

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

I am the Secretary-General of Dalton's Model UN team, having participated in this character-shaping extracurricular since the beginning of my freshmen year. Over these four MUN seasons, I have persistently attended 5 conferences a year, including PMUNC in 2011 and 2012. At PMUNC 2012 I represented the People's Republic of China on the UNSC. I have also taken my passion for the art of negotiation, international politics, and debate into other contexts. For example, this past summer I was selected to the competitive Yale Young Global Scholars program in Grand Strategy which focused largely on international security studies, policy making, and even included a crisis simulation of its own.

Since the beginning of my sophomore year, I would say that crisis committees have become a specialty of mine. I found them not only more challenging, but also more invigorating than typical GAs and ECOSOCs. Here, one is able to more fully adopt a role, whether as a character or country, and deal both with an overarching solution to a given issue and constant crises that pop up along the way (midnight crisis is a particular favorite of mine). In any case, out of the nine committees I have taken over the past two years, seven have been continual crisis committees (including one committee I chaired at Dalton's high school Model UN conference).

2. What do you think will cause the next major global conflict?

Marking the great crossroads between the East and West, it seems exceedingly likely that the Middle East will set the stage (or has already) for larger geopolitical conflict. Particularly as resource usage and limitations become increasingly prevalent within that region (and throughout the developing world), the Middle East will see continued tension over natural resources, namely oil, and in the process of regime change. Continuing unrest and international power dynamics within the Middle East are in the midst of pushing the region to the point of combustion. Syria, plagued by civil rest, the degeneration of order and stability, and ideological conflict, could well become the model for the rest of the region. Given the precedent of great power intervention in the pivotal area, which stretches back to the age of imperialism and even the crusades, the Middle East is poised to become a power vacuum. Rising tensions between the West, China, Russia, and Iran have the potential of reaching the point of combustion in the foreseeable future; it perhaps now less of a question if and where and more of a question of when. Furthermore, given the globe's current dependency on the Middle East for much of its energy consumption, heightening resource scarcity could well provoke a conflict centering around these key economic reserves.

3. What is your favorite utopian future and why?

The Republic, the utopian society imagined by Plato, ranks as my favorite idealized vision of the world. Here, Plato describes a society divided into three categories: the producers, auxiliaries(warriors), and the enlightened elite. As each segment of Plato's Republic never seeks to expand its function into any other segment, the interests and needs of the state are streamlined and stabilized. The elite to rule in the interests of the producers without impediment to their decisions, the auxiliaries uphold the will of the rulers without questioning their mandates, and the producers use their economic role to keep the elite in power. As long as one does not violate the bounds of his or her designated station in life, society functions. Order, prosperity, and stability is guaranteed by the fact that only those with the requisite knowledge make policy, only those with the necessary skills participate in the economy, and the loyalty

of the security force is a guarantee. In the Republic, the well being of one class depends entirely on the others, incentivizing fairness, organization, and progress.

#### 4. What is your favorite dystopian future and why?

Though perhaps not as groundbreaking as George Orwell's *1984* or Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, I would select *V For Vendetta* by Alex Moore as my favorite dystopian future. My choice lies less in the ability of the plot, characters, or prose to capture a reactionary assessment of modern society and more in Moore's accurate depiction of the sociopolitical trajectory of the contemporary world. Set in a totalitarian state ruled by the Norsefire party, the events of the novel revolve around diametrically opposed embodiments of total order and total freedom. The alternatives of the Western liberal democratic model, in which capitalism and human agency dominate thought and politics -- sometimes to the detriment of forward movement and certain segments of society -- and the Chinese authoritarian model, the prime example of a political entity which sacrifices individual freedom for the collective drive for progress, represent two possible paths for humanity in the coming decades. Each offers different benefits and possibilities for human society. But, as the dark, unnerving tone of *V for Vendetta* conveys, these two options will inevitably become increasingly polarized, often with violent results.

#### 5. Is it easier to imagine the end of the world or the end of capitalism? Briefly imagine one of them.

Political and social considerations aside, capitalism and modernity are now completely integrated concepts. With the collapse of the socialist alternative following the fall of the USSR in 1991 and China's decisive embracement of a market economy, capitalism has emerged as an almost inseparable part of the contemporary human condition. As a result, it is far easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism. Between the rising clout of Chinese corporate giants such as Huawei and the political advantages offered by super PACs in the United States, capitalism is now a driving sociopolitical -- not just economic -- force on the world stage. In fact, it seems increasingly likely that growing corporatism, resource competition, and struggle for economic dominance will fuel the conditions necessary for the collapse of the globe than the other way around.

#### 6. Where will you be in 2050?

By 2050, I hope to be in the upper echelons of U.S. policymaking. As someone with a great interest in politics and economics, I see myself influencing, and hopefully bettering, the path our society follows. After gaining a strong educational background, I plan to pursue a career either in the Department of Defense or Foreign Service. I am incredibly interested in working at the highest levels of US policymaking; by 2050, global power and economic dynamics will certainly have dramatically shifted. Though economist Jeffrey Sachs suggested separated foreign and economic policies, the two issues will certainly continue to play important roles in determining future U.S. policy and perhaps, as resources grow scarcer and conflict more prevalent, increasingly integrated aspects of government. Thus, by 2050, I would hope to become a high ranking officer beginning to construct the future of US policy both at home and abroad.