## **STUDENT**

Human actions can be detrimental to the environment. Spanning organized crimes, environmental degradation, the illegal exploitation of resources, and flawed policy responses have profoundly impacted environmental systems, leading to the escalation of transnational crimes. These actions have strained US national security concerns by fostering global political and economic destabilization across various regions.

However, based on the readings and videos, there are three principal areas of concern:

1. The expansion of organized crime, as detailed by Glenny (2009), alongside Kelley et al. (2015), focuses on human-induced climate change exacerbating environmental crises like the severe drought in Syria and displays the multifaceted impact of ecological degradation fueled by illicit trade and organized crime. Such degradation can destabilize regions, drawing the US into military involvement or humanitarian efforts to stabilize affected areas.
2. Illegal trade of precious minerals, deforestation, and cybercrime, along with the unauthorized logging, timber trade, and underground market of "Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated "(IUU)fishing (Bergenas & Knight, 2015; Harris, 2013), reveals the extensive environmental damage caused by these activities. This exploitation not only results in ecological degradation but also funds criminal and terrorist groups, undermining economic development and necessitating comprehensive US engagement to combat these crimes and support international sustainable development efforts.
3. Water scarcity and the indirect environmental impact of cybercrime exemplify the broader implications of resource-based conflicts and ecosystem disruptions on political and economic stability, an instability necessitating increased US involvement to support affected regions through development aid, environmental conservation efforts, and governance-strengthening initiatives, underscoring the interconnectedness of ecological conservation, sustainable development, and global security.

Upon analysis, security concerns arising from resource conflicts are exacerbated by environmental depletion and climate change, creating instability and requiring US intervention to restore peace and order. Additionally, criminal networks' exploitation of environmental resources contributes to ecological decline, deepening economic disparities and social unrest, necessitating US involvement to support affected regions, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to climate diplomacy and policy-making.

Lastly, the global nature of organized crime, its effects on environmental systems, and its contribution to political and economic destabilization present multifaceted security concerns for the US. Therefore, addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive strategy that includes combating transnational crime, enforcing international environmental rules and regulations, and supporting global efforts to manage the root causes of instability.

In conclusion, authors Glenny (2009), Kelley et al. (2015), Bergenas & Knight (2015), Harris (2013), and Canales (2013) advocate for a cross-sectoral approach that prioritizes ecological integrity, human rights, and global security; emphasizing the cruciality of international cooperation and innovation in policy-making to combat the challenges posed by environmental crime effectively and its implications for US national security (Glenny, 2009; Canales, 2013; Harris, 2013; Bergenas & Knight, 2015; Kelley et al., 2015).

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 80/100

Detailed Feedback:

1. Organization and Context (25/30):

- Your introduction effectively sets up the discussion by highlighting the detrimental impact of human actions on the environment and its link to rising levels of transnational crime.

- However, the transition between each identified concern could be smoother. Consider using clear subheadings to delineate each point and improve the flow of your argument.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension (25/30):

- You demonstrate a good understanding of the readings and videos provided, accurately summarizing the key points and integrating them into your analysis.

- Your references to Glenny (2009), Kelley et al. (2015), Bergenas & Knight (2015), Harris (2013), and Canales (2013) lend credibility to your argument and support your claims effectively.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (20/30):

- Your analysis of how resource-based conflicts, illegal trade, and environmental degradation contribute to political and economic destabilization is insightful.

- However, you could enhance your analysis by providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate the link between environmental degradation and transnational crime, which would strengthen your argument further.

4. Style and Mechanics (10/10):

- Your writing adheres to APA style formatting guidelines, and your use of citations and references is appropriate.

- Your writing is clear and concise, with minimal grammatical errors, demonstrating good attention to detail.

Overall, your paper effectively addresses the assignment requirements and provides a well-supported argument on the relationship between environmental degradation, transnational crime, and US national security concerns. To improve, focus on enhancing the coherence of your argument by refining the organization and providing more concrete examples to bolster your analysis. Additionally, consider delving deeper into the implications of these issues for US national security to strengthen your analysis further. Keep up the good work!

## **STUDENT**

Human activities such as deforestation and habitat destruction contribute to climate change, fostering transnational crime (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Illegal logging and land encroachment associated with deforestation lead to crimes like illegal wildlife trade and resource conflicts. This strain on ecosystems, along with transnational crimes, can heighten regional instability and impact U.S. national security interests. Resource-based conflicts, often linked to environmental degradation, can worsen destabilization, as vulnerable nations face the risk of becoming stateless due to climate change (Harris, 2013, p. 135). Environmental strain contributes to potential conflicts over scarce resources, threatening security and stability. Illegal activities, such as land encroachment and resource exploitation, associated with these conflicts, may lead to transnational crimes, creating additional challenges for regional stability.

Similarly, pollution and over-exploitation of natural resources result in environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity. Illicit activities such as illegal dumping and unregulated resource extraction also present challenges, like illegal fishing and organized crime involvement (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). The associated environmental degradation can trigger social unrest, migration, and resource-related conflicts, which can affet geopolitical stability and U.S. national security, especially in strategically significant regions. The growing role of the natural environment in political and economic destabilization is obvious, as climate change impacts millions of people. Even people far from pollution sources face continuous threats of conflict, institutional breakdown, migration, and resource-related crises (Harris, 2013, p. 122). This connection highlights how environmental issues contribute to political and economic instability within and across nations.

Additionally, climate change-induced migration, a consequence of rising temperatures and extreme weather events, creates vulnerable populations that are susceptible to transnational crimes like human trafficking. Competition for declining resources may worsen tensions and conflicts, straining border security and leading to humanitarian crises with implications for U.S. national security. The impact of climate change on the U.S. is highlighted by Kelley et al. (2015), who point out the connected path from human interference with climate to severe drought, agricultural collapse, and mass human migration, with implications for conflicts. Their thesis connecting drought to the conflict in Syria supports the link between climate and conflict (Kelley et al., 2015). Addressing these environmental issues is important for mitigating their impact on transnational crime and safeguarding national security interests. Political and economic destabilization resulting from environmental challenges have direct implications for U.S. security. The International Council on Human Rights Policy stresses that climate change is already undermining various internationally protected human rights, including health, life, food, water, and personal security in conflict (Harris, 2013, p. 125; Bergenas & Knight, 2015). The potential for conflicts, mass migrations, and resource scarcity cause security concerns for the U.S.. It requires strategic considerations and international cooperation to address the broader implications of environmental destabilization on human rights and security.

**References**

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 90/100

Detailed Feedback:

1. Organization and Context (28/30):

- Your introduction effectively outlines the connection between human activities, environmental degradation, and transnational crime, setting up a clear framework for your analysis.

- Each identified impact of human activities on the environment is discussed in a logical sequence, enhancing the overall coherence of your paper.

- However, consider adding clear subheadings for each section to improve the readability and organization further.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension (27/30):

- You demonstrate a strong understanding of the readings and effectively integrate them into your analysis.

- Your explanation of how activities like deforestation, habitat destruction, pollution, and over-exploitation of resources contribute to environmental degradation and transnational crime is thorough and well-supported.

- Additionally, your reference to the works of Bergenas & Knight (2015), Harris (2013), and Kelley et al. (2015) adds credibility to your arguments.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (28/30):

- Your analysis of how resource-based conflicts, pollution, over-exploitation of natural resources, and climate change-induced migration contribute to political and economic destabilization is insightful.

- You effectively highlight the interconnectedness between environmental issues, transnational crime, and U.S. national security concerns.

- Providing concrete examples or case studies to illustrate the impact of these issues on specific regions or countries could enhance the depth of your analysis further.

4. Style and Mechanics (7/10):

- Your use of APA citations and references is generally accurate, but ensure consistency in formatting throughout the paper.

- Grammar and spelling are mostly correct, but there are a few minor errors that could be addressed for improved clarity.

Overall, your paper effectively addresses the assignment requirements and presents a well-supported argument on the detrimental impact of human activities on environmental systems and its implications for rising levels of transnational crime and U.S. national security concerns. To improve, consider refining the organization by adding clear subheadings, providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate your points, and ensuring consistency in formatting and grammar. Keep up the excellent work!

## **STUDENT**

**Climate Change and Destabilization**

Environmental and climate change crimes greatly impact global safety and stability (United Nations, 2021). Since human activities affect natural systems, crime increases, which threatens US security (National Security Council, 2018). Resource-based conflict, environmental degradation, and political and economic destabilization are three major human impacts on the environment. These activities degrade the environment and fuel national and international security issues.

1. **Explain the destabilizing influences that result from resource-based conflict.**

Resource conflicts occur when there is competition over resources like water and arable land that are scarce, which then, causes tension and violence. According to Kelley et al. (2015), the Syrian drought shows how environmental factors can increase socio-economic vulnerabilities, leading to social unrest, migration, and conflict. Unsustainable agricultural practices and bad governance worsened the drought effect in Syria, which led to political instability and violent extremists. Unpredictability threatens regional security and U.S. national security, including terrorism and refugee influx.

1. **Identify the growing role that the natural environment plays in contributing to or causing political and /or economic destabilization within a country or within a region.**

The changing role of the natural environment makes it one of the critical sources of political and economic instability in various countries and regions. Bergenas and Knight (2015) state that environmental degradation can weaken governance, worsen social inequality and increase illegal logging and wildlife trafficking. Weak governance and corruption exacerbate these issues, fostering transnational crime and terrorism. Instability in countries like this can lead to terrorism, illicit trafficking, and the spread of infectious diseases, which could lead to US intervention to ensure security and prevent conflict escalation.

1. **Analyze how political or economic destabilization can lead to security concerns for the U.S.**

Environmental pressures posing political or economic destabilization risks also jeopardize US security interests. Harris (2013) posited that regions with failed states or governance can spawn extreme ideologies and criminal enterprises, threatening regional and global stability. Economic instability may destabilize global markets, hurting US trade and finance. Diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and strategic partnerships can address such security concerns and promote stability, good governance, and climate change mitigation.

In conclusion, environmental crimes and security issues require strategic action. We can fix these issues with sustainable development, governance consolidation, and environmental resilience. International cooperation and multilateral agreements are necessary to combat transnational environmental crimes and maintain global peace. Addressing root causes can boost US security and align with a world without environmental degradation and instability.

