

Inquiry 2017-2018
Packer Collegiate Institute
Role: Russia

Sovereignty Committee

Russia is the dominant world power, and we believe that we should be able to dictate world events. Russia does not answer to any country. Therefore, we are completely independent and act on our own volition.

Russia inherently believes that international institutions such as the UN should play a very limited role, if any, with regard to global security. Disputes between countries should be solved by those that are involved. It is unjust that a country from across the globe, with no ties to Russia, can dictate policy in our country. Countries should be able to make their own decisions without being reprimanded for exercising their rights as sovereign nations.

Russia feels an obligation to intervene where our key allies and strategic resources are gathered. In certain conflicts, like Syria, we are trying to help restore order to the region, and mitigate the turmoil caused by US intervention. We can help countries secure their governments; therefore, we intervene whenever possible to aid either our allies or places in extreme distress. Our stance on sovereignty is no different than many other countries who intervene in conflicts, such as the United States, who have intervened constantly in world affairs. Russia should be able to have the same rights as other countries have.

In terms of nuclear weapons we support the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, because we believe that nuclear weapons will do nothing but destroy the planet. However, make no mistake, as long as the United States has weapons of mass destruction, so will we. It is something that is imperative to our security and safety as a nation in order to ward off invasions from other foreign nations. Russia would like to think that sometimes global security is more important than state sovereignty, but for the most part this is not the case. It is up to the most

powerful nations of the world to decide what is best in terms of our global security and how we conduct ourselves. ¹Russia will continue to operate with the full authority and power that we possess without worry of the consequences from our enemies.

In keeping with our own policies, Russia believes that countries should be able to decide the legislation passed within their borders and decide whether or not they think nuclear weapons are a reasonable option for them. Nuclear weapons pose a challenge to every country's security, but for some countries they are necessary in order to retain sovereignty. The threat of nuclear weapons can protect a country; they are protection for a country's sovereignty. While we do possess nuclear weapons it is only as a defense strategy to ensure our protection. Countries are entitled to acquire nuclear weapons because that decision is in the domain of each individual country. Countries should be able to decide the legislation passed within their borders and decide the protocol for any nuclear matter. We feel that interfering with a country's policy is very wrong and should not happen. It is up to the country's own government to make decisions.² We feel threatened by the West. That is why we support our allies in order to keep the world governed properly.

Security Committee

¹Hodge, Analysis By Nathan. "Putin's brandishing his new arsenal -- but what does Russia have?" CNN. March 02, 2018. Accessed March 06, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/03/02/europe/putin-russia-weapons-analysis-intl/index.html>.

²McKirdy, Euan. "8 times Russia blocked a UN resolution on Syria." CNN. April 13, 2017. Accessed March 06, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/13/middleeast/russia-uns-c-syria-resolutions/index.html>.

The Russian Federation's primary objective is the safety and well-being of its citizens.³ Despite Russia's strong military and economy, those basic rights are in jeopardy as Russia is continually threatened by western power, most significantly by the United States of America.

The United States remains the first and only nation in the world to deploy nuclear weapons against another nation.⁴ In the final stages of World War II, the U.S. detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. These events lead to the deaths of at least 129,000 people, hundreds of thousands more injured, and complete annihilation of the two cities.⁵

The American nuclear weapon program began in the 1930s and, just between the years of 1940 and 1990, produced over 70,000 nuclear warheads. The American government spent, in that same time frame, 9.08 trillion dollars (in present day terms) in research and development of these weapons.⁶

Following the American use of nuclear weapons at Nagasaki and Hiroshima, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, concerned about an imbalance in power in which the United States would abuse its status as the only nuclear state, began Soviet nuclear development.⁷ Thus, the Soviet Union and its successor, the Russian Federation, became a nuclear state. This development triggered an "arms race," a term used by American officials, in which the United States competed against the Soviet Union for a superior nuclear arsenal.

