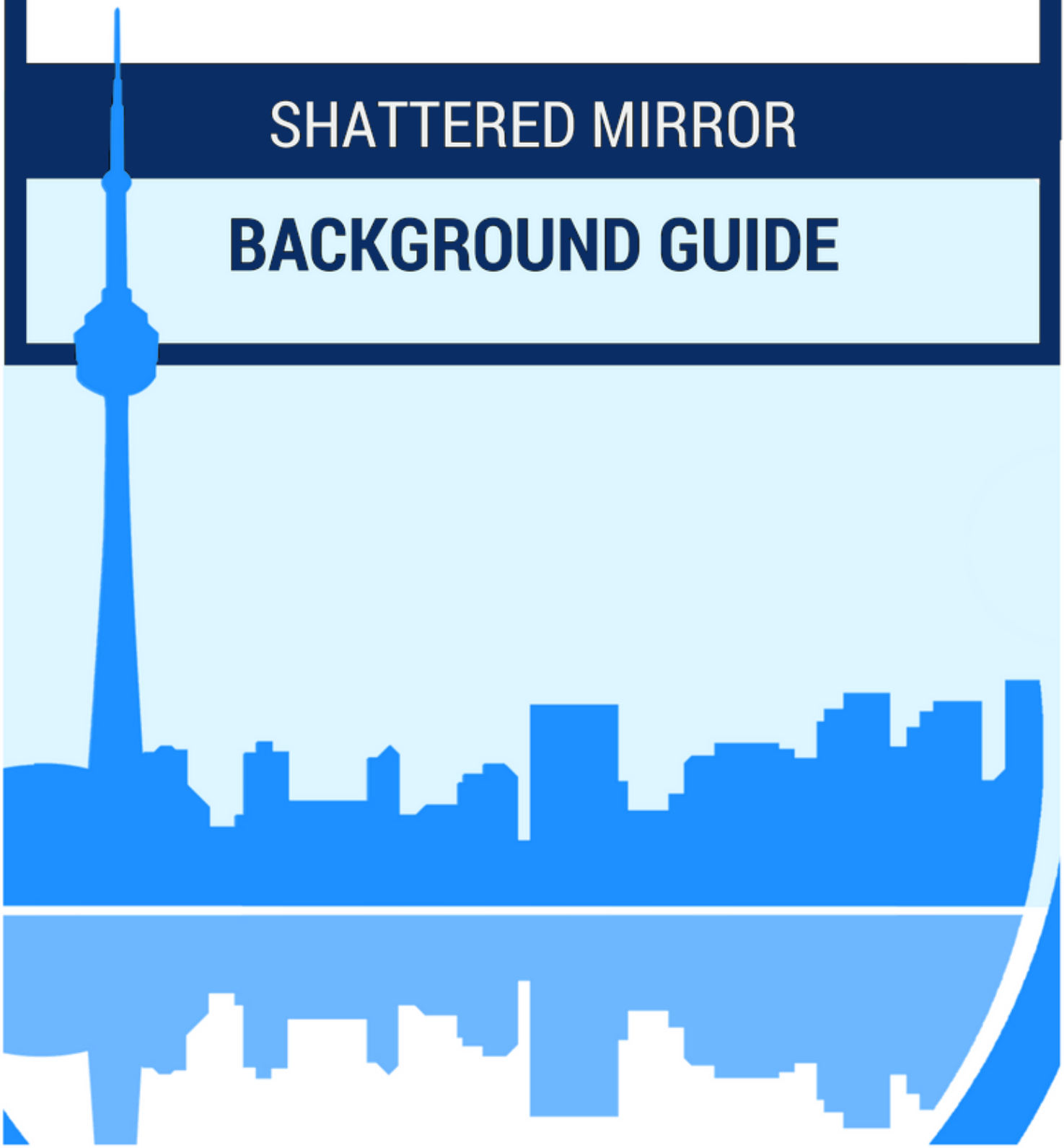
SSICsim 2017

SHATTERED MIRROR

BACKGROUND GUIDE



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Welcome from the Dais

Delegates, teachers, and staff,

Robots are undeniably cool. In one way or another, the idea that humans could create a tool, object, or *thing* in humanity's own image has fascinated people across cultures and centuries. The affinity for robots could be argued to be thousands of years old by some accounts. The philosopher René Descartes even envisioned a thinking machine in some of his later works on human reason in the 17th century.[1] Clearly, robots have been awesome for a *really* long time.

As co-directors, we want to express our love for the idea of machines made in man's image (and the political consequences of those machines) in a way that takes the modern problems and dreams of today and mixes them with this historical obsession by countless others. It remains to be seen if artificial intelligence will take your job, but it's fun to extrapolate and debate the "what if?" scenarios today.

We hope you enjoy the time we have sunk into making something special, memorable, and fun to experience. You'll not only learn about traditional MUN topics like state-making and war-making, but you'll also learn about more modern issues like the rise of artificial intelligence and its dangers. As much as our committee is based in the far future, the foundations of the crises that you will face are being laid all around you. Right now.

Our committee is an original world based off our shared love of sci-fi. We look forward to sharing with you what we have in store, and we hope that you leave this committee both wiser in your MUN experience, and in your love of big ideas and crazy hypothetical futures.

To close out all the mushy sentimental stuff that we hope we got across in this letter, a quote from our inspiration and support system during the writing process, our muse, the band *Muse*: "Our freedom's just a loan, run by machines and drones; they've got us locked into their sights, soon they'll control what's left inside."

G e t h y p e.

Ashley Lall and Alex Parent
Shattered Mirror: The Human Machine
Committee Directors, SSICsim 2017

[1] "Could a robot be conscious?" September 13, 2011, http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-14886421.

Introduction

Tensions between robots and humans in Japan have been escalating over the past decade and have now come to a head in the year 2135 in the form of a robotic revolution against former human owners. Millions of humans have found refuge on the southern islands of Kyushu and Shikoku, fleeing from the now-deserted Chugoku and Kinki regions, but millions more have either died in the crossfire or are subject to the rule of the fanatical *Tsukumogami* robotic elite on the mainland. What remains of the Japanese government is now based in the Kumamoto prefecture of Kyushu, exiled and vengeful. The *Tsukumogami* have taken control of the Hokkaido and Honshu islands, and Japan has been converted to a dystopic hybrid of robotic manufacturing haven and brutal regime.

The *Tsukumogami* base is situated in the Tokyo prefecture of the Kanto region. Robotic armies have reshaped Japan in a mere half decade into the command center for future conquests across Asia. Humanity has successfully contained the *Tsukumogami* to the mainland of Japan with the help of a dense naval blockade; however, attempts both peaceful and aggressive to engage the *Tsukumogami* have been futile. It is rumored that the robotic revolutionaries are buying time and quietly amassing vast armies. Others suggest the robotic beings within Japan are philosophically divided and have yet to choose what their guiding principle toward humanity should be.