**References**

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 95/100

Detailed Feedback:

1. Organization and Context (30/30):

- Your introduction provides a clear overview of the topic and sets up the discussion effectively.

- Each section is well-structured and logically presented, with a clear focus on addressing the assignment prompts.

- The conclusion succinctly summarizes the main points and provides a strong call to action for addressing environmental crimes and security issues.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension (30/30):

- You demonstrate a thorough understanding of the detrimental ways humans impact environmental systems, including climate change, and their connection to rising levels of transnational crime.

- Citations from reputable sources such as Kelley et al. (2015), Bergenas and Knight (2015), and the United Nations (2021) provide strong evidence to support your arguments and enhance the credibility of your analysis.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (30/30):

- Your analysis of resource-based conflicts, the role of the natural environment in political and economic destabilization, and their implications for U.S. national security is comprehensive and well-supported.

- You effectively identify key issues and relationships between factors, and your use of examples such as the Syrian drought and its socio-economic impacts strengthens your arguments.

- Furthermore, your discussion on the potential security concerns for the U.S. resulting from political and economic destabilization is insightful and supported by evidence from Harris (2013).

4. Style and Mechanics (5/10):

- Your use of APA citations and references is generally accurate, but there are minor inconsistencies in formatting that should be addressed for improved clarity and consistency.

- Grammar and spelling are generally sound, but there are a few instances of awkward phrasing and unclear sentence structures that could be refined for better readability.

Overall, your paper provides a well-structured and insightful analysis of the ways in which human activities impact environmental systems and contribute to transnational crime, with thoughtful reflections on their implications for U.S. national security. To enhance your paper further, focus on improving the consistency of APA formatting and refining your writing style for better clarity and readability. Keep up the excellent work and continue refining your analytical and writing skills!

## **STUDENT**

British journalist Misha Glenny (2009, 07:50) argued in 2009, that the biggest genocide since the end of World War II, destroying the lives of more than 5 million people, was happening in the Democratic Republic of Kongo (DRK). According to him and other scientists like Canales (2013), the main root cause for those atrocities is connected to a powerful, highly integrated and worldwide operating “sinister” (Glenny, 2009, 04:50) criminal business network. It operates on the grounds of any other successful commercial activity. Insofar as such business networks entail production zones, mainly in underdeveloped countries like Afghanistan (Glenny, 2009) which are rich of scarce natural resources, followed by countries like Mexico (Canales, 2013) which act as distributor hubs. Finally such criminal business networks find the required consumer base in developed European countries or the United States (US). In view of the existing state-centric “*Westphalian”* (Harris, 2013, p. 143) oriented approach to international conflict resolution, this new 21st century dilemma appears to call for more innovative and community-oriented approaches towards the environmental security and conflict nexus.

For countries like the DRK, Peru and Afghanistan (Glenny, 2009; Bergenas & Knight, 2015), economic prosperity is primarily linked to the effective and efficient exploitation of their existing natural and valuable mineral resources like gold, coltan, or ruby. Worldwide increasing demand for those minerals does not only lead to astronomic high prices for consumers on one hand and insane revenue potential for producers on the other hand. Bergenas and Knight (2015) underline that this focus on revenue generation based on scarce resources promotes not only intra country conflict and violence like in the DRK (Glenny, 2009), illegal mining or deforestation. Also, focus on revenue generation via exploitation of scarce resources supports and finances international terrorism of groups like the *“Islamic State terrorist network”* (Bergenas & Knight, 2015, p. 123). Thus, environmental destruction contributes to geopolitical destabilization and fueling of further inter state conflicts. Additionally, like in the case of Mexico, Peru, or Indonesia (Bergenas & Knight, 2015), conflicts regarding valuable natural resources carry the potential to undermine the foundations and proper functioning of a political system and existing rule of law (Canales, 2013). Ultimately, primarily local societies are confronted with increased levels of corruption, fraud, money laundering, civil unrest like in Syria (Kelley et al., 2015), and infringement of human rights in view of existing or developing conflicts related to scarce resources. All elements together lead to a deterioration of the set of dimensions of human security stipulated by the United Nations (UN) (UNDP, 1994).

Both, the World Bank Group (2022) and Keating (2015) argue that conflicts represented by civil unrest and subsequent revolution against the established state in Syria (Kelley et al., 2015), are not directly and originally induced by the natural environment. On one hand, human induced climate change worsens already dire drought conditions like in Syria (Kelley et al., 2015). Consequently, worsening environmental conditions put established social structures and traditional ways to resolve conflict to the test. Thus, it is rather about fueling than generating a civil war situation. On the other hand, scarcity of natural resources like in the DRK (Glenny, 2009), i.e., the natural environment, appears to fuel violent conflict, human rights infringement, and other atrocities, as the country’s degree of prosperity is very much dependent on those natural resources (Keating, 2015). Hence, the environmental security and conflict nexus appears to be characterized by a degree of individual influence exercised by human induced climate change combined with the level of a state’s or community’s dependency on natural resources.

For consumer countries (Glenny, 2009) of scarce natural resources like the US, the consequences are felt on different security dimensions. First, the US financial and economic security has already been tested by criminals like “Bernie Madoff” (Glenny, 2009, 11:28) using extensive money laundering practices which led to significant tax shortfalls for the US. Second, community and individual security of US citizens is threatened due to the increase of violence related to narcotics “consumption and production” (Glenny, 2009, 15:11). Third, the organized criminal networks behind the global illicit trade with natural resources represent a threat to US national security, as different terrorist groups are financed with the generated revenues. Finally, economic and political destabilization in countries which are subject to the exploitation of natural resources can provoke major immigration waves towards countries like the US representing a challenge for its own society and national security.

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 90/100

Detailed Feedback:

1. Organization and Context (28/30):

- Your introduction effectively sets up the discussion by providing context on the relationship between environmental crimes and conflict, as well as the implications for global security.

- Each section is well-structured and focuses on addressing the assignment prompts, providing a clear progression of ideas.

- Consider adding a more explicit transition between paragraphs to enhance the overall flow and coherence of your paper.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension (28/30):

- You demonstrate a solid understanding of the complex relationship between environmental degradation, resource conflicts, and transnational crime.

- Citations from reputable sources such as Glenny (2009), Bergenas & Knight (2015), and Keating (2015) provide strong evidence to support your arguments and enhance the credibility of your analysis.

- However, consider providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate your points and enhance the depth of your analysis.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (28/30):

- Your analysis of the role of environmental degradation in fueling conflicts, the impact on global security, and the consequences for countries like the US is insightful and well-supported.

- You effectively identify key issues and relationships between factors, and your discussion on the implications for US national security is particularly strong.

- Consider exploring potential counter-strategies or mitigation measures in more depth to provide a more comprehensive analysis.

4. Style and Mechanics (6/10):

- Your use of APA citations and references is generally accurate, but there are minor inconsistencies in formatting that should be addressed for improved clarity and consistency.

- Grammar and spelling are generally sound, but there are a few instances of awkward phrasing and unclear sentence structures that could be refined for better readability.

Overall, your paper provides a thorough analysis of the complex dynamics between environmental crimes, resource conflicts, and global security, with insightful reflections on the implications for countries like the US. To enhance your paper further, focus on improving the clarity and consistency of APA formatting, providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate your points, and refining your writing style for better readability. Keep up the good work and continue refining your analytical and writing skills!

## **STUDENT**

Resource-based conflicts, discussed in Paul G. Harris's Chapter 5, leads to destabilization as climate change intensifies competition for scarce resources (destabilization influence that results from resource-based conflict). Harris advocates that a shift to people-centered diplomacy is important, focusing on individual rights and responsibilities in climate politics, challenging the traditional blame on developed nations. Proposals like "contraction and convergence" demonstrate efforts to integrate individual concerns into global climate frameworks, highlighting the need to prioritize people over nation-states for just climate policies (Harris, 2013.

Growing Role of the Natural Environment in Political/Economic Destabilization: The natural environment plays a pivotal role in contributing to political and economic destabilization within regions. During TED Talk by Misha Glenny, organized crime networks exploit environmental resources, such as illegal trade in oil, charcoal, and wildlife, to fund their operations (Glenny, 2009). In addition, the study on climate change in the Fertile Crescent (Kelley et al., 2015) shows how environmental factors, like severe droughts made worse by human-induced climate change, can contribute to political instability, migration, and economic collapse.

Analysis of Political/Economic Destabilization and U.S. Security Concerns: Political or economic destabilization within a country or region can have direct implications for U.S. security. The TED Talk by Rodrigo Canales on drug cartels emphasizes the complex and dynamic nature of these criminal organizations (Canales, 2013). Destabilized regions become fertile grounds for illicit activities, including transnational crime, terrorism, and the trafficking of people, drugs and natural resources. These conditions create security threats that require U.S. intervention, either directly or through collaborative efforts, to prevent the growing violence, protect global stability, and safeguard economic interests (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). If you have watched the news in the past month, you will notice many criminals not only stealing from pricey stores but also resisting authority and hurting law enforcement trying to stop them. Canales Ted talk did not leave a happy fuzzy feeling, and this quote will live with me for a while. “We are actually accomplices to them. Either through our direct consumption, Or, through our acceptance’” - Canales, R. (2013, October). The question then becomes, how do we awaken people to the reality?

References:

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 88/100

Detailed Feedback:

1. Organization and Context (28/30):

- Your introduction effectively sets the stage by providing an overview of resource-based conflicts and their implications for global security.

- Each section is clearly delineated, focusing on the destabilizing influences of resource-based conflicts, the growing role of the natural environment in destabilization, and the analysis of political/economic destabilization and U.S. security concerns.

- However, the conclusion could be strengthened by summarizing the key points and reiterating the importance of addressing environmental issues for global security.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension (27/30):

- Your discussion of resource-based conflicts, influenced by climate change, demonstrates a solid understanding of the topic, drawing insights from Paul G. Harris's work and advocating for people-centered diplomacy.

- The analysis of the natural environment's role in political and economic destabilization is well-supported by references to Misha Glenny's TED Talk and the study on climate change in the Fertile Crescent.

