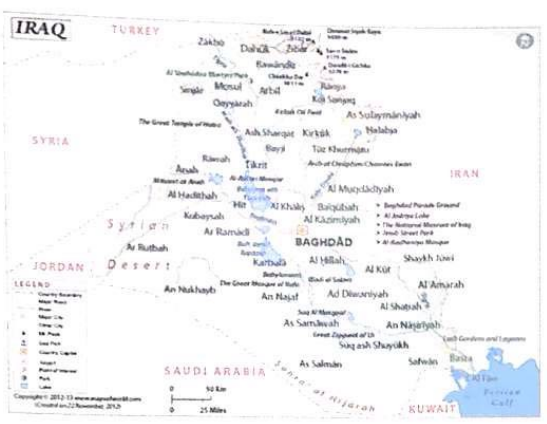


Iraq



Form of Government- parliamentary democracy
Ethnic Makeup- Arab (75%-80%), Kurdish (15%-20%), Turkoman, Assyrian, or other (5%)
Religious Makeup- Muslim (99%), Christian (0.8%), Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Folk Religion, Unaffiliated, Other (< 0.1%)
UN Membership- Yes

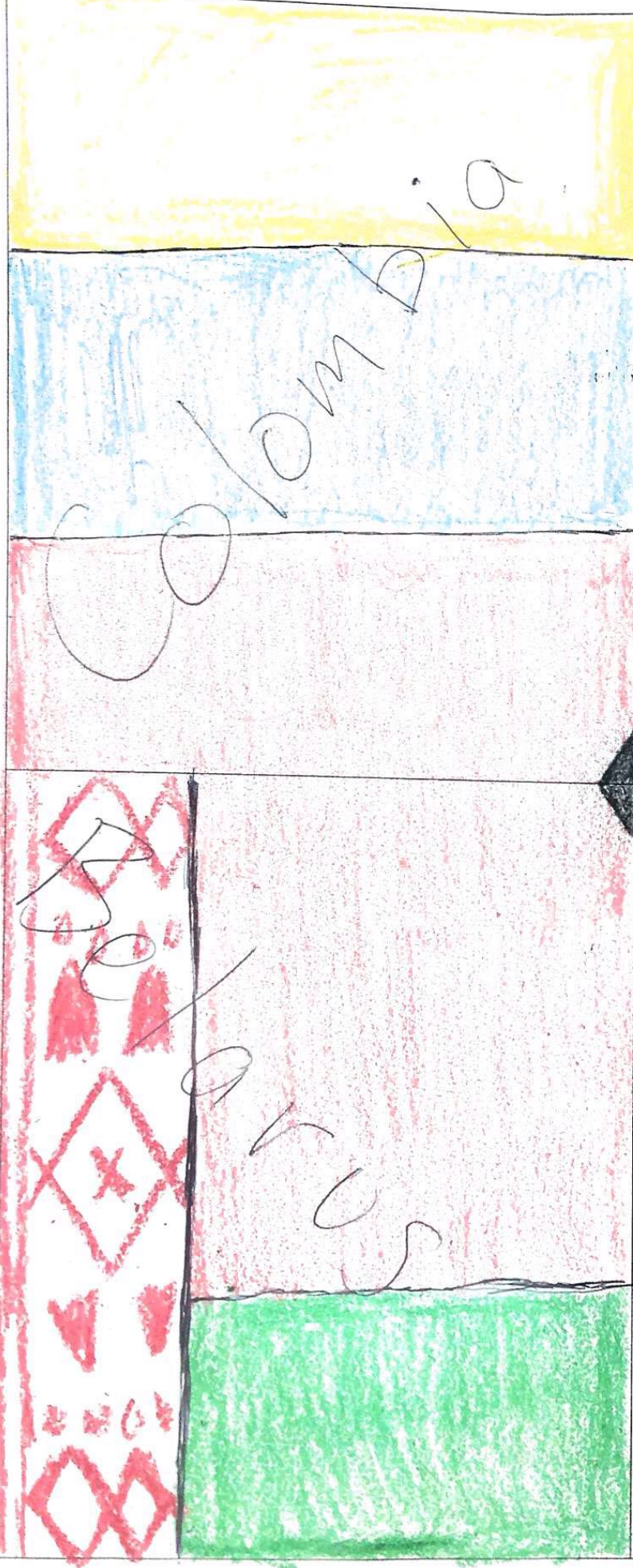
Iraq is a country that has had various conflicts for decades. A situation occurred recently in late 2014 as "the new Iraq War is doomed". U.S. forces and its allies launched 31 airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. The conflict arose when Iraqi forces lost land to ISIL forces. Kurdish people were also exposed to the attacks. The U.S. supplied Kurds with weapons to fend off Islamist rebels. Anyone that can help and make an impact to the rising problems in Iraq would be the best scenario. The Islamic State is ruthless, and slaughtered hundreds of innocent people, especially of the minority (Yazidis). They created revolting images for the world to see. Obama intervened by sending airstrikes. If people are doing things that revolting, there's bound to be one's who help like the U.S. and its allies.

Russia



Form of Government- federation
Ethnic Makeup- Russian (77.7%), Tatar (3.7%), Ukrainian (1.4%), Bashkir (1.1%), Chuvash (1%), Chechen (1%), other (10.2%), unspecified (3.9%)
Religious Makeup- Russian Orthodox (15-20%), Muslim (10-15%), other Christian (2%)
UN Membership- Yes

Russia was known as the Soviet Union years ago, and it has had a history of several issues in the past. One dealing with the attack in Afghanistan, which led to even more problems in that country. In recent times, Russians and pro- Russian rebels have been surging violence against Eastern Ukraine in an attempt for more territory. Thousands of people are affected by this crisis in Ukraine by Russia and several other countries. In 2014, a dispute occurred between Russia and Ukraine over the control of Crimea. Even though problems are arising in Ukraine, countries have stepped up to communicate through leaders of France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine to settle an agreement through peace talks. The U.S. has gone against Russia by siding with Ukraine and loaning them one billion dollars to help with their financial needs. It's important to have support from outsiders when in trouble.



