for impermeable borders and how these borders may be attempts to hide issues within the walled nation or from other nations.

II. Definition of Key Terms & Concepts

TOPIC 1: The Question of Impermeable Borders

Definition of Key Terms

Border: A boundary that separates two bodies (geographically/politically) from one another.

Permeability: The state of a border and the ease for one to move across the border.

Migrant: A person who moves to a new place in order to temporarily or permanently reside in the new place, desiring to find work or establish a more fruitful life.

Refugee: A person who leaves their nation to escape problems (political, cultural, environmental) within their nation.

Korean War: After WWII and the establishment of the two Koreas, North Korea invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, with the intention of reunifying the two Koreas under North Korean leadership. Despite the conclusion of the Korean War, the tension between the two Koreas continues to run high, and the border has been responsible for some of the flares of tension.

DMZ: The DMZ, the demilitarized zone, is a region between North and South Korea on the 38th parallel established after the end of the Korean War. The DMZ is about 2 km wide, and inside this tiny strip of land, the “truce village” of Panmunjom exists. This village has been the location where many peace talks have transpired between the two Koreas. On the other hand, due to the neutrality practiced in the DMZ despite extreme military presence from both sides, conflicts have broken out between the two sides.

Armistice Agreement: On July 27, 1953, the Korean War came to a conclusion when both nations signed the Armistice Agreement and agreed upon a temporary ceasefire.

Stateless Nation: A group of people that shares common ground with each other (culture, language, values, etc) who occupy a geographic area. However, stateless nations have no governance over themselves due to being subjected to the rule of an already established nation whose territory is occupied by the stateless nation.

LAC: The Line of Actual Control is used to mark the boundaries between Chinese-controlled and Indian-controlled territory.

PLA: The People’s Liberation Army or otherwise known as China’s equivalent of the US army.

III. Key Stakeholders

North Korea: North Korea, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, is one of the two Koreas within the Korean peninsula. The leadership of the North Korean government is under the supreme dictator Kim Jong-Un, the heir to the North Korean throne after Kim Jong-il passed away in 2011. North Korea initiated the Korean War after a series of clashes on the border between the two Koreas on the 8th parallel. North Korea aimed to reunify the two Koreas together under North Korean leadership. Despite the end of the Korean War, North Korea still

wishes to see a reunified Korea again, deposing South Korea. North Korea shares its border with South Korea in the DMZ. North Korea has been the perpetrator in a series of conflicts within the DMZ despite the Armistice Agreement signed by both nations.

South Korea: South Korea, the Republic of Korea, is one of the two Koreas within the Korean peninsula. South Korea uses a democratic presidential system to govern its citizens. Like North Korea, South Korea wishes to see a reunified Korea again, deposing North Korea in the process. South Korea has been responsible for some of the altercations in the DMZ.

United States of America: The United States of America (US) is a democratic nation in North America. A portion of the US population wishes to prevent illegal immigration into the US due to a plethora of reasons. When former president Donald Trump came into power, he enacted his plan to build his “Trump Wall” to prevent the crossing of the US-Mexican border.

Mexico: Mexico is under the leadership of a federal government and the neighboring nation to the US. The sentiment of the US in Mexico has soured after the apparent anti-Mexican rhetoric used by President Trump in the US.

Poland: Poland is a unitary parliamentary representative democratic republic located in Central Europe and part of the European Nation. Poland had closed its borders off to Belarus after Alexander Lukashenko, president of Belarus, threatened to flood Poland’s borders with migrants. However, Poland has opened parts of its borders to allow the entry of Asylum seekers once more.

Belarus: Belarus is a democratic nation under the lead of Alexander Lukashenko. Belarus was sanctioned by the European Nations after the fraudulent presidential elections in 2020, the maltreatment of protesters, and Belarus’ involvement in assisting Russia with the military invasion of Ukraine.

India: India is a constitutional republic that gained independence from Colonial rule by Britain in 1947. After independence, the question of the border between China and India in the Galwan Valley near Ladakh would become a point of contention.

China: China, the People’s Republic of China, practices a one-party communist dictatorship. India-China came to the attention of China in 1958 after Chinese Premier Zhou Enli responded

to protests against the Aksai Chin Road, a strip of land in the Aksai Chin region, where India claimed ownership of the land. China claimed that this strip of land was part of Tibet.

