2016 EPIIC United States Delegation Briefing Paper

Boston Latin School

BLS EPIIC (EPIICBLS@gmail.com)

A. As a nation we are strong, united, and proud of our history, our people, and our country. Though we can be considered a relatively new country compared to many European countries, since our birth in 1776 we have toiled to make our country a global superpower, the melting pot of the world, and a place of opportunity and freedom. Dating back to the Thomas Jefferson before Revolutionary War, to Nobel Prize Laureate Theodore Roosevelt, to Barack Obama today, we have always served as a powerful negotiator between nations, vested in protecting our and others civil liberties and freedoms. We are united not only in these fifty states, but also as one world. The world is being stricken with many crises at this time, and we hope that together as one world we can collectively come out of it with better relations and a better world in the end. We hope to continue to work closely with the European Union and other nations for the benefit and betterment of all our nations, as well as coming to consensual agreements and actions to be taken to return stability and prosperity to all of our nations.

B. As always, we are stalwart supporters of all countries having strong, stable, democratic governments. We believe it integral that in order to have a productive, equal society there must be a democratic government behind that society. Due to our strong belief in democracy and sovereignty, as we were once a colony ourselves, and do not believe in the sending of Russian troops to occupy Ukraine. We would like the Ukraine to retain their sovereignty and would like to work to secure this.

 We are a country with strong, democratic values at the core of our beliefs. As a result, we strongly support those countries work to maintain their independence, specifically Ukraine and the Crimean peninsula who want to remain independent from Russia. We also feel that the EU as a whole has to move away from Russia and specifically the dependence on Russian oil. In the greater scope of things, we would like to move away from direct military intervention. While historically we have had an integral and large role in all military interventions, we feel that we would better serve the EU taking on an advisory and support role with less of a military aspect. We fear that EU reliance on our military support has become too much and that the EU should work together to form a stronger military alliance in combating various strifes within the region. We have no formal stance on whether or not countries should join the EU, and understand that certain economic factors may deter those who would otherwise join because of the economic instability rocking the continent.

 One of our top concerns is the constant terrorism that our country faces. We are incredibly concerned about all forms of terrorism, especially those threats that are coming from the Islamic State. We want to take steps to stabilize the area that the Islamic State operates in and bring stability to the region. As of now we are not sure how this will happen, but we are open to working with those most affected and those who also are taking action against the Islamic State to put an end to this madness. We plan to continue cooperating with the NATO nations. Currently, we are trying to move away from fossil fuels and onto more renewable, domestic resources to help combat climate change and its effects. As the second largest consumer of energy we realize that we bear a lot of the responsibility for making progress around these issues and look towards other nations who have already put in effective policy for renewable energy to aid us.

 The Schengen Agreement is an impressive document, and also we believe that even without it the strength of the EU and its supportive policies can maintain the healthy economic relationships between the nations. Of course there is a real and serious threat coming from the Syrian refugee crisis, and we would like to work with European nations to help control the influx of refugees. The consequences of too many migrants in one country could are being felt across the world, and it is in everyone's interest to work to address this issue. We’d also like to address climate change, as the EU contains some of the wealthiest and eco-friendly countries in the world, we’d like to cooperate with them to create a more sustainable and stable future.

 The refugee crisis in Syria is one of the largest crises we will have to face in the nation in the last decade. We need to work together to be able to adequately combat this issue and bring stabilization back to the areas affected. There is a palpable atmosphere of fear that has enveloped the U.S. and the European continent around refugees and the possibility of infiltration of terrorists and terrorists attacks, exacerbated by the Paris terror attacks. We are a nation of immigrants and do not plan to go back to the days where we had ridiculous immigration quotas or the Chinese Exclusion Act, however our topmost concern is the safety of our citizens, and we cannot compromise that by letting millions of refugees flood to our country. We do believe within the European Union there should be a more equal distribution of refugees, having wealthier, more stable countries receive more as well as limiting the number of refugees who can enter less economically stable countries.

 In relation to the Eurozone, we are supportive of salvaging the Euro. We believe that it is stabilizing and that there should be policy be put in place to secure the future of the Euro. Though we do not use the Euro, it is a powerful currency and the Euro crisis has rocked the world economically. We would like to engage in talks over how the future of the Euro can be stabilized and secured. Since we are not part of the Eurozone we can only offer guidance and help in policy decisions.

