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CIVE 4778                                                                                          Professor Ganguly

<u>Climate War Game 2: Individual Reflection</u>

This war game was certainly very different than the last one. Personally, I found this war game much more interesting than the first one. I am more confident and comfortable with international policy than with climate change science, so going into this war game, I was more confident of what I was doing. In addition, having done one war game already, I understood the format more and was surer of what was expected in terms of how the war game was going to be run.

For this war game I was assigned to research prehistorical and historical India. Being on Team China, I was very confused as to what I had to research. I was not sure what researching prehistorical and historical India had to do with China. I realized as I was researching this topic that it was probably important to research Indo-China relations. Researching that subtopic was very interesting because China and India have an interesting relationship that is not as well-known as other countries' relationships. I did not realize that China and India had a lot of border disputes. I also did not realize that Tibet was a part of China. Previously, I had thought Tibet was its own country and had not realized China had reabsorbed it back as part of their country. It was at that point that I realized I had not been paying as close attention to international affairs as I had previously thought.

In the first war game, I presented the initial presentation. While that was fun, it was also nerve-wracking and not something I wanted to actively pursue again. This time around, I was the Team Representative, meaning I presented the second presentation, with our updated policies. This presentation was a much different presentation than the last one that I did in the first war game, obviously in terms of content, but also in terms of format. I also tried my hand at negotiation a little bit. I enjoyed presenting during the second war game more so than the first.

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With the last war game, I was incredibly nervous the entire time, afraid I was going to mess up to the point of no return. Also, I had to talk for twenty minutes. Who enjoys listening to themselves talk for twenty minutes straight? Certainly not me. This time, I had my gained confidence from the last war game, and only had to listen to myself talk for five minutes, a win-win situation for myself.

This war game certainly evoked more emotion out of me. One of our main initiatives was to improve the economy and GINI Coefficient of India, SAARC, and China. We wanted to do this through educating women, since educating women has been proven to improve the economy. We specifically wanted to educate women through an incentive program similar to Affirmative Action in the United States. We were not advocating for Affirmative Action, we just wanted a plan in place similar to that. However, this idea was met with criticism from others, sparking irrelevant comments which could have potentially started a tangential debate. In addition, this criticism was brought up in an unnecessary fashion in a way that we could not defend ourselves. From that moment on, I swear my blood started to actually boil. I do not get genuinely mad easily, but in that moment, I became so livid, I could not think about anything else for the rest of the day. Affirmative Action and related topics are issues I am really passionate about, so to be criticized about it in the way that we were really upset me. Of course, this is something completely irrelevant to the war game, but it was a moment that made me incredibly uncomfortable and irate. This moment also affected me for the rest of the war game. I will completely admit that after a certain point I overreacted. I understand now that the criticism was not directed towards the policy itself but rather the fact that China would not be advocating for a policy similar to that of America's.

It was a struggle for myself and for my other team members to really understand how to act like we were representing China. A Chinese diplomat would never argue for women empowerment, for example. While we were not arguing for women empowerment for the sake of women, but for improving the economy and reducing population, the way we worded things in our presentations and negotiations made it seem like we supported women empowerment for the sake of women, which is not something China would support. It was a challenge to word our opinions to make it seem like we were acting solely in our self-interests as Team China, not as Chynna. Personally, I understood that I had to separate my own interests from China's interests, but it was difficult to find a way to word these separate interests. It was also difficult to act in China's own interests when not everyone on my team was acting in China's interests. It was difficult for most, if not all, of my team members, to separate self-interests from team interests. This hindered the team's ability to make decisions that benefitted China solely.

I would not say that I enjoyed this war game more than the first time, but I definitely had a more interactive experience. Because I felt that I understood the content of this war game more, I participated more in the war game. I spoke up more during the overall war game, asking questions and participating in the negotiations. I think I got a more well-rounded experience in this war game than in the other one. I definitely learned more in this war game. It helped that I had a solid base in international policies, so I did not have to learn the basics, which meant everything made more sense for me. With the last war game, I did not have a full grasp of the basics and because of that, I struggled to keep up with the presentations and negotiations. This time, I kept up and added to the conversation, which I am very proud of. I am not usually one to speak up, mostly preferring to learn by sitting back and listening, especially in a room full of

intelligent people. I surprised myself by how willing I was to speak up and participate, even if I

sounded stupid at any point.