

The background of the slide is a collage of national flags. On the left, the Chinese flag (red field with five golden stars) and the United States flag (stars and stripes) are visible. On the right, the Romanian flag (vertical stripes of blue, yellow, and red) is prominent. The flags are layered and appear to be waving.

Taking Global Positions

Brian Denny

Doctoral Candidate, Political Science

UC Irvine

In dealing with global issues, do superpowers prioritize national interest or global collaboration?

Superpower Positions

- Superpower responses to international events
- Which events?
 - Syrian Crisis
 - G20 Summit (Paris)
 - UN Climate Change Conference (Paris)

Syrian Crisis



Syrian Crisis: Russia's Position



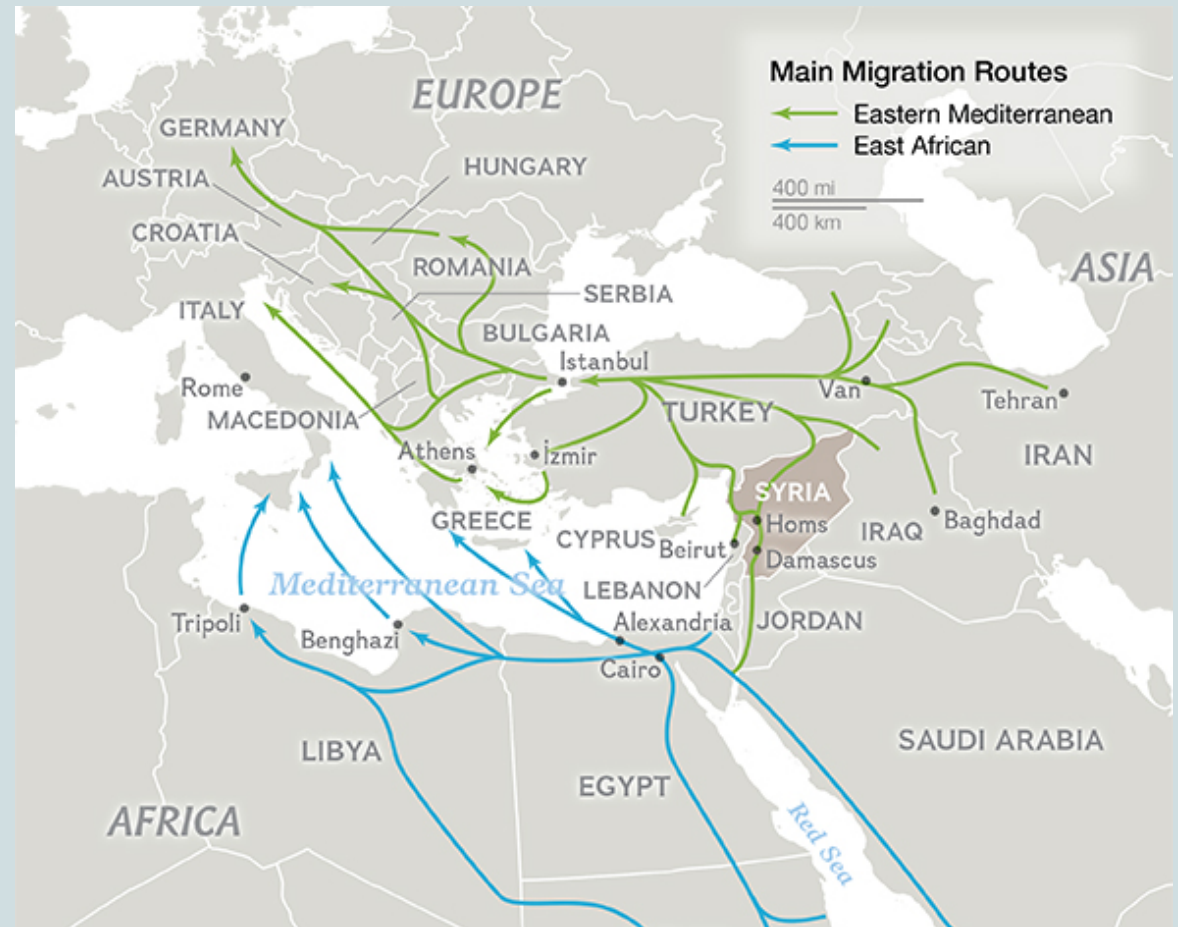
- Russia and Syria are allies
 - Russia sees Assad as a bulwark against ISIS
 - Russia has material interests in Syria
- #1 arms supplier to Syrian government
- Few (if any) Syrian refugees in Russia
 - 4 million total refugees
- Blames US and the West for Syrian crisis



