

Committee: DISEC 2

Topic: The Militarization of the Baltics

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Summary

After the dissolution of the USSR tensions between the newly formed countries appeared. Unfortunately, political and economic disputes sometimes erupted into armed conflicts. Most of them provoked civil wars and inter-ethnic confrontations. To this day, a number of conflicts in the region have been merely frozen that means that there is no clear solution and the issue has stopped affecting the area till the next event initiates a new conflict. New sources of tension have appeared, such as the civil war in Ukraine, as well as the Baltic Region, which is rapidly militarizing in the face of aggravated confrontation between The Russian Federation and North Atlantic Organisation (NATO).

The modern Latvian National Armed Forces originate by the National Guard, which was established under the law of 1993. This was followed by the creation of a regular army. The armed forces of the Baltic states are engaged in a number of military alliances, including the joint peacekeeping Baltic Battalion (BALTBAT) stationed in Latvia. Latvia joined NATO in 2004.

Universal military conscription was abolished in 2007, but the current sharpening of the confrontation between Russia and NATO has triggered discussions on whether it should be brought back.

The Latvian National Armed Forces took part in the military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, sending small regiments as part of the coalition forces. Latvian military drill trainers are involved in training the Iraqi armed forces personnel during the current joint military campaign against the Islamic State. Latvian military personnel also make up part of the EU expedition in Mali and are involved in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) missions on the states of Kosovo and Ukraine.

Definition of Key Terms

USSR: The United Soviet Socialist Republic was a union of states which was a global superpower.

NATO: The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is a military alliance which was the main enemy of USSR during the cold war,

BALTIC STATES: Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania.

DEMILITARISED ZONE: A zone in where any kind of weapon is forbidden after a treaty, these zones are guarded by both sides.

POST-EASTERN BLOC: All states that were part of the USSR belong to the post-eastern bloc.

PRE-EUROPEAN PERIOD: The period when a nation is getting ready to join the European Union.

Background Information

After a great period of peace, a revolution was initiated in the late 1980s by the three Soviet occupied Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. This revolution had a really small number of casualties by both sides and led to the freedom of the Baltic states in 1991. Since leaving communism, the Baltic States have seen their economic fortunes soar, with all three countries set for admission to the European Union in the next few years.

The Baltic States have established themselves as modern, democratic nations in the interwar period; and emerged through the Soviet Union, and because that's what Moscow did when it forcibly annexed them during the Second World War.

Latvia and Estonia share a common past, as their ice-free ports were irresistible prizes for more aggressive nations: the Danes, Germans, Swedes, Poles, and Russians all held sway there, while the peasants worked under émigré German barons until 1918. Lithuania, however, has a different history. Through the middle ages, its territory had southern borders to the Black Sea and east almost as far as Moscow before entering a Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the 16th century.

In the 18th century, most of the territory of the present-day Baltic countries was under the government of the Russian Empire. During the 19th century, the revolutionary, anti-Tsarist ideas, inspired a powerful cultural awakening in native Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, paving the way for the three countries to declare their independence in the turmoil after the First World War. The average Baltic state citizen will find the term "post-Soviet" deeply insulting, preferring the rather ungainly expression "pre-European Union". Over the past ten years, Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians, have embraced western concepts - such as parliamentary democracy.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

USSR: See section 'definition of key terms'.

NATO: Ally of the Baltic states.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION: The largest part of the Soviet Union.

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania: Those three states are the Baltic states.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description
23 August 1991	The Latvian army is created.
1980s	A non-violent revolution leads to the restoration of the Independence of the Baltic states
1992, 1993	The Moldovan Armed Forces took part in the Transnistrian war, which reached its peak in terms of fighting. The conflict was defused largely due to the intervention of the Russian Armed Forces. Since that time, Ukrainian peacekeepers, as well as Moldovan and Russian military forces, including a small operational troop from Russia, have been deployed in Transnistria. In addition, Moldovan servicemen are deployed as part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Africa, Ukraine and the NATO mission contingent in Kosovo. Belarus joined the Collective Security Treaty
2014	The Amari Air Base in Estonia has been actively used since 2014 as part of NATO's air patrolling of the Baltic. The Amari Air base has been actively used since as part of NATO's air patrolling of the Baltic. The Armed Forces of Ukraine have been engaged in a conflict in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions with the unrecognized Donetsk and

	Lugansk People's Republics. Officially, the conflict is interpreted as a Counterterrorist Operation.
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Relevant UN Treaties and Events

The legislation on the territorial sea Law of the Republic of Lithuania on the state boundary of the Republic of Lithuania: this law outlines the Lithuanian territory.

Resolution of the Supreme Council of Lithuania: this resolves the legislation mentioned before, also it informs about some vital characteristics of the Lithuanian state such as which nationalities have the right to access the country easier than other nationalities.

Law of the sea bulletin Treaty between the Republic of Lithuania and the Russian Federation on the delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and the continental shelf in the Baltic sea: Legislation affecting the relation between the two economies.

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

After the tension occurred due to the wars that followed the dissolution of the USSR, the United Nations Tried to give a solution. Legislation passed includes those mentioned in the previous sections of the report.

Now there is an area with great military tension. There is also a demilitarized zone in the Baltics, the borders of which are guarded by military personnel.

Possible Solutions

A possible solution, if sanctioned by the Security Council, would be the presence of UN peacekeeping forces within the region, or impartial observers from the UN or an NGO. Delegates could consider creating a UN sub-body, or utilising an existing body, to pay particular attention to diminishing tension in the Baltics.

A further possible solution would be the creation of a treaty, with input from all nations involved and impartial member nations, in order to set out and cement the territories of each nation. This could be accompanied by recommendations that the nations meet, maybe biannually for a set amount of years, to discuss their grievances and work them out.

Moreover, a really helpful measure would be to provide the area with funding and resources for improving education, as the area must be governed and populated by educated, open-minded people in order that further tension be avoided.

Bibliography

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