C. Dating back to the days of our revolutionary forefathers, we have lived by the words of the Constitution. The Constitution is the groundwork the nation has laid for its people. All citizens have ten god-given civil liberties known as the Bill of Rights, the first ten amendments to the Constitution. Many people have come to our country seeking the freedoms our people are given by the Bill of Rights, and they continue to attract those worldwide. Over the years, there have been hundreds of amendments ratified, some of the most important are the 13th Amendment (abolishing slavery), the 14th Amendment (granting citizenship to former slaves), the 15th Amendment (giving people of color the right to vote), the 19th Amendment (giving women the right to vote), and the 16th Amendment (allowing a federal income tax). Over time, the Supreme Court has also made several hallmark decisions that have formed the current American landscape. Notable Supreme Court cases are Dredd Scott v. Stanford (ruling that black people cannot be citizens), Plessy v. Ferguson (ruling that segregation is legal), Korematsu v. United States (ruling the internment of the Japanese during World War II is acceptable), Shelley v. Kraemer (ruling that people of color have land owning rights), Brown v. Board of Education (ruling that ended legal segregation), Engel v. Vitale (ruling that in public school there must be a separation of church and state), New York Times v. Sullivan (ruling that the press is protected by the First Amendment even if their reporting is factually inaccurate), Griswold v. Connecticut (rules that the First Amendment grants private citizens the right to privacy implicitly), Frontiero v. Richardson (ruling that discrimination based on gender is unconstitutional). Loving v. Virginia (ruling that interracial marriage is constitutional), Roe v. Wade (ruling that women have the right to terminate a pregnancy, Gregg v. Georgia (ruling that the death penalty is not cruel and unusual punishment, therefore constitutional), and most recently, Obergefell v. Hobbes (Gay marriage is constitutionally legal). These Supreme Court decisions tell a powerful history of how our country has evolved and progressed.

 While our democratic legal processes and documents are extremely substantive and contribute largely to our success as a democratic nation, it would be naive to exclude war from a list of our history. We as a nation have only been at peace for twenty-one years total since our creation in 1776. Thus, a history of the United States is largely a history of war. After gaining our own independence and autonomy from British rule in famous Revolutionary War (1775-1783), we quickly entered many territorial wars with the Native Americans and South Americans that would last until the early 20th century. Wars that have shaped us before industrialization, would include the Quasi-War (1798-1800) and the War of 1812 (1812-1815). After the Civil War (1861-1865) and our own Industrial Revolution, America began fighting more and more wars on foreign soil, most notably World War I (1917-1918) and World War II (1941-1945), the Korean War (1950-1953), the Vietnam War (1965-1973), the Gulf War (1990-1991), the Wars in Afghanistan (2001-2014), iraq (2003-2011), and Pakistan (2004-Present), these being part of the War on Terror. In addition to these wars is the Cold War (1947-1991). While our forces never openly clashed with those of Soviet Russia, we fought the spread of Communism in many countries, and both countries raced for nuclear control and control of outer space. World War I marked the long held tradition of American isolationism. Beginning with George Washington and still being something deeply ingrained in American culture, isolationism had been the hallmark of American policy. While we had remained largely isolated except for the Spanish-American War (1898), a continuation of manifest destiny and an opportunity for us to gain territories in a world where imperialism ruled, a war that threatened our national security from German U-boats as well as democracy brought us out of our isolationist ways.

 World War I brought about massive change in the United States, turning the tide of the world for the Western powers. After the boom in industry provided by World War I, the economy plateaued and then fell, leading to the Great Depression of the 1920’s. During this time Franklin Delano Roosevelt was also elected to office, bringing about monumental reforms including the Social Security Act in his famous New Deal. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, America was brought once again out of its isolationism after years of working to not get involved in the turmoil in Europe and the Far East. World War II brought about the existence of our modern globalized world as well as forever changing the morals, ideals, and culture that defines the United States of America.

 Originally our country was founded by mostly Anglo-Saxons. The area was already inhabited by the Native Americans, but land was taken from them and their populations dwindled as British settlement encroached on their lands. With the first settlers and into the 1860’s slavery was practiced within our country, with the signing of the 13th Amendment slavery was made illegal. However because slavery was practiced for an extended amount of time, there were a large number of Africans in our country, mostly concentrated in the South. They continued to live here and many of our African American citizens can trace their roots back to slaves. For the next hundred years or so after our independence, immigrants were largely Western European, adapting to democracy and life in the United States easily because of similar language, literacy, government, and culture. In the early 1900’s began the second wave of immigration which was composed of majority Eastern Europeans. The countries these people were coming from were largely illiterate and had very different governments, leading to a harder time assimilating than the previous majority Western Europeans. This also began a supply of cheap labor, and nativist sentiment began to spread, fueled by the oncoming World War I and a boom in industrial labor. On the West Coast, Asians had also began immigrating (legally and illegally) in larger numbers than previously, and persecution began furiously. This ultimately led to the Chinese Exclusion Act and the the enactment of immigration quotas. This restricted immigration from most Asian countries as well as most Eastern European nations. Currently, a hot button issue is immigration from Latin American countries, coming to look for work or seek refuge from persecution. We are also the number one acceptor of refugees, creating a population that is marked with diversity from the African continent, Southeast Asia, and Latin American countries. We are known as the “melting pot” of the world. We are proud to be a nation of immigrants,

 Most people of color are located in cosmopolitan areas. Over time, different ethnicities have created enclaves within cities and towns, leading to the development of culturally distinct areas such as Chinatowns, Koreatowns, Italian, Irish, Hispanic, Jewish, and African communities. Over time people of color have made great strides towards equality. Markedly, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s brought about the end of segregation as well as affording people of color more rights and equality. We are currently experiencing another wave of social justice reform that is critical of police brutality and the inequality of people of color.

