A Background Guide for
The Crisis Committee

Cambridge College Model United Nations
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Director
Franco Beramendi

Assistant Directors
Claudio Berckholtz & Mateo Vidal
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A Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

It is an honour to invite all you fellow delegates to the first-ever edition of the Cambridge College Lima Model United Nations (CCMUN). It has been about a year since we first had the idea of hosting a MUN ourselves, and after much planning and time, we were finally presented with the tools we needed to accomplish this ambition that had been strong in our minds since 2016.

The CCMUN will be offering a wide spectrum of Committees, ranging from historical to actual topics. At the end of the day, I only hope that all of you fellow delegates enjoy the event as much as we did preparing it. It is in fact true that Cambridge College isn't the most competitive delegation of all - which is why our MUN focuses more on the social and enriching aspects of the event rather than the more aggressive-like tone other highly competitive MUNs have.

Following this letter, you'll find yourselves with the lifeboat for your destined committees. We are expecting both peaceful and creative solutions from all fellow delegates. The CCMUN crew and I would like to personally wish you luck and to have fun. If you have any doubts, don't hesitate to email the addresses presented in the Study Guides. I hope you are looking forward to the conference as much as we are.

Yours truly,

Kevin Muto
Secretary-General
Dear delegates,

My name is Franco Beramendi Assayag and I will have the honour to serve as your committee director in this first session of the Cambridge College Model United Nations, I have worked very hard with my assistant directors and the whole conference staff to assure that this conference will be an amazing, enriching and fun experience to all of you. I believe that I speak for the whole of the conference staff when I say that we aim for all the delegates to have an incredible time debating in CCMUN.

First off, let me introduce myself, I’m Franco Beramendi Assayag, I am a junior at Carmelitas and I plan on studying Political Science when I graduate. I have been doing MUN for three years now, I started debating in my school’s MUN team, and after some time I joined United Schools of Peru, with both teams I have debated in over 13 conferences and chaired 4 (5 counting this one). I really love MUN, it is a tool for me to learn, make friends and to have fun; it really is one of my favourite activities.

The chosen topic is not only a fun one, but a topic of international relevance and that is making news every day in every part of the world; the presidency of Donald J. Trump has divided almost evenly the public opinion in the United States and the world, his actions and worlds have gained him and his administrations many allies and many enemies as well. Debating the issues that the Trump administration faces is important because it helps us understand the social and political divide in what now is the most powerful nation in the world.

With that being said, I hope you delegates have lots of fun in the committee and I really look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,
Franco Beramendi Assayag
The 45th President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C

April 7, 2017

THE WHITE HOUSE

Dear Cabinet,

I address this letter to all of you in times of great adversity for the American people, times in which “media” outlets such as CNN or BuzzFeed are harassing us and damaging our image and spreading fake news about us all over the country, furthermore, these same enemies of the American people are claiming that you, the members of my carefully picked cabinet, have engaged in talks with the Russian government, which is clearly wrong. I must tell you, this is not the only crisis that we face; we have to handle a humanitarian crisis in Syria, where we have recently launched missiles; and there is an enormous problem with our allies in the South China Sea; all of this happens while republicans in the House of Representatives fail to pass the American Healthcare Act and federal judges block my executive orders to build my beautiful gorgeous border wall and lift my travel bans.

I am calling on you because I believe you are the most capable to do this work, and I trust that you can lead your respective departments and agencies to solve the crises that lie ahead of us. I expect nothing but the best of your abilities and effort for the cabinet meeting to come.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Trump.

45th President of the United States of America.

March 24, 2017.

Washington, District of Columbia.
The US presidential election

The Republican nominee for president of the United States, Donald John Trump won the United States presidential elections in the Electoral College vote held in December 2016 by a margin of 304 to 227 awarded to the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton. Tough Clinton won the popular by almost 4 million votes, the number of states that cast their votes for Trump was larger. Before the election Trump regularly called out the Electoral College for being “a disaster for democracy”, and when former President Barack Obama won the 2012 election, he called for a “revolution”, tough now he praises the Electoral College and qualifies it as “genius”.

This presidential election has had a great number of scandals on both parties, this guide will focus on the ones centered on the Trump campaign and we will be running through them chronologically.

