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1. I find China particularly interesting due to both its odd position in the world order in the modern day as well as its incredibly turbulent political shifts from the late 1800s onward. China uniquely in the modern world stands as a bastion of State Control, Socialism, and Proud Nationalism that is a Great Power on the World Stage. Yet, China’s government and society almost seem like anachronisms in their own country as they modernize their economy to become increasingly market oriented. Piecing out from behind the secrecy of the CCP which of the opposing movements will be dominant in China month to month provides endless intrigue to study. Not only that, but all this policy lies on a rich historical backdrop of both an emperor, a republic, a conservative communist party, and a liberalizing communist party all ruling the country in just one century, all of whom have more than enough unsavory actions tied to their names.
2. Communism interests me in its power to come out from the control of the Strongmen whose regime was often based upon it. It proved very useful for starting quick, powerful, inspirational revolutions for overturning many national establishments. Yet, once a new party is in power the very ideology that they used to gain control can easily slip from their control to justify their own removal in the pursuit of “equality” once the first group has “unequal” power. How each communist regime approached and resolved this issue, and how it manifested itself proves an interesting concept that reflects a good deal of the culture the regime rules over.
3. My experience in role playing consists of extensive experience in Model UN, and two simulations in my AP European History class. In Model UN I have role-played as a member of the Stark faction of a Song of Ice and Fire in the Game of Thrones Quadrumvirate at JHUMUNC. The next year I served as a Japanese Nobel Women at JHUMUNC’s Quadrumvirate the next year. I have played a Baron at the ratification of the Magna Carta for BUSUN. I have served as a corrupt politician in Tammany Hall at WAMUNC. My favorite role play was as a Southern Democrat from Georgia in the Senate of 1860 at WAMUNC as well. All of these Model UN committees were crisis committees or contained crisis elements. I also served as a member of the British Delegation for a simulation of the Congress of Vienna and a member of the Austrian delegation at a hypothetical Paris Peace Conference for WW1, both of these were in my AP Euro class.
4. I am particularly interested in the politics of Europe from the Congress of Vienna to WW1 due to the complexity of the diplomacy and the massive geopolitical games that were played via this diplomacy. I also gain plenty of entertainment from the vicious political debates that accompanied this swath of history. Besides this period I have no particular interests and prefer to be generally open to what ends up appealing to me.