IV. Key Issues including Background Information

US-Mexico Wall: After the former president of the United States, Donald Trump, became president, Donald Trump enacted his plan to build a physical wall between the borders of the United States and Mexico. The intentions of this wall were to prevent illegal immigration/entry into the United States by people in Central America. However, figure 1 below shows the ineffectiveness of this wall (CATO). Other logistics involved with erecting the wall had slowed down the progress of building the wall and continuously wasted large sums of taxpayer money. Citizens living in the region that would occupy the area required to build the wall practiced their right to private property, forcing the US government to coerce landowners into selling their property. Delegates are challenged to consider the effectiveness of these barriers and the ethical issues surrounding impermeable borders.

DMZ - Defectors: Multiple attempts by defectors on both Koreas have been a key issue that has almost jeopardized the peace between the two Koreas. On November 13, 2017, a North Korean defector defected to South Korea by crossing the DMZ between the two Koreas. North Korean soldiers quickly attempted to capture the defector. However, as the defector made it across the line that separated the two Koreas, the soldiers hesitated to cross until a soldier crossed the border. This was a clear breach of the Armistice Agreement, and the United Nations Command condemned North Korea's breach of the border between the two Koreas. Impermeable borders with strict regulations, such as the DMZ between the two Koreas, have been the culprit to rising tensions between the two nations. Delegates should carefully consider whether or not the existence of the impermeable border between North Korea and South Korea contributes to the peace or growing hostilities between the two Koreas.

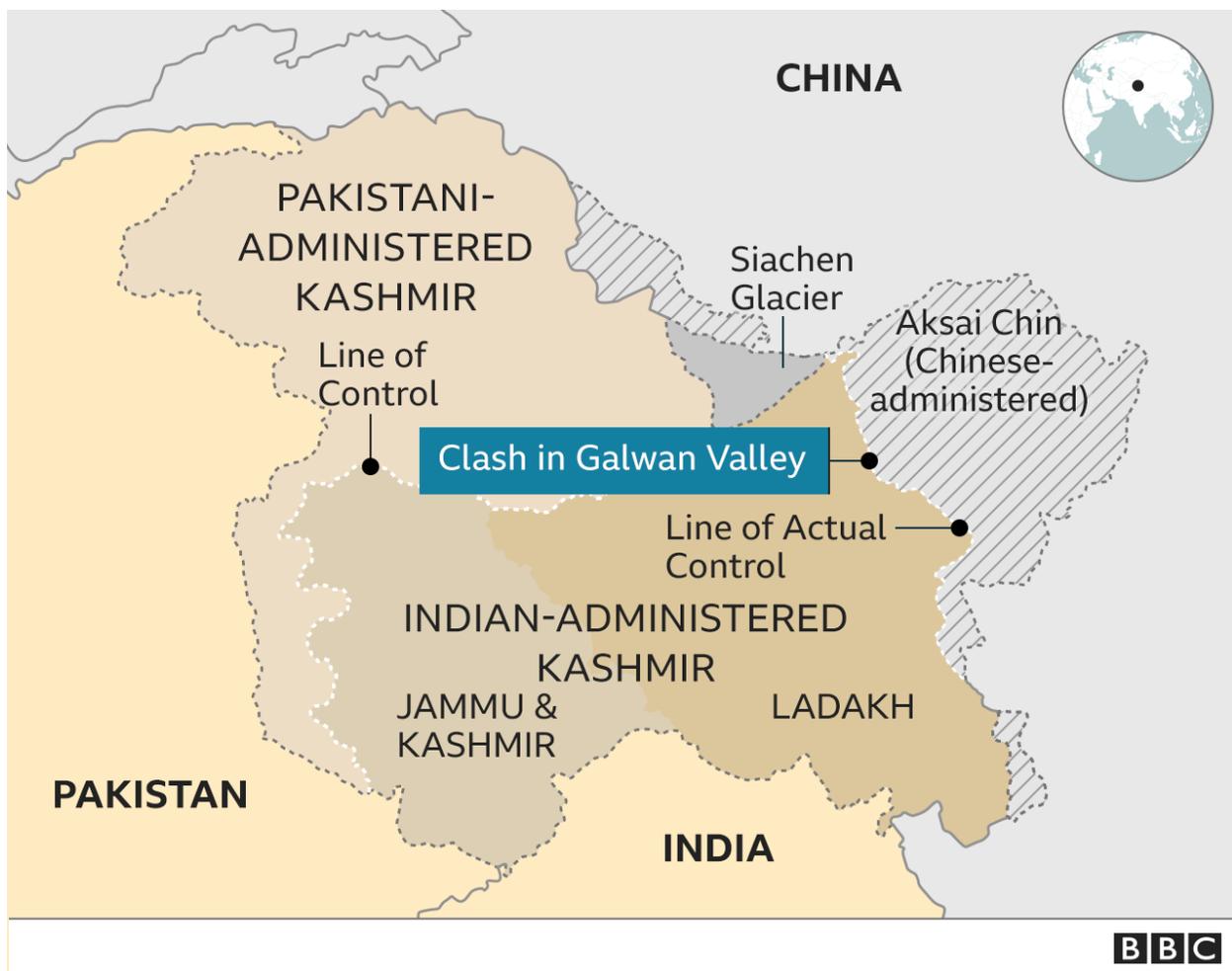
DMZ - Military Activities: Delegates are also urged to consider the impacts of an impermeable border where military weapons such as landmines are planted and forgotten, left to injure/kill unsuspecting civilians in the future possibly. During and after the Korean War, the US and South Korean governments planted an estimated 1 million landmines within and near the DMZ. Despite tensions between the two Koreas simmering since the Korean War, the landmines symbolize the bloody past shared between the two Koreas. As many of these landmines have been forgotten and not properly disposed of, civilians may unexpectedly stumble upon them and seriously hurt themselves. This example of military presence should be discussed by delegates as to whether or not it is necessary and morally sound for nations to use weapons to fortify their borders.