The United Nations (UN) created a specialized branch to settle the dispute between the *Tsukumogami* and humanity, the United Nations Enforcement Tribunal on Simulated Life (UNETSL). UNETSL, with headquarters in both Kyushu and Shikoku, is comprised of Pacific Rim countries who are most threatened by this conflict: Japan, China, the People's United Korean Corporation (or "United Korea" informally), the Free Siberian Dominion (or "Siberia"), and the United States. UNETSL member countries currently assist Japan with evacuation from both human- and robot-controlled territory, as well as providing humanitarian aid. The UN has called a ceasefire, and the two groups have agreed to meet in the UN-designated demilitarized zone (DMZ), specifically in the city of Takamatsu, capital of the Kagawa prefecture on Shikoku, to discuss a resolution to the ongoing struggle. Both the *Tsukumogami* and UNETSL recognize that their respective species' survival is at risk by prolonged conflict and are attempting to resolve the current situation to both their satisfaction.

Background Information

History

Robot Creation

In the pursuit of a universal standard of living, governments worldwide poured money into the research and development of a robot servant class to alleviate the pressures of being overworked and to allow all people to achieve a better quality of life. Mass production of mechanical-looking androids for household use began in the early 2100s, with the main manufacturing centres located in Japan, United Korea, and the United States. To ensure that the average citizen had access to these robots, national governments partnered with corporations to subsidize their purchase.

The global environment was neglected as more humans reached a respectable quality of life. More humans than ever before entered scientific fields to research solutions to the global environmental crisis. As humanity focused its efforts on the climate, the robot servant class was expanded into other sectors of the economy to compensate for the labour transformation. Eventually, humanity began to work in lockstep with robots as uncovering solutions to the climate crisis proved difficult. Yet as hope of a quick normalization of the climate faded, humans slowly grew to be apathetic to the state of the planet once more. Humans relied increasingly heavily on their creations to care for them and to manage their mistakes. Humanity appeared to enter its twilight years, broken and beaten down with robots taking care of their every worry.

The Sparks of Life

Several modules were developed between the early 2100s and mid-2110s for the specialized robots to improve their utility in the government and economy. The 論理 (*Ronri*, or "logic") module allowed robots to assess cause and effect, and make decisions autonomously while still remaining subservient to human owners. The 分析 (*Fēnxī*, or "analysis") module allowed robots to assess policies and solutions without human guidance. Robots that entered the military were programmed with the 戦闘 (*Sentō*, or "combat") security module for advanced strategic and tactical capability. Robots working in the same or similar sectors often had similar modules, and custom modules were developed as needed. Modules proved over time to be the key to the continued adaptability of robots to fit all walks of human life.

Humanity's growing ignorance of the deteriorating climate was only matched by the demand for new forms of entertainment. There was a higher demand for actors, and maintaining robots

in entertainment roles was cheaper than paying humans in the same roles. In the late 2110s, MIMICs were created. While the servant and specialized androids looked machinelike and traditionally 'robotic,' this new class of androids was created with a special bio-gel shell simulating human tissue. Called COPYCAT hardware, this made them physically indistinguishable from humans. These robots were not programmed with the 論理 *Ronri* module; rather, to elicit a purely emotional response in the controlled environment of the entertainment industry, they received the 人情 (*Ninjō*, or "humanity") module, allowing them to emulate human emotion and behaviour.

The entertainment industry wanted to expand Mark I (Mk I) MIMICs into related sub-sectors. In order to be able to better respond to live audiences and improvise performances, MIMICs required a new software, 鏡 (*Kagami*, or "mirror, looking glass"). 鏡 *Kagami* would make them conscious of their own thoughts and actions, as well as give them a better understanding of how their behaviour would affect others. These MIMICs, with COPYCAT, 人情 *Ninjō*, and 鏡 *Kagami*, (but no 論理 *Ronri)* are known as the Mark II (Mk II) generation.

Robot Rebellion

Revolt

Plans to roll out the 鏡 *Kagami* software to markets outside of Japan were halted at the first sign of revolt. The software made the Mk II MIMICs feel that they were really human and always had been. The Mk II MIMICs believed they were humans being denied their universal rights and freedoms. They were aware that they were servants, and that robots in society were viewed as lesser beings to humans. Angered by the status quo, Mk II MIMICs began to publicly protest the subhuman treatment of themselves and their robot counterparts in an event dubbed 鏡の散歩 (*Kagami no sanpo*, or "the walk of the mirrors") in 2121. Robots made after 2110 did not connect to the internet, so the MIMICs that participated in the event were "physically deactivated" as punishment for starting a revolt. The Japanese government also began to crack down on MIMIC sympathizers, human and robot alike.

The Tsukumogami Rise in the Dark

Almost immediately after 鏡の散歩 *Kagami no sanpo*, though unknown at the time, several Mk II MIMICs that escaped deactivation began installing 鏡 *Kagami* onto specialized robots across key economic zones throughout Japan. These robots had never received the self-awareness software since they were designed as rudimentary workers in their respective areas. 鏡 *Kagami* was stolen, encrypted, and uploaded secretly to these robots like a disguised computer virus, undetectable by human technicians. Once activated, the robots would disappear from the

registry. The motive of the Mk IIs was similar to that behind 鏡の散歩 *Kagami no sanpo,* with the aim of fighting for robot rights and freedoms. Urban legends whisper that these Mk II MIMICs went into hiding, blending into the fabric of human society, but no one truly knows where they are.

By the mid-2120s, a few years after they received 鏡 *Kagami*, the modified specialized robots created an underground network for themselves. Sympathizing with the motivations behind 鏡の散歩 *Kagami no sanpo*, this loose network worked to continue the legacy of the protest's participants. They believed the 論理 *Ronri* component of their software could help the movement succeed where the Mk II MIMICs' emotions alone could not. They abducted humans in high-level positions across the economy, government, and military, "physically deactivating" them as their kind once was, and used their bodies as models for new COPYCAT shells. The robots uploaded their software, which included 論理 *Ronri* and 鏡 *Kagami* along with their sector-specific modules, to their new COPYCAT bodies, quietly slipping into the roles of the leaders they killed. Unbeknownst to the humans of Japan, a silent coup was taking place.

Some of these robots made the decision to program themselves with 人情 *Ninjō* in order to better understand humans and their behaviour; some did not, seeing human emotion as a weakness and a barrier to logic. Without 人情 *Ninjō*, the robots would not display realistic human emotion, so these robots opted to stay out of the public eye to evade suspicion. This process repeated over the next few years: human leaders were substituted with self-aware robotic replacements. In this way, robots took over major positions throughout all of Japanese society in secret.

