

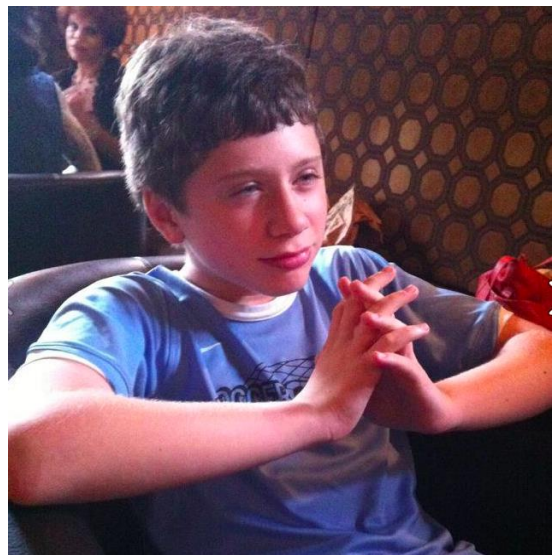


MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS 2016

House Foreign Relations

Maxwell Stephen Zeff

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Hi, I'm Owen. I'm excited that you chose the House Foreign Relations committee! To start off, there are a couple important vocabulary words that you will see in my bill:

Tariff-- A duty or tax placed on an import or export. For example, if France sold apples to Spain and Spain placed a 20% tariff on French apples, French apples would cost 20% more in Spain. This would make French apples less competitive and, most likely, hurt the French apple industry. Generally, the higher the tariff, the more disruptive it is. If Spain's tariff on French apples increased to 200%, it is likely that French apples would be too expensive to be sold.

Import -- An import is a good brought into another country for sale. In our French apples example, apples were imported into Spain. If the shirt you are wearing says "Made in China" on it, then it is an import!

Embargo -- An embargo is a ban on trade between countries.

Now that you have that vocabulary down, we can delve into the tricky geopolitics of North Korea. You've probably learned from "The Interview" or on the news that North Korea is a surreal place that bears little resemblance to anywhere you or I have been. North Korea is totalitarian, communist, oppressive, and all-around bad. North Korea also has been spending huge amounts of resources to develop nuclear weapons and is close to a functioning warhead.

China has a strong relationship with North Korea, dating back to the formation of the country after the Korean War. Both China and North Korea are communist nations, which is at the root of their continued relationship. China has opposed sanctions against North Korea and continues to be North Korea's biggest trading partner.

The bill proposes to incentivize China to end economic relations with North Korea by threatening economic sanctions that would hurt the Chinese economy. If passed, the bill would have drastic effects. China is one of the United States' largest trading partners, and a tariff would compromise billions of dollars in trade and would ripple through both the U.S. and Chinese economy. On the other hand, North Korea is a condemnable, militant state that China is helping to support.

Before you decide where you stand, read up on the bill and these articles:

<http://www.cfr.org/china/china-north-korea-relationship/p11097>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/country-chapters/north-korea>

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/north-korea-sanctions-tread-cautiously-17955>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/north-korea-is-racing-towards-the-nuclear-finish-line/2016/10/07/c4288d30-84c5-11e6-b57d-dd49277af02f_story.html

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/08/upshot/how-a-tariff-on-chinese-imports-would-ripple-through-american-life.html?_r=0

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS

Department: House Foreign Relations

Principal Authors: Owen Kaplan

Bill No: HFR101616OK

Co-Authors: Max Zeff

Title of Bill: An Act to Promote Responsible Trade

BE IT ENACTED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

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3 **PREAMBLE:** *Whereas* North Korea maintains a fascist, oppressive, totalitarian regime
4 that opposes the value system of the global community; *whereas* North Korea is a hotbed
5 of human rights violations; *whereas* the U.N. sponsored Human Rights Council
6 concluded that the “gravity, scale and nature of these violations reveal a State that does
7 not have any parallel in the contemporary world,” (HRC); *whereas* UN agencies
8 designate up to 70 percent of the North Korean population as food insecure (Albert);
9 *whereas* freedom of speech, press, religion, movement, labor, and information are
10 systematically repressed in North Korea (HRC); North Korea is “racing towards the
11 finish line” in their progress towards nuclear weapons (Fifield); *whereas* a regime that
12 opposes civil liberties, allocates resources towards a nuclear program while its people
13 starve, and openly threatens neighboring countries should be uniformly condemned by
14 the international community; *whereas* according to a senior fellow at the American
15 Enterprise Institute, “China is currently North Korea’s only economic backer of any
16 importance,” and accounts for 70% of North Korea’s total trade volume (Albert); *whereas*
17 China and North Korea have opened a shipping route to expand coal trade between the
18 two nations (Albert); *whereas* the U.S. imported almost 500 billion dollars of goods from
19 China in 2015 (Office of the United States Trade); *whereas* China would be severely hurt
20 by U.S. economic sanctions.

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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS

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25 **Section 1:** The United States will place a 10 percent tariff on all Chinese imports if they
26 continue economic relations with North Korea.

27 **Subsection A:** Economic relations will be defined as all trade, banking, and
28 monetary interactions.

29 **Subsection B:** Humanitarian aid will not qualify as “economic relations.”

30 **Subsection C:** This tariff will increase by 5 percent per year as long as China-
31 North Korea trade continues.

32 **Subsection D:** If the tariff reaches 40 percent and China-North Korea trade
33 continues, the U.S. will place an embargo on all Chinese goods.

