



THE AMERICAN WHIG-CLIOSOPHIC SOCIETY  
International Relations Council



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

CRISIS COMMITTEE APPLICATION QUESTIONS 2014

**Ukraine in Turmoil**

1. What is your past Model UN experience?
2. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?
3. What are some of the major ~~Text~~ factors that influence Ukraine's relationship with both the West and with Russia?
4. The annexation of Crimea—justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

Text

Name: Lilit Badeyan

School: CATS Academy Boston

1) I have been to two MUN conferences: Harvard MUN 2014 and Boston College MUN 2014. I was in the Economics and Finance Committee of the General Assembly for my Harvard MUN and in Social and Humanitarian Committee of the General Assembly for my Boston College MUN 2014.

After these conferences I have realized that each conference is very unique and needs a very individual approach. I definitely think that the experience students gain from such conferences pays off all of the time and effort put into the preparation for the conference.

2) Being from a former Soviet Union country, I am very interested in the political situation within the territory of the former Soviet Union. I have a good understanding of the culture of these countries. I also like how Russia, Europe and USA are somehow involved in this conflict. I have been following the events in Ukraine very closely for the past several months and it would be my absolute pleasure to have the opportunity to share my ideas about this issue with others and hear their opinions.

3) It is crucial to understand how much effect the Soviet Union had on the culture of Ukraine. Since early centuries, Ukraine was Russia's brother country. The eastern part of Ukraine is very densely populated by Russians and pro-Russians. Also, most of the Ukrainians speak both, Russian and Ukrainian. At the same time the Western part of Ukraine, which is situated in the Eastern Europe, has always been influenced by Europe.

These two different opinions of the population about which country should Ukraine has close relationships with have caused the government trouble in identifying Ukraine's "brother" country.

4) Crimea has been a Russian land for many centuries. However, in 1954, Nikita Khrushchev, who was the First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, granted Ukraine with Crimea as a symbolic gift to Ukraine for being part of Tsardom of Russia for 300 years. Yet, one cannot ignore the fact that Khrushchev himself was Ukrainian. This "symbolic gift" was very likely to have been granted to Ukraine by Khrushchev because of his personal feelings of nationalism. It is also important to note that more than half of the Crimean population is Russian, and only slightly above 20% is Ukrainian.

It would have been a justice to allow Crimea join the Russian Federation, if the majority of the Crimean population would have voted for it. Even according to the American understanding of the simple human rights, every person has the right of "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness", and if these Crimean people find their "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" in being part of the Russian Federation, then no law can stop them from becoming the part of a country, which they call "homeland".

At the same time we cannot fully justify the actions taking my Russia since February 2014. The military intervention of the Russian Federation in Ukraine, the annexation of parts of Ukraine other than Crimea and the creation of such an unstable economic situation in Ukraine is a crime committed by the Russian Federation.