

# GLOBAL

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MONTHLY  
MAGAZINE

BUSAN FOREIGN SCHOOL

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# Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

By Lauren Lee

On Monday February 6th, 2023, a massive earthquake of 7.8 magnitude hit southern Turkey and the borderline of Syria. More than 50,000 people died and the country was severely damaged. It was the biggest earthquake since the 1939 Erzincan earthquake which had a death toll of 30,000 people. This caused many citizens to suffer from lack of resources and hostilities. Even before this disaster, ninety percent of the population already struggles from poverty.

It was a regular day in Syria when all of the sudden around 4:17 a.m. a massive earthquake hit Syria and another one hit the same area about nine hours later, which brought chaos to the country. The Turkish government didn't send any military troops to help rescue citizens for hours after the earthquake, which the government is getting a lot of hate for. People are also criticizing the government for banning Twitter that day, making it so people couldn't upload photos about the news and spread awareness of the disaster. The current government, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, is looking for reelection so he didn't want anything that would disrupt his election. According to an article called TIME, the government said, "In such a period, I cannot tolerate the viciously negative campaigns for the sake of simple political interests," Erdogan said (Burga). Following the statement, many were arrested for challenging the government. In addition, it was found that the earthquake could have been less damaging if it weren't for the poor construction of buildings in Turkey where builders didn't meet the standards of a set caliber. The government is known to ignore these problems which will make Turkey more vulnerable for future attacks.



Not only that, many children have been affected by this earthquake. Approximately 850,000 children have been displaced since the earthquake and are living in temporary shelters. Unicef has been providing necessary health supplies for these children such as blankets, clothes and safe drinking water. Many first responders have been injured or killed due to the bad weather. Not only that, but according to the United Nations, "At the same time, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) reported on Monday that the situation for the 356,000 pregnant women in earthquake-affected areas remains critical, especially the estimated 38,800 who are expected to deliver in the coming weeks" (More). Majority of the camps were exposed to the cold weather and there were many pregnant women in need of help as some were either delivering babies or close to their due date. Financial funding was the only way for these people to survive in these critical environments.

The earthquake was a disaster that will be hard to overcome. Syria was already one of the countries with the highest poverty rates and many of its citizens are already struggling.



According to the United Nations, "Even before the earthquakes, Syria had the largest number of internally displaced people in the world, with 6.8 million people displaced, including nearly three million children" (More). I believe we should help people in need and actually care about this situation. Many families are struggling and the government isn't doing much about it. It has been already 2 months since the incident and there are still many people that are separated from their families and who are living in poverty. For people who want to help out, they can donate basic supplies or money to organizations. It's more efficient than sitting around and watching these people suffer.



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# It's Time To Make Peace

Ryan Sim



Since the Ukraine invasion by Russia on February 24th of 2022, the conflict between the two countries has been continuing for over a year. Due to this tragic crisis that is happening, the entire world has been strongly impacted. When the news about the Ukraine invasion first came out last year, many were devastated and worried but also terrified due to some conspiracies that theorized this conflict may lead to a Third World War, which was one reason that caused many people to be concerned about this crisis happening. Throughout the last year, it is estimated that thousands of people have died, fled to different countries for safety, and suffered due to the global inflation that was caused or at least influenced, by the Russo-Ukrainian War.

During the last year, Russia and Ukraine both have been fighting each other for on and on, despite the cost of their mass economic loss and civilian casualties. To illustrate the amount of damage that this war has caused, it is stated that about 349 billion dollars will be needed for Ukraine to recover from war damages. In addition, many major businesses, such as McDonalds, Uniqlo, and H&M, have also stopped operating in Russia due to the world crisis, risking their economic loss.