During the 2016 campaign one of the things that attracted most of the media attention was that Trump was the only major candidates since 1980 that had not released his tax returns; he was questioned about this and he claimed he was legally incapable because the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) was running an audit on him and a few days later the IRS publicly stated that Mr. Donald Trump could release his tax returns with no problem at all with an audit being run at the same time, until today; no tax returns have been released. Another major issue that the Trump campaign faced was the so-called “Trump Foundation Scandal” in which the Trump Foundation invested 250,000 US dollars in settling Mr. Trump’s lawsuits; also the Trump Foundation at a charity auction paid 20,000 dollars for a portrait of Donald Trump, it was reportedly the second time that trump used foundation money to buy portraits of himself. Another scandal surrounding the campaign was the Trump
University case, this consisted on a major scam that generated millions of dollars for the Trump Organization and that stated that the Trump University was a real university which ironically it was not.

All of this scandals weakened the Trump campaign but did not manage to tear it down due to good campaign managing and poor exploiting strategies by the Clinton campaign.

**False information and allegations of fake news**

Since he was elected, President Trump has made a great number of accusation to the media of being “biased” and “rigged” against him, he has called many renowned media outlets such as CNN, ABC, NBC, Buzz Feed, AJ+, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Boston Globe of being “fake news”; some people think Trump’s accusations are because these have been keeping track on members of the Trump administration and investigating their links to the Russian government.

It has been known that president Trump gets much of his information through cable media, mainly Fox News (Fox News is a traditionally conservative cable news chain, commonly associated with the republican party) and he tends to tweet his views on most of the reports that air on Fox News, hence he regards most of the media that does not come from Fox News as false. Other of the information sources of the president are Breitbart News and Info Wars; Breitbart was ran by Steve Bannon, known for right-wing politician that now serves as chief strategist to the president. Breitbart’s articles are mainly characterized by having racist, xenophobe, islamophobia, anti-Semitic, and ultra-nationalistic comments reasons for which President Trump was criticized for choosing Bannon as chief strategist. Furthermore all Fox News, Breitbart and Info Wars have been criticized for distributing false information, articles by them include “Birth Control Makes Women Unattractive and Crazy” and “Racist Pro-Nazi Roots of Planned Parenthood Revealed”.

But President Trump has also been accused to spread fake news, his campaign manager-turned senior advisor Kelly Anne Conway (who coined the phrase “alternative facts”) claimed “I bet it’s brand new information to people that President Obama had a six-month ban on the Iraqi refugee program after two Iraqis came here to this country, were radicalized and were the masterminds behind the Bowling Green massacre,” she said. “Most people don’t know that because it didn’t get covered.”, the section in quotation marks was extracted from the New York Times, which pointed out that, in
reality, no such massacre ever occurred, and Ms. Conway had to apologize for inventing a terror attack, she was referring to a federal trial in Bowling Green, Kentucky, in which two Iraqi citizens were apprehended for attempting to send money to Al-Qaeda, event which was covered on mainstream media. Also, on January 20, Inauguration Day, Press Secretary Sean Spicer defended the President’s claim that his inauguration crowd was “the largest ever” and according to Kellyanne Conway he employed alternative facts; many experts contradicted Spicer, saying that president Obama’s inauguration crowd was much larger when judged by the photos of the National Mall.

**The American Healthcare Act**

President Donald Trump has been a very outspoken critic of the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare, which expanded social security plans to millions of Americans and regulated insurance companies, this plan costed billions of dollars to the American government and hence, president Trump and the Republican Party have been working tirelessly to “repeal and replace this disgrace”, now, GOP lawmaker have finally come up with their solution; The American Healthcare Act which is based not on need for aid but on age. The act states that people under 30 will receive 2,000 dollars and people over 60 will receive 4,000 for their medical needs, which is a great problem; according to the Kaiser Family Foundation most Americans over 60 years old would lose over 2/3 of their insurance coverage. Even though Republicans have the majority in both houses, lawmakers of the GOP will not vote for this, so support for this bill on both the Senate and the House of Representatives is needed. Defederalizing the funding of the healthcare tax premiums is a great part of this plan, cutting more than 300 billion dollars from Medicaid to invest in resurging the American industry or increasing defense spending is priority in the GOP agenda but is sure a problem to the day to day American. Interestingly, one of the most hurt groups by this proposed law are Trump supporters, who are expected to lose at least 5,000 dollars a year in increased taxes and healthcare coverage for themselves by a margin of 59 percent. The American Hospital Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Nurses Association have openly criticized the act for reducing the quality of healthcare for Americans and the quantity of Americans insured, because over the course of ten years
this act would leave 10 to 16 million uninsured Americans.
And if all of these people will be left helpless, who exactly will be benefited?
According to a CNN report the top 1% of Americans measured by income will get a
tax cut under this new bill of over 33,000 dollars and the top 0.1 a tax cut of over
197,000 dollars, which obviously is very good for Trump and his cabinet members
who are all very wealthy.

