

What interests you about China?

Since I was born, China has always interested me. My parents were both born in China, which allowed me to be very exposed to the Chinese culture and language. I found myself especially lucky to have this sort of exposure, since the country and its history has always fascinated me. The way China associates itself with its history is unique from any other country. France, Germany, and several other countries were all at one point part of the Roman Empire, but they rarely if ever would refer to themselves as such. On the other hand, regardless of the countless internal wars China has been through, they continue to identify themselves China for thousands of years.

Unfortunately, the way in which we study China in school tends to be very short and unsatisfying ways. Any reference to Chinese history is in the context of the United States or other western nations. Middle school units focused on Ancient Chinese history, but there is no strong curriculum for Chinese history at the high school level. Therefore, I've had to fulfil most of my interests about China on my own through either independent studies or clubs like Model UN. From the building of the Great Wall to China's current involvement in sustaining North Korea, I love studying it all. I hope to be able to continue learning about China by participating in this committee.

2. What interests you about Communism?

The effects of Communism in the global community are different in every place it has been, which is especially interesting. It's been used as an effective system of economy in countries like China and a fear tactic in countries like the United States. The most drastic example of the use of Communism is evidentially during the Cold War. The world stood completely divided, exclusively due to communism. Germany, Berlin, the Korean Peninsula. Everything was broken on the basis of Communism. The fact that one ideal can have that immense of a power is truly fascinating.

3. Explain your experience doing role-play, in Model UN or any other activity (including acting, etc.).

I participated in the United Nations Security Council at HMUN last January. Other than that, I haven't had much role-play experience. I look forward to PMUNC as a chance to improve my crisis skills and experience this different style of debate.

4. Do you have a particular interest in a certain time period, type of government, etc.? If so, why?

I have interests in many different time periods. I appreciate studying the Mongol Empire and other ancient and medieval civilizations, in addition to more modern subjects like the United States' involvement in Afghanistan. One of my favorite time periods would

probably have to be the Cold War. Like stated earlier, the manner in which the world stood completely divided is mind blowing. Both the United States and the Soviet Union tried to prove that the political and economic system that they use is superior to the others without overstepping a boundary that could result in nuclear warfare. Instead, both global superpowers resorted to using smaller testing grounds to prove their superiority. The wall surrounding West Berlin, the missiles aimed directly for Florida, the intense fight against the Viet Cong, everything was used as a power play towards this end goal. How these two intensely disagreeing parties could avoid going to war is amazingly intriguing.