Nicholas Baum

Jonathan Henry

Modern Security

“Top 5” Essay

August 28, 2019

Top 5 Security Threats

Everything in this world is at risk, either from man or nature. However, it seems that most of the risks facing us today stem, at least in part, from man.

One of the most dangerous risks facing the world, is the return of a deadly bacteria or virus from the past. Bacteria can survive for up to 32,000 years within ice. And as the earth warms, hazardous microorganisms from melting ice could wipe out a large percentage of the global population. (Fox-Skelly)

Another, debatably high risk, global threat is nuclear war. All it could take is a single nuclear missile launch, and countless cities would be eradicated in the barrage of return fire. Next would come nuclear winter, which would deal a much larger toll, resulting in untold numbers of people facing famine. (Francis)

With the sea level projected to rise as much as half a meter within 80 years, countless individuals and families could become displaced. Hundreds of cities could face flooding, and the land area lost would be similar to the size of Libya. (Parker)

Droughts are another hazard, and this will mostly affect underdeveloped countries. Global warming may wreck all sorts of hazards, including increase droughts. This could devastate people who rely on local food and water, while less effecting the people creating this mess, the developed world. Food would become increasingly scarce, and starvation would spread. (Rice)

# Each time a hurricane hits, it devastates the effected regions. This hazard will only increase over time, as global warming leads to more powerful sea storms. We’re likely to see more damage to property and wildlife. (“Global Warming and Hurricanes”)

Works Cited

Fox-Skelly, Jasmin. “There are diseases hidden in ice, and they are waking up.” *BBC*, 4 May 2017, bbc.com/earth/story/20170504-there-are-diseases-hidden-in-ice-and-they-are-waking-up. Accessed 29 Aug. 2019

Francis, Matthew. “When Carl Sagan Warned the World About Nuclear Winter.” *Smithsonian*, 15 Nov. 2017, smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/when-carl-sagan-warned-world-about-nuclear-winter-180967198/. Accessed 29 Aug. 2019

“Global Warming and Hurricanes.” *NOAA*, 15 Aug. 2019, gfdl.noaa.gov/global-warming-and-hurricanes/. Accessed 29 Aug. 2019.

Parker, Laura. “Sea Level Rise Will Flood Hundreds of Cities in the Near Future.” *National Geographic*, 12 July 2017, nationalgeographic.com/news/2017/07/sea-level-rise-flood-global-warming-science/. Accessed 29 Aug. 2019

Rice, Doyle. “The secret was in the trees. Humans are making droughts worse.” *USA Today*, 1 May 2019, usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/05/01/droughts-human-caused-global-warming-have-worsened-dry-times/3643819002/. Accessed 29 Aug. 2019