Mao’s Yan’An Red Base

1. What interests you about China?

What interests me the most about China is the history and culture of China during the imperial period. China accomplished so much in that period as one of the most advanced cultures on earth at that time, from the invention of gunpowder and fire works to the building of the Great Wall. This culture don’t seem to have much of a place in how China is viewed today. Most people focus on Chinese history after World War 2, focusing on the Mao’s revolution and everything that followed.

2. What interests you about Communism?

A: What I find most interesting about Communism is how easy a system it is to exploit, and how often it is exploited by the very leaders who attempted to put it into place. Communism almost always became the system of government through a violent revolution against an oppressive dictatorship or monarchy. However, once the Communist government is firmly in place, in invariably becomes an oppressive dictatorship, often worse than the government it had overthrown, the difference being that the new ruling class is the perpetrators of the revolution. Though Communism seems like it should be an extraordinary improvement from the previous government, the Communist government always ends up oppressing and exploiting the people that the revolution was supposed to benefit.

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

A: Last year, at JHUMUNC at Johns Hopkins University I portrayed Koji Murofushi, a Buddhist warrior monk and general in the Sohei Committee of the Genpei War Quad. I am also currently taking the Advanced Acting class at my high school.

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

A: I am extremely interested in the Medieval and Renaissance period in history, in fact that is what I plan on majoring in college. This period fascinates me because I feel that it is often overlooked in studies of history, but despite that some of the foundations that modern society is built on were made in that period. I am particularly interested in Medieval religion and the influence it had on the government, both the Catholic Church and the Church of England in Europe, as well as Islam in the Middle East. The church had enormous influence over the rulers and the common people alike and I am very interested in studying how that influence Medieval and Renaissance government and culture.