

# Diplomacy, A Strategic Game: Investigating The Referencing Of

## Resolutions At The UN

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### Background

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the principle bodies of the United Nations (UN), an international organization comprised of member states that address global issues. Because the General Assembly does not have enforcement power, delegations write **resolutions** (proposed solutions) to encourage international, national, and regional action. Attendees of the General Assembly make speeches to state their represented **country's stance** on the topic and **propose solutions** which later get voted on. A component of this is **referencing past UN resolutions**, which diplomats do for many reasons as explored in this project. **The goal of this project is to investigate how regime-type (autocratic vs democratic) influences the referencing of past resolutions.**

- Research discusses UN resolution referencing strategies but there is insufficient information on how this **correlates to regime-type**
- Having an understanding of this correlation can help scholars better understand the international community and the various strategies of diplomacy.
- As represented in **Figures 1-3**, the number of resolution references varies by country and the leader in power.

### Methods

- Examined **randomly selected UNGA speeches for one of six topics** (Middle East, Nuclear Weapons, Arms Control and Disarmament, Colonialism, Human Rights, and Economic Development).
- Speeches were examined for **key words set by the UN** for the aforementioned resolution topics. If a key word was mentioned, the speech would be **categorized** into the appropriate section.
  - This step ensured consistency in how speeches were categorized.
- As conveyed in **Figure 4**, we examined 50+ UNGA speeches to look for the **resolution** they mentioned and the **context**, specifically investigating why the resolution was cited.



