



THE RISE OF SOVEREIGNTY AND SEPARATISM ISSUES IN GLOBAL POLITICS

Committee : Security Council (SC)

Question of : The rise of sovereignty and separatism issues in global politics

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INTRODUCTION:

For generations, people always gathered together and formed a union. People always thought staying together and fight as one is the best option and maybe the only option they had. This was a reasonable decision if it is considered psychologically, politically and economically. However, this perception has changed. People are separating based on their race, region etc. The sovereignty and separatism are increasing day by day and it is well known that actions have results, consequences: both political and economical.

Today, there is an unbearable number of separatist movement including Catalonia in Spain, Quebec in Canada, Kashmir in India, Tibet and Xinjiang in China, Kurdistan in Middle East and Chechnya in Russian Federation which are mentioned in the General Overview part of this chair report. These separatist movements have been going on for a long time now. They have resulted in great political confusion among nations. It is not only the nation who has the issue most related with but all the other nations especially the nations with better economy and political stability to take advantage of the situation.

What causes these movements in the first place is economical issues. Globalization is being spread out in the world rapidly. It has now shifted the control of global economy. In this age, smaller regions' economy is better than bigger regions' economy in a way that is more focused and more likely to be monitored. As multinational corporations gained more transnational freedom, control of production and market organization became more concentrated into cities and sub-state regions thus increasing the economical range of smaller regions.



economic crisis is not improving the case any better either. The crisis motivates separatist movements to seek independence, sovereignty.

KEY TERMS:

Sovereignty: The ability of a country to have control on its own government. Sovereign states are free from any outside effects.

Autonomy: the quality or state of being self-governing. The quality of being independent. Autonomy dictates that countries operate as autonomous spheres of political, social and economic activity within their borders, which separate the domestic arena from the world outside

Separatism: the advocacy or practice of separation of a certain group of people from a larger body on the basis of ethnicity, religion, or gender. Separatism emerges from the people who no longer wishing to be an internal part of the community. Separatism movement results in political alienation.

Secession: the action of withdrawing formally from membership of a federation or body, especially a political state.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

A.) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Today, the World's international system is almost fully based on nation-state system. The system has its origins in the Treaty of Westphalia of 1648. The Treaty of Westphalia and the associated Treaty of Osnabruck gave primacy to the principle of sovereignty. In the treaties, It was established that sovereigns and monarchs were not subjected to a higher authority as the first principle of sovereignty. The outsiders had no control or effects on the closed territory and states were the primary organs in the international system as the second and third principles of sovereignty according to the treaties.

What starts as a sovereign movement turns into a separatist movement one way or another. These two terms are exclusively associated with each other. Terms are both integrative and deconstructive movements. They are required for globalization. Both separatism and sovereignty wish to combine nationalism and government together to form one thing: independence. However, in the process of separatism and sovereignty, politics is interfering and this creates confusion and oddity.

Both separatism and sovereignty is born due to inadequate governments and outside effects that creates a chaos in the nation. These are to be social causes leading to economical and political issues. As a result, the people living under the roof of inadequate government want to be heard and a rebellion is formed. These rebellions can be triggered by any social or economic crises.

Separatist movements seek autonomy and sovereignty and thus seek independence either within their central state or as a newly established state to be. Since 1990, 34 new states have been established (Rosenberg, 2014). A lot of them gained their independence after the dissolution of Soviet Union and Yugoslavia (Rosenberg, 2014).

Catalonia's Independence:

Catalonia's independence is one of the most well-known separatist-nationalist-sovereign movement. It was Catalonia's national holiday and people began to celebrate their holiday. However, it ceased to be the "celebration day" when it turned out as a nationalist and separatist movement in the history. Marchers were waving blue, red and gold Catalonia Flags and shouting "Independence Now!". It was not a possibility before that day, but almost overnight it was not a nationalist dream anymore. Before the Spanish Civil War, Catalonia was under a broad autonomy but that was suppressed under Gen Franco, according to BBC News. When Franco died, Catalonia was granted as a new democratic Spain. The ruling separatists in the Catalan Parliament declared independence on 27 October 2017. Catalan separatists stress the fact that Catalonia is a nation with a distinct language, culture and history. Independence, they say, will protect the Catalan nation from the encroachment of Spanish language and culture.