The border wall and travel bans.

During his presidential campaign Trump became a polarizing figure when he first
started saying that if he was to be elected he would build a wall in the US-Mexico
border and make Mexico pay for it. He said in a rally: “I will build a great wall,
nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I build ‘em very inexpensively.
I will build a great, great wall, and I will have Mexico pay for that wall, mark my
words”. The border wall has been the focus of many comments accusing Trump of
being racist and ignorant, but most importantly, extremely misinformed for a presidential
candidate, but why? One of the main reasons is the lack of specification of the cost Trump
gave to the wall proposal during the campaign, he started saying it would cost around “four
billion dollars, which means two billion; if you know what you’re doing” and his
estimates ended in the range of “twelve to sixteen billion dollars, it’s a little
expensive, it’s a wall, you know?” so his critics state he cannot even pull up a
consistent estimate for the price of his wall. Also many people have criticized the
project with the phrase “a 30-feet wall is just going to create a market for 31-feet
ladders”, this is complemented with the fact that Trump says his wall is going to stop
all illegal immigration from Mexico and South America and according to the Pew
Research Center nearly 50% of all illegal immigrants in the US enter legally through
airports and remain via overstayed visas. Also, many times, over is not the method to
get into the United States, but underground is, since 1990 almost 170 smuggling
tunnels spanning the size of 1.5 football fields each have been found in the US-
Mexico border and these transport both drugs and people through the border.

Speaking of drug trafficking, the wall has intentions of diminishing drug trafficking
too, but the issue with this is, there is already a fence on the US-Mexico border with
this purpose and it has not done its job at all; the Mexican drug cartels still smuggle
their drugs either via plane, boat, tunnel and even some have reportedly shot
packages of cocaine and marijuana with t-shirt cannons across the border.
Now, travel bans, president Trump proposed during the campaign “a complete shutdown on Muslims entering the United States” and when he assumed the presidency he was quick to issue a temporary ban on people coming to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries, these were: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, although Iraq was later retired from the list due to U.S. Army collaborators not being able to enter the country.

Both the travel bans and the border wall policies have opened a front against president Trump from the liberal sectors of the American public, accusations that this policies are bastions of racism and xenophobia from the most conservative of American politicians.

**Allegations of ties to the Russian government**

Many media outlets like the Politico magazine, CNN and the BBC have actively reported and investigated Trump and his staff since the campaign began and upon the many things these outlets have stumbled is that the Trump administration, family and advisers have many business and political ties to Vladimir Putin’s Russia and this has been criticized by both Republicans and Democrats alike. Investigative reporters from the Washington Post, citing Department of Justice sources claimed that Attorney General Jeff Sessions met twice with Sergei Kislyak, ambassador from Russia to the US, during the presidential campaign, now, a proposal for a special Department of Justice independent prosecutor has gained considerable support in the Senate and some even suggest that a bipartisan committee is created solely to investigate him and his ties to Russia. On the other hand the Secretary of state Rex Tillerson is being investigated by various media outlets for having ties to the Russian state-owned companies Rosneft and Gazprom. However the most scandalous of the ties of Trump with Russia was related to his late National Security Adviser, Michael Flynn. Flynn resigned in February after three scandals related with Russia were discovered: the first involved him appearing in the Russian television chain RT which was reportedly paid directly by the Kremlin...
propaganda department, the second involved him as director of the Defense Intelligence Agency in 2013 visiting the headquarters of GRU, Russia's military intelligence agency and the third one involved him offering inaccurate information to VP Pence about his frequent meetings with ambassador Kislyak.

