

Ukraine in Turmoil

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

I have attended Horace Mann Model UN, John Hopkins Model UN, and Stuy Model UN.

2. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?

The Ukrainian crisis is not a special case when considering the situation of the area during the past few decades. However, what makes Ukraine interesting is how it shows that the leaders of the developed world have yet learned the lesson that appeasement will only end in regrets. When Hitler became supreme leader of Nazi Germany, he demanded the allies to allow him to annex Sudetenland and Czechoslovakia. When they did, he asked for Poland. Vladimir Putin is the leader of an ex-superpower, a shame that he has to carry for the rest of his life. He will do all in his power to bring back glory to Russia and her people, similar to Hitler's promise of German superiority. The West cannot allow history to repeat itself once more, for the world will not survive this time around.

3. What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine's relationship with both the West and with Russia?

Ukraine, along with much of Western Europe, relies on Russia's pipeline to power its economy. Just as how no country ever wants to be at the discretion of another, Ukraine wants independence not just politically, but also economically. By being part of EU, Ukraine will have both the security and economic benefits it needs to survive as a sovereign state. After years of hardships and discrimination by the Soviet Union,

Ukrainians have developed their own identity and culture. The only factor tying Ukraine to Russia is the corruption of ex political Ukrainian leaders.

4. The annexation of Crimea – justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

The annexation of Crimea was intrusive, but not violent. It was a violation of international laws, but who really has jurisdiction to enforce those laws? Russia, as sovereign states, has the right to expand her borders if she chooses to do so. In the past, when a nation tried to invade another nation, the second Great War erupted. However, during the Crimean crisis, weapons were drawn but no serious blood was drawn. The Holocaust was a crime, the Rwanda Genocide was a crime, Mao's economic plans were a crime – Russia's peaceful annexation of Crimea is not a crime. But was it justifiable? Yes, according to Charles Darwin.