Background Information

Form of Government: Republic
Ethnic Makeup: 58% - mestizo, 20% white, 14% - mulatto, 4% - Black,
Religious Makeup: 90% - Roman Catholic, 10% other.

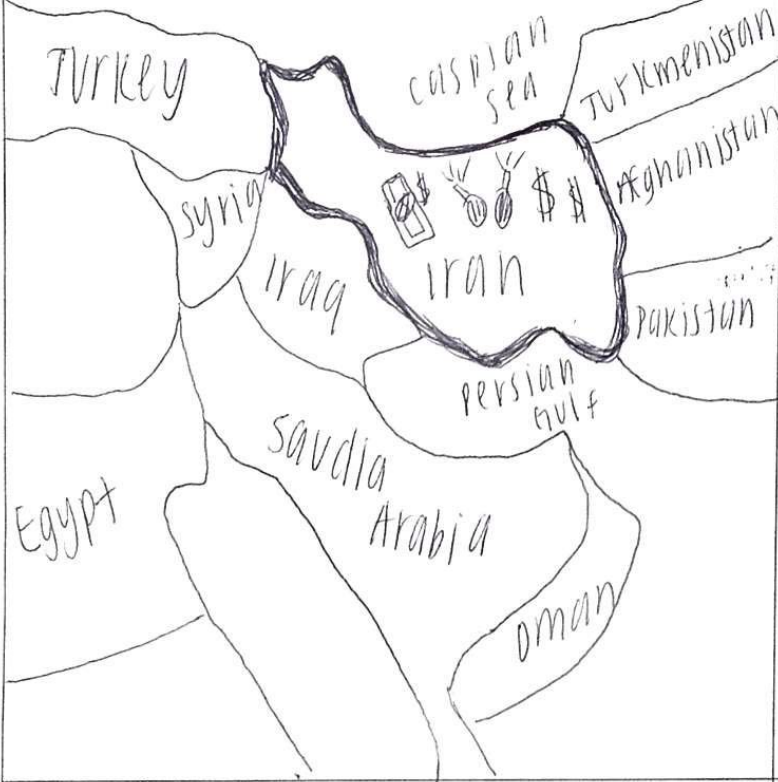
UN membership: Yes, 1945
 The issue is not too much relevant today, however during the 1980's and 1990's. Turn oil and violence stuck the Colombia. At one point it was the country with the most murders (momicides). The Problem was the war against drugs. During the 1980's, there was a famous drug kingpin named Pablo Escobar. He controlled the underworld and loved the game of soccer. And way Pablo gave a lot back to the communities in Colombia. However the Colombian Government was corrupt and the people were mad upse.

Background Information

Form of Government: Republic
Ethnic Makeup: 83.7% - Belarusian, 8.3% - Russian, 3% - Polish, 1% - Ukrainian
Religious makeup: Eastern Orthodox - 80%, Other - 10%
UN member - Declared Independence in 1991 from Russia, Yes, 1945

The current conflict which the country is its battle with Russia for oil. These was affecting the western European states that depend on those oil lines.

Iran



Form of government: Islamic Republic

Ethnic make up: Persians 65%, Azeris 16%, Kurds 7%, Lurs 6%, Arabs 2%, Baluch 2%, Turkmen 1%

Religious make up: 99% are Muslims
1% include Christians, Jew, ect

UN membership: yes

Current Political Environment / Internal Conflict

Iran faces international criticism for not adhering to the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding its nuclear facilities and its uranium enrichment program.

Global or regional concern

concern is with the nuclear deal. Iranian governments have always felt cheated and humiliated while dealing with world powers. It is not a very respected country.

Serbia



Form of government: Parliamentary Republic / Republic

Ethnic make up: Serbs 83.3%, Hungarian 3.5%, Romany 2.1%, Bosniak 2.7%, other 5.7%, undeclared or unknown 3.4%

Religious make up: Serbian Orthodox 84.6%, Catholic 5%, Muslim 3.1%, Protestant 1%, atheist 1.1%, other 0.8%, undeclared/unknown 4.5%

UN membership: yes

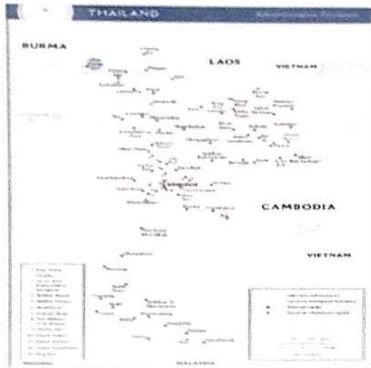
Current Political Environment / Internal Conflict

Serbia has been trying to integrate into the European Union, but its progress has been hindered by tensions with the United States and many EU countries over independence of Serbia.

Global or regional concern

relations with Kosovo remain tense. They find accountability for war crimes.

Thailand



1. Form of government: Constitutional monarchy administered by military junta.
2. Ethnic makeup: 75-85% Thai, 14% Chinese Thai, and 12% Other (Malay, Khmer, etc)
3. Religious makeup: 95% Theravada Buddhist, 4% Islam, and 1% Other
4. UN membership: Permanent member state.

Thailand is currently facing a conflict within its country because of armed militants in south Thailand attacking Thai military forces; most of the victims are Muslim. As a result, martial law was declared and they are still facing attacks. There was also another political conflict where the Thai constituency forced the prime minister to step down from office. The violence eventually led to the resignation of the King's advisors and caused the Parliament to dissolve.

The rest of the world should be interested as it could be the rise of a militant group that assumes control of south Thailand and declare it to be their own 'state' - although it will not be seen as a state in the international community. The protests in Thailand could also have an eye kept on it because it could potentially turn violent.

Israel

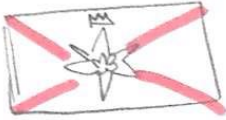


1. Form of government: Unitary parliamentary republic
2. Ethnic makeup: 74.9% Jewish, 20.7% Arab, and 4.3% other.
3. Religious makeup: 75.4% Jewish, 17.3% Muslim, 2.0% Christian, 1.6% Druze, and 3.7% Other.
4. UN membership: Permanent member state.