 As a nation that started with revolution, we developed into an industrial, military, and economic powerhouse after our own Civil War. Our forces today span the globe, and in the past hundred years we have become known as an international warrior for democracy, who outdoes every other country in military spending, humanitarian aid, infrastructure, patents, worker productivity, universities, immigration, and Olympic medals. Born from humble beginnings and based on enlightenment ideals, we have become a leader among nations and a global superpower.

D.

Governance

We, the United States, being a part United Nations strive to meet the rulings of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some say however that we do not abide by some articles such as Articles 5, 9, 23, 24,and 25. It could be argued that Articles 2 and 4 are also indirectly being violated. Articles such as Article 16, which states that there should not be restrictions on marriage if the participants are of full age (same sex marriage), have not been recognized federally as a fundamental social right until recently (legalized June 26th 2015). We strive every day to become meet these standards set by the UN and fully believe in human rights for all our citizens and the world.

 Article 5 of the UDHR states that “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.” For some time the existence of Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp and certain practices we have there have called our adherence to this Article under question. Article 9 states that “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.” While the international eye has turned to us as of late because of recent controversy over police misconduct, we have full confidence in our police force and believe strongly in the philosophy of “innocent until proven guilty”. Many cities in fact are going under intensive infrastructure changes and trainings to further improve our police competency. Article 23 states that “everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.” While statistically women get payed less than men, because of the traditional values of our society, women choose to stay at home or take on less work so they are able to take care of children and the home. We strongly believe in gender equality and many American businesses are working tirelessly to bridge this gap, notably Yahoo with their recent appointment of a woman CEO. Article 25 states that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.” While there is income disparity within in the U.S., it is comparable to many other developed countries which become more stratified as they progress. Since the 1935 we have had a federal social security program, providing much needed income and care for under-served communities such as mothers with dependent children, the elderly, and the unemployed.

 We, the United States, would describe the political and social rights of our citizens and non-citizens as wholly adequate. The basis of our country’s beliefs are that of equal rights and opportunities. This is what made and continues to make the United States one of the best countries in the world and a highly sought after place to immigrate to.

 Our major points of contention are currently issues such as abortion and women’s health, gun control, immigration, high cost of college education, and government involvement in business and rejection of laissez faire tactics.

 We, are proud to have democracy in our country. United State of America is a federal republic. A federal republic is a form of government made up of a federal state with a constitution and self-governing subunits. All adult citizens in our country have the right to vote, the citizens vote for representatives, who represents the citizen and their idea in Congress.

In our opinion a democratic deficit is when any situation is lacking democratic accountability and control over decision making process. We also think that there is a democratic deficit in European Union. We will be representing the Democratic party at the conference.

 World War II brought major change to our country. Not only did we end up on top in the world, we set new standards for our country. Before World War I we had kept to a policy of isolationism, focusing on national initiatives and trying to build ourselves as an industrial power. We rarely engaged in foreign affairs. While we were involved in World War I and this brought an end to American isolationism, it helped our country form many alliances and treaties with other countries after the war. This bled over into World War II, in which we solidified ourselves as a global player and a global power. After the war we exited a depression and became a superpower alongside The Soviet Union. We entered the Cold War, an era of tension between us and The Soviet Union and emerged as the standalone superpower left in the world. World War II was a catastrophic, devastating event, however it let us push ourselves as a industrial power and global leader.

 We have a complex yet simple political system. We have two main political parties in our country, the Democratic Party (DNC), and the Republican Party (RNC). These two parties have been the main players in our political races since the beginning of our country. But there are also third parties which are parties created to address less prominent opinions. These parties have to get thousands of signatures to get on the ballot. About ⅓ of the population is Republican, about ⅓ is Democratic, and the other ⅓ of the population is independent or belongs to a third party. The DNC wants to allow migrants from Syria and the Middle East into Europe and America while the RNC varies from controlled immigration to no immigration at all. The RNC would like to close the borders to all refuges due to their ethnicity for fear of a terrorist threat.

 The DNC is would like to exhaust all peaceful negotiations before turning to violence and doesn’t support sending troops to Ukraine to deal with Russia’s annexation of Crimea while most members of the RNC do support it; however the DNC does want Ukraine to join NATO. Both the DNC and RNC would like to fight against cyber attacks and protect ourselves from online terrorism. While the DNC is worried about evolving and hybrid warfare, the RNC supports developing new weapons and keeping our military by far and beyond the strongest military in the world. So both of our nation's political parties have different and at the same time similar ideas about the issues being addressed at this meeting.