Figure 1

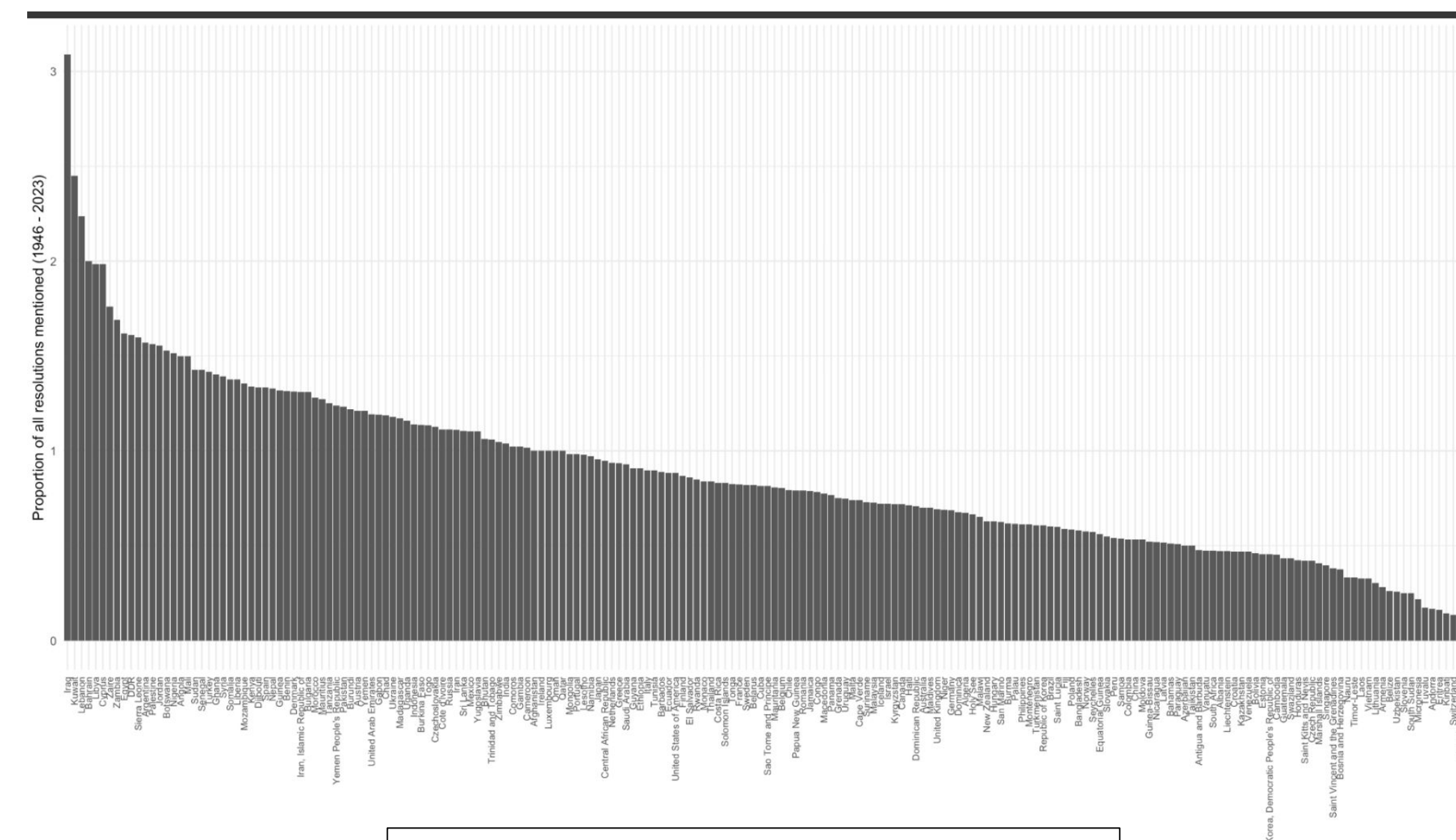


Figure 2

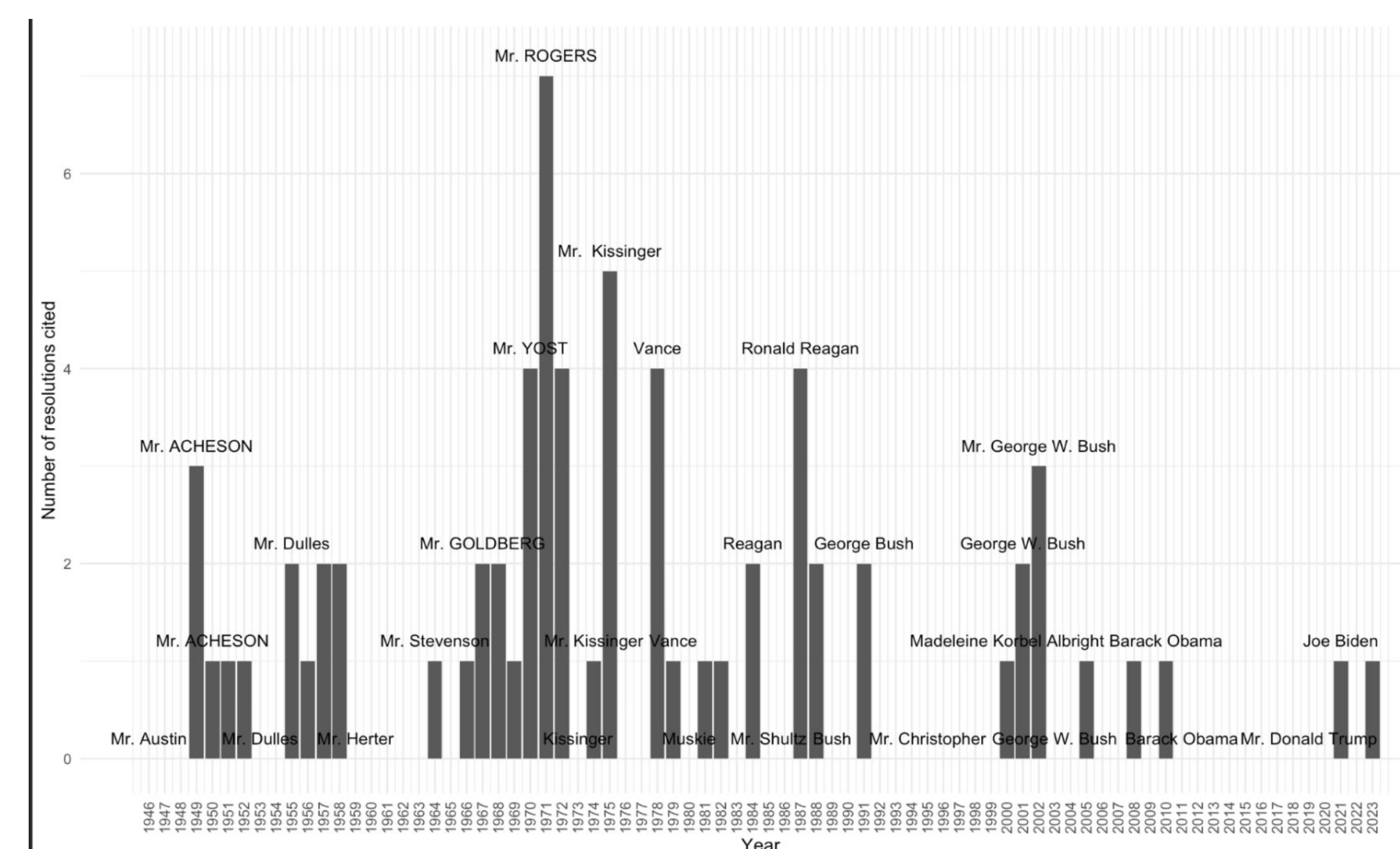


