Ukraine in Turmoil

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

My past experience with this issue is very limited, and I personally have not covered the issue of Ukraine in depth, especially with the emerging crisis with the Russian Federation. However, I do have significant experience in Model UN. I had a great time role playing Jalal Khanj, Mayor of Aleppo in Syria, in last year's Princeton conference, so I look forward to role play again. I have also participated in 15 other Model UN conferences, including another 4 day conference at Johns Hopkins, and have won an honorable delegation award at the Westminster Model UN conference.

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

What interests me mainly about this crisis is the International impact this is leaving on other countries, and how they react to the Russian occupation of Ukraine. This mainly applies to the United States, but also with Russia, China, and the United Kingdom as well. I am also interested in the Ukrainian public viewpoint of this situation. For instance, would the opinion of the citizens of Crimea differ from those of the citizens of Northern Ukrainians? During the secession it seemed pretty clear that many were in favor of becoming part of Russia, and some were not as well. This conflict in itself has my interest in the topic.

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

Major factors that influence Ukraine's relationship with the west and Russia are mainly the economics that bind Russia with the rest of the world, primarily oil. Russian oil ties much of Russia to many nations in Europe, such as Ukraine, and can control many nations' outlooks on this issue. Along with Russian oil, other factors that would tie Russia with the western world are the countries that were once a part of the Soviet Union, and how they would see the situation. Like Ukraine, their existence is entirely based off of the separation of the Soviet Union, and would likely support Russia. But because they are like Ukraine in the fact they are former Soviet States, they could also side with Ukraine. So depending on how those countries support either cause will determine how the rest of the world sees Ukraine; a Soviet state either choosing to return as a Russian state, being forced to become part of Russia again, or simply remaining a free nation.

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

The annexation of Crimea can't be justified, politically speaking. It was voted by the inhabitants of Crimea to become included into Russia, and was done so democratically. However, it wouldn't be justifiable because according to NATO, the annexation of Crimea was illegal, and Ukraine would have to have to converse with Russian counterparts and work with Russian allies to be annexed and become part of Russia, which was not the case. So putting that into consideration, the annexation of Crimea cannot be considered completely justified.