Israel is currently in a conflict, called the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with the Palestine - who are located in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The primary reason behind the conflict is because the Palestinians want their original sovereignty over the land of Israel and have violently tried to reclaim the land. Bordering countries, such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, initially did not recognize Israel as a state, but Syria remains as the only state that does not recognize Israel as a nation. As of 2014, it is thought that 24,969 people have died due to the conflicts over Israel.

The international community should keep a close eye on Israel as tensions between Israel and Palestine rise and could potentially become a more serious problem, including more civilian deaths.

Ireland



VS.



- unitary state
- constitutional republic
- parliamentary system

Irish 84.5%
 Other white 9.8%
 Asian 1.9%
 Black 1.4%

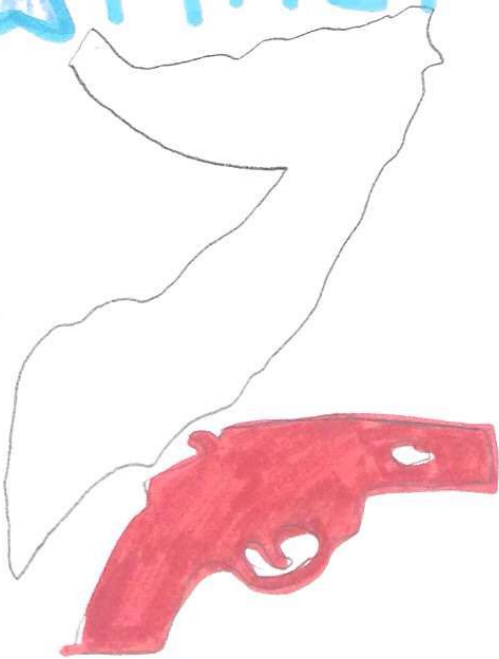
Roman Catholic 84.7%
 Church of Ireland 7.7%
 Muslim 1.1%

Yes in UN, since 1945

In Northern Ireland, religion is a huge controversy. (Protestants vs Catholics)

In recent years, Ireland has tried to act as a diplomatic bridge for the US & EU. World should pay attention to the impact exports

SOMALIA



- federal republic
- parliamentary republic

Somali 85%
 Bantu and others 15%
 Yes in UN.

Sunnī Muslim

Recently, the chief of intelligence, Abdshakur passed away. Also, there has been a recent suicide bombing near the Somalia borders. Additionally, many relatives of the Somali families have left to join the Islam state.

Al Qaeda is known to have had activities in Somalia, therefore the world should be aware and aid help as well.

Syria



Anastasia
Papizas

- Background Information

Government: unitary single party semi-presidential republic

Ethnic Makeup: 90% Arab, 9-10% Kurds, 1% Armenians

Religious Makeup: 74% Sunni Islam, 10-11% Christian, 9-10% Alawite Islam, 3% Druze, 1% Ismaili Islam

UN Membership: yes

Within the past 10 days, the Syrian air force led air strikes in Damascus that have killed an estimated 200 citizens. Bashar al-Assad, the president of Syria, claims that the air force did not use hap hazardous weaponry on the civilian population, although the air force used various explosives in the area. Throughout the 5 year war, barrel bombing has been the most commonly used weapon against the groups of individuals who strive to no longer be controlled by the Syrian government. The massacre of innocent people has led to rioting and political turmoil in the country. The Islamic State (IS), a group of radicals, have also seized territory in Eastern Syria.

The middle east should be interested and concerned by this outbreak because Syria is setting an example of the consequences that can happen when citizens disagree with political affairs and begin to respond. People of other local nations can see what has happened in Syria and become outraged which can lead to strife between Syria and other countries.

Afghanistan



Anastacia
Topaltzas

- Background Information

Form of Government: presidential republic

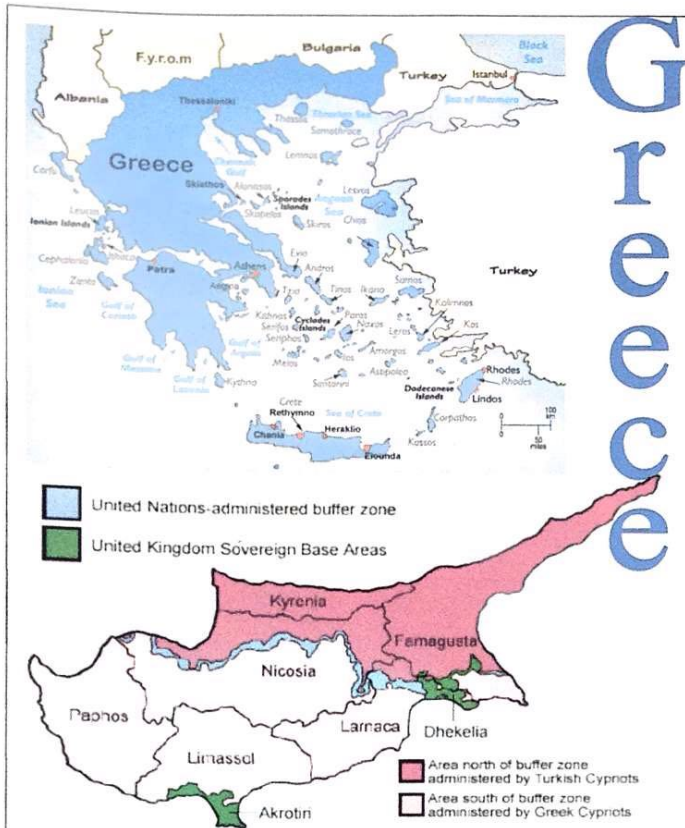
Ethnic Makeup: 40% Pashtun, 25.3% Tajiks, 18% Hazaras, 6.3% Uzbeks, 2.5% Turkmen, 1% Qizilbash, 6.9% other

Religious Makeup: about 99% Muslim

UN Membership: yes

In Afghanistan there has been a recent increase in followers of the Islamic State (IS) which is a radical group that incorporates violent tactics such as abductions and killings of those who do not agree with their beliefs. An afghan military commander was killed in a drone strike after recently breaking off from the Taliban and becoming a follower of the Islamic State. Since the Taliban was ousted in 2001, 6 million refugees have now been able to travel back to Afghanistan, though 1/3 of them are in need of financial support.

