

FRANCE

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A. Introduction

While on paper, France may be seen as a push-over when it comes to the nuclear conversation, we intend to make it known that France is a nuclear power that will not hesitate to prove our worth if necessary. France, one of the five recognized nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, has continued to progress its technology in the field and continues to work towards a nuclear free world. To achieve this ideal world however, it is necessary to remain a nuclear power, to remain a threat and not become susceptible to outside blackmail. This is a power we remain open to using, but prefer to find other solutions to problems before resorting to nuclear force. This preference against nuclear force has resulted in some of the world viewing France as a country that won't use any force, yet this is untrue. We will use the force that is deemed necessary when there is a threat to the national safety of France, and if that force happens to be nuclear power, it will be used.

France's approach to outside nuclear powers that don't pose a threat to the country itself has been to leave them alone. Instead of confronting them directly, France builds up its own security, dissuading any threats from attacking. While this may be seen as a weak way out, it is also the way that leads to the least amount of conflict and suffering around the world. If a problem doesn't directly affect France, we will not provoke, and in doing so will cause a world safer from nuclear threats.

We expect to be treated like the global power that we are and demand to be respected. We will approach nuclear affairs our own way, a way that we believe will cause the least amount

of problems in the world, while also remaining strong enough to protect from any threats. While we may not get involved in every nuclear conflict around the world, we remain a premier nuclear power and we expect to be treated like one.

B. Key Points, bulleted

- Pursue international nuclear disarmament
- Focus on protecting nation first, while also considering rest of Europe
- Encourage lower greenhouse gas emissions between countries
- Stop advancing nuclear weapons worldwide
- Increased legislation on internal (domestic) counter-terrorism
- Internal terrorism is still a significant threat
- Reduce risks for nuclear wars or terrorist attacks that threaten the economy

C. Background of your country

France was first known as Gaul. Julius Caesar, of the Roman Empire, conquered Gaul during the Gallic wars and annexed the region. During this period, Gaul was Christianized and the feudal system emerged. Then, led by Clovis, the Franks invaded and took Gaul and named it France. The Carolingian and Capetian dynasties followed. In the 1500s, the Italian Renaissance movement was introduced into France and has given France new ideas and world dominance. Since the 17th century, France has become a significant world power in the modern world.

From 1795 to 1799, Napoleon rose from a relatively obscure position as an officer in the French army to become a master of France. After the vote was held to give all the real power to Napoleon as first consul, he supported laws that would strengthen the central government and achieve some goals of the revolution. One of his first tasks was to get the economy on a solid footing, so he came up with a method of tax collection and a new banking system. To end the corruption in the government, he dismissed officials and set up government-run public schools

(Lycées) in which its graduates were appointed to office. In addition, he created the Napoleonic Code: a uniform set of laws that limited liberty and promoted order and authority over individual rights. Soon enough, he made himself emperor in 1804. He was essentially considered the founder of the modern state due to the government no reliant on power of the church, by collecting data on the lives of citizens, holding plebiscites on power, and used merit as a standard for appointing people to government positions. Napoleon's power was also considered a fulfillment of the bourgeoisie revolution. Merit, wealth, and service to the state were Napoleon's core values. He also kept legal and tax changes previously abolished from the revolution. Napoleon chose people based on performance, therefore simulating a capitalist-feeling competition. Nationalism is the belief that people's greatest loyalty should be to a nation of people who share a common culture and history (nationalist movement would blur lines that separated the three political theories).

Left and right are old labels that date back to the French Revolution. The layout of the room took on political significance, for the right side were supporters of a monarchy and wanted to preserve the king's powers... to the left were those who wanted to reduce them. By the 19th century, "right" and "left" were mainly used to describe people's positions of the French parliament. However, moving forward, subcategories developed, which placed every politician on the spectrum between the right and the left side. This way, political parties could be described as more towards the right wing, or more towards the left wing. Later, a political historian René Rémond defines three separate right wing sections: the legitimist and counter revolutionary right, the liberal right, and the Bonapartist right. In addition, centrist positions identify as occupying

the middle ground on certain political issues, but can veer towards the left or right when they feel it is appropriate.

France's influence on the world today is widespread, and it is a major power in the world. France is a part of the European Union, and its military is the fifth strongest in the world, keeping France and the European Union safe with its defense. It also spends a lot of money on defense by sending troops to other countries like Mali and Iran to ensure peace. France is also the world's sixth largest economy, exporting planes, helicopters and vehicle parts with Germany, Spain, and the U.S. as its main export partners. France's decisions impact many other countries they are associated with, since they are founding members of the European Union and also are engaged in the Syrian war and have negotiations with Russia and Iran. France's "footprint" on the world is only getting bigger, and its military, leaders, and even language are spreading and influencing many other powers.