Quebec Separatism:

Quebec Separatist Sentiment was a French-Canadian nationalist movement began in the 1960s. The Separatists of Quebec believed that the economical issues were caused by English-Canadian domination. By the 20th century, the economical situation began to improve and the only motivation for French-Canadian nationalists were the cultural, ethnical and lingual differences. This nationalist movement was also the outcome of profound economic and social changes that had taken place in Quebec since about 1890.¹ Back then, the economy was based on agricultural activities. The government decided to change that and made Quebec the most urbanized and industrialized of all Canadian Provinces.

Industrialization destroyed the myths by which French Canada had survived: that of the Roman Catholic mission to the New World and the cult of agriculture as the basis of virtuous life.² By June, the Quebec Liberal Party under control of Jean Lesage, overtook the power in Quebec. Lesage launched several new legislative initiatives aimed at reforming the corruption that had become widespread during the Duplessis years, transforming and improving the social and educational infrastructure, removing the Roman Catholic church from most secular activities, and involving the provincial government directly in economic development. The Quebec government nationalized the province's private power companies and consolidated them into one government-owned company. It also established a new provincial pension plan, creating a large pool of investment capital. Much was done quickly in this period of Liberal activism that became known as the "Quiet Revolution."

The Liberals were defeated by the Union Nationale in 1966. The Liberals were federalist and the Union Nationale also remained federalist, but they kept emphasizing the significance of remaining Québécois and gaining greater provincial power. An active minority of leftist Montrealers broke with the Liberals and began advocating independence as a first step to social change. Their efforts resulted in the establishment of the Parti Québécois, which advocated secession from the confederation. Under René Lévesque, a former Liberal, the Parti

¹ Encyclopedia Britannica, Quebec Separatism, line 19 at <https://www.britannica.com/place/Canada/Quebec-separatism>

² Encyclopedia Britannica, Quebec Separatism, line 38, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Canada/Quebec-separatism>

Québécois won 24 percent of the popular vote in the election of 1970, but the Liberals still secured 72 of the assembly's 95 seats. Other social revolutionaries, inspired by refugees from

Algeria and by events in Cuba at that time, began to practice terrorism. Bombings began in 1963 and continued sporadically. Most French and English Canadians considered these actions “un-Canadian,” but they illustrated both the social ills of Quebec and the ties of the French intellectuals with the world outside Canada. In October 1970 a terrorist group, the Front de Libération du Québec (Quebec Liberation Front), kidnapped the British trade commissioner, James Cross, and Quebec’s labor minister, Pierre Laporte, who was subsequently murdered. Quebec’s government asked for federal intervention, prompting enactment of the War Measures Act, which suspended the usual civil liberties. Subsequently some 500 people were arrested, and troops were moved into Quebec. The Canadian public generally approved of the act, but few convictions followed, except of those accused of the murder of Laporte.

B.) MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED:

SPAIN

Spain has been dealing with Catalonia Separatism Movement for a long time now. Spain's Catalonia issue is discussed above in the Historical Background part detailed. Catalonia Separatism movement has affected a large amount of the Spanish population. Therefore, Spain is currently unstable on the inside.



CANADA:

Canada is a country with 2 official languages: French and English. This affects the unity in the country and thus results in French-Canadian nationalism and English-Canadian nationalism which parts the country unofficially. Quebec (mentioned above) is an example of the separatism in the country.



INDIA:

India is politically and economically unstable because of the Kashmir Separatist Movement that is ongoing in the Kashmir Region for a long time. There is a group which is full of Pakistan-nationalists and there is a group which is full of India-nationalists and the conflict is not improving. The region has witnessed enormous violation.



PAKISTAN:

Pakistan's political and economical stability is similar to India's stability due to the fact that they are sharing the same problem on similar levels.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

<p><u>1648</u></p>	<p><u>Treaty of Westphalia</u></p> <p>On October 24th 1648, the Treaty of Westphalia was signed, marking the end of the Thirty Years' War. (First sovereign-separatist action)</p>
<p><u>1777</u></p>	<p><u>Abandoning the Articles of Confederation:</u></p> <p>The Second Continental Congress approved the Articles of Confederation for ratification by the individual states.</p>
<p><u>1798</u></p>	<p><u>Alien and Sedition Acts:</u></p> <p>In response to the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts—advanced by the Federalist Party—John Taylor of the Virginia House of Delegates spoke out, urging Virginia to secede from the United States. He argued—as one of many vociferous responses by the Jeffersonian Republicans—the sense of the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, adopted in 1798 and 1799, which reserved to those States the rights of secession and interposition (nullification).</p>