Syrian Crisis: Germany's Position



- Feels the government of Syria, led by President Assad, needs to participate in negotiations, in agreement with Russia, China, Iran, and India
- Most directly impacted by Syrian refugee crisis
 - Almost 1 million refugees have entered Germany
- No military action in Syria
- Participating in peace talks in Geneva



Syrian Crisis: US's Position



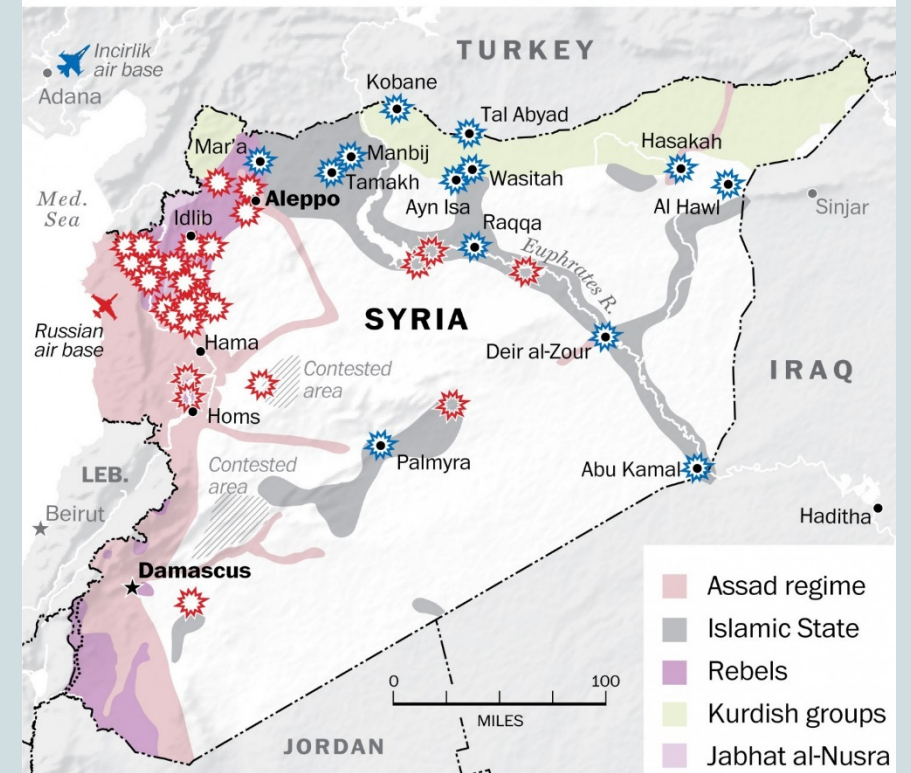
- Wants Assad to step down and secure democratic elections
- Supplies arms and training to Syrian rebels
- Leading attack on ISIS in Syria primarily through airstrikes
- \$4.11B in humanitarian aid to Syrian refugees
- Has taken in about 2,200 refugees since 2012

Russian and Coalition airstrike locations in Syria

September 30–October 12, 2015

Airstrikes:  Russian  Coalition

Note: Only high-confidence airstrikes shown. Most airstrike locations have been hit multiple times. Coalition aircraft also conducted numerous airstrikes in Iraq.