The most recent presidential election took place in the spring of 2017. Throughout the election there were three contending candidates. At first, the prominent campaigns were led by François Fillon of the Republicans and in second Marine Le Pen of the National Front. By mid January, however, polls began to tighten after news was published that Fillon employed family members in critical government positions in a series of political-Franco affairs that came to be known as "Penelopegate." After this revelation, Emmanuel Macron of the party "En Marche!" replaced Fillon as second place in the polls and began rising until he overtook Marine Le Pen. On May 7, the second round of concluded with a dominant win for Macron, which ended with a large margin between the two candidates.

D. Issues

Committee on Sovereignty

The French elected a new President, Emmanuel Macron, this past spring, and Macron has different views of French sovereignty than his predecessors. Macron believes that sovereignty is essential not only to France, but to the European Union as a whole. France has a goal, that the EU will have an integrated military, which instead of making France more sovereign, makes the EU more sovereign, which Macron believes is more important than becoming truly independent. France has breached the sovereignty of some countries in Africa, but only when it reflects the best interests of all the parties involved. The United Nations Charter was formed after World War Two to maintain peace and promote human rights. Every country's sovereignty is somewhat protected by the United Nations Charter, as the UN will interfere in times of conflict. On the UN website, it states "sovereignty no longer exclusively protects states from interference", which means that the UN weakens a state's sovereignty by interfering with their government to maintain peace. This is not necessarily a bad thing, but it still restricts the total sovereignty of countries. The Principle of Non-Intervention is a policy that leaders will not have alliances, but still retain diplomatic relations and avoid all wars. Although the public perception is that France is weak and doesn't want to interfere, France is the leading power of the European Union and intervenes with a threat of dire consequences. The international community, such as the United Nations and NATO, should be more involved in ensuring country's rights instead of focusing on global unity. Global unity has proven to be too tough to achieve, and focusing on countries having rights would increase sovereignty drastically. International institutions should play a role in the security of countries only when needed in times of conflict. If they interfere with security during a time of peace, then it is a breach of sovereignty. The Treaty of Nonproliferation of

Nuclear Weapons is a treaty that is designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and improve the disarmament of them. France's stance is that although they have a lot of nuclear weapons, they would like to take steps to decrease the amount of nuclear weapons in the world, and prevent the spread to countries like North Korea. The point of which global security is more important than sovereignty is if nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction are involved. France is strongly against the use of nuclear weapons and will sacrifice sovereignty to prevent a nuclear war. If France were to give up their sovereignty in a nuclear war, they should be able to reclaim it back after the war has ended. Nuclear weapons pose a unique challenge for sovereignty, because countries must band together to combat them. France is considered to be a nuclear state, along with Great Britain, USA, Russia, and China. Because France has a lot of nuclear weapons, they are responsible for a significant part of the security for the European Union. This influences France's views on sovereignty because they want the EU to be more unified, since they are a major power of the EU. Another state should not be able to determine if France is allowed to have nuclear weapons, but an international organization can. The "Liberal World Order" matters in negotiations over nuclear weapons because without nuclear weapons people have greater individual freedom and do not need to worry about their lives.

Committee on Security

In an international security environment today filled with constant threats of the use of nuclear weapons, France remains on the forefront of nuclear technology. As one of the five recognized nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968, we lead the movement of nuclear disarmament, yet at the same time have not truly considered the idea of completely disarming ourselves. Similarly contradictory, we only intend to use nuclear force

when threatened nationally, yet because of our eventual goal of a united European Union, we must also consider using our nuclear power for our fellow European countries. With the proliferation of nuclear weapons worldwide, France continues to try to find a balance in the areas surrounding nuclear weaponry.

While France leads the charge against the reduction of nuclear weaponry around the world, we have no intention to actually disarm ourselves. With a fast changing world full of unpredictability, France remains steadfast in keeping nuclear weapons in the case of a new extreme party coming to power which poses a threat to our country, and must be stopped. To give up nuclear power would be to give up an advantage on any dangers to the country and to create susceptibility to blackmail from threatening countries. In the same vein, France has pledged to only resort to nuclear force when something or someone stands in the way of one of France's vital interests. Whatever these interests may be, France won't hesitate to threaten the use of nuclear power to make sure these interests are safe. A far simpler reason that France has declined to eradicate their nuclear weapons is that we have them, so we might as well keep them. While we still believe in this rationale, we have made tremendous progress since the Cold War to decrease our nuclear arsenal. With conflicting reasons to keep and get rid of nuclear weapons, France has found a balance that we can live with. A balance of decreased nuclear investment, yet still existent. This way, we can live up to our mission of disarmament while also remaining a threat and protecting against any impedance.