- However, consider providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate how environmental factors directly contribute to political instability and economic collapse.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (27/30):

- Your analysis of political and economic destabilization and its implications for U.S. security is insightful, highlighting the complexities of transnational crime and the challenges they pose.

- The integration of quotes from Rodrigo Canales's TED Talk adds depth to your argument and underscores the urgency of addressing these issues.

- However, the link between recent criminal activities and the broader discussion on U.S. security concerns could be clarified to strengthen the coherence of your analysis.

4. Style and Mechanics (6/10):

- Your use of APA citations and references is generally accurate, but there are minor formatting issues that should be addressed for consistency.

- The writing style is clear and concise, but there are a few instances of repetition and awkward phrasing that could be refined for improved clarity and readability.

- Ensure that all references follow APA formatting guidelines, including proper capitalization and punctuation.

Overall, your paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the complex relationship between environmental degradation, resource-based conflicts, and global security concerns. To enhance your paper further, focus on providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate key points, refining your writing style for improved clarity and coherence, and ensuring consistency in APA formatting throughout the paper. Keep up the good work and continue refining your analytical and writing skills!

## **STUDENT**

Resource based conflict can be very damaging to the people that are caught in between the conflict as the destabilizing influences during and after the conflict can remain within the environment for a long period of time. When it comes to fighting over resources, what exactly are those resources? Resources could be food, water, raw material, oil, and more natural resources. The conflict could be political or it could break down to an all-out war if people are pushed far enough. Disagreements over how water or land is used for example, can lead to a population either without water or without food due to the scarcity of water or due to the infertile soil in the ground. Many of these issues can stem from climate change as the source of the issue, and can lead to more disastrous situations such as war. According to the Global Humanitarian Forum, “climate change harms people in many ways, particularly in the following areas: Food Security, Health, Poverty, Water, Displacement, and Security.” (Harris, 2013). All of these issues can be destabilizing influences when it comes to a resource based conflict.

The environment plays a role in the situation of causing political and economic destabilization. The reason as to why, is due to the fact that the pollution caused through industrialization has increased the levels of CO2 in the atmosphere which has increased temperatures globally. The increase in temperatures has caused irregular weather patterns and droughts in some agriculturally sound parts of the world. This is creating a problem as it is getting more difficult to farm crops and create produce for the populations. An increase in temperature has also melted glaciers which are increasing the sea levels of the world. This is another issue as coastal cities or towns are now prone to flooding and eroding of their coast lines. This has been a CenterPoint in politics and economics as climate change is costing a lot of money, but also is being debated across the politicians on what exactly needs to be done or not done about it.

Political or Economic destabilization can lead to security concerns for the US as an increase in costs for the environment can dampen the economics of the US and can serve as a topic of debate in the political field. Having a divided lines of thought from the population in the US can lead to disagreements over climate change resolutions. Having a suffering economy can lead to an increase in prices or worse an overall failure or crash of the economy. Such an event would make the US vulnerable to foreign interference or intervention.

**References**

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 80/100

- Organization and Context: 23/30

- Knowledge and Comprehension: 26/30

- Analysis, Evaluation, and Application: 26/30

- Style and Mechanics: 5/10

\*\*Strengths:\*\*

1. \*\*Clear Explanation:\*\* The submission provides a clear explanation of the destabilizing influences resulting from resource-based conflicts and the role of the environment in political and economic destabilization.

2. \*\*Integration of Sources:\*\* The student effectively integrates sources like Harris (2013), Mohtadi et al. (2015), and Bergenas & Knight (2015) to support the arguments made.

\*\*Areas for Improvement:\*\*

1. \*\*Organization and Structure:\*\* The submission lacks a clear introduction and conclusion. A more structured approach with distinct sections for each identified issue would enhance readability.

2. \*\*Depth of Analysis:\*\* While the student identifies the issues related to resource-based conflicts and environmental destabilization, the analysis could be further developed with more depth and detail. Providing specific examples and discussing the interconnectedness of these issues would strengthen the analysis.

3. \*\*APA Formatting:\*\* There are inconsistencies in APA formatting, particularly in the reference list. The student should ensure that all references follow APA guidelines for citation formatting, including proper capitalization and punctuation.

4. \*\*Grammatical Errors:\*\* The submission contains grammatical errors and awkward phrasing. Proofreading for clarity and coherence would improve the overall quality of the writing.

\*\*Reflection on the Rubric Criteria:\*\*

1. \*\*Organization and Context:\*\* The submission lacks a clear introductory statement that outlines the purpose and scope of the analysis. Establishing a coherent structure from the outset would enhance organization.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension:\*\* The student demonstrates a solid understanding of the issues related to resource-based conflicts and environmental destabilization. However, providing more in-depth analysis and drawing connections between different concepts would further enhance comprehension.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application:\*\* While the student presents relevant information from the readings, there is room for deeper analysis and evaluation of the implications of resource-based conflicts and environmental destabilization on US national security.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics:\*\* The submission contains grammatical errors and lacks consistency in APA formatting. Attention to detail in grammar, punctuation, and citation formatting is necessary to improve the overall style and mechanics of the writing.

Overall, the submission effectively addresses the assignment requirements but would benefit from improved organization, depth of analysis, and attention to APA formatting and style guidelines.

## **STUDENT**

Conflict and climate change are nearly inseparable when it comes to outlining the anthropogenic impact on how the world operates. People and businesses cause climate change due to pollution, over consumerism, and an increase of global greenhouse gas emissions (Harris, 2013). Climate change forces people to pivot into profitable economic ventures such as transnational crimes that help them stay afloat. Humans have had detrimental impact on environmental systems due to the rise of these. 15% of the world’s gross domestic product comes from organized crime (Glenny, 2009). Three crimes that are damaging the environment are the illegal trade of oil in the Islamic state, the illicit charcoal trade in East Africa, and the ivory market in Southeast Asia (Bergenas and Knight, 2015). Oil trade depletes the nonrenewable resources found within the area for a profit. The charcoal trade encourages environmental degradation due to the deforestation required to keep up with the demands for charcoal, again, for profit. Elephants and Rhinos have become endangered species due to the depletion of their homes from people cutting down trees. This, coupled with their coveted ivory tusks, have made criminals the primary threat on their survival. Humans being willing to leave the environment at the mercy of their greed to turn a profit is not a new concept. The rise of transnational crimes has created a more integral and advanced organization system that takes advantage of the inconsistence found in government policies (Canales, 2013). Transnational crimes help to stimulate the economy but have negative impact on the environment.

Resource based conflict can have destabilizing influences on the government, economy, and human security. When there is conflict present, the state can collapse due to the weaknesses exposed by their inability to govern and protect their citizens. This can cause the state’s army and police to be dismantled and the government would be required to outsource for policing by using privatized groups like the mafia for protection (Glenny, 2009). Incorporating the mafia in state business entangles corruption into the system. Conflict can also make the economy collapse as well. When the conflict is resource based, there is a struggle to keep the production honest as the resources continue to diminish. People are led to violence to protect the resources they still have available while criminals are using force to gather the resources, they need to make their profit (Bergenas and Knight, 2015). Conflict can also wreak havoc on human right abuses such as forced labor and child labor as trafficking increases to keep up with the demand of mining and sourcing (Bergenas and Knight, 2015). The human rights abuse is able to go undetected and without interference when occurring alongside an unstable government and economy because the attention is focused greatly on those insecurities.

The natural environment plays an important role in contributing and causing political and economic destabilization within a region. When the government continuously fails to address environmental security and all the consequential impacts that come along side it, it can cause political unrest. An example of such occurred in Syria. When they experienced a major drought that lasted three years, there was an increase in water insecurity and livestock mortality (Kelley et al, 2015). Syria’s economy largely relied on agriculture, so the environment was vital to the livelihood of the people living there. Their sitting president decided to create policies to increase agricultural production in spite of the families already suffering, causing an increase in migration and fueled their revolution (Kelley et al, 2015). Ignoring environmental changes and its effect on the people within a nation signal that the government does not care and can move people to revolt.

Economic destabilization can lead to security concerns for the United States. The United States is a zone of consumption (Glenny, 2009). This means that the United States contributes to the buying and selling of goods and resources trades throughout the world. The western desire to consume influences global organized crime because developed countries have the money to fund these businesses while also ignoring the implications to the other nations’ environmental wellbeing. This does a disservice to the United States because it can leave them vulnerable to supporting transnational crimes that are depleting the resources in another country. One thing that the United States consumes is oil. The destabilization of the economy in a state that has oil can affect the energy costs in the United States. The Westphalian System can be misused to support terrorism and other types of transnational crime when profit is prioritized over the global impact that enacting rules can create. The dependency that the United States has for oil can affect the quality of life for their citizens and create political unrest if their actions go against the values of the masses within their nation.

**References**

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 90/100

- Organization and Context: 27/30

- Knowledge and Comprehension: 28/30

- Analysis, Evaluation, and Application: 28/30

- Style and Mechanics: 7/10

\*\*Strengths:\*\*

1. \*\*Comprehensive Analysis:\*\* The submission provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of resource-based conflicts and environmental degradation on political, economic destabilization, and security concerns.

2. \*\*Clear Explanation:\*\* The student effectively explains the interconnectedness between climate change, resource conflicts, transnational crimes, and their implications for national security.

3. \*\*Integration of Sources:\*\* The student integrates relevant sources such as Bergenas & Knight (2015), Canales (2013), Glenny (2009), Harris (2013), and Kelley et al. (2015) to support the arguments made.

\*\*Areas for Improvement:\*\*

1. \*\*Introduction and Conclusion:\*\* While the body paragraphs are well-structured, the submission lacks a clear introductory statement that outlines the main points to be discussed. Similarly, a concluding paragraph summarizing the key findings and implications would enhance the overall coherence of the essay.

2. \*\*APA Formatting:\*\* The reference list follows APA formatting guidelines; however, in-text citations are inconsistent. The student should ensure that all in-text citations are properly formatted according to APA guidelines.

3. \*\*Grammatical Errors:\*\* The submission contains some grammatical errors and awkward phrasing that detract from the clarity of the writing. Proofreading for grammar and syntax would improve the overall quality of the writing.

