Nathan Levin- Crisis Committee Application

**Ukraine in Turmoil**

1. I have attended numerous Model UN conferences, including RUMUN (2 times), WAMUNC (3 times), and my school’s own Model UN conference, AMUN (2 times as a delegate). Last year at AMUN, I chaired a JCC committee focused on the fall of Rome.
2. The Ukrainian crisis, for me, is most interesting in its broader implications for foreign intervention in regional conflict. Aside from some sanctions, the international community has been passive in its treatment of the Russian annexation of Crimea. Whether or not this will encourage future actions, on the part of Russia or some other regional power, to assert dominance in the area remains to be seen. For Russia in particular, I am interested to see if Putin wishes to continue annexation of former Soviet territories.
3. Ukraine’s relationship with the West and Russia is, quite obviously, multifaceted. For the West, or to be more specific, Europe, Ukraine seems to have ambitions to expand its trade and Western political ties, even so far as to seek EU membership. Militarily, Ukraine has also expressed interest in joining NATO, which would no doubt be to Russia’s displeasure, especially considering the protections afforded to a NATO member from the alliance.  
     
   Russia’s relationship with Ukraine, however, has clear historical and cultural roots, going back to the before the Soviet Union. Economically, Ukraine, like many European nations, is largely dependent on Russia for its energy sources. In addition, many oil and gas pipelines, many of which have Russian origins, pass through Ukraine, making the country geopolitically important.   
     
   As a final note, Ukraine has cultural ties to Russia, with many Ukrainians also having Russian heritage, which is often accompanied by Russian political leanings. This is definitely a hot topic when discussing the annexation of Crimea, a region with a particularly high population of culturally Russians.
4. I would call the annexation of Crimea a crime. Neglecting the fact that the majority of the international community disagrees with Russia’s actions, it is a gross violation of national sovereignty to invade a country (without an official announcement, I might add) and force elections in a specific region aimed at forcing secession. With the additional reports of rigged ballots and recruitment vans (to sign people up as Russian citizens) to inflate the number of Russian citizens in the area, as well as the Russian sponsoring of Ukrainian rebel groups, I am of the opinion that Russia blatantly abused Ukraine to gain more territory. Furthermore, the Russian obfuscation surrounding the downing of MH17 cements my opinion that Russia has its own interests front and center and could not care less about the people of Ukraine.