France's nuclear force was promised to be used solely on national protection, but now with the goal of a united Europe, France's promise becomes a little trickier. As previously stated, France will only use nuclear force when one of its vital interests are impeded on or in extreme

circumstances of self-defence. It has the right to strike first in nuclear confrontation, but we prefer not to use nukes whenever possible. A final warning, an original French concept, will be issued to whatever country poses an extreme threat before any nuclear weaponry is used. This final warning will be used as a last chance to dissuade the enemy and attempts to avoid the need of nuclear force. It shows the reluctance of France to use nuclear weapons when not needed, which has caused some countries to think of us as nuclear wusses who won't do anything nuclear, yet better reflects France's desire for a safer, less tumultuous world. The majority of the country agrees with France's approach to nuclear warfare with only 16% of the population wanting a further reduced nuclear arsenal. Something the country cannot agree on however, is what it should be used for. Since the 1990's, French leaders have been contemplating a more European outlook to their nuclear usage, considering that other European countries should be taken into account when dealing with nuclear conflict. This idea has become increasingly prevalent with the election of Macron as president, who is fighting for the creation of a united Europe. With the development of this idea, France will face an interesting dilemma of Europeanizing or nationalizing their nuclear power, something that could be decided by the president himself. The president of France holds immense power when it comes to defense policy, and consequently nuclear matters. Whether France will choose to nationalize or Europeanize is to be seen, but at the moment, France remains constant in restricting their usage of nuclear power over national matters.

In an increasingly nuclear world, France has struck a balance that hovers between responsible and ineffective as well as national and global, yet we appear to have found a middle ground where we can still be a power without emphasizing nuclear weapons to too great of an

extent, something many countries strive to find. France will remain a nuclear power for a while and with the increased threats around the world such as in Iran, France will remain diligent in staying on top of the nuclear world to ensure that we will not come crashing down.

Committee on Diplomacy

France has the largest cultural network in the world, with over 100 cultural institutions and 163 embassies in foreign countries. But, in the midst of France's growing economic crisis, France's diplomatic network came under many fiscal restraints, which may lead to France closing down 5 embassies., says Pauline Carmona, the consul general of the French Consulate General in San Francisco. She also added that "The easy solution would be to close down 15 embassies in the world, and that would settle the issue." However, ministers of foreign affairs have consistently held that global diplomacy is a top priority for the nation. This is especially true in a world facing constant acts of terrorism. Carmona outlined four major focuses of French diplomacy: peace, planet, Europe and growth. After a numerous amounts of terrorists attacks done not only in France but in other European nations as well, on January 11th, France decided to begin airstrikes against Islamist rebel positions in northern Mali, these airstrikes were designed to prevent the establishment of a terrorist state. This was a surprise due to France's then leader Francois Hollande not being known for his decisive actions, moving so swiftly to order French fighter jets and attack helicopters into action. France is among one of the nine nations that hold nuclear weapons, it is the 4th nuclear weapons state after the United States. With such power, France maintains a policy of strict sufficient, meaning that France maintains its nuclear arsenal at the lowest possible level compatible with the strategic context. The French nuclear deterrent is the one that is most often compared to the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent.

France basically will threaten to use nuclear power, but will never truly use it. It is used by them as more of a bargaining chip than anything else. France and the United States come closest together on foreign policy when it comes to Iran. In the nuclear power arena, France is a strong yet weak nuclear power holder due to them not truly ever going to use it. The public opinion of France and their nuclear weapons revolve around three questions. Should France still base its global defence strategy on nuclear deterrence? If yes, how should nuclear deterrence be conducted? Finally, how should the state efficiently budget for this strategic investment? These questions stem from the growing cost of France's nuclear deterrent. Due to France's nuclear deterrence cost growing to an estimated 6 billion euros a year.

Committee on Terrorism

Over the past couple of decades, France has been the main target of international terrorism. Some main international threats dating back to the 1990's include the Groupe Islamique Armé in Algeria, and more recently the "international jihadist networks" closely related to Al Qaeda (France Diplomatie). The November 15th attacks in 2015 that killed 130 civilians and injured more in a coordinated terrorist attack throughout Paris headlines the recent fight against terror. These attacks have lead France to pursue a hands-on approach to counter-terrorism and have allowed for increased domestic security and legislation.