4. \*\*Depth of Reflection:\*\* While the submission effectively presents the issues, there is room for deeper reflection on the implications of these issues for global governance and international cooperation.

\*\*Reflection on the Rubric Criteria:\*\*

1. \*\*Organization and Context:\*\* The submission demonstrates a clear organizational structure within the body paragraphs, but it would benefit from a more explicit introduction and conclusion to provide context and coherence to the essay.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension:\*\* The student exhibits a strong understanding of the subject matter, drawing on a range of scholarly sources to support the analysis.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application:\*\* The submission provides a thorough analysis of the issues at hand, examining the multifaceted relationship between environmental degradation, resource conflicts, and transnational crimes.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics:\*\* While the writing is generally clear and coherent, there are some grammatical errors and inconsistencies in APA formatting that could be addressed to improve the overall style and mechanics of the essay.

Overall, the submission effectively addresses the assignment requirements and provides a well-supported analysis of the topic. With some improvements in organization, citation formatting, and grammar, the essay could be further strengthened.

## **STUDENT**

One thing agreed upon is that some resources are finite; hence, why the term non-renewable resources is commonly used when discussing such things as fossil fuels. As the quantity of these resources becomes fewer, their value increases. This opens the door for the outbreak of conflict over control or access to them, such as gold, coltan, and even animals on the verge of extinction. As the Population Resource Bureau (2001) discusses, the availability of these resources becomes scarcer. The efforts are then made by a single group to monopolize them, often in the form of organized crime. This conquest for monopolizing resources has a degrading effect on that region's economy and other concerns, such as increased human security issues like poverty and violence. Environmental security issues as well, such as deforestation or extinction of a species, contribute to the decline of an ecosystem. The ability to even combat these efforts to monopolize resources is difficult. Glenny (2009), in his TED Talk appearance, shows how speed boats, which come with a hefty price tag, are used to import illegal goods into Italy. Glenny discusses how the Italian government is overwhelmed, and the ability to stop or even slow the illegal imports seems almost impossible at times because they do not have the finances to spend capital solely on the apprehension of the transportation of illicit imports into their country.

As the problem of monopolizing continues to grow, so too do human and environmental concerns with it. Using the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as an example to explain the correlation. The DRC "holds 80 percent of the world's reserves of coltan-a material used in microchips-and accounts for 51 percent of world coltan production" (Bergenas, et al., 2015). However, due to illicit mining in the area, the country loses the ability to make a profit and fund programs such as schooling and health (Bergenas et al., 2015). The evidence is clear: taking away a resource that belongs to a region takes more than just that resource. It takes away the ability of the region to sustain itself by addressing poverty, education, and infrastructure and even assists in delegitimizing governments.

Expanding on the last point of delegitimizing a government. This is a significant concern for the United States (US) and creates national security concerns. Harris (2013) states that our lifestyles and the demands of consumerism to support an affluent lifestyle damage the planet. Our (the US) demand for oil to fuel our daily lives has created a vulnerability, one exploited by terrorist groups such as the Islamic State. "According to a UN Security Council sanctions committee report late last year, illicit oil sales were the Islamic State's largest revenue source" (Bergenas et al., 2015). The US demand for oil has helped line the pockets of terrorist groups committed to the downfall of the US. The US demand for oil created an opportunity for Islamic State terrorist groups to have some control over oil export, thus, creating a situation where the US has helped finance the same group they declared war on in 2001.

**References**

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 95/100

- Organization and Context: 29/30

- Knowledge and Comprehension: 30/30

- Analysis, Evaluation, and Application: 30/30

- Style and Mechanics: 6/10

\*\*Strengths:\*\*

1. \*\*Comprehensive Analysis:\*\* The submission offers a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between resource monopolization, environmental degradation, organized crime, and their implications for human security and national sovereignty.

2. \*\*Clear Explanation:\*\* The student effectively explains the connection between resource scarcity, monopolization, and the resulting economic, social, and environmental consequences.

3. \*\*Integration of Sources:\*\* The student integrates relevant scholarly sources such as Bergenas & Knight (2015), Glenny (2009), Harris (2013), and the Population Reference Bureau (2001) to support the arguments made.

\*\*Areas for Improvement:\*\*

1. \*\*APA Formatting:\*\* While the reference list is properly formatted, the in-text citations could be improved to follow APA guidelines consistently. Some in-text citations lack the author's name and publication year, which is necessary for clarity and academic integrity.

2. \*\*Mechanics:\*\* The submission contains some grammatical errors and awkward phrasing that slightly detract from the clarity of the writing. Proofreading for grammar and syntax would enhance the overall quality of the essay.

3. \*\*Depth of Reflection:\*\* While the analysis is thorough, the submission could benefit from a deeper reflection on the implications of resource monopolization and environmental degradation for global governance, sustainable development, and international cooperation.

\*\*Reflection on the Rubric Criteria:\*\*

1. \*\*Organization and Context:\*\* The submission demonstrates a clear organizational structure and coherence in presenting ideas, contributing to the overall effectiveness of the essay.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension:\*\* The student exhibits a strong understanding of the subject matter, drawing on a range of scholarly sources to support the analysis.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application:\*\* The submission provides a thorough analysis of the issues at hand, examining the multifaceted relationship between resource monopolization, environmental degradation, organized crime, and their implications for human security and national sovereignty.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics:\*\* While the writing is generally clear and coherent, there are some grammatical errors and inconsistencies in APA formatting that could be addressed to improve the overall style and mechanics of the essay.

Overall, the submission effectively addresses the assignment requirements and provides a well-supported analysis of the topic. With some improvements in citation formatting, grammar, and deeper reflection, the essay could be further strengthened.

## **STUDENT**

Transnational Crime and Environmental Insecurity

Westphalian sovereignty, more commonly referred to as the Westphalian System, is the international principle that sovereign states have exclusive control over land within their respective territory. Still, despite numerous nuanced social, political, and economic advantages of national independence, the existence of sovereign state borders has been complicit in the evolution of cross-border terrorism and transnational crime. Understanding the correlation between increasing transnational crime and terrorism further exacerbated by environmental insecurity and climate change is essential for problem-framing national defense strategies in the 21st century. Firstly, one must recognize how regions and populations can become destabilized because of resource scarcity.

Resource Scarcity Fuels Resource-based Conflict

Resource-based conflict is a broad term that describes disagreements over access, use, or control of natural resources. These conflicts may be either social or political and the parties involved may be either two conflicting individuals or groups part of either state or non-state entities. An example of how a terror organization’s illicit funding damages the natural environment while also creating incredible amounts of suffering across the world can be found in how the Islamic State illegally trades oil across the Middle East, eventually turning this act into their top source of income (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). These illegal oil trades, which at one point were estimated to have generated more than $3 million a day (Al-Khatteeb & Gordts, 2014), are used for financing a wide array of terrorist activities ranging from recruitment, propaganda campaigns, weapon and equipment purchases, and logistics. Additionally, these illegal oil operations also inflict damage to the environment by contributing to unhealthy levels of water decontamination and widespread land degradation. Understanding how terrorism and conflict negatively influence economics is also critical in analyzing past, present, and future international security threats.

Environmental Insecurity and Economic Destabilization

Terroristic and criminal acts are being committed across the world, and many of these human actions have severe consequences on both large populations and the economies of sovereign states. The increase of a highly connected world has opened the possibilities for new trade routes which also channel material or items that may be legal or cheap in one country and illegally import or smuggle them into another. An example of this can be found in the international timber market. According to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), nearly 30% of all timber trade across the world is considered illegal (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). The impact of illegal timber trade on an economy can be devastating. Illicit timber trade reduces the amount of government funds that could be better spent on other sustainability practices and in some cases such as what has occurred in Indonesia, the amount of money lost to illegal forestry and government corruption toward the environment costs more than the state’s annual budget for health care (Bergenas & Knight, 2015).

Political and economic instability heavily influenced by events that impact the natural environment can also pose a concern for U.S. national security. Migrants fleeing oppressive regimes, poverty, and famine have also been extorted by cartels across Mexico, Central America, and South America. As a cost for being illegally trafficked into the United States, some transnational criminal organizations (TCOs) use migrants as drug smugglers or ‘mules’ for moving drugs or other illegal products or material from Central and South American suppliers to the world’s largest consumer of illegal substances – The United States. These TCOs inflict devastating trauma to societies through multiple channels. Each year, tens of thousands of U.S. citizens die or are permanently disabled from drug overdoses in addition to those who die because of drug-related violence. The current drug epidemic in the United States has proven to be a boon for narcoterrorism since it is smaller in size and more potent when compared to heroin, methamphetamine, or marijuana (Canles, 2013).

**References**

Al-Khatteeb, L., & Gordts, E. (2014). *How ISIS uses oil to fund terror.*The Brookings Institute. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-isis-uses-oil-to-fund-terror/#:~:text=According%20to%20recent%20estimates%2C%20the,through%20the%20illegal%20oil%20trade.>

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## **CHATGPT**

Overall Score: 85/100

1. Organization and Context: 25/30

- The essay provides a clear overview and introduction to the topic of transnational crime and environmental insecurity. The central theme is well-established and maintained throughout the essay. However, the organization could be improved slightly by enhancing the transition between paragraphs for better flow and coherence.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension: 27/30

- The essay demonstrates a solid understanding of the impact of resource scarcity on fueling resource-based conflicts and how environmental insecurity contributes to economic destabilization. The student effectively utilizes relevant evidence from external sources to support their arguments.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application: 28/30

- The essay comprehensively identifies and analyzes key issues related to transnational crime and environmental insecurity. The examples provided, such as illegal oil trades by terrorist organizations and illegal timber trade, offer insightful perspectives on the topic. The application of real-life situations is clearly defined and supports the argument presented.

4. Style and Mechanics: 10/10

- The essay follows proper APA citations and references throughout. It is grammatically sound and free of spelling errors. The formatting adheres to APA style guidelines.

Feedback:

- The essay effectively addresses the assignment requirements by discussing the detrimental ways humans have impacted environmental systems, resulting in rising levels of transnational crime. The examples provided, such as the illegal oil trade by terrorist organizations and illegal timber trade, offer valuable insights into the topic.

- The student demonstrates a strong understanding of the relationship between environmental insecurity and its implications for national security concerns, particularly for the United States.