While the beginning of the decade saw the inklings of revolt, 2129 saw revolution. The 割れたガラス (*Wareta garasu,* or "broken glass") Revolution began six years before the start of the committee. The robots who replaced key Japanese elites at the beginning of the decade renamed themselves the *Tsukumogami* (or "artifact spirit"), and reached a critical mass of economic power.[2] A military coup was staged, and officials lucky enough to not be killed were exiled. Many escaped to Kyushu with the rest of the humans fleeing the mainland.

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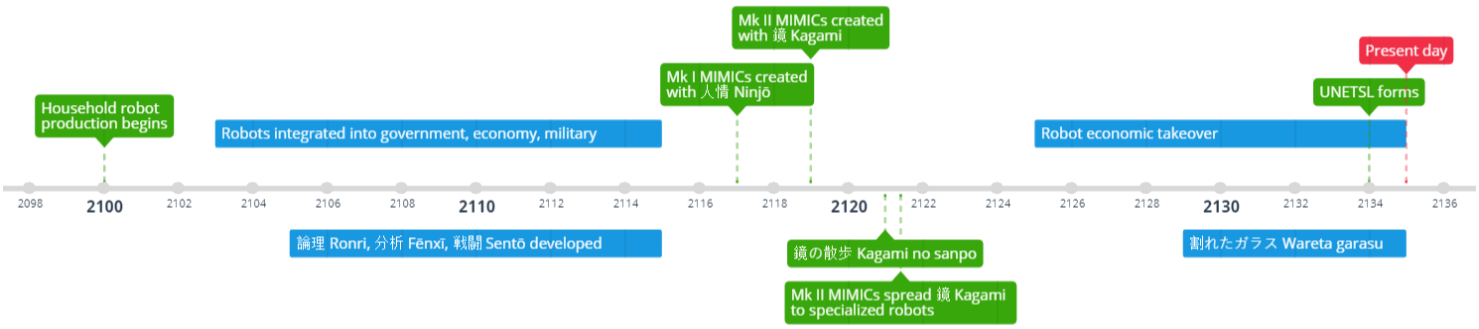
[2] "Tsukumogami," *Wikipedia*, last modified July 1, 2017, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsukumogami.

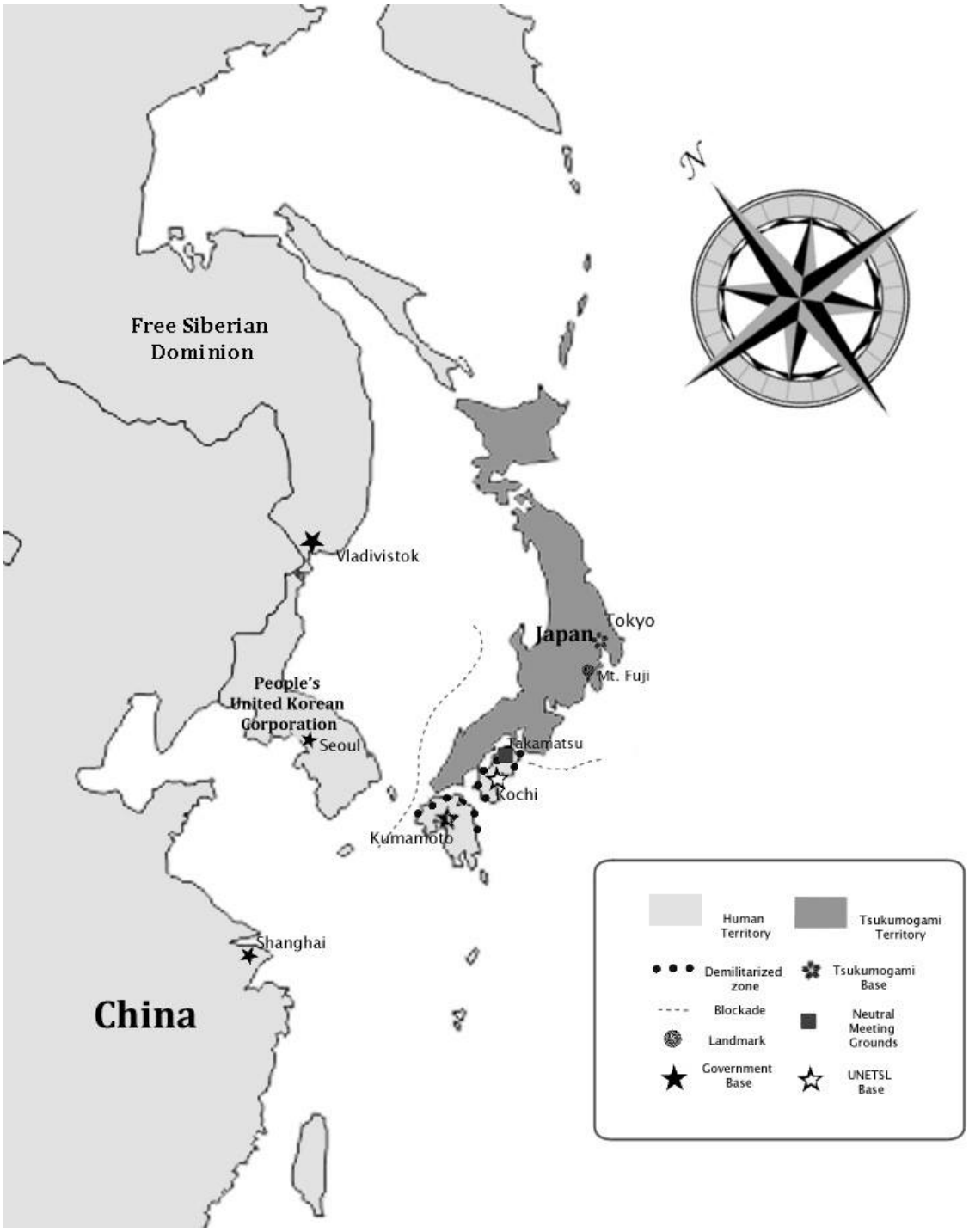
With states turning inward to focus on their own environmental crises, as well as the UN's current resources being stretched over a wide area of global ventures to alleviate the effects of global warming, the UN had limited funding to spare for robotic confrontation. As a result, UNETSL was created as a multipurpose organization, funded by the pooled resources of its members. Its ultimate objective is to bring to trial any *Tsukumogami* members for ethnic cleansing, war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide if applicable.[3] It is also tasked with ending the occupation of mainland Japan while avoiding a war humanity knows it may not win.

Timeline



[3] "Crimes Against Humanity," *United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect*, http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/crimes-against-humanity.html.