For decades, the United States has tried to force its way atop the mountain of international power. With its frequent interference into internal conflicts of other countries and its aggressive

³ [Text of 31 December Russian Federation Presidential Edict 683 approving appended text of "The Russian Federation's National Security Strategy"]. EDICT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION PRESIDENT. <http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/OtrasPublicaciones/Internacional/2016/Russian-National-Security-Strategy-31Dec2015.pdf>.

⁴ "Nuclear weapons of the United States." Wikipedia. March 03, 2018. Accessed March 06, 2018. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_weapons_of_the_United_States.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ The Soviet Nuclear Weapons Program. Accessed March 06, 2018. <http://nuclearweaponarchive.org/Russia/Sovwppnprog.html>.

foreign policy, it has, on countless occasions, tried to wrest control and achieve world domination. Such domination would benefit solely those Americans in power, allowing them to have undeserved jurisdiction and the power to make decisions that would surely threaten the well-being, prosperity, and independence of those dominated.

The United States is currently attempting to take over the world by weakening the nuclear capacity of its competitor nations whilst bolstering its own nuclear arsenal. As it does not recognize the three other nuclear weapon-states as threats (the nuclear weapon supply of the United Kingdom, France, and China is a fraction of that of the United States or Russia), its main target is Russia. Without Russian development of defense and offense weapons, the power of the United States would be virtually unchecked.

Additionally, the United States has created conflict with Russia for decades. In recent years it has even gone as far as creep on to Russian borders to encircle Russia with an anti-missile shield. In 2016 a U.S.-funded \$800 million ballistic missile defense site went into operation in Romania.⁸ Last year, the US for the first time deployed the Patriot long-range anti-aircraft missiles to the Baltics to use them in large-scale NATO wargames in Lithuania.⁹

In July, US Vice President Mike Pence indicated the US was considering deploying the Patriot systems to Estonia.¹⁰ Poland has recently secured a \$10.5 billion weapons deal with Washington to purchase 208 Patriot PAC-3 missiles in addition to sixteen launchers and four radars.¹¹

⁸ "'US eyes encircling Russia with 400 anti-ballistic missiles' – Russian deputy defense minister." RT International. Accessed March 06, 2018. <https://www.rt.com/news/420358-400-missiles-us-encircle-russia/>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

Consequently, the Russian Federation has no choice but to take necessary steps in the interest of self-protection and security. As said in a public national security memo by the government,

“Interrelated political, military, military-technical, diplomatic, economic, informational, and other measures are being developed and implemented in order to ensure strategic deterrence and the prevention of armed conflicts. These measures are intended to prevent the use of armed force against Russia, and to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. Strategic deterrence and the prevention of armed conflicts are achieved by maintaining the capacity for nuclear deterrence at a sufficient level, and the Russian Federation Armed Forces, other troops, and military formations and bodies at the requisite level of combat readiness.”¹²

President Vladimir Putin went on to state,

“We are greatly concerned by some parts of the new nuclear posture, which reduces the benchmark for the use of nuclear weapons....Whatever soothing words one may try to use behind closed doors, we can read what was written....And it says that these weapons can be used in response to a conventional attack or even a cyber-threat....Our nuclear doctrine says Russia reserves the right to use nuclear weapons only in response to a nuclear attack or an attack with other weapons of mass destruction against her or her allies, or a conventional attack against us that threatens the very existence of the state...It is my duty to state this: Any use of nuclear weapons against Russia or its allies, be it small-scale, medium-scale or any other scale, will be treated as a nuclear attack on our country. The response will be instant and with all the relevant consequences.”¹³

Furthermore, despite all its cries for peace, the United States has no real interest in diminishing its own build up of its nuclear arsenal. Such is evident from its 2002 withdrawal from the Anti-ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.¹⁴ Living in a world where two nuclear bombs have already been dropped by the United States it is foolish to assume that nuclear weapons are not essential to international stability. Nuclear weapons imply power and prestige on the world stage, as well as

¹² [Text of 31 December Russian Federation Presidential Edict 683 approving appended text of "The Russian Federation's National Security Strategy"]. EDICT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION PRESIDENT. <http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/OtrasPublicaciones/Internacional/2016/Russian-National-Security-Strategy-31Dec2015.pdf>.