I believe that it would be the one of the most efficient and practical solutions to solve this crisis if the two countries both had a peaceful conference to alleviate the tension and make a peace treaty. This treaty could include moving troops out of their opponent's territory, which the UN is urging Russia to do. As the number of deaths caused by this war has reached an estimated 37,800 deaths on both sides of the war. Historically, wars have been methods to acquire desirable land or resources, however, as humanity has reached the 21st century, we must find a more humane and moral way to solve this crisis immediately. If we allow this crisis to continue, the death count of civilians and soldiers in both Russia and Ukraine will just continue to rise to an unimaginable number.

Another aspect that we need to be alert of is human rights in this war. On March 24th of 2022, The UN General Assembly's majority urged for "civilian protection and humanitarian access in Ukraine, while also criticizing Russia for creating a 'dire' humanitarian situation." Therefore it is important for civilians like us to keep in mind that even during the war, human rights should not be ignored or suppressed by others. Adding on, the United Nation Regional Information Centre for Western Europe (UNRIC) states that on "Monday, 4 April, UN human rights chief Michelle Bachelet said she was horrified by the images of people lying dead on the streets and in improvised graves in the town of Bucha. It is vital that all efforts are made to ensure independent and effective investigations into what happened in Bucha," which illustrates how the UN is greatly demanding a more ethical and human situation to happen. As the devastating crisis has been continuing for a year, it is time for Russia and Ukraine to find a consensus and stop the casualties.

# THE WILLOW PROJECT HAS TERRIFYING RAMIFICATIONS

GLOBAL AFFAIRS  
MAGAZINE

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Evan  
Zhange



Climate change. Global warming. These two phrases have been circulating frequently in the media, politics, and everyday conversation, and address one of the most pressing and important issues of our time. Our Earth is changing – increasing in temperature incrementally by the year, and many people are powerless to stop it. As fossil fuels and greenhouse gasses pollute the atmosphere, the planet will continue to get hotter. Natural disasters will become more common, sea levels will rise, and glacial habitats will melt. A prime example of modern resource exploitation and its effects on climate change is “The Willow Project.”

To provide a bit of context, the Willow Project is an oil project in Alaska, run by the Texan corporation ConocoPhillips, that will involve three oil drill pads extracting the resource from the northern slope of Alaska. It is planned to occur over a long period of time to even build – somewhere around 10 or more years. Due to the company's existing legal control over the parts of Alaska where the project will take place, President Joe Biden's administration reportedly could not fully prohibit it from happening. It was approved by the US president's administration on March 13th.

Following its approval, over a million letters were sent and received by the US White House against this project, which could significantly impact the US's carbon footprint and the environment. The process of drilling oil emits gasses that pollute the Earth's atmosphere and induce the greenhouse effect that warms the planet. Specifically, oil drill pads would emit methane, a harmful gas that is 20 times more polluting than CO<sub>2</sub>. It is predicted that Willow could possibly emit up to 9 million annual metric tons of pollutants based on the scale of the operation. According to CNN, there are worries that Willow might increase habitat loss and negatively influence species' behavior.

Additionally, populations in Alaska, such as the indigenous town of Nuiqsut, could be directly affected. Spokespeople for the town have affirmed that the people are against the project, which would have harsh effects for the livelihoods of all inhabiting the area. Environmental activist groups like EarthJustice have aims to prevent Willow from developing. The usage of an injunction would allow them to obstruct the project's development temporarily. Aside from environmentalists, ordinary people have expressed outrage online and through the media about the oil drill plan. More than 15 different petitions have been created on Change.org, with thousands and even millions of signatures each.

Although the Willow Project has many Americans and netizens riled, there are still people who argue towards its effectiveness. Supporters believe that its benefits, such as work opportunities for oil operatives, improvements to the national oil industry, and helping Alaska profit, make it a better option than other ventures. For example, one point that has been made is how Willow would have a less significant effect on the environment and climate change than harvesting natural resources from other regions of the world. Even so, this is no justification for the catastrophic consequences that the project has. Previously, Biden made it clear that he was going to prevent the extended creation of oil drills on US land, and his administration's lack of consistency with this goal is likely stirring doubt about his presidency.