I believe that other middle eastern countries that are not yet involved with the Islam State should worry if they wish to become a part of it. Since an afghan military commander was killed recently after committing to the Islamic State, this could happen to any other individuals as well. Radical groups can continue to form and kill large masses of innocent people; therefore the Middle East must be cautious of their desired identity.



Greece

Type of Government: Unitary Parliamentary

Constitutional Republic

Ethnic Make Up:

- 91.56% Greek
- 4.44% Albanian
- .7% Bulgarian
- .43% Romanian
- .32% Pakistani
- .25% Georgian

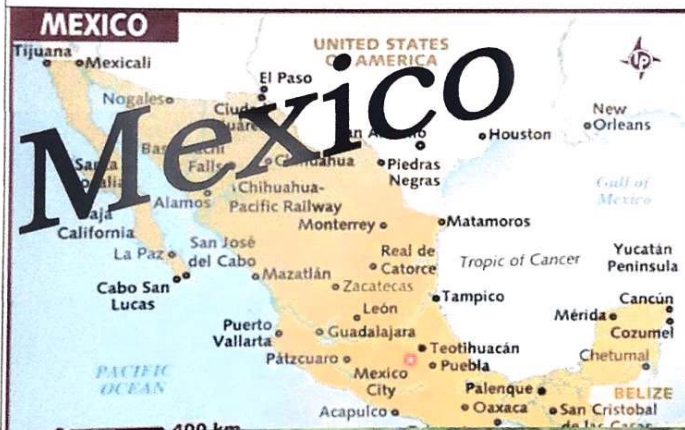
Religious Make Up:

- 97% Eastern Orthodox (Greek Orthodox Church)
- 1.3% Islam

UN Member

Greek and Turkish ethnic groups are fighting over the identity of Cyprus. The nation of Cyprus held land to Greeks and Turks that lived separately on the island. Greek Cypriots do not trust the Turkish Cypriots and vice versa, resulting in a separate territories.

The island has two ways to resolve the conflict. The first is to allow the government of Cyprus to coax the two ethnic groups into creating a friendship. The second is to allow the UN to become a third party in the situation.



Type of Government: Federal Presidential

Constitutional Republic

Ethnic Make Up:

- 65% Mestizo
- 17.5% Amerindian
- 16.5% White

Religious Make Up:

- 83% Roman Catholicism
- 10% Other Christian

UN Member

A rebellion against the marginalization of indigenous people occurred after the 1992 Constitution amendment and Mexico entering NAFTA. This was the Zapatista Uprising and it led to tension between the indigenous people and the subsistence farmers in Chiapas. Zapatistas were being killed by anti-Zapatista militias and the government.

The fighting grew to other parts of Mexico, affecting many people and political leader. The whole conflict was a result of Mexico entering into international relations with NAFTA.

Annualiese Akaman

Venezuela



Government: Federal presidential Constitutional Republic

Ethnic makeup: 20% are white
66% are mixed
10% are black
2% are indigenous

Religious makeup: 92% are Roman Catholic
8% are Protestant

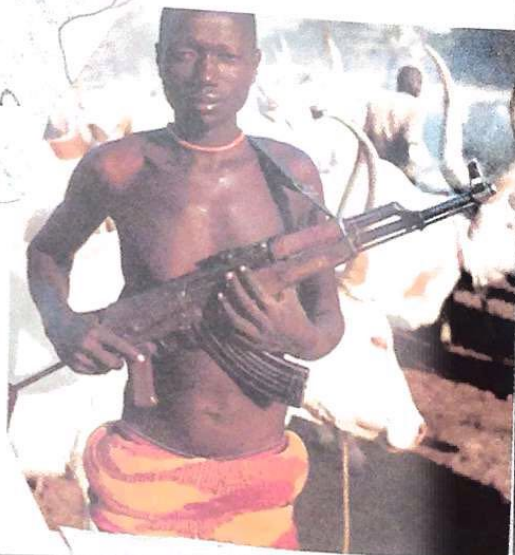
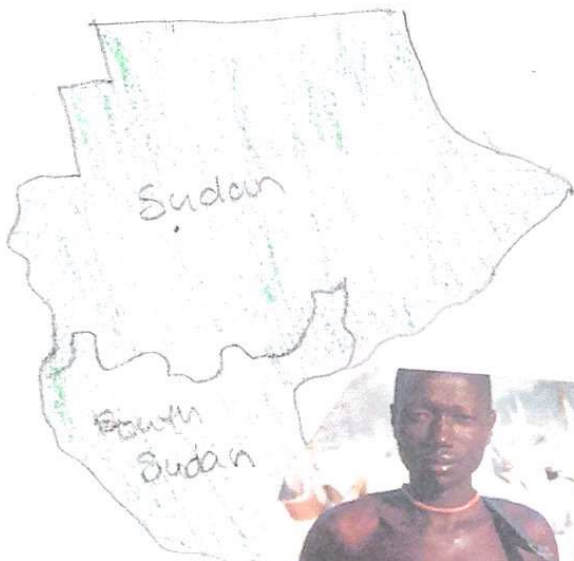
UN Membership: Yes

Political/Internal Conflict: civilians are fighting for human and civil rights. The government is also trying to control the crime rates.

Global or Regional concern: Venezuela has been working with Saudi Arabia in hope of decreasing the oil prices and controlling the climate change. The high crime rates and drug distribution rates cause drugs in other states.