 We are not apart of the EU but have friendly relations with many of its members and hold influence over countries in the EU for the purpose of aiding everyone involved. We have alliances and treaties with many of the countries and have maintained strong, friendly relations for centuries.

Foreign Policy

We, the United States of America, have not conducted foreign policy within the frameworks of the European Union, with the frameworks including efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, and relevance to the Commission's services, and the Commission's services being an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or group of people.All this with reason simply being that we are not part of the European Union, hence a lack of opportunity to present a contribution to the establishment*.* That said, we are an active member of NATO and a global superpower, and we believe that any aid we could offer to the European Union would be supplied if needed. We hope to continue to be a voice in many European issues, and to act as an outside establishment that Europe can trust and come to if need be for negotiations and other issues.

As an outside member, we do not have a direct voice in the endeavors of the European Union, but as a present nation in general world affairs, we do have some influence in how foreign policy related matters are carried out in Europe. For example, with the Syrian refugee crisis, we accept thousands of refugees every year, and provide refugees with medical care, financial and nutritional benefits, etc. Some of our influence comes from excerisisng our power over some countries for the benefit of the entirety of Europe. The European Union is extremely reliant on Russian oil, and we the United States view this as a threat to the progression of independence in the EU.

Another substantial way we have had influence on European Union decisions is when we sided with Europe to support Ukraine in their fight for independence from Russia. Although it isn’t wasn’t simply a decision on our part for the sake of siding with Europe, rather an everlasting clash with Russian ideals, pivotal to the future of Europe, and the world. However, as we have been strongly allied with the European Union in the past around many global issues, and we would like the European Union to step away from their efforts to simply de-escalate the chaos Ukrainians are faced with, and become more involved with aiding Ukraine as a nation, not a Russian province. We vehemently are against any sort of move that Russia makes to try to reestablish any sort of it’s Cold-War era power through the annexation of the previous Soviet sphere, and we view the annexation of Crimea as a threat to these recently independent states such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, and Belarus. The European Union and the United States are the biggest military and economic powers in the world, and our efforts combined will prove to be greatly effective.

 We did agree with and were an active part of the European Union’s military intervention in Libya. Along with Britain, we supplied the majority of military power in the toppling of Gaddafi. The main problem, however, is that, war-weary after campaigns in the Middle East, we did not want to actively lead a long, costly intervention in Libya. With the United States taking a backseat, the intervention did not last long, and Libya has unfortunately failed to set up a democracy or become much more than what it was under Gaddafi; a haven for militant groups seeking to exploit it’s disenfranchised people. This is an example of how many parts of Europe depend on the US for military leadership. Unfortunately, because we want to be involved in as many world military decisions as possible, we have trouble trying to make other countries take the lead. Europe, for better or for worse, seems to see us as a kind of world police, and when we take ourselves out of a campaign, it is hard for other countries, which have become used to our constant military leading, to step up and take a lead.

We do believe that we should work closely with the European Union, mostly because one of our primary goals is to help the Europe shift away from its dependency on Russian oil. In 2007 alone, the European Union imported from Russia 185 million tons of crude oil, which accounted to about 33% of their entire oil import, and on a similar note, 100 million tons of other natural gasses which accounted to 40% of that year’s import. While we would like to be an active participant in many issues that the European Union faces, we would like to, if possible, take more of a passive approach militarily speaking. One of our main reasons for wanting to stay so engaged with the European Union is that Europe is sandwiched in between two of the largest world superpowers; Russia and ourselves. We highly prefer that, especially in the post-soviet sphere, Europe come to us with their needs as a way to shift power away and to try to promote independence from Russia.

Russia plays a large part in many of our decisions regarding Europe. The Cold War is, of course, over and as a result our relationship with Russia has increased and improved greatly since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989, however we still view many of their actions as an attempt to reconstruct the power of the Warsaw Pact, most notably their annexation of Crimea and their continued support of the Syrian dictator Assad. While we do not actively fight Russia, American-funded rebels continue to do battle with the Russian-funded Assad dictatorship everyday, continuing to destabilize the area and also contributing greatly to the spread of ISIS. Russia aims to keep Assad in power so that it can continue to hold onto the pipeline it has leading to the Mediterranean. The loss of Assad would be a loss of a main oil export area for Russia.

