The Russian Federation
Bureau of Humanitarian Emergencies and Migration
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I. **Introduction**

Over the course of the past thirty years, the Russian Federation’s rates of migration have been on the rise. Immigrants from all over the world have passed through Russian borders for a multitude of reasons. International exchange students enter the state in search of an enriching educational experience; others enter the Federation in search of permanent or temporary work and labor. More frequently, people enter the Russian Federation in the hopes of seeking temporary or permanent refuge from natural disasters, war, and persecution. Though the plight of refugees is an important matter for the international community to discuss, the growing issue of migration rests not with foreign migrants, but in internally displaced people who have been neglected and underserved.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) are those who have been “...forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes ... as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations [illegible]

have not crossed an internationally defined border” (UNHCR “Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement” 1998). The state of origin is required by the Guiding Principles on Internal

Displacement to provide shelter, food, and other basic necessities to these populations. This responsibility falls to the state due to the fact that the internally displaced have not passed an internationally recognized border into another jurisdiction. Therefore, IDPs are classified differently from other migrants, such as refugees, and are provided separate protections. Refugees are defined as migrants who “...have crossed an internationally recognized border and have thus lost the protection of their home countries” and require assistance from other states or organizations (Inter-Parliamentary Union 2013, p. 19). Also unlike refugees, the term ‘internally displaced persons’ does not hold a special legal status as that of ‘refugees,’ and applies to both citizens and non-citizens that are within a state’s borders (Inter-Parliamentary Union 2013, p. 19-20). Therefore, the responsibility of protecting and guaranteeing the rigoh as migran9-XṄ

areas with populations that have experienced repeated, long-term displacement in the Middle East.

II. Background

A solution to the Russian Federation's questions of IDPs and global terrorism can be found in the treaties and organizations that the Federation is party to at the international, regional, and domestic level. At each level, the Russian Federation cooperates with multiple entities to establish functional migration policies and counter terrorism tactics.

International Organizations

The Russian Federation is an active member of the international community. As an established global power, the Russan Federation seeks to lead states throughout the world in humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts. These goals can be attained through the international organizations and associations that the Russian Federation takes part in, such as the United Nations. Through the United Nations, the Russian Federation is party to multiple agreements, such as the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the 1951 and 1967 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The Russian Federation also interacts with multiple United Nations bodies, offices, and councils, such as the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee, and the Human Rights Council (UNHRC). Multi-state organizations, such as BRICS, also play a large role in emphasizing humanitarian efforts.

Following the conclusion of World War II, the Russian Federation, (then the USSR), ratified the United Nations (UN) Charter in 1945. The USSR was appointed as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and held the power to execute peacekeeping strategies across the globe (United Nations Security Council 2020). Following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation alerted the Secretary-General of the UN that the membership and responsibilities of the Soviet Union were to be transferred to the Russian Federation. The eleven member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States supported this transfer of power (United Nations, “Member States” 2020).

The goals of the United Nations are to promote world peace after the violence of two World Wars. The goals and aspirations for all member states of the UN were solidified in the establishment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) in 1948. The UNDHR stipulated in Article 3 that “...everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the security of a person” (United Nations 1948). This hints at the role that the Security Council is to play in the maintenance of peace across the globe. Inherently, the UNDHR rejects the activities of terror organizations that seek to threaten international peace and individual safety.

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Commissioner for Human Rights 1966). Similar to Articles 14 and 15 in the Universal Declaration, the International Covenant states that “...everyone lawfully within the territory of a State shall, within that territory have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose his residence” and that “... everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own” (United Nations Office of the Higher Commissioner for Human Rights 1966). This covenant, to which the Russian Federation is a party, reaffirms the UNDHR and acts as a binding international document that holds the Russian Federation accountable to the statutes described (Manley 1985).

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Articles 14 and 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established the foundation for the Higher Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). The UNHCR was established in 1950 to assist the millions of Europeans who fled their homes throughout the war and called upon governments around the world to cooperate with the Commission in providing protection and admittance, assimilation services, and the ‘voluntary repatriation’ of refugees (Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 1951). In addition to the Statute, the United Nations drafted the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. The purpose of this convention was to codify the rights of migrants that signatory states must recognize and to determine the meaning of the word ‘refugee,’ which was decidedly defined as, “...a person who is unwilling or unable to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted due to race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a social group” (United Nations 1951).

