

Solving the World's Problems in a Doomsday Scenario

by Connor Gress, Sami Smith, Zaria Smith-Taylor and Austin Walls

Students in Dr. Tay Keong Tan's INST 101 Introduction to International Studies class, Spring 2015

Scenario: the year is 2030. After more than a century of industrial growth, unbridled consumerism and warfare, humanity is facing severe challenges that call in question the survival of the species. Due to natural disasters around the globe and three decades of war between the US/western allies and Islamic states, the Middle East is a cauldron of failed states and rogue regimes. Due to the declining use of oil, petroleum-dependent states were brought to the brink of economic collapse. In order to avoid their economic collapse, Muslim and Arab states around the world united and became the UFIS (United Federation of Islamic States, representing 25% of the world's population. Due to pandemic, Africa remains overpopulated and poor. China and India have raised their standards of living along with economic growth and peace they have become regional powers. Russia is once again a military powerhouse and has rekindled its desire to enlarge its territory in Eastern Europe. The EU is in economic decline. South America saw rapid economic boom and population explosion, contributing to the world's 9.7 billion population. The 2030 world meeting hosted by the UN has been called to discuss the option of a new global institution that is more suitable to handle the world's growing problems, starting with military clashes, global poverty, rapid population growth, and global emissions.

On February 19th 2030, world leaders gathered in Shanghai to develop a new world organization that will help achieve global order. They met to come up with solutions for all types of problems including poverty, lack of potable water, pandemic disease, international terrorism, and deteriorating infrastructure. The meeting was an important test of the groups' willingness to put aside their differences to help better the planet.

Our class was divided into six "country teams" and remaining members served as judges, rapporteurs, and organizers of the learning event. The six country teams competed to offer their solutions to the world's greatest challenges depicted in the scenario above. The six teams were: United States, Russia, European Union, United Federation of Islamic States, China and India. Each team was given five minutes to present its case and an opposing team was tasked to cross-examine the proposals for three more minutes. Only one person was allowed to speak at all times, and there was to be no side conversations. Presentations were strictly timed by the organizers.

The United States presented the problem of disease through unsanitary drinking water. The US solution was that we should sanitize the ocean to make it safe to drink. This would ultimately result in the destruction of our oceans, throwing nature out of balance and causing more natural disaster, including the endangering or extinction of multiple sea creatures. Russia cross examined the United States, and asked the US how it would pay for these sanitation efforts. The US replied that it would get enough money by donations; Russia was quick to point out that it would be next to impossible to get that much in donations. We have also decided that the ocean is international

territory; no one group owns it. Coming up with an agreement that all nations would agree with would be nearly impossible.

The European Union looked at rebuilding infrastructure, stating that in order to rebuild it must tax tourists and luxury items. We decided this would only drive away tourists which would ultimately contribute to economic decline, and, if this plan were to work, it would only bring money to the already wealthy popular tourist sites. The EU also wants to change twenty-seven European countries to the Euro to have a single currency. If a country does not agree, it will be penalized by not being able to trade with the rest of the European countries. UFIS cross examined the EU and asked how the EU would get other countries to agree to switch to the Euro as well as pointing out that penalizing countries making it so they couldn't trade would further decline the economy. UFIS pointed out that this solution is only for a specific group and not for the world, going against the rules of the meeting.

The next presenter, China, didn't have a solid solution to any of its problems. China only listed some basic information, details on the one-child policy and how China has the second largest GDP. Instead of trying to help the world create a new organization, China boasted about its so-called "success." When the cross-examination from India came, the delegates from China turned defensive and rude, disrespecting India and the other members of this meeting. We were extremely disappointed and annoyed with China and believed the delegates brought nothing of value to the table. We learned from China that in order to help everyone you must be able to work with all members of the group and take criticism as a positive.

The United Federation of Islamic States had three goals, find new renewable resources, reduce poverty, and improve food distribution. The delegates presented the solution as promoting technology innovations for clean power for major cities (solar, wind, and water). They wanted to provide people with social services and also look at world development with overpopulation. This group did not offer a lot of solutions and instead listed off problems only. The only solution they had was the innovations of technology. The cross-examiners, the European Union, had many questions. The EU asked where the money would come from, how they will get development, and how they would decide who gets the food first in its distribution. These questions were answered with solutions already going on with the world today (feed the children for a dollar).



The final presenter was India who focused on stability as a planet with focus on poverty, purifying water, and environmental issues. India offered that we tax the people, only a little bit, in order to be able to afford a water cleaning system that can be used globally. India was one of the only teams who thought about every country and how it could get this goal done realistically. India also wanted a "safeguard" for the United Nations when it chose not to act and most of the people want them to. The cross-examination was fueled by fire and embarrassment from China, attacking India and accusing them of being the main problem for global disaster. This does not get anything done and the only thing we could write down about the affair was that China needed to calm down or they should have been removed from the meeting.

Russia had three main worldwide problems that it focused on, global universal primary schooling; help high-risk countries with disease prevention and vaccination, and helping the environment. Russia wanted to use UNESCO for adults and children for schooling and wanted to teach about contraceptives. Russia had a clear organization to help with all of these called GOCAR. This would collect data like morality rate, CO₂ emission, and disease protocol from all the countries part of GOCAR with an open book policy. This allows every country to see what the others need to work on and then it also allows collaboration. The only point the US had during cross-examination was that there is no way to guarantee other countries will join GOCAR. In the end, Russia was the winning team. They won because of their commitment to making an organization to help the world. They were the only team who did that.

In the end we learned that no matter the difference of culture or opinion, attacking our fellow peers will do no good for the world that we are trying to save. The only way to get any good done is by listening to others and not getting offended by any questions asked. We also learned that people



today are very focused on the smaller picture when in reality the bigger one should always be at the forefronts of our mind. Without this, many of the groups lost sight of the scenario, all but Team Russia who offered a reasonable organization that will help better the world. Each member of the team received a certificate for their winning performance.

Certificate of Award

This certificate is presented to:



Team Russia



As Member of the Winning Team in the Simulation Exercise on "Sustainable Development" in the course, *Introduction to International Studies*, in the Spring Semester of 2015 at Radford University



Date: February 24th, 2015

Dr. Tay Keong Tan
Department of Political Science