In the past hundred years, we have played a part, militarily and strategically, in nearly every large war concerning Europe, internal and international, though one of our main goals is to promote self-guidance and independence in European military campaigns, and to offer support less through gun and manpower, and more through education, negotiation and technology. We plan on doing this through militaristic advisement, and to encourage and support campaigns rather than to lead. However, many countries in the EU, such as Greece, Croatia, and Estonia are still having a fairly hard time succeeding economically, and many other European countries are discouraged from joining the EU, as they believe it would devalue their currency and destabilize their country. While we do not have an active opinion on whether countries should join the EU or not, we do know that economically struggling countries are far less likely to help militarily or to try to make a shift off of Russian oil.
 We are not a member of the European Union, and we do not have a direct voice in their matters. We would like to be as involved as we can, but we cannot offer much help other than advisement and our opinions. As a member of NATO and a global superpower, we would like to help lead the EU economically and militarily by advisement and example, promoting global stability and European independence.

Security

In terms of security, we would like to minimize security concerns both domestically and externally. We face many threats from the outside such as but not limited to, all forms of terrorism, conflicts with Russia, our national debt, and the use of chemical and biological weapons. From this meeting, we would like to strengthen our relationship with the countries who are here with us today. Our priority is to keep our citizens safe and accomplishing that by any means necessary. Although we are mostly an observer of the European Union, any threat facing Europe is also considered a major threat to the United States so we hope that any threat is eliminated within as soon as possible.

Currently, we could improve the security of our nation. We have set up multiple initiatives to eliminate domestic threats but we are still a way to go, as improvement can always be made. We are facing a gun violence epidemic which must be contained as soon as possible. On global terms, we feel as if we are being challenged by Russia and see them as threat. They have annexed lands which are not theirs and for that, we have sanctioned them multiple times. This is not acceptable and as strong allies with many of you attending this meeting, we must stand together and not allow this in the future. Another threat we face is the current crisis in Syria, of which Russia is exacerbating with uncalled for air strikes. Russia is supporting a government which has been charged with crimes against humanity in the killing of numerous young children, hospital patients, medical personnel, the torture of many children and hospital patients sometimes to death and the arbitrary and unacceptable jailing of people on a massive scale. The list goes on and on and anyone who can support a country like this should be taken as grave disrespect to the rest of the world even after they have been charged by a world authority in the United Nations.

Long ago our president, Barack Obama, mistakenly underestimated the terror group known as the Islamic State. We now know that they pose a serious threat to the Middle East and the world. We were extremely saddened by the terror attacks in Paris, and the beheading of multiple people by the Islamic State, especially the personal threats they have made against our country. These senseless and cruel murders must stop and we are prepared to come up with a strategy in defeating them. This is no simple task but with the help of our fellow nations we know that this is possible, however time is ticking and we must act before the Islamic State grows to become even larger and even more difficult to contain. This begins at home. We must set up ways to combat the growing influence the Islamic State holds on our citizens, especially those who actively seek to become radicalized. We must fight this threat in our own countries before we can thoroughly address threats elsewhere.

We, The United States, are part of many military and security organizations and alliances including NATO, OSCE, ANZUS, and AUSCANNZUKUS. Multiple pacts, acts, and treaties have been passed between us and other countries around the world for alliances in wars and other affairs. Notably, after the Korean War, South Korea and The United States formed a military alliance. A similar alliance was come to after ourselves and Japan reconciled after World War II. In these alliances, we tend to control the monetary fund, the spreading of troops, and policy making. Specifically, in the NATO we account for three quarters of NATO defense spending, as other countries wouldn't spend more than two percent of their gross domestic product on defense. This is partially due to the fact that we have serious concerns as a country about military defense people. In the United Nations, we are in charge of The International Monetary Fund and The World Bank Group.

On the efforts of NATO and OSCE we believe that they are working hard towards the security of Europe and North America. They have taken great strides to help countries be more secure, including mandating arms control, human rights, agreeing to mutual defense in response to an attack by any external party. We think that our role in European security is very important, as we provide a lot of military and monetary support. We believe the USA is one of the most important countries in these organizations.

In terms of energy, the United States is the 2nd largest consumer of energy in the world, as we have been recently surpassed by China. The majority of energy is derived from fossil fuels, and most of our fossil fuels are petroleum and coal. The United States is dependent upon multiple countries for their sources of energy but in recent years, has attempted to use more renewable forms of energy such as solar and wind power. We are also working to stop our reliance on outside sources of energy and turn domestically for our energy needs. In terms of suppliers, Canada supplies the most non-renewable energy in coal for us and they are followed by Saudi Arabia, who produces petroleum. Energy has been a source of cooperation for the US. We have established multiple ties with countries in order to strengthen and maintain partnerships with those who supply us with our energy. We hope that in the future we are able to increase our sources of renewable energy such as solar and wind power, while decreasing our use of non-renewable energy.

Hopefully, from this meeting we all can come to an understanding and solve the threats that equally face all of the nations that will attend. As previously stated, the time to act is now and waiting tend to make matters worse. We would also like to discuss our future in sources of energy and moving towards a cleaner source such as solar and wind power. This may seem as if it is for the distant future but these non-renewable forms of energy are destroying our earth. Moreover, change in the world in general is needed and the United States is prepared and looking forward to discussing what our next moves are to not only minimize and destroy our security threats but also the long-term threat of the excessive use of non-renewable forms of energy.