The Trump family also has strong ties to the Russian government, according to Politico Magazine, the son of Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr. is close friends and spoke at a French think tank ran by Fabien Baussart, which has cooperate with Putin in the Syrian Civil War and has nominated Putin for the Nobel Peace Prize. Trump’s daughter, Ivanka is close friends with Wendi Ding, who allegedly has dated Putin and who is friends with the couple of Russian Oligarchs of Roman and Dasha Abramovich. Ivanka is married to Jared Kushner, who is also a Trump senior adviser who met with Michael Flynn in Trump Tower with ambassador Kislyak.

**Foreign Intervention: Syria and the South China Sea**

It stills remains to debate both in congress and in the houses of the day-to-day American whether the United States should continue its traditional interventionist policy of “bringing democracy” and protecting its economic interests in every part of the world, and right now the American interests are being challenged in two strategically vital locations: Syria, and the South China Sea.

Syria remains an important location since the discovery of oil in the Middle East because it allows for a cheap route for oil to be shipped to Europe, but since the Arab Spring protests in 2011 a brutal civil war that has raged on for 6 years, spilled over to neighboring Iraq and Lebanon and has costed thousands of deaths. Many controversies have arose in this war, including Russia and Iran aiding the Assad dictatorship in Syria, while the US and Turkey are backing the Rebels and everyone is apparently fighting ISIS. Trump promised to “end ISIS in 30 days” which was a plain lie, he still has not ended ISIS; Trump has said that that he would be willing to collaborating with Putin’s Russia to defeat ISIS, but this has been criticized because of Putin’s support of the Assad regime, which has committed various war crimes like sarin gas attacks, and cluster bombings which are outlawed.
On 4 April 2017, the town of Khan Shaykhun, was struck by a heavy airstrike followed by massive civilian chemical poisoning. The use of the toxic gas, most likely a nervous agent (Sarin), killed at least 74 people and injured more than 557, according to the reports by various NGOs, international media, the White Helmets and various others. The President of the French Republic, François Hollande, called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council in which the US, UK and France blamed the attack on Russia and the Assad regime while Russia and China claimed the attack was due to the destruction of a chemical weapons warehouse held by rebel forces by the Syrian Air Force. On April 6th a resolution failed to pass in the UNSC due to a double veto by Russia and China and in the morning of April the 7th President Donald J. Trump ordered two Arleigh Burke-class destroyers off the coast of Lebanon to launch 60 guided missiles to the air base from where the chemical attacks came.

Meanwhile in the South China Sea, several countries have claimed sovereignty over an archipelago known as the Spratly Islands, the most aggressive country though, has been the People’s Republic of China which has built artificial islands and filling them with military equipment and building air strips. The US has been repeatedly called by its allies to deter Chinese military presence and they have done so by transporting an entire carrier task force to the area to try to prevent China to take more land.

**Members of the Cabinet**

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<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Pence</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<td>Rex Tillerson</td>
<td>Secretary of State</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven Mnuchin</td>
<td>Secretary of the Treasury</td>
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<td>James Mattis</td>
<td>Secretary of Defense</td>
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<td>Jeff Sessions</td>
<td>Attorney General</td>
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<td>Ryan Zinke</td>
<td>Secretary of the Interior</td>
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<td>Alex Acosta</td>
<td>Secretary of Labour</td>
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<td>Wilbur Ross</td>
<td>Secretary of Commerce</td>
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<td>Sonny Perdue</td>
<td>Secretary of Agriculture</td>
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<td>Tom Price</td>
<td>Secretary of Health and Human Services</td>
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<td>Ben Carson</td>
<td>Secretary of Housing and Urban Development</td>
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<td>Elaine Chao</td>
<td>Secretary of Transportation</td>
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<td>Rick Perry</td>
<td>Secretary of Energy</td>
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Closing remarks

There are many situations facing the Trump administration and the American people are cleared outing his ability to handle this many crises at the same time, though, it is your work, to prove those people wrong. The committee will start April the 7th.

Position paper requirements

The position paper will be required to have 500 to 750 words, Times New Roman font, single-spaced, size 12. Name of the delegate, character, position, seal of the cabinet position and school in the top right-hand corner.

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