¹³ Hodge, Mark. "Putin vows to use nuclear weapons if the US attacks Russia with nukes." The Sun. March 01, 2018. Accessed March 06, 2018. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/5700965/vladimir-putin-russia-nuclear-weapons-attack-us/>.

¹⁴ [Text of 31 December Russian Federation Presidential Edict 683 approving appended text of "The Russian Federation's National Security Strategy"]. EDICT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION PRESIDENT. <http://www.ieee.es/Galerias/fichero/OtrasPublicaciones/Internacional/2016/Russian-National-Security-Strategy-31Dec2015.pdf>.

suggesting strength and military might. To give up these weapons would be to lose that store and make one vulnerable to more powerful enemies.

Diplomacy Committee

Russia is a country open to ending conflict in any way necessary. Russia always hopes for the swiftest and most peaceful end to any conflict around the world. Unfortunately, sometimes Russia is portrayed as a villain because of capitalists who want Russia to collapse so they can steamroll the world. When we use our military, it is only for the protection of Russia or innocent people in need everywhere. In addition, we support stable governments globally, and if that requires military action, so be it.

Most countries vying for nuclear weapons are all supporting the capitalist agenda or too unstable to be trusted with WMDs. Russia fully supports its involvement in the NPT and hopes that nuclear bombs stay out of the hands of unstable leaders or terrorists. We also believe that no other country has a right to dictate what Russia does with her weapons. Especially the United States, which refuses to regulate itself but tries to stifle its opponents with soft talk and a seemingly nonproliferation approach. Any attempt to stop Russia from protecting its interests and homeland will be met with hostility, unless there are negotiations in which Russia has equal power to the United States.¹⁵

The world has found a strong balance, and there is no need for nuclear states. All we have seen from an increased number of nuclear states is chaos and instability in N. Korea, and the beginnings of what would likely have been a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. With confident and intelligent leaders such as Mr Putin at the helm of nuclear power globally, we can manage even-handedness without further distributing nuclear weapons to more countries or regions.

¹⁵ <https://www.brookings.edu/research/prospects-for-u-s-russian-nonproliferation-cooperation/>

Despite the capitalist agenda and NATO's egregious attempt at joining together to bolster the west's nuclear power as if to intimidate Russia, we are and have remained confident in our abilities and are unfazed by any weak attempts of NATO to "protect themselves" by putting more and more WMDs at our doorstep.¹⁶

The "monopoly" on nuclear weapons is not one that has ever needed to be questioned. Most countries cannot be trusted with nuclear weapons, and should leave the serious business for the big boys. As NATO has demonstrated, one need not have WMDs to have the power of WMDs at their disposal. When worst comes to worst, it is much better to have responsible and legitimately powerful nations handling the duties of their own corner of the world.

Russia believes that in order to stay safe in a world with an increasing number of countries with nuclear capabilities it is essential to hold on to, not increase, the number of nuclear warheads we currently possess.¹⁷ We feel that countries that currently do not have nuclear capabilities should not attempt to acquire said capabilities, rather they should ally themselves with global superpowers such as the United States, China, or Russia, in order to stay safe and protected. We are currently working to dismantle and diminish the number of nuclear warheads in our arsenal, as we see it a necessary step for the continued and growing success of the Russian Federation on the world stage. For example, under the conditions of the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), and the New START Treaty, we and the United States will be limited to 1,550 nuclear warheads by 2018. Thus, showing our commitment to nuclear non-proliferation.¹⁸

Russia should be the main voice at the table despite American attempts to bully around Russia and all those who are not allied with them. We have the biggest arsenal, the most power, and

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

will not be pushed aside so the capitalist agenda can sweep across the world. Any discussions being had should involve Russia.

