PMUNC Crisis Committee Application 2014

Ukraine in Turmoil

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1. My past Model UN experience consists of attending two conferences: PMUNC 2013 for which I was on the Legal committee and NHSMUN 2014 for which I was on FAO committee. In addition, I am an officer of my school’s Model United Nations club.
2. The concept that interests me the most about the conflict in Ukraine is Russia’s annexation of Crimea. The concept that interests me the most about the conflict in Ukraine is Russia’s annexation of Crimea. One of the most intriguing concepts about the Ukrainian crisis is Putin’s justification for breaking international and Ukrainian law in order to regain Crimea. It interests me that Putin sees a strategic value in Crimea that is so lucrative that he would further estrange Russia from the United States and the EU. In addition, I am interested to see if Putin’s “land-grab” fails and Russia is forced to relinquish Crimea back to the jurisdiction of Ukraine through pressure put on Russia by the West.
3. There are a multitude of factors that affect Ukraine’s relationship with both the West and with Russia. One of the most conspicuous factors that affects Ukraine’s relations with the both the West and Russia is Ukraine’s poor economy. Ukraine has a massive debt, which has affected the population severely through unemployment and low wages. In addition, Ukraine has a very low credit rating and thusly nations are unwilling to lend it money. The only potential lenders to Ukraine at the time of the global recession in 2008 were the European Union and Russia, who could assume Ukraine’s debt without being hurt financially. The financial factor in Ukraine forced Yulia Timoshenko, the prime minister of Ukraine at the time, to forge an economic relationship with the European Union. It also made Viktor Yanukovych, the pro-Russian Prime Minister of Ukraine after Timoshenko, create an economic relationship with Russia. These two economic relationships have forged the crisis that the world finds itself in today. Another one of the most prominent elements that influenced Ukraine’s relationship with Russia is the intertwining history of the two nations. Ukraine is closely connected with Russia because, prior to 1991, it was part of the Soviet Union. The identity of many Ukrainians is shaped by their Russian background, especially in the Eastern part of the nation. Many Ukrainians identify as ethnically Russian, which has allowed Russia to infringe on Ukraine’s national sovereignty as they claim to be protecting the rights of Russians in the nation. This, again, brings us to the conflict that the world faces in Ukraine today.
4. I believe that the annexation of Crimea on the part of Russia should be classified as a crime. I consider it a crime because Russia had no right to annex Crimea without the explicit permission of the Ukrainian government. Russia’s infringement of Ukraine’s national sovereignty directly violates Article Two, Paragraph Four of the UN Charter that explicitly states that all member states should abstain from the threat or utilization of force against the territorial integrity or political autonomy of any state. By conducting a referendum and annexing Crimea, Russia showed complete neglect for international law and should thusly be punished for their crime. In addition, Russia’s actions violate the Budapest Memorandum, an agreement signed by Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. This negotiation protected the national sovereignty of Ukraine in exchange for Ukraine bestowing their nuclear weapons supply to Russia. As Ukraine kept up their part of the compromise, Russia should be held to the same standard. By annexing Crimea, Russia violates the Budapest Memorandum and thusly commits a crime under an international agreement.