The 1967 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees extended the implications set forth in the 1951 Convention. The 1967 Protocol made the scope for refugee status universal and expanded upon the definition of refugee, stating that refugees should be defined as stated in Article I of the 1951 Convention, but "...as if the words 'As a result of events occurring before 1 January 1951' and 'a result of such events' were omitted" (United Nations High Commission for Refugees 1967). Though the USSR was a member state of the UN during these Conventions, it was not party to the 1951 Convention or its 1967 Protocol. The Russian Federation did not sign on to these documents until after the dissolution of the USSR in 1991 (Chudinovskikh and Denisenko 2017).

The UNHCR has played a role in increasing international awareness of IDPs. The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were published through the UNHCR following a 1992 mandate to the UN Secretary-General's Representative on internally displaced persons. The representative charged with this mandate was tasked with observing the precipitating factors of internal displacement, the current status of IDPs in international law, and suggestions on how the international community can further protect IDPs (UNHCR Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 2020). Though the Guiding Principles are non-binding, the document acts as a guide on how to address issues with regards to displaced persons within Russian borders, as the Guiding Principles are in compliance with international refugee and humanitarian law (Internal Displacement Monitoring Center 2020).

United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC)

The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was created in 2001 in response to the terror attacks of 11 September 2001 in the United States. The CTC was tasked with overseeing the outlined goals in Security Council Resolution 1373, which called upon member states to criminalize the financing, planning, or aiding of terror organizations.

Additionally, Resolution 1373 called for multilateral cooperation between member states, specifically with regards to informing neighboring governments on active terror groups that are or have been planning attacks (United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee 2020). In order to track the implementation progress of each member state, the CTC’s Executive Directorate (CTED) issues a Global Survey that reviews the policies each member state has initiated with regards to counter terror measures. The latest Global Survey was issued in 2016, and lists regional recommendations to combat terrorism and the various global trends in terrorism. These trends include the increase of women in the promotion and prevention of terrorism, the rise of foreign terrorist fighters, the growing role of information technology, and the role of children and young adults in terror attacks (United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate 2016).

Discrimination (United Nations 2020?). The UNHRC may launch independent investigations, fact-finding missions, and inquiries based on formally filed complaints by individuals or third-party organizations and issue recommendations to the UNGA on how to resolve human rights issues (United Nations Human Rights Council 2020b).

The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) acts as the Secretariat for the UNHRC. The OHCHR has released multiple management plans on the maintenance of human rights across the globe that the UNHRC endeavors to fulfill. According to the OHCHR, rights-based approaches to peace and security have “inherent preventative power” that can make sustainable peace achievable (UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights 2020). Without a human rights based approach, global counter-terrorism and counter-extremism efforts frequently fail. The current plan established by the UNCHR from 2018-2021 seeks to address this issue by partnering directly with state actors enmeshed in conflict. Particularly, the UNCHR aims to: implement human rights information into early warning systems in order to prevent crises before they occur; deepen the understanding of new and developing technologies to ensure the initial resolution, the UNHRC has published twenty reports on the human rights situation in Syria based on information gathered from witness testimonies of displaced persons. To date, Syria has not granted its permission to the UNHRC to initiate investigations within its borders (explained further in Domestic: Situation in the Syrian Arab Republic) (UNHRC 2020d).

In addition to independent investigations, the UNHRC monitors human rights improvements across all 193 UN member states through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The goal of the UPR is to “prompt, support, and expand the promotion and protection of human rights on the ground” by assessing the progress within individual states in subduing human rights challenges (UNHRC 2020c). Reviews are based upon a national review, provided by the state in question; information compiled by human rights experts, additional UN groups, and other treaty bodies; and information from non-governmental organizations (UNHRC 2020c). The Russian Federation completed its most recent UPR in May 2018. Out of 317 recommendations issued by the UNHRC, 191 received the support from Russian Federation, while 34 required additional clarification and 92 would require further consideration from President Putin (UNHRC 2018). Throughout the UPR, the Russian delegate reassured all that the Russian Federation would continue to pursue policies at the federal level to ensure the protection of all persons within Russian borders (UNHRC 2018).

