Nathan Levin- Crisis Committee Application

**Mao's Yan'An Red Base-1st Choice**

1. China interests me as a country struggling with a kind of identity crisis. On one hand, it is a burgeoning world power, and is gaining the international clout that comes with the title. However, some aspects of Chinese society, both culturally and politically, remain those of bygone eras. China claims to be communist, yet is a country pivotal to the functioning of capitalism in many developed nations. The country claims to still be strong in its Maoist roots, but is increasingly indistinguishable business-wise from the capitalist nations it claims to be apart from. There are also some latent aspect of Chinese culture and policies, including environmental and labor practices and historical territorial claims, that are at odds with the wishes and views of other international and regional power, though in some regards, like the environment, the government is pushing hard for improvement.  
     
   Also, I should note that I am taking Mandarin as a foreign language.
2. Communism interests me in its attempted application, which always seems to have some kind of inefficiency and, ultimately, leads to the oppression and impoverishment of large segments of the population. I am studying economics in high school, which focuses almost exclusively on capitalism. Communism gives me a look into an entirely different system.
3. My experience with role-playing is fairly limited. I have had to ask on several occasions for various performances in school, but most of them have been minor in scope. The majority of my experience comes from Model UN. I have participated in numerous Model UN conferences, including at WAMUNC three times, RUMAN twice, and my school’s own Model UN conference (AMUN) twice (as a delegate). However, the clearest example of role-playing I can think of was at last year’s WAMUNC. I was part of an ad hoc committee, which turned out to be a planned Chinese invasion of Taiwan, though it quickly devolved into my committee assuming the role (rather unintentionally) of a semi-rouge terrorist cell in the US, but I digress. In this scenario, each delegate was given a specific role. Mine was related to the use of special military forces. In this exercise, each delegate needed to use their individual skills, in conjunction with the others’ to accomplish whatever goal may be desired. It was here that I felt myself most in character.
4. A time period that particularly interests me is the Renaissance. What really strikes me about it is the mingling of both old and new systems of thought. On one hand, the great artists of the time leaned heavily on Greek and Roman ideals, but at the same time, architects and inventors were creating contraptions and structures of a design never seen before. There is also the fascinating politics. I’ve seen videos and read about how the papacy was fought over and really just used as a tool for personal and familial gain. Yet despite this irreverence, the Church still stood as a key figure in the way of much of the progress of the time, from the persecution of Galileo to the Bonfire of the Vanities.   
     
   Yes, what appeals to me about the Renaissance is the mingling of ideas both old and new to create an extremely dynamic and complex society, one that sparked a revitalization in Europe of techniques, designs, and methods long thought lost, with a whole batch of new ones as well.