34 **Section 2:** A committee of human rights and military experts will be established to
35 evaluate North Korea bi-annually.

36 **Subsection A:** If this committee finds that North Korea is not a security threat and
37 North Korean citizens maintain civil rights and freedoms, section 1 of “An Act to
38 Promote Responsible Trade” is null and void.

39 **Section 3:** Other countries found to be supporting North Korea economically will be
40 subject to the sanctions outlined in Section 1

41 **Section 4:** This bill will go into effect 91 days after passage.

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Hola, Ciao, Bonjour, and Hello from the Foreign Relations Committee! My name is Max, and the bill we will be discussing in our debate is on the topic of the Syrian Civil War. Looking at the war today, you might say it looks like a complicated, giant mess... If you are one of those people, I would say to you... "You're right! It is a huge mess! You're pretty good at this Foreign Relations stuff!" And, yes, it can get somewhat confusing with no background information, but I will provide you with the general knowledge you need to effectively debate this bill. However, I'm going to include some supplemental articles and I strongly suggest you look into them because they will further your understanding of the topic, making you a master debater! Here is a general rundown of how Syria got to where it stands today.

- In the late 2000s, a bunch of Syrians realized that they wanted a democratic government, as opposed to the strict government they already had that didn't give them much of a voice. They started to protest peacefully and gained moderate attention until a group of protestors was shot dead by government forces in March 2011.
- Syrian people were enraged by the violent actions of the government. This caused unrest throughout nation where they demanded the Syrian President, Bashar al-Asaad, to resign.
- Civil war breaks out as rebel groups form to combat government forces for control of cities and territories. War reaches capital, Damascus, and second largest city of Aleppo in 2012
- By 2015, around 250,000 people had been killed in the Syrian conflict, roughly 1% of the Syrian population when the war erupted in 2011.
- The war today consists of more groups than just for Asaad or against Asaad.
- ISIS has sprung out of the mess and capitalized on the chaos, creating another dimension to the war; Islamic sects battling it out.
- The Kurds, a sect of Islam, control a large amount of land in Syria, as well as ISIS, and the Sunnis, who are the native majority in Syria.
- All sects of Islam have some involvement in this war, and all of these groups, as well as the rebels and Syrian government, **all are being backed by foreign powers.**

That last bullet is what makes this war so dramatic and dangerous. The United States supports the Syrian Rebels (the people of Syria fighting their president, Asaad, who refuted their protests for democracy), and the Kurds. These groups are also supported by Sunni nations in the Middle East like Saudi Arabia as well as the U.K.

The Syrian government is mainly supported by Russia and Iran. No country is really openly supporting ISIS in this ordeal, but few (U.S., U.K., Saudi Arabia) are actually doing anything to stop them from expanding, which pulls into question if the countries who

aren't taking much action are really anti-ISIS (cough, cough, Russia, cough cough).

During the month of October, Russia has held several brutal bombings on the large Syrian city of Aleppo, which has been controlled by rebel forces recently. The death toll has traversed into the hundreds in the past week from just bombings in Aleppo, including mostly innocent families and children.

The UN has begun talks of placing sanctions, a punishment where countries will stop trading somewhat or altogether, on Russia and Syria for their reckless actions in killing innocent people. If the United States and U.K. were to impose sanctions or embargoes on Russia, it could drastically hurt the global economy, as well as giving the unstable Russia and Putin a reason to use more aggression towards the West and Western backed groups

<http://www.news.com.au/world/simple-points-to-help-you-understand-the-syria-conflict/story-fndir2ev-1226705155146>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-and-u-k-consider-new-sanctions-on-russia-over-syria-1476649168>

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/10/17/middleeast/aleppo-airstrikes/>

<https://www.rt.com/business/363131-exxon-lost-billion-russia-sanctions/>

<http://www.cnbc.com/2016/10/16/us-and-britain-consider-new-economic-sanctions-on-syria-russia.html>

MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS BILL

Department: House Foreign Relations Principal Authors: Max Zeff

Bill No: HFR101616MZ Co-Authors: Owen Kaplan

Title of Bill: An Act to Sanctify

BE IT ENACTED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

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3 **PREAMBLE:** *Whereas* Russia has killed and acted irresponsibly in Syria for
4 over half a decade; *Whereas* the people of Russia are no longer represented
5 whatsoever by their government; *Whereas* U.S. backed groups are being killed
6 and attacked by Russian backed groups (BBC). *Whereas* these actions can not be
7 tolerated any longer and Aleppo has been the tipping point (Blau); *Whereas*
8 sanctions have been used in the past and have been effective on countries like
9 Cuba; *Whereas* embargoes have also proven to have negative effects causing
10 American industries to fail as well as industries of other countries (Exxon);
11 *Whereas* Russia short temper and quick decision making have cause much of the
12 deaths of Syrian rebels; *Whereas* these are all risks we are willing to take.

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL CONGRESS

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17 SECTION 1: The United States government will place a complete and total
18 Embargo on the Country of Russia.

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21 Section 2: The U.S. will decrease trade by 50% (that is imports and exports) with
22 other countries in the United Nations who fail to impose the same embargo on
23 Russia in order to strengthen our own sanctions.

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26 Section 3: The Embargo on Russia and sanctions on other countries will be
27 enforced by the Department of Commerce

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30 Section 4: This bill will go into effect 92 days after passage

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