Figure 3

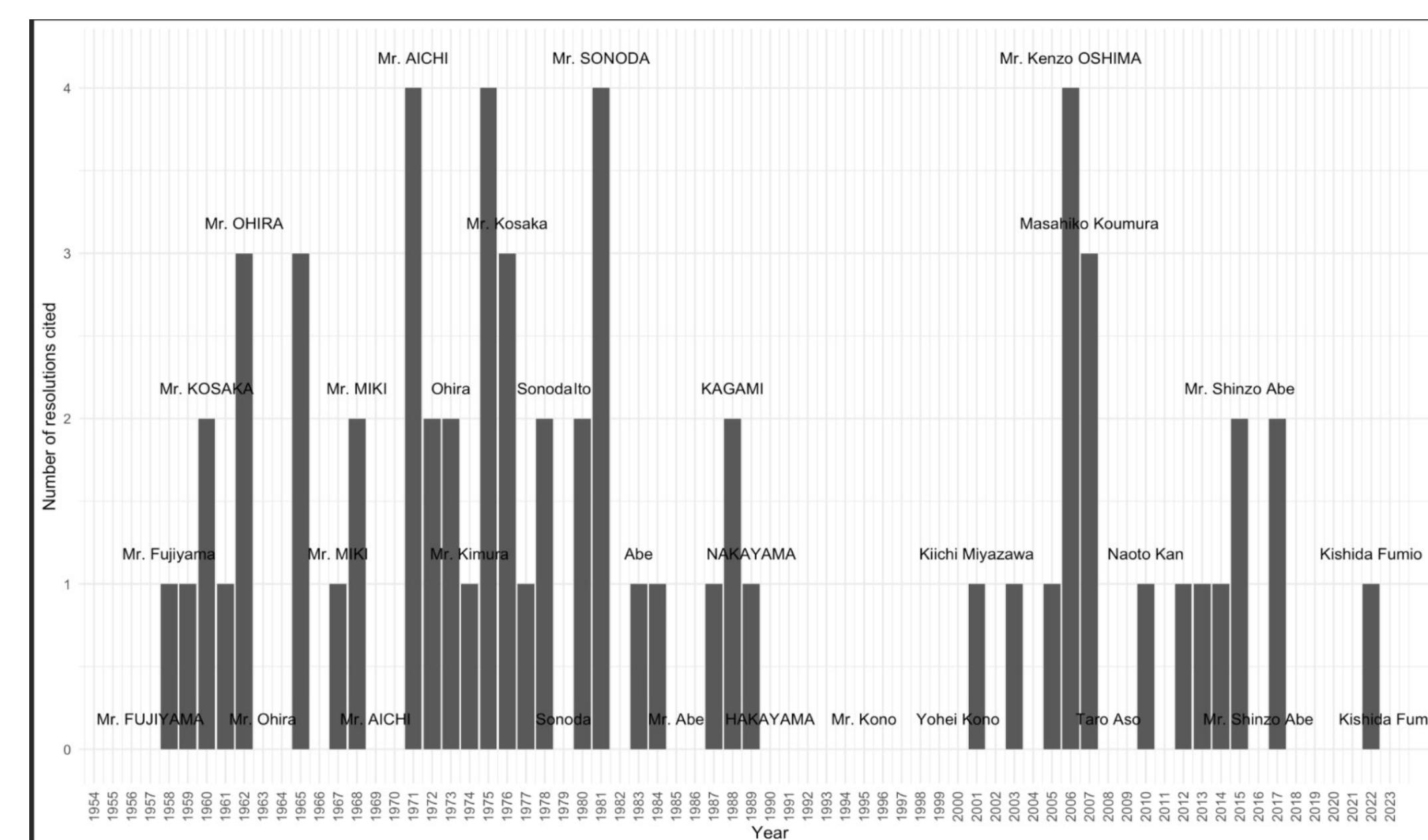
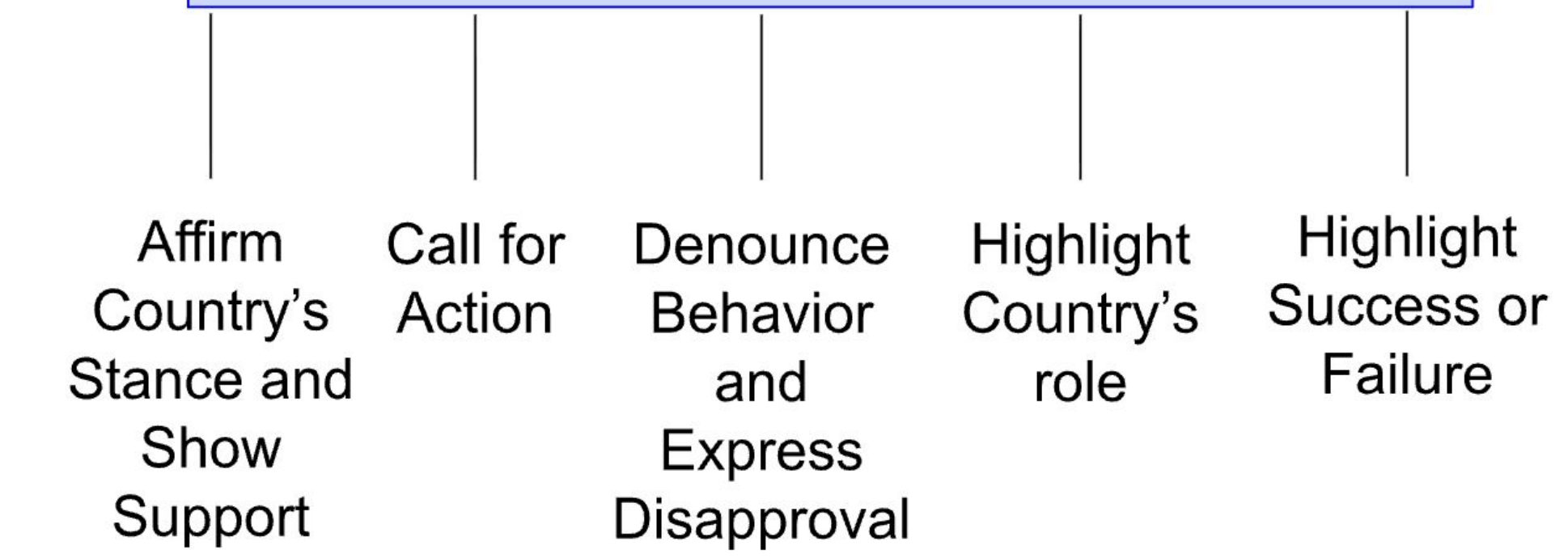