The public opinion of the people of Russia is completely and utterly in line with what the government believes is best for the country. We, as a nation, believe that it is important to ensure our country's safety and security and thus we can not decimate and dismantle our nuclear program as of yet.¹⁹ We feel that it is necessary for countries to slowly decrease the number of nuclear weapons in their possession. However, nuclear weapons are an essential part of our nation's security and an important asset in protecting ourselves in a world with multiple reckless nuclear powers such as North Korea, India, and Pakistan.

There is such thing as a rogue state. We have seen in history that countries overstep their boundaries and put foreign citizens in danger. That being said, western attempts to delegitimize the wholly legitimate governments of countries across the world because of their opposing beliefs is an egregious misuse of power. Just like the rest of the world, Russia takes very seriously the threat of rogue states obtaining dirty bombs.²⁰

This world order is fair to all. The only time the current world order isn't fair is when the United States attempts to flex its power and abuse the sovereignty of the world. The United Nations does as the US says, and in this many countries who do not necessarily agree with America are at a severe disadvantage. That said, it is ridiculous to say that all countries deserve an equal voice. Leave the big issues and big fights to the big boys, and enjoy that you are invited to watch.²¹

Global disarmament is promoted by countries who are aware that they are at a severe disadvantage to Russia, and cannot accept the fact that Russia is indeed superior. We have no issue with the non proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They only bring danger and conflict to

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

this Earth. We will not, however, cave to the United States and its allies' attempts to lessen Russia's prominence globally because of their inability to meet our levels of military superiority. The West cries to the world to stop the "proliferation" of WMDs, but in fact they (i.e. the U.S.) are the only country to have dropped a weapon of such nature; on civilians, no less. They attempt to make Russia look bad and dangerous to the rest of the world; the United States will not admit they are weak and scared of the dangers of fighting fire with smaller fire. Why should Russia feel obliged to give up their advantage simply because our economic prosperity and military prowess are unmatched? The United States asks the world only to give up nuclear arms - the one place where they are severely deficient to Russia. This is no coincidence.

Terrorism Committee

As a country we span areas of mass conflict throughout our surrounding areas, and while we aren't facing a high risk compared to other countries in our region, terrorist attacks are certainly a threat, from both inside and outside of our borders. In recent years we have experienced a number of attacks including suicide bombings on trains, buses, and an airport, killing hundreds of people and injuring many more. There have also been incidents such as a mass hostage capture in Beslan and airplanes from the Moscow airport being hijacked.²² A lot of the violence in our country comes from the people of Chechnya. The Chechens are a mostly Muslim ethnic group that resides in the North Caucasus region of Russia, and have resisted our rule for two hundred years. In 2003 the United States categorized the Chechnya-based Special Purpose Islamic Regiment (SPIR) and the Riyadus-Salikhin Reconnaissance and Sabotage Battalion of Chechen Martyrs as terrorist groups (though they

²² Taylor, Adam, "The recent history of terrorist attacks in Russia," The Washington Post, accessed March 4, 2018. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/04/03/the-recent-history-of-terrorist-attacks-in-russia/?utm_term=.3951d955e9d3

have no sophisticated nuclear capabilities yet). After the fall of the Soviet Union, Chechen advocates began to lobby for independence; this campaign has led to two wars and continued rebellion in the republic, including the bombing of a subway station on 2010, the most serious attack Moscow had seen in a long time. The long struggle in Chechnya has attracted Islamic militants from Russia's borders, including some Arabs with alleged links to Al-Qaeda.²³ Chechnya is arguably the most relevant terrorist scene within Russia. However we are subject to threat from other countries, including from Syrian separatists, as a result of our supporting the Syrian government in its fight against rebels.