Sudan



Government: dominant + - party
Federal presidential
Republic

Ethnic makeup: 70% are Arabs
Nubians,
Copts and Beja
are the minorities

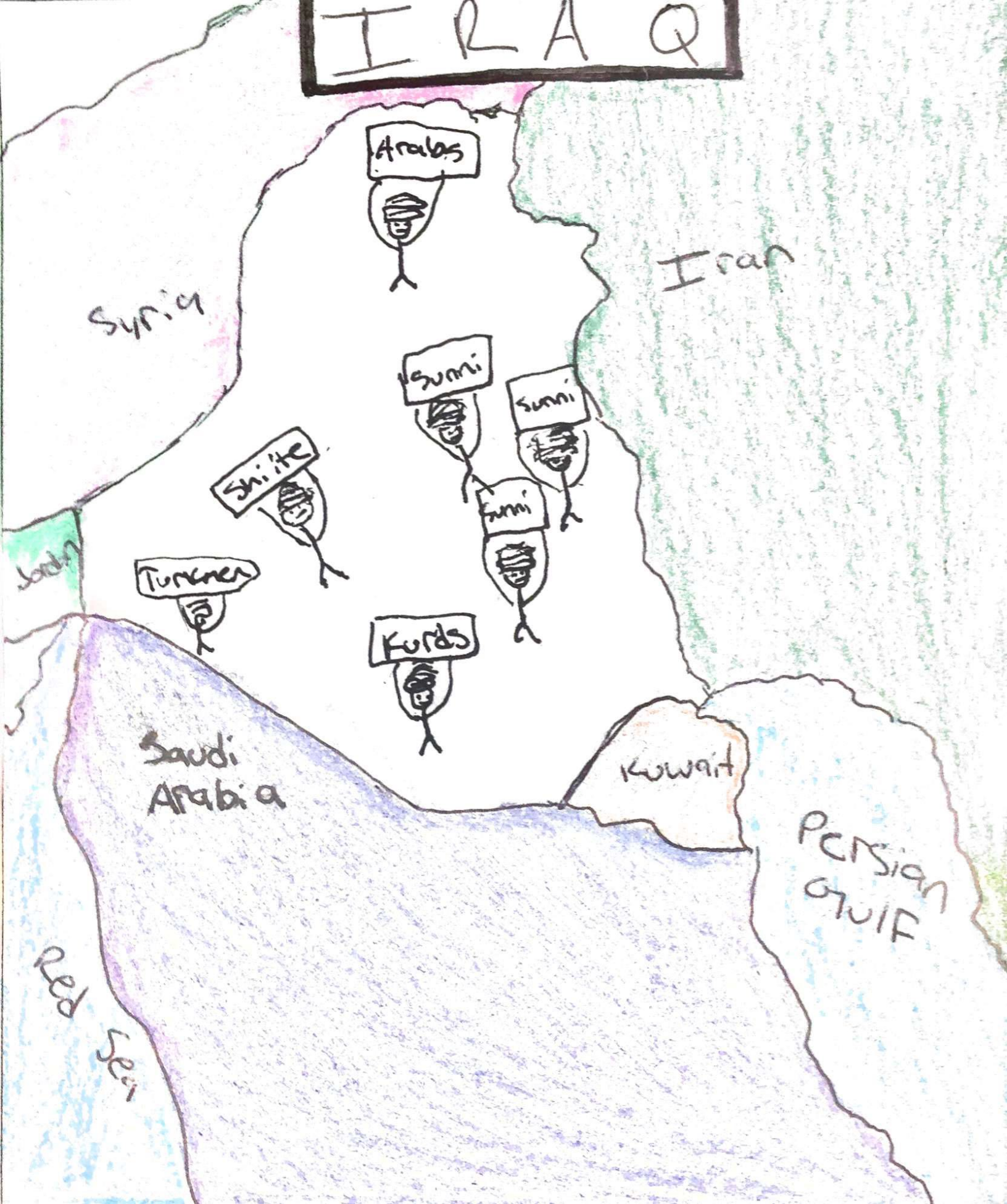
Religious makeup: 97% are Islam
1.5% are African traditional
1.5% are Christian

UN membership: Yes

Political/Internal conflict: There was a multi decade civil war that gave South Sudan independence in 2011. There was political instability and corruption. Tensions among ethnic groups resulted in more war. It is not safe to live there.

Global concern: The UN has been sending humanitarian aid to help with the famine. Some countries have put sanctions on military commanders in an effort to stop the violence.

IRAQ



Syria

Iran

Arabs

Sunni

Sunni

Shi'ite

Sunni

Turkmen

Kurds

Saudi Arabia

Kuwait

Persian Gulf

Red Sea

- The government of Iraq is a Federal Parliamentary Republic
- The population is approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ Shiite and $\frac{3}{4}$ Sunni Muslim
- 80% Arab, 15-20% Kurds, 5% Turkmen
- UN member since 1945

Conflict:

The Kurd ethnic group was highly repressed and had little power in government. 1991 Gulf war resulted in Kurds de facto independence in northern Iraq under U.S. protection. The small 5% Turkish ethnic group are opposed to the Kurds gaining their own separated Nation-State.

Importance: The US. has already been at war in this region. Also the Turkmen are backed by Turkey which adds another force of ethnic difference

RUSSIA

Arctic Ocean



Sea of Okhotsk

Chechen

putin

Kazakhstan

Mongolia

China

N. Korea

S. Korea

- The government of this country is the Russian Federation
- Ethnically Russian: 78%, Tatar: 3.8%, Ukrainian: 1.4%, Bashkir: 1%, other: 10.2%
- Russian Orthodox 41%, Muslim 6.5%, Unaffiliated Christian 4.1%, not religious 25%, Spiritual but Atheist/non-religious 13%
- permanent member of the Security Council and full member of UN

Conflict(s):

Due to the vast majority of Russian Ethnic group, throughout Russian history the minority ethnic groups have had to fight for independence and freedoms. Examples include Ukraine, Georgia, and Chechnya. The vast multi-ethnic status of Russia has resulted in many ethnic conflicts.

Importance: Many bordering countries are not only directly affected by ethnic conflict, but most have been directly involved.

Ukraine

VENEZUELA



Form of Government: Federal presidential constitutional republic.