France has worked hard to improve their anti-terrorism legislation, further hoping to dismantle the mobilization of any plans of terror within their country's borders. The legislation improvements appear to come in waves following terror attacks. Increased security and border-checks have been what the French politicians have looked to in the past to stop terrorist movements. A few examples of modified legislation dates back to 1986, 1996 and after the

London-Madrid bombings in 2006. Under article 421-1 of the French Penal code, acts of terrorism can be prosecuted with increased penalties. This article labels a terrorist attack as an attack that is able “to disturb public order through intimidation or terror.” Since the 2006 attacks, people who attempt to, or successfully commit terrorism can now have their assets frozen. This policy has also been more globalized throughout the EU.

The next significant wave of terrorism-prevention came directly after the November 15th attack in Paris. These coordinated attacks have been publicized as the “deadliest on French soil since the Second World War” (Irish Times). In response, president Macron has initiated a more active counter to the attacks, giving the police in France “extended powers to search properties, conduct electronic eavesdropping and shut mosques or other locations suspected of preaching hatred (Irish Times).” This action has created much unwanted political controversy. Many conservatives claim that there should be more rights given to the police to ensure that no more lives are lost. However, many say that this action is a breach of their liberty and privacy. Macron has emphasized that there should be a balance between security and liberty, and feels as though these rights given to the police stay within boundaries of these two ideals. All of these rights given to the police will aid to destroy the internal threat of Terrorism, one thing that Macron still thinks is prolific and one of the primary concerns of his presidency.

With the addition of increased security and legislation, many experts believe that the threat of a large-scale attack has been reduced significantly. One thing that still poses a threat is smaller scale, individualized attacks. These attacks include low-cost weapons like a “car” or “knife,” as expert François Molins claims.

As the fight for terrorism-prevention is going on domestically, France also is fighting terrorism internationally. The secret-service estimates that about 690 French soldiers, 295 of which are women, are serving in Iraq and Syria. The numbers have been significantly dropping, evident through the fact that in 2015 there had been around 2,000 French soldiers in the area. This is due to the loss of pretty much all of France's land that their "self-protected caliphate" had under French control. (IrishTimes).

One region that France has led the charge against terrorism is in the African Sahel. Specifically, France has been involved in the fight against Islamic rebels around northern Mali. On January 11th, 2018, France sent their first of many air strikes to the region, hoping that one day they will have prevented the establishment of a terrorist state. This decision to start air strikes is characteristic of Emmanuel Macron and his goal to actively counter terrorism, not just sit around waiting for it to happen.

Overall, France's response to all of the terror-based activity going on domestically and internationally is exemplary for all European nations. The increased security after recent attacks has effectively aided with the reduction of large-scale attacks. Complementing with Macron's vision to make the EU a closer-knit league of nations, all nations in the EU should look to president Macron's approach to countering terrorism.

Committee on Climate and Energy

Although France is a major contributor to climate change with the resources it uses, it views climate as a global issue and is taking steps to try and improve the climate. In 2015 there was a Climate Conference in Paris, and 169 countries have ratified the Paris agreement to draw up strategies to lower greenhouse gas emissions. France is approaching the threats of global

warming by trying to unite the world in reducing emissions, and internally reducing nuclear power usage. Currently, about 75% of France's energy comes from nuclear power, so France is very dependant on nuclear energy. Although France tried to reduce its nuclear power usage to 50% by 2025, the goal seems unreachable due to increasing CO2 emissions, less security of power supply and less jobs due to this sudden change in nuclear power.

France does use nuclear weapons, and is the 4th nuclear weapon state in the world. Although France does not intend to use their nuclear weapons, giving them up and not advancing them would make France more vulnerable and weaker. Nuclear weapons and power seem to be having a positive effect on the environment, since the low carbon emissions and little use of fossil fuels leads to superior air quality and less pollution in France. In order for France to stop using nuclear power and energy many changes would have to be made internationally. First, other nuclear weapon states would have to back off on their weapon programs so that France would not feel vulnerable for not keeping up and modernizing their weapons. Next, France would need to find better sources of energy that are safer than nuclear energy and transition to them.