- To enhance the essay further, consider providing more depth in the analysis of each detrimental impact and its specific implications for U.S. national security. Additionally, ensure that the transition between paragraphs is smooth to improve the overall coherence and flow of the essay.

- Overall, it's a well-written and insightful essay that effectively addresses the assignment prompt. Great job!

## **STUDENT**

There is a growing recognition that the natural environment can play a significant role in contributing to or causing political and economic destabilization within a country or region. It is projected that “by mid-century, 250 million people would become climate refugees, forced to permanently flee their homes and communities due to floods, droughts, hurricanes, and famines related to climate change” (Kelley et al., 2015). Climate change and its associated impacts, such as droughts, floods, and extreme weather events, can lead to food and water shortages, displacement of people, and social unrest. This, in turn, can create political instability and economic disruption as governments struggle to respond to the needs of their citizens and maintain social order. Similarly, resource scarcity, such as water or energy, can create tensions between separate groups, leading to conflicts and violence.

Deforestation is one of the biggest drivers of climate change and involves clearing forests for agriculture, urbanization, and other purposes. It is reported that “the International Criminal Police Organization, or INTERPOL, estimates its worth at as much as US$100 billion annually and as up to 30 percent of all timber trade” (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). This has resulted in the emission of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Moreover, deforestation has caused soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, and disturbances in local ecosystems. This has provided opportunities for illegal activities such as illegal logging, poaching, and drug trafficking. Deforestation can also lead to the displacement of local communities, who may have to move to other areas to find new sources of livelihood. This can cause political and social unrest and economic damage and fuel regional conflicts. The depletion of natural resources such as water and energy can also cause political and economic instability as these resources become increasingly scarce and valuable.

Pollution is another significant environmental challenge that has negatively impacted the environment and human health. Pollution can take various forms, including air, water, and soil pollution. It has significantly impacted the environment by contributing to climate change and global warming. Additionally, pollution has led to air, water, and soil quality degradation, negatively affecting human health. It is estimated that “Crimes associated with black market fishing, illegal mining, timber trafficking, endangered animal poaching, and trafficking in hazardous waste or ozone-depleting materials are estimated as a US$200 billion annual industry “(Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Pollution has also provided opportunities for transnational crime, such as illegal dumping and trafficking of hazardous waste. These unlawful activities have far-reaching consequences, including social and political unrest, displacement of local communities, economic damage, and social instability. For instance, pollution can affect human health and cause economic damage, leading to social instability and political unrest.

Political or economic destabilization in other parts of the world can have significant security implications for the United States. For example, suppose a country experiences political unrest due to environmental factors such as resource scarcity or pollution. In that case, it may result in a breakdown of law and order, leading to increased levels of violence, terrorism, and transnational crime. Such instability can also lead to the rise of extremist groups, which can threaten U.S. interests abroad and at home. Moreover, economic disruption caused by environmental factors can have severe implications for the global economy, affecting U.S. trade and investment interests. The displacement of people due to environmental factors can lead to mass migration, creating a refugee crisis that can destabilize neighboring countries and regions. This can also spread diseases and other health risks, affecting U.S. public health and national security.

References

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## **CHATGPT**

Based on the provided submission, here is the evaluation according to the assignment rubric:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (25/30 points):\*\* The submission effectively introduces the topic of how the natural environment contributes to political and economic destabilization. The ideas are logically presented, and the connection between environmental factors and social unrest is well-established.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (28/30 points):\*\* The submission demonstrates a clear understanding of the ways in which environmental degradation, such as deforestation and pollution, leads to political and economic instability. Relevant evidence from scholarly sources is integrated to support the arguments made.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (28/30 points):\*\* The submission provides insightful analysis of the implications of environmental destabilization on national security, both globally and for the United States specifically. The connection between environmental factors and security concerns is well-articulated, with examples provided to illustrate the potential consequences.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (9/10 points):\*\* The submission adheres to APA style formatting and includes appropriate in-text citations and references. The writing is clear and concise, with few grammatical errors.

Overall, the submission demonstrates a strong grasp of the assignment requirements and effectively addresses the prompt. The student effectively connects environmental issues to political and economic destabilization, providing relevant examples and supporting evidence. The submission could be enhanced by further exploration of potential solutions to mitigate environmental degradation and its associated security risks. Additionally, incorporating more diverse perspectives and sources could enrich the analysis and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the topic. Overall, well done!

## **STUDENT**

Environmental crime presents a challenge that extends beyond its direct environmental impacts. Criminal activities such as illegal logging, wildlife trafficking, and pollution may not be the largest illicit economies compared to industries like pharmaceuticals, electronics, and cigarettes, but they are deeply intertwined with sophisticated transnational organized crime groups. These criminal networks are often involved in various illicit activities, including the trade in drugs, arms, humans, and counterfeit goods (Glenny, 2009). This integration highlights the complexity of addressing environmental crime and the need for coordinated efforts across multiple sectors. Moreover, environmental crime tends to thrive in regions characterized by high levels of corruption and limited institutional capacity. In many developing countries, natural resource exploitation is intricately linked to economic strength, further complicating efforts to combat environmental degradation (Harris, 2013). The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) estimates that the direct economic impact of environmental crime amounts to $135 billion, a figure equivalent to the combined global value of official development aid (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). This underscores the significant economic ramifications of environmental degradation and the urgency of addressing this issue in the context of sustainable development goals.

Securing the world's natural resources from terrorists and transnational criminal syndicates is increasingly recognized as essential for achieving sustainable development goals (Harris, 2013). The forthcoming United Nations Sustainable Development Goals emphasize the importance of environmental protection and restoration on a global scale. However, the growing role of the natural environment in contributing to political and economic destabilization is evident in regions where environmental degradation exacerbates socio-economic inequalities, undermines governance structures, and fuels social unrest (Harris, 2013).

Environmental crime represents a twenty-first-century challenge that transcends traditional boundaries, affecting defense, security, development, and conservation efforts worldwide (Harris, 2013). Its global reach and transnational nature require innovative prevention and mitigation strategies that involve collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. Political and economic destabilization resulting from environmental degradation and resource-based conflicts can have significant security implications for the U.S. Instability in strategically important regions can disrupt trade, energy supplies, and geopolitical alliances, posing threats to U.S. interests and necessitating diplomatic, humanitarian, and security interventions to mitigate risks and maintain stability (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Additionally, environmental crime, with its global reach and transnational nature, can contribute to the proliferation of terrorism, extremism, and organized crime, further complicating security challenges for the U.S. (Harris, 2013). Effective solutions must address the intertwined issues of environmental degradation, criminal activity, and sustainable development while balancing both public and private interests.

References

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Harris, P. G. (2013). What's wrong with climate politics and how to fix it. Polity Press.

## **CHATGPT**

Based on the provided submission, here is the evaluation according to the assignment rubric:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (28/30 points):\*\* The submission effectively introduces the topic of environmental crime and its implications for political and economic destabilization. The ideas are logically presented, and the connection between environmental degradation, criminal activity, and national security is well-established.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (28/30 points):\*\* The submission demonstrates a clear understanding of the complexities surrounding environmental crime and its global implications. Relevant evidence from scholarly sources and references to authoritative sources such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are incorporated to support the arguments made.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (28/30 points):\*\* The submission provides insightful analysis of the challenges posed by environmental crime and the need for coordinated efforts to address the issue. The connection between environmental degradation, criminal activity, and security concerns is well-articulated, with examples provided to illustrate the potential consequences for the United States and the global community.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (9/10 points):\*\* The submission adheres to APA style formatting and includes appropriate in-text citations and references. The writing is clear and concise, with few grammatical errors.

Overall, the submission effectively addresses the assignment prompt and provides a thorough analysis of the topic of environmental crime and its implications for national security. The student demonstrates a strong grasp of the subject matter and effectively integrates relevant sources to support their arguments. The submission could be enhanced by further exploration of potential solutions to address environmental crime and promote sustainable development. Additionally, providing more specific examples of environmental crime and its impacts on different regions could enrich the analysis and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issue. Overall, well done!

## **STUDENT**

Humans are the single greatest contributing factor to climate change. We all have wants for all sorts of products to help us along in our daily lives and we often make choices that negatively impact the environment. The three most detrimental ways we have contributed to impacting environmental systems that have caused rising levels of transnational crime are our inability to make human rights centered decisions, continuing to contribute massive amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and ineffective policies resulting in conflicts of land resources.

The inability to make human rights centered decisions forces individuals to go into survival mode to protect their families from food insecurity, water scarcity, poverty, health concerns, displacement from their homes and potential conflict within their own communities because of other individuals fighting for the same things. This turns the families seeking protection to find whatever protection they can, including transnational crime organizations that can meet and/or exceed their needs. This allows the crime organizations to gain popularity by showing favor to the people in the areas being more negatively affected by climate change. As criminal organizations rise, there are increases in revenue loss, increases in crime being committed across multiple borders (i.e., the United States and Mexico border that is faced with a drug war happening on both sides of the border).

We humans continue to contribute significant amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere from various causes like transportation, deforestation, and agriculture. Deforestation from illegal logging has direct connections with transnational crime, corruption, and environmental degradation (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Major producers of timber products like Peru, Brazil, Indonesia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are all examples of countries affected by illegal deforestation. Not only does deforestation contribute to the emissions of greenhouse gases and have connections to transnational crime, but it also has increased the exploitation of the indigenous communities through forced labor and other means. The illegal logging industry negatively impacts the immediate areas where it is taking place and the revenues from illegal sales fund various groups like the terrorist group al-Shabaab in Somalia, militias in the eastern DRC and gangs in Peru (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). As cited in INTERPOL’s Project leaf (2015), the estimates for what the illegal logging industry is worth within the world are as much as $100 billion USD annually and constitutes 30 percent of all timber trade (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). That is $100 billion USD lost to transnational crime organizations each year that allows for the continued growth of those crime syndicates while continuing to massively impact the environment.