North Korea has seen a tremendous increase in the number of ballistic missiles, with some being fired near or within the borders of South Korea and Japan, fired this year, amounting to over 90 missiles. South Korea responded to the missile testing by conducting missile testing as well, firing surface-to-air missiles near North Korea's Eastern border. Tensions have further escalated after North Korea flew five drones that passed the mutual border between the two countries, with speculation that one of the drones traveled to South Korea's capital city Seoul.

Belarus-Poland Border: Belarus was sanctioned by the EU for its fraudulent elections in 2020 that kept Alexander Lukashenko in power and the violent crackdown on protests following the election. In response, President Alexander Lukashenko vowed to use immigrants as a political tool to flood EU nations and hopefully cripple the EU, pressuring the EU to alleviate/remove the sanctions on Belarus. Immigrants were used by easing the visa rules for migrants escaping conflict primarily from the Middle East, effectively gaining a large sum of migrants to flood the EU with. It has been cited that Belarusian soldiers are destroying the border wall and assisting migrants with illegally entering Poland. Law-abiding migrants at the Polish border have many times been denied from seeking asylum in the EU. Polish border guards preventing these migrants from entering have forcefully and sometimes violently prevented migrants from crossing the border, indirectly allowing these migrants to suffer inhuman treatment by Belarusian guards. The basic needs of these migrants have been grossly neglected and UN teams have been prevented from visiting and investigating the state of the Belarus-Poland border. On the other

hand, the Ukraine-Poland border has warmly welcomed millions of Ukrainian refugees fleeing from the Ukraine War at home.

Sino-Indian Border Dispute: For over 70 years and counting, the Sino-Indian border has remained a point of contention between China and India. In 1959, the PLA and the Indian army exchanged gunfire in the LAC. After continuous violent fighting at the border, the 1996 agreement between the two nations stated that “Neither side shall open fire, cause bio-degradation, use hazardous chemicals, conduct blast operations or hunt with guns and explosives within two kilometers from the LAC,” according to Article 6. This agreement which was meant to prevent needless death, has been circumvented by both sides by having soldiers from both sides fight with makeshift clubs/melee weapons. This circumvention would lead to an incident in 2020 where 20 Indian soldiers and an undisclosed number of Chinese troops would die in a border clash.



Stateless Nations/Split Population Borders: Stateless nations like in its name refer to people without a state and stateless nations are common in society today, such as *Balochis, Basques, Kurdistan, Mapuche, Navaho, Palestinians, Tuaregs, Roma, and Sami*. As stateless nations are oftentimes not recognized officially by other nations, people part of stateless nations feel resentment towards the lack of autonomy these groups of people possess. This can result in violent methods of representation.