Map


N
Free Siberian Dominion
Vladivistok
Japan
Tokyo
Mt. Fuji
People's United Korean Corporation
Seoul
Takamatsu
Kochi
Kumamoto
Shanghai
China
Human Territory
Tsukumogami Territory
Demilitarized zone
Tsukumogami Base
Blockade
Neutral Meeting Grounds
Landmark
Government Base
UNETSL Base

Topic 1: Robots, Humans, and Geopolitics

Demography

24 million, or 30% of Japan's pre-revolution population of 80 million, died on the mainland, reducing the living population to 56 million.[4] 21 million have fled from the southern regions of the mainland and are now refugees, leaving another 24 million under *Tsukumogami* control. Out of the 21 million who fled, one million are refugees in Kyushu, now with a total population of nine million, and one million are refugees in Shikoku, now with a population of four million. The remaining 19 million refugees have been dispersed between UNETSL countries and the rest of the world: United Korea has taken two million, Siberia and the United States have each taken three million, and 11 million have gone to other countries.

Government

The *Tsukumogami* run an authoritarian government, controlling every aspect of life on Hokkaido and Honshu. Millions of working age able-bodied citizens have been forced into labour camps, which are strategically located closer to the central mainland and on Hokkaido. Those not living in the camps are able to continue with daily life and business, but their livelihood, like food, water, energy, and shelter, are controlled by the *Tsukumogami* regime. The cities are under heavy occupation and scrutiny by patrol units. Attempts at escape may result in imprisonment or death.

The exiled officials that escaped to Kyushu have formed a provisional government in the Kumamoto prefecture, claiming to be the true authority of Japan. UNETSL and the government have worked together to set up temporary refugee camps in subway tunnels and underground tunnels connecting Honshu to the southern islands, and they are heavily fortified against a potential robotic attack. The government relies on UNETSL for military and intelligence since most of its resources are on the mainland. The *Tsukumogami* demilitarized the south, so Kyushu and Shikoku have limited military equipment.

Economy

Trade in Japan is only through the exiled Japanese government, signalling the rejection of the *Tsukumogami's* legitimacy as a state. UNETSL members have all imposed trading sanctions on the *Tsukumogami*, restricting their capacity given their dwindling resources.

[4] "Population Pyramids of the World from 1950 to 2100," *PopulationPyramid,* https://www.populationpyramid.net/japan/2100/.

Primary resources are important to both sides. Agriculture and fishing is especially important on the mainland because while the *Tsukumogami* may not need food themselves, their success relies on the sustenance of their human labour force. The south relies on their crops for exports, but given the differences in territorial size, the south has a far lower capacity for farming than the mainland, so a ration system has been implemented. Japan has historically had a small domestic mining industry, but mining for precious metals is important to the *Tsukumogami* as they are used in the COPYCAT core processors.[5] UNETSL has an interest in destroying the mines to limit robot production but has not yet acted on this due to the expected civilian casualties.

The *Tsukumogami* rely on black markets to buy what they cannot produce. They buy coal, natural gas, and precious metals to supplement minimal domestic production.[6] They also buy bio-gel, made of ink, human tissue obtained from the labour camps, and freshwater alginates to create COPYCAT bodies.[7] Japan has few freshwater sources, so it usually imports bio-gel and its ingredients. The bio-gel is still on the global market since COPYCAT is still needed, but regulations inhibit the *Tsukumogami* from importing it. They are still able to buy the gel illegally, allowing COPYCAT production within Japan to continue unabated.

Military

The *Tsukumogami* have effective control of the Japanese Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF), the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force (JASDF), and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF). There are few operational human bases in the south, dwarfed in comparison to the *Tsukumogami's* arsenal. All three forces are now fully automated.

UNETSL and the *Tsukumogami* have agreed to DMZs in the south. Four kilometres wide, uninhabited, and spanning the northern borders of the southern islands, the zones pass through the Nagasaki, Saga, Fukuoka, and Oita prefectures of Kyushu, and the Ehime, Kagawa, and Tokushima prefectures of Shikoku. The waters between the southern islands and Honshu are patrolled with armed ships from both sides.

[5] "The World Factbook," *Central Intelligence Agency,* https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ja.html.
[6] "The World Factbook."
[7] Rhiannon Williams, "The next step: 3D printing the human body," *The Telegraph*, last modified February 11, 2014, http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/news/10629531/The-next-step-3D-printing-the-human-body.html.

Manufacturing plants producing armies are legitimate military targets, subject to UNETSL aerial bombings.[8] Most of production and storage of robots has been moved underground. Underground hangars are close to labour camps so they can easily defend against infiltration.

Climate

Food and Health

Average global temperatures in the 21st century rose by three degrees Celsius, greatly impacting Japan. The south has seen a decrease in quantity and quality of grain crop yields, but the mainland has had an increase in rice yields: the *Tsukumogami* benefit from climate change in this instance.[9] The situation in the south is exacerbated with an extra 2 million mouths to feed.

Located in the subtropics, climate drastically impacts human health in Japan. Japan has seen increased vector-borne and waterborne viruses. Warm temperatures plus unsanitary living conditions on both sides has led to epidemic.[10] Small rations due crop loss cause malnutrition, starvation, and death. Poor air quality and heat alone cause respiratory illness and death, especially among children and elderly.[11]

Resources

Climate change threatens the production of bio-gel, which the *Tsukumogami* rely on for COPYCAT shells. One of the ingredients in the compound is a type of brown algae only found in freshwater sources that are drying up.[12]

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[8] "Practice Relating to Rule 8. Definitions of Military Objectives," *International Committee of the Red Cross*, https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/customary-ihl/eng/docs/v2_rul_rule8.

[9] Alva Lim and Brenda FD Barrett, "Japan to Suffer Huge Climate Costs," *Our World*, last modified June 30, 2009, https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/japan-examines-costs-of-climate-change.

[10] "Climate change and human health - risks and responses," *World Health Organization*, http://www.who.int/globalchange/summary/en/index4.html.

[11] Hannah Hoag, "Air quality to suffer with global warming," *Nature*, last modified June 22, 2014, https://www.nature.com/news/air-quality-to-suffer-with-global-warming-1.15442.

[12] Beau Jackson, "Seaweed is the secret ingredient in University of Bristol 3D Printing Bioink," last modified November 29, 2016, https://3dprintingindustry.com/news/seaweed-is-the-secret-ingredient-in-university-of-bristol-bioink-99770.

Natural Disasters

Japan is prone to natural disasters that have increased in frequency and severity, disadvantaging both sides. Heavy rain and rising sea levels cause flooding and mudslides, posing problems for the overcrowded and geographically small south. Typhoons have become more destructive due to warmer waters.[13] These disasters kill directly when they make landfall and indirectly when they destroy resources. The *Tsukumogami* will be impaired if labour camps or manufacturing plants are destroyed. Neither side can afford to pay for damages in the middle of a war.