While nuclear terrorism is yet to become a pressing problem within Russia, there is the potential for nuclear threat. We have advocated keeping nuclear weapons within specifically selected countries, countries which have a need for nuclear weapons as the only way to defend themselves. We also believe this will help maintain stability in our region. However, none of these countries are likely to launch any nuclear attack on us because Russia currently houses the largest nuclear arsenal in the world, with 8,000 nuclear warheads. We can therefore say that the largest nuclear terrorist threat to Russia comes from within, from the manufacturing of "dirty bombs" made from nuclear waste sold on the black market.²⁴ For example, in 1995 Chechen radicals planted (but didn't detonate) a bomb made from 70 pounds of a mixture of cesium-137 and dynamite in a park in Moscow.²⁵ The materials for this bomb, and others like it, come from the nuclear black market where nuclear waste is traded and sold to be used by terrorists to develop "dirty bombs." Buying on the black market is generally very cheap and extremely dangerous. The people operating this black market trade are often experts who shift from private practice to illegal underground trading and

²³ Bhattacharji, Preeti, "Chechen Terrorism (Russia, Chechnya, Separatist)," Council on Foreign Relations, accessed February 20, 2018. <https://www.cfr.org/background/chechen-terrorism-russia-chechnya-separatist>

²⁴ Lawlor, Bruce, "The Black Sea: Center of the nuclear black market," Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, accessed March 4, 2018. <https://thebulletin.org/black-sea-center-nuclear-black-market>

²⁵ Adam, "The recent history of terrorist attacks in Russia."

manufacturing, probably as a way to earn more money. The Black Sea area is the center of the world's nuclear black market, the greatest sources being Pakistan, and, debatably, ourselves. The most relevant and dangerous threat of nuclear terrorism comes from growing stockpiles of plutonium and HEU, which can be used to make crude atomic bombs. In most instances of trafficking nuclear material, the employees of a country's nuclear program were the ones who took the material, then distributing it to a larger network of buyers.²⁶

As one of the leading countries in the work towards nuclear disarmament, we are in full support of the NPT, and think it vital in making sure that atomic energy is used in a peaceful and productive way. We hope to work towards a WMD free area in the Middle East, and some of Southeast Asia. We would be supportive of more WMD free zones, within reason, if there was structured conversation between the parties.²⁷ We do think, however, that in order for the treaty to be even more effective, more countries must join and agree to abide by the guidelines, and it must be more binding once countries agree to become part of the NPT. One step we believe should be taken is limiting, even banning, production of fissile materials which are used to create nuclear explosives. We remain concerned with a lack of progress in the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which we think would be highly valuable.

Because democracies encourage freedom and participation for all, authoritarian states encourage subjugation. Democracies are often thought to be useful in reducing the risk of terrorism, as if all groups of people are included and able to voice their grievances in society, they would have less of a reason to commit political acts of violence.²⁸ However, we are also under the impression that if a country has many restrictions and laws that all people must adhere to and conform to, their

²⁶ Bruce, "The Black Sea: Center of the nuclear black market."

²⁷ "Non-Proliferation Treaty: Russia's Reflections," Embassy of the Russian Federation, accessed February 20, 2018. <https://m.rusemb.org.uk/article/non-proliferation-treaty-russias-reflections>

²⁸ Chenoweth, Erica, "The Inadvertent Effects of Democracy on Terrorist Group Emergence," Nov. 2006

will be more stability in that nation. While democracies have fewer national acts of terrorism, many transnational acts of terrorism have come about in recent years, and are due to many authoritarian countries' distaste for liberty and freedom within a nation.²⁹ Authoritarian countries face less transnational terrorism, but more internal terrorism due to oppression of minority groups and lack of liberality. In today's ever-growing western cultures, the risks posed by the presence of open societies greatly outweigh the potential benefits in regard to a government whose main concern is protecting its citizens from terrorists both domestic and international. Entitling citizens to so-called "civil liberties," although perhaps ideal in concept, in reality may expose the vast majority of citizens to threats from those who would be given the freedom to conduct malignant actions against the people of Russia. The very purpose of the government is to protect citizens from the criminal behaviour of others, including attacks by terrorist actors both domestic and international. Allowing citizens complete independence makes the state as a whole vulnerable, which, given the nature of terror attacks, cannot be given to chance in times as volatile as these.