Source: Institute for the Study of War

THE WASHINGTON POST

Syrian Crisis: China's Position



- Supports the Assad regime
- China is #3 arms supplier (#1 Russia, #2 Iran) to Syrian government
 - Also #2 arms supplier to Iran
- \$16M in humanitarian aid to Syria
- No Syrian refugees in China
- Participating in peace talks in Geneva
- China says the US is partly responsible for Syrian issue

G20

November 15-16, 2015

ANTALYA SUMMIT



G20

- History of G20
 - Forum for Finance Ministers and central bankers created after 1998 financial crisis
 - In 2008, elevated to include highest political officials
- What are the goals?
 - Broaden dialogue on key economic and financial issues
 - “Achieve stable and sustainable world economic growth that benefits all”
 - Facilitate international economic cooperation
- Impact of Paris Attacks



Argentina



Australia



Brazil



Canada



China



France



Germany



India



Indonesia



Italy



Japan



Mexico



Russia



Saudi Arabia



South Africa



South Korea



Turkey



United Kingdom



United States



European Union

The Daily Telegraph

Dozens dead, many injured after gun and grenade attacks in French capital

The bloody siege of Paris

Restaurant, stadium and nightclub targeted, hostages held at concert hall

French borders closed as state of emergency declared

Witnesses heard gunman cry 'Allahu Akbar' and 'This is for Syria'



The New York Times

WORLDVIEW No. 97,880

NOVEMBER 14, 2015

PARIS TERRORIST ATTACKS KILL OVER 100; FRANCE DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

Bursts of Chaos and Horror, Once Again

PARIS — The Paris attacks killed more than 100 people and injured hundreds more in a series of shootings and blasts in the French capital on Saturday night. The attacks, which began at a concert hall and spread to a stadium, a restaurant and a nightclub, were the deadliest in France since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. The French government declared a state of emergency and closed its borders with neighboring countries. The French government also announced that it would send troops to Syria to fight against the Islamic State group.



Series of Shootings and Blasts, Apparently Coordinated

PARIS — The Paris attacks killed more than 100 people and injured hundreds more in a series of shootings and blasts in the French capital on Saturday night. The attacks, which began at a concert hall and spread to a stadium, a restaurant and a nightclub, were the deadliest in France since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States. The French government declared a state of emergency and closed its borders with neighboring countries. The French government also announced that it would send troops to Syria to fight against the Islamic State group.

November 13, 2015



G20: Russia's Position



- Russian foreign relations dominated its role at G20
- Putin discussed Russia's desire to restore multilateral relations



Obama and Putin at G20

“We never renounced good relations with our partners in the East or the West. And the unilateral measures limiting our cooperation in various areas were initiated by our partners, not us. If our partners now feel that the time has come to somehow change our relations, we welcome this; we never renounced joint work or closed our doors.”

- Putin

G20: Germany's Position



- Discussion of Syrian refugee policies
 - EU states should not refuse to take in Syrians simply because of Paris attack
 - “All G20 countries share responsibility associated with this crisis. Solidarity should be at the core of our decisions.”
 - Germany is one of the most welcoming countries out of the EU to Syrian refugees
 - Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested a quota system to distribute refugees evenly across the EU



G20:US's Position

- US Treasury official encouraged G20 members to resist protectionism
 - Reference to China's currency devaluation
- Obama reiterated US position on Syria with Putin
 - In favor of reaching an agreement to end violence in Syria
 - President Assad cannot be a part of that process
- Obama vowed to strengthen fight against ISIS
 - Strategy will remain the same (not adding ground troops)

G20: China's Position



- China is hosting next year's G20
 - Last hosted in 2005, when China was world's 5th largest economy
 - Wants to take advantage of hosting privilege
- Broader goal of strengthening the global economic system
 - Ability to withstand declining value of currency, less reliant on US dollar
 - Will incorporate Yuan into IMF's reserve-currency unit