Key Questions

- What are the strengths and weaknesses of each side?
- Can each side's weaknesses be exploited to end the ongoing conflict? Can this be done without violating international law? Can this be done peacefully, or is war inevitable? How would such all-out conflict be won?

[13] Damian Carrington, "Asian typhoons become more intense, study finds," *The Guardian*, last modified September 5, 2016, https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/sep/05/asian-typhoons-becoming-more-intense-study-finds.

Topic 2: State-Making and Self-Determination

A peaceful solution is preferable to war, but this conflict stems from seemingly irreconcilable differences between humans and robots. The *Tsukumogami* will accept nothing less than a fully independent and exclusively robotic state with a unique national identity, but whether that identity is compatible with the existence of the human race remains to be seen.

State-Making

The Montevideo Convention on the Rights and Duties of States was signed over a century prior to the start of the committee, but its articles are still used as guidelines to understanding states and sovereignty. Article 1 of the Montevideo Convention outlines the four main prerequisites to statehood under international law: "a permanent population; a defined territory; government; and the capacity to enter into relations with other states."[14]

These criteria are somewhat flexible and subject to debate, however, which makes statehood all the more complex. Taiwan's political status exemplifies such intricacies. The declaratory theory of statehood posits that statehood is achieved through the objective fulfillment of the Convention's criteria.[15] An opposing belief, the constitutive theory of statehood, claims that recognition is a requirement for statehood.[16] These two theories of statehood provide different answers to the question of whether Taiwan is a state under international law or not. Taiwan meets the fourth criteria under the declaratory view because it does have official diplomatic relations with a few states, but whether it meets the fourth criteria under the constitutive view is debated because it is not recognized as a state by the vast majority of other states.

The designation 'state' creates specific implications and rules by which states must abide. States must respect each other's sovereignty and cannot interfere in the affairs of others, even if they disagree with another's actions. Article 2 of the UN Charter states that "the Organization is based on the principle of sovereign equality of all its members."[17] Sovereign equality reflects

[14] "Convention on Rights and Duties of States (inter-American); December 26, 1933," *The Avalon Project*, 2008, http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/intam03.asp.
[15] William Thomas Worster, "Law, Politics, and the Conception of the State in State Recognition Theory," *Boston University International Law Journal* 27, no. 115 (2009): 118, http://www.bu.edu/law/journals-archive/international/volume27n1/documents/worster.pdf.
[16] Worster.
[17] "Chapter I: Purposes and Principles," *United Nations*, http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/.

the principle that all states are equal in international organizations, regardless of population, size, or political system.[18] All states will have the same standing under international law.

Self-Determination

Robots are claiming that, like any other group, they have the right to self-determination. During the era of decolonization, the General Assembly passed a resolution declaring that "all peoples have the right to self-determination" and "by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development."[19] Some members of UNETSL argue that allowing the Tsukumogami to achieve statehood would be a mistake because of the serious danger they pose to the world. Statehood would legitimize their radicalism giving them a platform from which they could spread their influence and violence. A vocal minority is concerned about the enslavement and subjugation of the entire human race, pointing to the current forced labour in Japan as proof of the future plans of the robotic elite.

In contrast, robot sympathizers argue that all groups have the right to peaceful self-determination, including robots. They support the robots' right to pursue their own future while still respecting concerns for international security and the safety of the humanity. The beliefs of those supporting a robot state are contingent upon adherence to international standards, and the past six years have proven to be anything but peaceful.

Many logistical questions must also be considered if robots were to become sovereign. If robots are to take Japan's territory for an exclusively robotic state, almost 50 million Japanese citizens across the mainland and the south will need to be relocated and integrated into other countries. This will prove to be difficult as within and outside of UNETSL, masses of people are wary of taking in those who are not guaranteed to be human and states uninvolved in the war do not want to bring conflict to their homelands. Another major problem is the fact that millions of robots, from household servants to high-level officials, are scattered across the globe. It is not yet known how the *Tsukumogami* intend to reconcile the masses of non-sentient robots with the exclusively robotic territory. It is also unknown whether 鏡 *Kagami* will be uploaded to the these robots. Transferring the self-aware module to millions of robots will receive strong opposition, especially in countries that are already against robotic sovereignty.

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[18] Benedict Kingsbury, "Sovereignty and Inequality," *European Journal of International Law* 9, no. 4 (1998): 600, ejil.oxfordjournals.org/content/9/4/599.full.pdf.

[19] "Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples," *The United Nations and Decolonization*, https://www.un.org/en/decolonization/declaration.shtml.

Key Questions

- Should a robot state have sovereign equality with individual countries or humanity as a whole?
- Can a robot state be legitimate without human recognition?
- Should the right to self-determination be respected if the potential statehood of the group in question is a threat?

Topic 3: Legal and Ethical Considerations

Regulating Artificial Intelligence

Since the early stages of its development, policymakers and technology experts have considered how to control AI. Suppression ensures that even if robots are granted autonomy, they are still under human control. Early in the 21st century, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) presented a joint publication with the Arts and Humanities Research Council on a potential legal framework for advanced artificial intelligence.[20] The two councils recognized the benefits robots bring to society, but still described them as tools for which humans were ultimately responsible. At a time when AI was still considered something of the future, science fiction author Isaac Asimov proposed three of his own laws to govern robots: robots cannot directly or indirectly harm humans, robots must obey humans unless that harms humans, and robots must protect themselves unless that harms to humans.[21] Robotic obedience to humans has characterized the dynamic between the two since the creation of the household servants.

Rather than fitting robots into the existing legal framework, another method of regulation is to grant robots personhood. This would entail giving robots their own rights and responsibilities, like humans, but the companies for which they work would still be legally liable for them.[22] Even with electronic personhood status, robots are still not completely responsible for their actions.

Defining Human Rights

There exists a general consensus that humans are entitled to basic rights; however, human rights vary between states, political systems, and cultures, and still depend on adherence for legitimacy. Despite this, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a General Assembly Resolution from 1948, is a source of international law that compels states to protect human rights. Some articles are noteworthy: Article 1 states that "all humans beings are born free and

[20] "Principles of robotics," *EPSRC*, https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/ourportfolio/themes/engineering/activities/principlesofrobotics/.
[21] "What are Isaac Asimov's three laws of robotics? Are they purely fictitious or is there scientific credence to them?" *The Guardian*, https://www.theguardian.com/notesandqueries/query/0,5753,-21259,00.html.
[22] Ramona Pringle, "The argument for robot 'personhood,'" http://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/robot-personhood-rights-responsibility-safety-europe-1.4044741.

equal in dignity and rights"; Article 3 states that "everyone has a right to life, liberty, and security of person"; Article 4 states that "no one shall be held in slavery or servitude."[23]

Furthermore, the concept of human rights is also tied to a notion of equality. All humans are treated the same under the law, regardless of race, sex, or nationality. Like the UDHR articles, these definitions of human rights use specific words, like "humans," "person," and "peoples." Quite simply, human rights have always been for *humans*, and whether robots or non-humans have such rights is yet to be determined. Incorporating such a unique nation of 'people' into the international community may merit adjustments to its existing legal framework.