Figure 4

36	8563 system.	NA	NA	NA	NA
37	5392	NA	NA	NA	NA
38	7424 on.	NA	NA	NA	NA
39	583 pursued.	NA	NA	NA	NA
40	687 Libyan d				
41	2365 man.	NA	NA	NA	NA
42	4376	NA	NA	NA	NA
43	2427 stability.	NA	NA	NA	NA
44	2762	NA	NA	NA	NA
45	8130 or need.	NA	NA	NA	NA
46	9379	NA	NA	NA	NA
47	7328 century.	NA	NA	NA	NA
48	7655	NA	NA	NA	NA
49	4626 have the	NA	NA	NA	NA
50	8162.	NA	NA	NA	NA

### Results

#### Reference of Resolution



Although this research is not yet completed, our preliminary findings from our hand coding and text analysis suggest that diplomats at the United Nations may reference past resolutions for reasons above.

- Ultimately, we have **not yet answered** our research question but we have concluded that delegations reference past resolutions for **one of five reasons** that can impact the **outcome** of a resolution. The next question is how the number of times past resolutions are referenced correlates to the **regime-type of the delegation**.
- A **strength** of this research is that we utilized randomly selected speeches to ensure equal representation and data that was all-encompassing. A **limitation** of this research is that in international affairs there are a plethora of uncertainties and so we cannot always be certain we understand why countries act the way they do.

### Discussion

After conducting text analysis and hand coding we have revealed the key motivations for delegation's referencing past UN resolutions. Having a better understanding of the UN is crucial for understanding why countries act the way they do. Although this research is ongoing, having a preliminary understanding of why resolutions are mentioned can help scholars explain the UNGA voting process and countries' behaviors and goals.

### Acknowledgements

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