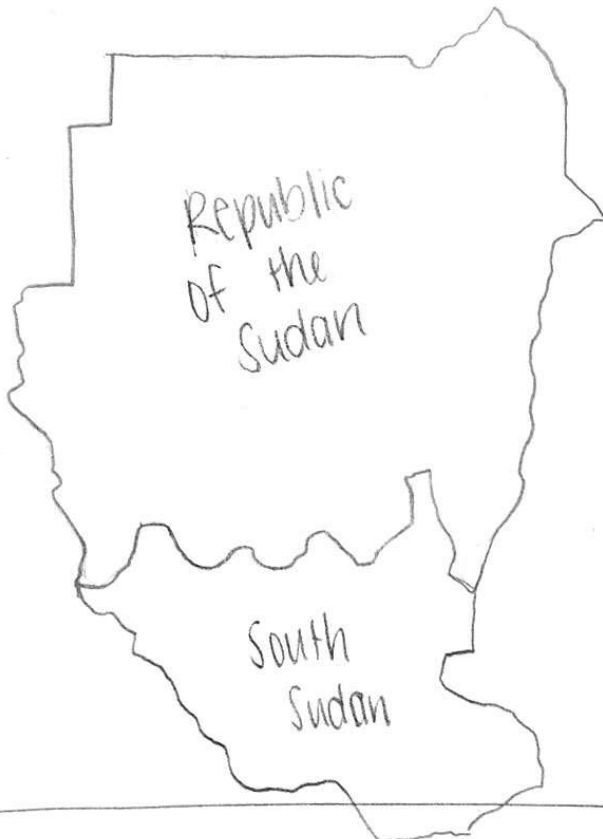
Ethnic Makeup: Mestizo, white, Black, Other, Afrodescendant.

Religious Makeup: Roman Catholic, Protestant
UN Membership: Yes

Current Conflict: Due to Venezuela's high level of violence, inflation, and constant shortages of goods, a series of protests broke out in 2014. During the first few months, there were several violent confrontations between the protestors and officers, resulting in 3,000 arrests and 43 deaths.

Global Concern: This ongoing violence just started last year and is still pretty recent. This could also lead to the separation of Venezuela as the people of Venezuela fight for their independence.

SUDAN



Form of Government: Dominant-party federal presidential republic

Ethnic Makeup: Sudanese

Religious Makeup: Muslim, Sunni Islam

UN Membership: Yes

Current Conflict: While there is no current conflict the region of South Sudan has been negatively affected by two civil wars. From 1955 to 1972, the Sudanese government fought the Anyanya rebel army called the First Sudanese Civil War. During the Second Sudanese Civil War, the Sudan People's Liberation Army / Movement (SPLA/M) lasted for over twenty years.

Global Concern: These two civil wars led to the separation of the north and the south region of Sudan. People should recognize that these two regions are separate.

GREECE



Form of Government: Constitutional Republic

Ethnic Makeup

- 98% Greek
- 2% Other (Turks, Macedonian Slavs, Albanians, Armenians, Bulgarians, Jews, Vlachs, etc.)

Religious Makeup

- 97% Greek Orthodox
- 3% Other (Islam, Roman Catholic, Judaism, etc.)

UN Membership: Yes

There has been in great economic debt, causing them to get bailouts from it's surrounding countries. There is currently around 400 billion American dollars in debt with an interest rate per second of \$891. There are currently people who blame the bailouts for their economic turmoil and high unemployment.

Debt is 167% of GDP

...of the war might not be favorable for...

MEXICO



Form of Government: Constitutional & Federal Republic

Ethnic Makeup

- 60% Mestizo
- 30% Amerindian
- 9% White
- 1% Other

Religious Makeup

- 82.7% Roman Catholic
- 5% Evangelical Church
- 1.6% Pentecostal
- 1.4% Jehovah's Witness
- 4.7% None
- 4.6% Other

UN Membership: Yes

The Mexican government has waged a war on drugs since 2006. Since then, over 100,000 drug traffickers have been killed by each other for territory and have made between 19 and 29 billion dollars from sales annually from the United States alone.

Other countries should be concerned with the amount of drugs leaving Mexico because ultimately, it ends up in there. Studies show that 70% of guns recovered from criminal activity in Mexico has been sold in the US and that 90% of cocaine in the US came from Mexico. US has spent over 51 billion dollars on the war on drugs annually and there have been claims that ever since it began, cartel violence has significantly increased.

NORTH KOREA



Background INFORMATION

FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Single party state
Supreme leader: Kim Jong Un
Ethnic MAKEUP: KOREAN
RELIGIOUS MAKEUP: 64.3% Juche
16% Korean Shamanism 13.5% Chondoism
4.5% Buddhism 1.7% Christianity
• UN Membership: Yes

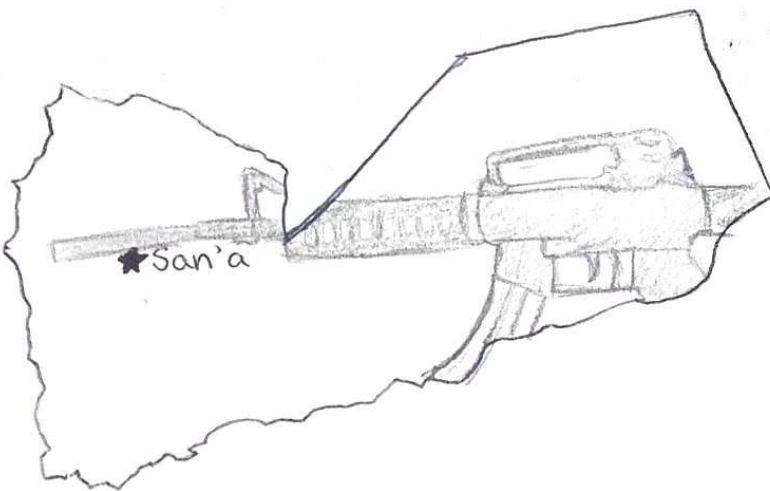
CURRENT CONFLICTS:

Current conflicts existing in North Korea are poverty and underemployment. Many North Koreans are also starving because there is not enough food for everyone. 24 million people in North Korea live in extreme poverty.