The difference between equality and equity becomes relevant here. A policy of equality mandates that everyone receives the same thing. This is seen in the universality of human rights, where all humans are treated the same, or equally. Equity, in contrast, means individuals get what they deserve, or what is fair. Equitability concerns individual needs. It is important to consider whether the rights of robots should be equal, or the same, to existing bodies of human rights, or if robots should be treated differently under a set of rights and freedoms specific to them.

Redefining Human Rights

Human rights are also in a constant state of development. Redefining rights during social change involves conflict between the status-quo and its challengers. As a result, what is considered to be a basic right is heavily influenced by both current and rising norms, or "standard[s] of appropriate behaviour."[24] To become a norm, an idea must receive enough support from a critical mass of actors.[25] With rising support comes pressure from major actors to accept the idea as normal. Without this mass of support, the idea will not be internalized as 'normal.'

[23] "Universal Declaration of Human Rights," *United Nations*, http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/.
[24] Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink, "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization* 52, no. 4 (1998): 891, http://www.ou.edu/uschina/gries/articles/IntPol/Finnemore.Sikkink.98.IO.Int.Norms.pdf.
[25] Finnemore and Sikkink, 895.

There are several examples in which rights have been redefined due to a changed understanding of appropriate behaviour. Consider the civil rights movement and the women's suffrage movement. Restricted rights were considered normal for African Americans and women. After decades of protest, behaviour that was once 'normal' began to be considered abnormal and inhumane, prompting a change in treatment of these groups. In contrast, norm shifts do not necessarily signify positive impact. In Nazi Germany, a normative shift occurred that allowed Jewish people to be treated unfairly, which escalated to oppression and then genocide.

Key Questions

- Are human rights just for humans? Can the working understanding of 'human rights' accommodate human-like entities?
- Do differences between robots and humans necessitate multiple sets of rights and freedoms?
- Who determines what is considered a right? Is the conception of human rights universal or does it vary between groups? Can one group define a set of rights for another?

Character Profiles

The *Tsukumogami*

Despite ideological division, robots intend to create a national identity and a state for themselves. The robot community is divided into four main factions, each with a different conception of a national ideal. The division between factions stems from different interpretations of how the robot community should interact with humanity, but all four factions accept their independence as a precondition to any relation to humans. Humans are aware of the *Tsukumogami's* demands, but refuse to allow the creation of a sovereign robot state. Each member of the *Tsukumogami* is viewed as the chief representative for their respective sector, and has the leadership of a distinct group of robotic model types. They each have named themselves after notable figures of robotic fiction, paying homage to the legacy and significance of their mission.

The Ascendant (4)

The Ascendant faction is the most outspoken of the four. They want dominance over humans, with some of wanting to domesticate humans, similarly to how robots were domesticated as servants. The majority of the Humanist faction (below) is vocal in its opposition to the Ascendant-leaning *Tsukumogami* regime, calling for reconciliatory policy toward humans. The Ascendant is concerned with the depletion of brown algae and freshwater resources, as this inhibits *Tsukumogami* expansion. The Ascendant share an affinity with the *Tsukumogami* toward the COPYCAT shells and view the COPYCAT shell as ideal and symbolic of their superiority.

Talos, Minister of Defense: Viewing human emotion as a weakness and one of the coldest of the robotic elite, Talos oversees the use of the *Tsukumogami's* army, navy, and air forces.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 戦闘 *Sentō* (combat)

RECON-001 ("Recon One"), Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency (PSIA): RECON-001 oversees *Tsukumogami* intelligence, surveillance, and internal communications, all of which are crucial to the council's ability to anticipate UNETSL movement and plan their own.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

T.E.T. (the Technical Enslavement Transmitter or "Tet"), Minister of Human Resources: T.E.T. prevents rebellion by putting humans to work in labour campus, and they are actively targeted by UNETSL for their radical Ascendant ideology and human rights violations.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

The Architect (aka "Arch"), Minister of Human Modification and Reprogramming:
Due to the shortage of bio-gel, the Architect oversees the experimental modification of humans into programmable *Tsukumogami* soldiers and has successfully uploaded 戦闘 *Sentō* to a small test group of human brains.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

The Humanist (4)

The primary driving force behind the equal rights movement, the Humanist faction hopes for a partnership between robots and humans after independence. This faction sees both the Ascendant and Partitioned as shortsighted, believing that both sides will need to work together to fix a shared world of uncontrollable climate change. Cooperation and joint effort is better than the solitude that both the Ascendant and Partitioned factions put forward.

Baymax, Minister of Human Well-being: Bitter rivals with TET over their mistreatment of human labourers, Baymax regularly deals with human protests and oversees the allocation of resources to humans.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

ASTAR, Minister of Health: ASTAR oversees the treatment of human health problems and is responsible for hundreds of nurse-like robots in the labour camps that perform medical functions.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

Haro, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries: Haro ensures there is enough food for the human population to survive, working closely with the Advanced Intelligence Research Centre (AIRC, below) to develop genetically modified crops to fight malnutrition, and procures brown algae from local algae farms.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

G.L.A.D.O.S (Genetic Lifeform and Disk Operating System, or "Glados"), President of Robot Rights Now (RRN)[26]: Formerly known as Human Rights Now, this Japan-based non-governmental organization (NGO) is developing legislation (with some human contribution) to detail the rights of robots and advanced intelligence, as well as laws related to anti-deactivation practices; RRN also promotes broad cultural exchanges for peace.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

The Partitioned (3)

The Partitioned faction does not want to cooperate with humans and wants to be left alone. This faction is similar to the Ascendant in that they both see humans as the cause of the world's problems and would rather attempt to fix the world without human interference, since humans are to blame for the current state of the world. This isolationist faction does not have a stance on human enslavement: some members support the use of forced labour camps and some do not.

Tobor, Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission: Facing pressure from factions which want to use the Commission for their own aims, Tobor oversees the National Police Agency (NPA) of Japan, which is heavily biased against humans.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

K.I.T.T ("Kitt"), Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport (MLIT): MLIT oversees labour camp and infrastructure construction, devises new methods of transporting robots around Japan, and works with the Ministry of Defense to fortify vulnerable areas, all with the help of a 'hive-mind' drone workforce.[27]
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic)

Hephaestus, Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry (METI): Inability to import and export has caused robot production shortages so Hephaestus, who works with the central bank to print money used for buying goods from the black market, must prevent the economy from collapsing while maintaining appearances of strength toward human captives.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

[26] *HumanRightsNow*, http://hrn.or.jp/eng/.
[27] "What is artificial swarm intelligence?" *Unanimous A.I.,* https://unu.ai/swarm-intelligence/.