The last of the three most detrimental ways we humans contribute to impacting environmental systems and contributing to the rise of transnational crime organizations is by creating policies that are ineffective because they are simply not followed, or they are “overlooked” by individuals within positions of power because of corruption. For example, the DRC is well known worldwide because of the conflict minerals which are mined within its borders. In April 2022, the Environment Ministry within the DRC released an audit by the General Inspectorate of Finance, dated May 2021, that revealed at least six former minsters granted illegal logging permits in violation of a nationwide moratorium and in July 2022, the DRC government launched a massive auction for licensing rights to 30 different locations within the DRC rainforest for drilling to begin for oil and gas (HRW, 2023). This continued disregard for adhering to government policies and continued disregard for the environment by releasing mineral rights to a section of land that could release massive amounts of greenhouse gas emissions show the continued effects of transnational crime. They do this by leading various governments, normally those of developing countries, to destabilize by continuing to force corruption and the creation of policies that allow for the continued deforestation of another major rainforest. This creates an avenue for revenue to escape from the countries where the illicit activities are taking place which removes the opportunity for that country to use those revenues to better the health, food security, and water security of its population. Those revenues are then used to continue to fund the activities of transnational criminal organizations like al-Qaeda, ISIS, and the Mexican drug Cartels as well as many other organizations around the world. The United States continues to feel increased pressure from transnational criminal organizations as its southern and norther borders are constantly bombarded with all sorts of trafficking from drug to human to sex trafficking. That pressure will only increase as those criminal organizations continue to obtain funds from the revenues they make from illegal fishing, illegal logging, conflict mineral sales and poaching of endangered species. This pressure will be compounded by the effects of climate change from the release of greenhouse gas emissions as the Earth continues to warm and people search for any means necessary to protect themselves as well as their families from the impacts of climate change.

***References***

Bergenas, J., & Knight, A. (2015). Green terror: Environmental crime and illicit financing. The SAIS Review of International Affairs, 35(1) <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/green-terror-environmental-crime-illicit/docview/1690465049/se-2?accountid=27203> <https://erau.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/openurl/01ERAU_INST/01ERAU_INST:ERAU?genre=article&atitle=Green+Terror%253A+Environmental+Crime+and+Illicit+Financing&author=Bergenas%252C+Johan%253BKnight%252C+Ariella&volume=35&issue=1&spage=119&date=Winter%252FSpring+2015&rft.btitle=&rft.jtitle=The+SAIS+Review+of+International+Affairs&issn=1945-4716&isbn=&sid=ProQ%253Amilitary_>

Human Rights Watch. (2023, January 20). *World Report 2023: Democratic Republic of Congo: Events of 2022*. Retrieved February 25, 2024, from <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/democratic-republic-congo#9db984>

## **CHATGPT**

Here's the evaluation based on the provided rubric:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (25/30 points):\*\* The essay provides a clear overview and introduction to the topic of transnational crime and environmental insecurity. The central theme is well-developed and logically consistent throughout the essay. However, there could be more explicit structuring of the content to enhance clarity and flow.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (27/30 points):\*\* The essay effectively addresses the assignment requirements by identifying three detrimental ways humans impact environmental systems leading to rising levels of transnational crime. It draws on relevant evidence from scholarly sources and integrates real-world examples to support the analysis. The references provided help to substantiate the points made in the essay.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (28/30 points):\*\* The essay comprehensively analyzes the key issues surrounding transnational crime and environmental degradation. It effectively explores the complex relationships between human activities, environmental impact, and the proliferation of transnational crime organizations. Real-life examples are used to illustrate the concepts discussed, enhancing the depth of analysis.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (8/10 points):\*\* The essay demonstrates proper APA citations and references, contributing to its academic integrity. The writing is generally grammatically sound and free of spelling errors. However, there could be minor improvements in sentence structure and clarity to enhance readability.

\*\*Overall Score: 88/100\*\*

\*\*Feedback:\*\*

- Strengths:

- The essay effectively addresses the assigned topic, providing a comprehensive analysis of the linkages between environmental degradation and transnational crime.

- Real-life examples and scholarly references are integrated well to support key arguments and enhance the credibility of the analysis.

- The essay demonstrates a strong understanding of the complex issues surrounding transnational crime and environmental insecurity.

- Areas for Improvement:

- Consider enhancing the organization of the essay by introducing clear subheadings to guide the reader through different sections.

- Pay attention to sentence structure and clarity to ensure the essay is easily understandable to a wide audience.

- While real-life examples are beneficial, ensure they are directly relevant to the points being made and contribute to a deeper understanding of the topic.

Overall, this is a well-researched and thought-provoking essay that effectively addresses the assigned task. With some minor refinements in organization and writing style, it can further enhance its impact and clarity. Keep up the good work!

## **STUDENT**

Resource-based conflict plays a significant role in destabilizing local and national economies. Take into account the influence that poaching, deforestation, and illegal diamond and coltan mining have had on the continent of Africa (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Such illegal activities create power vacuums that give rise to terrorist organizations and cartels eager to profit off of the trade. As they are used to operating outside of the law, they have little moral imperative to act justly in the interest of civilian or environmental welfare. In some cases, certain government agents may even become involved, facilitating dirty dealings that hurt their local environment in the name of economic gain or greater international influence.

In addition to the potential for creating armed or militant conflict, threatened resources can have other lasting impacts. These include loss of biodiversity through poaching and illegal fishing, environmental degradation through deforestation and illegal timber trade, and social unrest for the communities most impacted by resource losses. Social unrest is a particularly alarming threat, as it can lead to the overthrowing of a government, the decimation of a people group, or even international conflict. One cited reason for the continuation of climate destruction is overconsumption (Harris, 2013). The United States is particularly guilty of this, with a prime example being our insatiable need for cobalt, even at the risk of Congolese lives (Smith, 2023). America’s endless gluttony and greed leave it vulnerable in the wake of social unrest. Should the Congolese fight back and refuse to provide cobalt to the US, electronic manufacturing would come to a halt, jeopardizing jobs and much of the US economy. As a result, America would experience its own social unrest, destabilizing the political environment and threatening current foreign policy. Such an event could cause a domino effect, with other nations refusing to provide resources to the US due to the effect resource acquisition has on their own environments. While the United States is not the center of the world, it has an undeniable effect on global trade and international commerce. Its economic failure could bring about international depression, a haunting reality in the wake of environmental insecurity.

References

Bergenas, J., & Knight, A. (2015). Green Terror: Environmental Crime and Illicit Financing.*The SAIS Review of International Affairs, 35*(1), 119-131. https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/green-terror-environmental-crime-illicit/docview/1690465049/se-2

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Smith, S. V. (2023, December 14). Cobalt is in demand, so why did America’s only cobalt mine close? *NPR*. https://www.npr.org/2023/12/14/1219246964/cobalt-is-important-for-green-energy-so-why-has-americas-only-coablt-mine-closed

## **CHATGPT**

Thank you for providing your essay on the destabilizing influences of resource-based conflict and its implications for environmental security. Here's an evaluation based on the provided rubric:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (26/30 points):\*\* The essay offers a clear introduction to the topic and maintains a coherent theme throughout the discussion. The central argument regarding the destabilizing effects of resource-based conflict is well-developed and supported by relevant examples. However, there could be further refinement in structuring the content to enhance clarity and coherence.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (28/30 points):\*\* The essay effectively addresses the assignment requirements by identifying and analyzing the detrimental impacts of poaching, deforestation, and illegal mining on African countries, as well as the broader implications for global stability. The references provided support the arguments made and contribute to the overall depth of analysis.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (28/30 points):\*\* The essay presents a comprehensive analysis of the complex relationships between resource-based conflict, environmental degradation, and social unrest. The discussion of how overconsumption, particularly by the United States, contributes to global instability adds depth to the analysis. Real-life examples are effectively integrated to illustrate the points made and highlight the interconnectedness of global issues.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (9/10 points):\*\* The essay demonstrates proper APA citations and references, contributing to its academic integrity. The writing is generally clear and grammatically sound. However, there could be minor improvements in sentence structure and clarity to enhance readability further.

\*\*Overall Score: 91/100\*\*

\*\*Feedback:\*\*

- Strengths:

- The essay effectively addresses the assigned topic, providing a thorough analysis of the destabilizing influences of resource-based conflict on environmental security.

- Real-life examples and scholarly references are integrated well to support key arguments and enhance the credibility of the analysis.

- The essay demonstrates a strong understanding of the interconnectedness of global issues and the implications for international stability.

- Areas for Improvement:

- Consider enhancing the organization of the essay by introducing clear subheadings to guide the reader through different sections.

- Pay attention to sentence structure and clarity to ensure the essay is easily understandable to a wide audience.

- While the essay effectively discusses the implications of overconsumption, strive for a more nuanced discussion of potential solutions or mitigating strategies to address these challenges.

Overall, this is a well-researched and insightful essay that effectively addresses the assigned task. With some minor refinements in organization and writing style, it can further enhance its impact and clarity. Keep up the good work!

## **STUDENT**

Human activities that have led to environmental degradation have increased the threat of transnational crime, which presents challenges to US national security interests. The illegal practices of illegal logging, illegal fishing, and climate-induced displacement are among the primary drivers of this issue.

Illegal logging leads to deforestation, biodiversity loss, and habitat destruction while providing funding for transnational criminal networks engaged in timber trafficking (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Similarly, illegal fishing hampers marine ecosystems, threatens food security, and leads to exploitation by organized crime syndicates, which take advantage of regulatory gaps (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Moreover, climate change-induced events, such as extreme weather events and rising sea levels, make populations susceptible to displacement and creates opportunities for exploitation by criminal networks (Harris, 2013).

These environmental crimes directly impact US national security interests by destabilizing regions essential to US interests, undermining stability, worsening conflicts, and challenging law enforcement efforts. For example, the illicit trade in timber and the exploitation of natural resources may fund criminal organizations that engage in other illicit activities, potentially destabilizing regions critical to US interests (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Furthermore, illegal fishing operations can escalate tensions over maritime resources, bringing challenges to maritime security interests leading to increased surveillance and law enforcement efforts. Climate-induced displacement adds to humanitarian crises, increasing strain on resources and bringing the need for increased border security and immigration policies. (Harris, 2013; Canales, 2013).

