

**Julia Lehrer**

## **Ukraine in Turmoil**

**1. What is your past Model UN experience?** I have no past Model UN experience.

**2. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?** What I find interesting about the Ukrainian crisis is that at one point Ukraine and Russia were allies. As political leaders views changed, Ukraine wanted to create closer ties with the west. Russia felt threatened by this and used their military power to influence the Ukraine.

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

**and with Russia?** One factor that affects Ukraine's relations with the west and Russia is its location. On a map you are able to see that it is next to Russia which causes Russia to have influence over Ukraine while it is trying to create connections to the west. Russia is very concerned about access to certain trade related ports in Ukraine so, Russia wants to maintain influence over the Ukraine. Also there are cultural factors that influence the relations between Ukraine and Russia and the west. There are ethnic Russians living in the Ukraine. Russia claims they have an interest in protecting this group of people and this gives them a valid reason to occupy Ukraine. Finally, economics also are a factor. The Ukraine wants to create closer economic ties with the west because of opportunities in the future, but Russia wants to keep economic ties with Ukraine and they think that if Ukraine creates western economic ties it will threaten Russia's.

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

I think that the annexation of Crimea from Russia was a crime because Russia stole Crimea from Ukraine to use it as Russian territory. Crimea was recognized as part of Ukraine and Russia used military force to take it.