Kurdistan remains a present example of a stateless nation with over 20 million Kurds occupying Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Iran, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Kurds believe that the area between western Iran, northern Iraq, and eastern Turkey belongs to the Kurds. The Kurds have not been recognized due to multiple reasons (regional instability, conflict between the Kurds and the “occupiers” of their territory, and Islamic State activity in the region).

V. Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

Timeline of Resolutions, Treaties, and Events

| Date | Description of event |
|------|---|
| 1920 | After the dissolving of the Ottoman Empire after WWI, the Kurdish people who were previously occupying Ottoman Empire territory are scattered among the new nations created in place of the Ottoman Empire. |
| 1950 | North Korea invaded South Korea and the Korean War began. |

- 1959 The PLA and Indian Army clash with one another in the Eastern sector of
- 1953 After bloody fighting, the Korean War ends after the Armistice Agreement is signed and the DMZ is created as a border between the two Koreas.
- 1961 Kurds in Iraq protested after not being promised autonomy under the rule of Iraqi Prime Minister Abd al-Karim Qasim, resulting in a rebellion. Autonomy is never cognized and fighting continues.
- 1962 Syria strips the Citizenship of 120,000 Kurds due to the Kurds failing to prove their residence prior to 1945.
- 1988 Saddam Hussein carries out the al-Anfal (The Spoils) campaign where around 50,000 to 180,000 Kurds in Iraq are killed/displaced in the resulting genocide.
- 1996 China and India agree to create the 1996 agreement that would limit the use of weapons used at the border from the LAC.

| | |
|------|--|
| 2013 | Kurds gain Autonomy in Northern Syria in three subdivisions within Rojava (North of Syria) |
| 2018 | After President Donald Trump is elected president, the construction of the wall between the border of the US and Mexico begins. |
| 2020 | A deadly clash erupts between Indian and Chinese soldiers at the LAC where 20 Indian soldiers and an undisclosed number of Chinese troops would die. Tensions also erupt from this incident. |

VI. Possible Challenges & Solutions

Consent of Borders: Delegates should consider whether or not consent from the neighboring nation should be required when a nation proposes to build a border. This discussion can extend to how the construction of borders may affect people's livelihoods near the border.

Military Presence: Delegates should discuss whether or not a military presence at a nation's border is acceptable. As previous examples have shown, military presence at a border can be the culprit for rising tensions between nations.

Recognition of People: Delegates should decide how stateless nations should be recognized and how member nations can help stateless nations voice their concerns and demands.

Subjective Permeability: Delegates should converse about how impermeable borders are oftentimes only impermeable for certain groups of people. This clear indication of favor for certain groups should be challenged.

VII. Recommendations for Resolution Writing including Research

Delegates should fiercely consider the moral and practical implications of creating impermeable borders that are both physical and non-physical. Delegates should divide

themselves into different positions pertaining to the topic, such as 1. delegates with specific border or territorial claims, 2. delegates whose borders have been recently violated, and 3. And delegates whose countries have significant migrant flows originating from or passing through or a country of destination.

1. Delegates in this position should aim to represent the concerns of their nation accurately. When representing their position, the delegate should provide historical backing, specific incidents representing their border concern, and other evidence. Delegates specifically representing a nation that may be occupied by another stateless nation should aim to create resolutions that represent the concerns of both parties accurately. Drastic measures may and should be entertained by delegates resting in this position.

2. Delegates in this position should also aim to provide specific incidents of their border being violated. The delegate should then convene with other member nations that may be the source of violation or be able to help this delegate produce solutions that aim to prevent another border violation.

3. Delegates in this position should seek out delegates whose nation is relevant in the movement/destination of their/other member nation's people. Delegates in this position are urged to seek each other and produce resolutions bilaterally in order to ensure the longevity of the solution at hand.

But most importantly, delegates are reminded to practice humanity while producing their resolutions as people's lives are at stake today.