Not only is this project harmful to ecosystems, habitats, and the planet, but it is a telltale sign that we as humans just aren't doing enough to spread knowledge about climate change and its disastrous effects. However, we as BFS students can play an, albeit small, part in delaying and abolishing the Willow Project. Our BFS Morning Memo contains a petition which is gathering signatures of those opposed to the drill plan. And remember, it doesn't have to be as large as an oil operation for something to destroy the environment. From loose plastic floating in our oceans to excessive deforestation of our woods, climate change is imminent. When it comes to Earth, our collective choices can and will make a difference.



# NEW AGREEMENTS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE BARELY LASTED HOURS

WRITTEN BY  
CLAIRE ZHANG

In late February this year, Jordan surprised the world by hosting the first summit in a decade between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and the US. However, given the current course of the Palestine-Israel conflict, this meeting shouldn't come as a shock. But before we get into the summit and what it means for the future of this region, we must look at the history of this century-long conflict.

The Palestine-Israeli conflict first began in the early 1900s when the region was under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and was ultimately caused by the fact that two groups of people are claiming the same land. The ethnic Arabs in the region developed a new national identity under the Palestinian nation. During this time, Zionism introduced the idea that Judaism is both a race, religion and nationality, therefore needing its own country. This belief led many Jews to immigrate to their religious homeland of Jerusalem to establish a nation for Jews, Israel. After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire in World War I, tensions and violence between Jews and Arabs grew due to Jewish immigration, especially during the Holocaust. Eventually, the unrest in the region caught the attention of the newly-founded United Nations which proposed to split the region into the Jewish state of Israel, the Arabian state of Palestine and declared the capital Jerusalem as international territory.

Although it seemed like this would end the conflict between the two groups, it didn't. The underlying issue of having the Jewish nation of Israel in a predominantly Arabian region led to further conflicts such as the Arab-Israeli War in 1948 and the Six-Day War in 1967 as neighbouring Arabian states supported Palestine in the fight against Israel. However, Israel won both of these wars and gained control of Palestinian territory in the process, going against the UN proposal. This creates the map that more or less persists today with Israel occupying Palestinian territories Gaza and the West Bank. Not long after the Israeli occupation of Palestine, Jewish settlers began moving into Gaza and the West Bank. This led Israeli soldiers to also move in order to protect the settlers which further divided and escalated the situation in the Palestinian states. Although Jewish settlement goes unrecognised by the UN, it makes it harder for Palestinians to gain independence and continues to drive sectarian violence between civilians today. Throughout the years, Palestinians have tried to fight for freedom through groups such as the Palestinian Liberation Organisation and the extremist Hamas group as well as two uprisings or intifadas in the 1980s and early 2000s.



Recently violence has been increasing as 2022 was the bloodiest year since the 2nd Intifada ended in 2005. Earlier this year in January and February, the Israeli army raided Nablus and a refugee camp in Jenin. Due to the tensions between the Israeli Defence Force and Palestinian militants, neighbouring country Jordan hosted a meeting between Israel, Palestine, Egypt and the US. During this meeting, it appeared that Israel had agreed to stop building new living and military settlements, but this agreement was broken mere hours after the summit. Two Israeli settlers were shot by a Palestinian gunman, triggering nearby settlers to destroy and burn Palestinian homes. Once again we're left to wonder what happens now. I believe the US should use their unique position to take action after re-entering the conflict by participating in the summit. Many onlookers and the UN Middle East envoy are encouraging both sides to prevent the situation from escalating. While competing ideologies fueled international tensions during the Cold War, it seems that historical territorial integrity and complex cultures are fueling many global situations today such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, China's threats towards Taiwan, as well as the Palestine-Israel conflict.

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# FUNDRAISER AT BFS

Clubs in **BFS** are selling different types of goods and hosting events to raise money for the earthquakes in Türkiye.

- Cookie sale
- Keychain Sale
- Raffle events
- Dance concert
- and more!

Catch more updates at: @bfs\_globalaffairs mag

