Mao’s Yan’An Red Base

1. What interests you about China?

China is one of the world’s oldest civilizations with an unbelievably rich culture and history. From the Xia Dynasty to the ongoing overthrow of Chiang-Kai Shek by Chairman Mao’s administration, China has seen the surrounding world change dramatically while they, in many ways, embraced the continuity of their ancestral culture. China is a place of enormous productive output, huge population, and a tremendously entrenched way of life. The rise of communism in China is perhaps most interesting in its irony: the nation’s sociopolitical structure that remained so inert over the course of thousands of years suddenly embraced a revolution fighting for a total change in the economic, political, and social organization of the entire nation

2. What interests you about Communism?

My interest in Communism is decidedly not an endorsement of it as a political or economic system. Market economies are able to far more efficiently produce and allocate goods than any potential structure of a command economy. History has proven the free flow of capital and monetary incentive essential in ushering in economic growth. What is interesting about Communism is its use as a tool for the seizure of power and the slightly different implementations across nations. When the government wields limitless executive power, we can study their decisions to learn an extraordinary amount about human nature and historical grand strategy.

3. Explain your experience doing role-play, in Model UN or any other activity (including acting, etc.).

I have extensive experience in Model UN winning 5 best delegate awards at nationally recognized conferences including Pmunc last year. I am the vice-chairman of the board at Horace Mann Model UN

4. Do you have a particular interest in a certain time period, type of government, etc.? If so, why?

I have a significant interest in the interplay between political and economic systems of governance. Originally, the world saw only socialism linked to Communism and Capitalism linked to democracy. Yet, the modern geopolitical climate indicates that, in many ways, they are interchangeable. We see socialist democracies in Scandinavia and capitalist Communism in China. My interest truly lies in the interaction between these systems and the effect that that might have upon the daily life of a nation’s citizens.