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- 1) I have had no Model UN experience because this is my first Model UN.
- 2) One thing that interests me about this crisis is how similar it is to the happenings just before the start of the second world war. Adolf Hitler annexed Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia (and eventually the rest of it) without any military response from the other European Powers, sort of like how Russia annexed Crimea without any response (besides other countries condemning their actions). This seems like a clear example to me of history repeating itself, which is fascinating, as well as terrifying, considering the events that happened AFTER Hitler annexed these countries. Another point about the crisis that interests me is the fact that not ALL the people consider themselves to be Ukrainian; some consider themselves Russian, even though it has been over two decades since the end of the Soviet Union. A great example of this is an acquaintance of mine; he is actually Ukrainian, but when asked, he says he is "Soviet" because his family lived in Ukraine during the Soviet Union.
- 3) One major factor that influences Ukraine's relationship with the West is that their government wants to be a democratic government. Since the majority of the western countries are democratic, they are sympathetic to the desires of the Ukrainian government, so they try to foster good relations with them, and vice versa. A major factor that influences the relationship between Ukraine and Russia is the fact that at one time they were under the same government: the U.S.S.R. In addition, they share a border. Furthermore, because some Ukrainians consider themselves Russian, they sympathize with Russian ideals.
- 4) The annexation of Crimea, quite simply, is a crime. There was no agreement on the part of the Ukrainian government to give Crimea to Russia willingly, Russia seized it without the consent of the Ukrainian government. Russia had placed its troops in Crimea, so they really didn't have much of a choice otherwise. The UN also declared the Crimean status referendum (stating they wanted to join the Russian Federation) invalid with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/262, a vote of 100 in favor vs. 11 against with 58 abstentions. However, Russia recognized the referendum and in spite of the UN resolution, acting illegally, they annexed Crimea.