Under the supervision of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons is a mandated position that investigates and enhances protection programs for IDPs. The post of Special Rapporteur is currently occupied by Cecila Jimenez-Damary. The duties of the Special Rapporteur include

Migrants 2016). The UNGA recognized that migrants and refugees alike relocate for numerous reasons, including food insecurity, human rights abuses, and terrorism, but further acknowledges the paramount role that migrant populations have on the economy and sustainable development within the states that they enter (UNGA, The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants 2016). In order to promote the well-being of migrants, the UNGA reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to respect the dignity of all migrants and refugees, improve humanitarian aid and resources to countries most in need, and develop a more "...comprehensive refugee response system" based on international cooperation (UNGA, The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants 2016). The New York Declaration was further extended in 2018, when the United Nations developed the intergovernmental, non-legally binding treaty Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) solidified international commitment to establishing a cooperative system of global migration. Based on the comments and recommendations of the UN Secretary-General, the GCM established a cooperative framework with twenty-three guiding objectives and proposals for action, which included the plan to address the root causes that lead people to leave their country of origin and the "timely dissemination" of migrant data to all member states (United Nations 2018). With the proposal of increased information and organizational tactics, the GCM introduces methods by which the international community can best prepare for incoming populations.

The Russian Federation issued a statement supporting the adoption of the GCM, as it established "channels for legal migration and mechanisms for effective control over migration processes, elaborate instruments over illegal migration, including readmission, as well as the fight against migration-related crimes” (Statement of the Russian Federation on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration 2018). Included in its declaration of support for the Global Compact was the Russian Federation’s reiterated stance on shared responsibility. Shared responsibility is the premise that member states with direct connection to a given circumstance of mass emigration should “primarily bear the greatest responsibility” for migrants, R

BRICS is the acronym for the independent states of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. BRICS formed in 2008 after the meetings of Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin at the G8 Summit with then-leaders Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China and Manmohan Singh of India (Ayres 2017). The intended goal for BRICS is the collaboration between states that have large, fast-growing economies that deserve greater responsibility and recognition in the global sphere (BRICS Brazil 2019).

The tenth annual BRICS Summit was held in 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Summit operated under the theme of Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity. Part of the vision for growth and prosperity stemmed from the 2018 Summit and the subsequent publishing of the Johannesburg Declaration, which outlined the aspirations for BRICS members in the coming years. From the Johannesburg Declaration, BRICS reaffirms its commitment to multilateral cooperation in fostering security and peace and recognizes the vital role that the United Nations plays in the promotion of these goals. With these goals in mind, BRICS called for an increase in representation of African States in UN peace and security concerns and an increase in diversity within the UN Security Council to make it inclusive to developing states (Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India 2020). As permanent members of the Security Council, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China aim to further the goals of the Johannesburg Declaration and further integrate developing countries that show an interest in addressing the terrorism and migration.

The Johannesburg Declaration also called for an increase in global multilateralism and cooperation on counter-terrorist matters. Regarded as a "deplored" act, the BRICS states call upon the UN to establish a "firm international legal basis" to better support its member states in the fight against terrorism (Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India 2020). BRICS recognized that since 1996 the UN General Assembly has been in the process of drafting the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism. The Johannesburg Declaration as the successor to the USSR, effectively dissolving the Union, but made a statement for all former Soviet states to remain in cooperative agreements (Boris Yeltsin Presidential Library 2017). The protocols of the CIS were established through the Alma Ata Protocol three weeks later and added the Republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan as members of the Commonwealth (Commonwealth of Independent States 1991). The CIS Charter was ratified two years later in 1993 by all current acknowledged member states, with the exception of the Republic of Ukraine and the Republic of Turkmenistan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Commonwealth of Independent States” 2020). The CIS Charter reaffirmed the Commonwealth’s commitment to the goals proposed in the UN Charter and outlined the goals and various departments of the CIS.