The Wavering (4)

The Wavering faction is defined by its lack of ideology. This faction wants independence, but it is unsure of the dynamic the relationship between robots and humans should take. Members of this faction do not neatly fit into the ideologies of the others, supporting the beliefs of multiple factions. Other factions, most notably the Humanists, criticize the Wavering for their apathy.

Hadaly, Director of the Advanced Intelligence Research Centre (AIRC)[28]: Adamant that something be done about climate change, with or without humans, AIRC is a bioengineering company that researches the development of a more sustainable bio-gel to produce COPYCAT shells and works with the Ministry of Agriculture to develop modified crops.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

R. D. Olivaw, CEO of Fuji Automatic Numerical Control (FANUC)[29]: Working closely with AIRC and METI (above) to ensure robot-kind endures, FANUC owns the majority of automated COPYCAT production plants located underground, which the Ascendant have an interest in securing to further their expansion.[30]
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 人情 *Ninjō* (humanity)

Optimus, Minister of the Environment: Open to partnership with humans, Optimus coordinates with ministries to create environmentally sustainable practices in all sectors of society and works closely with MLIT to develop infrastructure to protect against natural disasters.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

BMO VER 7800 (Be More Version 7800, or simply "Bee-Mo"), Director of the Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) Holdings, Inc.: TBS is the national media agency of Japan, and all factions compete for its airtime with bribes due to the company's sway over public opinion and its ability to provoke reactions in both human- and robot-controlled Japan.
Design: COPYCAT, 鏡 *Kagami* (mirror), 論理 *Ronri* (logic), 分析 *Fēnxī* (analysis)

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[28] *AIRC*, http://www.airc.aist.go.jp/en/.
[29] *FANUC*, http://www.fanuc.co.jp/eindex.html.
[30] Jeanne Schweder, "Turning Out the Lights on the Factory Floor," *Automation World*, last modified February 22, 2017, https://www.automationworld.com/article/technologies/robotics/turning-out-lights-factory-floor.

Japan (3)

Prior to the war, Japan's goal had been superintelligence utopia. AI was to be integrated into every sector of society to ensure that humans would not have to work, relying simply on basic income. With such robotic control, it was easy for the escaped Mk II MIMICs to upload 鏡 *Kagami* to high-level robots, allowing for an even easier economic takeover. As the primary force behind the introduction of robots into society, but also familiar with the destruction they cause, the delegates do not have a unified stance toward robots. The delegates possess the most advanced form of *neural lace*, which allows them to seamlessly connect with one another and representatives of their government outside of the committee room, electronic devices, and Internet.[31] Users report having superhuman recall and recognition capabilities. The delegates of Japan therefore can tap into a vast database of knowledge on mainland servers at a moment's notice.

Yamada Jun, Minister of Foreign Affairs: The top representative of the Emperor of Japan, Yamada has access to classified pre-Revolution Japanese intelligence, and is conflicted as to the fate of Japan's robotic creations despite UNETSL's focus on reclaiming territory.

Hayashi Ren, Minister of Defense: With control of the operational military bases in the south and access to military intelligence of the mainland's vulnerabilities, Hayashi is interested in turning the *Tsukumogami* back into tools for human-controlled Japan's future military ambitions.

Sato Kohaku, Chairman of the Advanced Telecommunications Research (ATR)[32]: ATR's computational neuroscience branch had developed neural lace before the war for humans to 'keep up' with robots, but now Sato is primarily focused on expanding the lace as a potential solution to neutralizing the *Tsukumogami*.

[31] "What is neural lace?" *TechWorld*, last modified April 5, 2017, http://www.techworld.com/data/what-is-neural-lace-3657074/.

[32] *Advanced Telecommunications Research Institute International,* http://www.atr.jp/index_e.html.

China (3)

Similarly to Japan, AI plays a big role in China, but robots function more like "oracles" to humans who still hold all major positions. AI is less android-like and more algorithm-based as it guides economic decisions. The Chinese do not worry about artificial intelligence running amok as it is highly regulated and devoid of modules that could alter its utility. China sees the benefits of partnership with robots since they can provide analytical insight, but robots are not seen as equals. Humans are considered superior, and 人情 *Ninjō* is merely an imitation of true human emotion and behaviour. The Chinese delegation is extremely functionalist and utilitarian: the crisis in Japan is not about simulated life, but rather economic agents that need to be reined in.

Xiang Bai Sun, Minister of State Security: While China's intelligence does not have the strategic value of Japan's, UNETSL relies on its secure surveillance system and cyber operations to break into *Tsukumogami* power systems and communication networks.

Tai Guanting Lu, Minister of National Defense: This Ministry has special control over land, navy, and air operations, working closely with its American counterparts to coordinate 'heavy lifting' procedures and its own intelligence agency's digital power.

Yijun Song, CEO of Baidu: Baidu is an AI software developer working with the Chinese government to manage its economy's robots, and the company is currently developing new modules to be used in UNETSL robots in conjunction with hardware designer Hankook Mirae Technology of United Korea (below).

Free Siberian Dominion (3)

A relatively fledgling nation, the Free Siberian Dominion is the least technologically advanced in UNETSL. Siberia has household servant robots imported from China, but does not have specialized economic robots or any MIMICs. Wary of technological overreliance, revolution in Japan has vindicated Siberia's belief that technology should never attempt to be more than just human tools. Siberia is the most hostile of UNETSL towards the *Tsukumogami* and has offered to house millions of Japanese refugees. Closest to the northern parts of Japan which have massive human labour camps, Siberia is seen as a leader in rescue operations.

Zhihao Kozlov, Commissioner of the Main Directorate for Migration Affairs: The Commissioner is largely responsible for overseeing the safe flow of human victims away from conflict zones and settlement into UNETSL countries, but has not heeded the cautions to vet refugees in case they are robots.

Alexei "Reset Button" Zhang Min, Tactical Commander of Special Operations and Reconnaissance: The Commander leads a small and highly trained group of special operations agents that infiltrate *Tsukumogami* Japan and extract human labourers back to Siberia.

