1. What interests you about China?

As a student of history I always find myself poring over information spanning continents. I usually also maintain a vested interest in languages and their connection to history, and I enjoy learning bits and pieces of European terms and phrases to go along with my studies. However, I have never attempted a linguistic exploration of East Asia because of the imposing notion of learning thousands of characters. This fear in turn leads to a less emphatic study of most East Asian nations, including China. However, my linguistic fear is what interests me about China, a gigantic nation and idea that I may never be able to fully experience linguistically, yet is one of the most important countries to understand in the modern world.

1. What interests you about Communism?

In the case of this committee, I am particularly intrigued by the notion of a Chinese Communism versus a Russian Communism. To my knowledge, Russia had a larger portion of its subjects under the revolutionary banner before 1917, but Communism in China was forcibly imposed. This merits further research mainly because it is interesting! Additionally, Communism is what I feel I would turn to should my leftist beliefs turn me into a frustrated individual in a conservative nation and from there into a militant nutcase, possibly culminating with a Stalinist regime. Seeing this frustration pan out in the frame of history is pretty cool. The hypocrisy of a conservative government with leftist origins is fun to examine.

1. Role-play experience?

Acting has played a vital role in my life despite it not being entirely contiguous in my life. I’ve been in a few plays but I’ve never geared into a consistent commitment. I prefer to role-play inwardly, through reading books and online discourse. Many video games have offered an opportunity to participate in my own historical “what-if” simulations, but reading history for me is also its own simulation, and reading a book is much healthier than staring at a screen. I enjoy stories and like to see how they play out through history and how we live them today, which comes to my interest in Model UN. I participated in the Yale conference two years ago but have not been able to resume since then due to some medical, psychological, and academic difficulties and shortcomings. I’m excited to get back into MUN this year.

1. Particular interests? Time period, government, etc.?

It would seem that I always hover over the medieval period while studying history. Boys go nuts over the concept of knights and kings (feudalism, in short), and I developed that craze over time into an academic interest. Medieval times are to me the segue of ancient concepts to the crystallization we see happening so fast now in the modern age, and therefore require a gratuitous amount of attention from our society that I do not believe is enforced now, nor may ever be. I am strongly considering a history curriculum with a medieval studies focus as what I want to pursue in college.