The world order as we know it today, primarily led by the United States and other similarly western cultures, has become increasingly unilateral and focused on only the needs and values of that western culture. We stress the importance of the United Nations in foreign affairs, continuously using it as a means of communications between countries. Although the current world order is increasingly divided by western cultures and values, Russia is given the power to limit these western actions and values through their votes and vetoes in the UN. Because the UN provides such a useful platform for countries to communicate and solve problems diplomatically, we believe that it gives countries with different cultures the ability to work together to take on terrorism, despite their

²⁹ Bohlen, Celestine, "Why Do Terrorists Target Democracies?" *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 15 Sept. 2015, www.nytimes.com/2015/09/15/world/why-do-terrorists-target-democracies.html.

seeming differences. Despite these harsh and critical views of the Western world, the United States specifically, the US and us, as possessing some of the world's greatest nuclear arsenals, have created an initiative to combat the ever looming threat of nuclear terrorism. We intend to involve our intelligence units to conduct and combine research on the current and potential future nuclear terrorist threats, as well as combine our different approaches to protecting our countries and those around us from horrific acts of terrorism such as those that have affected us in the past. Terrorism affects all countries, western or not, and oftentimes terrorism occurs with actors both domestic and international. Combining our significant powers with those of the United States would be a mutually beneficial step in the direction of dismantling those groups and individuals who would commit atrocities against the people of Russia and the people of the world.

Economic Committee

Russia is a massive superpower, whose physical and economic security is essential to global stability. Our economy focuses heavily on the production of oil, arms, and gas, and our economy has improved greatly since our President, Vladimir Putin, took office. At the moment, our country has 10 nuclear power reactors, located mainly in Western Russia, in order to supply our citizens with the energy that they need.³⁰ We are also planning on improving our reactors in the near future, as the export of nuclear goods and services is a goal for the Russian economy. In addition, we currently have plans to build over 20 power reactors.³¹ The nuclear weapons industry has had a large impact on our economy. Since we inherited the Soviet Union's nuclear weapons, we have maintained our supply. We currently have around 1,750 warheads deployed on ICBMs, SLBMs and warheads designed specifically for heavy bombers.³² We have dramatically decreased our arsenal, from 40,000

³⁰ <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-o-s/russia-nuclear-power.aspx>

³¹ <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-o-s/russia-nuclear-power.aspx>

³² <http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/russia/>

at its peak to about 4,300, though through the new START Treaty that number will soon be only 1,550.³³ As a country who supports national sovereignty we are generally against sanctions. However, due to the severity and danger of nuclear weapons, we understand and respect the importance and impact that sanctions can have, and fully support the use of them against countries that are not acting in accordance with the NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons). We are currently facing sanctions from the US due to our rightful takeover of Crimea.³⁴ These sanctions are impacting mainly our energy, defense, and financial sectors. Although we believe that sanctions against countries with nuclear weapons is important, we question their effectiveness, as seen in the current sanctions against North Korea having done *nothing* to stop, or even slow down their nuclear testing. We fully support the NPT and believe that it is indeed necessary to achieve global peace.³⁵ We are acting in accordance with the NPT, and have significantly lowered the number of weapons that we possess. We have often been targeted by terrorist attacks, mainly by Chechen rebels, and through experience have seen that our economic sectors are not much affected. However, a larger scale terrorist attack or nuclear war could devastate our economy.

