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CRISIS COMMITTEE – HISTORICAL
SECURITY COUNCIL

YEARS OF CHANGE: THE EUROMAIDAN AND
THE CRIMEAN CRISIS

THE PLOT

The following sets out the plot for this year's FREDMUN 2017 Crisis Committee. This document only serves as background reading, so that all members of the Committee become more familiar with how the current situation stands, in order to progress further with the crisis...*

*Refers to the chronological period the Crisis is set in June 10th, 2014

The year is 2013...

President Viktor Yanukovich decided to suspend the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement late in November. With 3 years in office, Yanukovich deemed it necessary to distance Ukraine from the Western elements that inhabited the EU, and turn towards Russia, a more reliable ally that many Ukrainians could identify with, due to their shared heritage and history. Such heritage and history, nonetheless, were thanks to a long period of imperial conquest, in which the Crimean region became part of the Russian Empire in 1783, before being transferred to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1954. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, the Crimean peninsula had been devolved and retained its own autonomous government, until 2013.

However, the fact that President Yanukovich decided to abruptly end the Agreement sparked mass protests around Ukraine. These protests in Kiev, also known as the **Euromaidan**, advocated a case for further European integration between Ukraine and the EU. The Euromaidan protests were generously aided and funded by various oligarchs, including former Head of the Council of the National Bank of Ukraine and former minister **Petro Poroshenko**. The autonomous Crimean government was quick to condemn the protests, and called for further investigation in the matter. It is worth noting that Yanukovich had the support of the Crimean peninsula during his 2010 election campaign.

The year is 2014...

The Euromaidan protests evolve into a revolution by February 2014, where the Crimean autonomous government started advocating for a regional referendum to determine Crimea's status. At the same time, Ukraine's secret services (SBU) tried to investigate whether Crimea's attempt at holding such a referendum was violating national law. By the end of February, President Yanukovich and his ministerial staff had escaped the capital.

Meanwhile, with the President out of Kiev, a committee was set up by the opposition, ruling that Yanukovich was no longer fit to fulfil his duties. A temporary administration was set up illegally, based on the existing constitution, encouraging the Russian government to call the event a "coup". Elections were scheduled for **May 25th**. Parliament, shortly after that, voted for the release of **Yulia Tymoshenko** from prison, who soon joined the pro-Euromaidan camp. Moreover, Russian President **Vladimir Putin** met with his advisers and secret services staff in order to determine how to help Yanukovich escape, whilst **returning Crimea to Russia**. The Crimean opinion seemed to be split at first glance, with pro-Russian demonstrations taking place in Sevastopol, and pro-Euromaidan protests in Simferopol. Crimean Prime Minister, Mr Mohyliov had recognised the interim government in Kiev.

By March, various groups clashed over pro-Euromaidan and pro-Russian claims. With the Ukrainian provisional government sending in security groups to lock down the situation and appealing to the United Nations to monitor the area, Putin's security and military forces had infiltrated the peninsula, raising the Russian flag in various official buildings. The Crimean authorities stated that they would be holding a referendum to determine Crimea's future on **March 16th**. The results showed an overwhelming percentage of 95% of the population agreeing that Russia should annex Crimea. The Ukrainian government and the international community disputed the legality and the results of the referendum. **The War in the Donbass region in Eastern Ukraine had officially begun.**

The following months...

In April, with Russia originally denying any presence of their troops in Crimea, they soon admitted that troops were sent in for tactical reasons, in order to protect both Crimea's and Russia's interests as best as possible. Various cultural and linguistic reasons were called in, so as to legitimise the action. The main argument also included the issue of protecting the lives of Crimean civilians with Russian assistance. Simultaneously, a new constitution for the Republic of Crimea and a City Charter for Sevastopol were adopted, enhancing the region's integration to the Russian Federation.

By mid-April, Ukrainian polls showed that candidate Petro Poroshenko had a large cut of popular support at 40%. With the War in the Donbass region ongoing, various referendum votes were simultaneously held on May 11th. Various candidates, including Poroshenko himself, condemned the rise of separatists. At the same time, the international community, including the **United States, the European Union member states, Ukraine, and even Russia** did not recognise nor did they deem the referenda to be valid – although Russia did wish for the peaceful implementation of the results. On May 25th, Ukraine held its national elections. On **May 29th**, it was announced that Petro Poroshenko had secured 55% of the popular vote. He assumed the office of **President** on **June 7th**.

The war is ongoing. The time has come for the Russian and Ukrainian Cabinets to regroup and discuss...