Similar to Russia, the CIS recognizes regional security as a priority. An emerging area of cooperation between member states has been the Anti-terrorist Center of the CIS Member State (ATC-CIS). The ATC-CIS was established in 2000 by the Decision of the Council of CIS States as a permanent branch tasked with coordinating cooperation between CIS states in the fight against international terrorism and escalating instances of violent extremism (Antiterrorist Center of the CIS Member States 2020). The ATC-CIS is partularly interested in preventing global terrorism related to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) that operates out of Syria and Iraq. ISIL has been recognized by the Russian Federation as a terrorist organization since 2014 (Antiterrorist Center of the CIS Member States 2020).

The ATC-CIS is determined to eliminate terrorist and extremist acts and has several areas of focus: coordination, information and analysis, regulation, research and guidelines, and training and professional development (The Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center

2020). These areas of focus are the basis for multiple agreements and concepts, such as the Treaty of the CIS Member States on the Interstate Search of Persons. The Russian Federation became party to this Treaty in 2014 in order to better promote cooperation between CIS Member States in searches for people of interest. Such people include those that are, "...hiding from the sides' relevant authorities and evading criminal sanctions or execution of court decisions." (The Kremlin 2014). The Treaty also extends to those, "...who are missing or not in contact with their families [and] on matters of establishing the identities of persons who are unable to provide background information, as well as in cases of discovering unidentified bodies" (The Kremlin 2014). The Russian Federation remains actively engaged with the ATC-CIS on establishing resolutions related to the issue of terrorism. Recently, the ATC-CIS has released The Program of Cooperation of the CIS Member States in the Fight Against Terrorism and Other Violent Manifestations of Extremism for 2020-2022 (Anti-Terrorism Center of the CIS Member States 2020). In his speech at the CIS Heads of State Council, President Vladimir Putin stated his goals for the program, which included increasing the role of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre in order to predict the movements of foreign terrorist fighters from Syria into CIS member states (The Kremlin 2019). The success of this program has yet to be fully determined, but the CIS remains committed to the continued prevention of terrorist movement into Member States.

The European Union (EU) was initially formed in 1958 by the independent states of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands in the hopes of establishing peace, security, and inclusivity throughout Europe (European Union "The History of the European Union" 2020). The EU seeks to attain these goals through economic and political cooperation of all member states and through collaborative interaction with non-member border entities. Membership over the years has increased incrementally, and has currently reached twenty-seven member states (European Union, “The History of the European Union,” 2020).

The Russian Federation is part of both Europe and Asia. Though it is not a member state of the European Union due to “fundamental incompatibility,” the Russian Federation acknowledges the overlap of concerns that involve both parties and chooses to remain a close and connected partner (Wegren 2019, 379). Following the disintegration of the USSR, many former Soviet states applied for EU membership, including the Baltic States of Lithuania, Estonia, and Latvia, all of which successfully joined the EU in 2004 (Oldberg 2012; European Union “Countries” 2020). The positioning of Kaliningra]ḥRo~كٔ

Crimean Peninsula into the Russian Federation (Makarova 2019). Many EU member states have initiated sanctions against the Russian Federation with the intention of reversing actions in the Crimean Peninsula (European Union Delegation to the Russian Federation 2019). To date, the Russian Federation continues to fund socioeconomic projects within the Crimea to improve the lives of all who reside in the region (The Kremlin 2020).

Despite the suspension dialogue, the EU and the Russian Federation remain committed to bilateral cooperation on matters such as border security. Through the EU's Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, the Russian Federation is collaborating in the Cross Border Cooperation, which seeks to promote joint action between EU member states and non-member states that share a land or sea border (European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations 2020). Through the Cross Border Cooperation, multiple programs have been developed to promote better collaboration between bordering EU states and the Russian Federation. These programs in the past have included Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland (European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations 2020).

The Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS) was founded in 1992 as an intergovernmental organization for regional cooperation between the states of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden, and the Russian Federation. Additionally, the European Union holds a special seat within the CBSS (Council of Baltic Sea States, "About the CBSS" 2020). Historically, the CBSS has acted as a platform for communication between the Russian Federation and the EU. The former USSR states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania are both CBSS and EU member states. Travel between the border regions of EU member states and CBSS members are the catalyst for many of the issues that strain EU-Russian relations today, specifically with Kaliningrad. The exclave is geographically separated from the Russian Federation by Poland and Lithuania, two EU states, and causes complications for Russian citizens within Kaliningrad who wish to travel to other locations within the Russian Federation (Huisman 2002; Oldberg 2012). Despite these complications in travel, Kaliningrad remains the western-most part of the Russian Federation and holds numerous opportunities for further collaboration with its surrounding border entities.

The CBSS also acts as a platform for the Russian Federation to promote regional and international concerns such as terrorism. In 2002, the Russian Federation sought to add international terrorism to the CBSS list of priorities, following the struggle in the Chechen Republic against extremist separatists. However, the western CBSS member states "...did not accept the Russian definition of terrorism... as... one of the greatest threats to modern civilized

Accords, the OSCE historically acted as a dialogue platform for the Western and Eastern blocs to connect and negotiate during the Cold War period (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe "What is the OSCE" 2020). The Principles Guiding Relations between Participating States within the Helsinki Accords provided the framework for which member states could interact with one another and defined the scope of power that each member state maintained. Such framework included the "peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms [and the observance of] the equal rights and self-determinations of peoples," all of which the Russian Federation works to actively uphold and pursue (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe 1975).

Currently, the OSCE acts as an authority providing groundwork services on behalf of requesting member states. Such groundwork intends to relieve political and ethnic tensions in high-risk areas and rebuild communities following conflicts (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe "What is the OSCE" 2020). Currently within the Russian Federation, two OSCE Observer Checkpoints at Gukovo and Donetsk are located at the Ukranian-Russian border. The Observer Checkpoints were established upon the explicit request of the Russian Federation and consequent approval by all fifty-seven participating OSCE member states under the 1130 Decision of the Permanent Council (Organization for the Security and Co-operation of Europe 2014). The presence of such observers is intended to moderate and report entries into the Russian Federation, as well as resolve tensions that have occurred in the area following the reintegration of Crimea (Organization for the Security and Cooperation of Europe 2020) (explained further in Domestic section). As mentioned in a statement submitted by the

Permanent Russian Federation Representative at the 1194th Meeting of the OSCE Council on 30 August 2018:

> “...we share the desire for a swift settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict... We are convinced that all that is lacking for a successful settlement of the conflict, which has been going on for more than four years now, is the political will of the Ukrainian Government to solve peacefully with its fellow citizens in the east of the country the problems that have developed. This needs to be done through direct dialogue with Donetsk and Luhansk” (Organization for the Security and Co-operation of Europe 2018).

As required by the Helsinki Accords, the Russian Federation remains committed to the deliberate cooperation of all involved member states in the resolution of all conflicts within Ukraine and remains open to peaceful and constructive dialogue with the Ukrainian government in reaching a negotiation. Until such dialogue between member states improves, observers will remain at the aforementioned border points and deliver weekly observer reports (Organization for the Security and Co-operation of Europe 2020). Multiple measures have been implemented to encourage a path to a settlement, but the Russian Federation stipulates that the Ukrainian government must also resolve the matter with its own citizens through peaceful and civil discourse.

Domestic Organizations and Policies

The domestic institutions of the Russian Federation are the local entities and procedures that guide the Russian government. The Russian Federation utilizes multiple entities, such as the Ministry of Defense, the Federal Migration Service, and to address issues regarding migration and terrorism. Particular events, such as the reintegration of the Crimean Peninsula and the instances of Chechen insurrection in the late 1990s, have further guided the Russian Federation in determining policy, such as the Federal Law on Combating Terrorism. Many of domestic policies of the Russian Federation are influenced by its expansionist years under Tsarist rule and its experience under the USSR.