Yang Jiechi
State Councilor
Past Foreign Minister



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21·CMP11

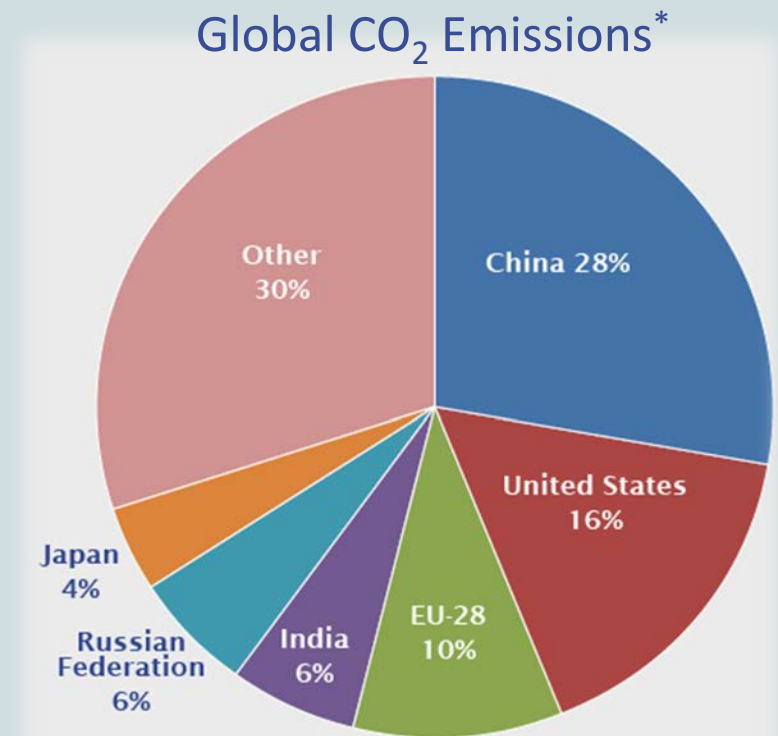
November 30, 2015

A scenic view of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, set against a clear blue sky. The tower is the central focus, with its intricate iron lattice structure clearly visible. In the foreground, there are several boats on the water, and a line of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow frames the left side of the image. The overall atmosphere is bright and colorful, suggesting a pleasant day in Paris during the fall season.

PARIS EXPLAINED

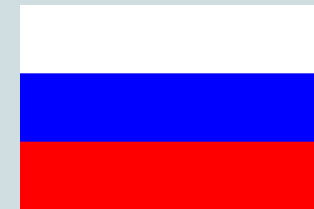
Climate Summit

- Who was involved?
 - All 196 UN member states attended the climate change talks and negotiated the Paris Agreement
- Paris Agreement
 - Aims to keep global warming under 2 degrees Celsius by reducing emissions
- Final agreement has not gone into force



*From fossil fuel combustion and some industrial processes

Climate Summit: Russia's Position



- Background
 - Russia had been important for climate talks
 - Since end of communism in 1989, Russian economy has not been strong
- Climate agreements could be very good for Russian economy
 - Russia has lots of natural gas
 - Europe uses lots of Russian gas
 - Low-carbon 'transition fuel'
 - Climate action could increase consumption of Russian gas



Climate Summit: Germany's Position



- EU wanted climate agreement to be legally binding
 - Without treaty status, agreements are not enforceable
- Germany led the way in the Climate Summit
- Goal: to develop climate-friendly energy solutions
 - Integrating renewable energy storage cells into country's grid
 - Curb carbon emissions

Climate Summit: US's Position



- The US's first climate change policy in 2014 (to slash greenhouse pollution from coal-fired power plants) led the way to the Paris accord
- In 2014, China and the US (world's two largest gas polluters) announced they would work together to cut gas emissions
- US Congress does not want to approve the agreement in fear of the effects it may have on the US economy.



"This agreement sends a powerful signal that the world is fully committed to a low-carbon future. We've shown that the world has both the will and the ability to take this challenge."

Climate Summit: China's Position



- China is world's largest carbon emitter
 - Two-thirds of China's energy comes from coal
 - China issued permits for +150 coal-fired power plants in 2015
- China defended its position
 - Replacing inefficient power plants
 - Dramatically increasing clean energy capacity
 - Reduces global cost for renewable energy
 - Bilateral agreement with US in 2014

Review

- Russia
 - Allied with Syria
 - Wants to improve foreign relations
 - Economy would benefit from climate agreement
- Germany
 - Heavily impacted by Syrian refugees
 - Diverse pressing concerns
 - Wants increased enforcement of international agreements

Review

- United State of America
 - Leading role in Syria
 - Firm position on military and economy policy
 - Wants climate commitment from developing countries
- China
 - Allied with Syria
 - Preparing to lead G20
 - Defends current emission and development rates