Climate and Energy

Russia has a very forward outlook on climate change and global warming. We only contribute 4.9 percent of the world's CO₂ emissions, while our country spans 1/8 of the world's landmass.³⁶ Our president, Vladimir Putin, has promised to further reduce our emissions, and we as a country are putting many efforts towards reforestation and nuclearization.³⁷ Our current

³³ <http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/russia/>

³⁴ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-russia-sanctions/eu-to-agree-extending-economic-sanctions-on-ru>
[sia-until-mid-2018-idUSKBN1E61V9](https://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-russia-sanctions/eu-to-agree-extending-economic-sanctions-on-ru)

³⁵ http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2015/statements/pdf/RU_en.pdf

³⁶ Deutsche Welle, "Where Russia falls short in fight against climate change | Environment | All topics from climate change to conservation | DW | 04.11.2017," <http://www.dw.com/en/where-russia-falls-short-in-fight-against-climate-change/a-41240610>.

³⁷ Ibid

forestation plan entails reforesting 1.9 million acres of land, and all across our country there are reforestation efforts, from schoolchildren to businessmen planting trees in their free time.³⁸ One of the largest environmental problems in Russia is forest fires, and we have recently been putting more effort and resources into mitigating damages and reforesting the land. Climate-related economic damage in just the Moscow region is projected to soon reach \$4.3 billion.³⁹ This is a large problem, since this region is home to upwards of 20 million people.⁴⁰ A large swath of trained firefighters regularly put out blazes in our national parks, but we focus our resources on stopping damage to our population centers.⁴¹ These efforts are generously funded by our country's Ministry for Civil Defense, and we will continue to pour money into these efforts as needed (Deutsche).

On energy, we are the largest producer of crude oil, and the second largest producer of dry natural gas.⁴² While this does not sound environmental, we, as a country, need to focus on exporting the natural resources that god blessed us with. We were given fossil fuels, and thus need to maintain exports to keep our GDP and standards of life in the first world country range. Thus we are the largest producer of energy in the world, and also have the largest reserves, making our future economic viability very positive.⁴³ In fact, our energy exports are our countries most profitable export, and we will keep our energy production as the driving force in our economy until manufacturing reaches western levels.⁴⁴ In the coal sector, we have cut back in recent years to keep our environmental goals in our sights, and we now primarily focus on less harmful fossil fuels, like natural gas and crude oil.⁴⁵ These energy sources will not last forever, but

³⁸Ibid

³⁹Ibid

⁴⁰Ibid

⁴¹Ibid

⁴²Jeffrey Hays, "ENERGY IN RUSSIA," Facts and Details, Accessed March 11, 2018, http://factsanddetails.com/russia/Education_Health_Transportation_Energy/sub9_6c/entRy-5148.html.

⁴³Ibid

⁴⁴Ibid

⁴⁵Ibid

we are a very forward thinking country with the strong aim of future proofing our energy needs. We thus are transferring quickly to a nuclear based energy sector, and we have nearly ten nuclear reactors under construction.⁴⁶ We are the leader in fast neutron reactor technology, and our technologies are only expanding as our brilliant scientists and engineers work to solve the climate crises.⁴⁷

The US has no role to play in Russian climate and energy. We are leading the initiatives to save the planet, and will continue to build up nuclear power and maintain our nuclear arsenal (World Nuclear Association). Our military might is immense, and we are larger, growing faster, and more forward thinking than the United States. Our safety going forward, after the Chernobyl lesson, is our first priority, and we are going to keep our energy and climate policy in compliance with Russian needs... not US needs.⁴⁸ As a country, we stand as the primary global energy superpower, and as the primary nuclear leader... both in military and civilian needs.⁴⁹ We know that we need to maintain our reactors and our arsenals to compete with the US and to prevail over its efforts to gain control of global markets and militaries. Our ideologies do not match up.

⁴⁶World Nuclear Association, "Nuclear Power in Russia," Nuclear Power in Russia | Russian Nuclear Energy - World Nuclear Association, Accessed March 11, 2018, <http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-o-s/russia-nuclear-power.aspx>.

⁴⁷Ibid

⁴⁸Angelina Davydova, Sep. 21, 2017, "Russia wants to protect itself from climate change-without reducing carbon emissions," December 08, 2017, <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2017/09/russia-wants-protect-itself-climate-change-without-reducing-carbon-emissions>.

⁴⁹ Ibid