The Russian Federation traces its roots back to 862 CE in what is present day Kiev, Ukraine, which acted as the homeland for the first Russian peoples. Beginning in 1237, the first Slavic state of Kyivan Rus experienced multiple invasions from outside groups, such as the Muscovite Princes and the Mongol Golden Horde (Coleman and Holliway 2020). Moscow and other northeastern cities grew stronger and overthrew these outside powers in 1480 under the rule of Ivan III (r. 1462-1505) (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 19). Russia began to unify and expand further east during the first tsarist reign of Ivan IV (r. 1547-1584) towards the Tatar-controlled regions of Kazan, Astrakhan, and Siberia (Coleman and Holliway 2020). During the reign of Boris Gudenov, Russia was occupied by Poland until Michael Romanov (r. 1613 - 1635) and his son, Alexis (r. 1645 - 1676) expelled the Polish forces and once more reclaimed Kiev (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni, 2014, 20).

Further integration of cultures came under the rule of Peter I (r. 1682 - 1725). Upon his ascension to the role of Tsar, Peter I spent portions of his reign abroad in western European states. The return of Peter I to Russia stimulated the beginnings of modernization, as well as new goals for expansion. As a military leader, Peter I led the Great Northern War against Sweden, and secured the territories of Livonia, Ingria, and portions of Finland. Near these regions, St. Petersburg was established and named as the Russian capital, and Russia gained access to ports in the Baltic Sea (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 21-22).

Catherine the Great (r. 1762 - 1796) continued Russian expansion through a series of wars. Under Catherine the Great, Russia obtained a Turkish coast on the Black Sea through the Treaty of Belgrade and obtained the Finnish city of Vyborg through the Peace of Abo (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 21-22). Additional conflicts with Turkey from 1768 to 1774 and 1787 to 1792 resulted in Russian control over northern portions near the Black Sea, such as the Crimean Peninsula. The three partitionings of Poland in 1772, 1793, and 1795 yielded the territories of Belarus, Lithuania, and western Ukraine to the growing Russian Empire (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 21-22).

By the time Alexander I (r. 1801-1825) seized the role of Tsar, multiple ethnicities had been incorporated into the Russian Empire. Alexander I faced the first issues of growing nationalism, which intensified during the reign of his brother, Nicholas I (r. 1825-1855). Nicholas I ruled Russia under the guiding ideals of “Autocracy, Orthodoxy, and Nationalism,” and in 1849 he sent 200,000 troops to Hungary to suppress a revolution against the Russian Empire (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 22). The successor of Nicholas I, Alexander II (r. 1855-1881), relinquished a majority of the acquired Russian territories through the Treaty of Paris of 1856, which ended the Crimean War against Turkey and its allies. Russia sought to regain territory by focusing expansion efforts into Asia. In 1860, the Russian Empire renegotiated the border between China and Russia with the Treaty of Peking, and established the city of Vladivostok near present-day North Korea (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 25). Turkestan was also incorporated into the Russian Empire over the course of twenty years, from approximately 1865 to 1883 (Donaldson, Nogee, and Nadkarni 2014, 25).

Further territory was added to the USSR in the twentieth century. The Kaliningrad oblast was previously a part of Germany in a region known as East Prussia. This territory had been under the control of the Russian Empire between the years of 1758 and 1762, following the Seven Years' War. However, after Russian Tsar Peter III negotiated a peace with Prussian ruler Frederick III, the city of Koenigsburg was returned to the German crown. The Yalta and Potsdam Conferences of 1945 returned the territory to Russia, where the region was renamed Kaliningrad in 1946 ("Kaliningrad History," 2020). As the western most part of Russia, Kaliningrad has played a large role in the 'Russian World' and 'compatriots abroad' concepts and in warding off anti-Russian sentiments in an area surrounded by European Union and NATO-allied states (Sukhankin 2017). The "compatriots abroad"and "Russian World" concept urged ethnic Russians to migrate from the former Soviet state of Lithuania to the Kaliningrad oblast, but the measure has largely been unsuccessful in obtaining this goal (Zevelev 2016).