Migration

The United States take great pride in our history of dealings with asylum seekers. We consider ourselves a very open and accepting country with an exemplary track record surrounding our policies about migrants and asylum seekers. In turn, we also believe that the European Union has liberal and fair policy surrounding the admission of asylum seekers in member countries. Seeking asylum is never an easy thing for a refugee, as the process can be long, complicated, and foreign for them. In the United States, we work to make our process as accessible as possible, in fact, we are the largest resettlement granter in the world. We believe that the European Union policy could be slightly improved. The influx of refugees has caused much discord and chaos within the European Union and other countries in the Middle East as well as the United States, and all of our governments have been taken aback by the number of asylum applications, need for humanitarian aid, and calls for a more equal distribution of refugees. Whether the European Union decides to call for the equal distribution of refugees for settlement or will allow member states to buy their way out of it is not our concern, the most pressing matter to be faced now is alleviating the economic burden of these refugees and solving the situation in Syria and surrounding areas. Long-term changes to the European Union policies could prove fruitful, such as a more efficient and fast system that prepares and aids countries who will face the brunt of the migrants, however this reform could take years to pass and be enacted.

 Within the United States of America, there has been a steady trend of citizens moving to the Southern region of our country. Particularly, Texas has experienced an influx of migrants because of its booming city-life and a trend of millennials moving there. It also has a steady economy and relatively cheap housing, again raising the interest. Another southern state has been shown to have increased numbers of residents is Florida. New York is the state to have had the most migration outwards, with California coming in second. The general trend seems to be people in the north moving south, especially if they are living on a coast or near a large body of water (the Great Lakes).

Traditionally, immigrants who move to the United States have quickly assimilated into American culture and life. We believe we are a very open and accepting society. Though recently we have had rashes of accusations of Islamophobia and xenophobia, these are isolated incidents and are not typical of an immigrant’s introduction to our country. Within our borders, we enjoy great cultural and regional diversity. We are known for our Chinatowns and other examples where a certain peoples have taken up residence and brought their native culture to the United States. This aids in the assimilation process as well as creating and retaining community within those people while simultaneously exposing and introducing our own native citizens to the variety of peoples that inhabit our great country. While in the past and historically we have enacted laws and policies that may have made immigration to or settling in our country a bit harder, those laws and policies were enacted because national crises or international turmoil, resulting in the need for the government to take action to protect its own citizens and their rights. Recently, our attitudes have been changed and we are working harder than ever to make immigration and assimilation into American life as easy and accessible as possible. Our current administration has taken great steps to ensure that all those who want to enjoy the life of an American citizen can. We firmly believe that the United States is a wonderful place for people from all over the world to come to settle and join our nation.

We have consistently proven ourselves on the world stage, accepting the most refugees for resettlement out of any country, as stated before. During the fiscal year of 2015, we resettled 69,933 refugees, and as of October of 2015, we have decided to gradually increase the number of refugees allowed to 70,000 in 2015 to 85,000 in 2016, and 100,000 in 2017, marking our largest increase in refugee settlers since 1990. For 2016, our regional caps for refugees our 10,000 from Syria, 34,000 from the Near East and South Asian, 13,000 from East Asia, 25,000 from Africa, 3,000 from Latin America and the Caribbean, 4,000 from Europe and Central Asia, and 6,000 unallocated reserve. We have increased the amount of refugee places for resettlement in all regions except East Asian and Latin America and the Caribbean, a remarkable feat. The top four countries our refugees placements come from are Burma, Iraq, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In general, we accept nearly five times more migrants than leave every year, an exciting but large number. We believe we are playing our role in the current refugee crisis and handling our responsibilities exceedingly well. Since we are already a sought after place for immigrants, we feel that this plan in place for accepting refugees is safe and will be productive for our country. We are a country of immigrants, but we do enforce our laws and regulations regarding immigration control in order to create the best, safest environment possible for our citizens. All in all, we are a welcoming country that has rules in place to make sure we continue to be a welcoming and sought after nation for immigrants.

 Our concerns as a country are the possibility of allowing Syrian refugees into this state and potential terror threats associated with letting refugees settle in our country. There has been an environment of fear that has been created, especially in the wake of the Paris terror attacks. We have concerns that if a similar event happened here, not only would it wreak havoc and destruction posing a threat to national security, but that fingers would be pointed at all refugees instead of simply those responsible. This has caused many of our states to oppose allowing immigrants into the state, and without our state's participation, our federal government has a much more arduous task granting immigrants a place to stay. Our states can't legally object to having immigrants, but it can refuse to cooperate, which makes thing much more difficult. Some of our states protesting the admission of refugees range from Alabama to New Hampshire, ending in a total of 31 states.