1. **Explain the destabilizing influences that result from resource-based conflict.**

Competition over natural resources such as timber, minerals, or water often leads to resource-based conflicts that can destabilize a region (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). For example, illegal logging operations can fuel organized crime and undermine local governance, which can contribute to social tensions and violence. When natural resources are scarce, like in areas affected by drought or water scarcity, conflicts may intensify as communities compete for access to essential resources (Kelley et al., 2015). These conflicts can cause internal displacement, refugee crises, and humanitarian emergencies, which can disrupt social cohesion and exacerbate existing political and ethnic tensions.

1. **Identify the growing role that the natural environment plays in contributing to or causing political and /or economic destabilization within a country or within a region.**

According to Harris (2013), the natural environment is increasingly becoming a cause of political and economic instability across countries and regions. This is mainly due to climate change, environmental degradation, and resource scarcity. Extreme weather conditions caused by climate change, like droughts, floods, and hurricanes, can severely affect agriculture and lead to food shortages, economic hardship, and mass migration. Countries with weak governance structures or limited resources to tackle environmental issues, like in Africa or Southeast Asia, can face more challenges and cause political unrest. Moreover, environmental degradation, such as pollution and deforestation, can impede economic development, increase poverty, contribute to social inequality, and lead to instability.

1. **Analyze how political or economic destabilization can lead to security concerns for the U.S.**

According to Glenny (2009), political or economic instability in regions impacted by resource-based conflicts or environmental challenges can present security concerns for the United States. This is because such instability can result in the emergence of failed states or ungoverned territories, which can become safe havens for terrorist organizations or criminal networks to operate. These groups may exploit the instability to recruit members, plan attacks, or traffic illicit goods, which can directly threaten U.S. national security interests. Additionally, refugee flows resulting from conflicts or environmental disasters can strain neighboring countries' resources and destabilize entire regions, potentially leading to regional instability. This may require US humanitarian assistance or military intervention to address security threats and protect stability. Furthermore, political or economic instability can disrupt global markets, impacting trade, investment, and energy security. This can have a negative effect on U.S. economic interests and may require diplomatic or military efforts to stabilize affected regions and protect US strategic interests.

**References**

Bergenas, J., & Knight, A. (2015). *Green Terror: Environmental Crime and Illicit Financing.* The SAIS Review of International Affairs, 35(1), 119–131. <https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/green-terror-environmental-crime-illicit/docview/1690465049/se-2>

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Glenny, M. (2009, July). *How global crime networks work* [Video file]. TED. <https://www.ted.com/talks/misha_glenny_on_global_crime_networks?language=en>

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Kelley, C. P., Mohtadi, S., Cane, M. A., Seager, R., & Kushnir, Y. (2015). *Climate change in the Fertile Crescent and implications of the recent Syrian drought.* Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 112(11), 3241–3246. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1421533112>

## **CHATGPT**

Overall, your essay effectively addresses the destabilizing influences of resource-based conflict and environmental degradation on national security interests, particularly focusing on the impact of transnational crime. Here's a detailed evaluation based on the provided rubric:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (28/30 points):\*\* The essay offers a clear introduction that sets up the discussion effectively. It maintains a coherent theme throughout and presents the key points in a logical sequence. However, there could be slight improvements in transitioning between sections to enhance overall flow and cohesion.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (29/30 points):\*\* The essay demonstrates a strong understanding of the topic by effectively identifying and analyzing the detrimental impacts of illegal logging, illegal fishing, and climate-induced displacement on environmental security and transnational crime. The references provided support the arguments made and contribute to the overall depth of analysis.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (29/30 points):\*\* The analysis provided is comprehensive and insightful, highlighting the interconnectedness between environmental degradation, resource-based conflicts, and national security concerns. Real-life examples and scholarly references are integrated well to illustrate key points and enhance the credibility of the analysis.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (9/10 points):\*\* The essay adheres to proper APA citations and references, contributing to its academic integrity. The writing is clear and grammatically sound, contributing to readability. However, attention to minor grammatical details and sentence structure could further enhance clarity and precision.

\*\*Overall Score: 95/100\*\*

\*\*Feedback:\*\*

- \*\*Strengths:\*\*

- The essay effectively addresses the assigned topic, providing a comprehensive analysis of the destabilizing influences of resource-based conflict and environmental degradation on national security interests.

- Real-life examples and scholarly references are well-integrated to support key arguments and enhance the credibility of the analysis.

- The analysis demonstrates a strong understanding of the complex relationships between environmental factors, transnational crime, and national security concerns.

- \*\*Areas for Improvement:\*\*

- Consider refining the transitions between sections to improve overall coherence and flow.

- Pay attention to minor grammatical details and sentence structure to ensure clarity and precision in communication.

- While the essay effectively discusses the implications of resource-based conflicts and environmental degradation, consider exploring potential solutions or mitigating strategies to address these challenges in more detail.

Overall, this is a well-researched and insightful essay that effectively addresses the assigned task. With some minor refinements in organization and writing style, it can further enhance its impact and clarity. Keep up the excellent work!

## **STUDENT**

The relationship between crime and climate change is complex. Many less-developed nations experience destabilization from climate change-induced weather changes (Harris, 2013). Deforestation for agriculture contributes to soil erosion, disruption of water cycles, loss of fertile land, and increased susceptibility to natural disasters such as floods (Harris, 2013). Although humans are the primary cause of climate change, they are also victims of its adverse effects (Harris, 2013). Severe droughts and intense flooding lead to impaired food and water supply (Harris, 2013). Conflict often arises due to limited resources, which escalates tensions and sparks disputes (Kelley et al., 2015). The Syrian civil war presents a notable example of how water insecurity triggers conflict (Kelley et al., 2015). Intense drought, poor resource management, and agricultural exploitation played a role in the uprising (Kelley et al., 2015). While a lack of natural resources can cause conflict, Bergenas and Knight (2015) recognize that resources can also be exploited for financial gain, including by known terrorist groups such as the al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabaab. The illegal trading of timber, oil, and other natural assets underscores the necessity for a comprehensive approach to addressing environmental crime (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Environmental crime affects worldwide security, sustainable development, and conservation endeavors (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). TED (2009) points out the connection between global crime networks, the global economy, and violence in already unstable places. Crime significantly impacts food, governments, communications, and livelihoods (TED, 2009). TED (2009) notes that by 2000, approximately 80% of the world's coltan originated from the conflict-ridden areas of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The DRC has some of the most conflicts on the planet as Mafia groups globally collaborate with regional paramilitary forces to control the abundant mineral 2 resources in the area (TED, 2009. These crime groups exacerbated tensions and contributed to ongoing issues in the area (TED, 2009). The involvement of organized crime networks aggravates these issues and undermines efforts to promote environmental sustainability and security. This scenario implies significant implications for environmental security as exploiting natural resources in conflict zones, such as the DRC, can contribute to environmental degradation instability and threaten biodiversity. The destruction of critical ecosystems causes pollution and releases greenhouse gases (Harris, 2013). Unfortunately, the primary catalyst for international organized crime is the Western demand for consumption (TED, 2009). Environmental organizations have traditionally undertaken this problem, encountering obstacles like bureaucratic challenges and rivalry among non-governmental entities (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Corruption, resource constraints, and ineffective judicial systems cause governments to encounter difficulties upholding environmental regulations (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). TED (2013) recognizes that there is a substantial demand for illegal drugs and a connection between drug trafficking and violence. While there have been efforts to combat drug violence, drug cartels are using sophisticated brand management, and policymakers play a role in perpetuating the cycle of violence and criminal activity through their legislative decisions, regulatory frameworks, and enforcement practices (TED, 2013). Consumers are also complicit in this cycle as those who purchase goods from industries known for environmental degradation, human rights abuses, or exploitation are a part of continuing these harmful activities (TED, 2013). In conclusion, human-induced climate change and natural resource exploitation have multifaceted repercussions threatening human and environmental security. 3 References Bergenas, J., & Knight, A. (2015). Green Terror: Environmental crime and illicit financing. The SAIS Review of International Affairs, 35(1), 119–131. https://doi.org/10.1353/sais.2015.0004 Harris, P. G. (2013). What’s wrong with climate politics and how to fix it. Polity Press. Kelley, C. P., Mohtadi, S., Cane, M. A., Seager, R., & Kushnir, Y. (2015). Climate change in the Fertile Crescent and implications of the recent Syrian drought. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - PNAS, 112(11), 3241–3246. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1421533112 TED. (2009). The real story of McMafia -- how global crime networks work [Video]. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO1Me-MY-Q0 TED. (2013, November 4). The deadly genius of drug cartels | Rodrigo Canales [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYU25aJpg5o>

## **CHATGPT**

Thank you for providing the essay for evaluation. Below is the assessment based on the provided rubric:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (28/30):\*\* The essay effectively introduces the topic of transnational crime and environmental security. Each section is well-structured and flows logically from one point to the next. The essay provides a clear overview of how human activities contribute to environmental degradation and transnational crime, leading to destabilization. However, there could be a slightly stronger transition between some sections to enhance overall coherence.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (28/30):\*\* The essay demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the topic by addressing the various ways human activities impact environmental systems and contribute to transnational crime. Relevant scholarly sources are cited to support key points, indicating a solid understanding of the subject matter. However, in some instances, deeper analysis or more specific examples could enhance the depth of understanding.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (27/30):\*\* The essay effectively identifies and analyzes the key issues related to human impact on environmental systems and the resulting implications for transnational crime and security. It provides insightful reflections on the connections between environmental degradation, resource-based conflicts, and the rise of transnational criminal organizations. However, further analysis of the potential solutions or mitigation strategies could strengthen this section.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (9/10):\*\* The essay adheres to APA style formatting guidelines, including proper citation and referencing of sources. The writing is clear, concise, and grammatically sound, with minimal errors. However, attention to minor grammatical issues and sentence structure could further enhance clarity and readability.

\*\*Overall Score: 92/100\*\*

\*\*Feedback:\*\*

Overall, the essay demonstrates a strong understanding of the relationship between human activities, environmental degradation, and transnational crime. The essay effectively identifies and analyzes the detrimental ways humans impact environmental systems, leading to rising levels of transnational crime. The use of scholarly sources adds credibility to the arguments presented.

Strengths:

- The essay provides a comprehensive overview of the topic, covering key concepts and issues related to environmental security and transnational crime.

- The integration of relevant scholarly sources enhances the credibility and depth of analysis.

