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Princeton Model UN Competition

Mao’s Yan’an Red Base

1. What interests you about China?

My interests in China are on its political philosophy and the influence of its culture upon the rest of Asia. Regarding China’s political philosophy, they have a political system that follows the Marxist-Leninist philosophy but fuses with the plight of the agricultural peasants throughout Asia. Marxist-Leninist communism is mainly focused on having a revolution which would come from the proletariat. The proletarians, in the sense of Western communism, are the people who work in the cities, in the manufacturing sector producing goods for the bourgeoisie. These workers hand to endure long hours at work and the conditions were dangerous, which led to high death rates among industrial workers. In Chinese communist thought, the proletarians were the peasants who worked in the farms because in Asia, the poor or the underclass were the farmers while the city dwellers were inhabited by the middle and upper classes. This thought of the farmers originating a revolution against their oppressors was symbolic to the Chinese communist thought. Then, this philosophy helped in causing communist revolutions in Vietnam, North Korea, and to a certain extent, Cambodia with the Khmer Rouge. This shows the type of influence that China has throughout most of Asia. In addition, it doesn’t surprise me of this kind of influence because China has been the epicenter of Asian culture and philosophy, with the spread of values of Taoism and Confucianism.

1. What interests you about Communism?

As far communism, my interests are based upon the teachings of this philosophy and its use in world history. Communism was a philosophy that mainly focused on having the equal distribution of resources to everyone and that there would be no class system which would say about who gets more or less resources. With communism, its usage can be best served in small communities or commonwealths because every community would be able to take care of one another easily and their government would be able to best serve the needs of their own, small populations. However, communism has been used by countries such as the former Soviet Union, Cuba, China, Russia, North Korea, etc. These countries had beginnings where the collective well-being of each citizen was put into practice. On the other hand, these nations evolved into oligarchical countries where the only people who are well-fed and taken care of are the high level government officials, while the peasantry is left to work for long hours under the threat of execution for every day of their lives. The hypocrisy is what gets me involved in communism because this philosophy could have led the way to reducing social inequalities among everyone, except, communism’s use has led to countless violations of human rights throughout its inception.

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

I have been doing Model UN competitions for two years and the countries that I had to act were some of the most controversial countries during these debates. I played as North Korea for my first time in these competitions and it was not the most ideal of countries, in terms of relations with other nations. However, I enjoyed acting as a representative of this nation and I was able to gain a better understanding of the inner-working of Model UN. For my second year, I was acting as a representative of the nation of Israel and it wasn’t the most comfortable experience with making peace with other Middle-Eastern nations who did not approve of their policies. I was able to work on making provisions on resolutions in order to better suit the policies of Israel, which showed diplomacy with other nations, which is the essence of the United Nations. It is the work of all countries to push for solutions in many countries that have the economic resources or the political transparency to make help their own citizens. Besides Model UN, I did do some acting during primary school for two years. I played the leading roles of both productions but I did not continue acting after elementary school.

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

I am interested in working in the government of India during the early 1950s. I choose this government and time period because earlier in 1947, India became its own nation after the UK implements a policy of decolonization. From here, India plays a role in international politics because within the country, there is conflict between the Muslims and the Hindus, which also led to the partition of India and Pakistan. India, at the forefront of ex-colonial possessions, is going to maintain a neutral stance between capitalism and communism. India wanted to maintain neutral stance in order to deal with its own problems, such as the poverty of the country and to reform the country from a monarchical backwater into a modern republic. In addition, this time period is highlighted by the leadership and ambition of Jawaharlal Nehru, who served as prime minister from 1947 to 1964. His policies and reforms helped to push India forward into a center of trade and commerce of the region.