The institutions and policies that the Russian Federation employs today are built upon centuries of Russian expansionist history which occurred under Tsarist rule until its overthrow in 1917. The creation of the USSR in 192[illegible]st of Russia, The migration services currently utilized by the Russian Federation is greatly impacted by the migration policy that was used during the time of the USSR. During the time of the USSR, a comprehensive passport system allowed ethnic Russians to move from central Russia to the periphery territories of the Union for labor purposes and population redistribution across less densely populated regions (Chudinovskikh and Denisenko 2017). As a result, millions of ethnic Russians emigrated outwards and into territories that now compose states such as Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine. When the USSR disbanded, many of these ethnic Russians were left with the question to which state they legally belonged (Heleniak 2002). In states like Ukraine, ethnic Russians constitute a majority of the population at around fifty-eight percent (Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization 2017).

Following the dissolution of the USSR, the Russian Federation faced the challenge of developing and updating its migration system to fit the post-USSR world. The initial challenges faced by the Russian Federation in the early 1990s included issues such as legal migration, a lack of legislation mandating the legal status of foreigners, and individual issues of ‘unresolved citizenship’ due to the Soviet passports (Chudinovskikh and Denisenko 2017). The dissolution of the USSR reignited conflicts between ethnic groups. With the creation of fourteen newly independent states, 25 million ethnic Russians became internally displaced as they “...suddenly [became] members of minority groups ... hostile to their existence” (Heleniak 2002). This hostility towards ethnic Russians prompted the widespread migration back into the Russian Federation from the border states, which the Russian Federation could not address quickly in such large volumes. From 1991 to 2000, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Ukraine, and Tajikistan contributed the most immigrants to the Russian Federation’s growing populace. More specifically, about twenty-six percent of Russia's incoming migrant population hailed from Ukraine; twenty-two percent hailed from Kazakhstan; ten percent from Uzbekistan; and six percent from Belarus and Azerbaijan (Chudinovskikh and Denisenko 2017)

Multiple steps were taken to address the pressing issue of migration. The first step included the establishment of the Federal Migration Service of Russia (FMS) in 1992, which was tasked with drafting and enforcing national migration law (Romodanovsky 2020). In 1992, the Russian Federation also signed onto the United Nations 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its subsequent 1967 Protocol. The adoption of the Convention and Protocol is crucial to the development of the Russian Federation's migration policy as it is the internationally recognized document that provides guidance on the rights of migrants and refugees (Convention and Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees 1951). The 1951

1992 to 2017, a majority of whom identified as former residents of Soviet republics (Chudinovskikh 2018).

Currently, the Russian Federation utilizes the Federal State Statistics Service, also known as and the National Statistical Office to collect migration data. Both of these offices are subdivisions of the Ministry of the Interior, which gained the previous responsibilities of the Federal Migration Service after its dissolution in 2016 (Chudinovskikh 2018). The National Statistical Office gathers migration data through censuses, surveys, and statistics compiled from other administrative organizations, such as the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Health (Chudinovskikh 2018).

is used to measure and track multiple aspects of the Russian Federation's migrant population, such as the amount of foreign students within the state and the rates of crime [illegible]

The Syrian Arab Republic is located in the Middle East, bordering Israel, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. In its modern history, Syria has experienced multiple shifts in government, ruling power. Following World War I, Syria was placed under French rule via the League of Nations mandate system until 1946. The end of French occupation in Syria left a political vacuum, where multiple parties struggled for power until 1958 when Syria and Egypt convened to form the United Arab Republic. After the United Arab Republic separated in 1961, Syria became embroiled in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War and lost the Golan Heights, a territory under Israeli control to this day. In 1970, Hafiz al-Assad gained control of the Syrian government, bringing the state towards a period of stability. Hafiz al-Assad's son, Bashar al-Assad, assumed the role of president following the former's death in 2000. Al-Assad remains in power to this day as a result of popular referendums (CIA, "Syria," 2020). Syria is a member of the United Nations, and is currently suspended from participating in regional organizations such as the Arab Leagues.