We are a “nation of immigrants,” but there is deep ambivalence about future immigration. There is strong support for continued immigration as a necessary ingredient for economic growth and as an essential element of a cosmopolitan society among many Americans. Almost 60 million people— more than one fifth of the total population of the United States—are immigrants or the children of immigrants. For most of this community, immigration policy is not an abstract ideology but a means of family reunification and an affirmation that they are part of the “American dream.” Many opponents of immigration are old stock Americans who have forgotten their immigrant ancestors. They live in small towns or in suburban areas, and many have relatively little contact with immigrant families in their neighborhoods, churches, and friendship networks. Beyond the debate over the economic consequences of immigration, there is also an emotional dimension that shapes sentiments toward immigration. Many of us Americans, like people everywhere, are more comfortable with the familiar than with change. The impact of immigration is with globalization and massive industrial restructuring dominating many traditional sources of employment (both blue collar and white collar), many of our native born citizens are fearful about their (and their children’s) future. Industries seek out low cost immigrant workers to replace native born workers. Some sectors, such as harvesting vegetables and fruits in agriculture, have very few native born Americans seeking jobs in them, but immigrants are also disproportionately employed in many other sectors, including meatpacking, construction, hospitals, and even in many areas of advanced study in research universities. These examples allow the media to exploit popular fears of refugees.

It is difficult for us to speak of what the exact obstacles Europe faces in integrating refugees because we are not a European nation. However, we believe that at least part of it is fear and deep historical prejudices. The Paris terrorist attacks greatly impacted the way the European Union accepted immigrants. It caused many countries to stop allowing people to enter their country all together, either that or greatly restricted who was allowed in. The people of the EU now worried if they let in these immigrants, there’s a chance, although incredibly small, that a terrorist could kill or injure their fellow countrymen. In addition to that, problems arise such as, shortage of supplies, such as food, shelter, water, and essential items to survive. The immigrants use dangerous modes of transportation to go from country to country, often illegally. The European Union must figure out a way to integrate these unfortunate people into their society. Meanwhile, the Unites States will be working non-stop to do whatever we can to help alleviate the stress of the situation.

Identity & Integration

Throughout the years, the United States of America has been growing, learning lessons in order to improve our country. Some of the most prominent lessons would be: the attack on September 11, 2001 taught us to be scared of and take an aggressive stance against radical Islam. WWII taught us to have a worldwide army and navy to prevent such a grievous war from ever breaking out again. The Korean War taught us to be on high alert at all times. The Vietnam War also taught us that not all wars are ours to fight.

The liberalization of American values in the 1960s, especially that of the Civil Rights Movement, the Sexual Revolution, the freedom of the LGBT community, and the loosening of morals in America have prompted us to rethink our core values and adjust our laws to accommodate all citizens equally. We have recently passed the law allowing gay couples to get married. This is one of the first steps we are taking to giving equal rights to all individuals. There is much controversy in our country between parties, but we must come to a consensus. These revolutions help to improve our country and ensure on our promise that everyone should be given the same rights.

More Asian immigrants have come in now seeking education and jobs. We’ve also experienced in influc of Hispanic people immigrating into the US, mostly from Mexico, but also from the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and other Latin American states. This has added many people to our workforce, helping to improve the economy. This has also added to the cultural diversity of our country as a whole.

In the United States of America, there are minorities of all nationalities and cultures. Everyone is welcomed into our country as long as they don’t disturb the peace. Everyone is subject to the same rights as an American citizen and no one is to be discriminated against in any situation.

In the borders of the United States of America, minorities have the right to continue to follow their own customs according to their culture. States shall protect the existence and the national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic identity of minorities within their respective territories and shall encourage conditions for the promotion of that identity. In order to achieve this, states will take the appropriate legislative action. There are laws against discrimination so everyone is treated equal. Minorities are cannot be denied something for the reason that they are minorities. They have the right to participate effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life. They also had the right to participate effectively in decisions on the national and, where appropriate, regional level concerning the minority to which they belong or the regions in which they live, in a manner not incompatible with national legislation. They can open and run their own establishments or associations. Minorities can freely and peacefully make contact with others without discrimination. They can use their rights in their community without the fear of discrimination. We take appropriate measures so that, wherever possible, persons belonging to minorities may have adequate opportunities to learn their mother tongue or to have instruction in their mother tongue. The United States of America encourages minorities to understand their history, traditions, language and culture of the minorities existing within their territory. Minorities should have adequate opportunities to gain knowledge of the society as a whole. Minorities are considered for jobs in the economy.

In the United States of America, non citizens have the same rights as citizens except for the fact that they can't vote or run for federal offices. This is so that people can not come from other countries to vote. As for non citizens who are residents, they may move back to the country they came from. Non citizens are also required to have certain visas depending on their situation. All remaining rights apply to everyone as long as they are on American soil. The main right that is given to all on American soil is the right to an attorney and a court case if convicted of something. This ensures that everyone can tell their side of the story. This also goes hand in hand with our First Amendment, the rights to freedom of speech and press.