For the number of nuclear plants and the amount of nuclear energy that France produces each year, I don't think that they have enough safety regulations, and disaster could easily happen. In 2012, ASN led a sweeping safety search, and even announced that many safety aspects of plants did not meet their safety standards when they checked. France relies heavily on nuclear energy, and a disaster caused by unsafe nuclear plants could lead to heavy environmental dangers as well as a loss of useful energy in France. The role that the U.S. used to play in climate

change has decreased due to the U.S. dropping out of the Paris agreement, and Paris will have to step up its leadership to fill the U.S.'s role as an influencer in stopping climate change.

Committee on Economics

France is not fully modernized in agricultural methods, making services, including nuclear services, a huge industry for France. Leading industries include engineering, metallurgy, chemicals, textiles, and the production of airplanes and automobiles. Nuclear energy accounts for around 75% of France's electricity, which also makes it another significant industry because it costs so little to generate. Still, France does plan to reduce their production of nuclear energy drastically by 2025. Nuclear technology is also being manufactured and exported to other countries.

Having a nuclear weapons industry can create a perception that forces other countries to not take advantage of the country. Imports and exports would be fair or in the country with the nuclear technology favor, out of fear by the other side. However, in 1996 France halted production of fissile material and dismantled production facilities for weapons.

France has never faced economic sanctions, but since France does support the NPT because it provides security and peace, it has helped impose them on others who have violated the NPT. When Iran was controversially building and growing their nuclear arsenal, the European Union placed economic sanctions on Iran that proved to be detrimental. The sanctions caused the demand for oil to decrease and inflation to be very high, which helped account for GDP decrease in Iran over time.

A terrorist attack or nuclear war would clearly create security concerns for France, but threats like these can be combated by France due to their extensive nuclear arsenal, supported by

the nuclear deterrence policy. France's economy however can still decline drastically because of terrorism or nuclear attacks. It creates concerns for tourism, which is a huge market in France, creates more debt through military and security spending, and deters consumers away from public businesses which can contribute to slow anemic growth.

Committee on Disaster Preparedness

France acts as the leading EU nation that actively creates and enforces hazard risk management policies. In the past, our emergency management system strictly distinguished between natural hazards (floods, landslides, fires, volcanic activity, and earthquakes) and man-made hazards that include tampedes, fires, transport accidents, industrial accidents, oil spills and nuclear explosions/radiation. We have benefited from examining catastrophes from every disaster, in order to revise policies. These plans were last revised in 2006 (I think). Author of the book *Risk Society: Towards a New Modernity*, Ulrich Beck recognized the horrible mix of the frequent disaster in the last decade an people's insecure feeling about food, health, environmental changes, economy, social violence, and terrorism. It is therefore necessary to inform the population about the risks and about disaster management procedures.

Today, the French emergency management system follows the idea that the effectiveness of their disaster plans needs to be assessed by the public before they can go through with them. Recently, we took a more sensible approach to accept that not all disasters can be avoided. This means that disaster preparedness and recovery plans should be prepared regarding the possible risks. During the last few decades, there has been an increasing awareness towards the public health risks. These risks include soil contamination (resettlement on abandones gas plant sites) and toxic landfills. If a neighboring country faces an attack, or if it happens on the border of our

state, we plan to echo some of the main tenets: efficiency and coordination. On the first anniversary of the death of Syrian refugee Alan Kurdi, President Francois Hollande has committed France to taking 30,000 refugees over two years. Also, we will be the first to welcome African refugees rescued from Libya to Niger (where they will be watched over). France was the very first country in Europe to undergo a democratic transition, so it was first able to control its population growth. We have a relatively healthy and sustainable population growth of about 0.4% per year. We can most likely sustain as much as 130 million people (which is double our current population). French capacity to fight terrorism has improved over years of experience.

In Syria, local factions are fighting each other. This war on Syria, carried out by the Assad regime and his allies, are using chemical weapons against his own people. There is extreme risk to the security of the Syrian people. Our country has changed our view that conflicts can be resolved only through diplomacy, explaining our recent military activism in Libya and soon in Syria. President Francois Hollande has been motivated to gain support for a military strike on the Syrian President. Even from the beginning of the Syrian crisis, we have provided economic and diplomatic support for the Syrian opposition. In 2013, President Hollande announced his country would joining the US in a military operation against Assad. Our country's constant engagement with helping Syrian opposition reflects our traditional aspiration to play an impactful role in international affairs. France's intervention in the Middle East is a new development and linked to its embrace of democratic movements.

When an incident causes a disruption in our country, it may lead to other significant disasters very quickly. Research and evidence has shown that it would be more achievable to manage complex risks as a whole system rather than managing them according to incident type.

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