There are two major events currently occupying the government of Syria with regards to migrants and internally displaced persons. The first event relates to the decades old conflict between Israel and Syria over the Golan. The Golan is an area of land in southwest Syria that Israeli troops began to occupy in June 1967 Israel annexed the Golan in its entirety in 1981. Prior to Israel's occupation of the Golan, this area was home to over 140,000 Syrians that were forced to flee their homes in order to avoid the conflict (Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations 2020). While some Syrian chose to flee their homes, others remained stationed in their villages. It is estimated that around 20,000 Syrians continue to live within the

Israeli Occupied Golan, alongside a growing Israeli population that has built over forty illegal settlements (Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations 2020. As Israel still claims sovereignty over the Golan, an estimated 500,000 Syrians are unable to return to their homes (Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations 2020). The Syrian government has attempted negotiations with Israel in the hopes of establishing a durable and lasting peace at the Madrid Conference of 1991, but no agreement came to fruition due to Israel's insistence on remaining within the Golan (Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations 2020). To date, Israel continues to control the Golan and move Israeli settlers into this occupied territory.

In addition to the ongoing Golan dispute, Syria has been embroiled within a civil war since 2011 as a result of the larger scale Arab Spring movement. The conflict began in 2011 after a series of anti-government protests began, calling for the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad. The protests became more violent, and began to devolve into three different campaigns: opposition to President al-Assad from anti-government groups, military operations by Turkey against the Kurdish population in Northeast Syria, and the fight against terror organizations such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the al-Nusrah front, led by the United States (Council on Foreign Relations, "Civil War in Syria," 2020).

The Russian Federation became actively involved in Syria in September 2015. The Russian Ministry of Defense began deploying air strikes within portions of Syria held by terror groups (Chappell 2015). With the aid of the Russian Ministry of Defense, Assad has retained the territories that have been under the control of terror organizations. The last area that the Syrian government has yet to reclaim is in the northwest Idlib province (Ali 2020). In addition to deploying military aid to Syria, the Russian Federation has negotiated peace talks within the region to address the growing humanitarian emergency. Russia, Iran, and Turkey have negotiated the Astana Process in 2017 in an attempt to determine ceasefire areas and demilitarized zones throughout rebel-held, non-ISIL territories. However, continued attacks from pro-government forces halted any further progress of the Astana Process (Council on Foreign Relations, “Civil War in Syria,” 2020).

Additionally, the Syrian Civil War has caused worldwide human rights and migration concerns. The situation in Syria has caused mass migration problems for European states. 2015 marked the beginning of the Syrian refugee crisis, as states across the region were unable to handle the five million registered refugees (Council on Foreign Relations, “Civil War in Syria,” 2020). The Republic of Turkey currently hosts the most Syrian refugees at around 3 million people (European Union 2019). Since the start of the Syrian War, the Syrian government and its allies have been charged by multiple sources of flagrantly breaching international human rights laws. Such accusations included arbitrary detention, the deliberate targeting of schools, hospitals, and other civilian locations, and utilizing chemical weapons against citizens and non-combattants (Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic 2019). In response to these charges, the UNHRC established an independent inquiry on Syria in 2011, which to date continues to actively monitor the human rights situation in Syria. After nearly a decade of ongoing conflict, the UNHCR reports that there are an estimated 6.2 million internally displaced Syrians seeking refuge from violence (UNHCR, “Syria Regional Refugee Response” 2020).

they performed a series of executions of teachers and parents who had accompanied their children to school. By the third day of the crisis, the Russian security forces stormed the building after two blasts were heard from within the school. The end of the crisis resulted in over 350 people dead, half of whom were young children (Radio Free Europe 2019a).

The repugnant violence in Chechnya was the result of extremists led by a misguided ideology pushed forward by foreign terrorist fighters. This misguided ideology embedded in Islamic extremism is resurfacing in Chechnya and may once more require the force of the Russian military to effectively defend against such threats. The presence of foreign terrorist fighters from the Middle East and the return of Russians that have travelled abroad to states with known extremist entities threaten the security and safety of the Russian Federation. A 2017 report issued by The Soufan Center listed the top ten nationalities of foreign terrorist fighters. The Russian Federation was at the top of this respective list with over 3400 people who have travelled to Syria or Iraq with the intent of engaging with terror organizations. Of those that travelled abroad to Iraq or Syria, only a portion (four hundred) returned to the Russian Federation. The next state, Saudi Arabia, had 173 less fighters that travelled abroad, but yielded a greater number of returned fighters (Barrett 2017).