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IX: Additional Resources

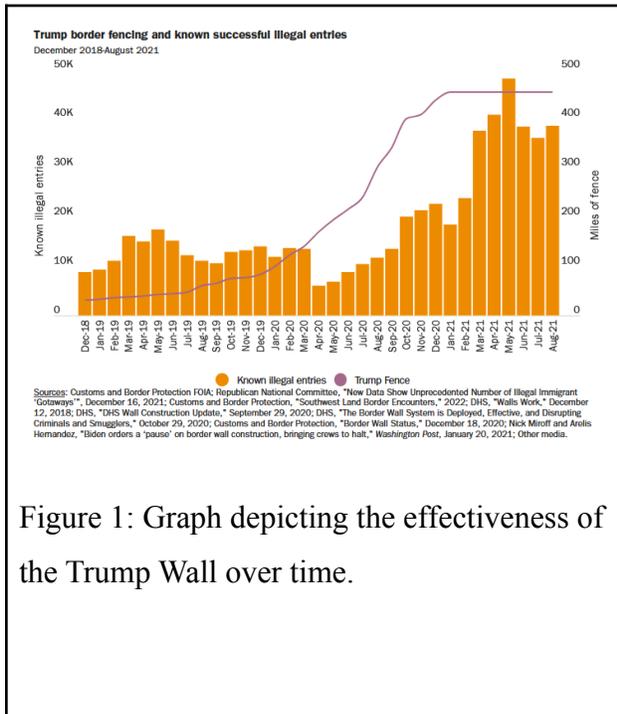


Figure 1: Graph depicting the effectiveness of the Trump Wall over time.

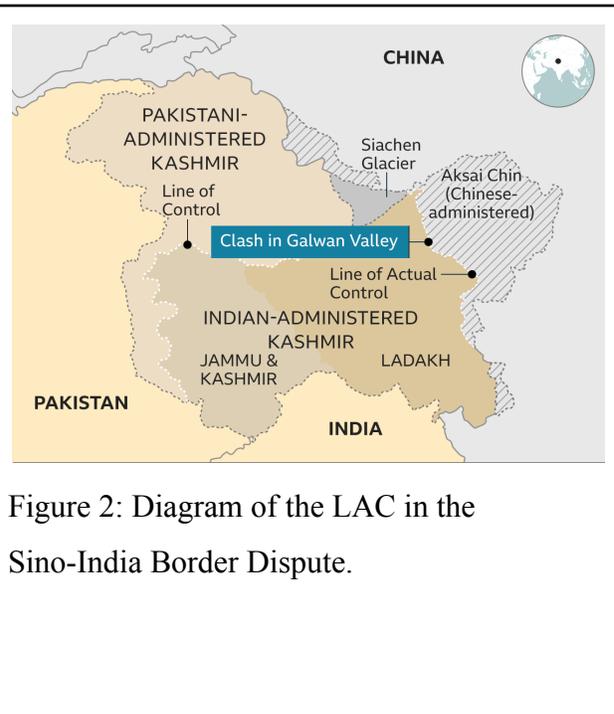


Figure 2: Diagram of the LAC in the Sino-India Border Dispute.

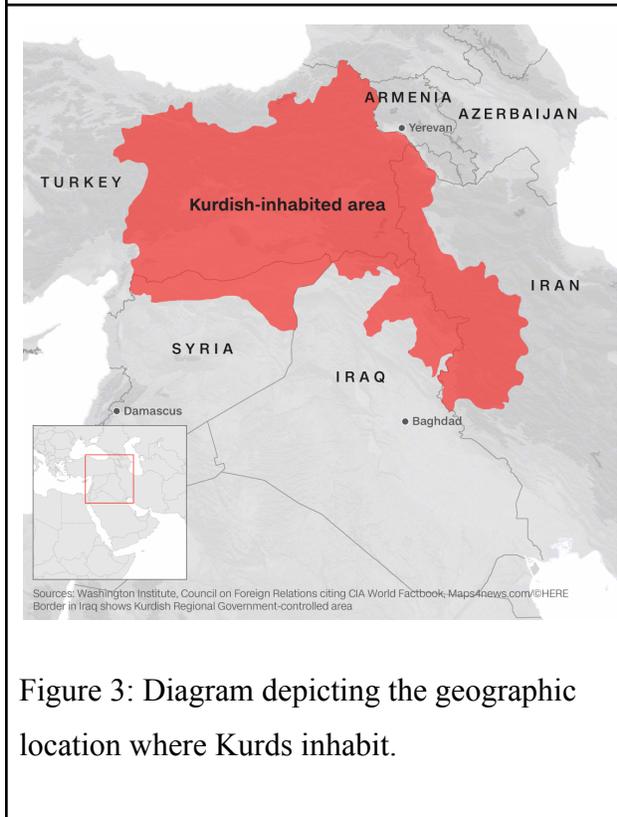


Figure 3: Diagram depicting the geographic location where Kurds inhabit.