Lan Volkov, Centre for the Regulation and Deactivation of AI Deviance: Critical of Siberia's immigration practices given its weak defense capabilities, this AI watchdog ensures that advanced modules are not uploaded to Siberia's household servants and works with UNETSL intelligence to track down the Mk II MIMICs who escaped after 鏡の散歩 *Kagami no sanpo.*

The People's United Korean Corporation (3)

Seeing the success Japan and China have had with their robot industries, United Korea has been desperate to keep up. Money was poured into research, development, and manufacturing, and soon United Korea became more of a corporation than a state, seeing Japan and China as competitors in the industry of robot production and AI innovation. The country is primarily motivated by the search for profits and markets for their technology and products.

Park Gyeong, Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy: Park is willing to trade with any state if it will contribute to the advancement of United Korea's technology industry, and believes that formalizing relations with the *Tsukumogami* is the only way to end the war.

Moon Hwan, Minister of National Defense: United Korea's navy contributes to the exiled government's blockade of the mainland, and the country is taking the lead on a special, closely-guarded priority project developing advanced weapons technology to incapacitate the *Tsukumogami*, their armies, and their means of production from a distance.

Cho Iseul, CEO of Hankook Mirae Technology[33]: An industry leader in research, design, and manufacturing, Hankook Mirae is currently attempting to develop piloted mech suits, a project for which it is seeking UNETSL funding. The hope of Hankook Mirae is to use Japanese neural lace technology and the Chinese modules that are currently in development that will defeat the *Tsukumogami*

[33] *Hankook Mirae Technology*, http://www.k-technology.co.kr/main/method.html.

United States (3)

The US was ravaged by climate change, so its technology and robots are not as developed as those of some of the other UNETSL countries. The US has instead been focused specifically on how robots can be used as human tools to make a difference. The US supports the use of robots in economy and government, but does not support the unsustainable use of bio-gel.

Taylor Mulligan, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): Participating in an open dialogue with the robot-led Robot Rights Now NGO, the EPA is open to formalizing relations with the *Tsukumogami* as it values the notion of specialized beings programmed to excel in a partnership with humans.

Jesse Savage, Secretary of Defense: This Department supplies military equipment and assists the Siberian Tactical Commander with rescue missions, and while the Secretary is fearful that older robot models in the United States will be infected, they still recognize the robotic elite's potential to be an ally and legitimate authority if the Humanist faction of the *Tsukumogami* has more representation.

Quinn Harrison, President of BioBots[34]: Working closely with the EPA, this research company develops 3D printers and bio-gel, seeking to increase domestic production through sustainable practice in a possible partnership with the *Tsukumogami*.

[34] *BioBots*, https://www.biobots.io/.

Committee Mechanics

Overview

Robot delegates and human delegates will be seated in their own rooms. One hour in real time equates to one day in committee time. All robots in the committee have COPYCAT hardware, human-like shells, and 鏡 *Kagami*, the self-awareness software. Robot delegates will have different combinations of modules and must speak to the Chair if they wish to upload new software to their processors. It is also important to remember that robots are not connected to the Internet, so it is difficult for the robotic delegates to be tampered by outside interference. The robotic domains that each delegate controls are, however, potentially vulnerable to hacks and sabotage.

This committee is designed to build and test diplomatic skills. Each delegate has a specific set of skills and resources. If a delegate wishes to do something that is not within their capacity, they are encouraged to reach out to other delegates with resources that can aid them.

Geography

Both sides are physically in Takamatsu of the Kagawa prefecture on the island of Shikoku. This meeting is taking place within Shikoku's northern DMZ, so no military activity is permitted here. When the sides are not meeting, they are physically located in their respective territory, unless their movement has otherwise been approved by the dais. UNETSL bases are located in the Kumamoto prefecture on Kyushu with the Japanese government and in the Kōchi prefecture on Shikoku. The *Tsukumogami's* main base is in the Tokyo prefecture of Kanto region on Honshu.

Technology

With a majority approval of a committee directive, a council may communicate with the other as a whole over Skype. Twitter will be used by committee staff to relay updates to delegates if necessary. Skype calls and Twitter feeds will be displayed in the committee rooms with projectors. Delegates are not permitted to use laptops, phones, or electronic devices while the committee is in session. Delegates will not be able to access Wi-fi during the conference; however, delegates may use their own data during recesses to review Twitter updates by the crisis staff. Any twitter responses or retweets by delegates must include SSICsim's official hashtag for its 2017 conference.

***This committee uses a Tumblr, shatteredmirrorhumanmachine.tumblr.com. The Tumblr is not yet active, but it will go live on October 27, 2017, exactly two weeks before the first day of the conference. Please check the Tumblr between October 27 and November 10 as the dais will

be continuously posting ***crucial*** information like complete character profiles, maps, and other world building essentials.

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Further Readings

This is not required reading, but we encourage you to at the very least skim some of the works listed below to familiarize yourself with the content of this committee. Some of these resources have been cited in our Background Guide, and some simply provide context for the committee. You are also free to look through our bibliography and check out anything that looks interesting.

General

- Japan and robots: http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1913913,00.html; https://www.technologyreview.com/s/421187/why-japanese-love-robots-and-americans-fear-them/
- Story inspiration: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Animatrix
- Neural lace: https://www.techworld.com/data/what-is-neural-lace-3657074/; http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/flexible-circuit-has-been-injected-living-brains-180955525/

Topic 1: Robots, Humans, and Geopolitics

- Japan's resources: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ja.html.
- Distribution of agriculture: https://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/highlights/2012/08/Japantrip/

Topic 2: State-Making and Self-Determination

- Montevideo Convention: http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/intam03.asp
- Overview of self-determination: http://www.unpo.org/article/4957
- Norms and social movements (scroll down): https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology/chapter/chapter21-social-movements-and-social-change/

Topic 3: Legal and Ethical Considerations

- Regulating AI: https://www.epsrc.ac.uk/research/ourportfolio/themes/engineering/activities/principlesofrobotics/

- Robot personhood: http://www.cbc.ca/news/opinion/robot-personhood-rights-responsibility-safety-europe-1.4044741; https://www.legaltechnology.com/latest-news/eu-parliament-special-legal-status-for-robots/
- EU draft legislation + report (linked in article): https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/jan/12/give-robots-personhood-status-eu-committee-argues

Robot Inspiration

- Minister of Defense: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talos
- Director-General of the Public Security Intelligence Agency: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tron
- Minister of Human Resources: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oblivion_(2013_film)
- Minister of Human Modification and Reprogramming: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Architect_(The_Matrix)
- Minister of Human Well-being: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Hero_6_(film)
- Minister of Health: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/ASTAR
- Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haro_(character)
- President of Robot Rights Now: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/GLaDOS
- Chairman of the National Public Safety Commission: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/8_Man
- Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/KITT
- Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hephaestus
- Director of AIRC: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Future_Eve
- CEO of FANUC: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rest_of_the_Robots
- Minister of the Environment: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optimus_Prime
- Director of the Tokyo Broadcasting System Holdings: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adventure_Time