GLOBAL OR REGIONAL CONFLICTS

The rest of the world should be concerned with North Korea because they are a threat to the world. They have weapons of mass destruction. Their supreme leader is also ruthless.

YEMEN



Background INFORMATION

FORM OF GOVERNMENT:
PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
President: Mohammed Ali al-Houthi
Ethnic MAKEUP: Arab, Afro Arab, South Asian, European
Religious MAKEUP: Islam
UN Membership: Yes

CURRENT CONFLICTS:

Current conflicts existing in Yemen include the insurgency of the Houthis. The Houthis have formally taken over and dissolved their parliament. Also placing the former president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi under house arrest. Yemen is also a home-base for the terrorist organization Al-Qaeda. Yemen is also depleting in natural resources. The Yemeni people are also undergoing poverty and underemployment.

GLOBAL OR REGIONAL CONFLICTS

The rest of the world should be concerned with Yemen because there is an outbreak of violence from Houthis. Recently foreign countries such as France and United States have called back their embassies, which led to the Houthis taking more control.

CHINA



中国人民解放军是毛泽东思想大学校

Form of Govt.: communist state
 Ethnic Makeup: Han 91.65%
 Religious make up: confucianism + Taoism, and Buddhism
 UN membership: yes

The cultural revolution took place from 1966-1976. This was a political movement set by the communist party of china with a goal to preserve communist ideology in china. This was done by getting rid of all capital and traditional elements in the chinese society. This movement affected the economy of china dramatically.

The world should be interested in this conflict because communism can easily be spread. This movement also eliminated the freedom of speech and any capitalist elements of the society. The economy of other nations may be effected as trade with china may be limited.

Egypt



Form of Govt.: unitary state
 Ethnic makeup: 98% egyptian
 Religious makeup: majority sunni muslims.
 UN membership: yes.

The Egyptian Revolution of 2011 consisted of acts of riots, strikes, and civil disobedience. The people demanded an overthrow of Hosni Mubarak, the president. The issues that the Egyptians were protesting about included police brutality, lack of free elections, lack of freedom of speech, food-price inflation, and low wages.

The world should be interested in this conflict because other countries with dictators should worry that their people may see this as an example and do the same. This revolution also spread to other Arab countries. This revolution also sent out the positive message to the world about fighting for rights and freedoms.

Belarus



Crimean Crisis- Belarus Involvement



(World leaders meet in Belarus to negotiate cease-fire in Ukraine)

Casey Summerson

Background Information

Form of government:

- Presidential republic with a bicameral parliament

Ethnic Makeup:

- Belarusians (81.2%), Russians (11.4), Poles (3.9), Ukrainians (2.4%), Other.

Religious Makeup:

- Eastern Orthodox (80%), Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, Protestants, Muslims, and Jews.

UN Membership

Yes, October 1945

Conflict

Crimean crisis/ Belarus Involvement

- This is an international crisis that started in 2014 involving Russia and Ukraine. It began after the Ukrainian Revolution. The international status of Crimea is that it is a federal subject of the Russian Federation, recognized by the UN. All other countries recognize Crimea as a part of Ukraine. Belarus is fighting on both sides of this conflict. The Belarusian military is in preparation for combat with pro-Ukrainian forces battling pro-Russian. Belarusians are appearing on both sides due to the divide over the future of Belarus, whether Belarus should be in closer ties with Russia or the European Union

Concern

The concern is for the region around Crimea. The Crimea parliament declared independence from Ukraine and asked to join the Russian Federation. The UN declared Crimea a territory occupied by Russia. The concern is for the future. The concern that Ukraine is not pleased with the resolution.

Colombia



Colombian Conflict (1964-Present)



Casey Summerson

Background Information

Form of government:

- A republic with separation of powers into executive, judicial, and legislative branches. The executive branch has a president.

Ethnic Makeup:

- Mestizo (mixed white and Amerindian)(58%), Unmixed White (20%), Mulatto (14%), Black (4%), Mixed Black-Amerindian (3%).

Religious Makeup:

- Catholic (79%), Protestant (13%), other.

UN Membership

Yes, November 1945

Conflict

The Colombian Conflict is an ongoing war between the Colombian government, paramilitary groups, crime syndicates and left-wing guerrillas such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, and the National Liberation Army. The war is caused by the drive of each force is to increase influence in Colombian territory.

Concern

Many of the forces fighting for territory have been accused of drug trafficking and terrorism. This is concern for the safety of surrounding regions and within the region of Colombia. All forces are accused of numerous human rights violations. 220,000 people have died in the conflict since 1958, most being civilians.

Iran

• Tehran
• Shiraz

Ahmadinejad
Abadgaran

VS.

Ind. Reformist
Mousavi

2009 Election Fraud

Form of govt: Theocracy / Representative
 Ethnic Makeup: Persian
 Religious makeup: Shiite and Sunni Muslim
 UN Membership: Yes

Issue: In the 2009 presidential election, the two major parties in the contest were the Independent Reformists and the Abadgaran (leading + incumbent) party. What is widely believed to be true is election fraud in favor of rigging the votes for Ahmadinejad of the Abadgaran party. Riots and protests ensued as a result.

Global Concerns: The middle East is extremely volatile, and depending on the outcome of the election and Iran's government, more problems could occur in the region. Conflicts in this region influences oil prices, terrorism advances, and the stability of the nearby regions.

Serbia

Belograd

Independence

Independence

Type of govt: Parliamentary Republic
 Ethnic Makeup: Albanians (92%)
 Religious Makeup: Islam (96%)
 UN Membership: NO

Issue: In 2008, Kosovo made a declaration of independence from Serbia. However, Serbia would not accept Kosovo's independence. In August of 2013 agreements were made that established borders between the two. In late 2014, relations came to a stand still, where the Serbian president would not recognize Kosovo legislation without a legitimate referendum.

Global Concerns: In a world where states and independence are gaining in importance, Kosovo's success or failure could enhance or detract from the many other independence movements in the world. Also, Kosovo success would mean that their supporters (including the U.S) would be victorious and their opposers (including Russia) would take a hit on their international status and power.