<p><u>1850s</u></p>	<p><u>Catalonia Separatist Movement:</u></p> <p>Catalan separatists stress the fact that Catalonia is a nation with a distinct language, culture and history. Independence, they say, will protect the Catalan nation from the encroachment of Spanish language and culture.</p>
<p><u>1861</u></p>	<p><u>American Civil War:</u></p> <p>The Civil War in the United States fired in 1861, after decades of simmering tensions between northern and southern states over slavery, states' rights and westward expansion. The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 caused seven southern states to secede and form the Confederate States of America; four more states soon joined them. The War Between the States, as the Civil War was also known, ended in Confederate surrender in 1865.</p>
<p><u>1960s</u></p>	<p><u>Quebec Separatist Movements in Canada:</u></p> <p>A Separatist movement that was born in sovereignty. It is between two groups: French-Canadians and English-Canadians</p>

<p><u>1994</u></p>	<p><u>Chechnya:</u></p> <p>After a decade of unsuccessfully fighting for independence, the autonomous region is now firmly under the control of its Russian-appointed leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, although separatist groups continue low-level guerrilla attacks.</p>
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*Some politicians consider "French Revolution" as an act of separatism, but in this chair report it is not considered as one since there are different ideas on the global politics whether French Revolution is only a nationalist movement and not a secession movement.

CONVENTIONS AND TREATIES:

There have been various treaties and referendums about the issue sovereignty and separatism including Catalan Referendum and non-violation treaties -especially in more violent conflicts such as Kashmir-. Since separatism and sovereignty movements are maintained by the people of a country's own population, conventions are much caught on.

CONCLUSION:

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE:

There have been various attempts to resolve the issue. In some regions, separatist movements are causing a great deal of violations and violence. The possible attempts are more focused on the violence these movements left behind. Many referendums has been made that you can look at more detailed on BBC.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

The possible solutions could include a people-focused solutions since these movements are actions against the government. A new law will probably not be successful, so please bear in mind that these movements are considered to be rebellions and not an issue regarding directly to the government's policy. As we are the Security Committee, you should be more concerned about people's safety, which addressed you to create solutions regarding to the violence these movements cause.

USEFUL LINKS:

Fellow delegates, these links below are some reports I think that are useful for your research. Please read the report linked firstly below which is about safety and violence as a consequence of movements mentioned.

- ✓ Katharine Boyle & Pierre Englebert, "The Primacy of Politics in Separatist Dynamics"
Report at http://cega.berkeley.edu/assets/miscellaneous_files/wgape/10_Englebert.pdf
- ✓ BBC - timeline of events (for a detailed research on Kashmir Separatist Movement, Quebec Separatist Movement and Catalonia Separatist Movement)

NOTES FROM CHAIR:

Fellow delegates, I hope this guide is useful to you as a means of understanding the primacy of the issue. "The Rise of Sovereignty and Separatism" is a highly broad and detailed issue. As reading this guide, I want you to think about the safety of these countries and regions. I want you to make a research furthermore about recent separatist movements and not just limiting yourself with the information provided in this guide. This guide is prepared taking a lot of time and effort and by reading a lot of reports. The reports I read while reading this guide are provided in the Bibliography. Please take a look at those reports and at least read the introductions of those reports. That would be really beneficial for you to be aware and comprehend different points of view regarding the issue. Without further do, I wish you fruitful debates and research.

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- Zeynep Kaya & Matthew Whiting, "Ethno-national separatism in East Asia: the international dimension" Report at http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/63321/1/Ethnonational_separatism_combined2.pdf

- CHRISTOPHER K. CONNOLLY, "INDEPENDENCE IN EUROPE: SECESSION, SOVEREIGNTY, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION" Report at <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com.tr/&httpsredir=1&article=1396&context=djcil>
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- The Issue of Sovereignty, *Globalization 101*, <http://www.globalization101.org/the-issue-of-sovereignty/>
- Declaration of Independence, *shmoop*, <https://www.shmoop.com/historical-texts/declaration-of-independence/timeline.html>