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Model UN

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Ukraine in Turmoil

**What is your past Model UN experience?**

I have been involved in Model UN since my freshman year of high school and ever since I began, I have participated in numerous conferences around the Pittsburgh area and select travel conferences for both my freshman and sophomore years. The conferences where I have participated locally include the University of Pittsburgh, where I shared the Best Delegation Award of the Russian Federation in my sophomore year, Duquesne University, where I was Luxembourg my sophomore year that placed third in the conference, and Westminster College. Due to local conferences, I have excellent experience with general assembly rooms. For travel conferences, I have participated at Princeton University and Johns Hopkins University for my freshman and sophomore years. In my freshman year at Princeton, I was the Minister of Communications in the 1999 Russia-Chechnya conflict and my sophomore year; I was awarded Outstanding Delegate for my role as the Vice President in the Syrian Regime and their conflict with Syria. In my freshman year at Johns Hopkins, I participated as Germany in the SOCHUM committee and in my sophomore year at Johns Hopkins, I acted as the Vice President of the Syrian Regime in the Joint Crisis between the Syrian Regime and Assad’s Cabinet.

**What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?**

There are many aspects about the Ukrainian crisis that interest and intrigue me. One is how it seems that Russia is longing to become another Russian empire and eventually obtain all the land that they can. It personally concerns me because Vladimir Putin is a ruthless leader with only his perspective in mind. Also, it bothers me that the number of Ukrainians revolting is not an exponentially high number for the things going on in their country due to Russia’s action. I think that this committee would be exciting to be in because of the severity and the contemporary nature of the topic.

**What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine’s relationship with both the West and with Russia?**

A factor with Ukraine’s relationship with Russia originates from Ukraine once being part of the Soviet Union and their close proximity keeps them related geographically and socially. Ukraine and Russia also have a trade relationship of materials to benefit each economy. Russia seems to want to restore the Soviet Union and become the once-powerful nation again. Ukraine and the West have a good relationship due to the fact the United States is helping Ukraine in their time of turmoil and harshly sanctioning Russia for their actions. Ukraine’s relationship with the West is helping them “stay alive” in this incredibly difficult situation with Putin and Russia.

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

The annexation of Crimea is absolutely a crime and was even labeled as illegal by the UN General Assembly. Russia’s movement of military force and control against Crimea is not justifiable because they are power hungry, desiring to restore the Soviet Union. Also, Russia has vetoed any action from the Security Council, proving that they know they did wrong, but do not want anyone to be able to stop them. Russia simply ignored international law and opposed any votes against their actions. Although Crimea was once part of the Soviet Union, Russia does not have the right or power to annex the region just to obtain more land.