Haiti

John Lee



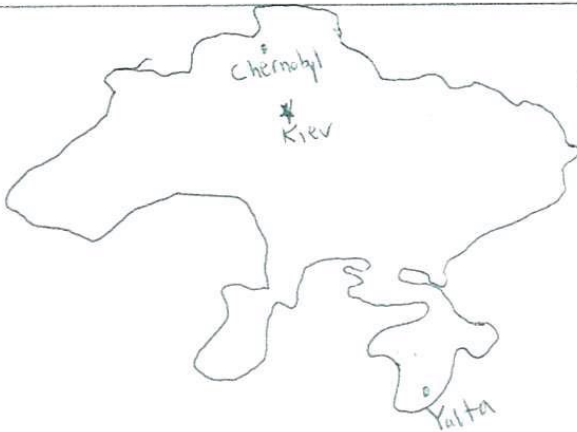
The form of government is a semi-presidential system and republic. The ethnic makeup is 95% black, with mixed and white being 5%. The religious makeup of Haiti is 80% Roman Catholic, 16% Protestant, 3% other, and 1% irreligious. It is a member of the UN.

Gang activity has strictly increased, with the number of crimes and kidnappings skyrocketing. Many Haitians upset at the incredible high cost of living have demonstrated anti-government protests. Similarly, there is cultural conflict between Haiti and the Dominican Republic as they share the same island. Also, after the 2010 Haitian earthquake, the economic situation in Haiti has deteriorated to extreme levels.

The rest of the world should be interested because Haiti is in a deep economic trough, which was recently devastated by a natural disaster.

Ukraine

John Lee



The form of government is presidential and republic. The ethnic makeup is 77.8% Ukrainian, 17.3% Russian, and 4.9% other. The religious makeup of Ukraine is 62.5% irreligious, 26.8% Eastern Orthodox, and 5.9% Catholic. It is a member of the UN.

Currently, there is unrest in Ukraine. After Ukrainian president Yanukovich demonstrated his pro-Russian agenda, most Ukrainians protested (especially in Kiev), ending in a creation of a pro-European government in Ukraine. Many ethnic Russians in Crimea wanted to be part of Russia, and Russia thus invaded Ukraine as Russia believes ethnic Russians are unhappy in territory (Crimea and eastern Ukraine) that "belongs" to Russia. The Russian government thus supports rebels in Ukraine.

The rest of the world should be concerned/interested because there is risk of war occurring, which would surely include other states globally.

Afghanistan



Govt: Presidential System

Ethnic Makeup: Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Uzbek, Aimak, Turkmen, Baloch, Pashai, Nuristani, Gujjar, Arab, Brahui, Pamiri.

Religious Makeup: 99% Islam

UN Membership: Member since 1946

Conflict between US and Afghanistan started after 9/11 attack. The US has targeted Taliban and Al Qaeda in the region. Currently US is withdrawing troop from Afghanistan.

Rest of the world and non-extremists in the region should be worried about terrorist groups in Afghanistan and the threat they present to others.

Syria



Govt: Power in hands of President Bashar al-Assad

Ethnic Makeup: Arab 90.3%, Kurds, Armenians, and other 9.7%

Religious Makeup: 87% Muslim, 10% Christian, 3% Druze

UN Membership: Member since 1945

Currently Syria is having a civil war over their government. The war is between the supporters of Bashar al-Assad and the people who oppose is dictatorship.

The rest of the world is looking at Syria's unrest. The US launched airstrikes against the Assad regime.

Yemen



Background

Government - Constitutional Republic
 Ethnic Makeup - Predominantly Arabic, minor ethnicities include South Asians, Europeans, and Afro-Arabs
 Religious Makeup - 99% Muslims with about 55% being Sunni, and 45% Shia. 1% are non-Muslims

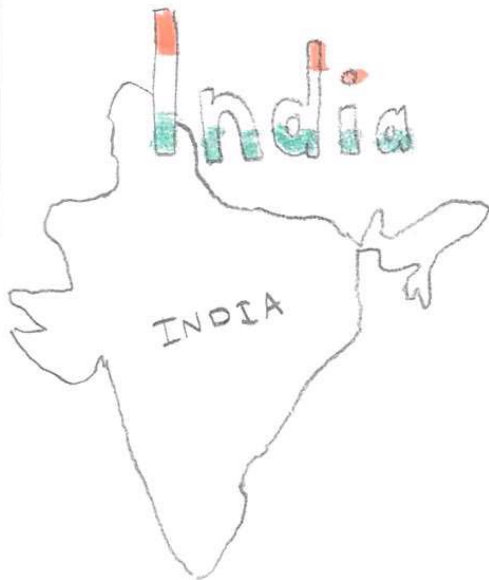
UN Membership - Yes

Conflict

Yemen's people were unhappy with social and economic conditions. They demanded the President to resign. The rebel group, Houthis, are mostly Shia Muslims. In 2012, elections were held and a new president received 99% of the vote. These Houthis took control of the capital, Sana'a, after a coup d'état. On the other side is the Hadi loyalists. These two groups have been fighting a Yemeni Civil War.

World

The world should be concerned because the Middle is an extremely unstable region. Yemen also has the lowest GDP per capita in the region. It is also the breeding grounds for many terrorist groups and is surrounded by oil-rich power-houses.



Background

Government - Union/Central Government
 Ethnic Makeup - 72% Indo-Aryan, 26% Dravidian, 3% Other
 Religious Makeup - 80.9% Hinduism, 13.6% Islam, 2% Sikhism, 2% Christianity, 12% Other
 UN Membership - Yes

Conflict

In the 1947 Partition of British India, modern-day India and Pakistan. The Kashmir region was given to India. Both countries make claims to this region. India's claim is that this region is integral to India as a whole. Although the region is a majority Islam, India is secular so they still value it. Pakistan believes the region is pivotal, and Indians were there before the agree, therefore influencing Britain.

World

This conflict has affect Britain because they are trying to re-establish economic ties with India. Also, the Middle East South Asia is unstable.