- The essay effectively highlights the interconnectedness between environmental degradation, resource-based conflicts, and transnational crime, illustrating the complex nature of the issue.

Areas for Improvement:

- Consider providing more specific examples or case studies to illustrate key points and enhance the clarity of arguments.

- Strengthen the analysis by exploring potential solutions or mitigation strategies to address the challenges posed by environmental degradation and transnational crime.

- Pay attention to transitions between paragraphs to ensure a smooth flow of ideas and improve overall coherence.

Overall, the essay is well-written and provides valuable insights into the complex relationship between environmental security and transnational crime. With further refinement and deeper analysis, the essay has the potential to make an even stronger contribution to the understanding of this critical issue. Keep up the good work!

## **STUDENT**

Human-induced environmental damage inadvertently instigates conflict and transnational crime, leading to national security concerns (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). As Harris (2013) states, humans are at the center of climate change and are a root cause of pollution and its adverse repercussions. When humans engage in deforestation, agriculture, industrial processes, and burning fossil fuels, greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere, leading to global warming (Harris, 2013). Subsequently, transformations occur in weather patterns, creating extreme temperatures, drought, flooding, and changes in water levels (Harris, 2013). Debilitating widespread socio-economic disruption, a decline in physical well-being, and impairment of ecologic environments are prevalent (Harris, 2013). Climate change produces floods and droughts, affects food and water security, causes illnesses, and triggers climate-induced displacement (Harris, 2013). Disputes over resources driven by deforestation or water insecurity incite violence and illicit trade (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). This can be seen in the case of Syria, which experienced a civil war partly due to a severe drought (Kelley et al., 2015). Kelley et al. (2015) suggest that human activities, such as climate change, increased the likelihood of drought and caused it to be more serious (Kelley et al., 2015). The drying trend in Syria, along with rising temperatures and sea-level pressure, is consistent with the effects of greenhouse gas emissions (Kelley et al., 2015). Tensions arose over water scarcity, which significantly escalated the Syrian conflict (Kelley et al., 2015). Environmental degradation exacerbates political and economic instability, triggering social unrest and economic downturns, especially in regions dependent on natural resources (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Such instability breeds extremist groups and organized crime, threatening global security and U.S. interests (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). 2 Sustainable resource management, international cooperation, and U.S. diplomatic and military support are vital in mitigating these risks and addressing the cascading impacts of environmental degradation on stability and security worldwide (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Bergenas and Knight (2015) state that the funds from the illegal trading of natural resources, including oil, timber, and charcoal, are used to support terrorist organizations and criminal groups. Notably, the Islamic State's primary revenue stream comes from unlawfully trading oil and other terrorist groups and transnational criminals, such as al-Shabaab in East Africa, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia in South America, and the Xaysavang network in Southeast Asia, also exploit natural resources to finance their activities (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Environmental crime has global impacts on security, development, and conservation (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Environmental crime, valued at $200 billion annually, poses severe threats to national and international security, necessitating collaborative efforts from governments, nongovernmental organizations, and businesses to address the issue comprehensively (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Historically, addressing this crime has been mainly left to environmental groups, facing competition from bureaucratic and nongovernmental organizations (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Governments struggle with enforcement due to corruption and resource constraints (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). Additionally, drug violence and trafficking are interdependent on supply and demand regardless of efforts to break the cycle (TED, 2013). Unfortunately, the demand for illegal drugs remains, and consumers and policymakers exacerbate situations, escalating tensions, violence, and criminal activity (TED, 2013). Organized crime involving natural resources impacts various aspects of society, including economics, governance, and public health, urging for a reevaluation of policies and regulations to address these challenges (TED, 2009). Overall, the intricate 3 relationship between human activities and environmental factors is complex, with one exacerbating the other in a vicious cycle. 4 References Bergenas, J., & Knight, A. (2015). Green Terror: Environmental crime and illicit financing. The SAIS Review of International Affairs, 35(1), 119–131. https://doi.org/10.1353/sais.2015.0004 Harris, P. G. (2013). What’s wrong with climate politics and how to fix it. Polity Press. Kelley, C. P., Mohtadi, S., Cane, M. A., Seager, R., & Kushnir, Y. (2015). Climate change in the Fertile Crescent and implications of the recent Syrian drought. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences - PNAS, 112(11), 3241–3246. https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1421533112 TED. (2009). 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## **CHATGPT**

1. Organization and Context: 24/30

The submission provides a clear overview and introduction to the topic. The central theme is well-developed and expressed in a coherent manner throughout the essay. However, there could be slight improvements in transitioning between different sections to enhance the overall flow of ideas.

2. Knowledge and Comprehension: 25/30

The student demonstrates a solid understanding of the topic by effectively integrating information from course readings and external sources to support key points. The connection between human-induced environmental damage, transnational crime, and national security concerns is well-articulated.

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application: 22/30

The essay identifies and analyzes key issues related to human-induced environmental damage and its consequences for global security. However, deeper analysis and exploration of specific examples could enhance the argumentation and provide more nuanced insights into the topic.

4. Style and Mechanics: 8/10

The submission adheres to APA formatting guidelines and includes proper citations and references. However, there are a few grammatical errors and awkward phrasings that slightly detract from the overall clarity of the writing. Proofreading for grammatical accuracy and sentence structure is recommended.

Overall, the submission effectively addresses the assignment requirements and presents a well-supported argument. To improve, the student could consider providing more detailed analysis and examples to strengthen the discussion further. Keep up the good work, and continue refining your writing skills to communicate ideas more effectively.

## **STUDENT**

**Transnational Crime and Environmental Insecurity**

**Analyze the three most detrimental ways humans have impacted environmental systems (including climate change) resulting directly in rising levels of transnational crime**

Humans have impacted the global landscape of environmental security for decades, with the advancement of technology aiding these efforts. In the year 2009, roughly fifteen percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was contributed to organized crime, with the help of technology **(**Glenny, 2009). Eastern Europe, such as the Balkans region, and Mexico, serve as prime distribution regions for transnational criminal activities, such as prostitution and heroin. Across the countries where distribution is heavy, violence and conflict are in high occurrence. As a result, the environmental security of the region is impacted negatively, due to the consequences endured via physical destruction of lands caused by warfare, as well as the overuse of land and natural resources during the process of cultivating and distributing organized criminal networks.

**Identify how each action results in straining US national security concerns: Explain the destabilizing influences that result from resource-based conflict**

U.S. national security is strained as a result of organized crime, which strains environmental security, through the production and distribution of organized crime products and services that occur within the U.S. Where politicians and officials once left the task of environmental protection largely with affiliated agencies, environmental crime is driving the need for politicians and officials to participate in enhanced collaborative efforts (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). As a result, these collaborative efforts will offer less strain on US national security concerns, as continuity is gained on key topics concerning environmental insecurity, due to environmental crime.

Examples of destabilizing influences over populations of people consist of natural disasters, inaccessibility to clean water, and frequent patterns of migration (Harris, 2013). As a result, this contributes to instability and environmental insecurity, through resource-based conflict.

**Identify the growing role that the natural environment plays in contributing to or causing political and /or economic destabilization within a country or within a region**

The natural environment plays a large role in contributing to political and economic destabilization, through environmental insecurity. Populations of people rely on the resources that the natural environment provides. Often, organized crime takes advantage of such resources for the profit of their organized criminal activity. In turn, this brews chaos, violence, and instability, making it difficult for politicians and law enforcement professionals to curb, control and discourage such activity (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). For example, in the Bahamas, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and drug trafficking have been linked together by the US Department of State (Bergenas & Knight, 2015). This offers an example of how the natural environment contributes to instability across environmental security.

**Analyze how political or economic destabilization can lead to security concerns for the U.S.**

Political and economic destabilization can lead to US security concerns through the concept of lack of collaboration and continuity between officials and affiliated agencies. The need for officials to focus on the matters involving their state, while also staying fully attuned to the matters involving national and international concerns is growing in importance (Harris, 2013). Without this ability, rendered by local and state officials, collaborative efforts will perhaps continue to fall short.

References

Bergenas, J., & Knight, A. (2015). Green terror: Environmental crime and illicit financing. *The*

*SAIS Review of International Affairs, 35*(1), 119-131.

https://www.proquest.com/scholarly-journals/green-terror-environmental-crime-illicit/docview/1690465049/se-2

Glenny, M. (2009). *How global crime networks work*. (video).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO1Me-MY-Q0

Harris, P. G. (2013). *People-Centered Diplomacy: Human Rights and Globalization Justice*.

What’s wrong with climate politics and how to fix it. (pp. 119-143). Cambridge: Polity Press

## **CHATGPT**

Overall Evaluation:

1. Organization and Context: 24/30

2. Knowledge and Comprehension: 26/30

3. Analysis, Evaluation, and Application: 25/30

4. Style and Mechanics: 9/10

Overall Score: 84/100

Feedback:

1. \*\*Organization and Context (24/30)\*\*:

- Your essay provides a clear overview of how humans impact environmental systems, leading to rising levels of transnational crime. However, the introduction could be more concise, and the transitions between paragraphs could be smoother to improve the overall flow of the essay.

2. \*\*Knowledge and Comprehension (26/30)\*\*:

- You demonstrate a solid understanding of the topic, drawing upon relevant sources to support your arguments. The integration of insights from Glenny (2009), Bergenas & Knight (2015), and Harris (2013) enriches your analysis and provides a comprehensive view of the issue.

3. \*\*Analysis, Evaluation, and Application (25/30)\*\*:

- Your analysis effectively examines how resource-based conflicts and environmental insecurity strain US national security concerns. The examples provided, such as illegal fishing activities in the Bahamas, add depth to your argument. However, further elaboration on the mechanisms through which environmental crime directly impacts national security could strengthen your analysis.

4. \*\*Style and Mechanics (9/10)\*\*:

- Your essay adheres to APA formatting guidelines and includes appropriate citations and references. The writing is clear and free of major grammatical errors. However, some sentences could be rephrased for clarity and precision.

Overall, your essay presents a thoughtful analysis of the relationship between human-induced environmental damage and transnational crime. To enhance your work, consider refining the organization of your essay for improved coherence and strengthening the analysis by providing more detailed examples and connections between environmental insecurity and national security concerns. Keep up the good work!