In the United States of America, We support multicultural communities rather than assimilation. As stated by the First Amendment, everyone is entitled to freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of press and the freedom of peaceable assemble. They are free to assemble and practice their customs as long as it does not pose a threat to their community or the country as a whole. We promote multicultural communities so that, wherever possible, people can learn their mother tongue. We promote people to open different businesses to spread their culture or heritage.

Identity and integration policies in America have been very effective. We allow people to keep their culture and customs as long as it isn’t detrimental to our country. We are a very diverse country, therefore it isn’t hard for people to learn the ways of America. There is no oppression of any certain group of people. Everyone is to be treated equally. People are welcomed with open arms and are treated as equals. They are not forced into any certain lifestyle or customs, one of the reasons for our high immigrations. There are also many job offered to people of all skill levels. Visas are relatively easy to obtain, aiding them to settle down in their new life as immigrants here in the United States of America

Since America is made up of all ethnicities, the ethnic divisions are bound to be considered contentious. While some may argue that rights are not equal across races, our government has worked and is currently working to improve the situation for all citizens. As a democracy, we believe that everybody deserves equality. Discrimination is frowned upon and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. When discrimination does occur, we ensure that it will be dealt with to ensure the equality in our nation.

The United States is facing some secessionist movements. One issue is that some believe that large governments are difficult to manage and control. Others believe that they were never part of our country because their culture is different from the rest of the country. We are trying to listen to the views of our citizens, but also run the country effectively at the same time. For those who feel they are not part of the country, we are trying to improve the country as a whole to be accepting of all different cultures and people in order to make everyone feel patriotism and like they are a part of this country.

While we have always accepted qualifying immigrants into our country, we have had to accept many refugees since the migrant crisis in Europe began. Besides accepting the refugees, we have also donated over $4 million dollars to Europe to assist them in handling the issue. Some may look with shame upon the current Republican presidential candidates’ plans to build a wall to block out refugees, but our current government is working to help the situation as much as they can. We have many immigration laws made just for the soldiers and refugees in order that they can come to our country. We have also made plans to accept more refugees into the country. Just earlier this year, president Obama himself welcomed 10 very special refugee immigrants.

Eurozone

While the United States is still recovering from the 2008 recession, compared to many of the economies of countries present at this conference, we are doing well. Our dollar is strong, and unemployment is low. However, we are at risk due to unstable overseas markets.

While the crisis in Greece has had a relatively minimal impact on our economy, it has posed a risk to our exports, as well as threatened the stock market. European markets account for 15% of all U.S. exports, and our economy is certainly feeling the effects of recession in Europe.

We believe the debt crisis in Greece occurred for several reasons. The housing crash of 2008 had a negative impact on global economies, the Eurozone included. Another reason is lowering investment rates within the EU and inflation of currency. Because of this, many people took loans on houses that were significantly more than they could afford, and when interest rates were raised, most were unable to pay. Smaller EU countries especially Greece, Ireland, and Spain, took loans from Germany which were more than they were able to pay. Furthermore, the spending and earning of these countries were not accurately reported, leading to Germany being unaware of significant losses. While the European Union is a politico-economic group, it is mainly bound together by political policy. The EU was designed to unite the countries of Europe under a common body, in order to work out differences and make larger decisions. However, to a large extent the EU is based on economic policy, with 19 of 28 countries bound together by the Euro. The future of the Euro is uncertain, right now it is weak, and growing weaker. If it continues down this path, it will certainly risk becoming obsolete as a currency. The Euro crisis is most probably a result of Europe’s larger cohesion issues. Each country in the Eurozone has control over their own economy. When money is being lent by the Eurozone to these countries, especially the smaller and less wealthy members, there is nothing protecting the money. We believe that the Euro should be salvaged, as we do not want another economic crash on the scale of the Euro crisis. However, countries that are not able to pay back their debts should not receive loans, because this simply creates instability within the Eurozone, and the larger world economy. With the current state of the Euro, and its uncertain future, we believe that if a country wants to exit the Eurozone, they should be allowed to. However we do not believe it should be encouraged, as this will cause instability. The policy that would be best for the United States, is whichever policy results in the least chaos and trouble. We would like to see the Eurozone, and the larger European Union prosper. We do not want to feel the effects of economic downturn more than we already are. Austerity measures generally raise unemployment while tax increases further augment the situation for many. It is our belief that austerity measures being taken in Greece right now will be detrimental to their economy and their people. We believe that the future of the Euro is secure right now, but certainly at risk. If the Eurozone economy does not improve, it will be at risk of failure. Austerity measures generally raise unemployment while tax increases further augment the situation for many. We also believe that austerity measures being taken in Greece right now will be detrimental to their economy and their people.