**Urban Debate League – November 2016 Curriculum – Interventionism and Supranational Organizations**



This week’s curriculum is about interventionism and supranational organizations! This topic deals with a number of different types of intervention including military intervention, political intervention, election monitoring, and economic intervention. This topic will deal with different cultures, philosophies, to a certain extent war-crimes and crimes against humanity, and perspectives. Have fun and feel free to let me know if you want any clarification on these issues!

**Week 1 – Overview and R2P**

* Quick debrief from the tournament (10 min)
	+ What happened
	+ What we could do better
* Background on intervention (25 min)
	+ Start with some concrete examples: USA in Iraq, USA in Afghanistan, Libya, Ukraine
	+ Ask what the kids know about intervention
	+ Definition of intervention: “Interventionism is a term for a policy of non-defensive (proactive) activity undertaken by a nation-state, or other geo-political jurisdiction of a lesser or greater nature, to manipulate an economy and/or society.”
* Responsibility to Protect (15 min)
	+ “The Responsibility to Protect (R2P or RtoP) is a global political commitment which was endorsed by all member states of the [United Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations) at the [2005 World Summit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2005_World_Summit)to prevent [genocide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide), [war crimes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_crime), [ethnic cleansing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_cleansing) and [crimes against humanity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimes_against_humanity).”
	+ What do you think?
	+ What about this policy from the perspective of the Assad Regime? Russia? North Korea? Iraq?
		- Assad: Dislikes R2P since it would allow the US to intervene. Emphasize that the west came up with both the definitions of sovereignty as well as the R2P doctrine.
		- Russia: Generally would like R2P, used it to justify advances in Crimea.
		- North Korea: against R2P for the same reasons as Assad.
		- Iraq: A nuanced answer here. In general, the current government would probably want intervention by the US but would also favor a more homegrown approach to the problem. In this case, R2P would take the form of limited involvement (like we’re seeing right now).
* Organization and Argument Generation (20 min)
	+ Argument generation on the Gov and Opp side of the below resolution:
		- THBT the United States justifiably uses the Responsibility to Protect doctrine when militarily intervening in foreign situations.
	+ Make sure there is a correct flow of CWI for each of the student’s arguments. We want to work on the richness of their warrants and their arguments

**Week 2 – Economic Coercion**

* Review about argument organization (10 min)
	+ Claim, Warrant, Impact – use the below examples of the point “Economic Sanctions hurt the people more than the government” to illustrate this concept clearly
* Explanation on Economic Coercion (30 min)
	+ How sanctions are used to coerce countries into certain policies
		- Success
			* Iran (?) – sanctions for years and nuclear weapons deal. The US created sanctions on Iran during the 1979-81 hostage crisis. President Jimmy Carter froze all Iranian assets on November 14, 1979. From that point, Iran has become more estranged from the western community. After the discovery of Iran’s nuclear programs, the US, the UN, and a number of other nations have levied sanctions against Iran for violations of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty primarily as well as sponsoring terrorism throughout the Middle East.
				+ In Iran’s case, sanctions eventually brought the government to the negotiating table to hammer out a nuclear deal with the P5 + 1 (UNSC nations plus Germany) and signed it in 2015.
				+ Iran said they would limit enrichment stockpiles and levels for a certain amount of time.
				+ They would maintain only one enrichment facility
				+ Sanctions were terminated.
		- Failure
			* Russia – we haven’t seen a withdrawal from Ukraine, Putin’s approval ratings are pretty damn high.
				+ Russia invaded Crimea and annexed the territory on March 18, 2014. Russia moved unmarked Russian soldiers into Crimea in a measure to “protect” Russian citizens living in Crimea. They captured strategic sites across Crimea and asserted their control over the nation.
				+ Russia has been funding and potentially participating in a civil war in Ukraine between the pro-Russian eastern forces and the pro-Western Ukrainian forces.
				+ Russia’s use of military force flies in the face of international law and territorial integrity. As a result, the US, EU, and a number of other countries have implemented sanctions to protest Russia’s annexation of Crimea, but as of now, nothing has affected Russia’s actions in Crimea.
		- Iffy Stories
			* Cuba – did we succeed in coercing them to do anything?
				+ The Cuban government was embargoed by the US on October 19, 1960 under President Eisenhower when Cuba nationalized American-owned oil refineries.
				+ In the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, tensions were at their highest when America physically blockaded shipments from Russia to Cuba to build missile sites.
				+ Initially the embargo was in response to the nationalization of American businesses, then developed into a tool for the US to compromise a communist government in the Western Hemisphere, and has been a remnant of the Cold War ever since the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
				+ Cuba has been significantly delayed in its development due to US sanctions but it’s unclear on how sanctions have helped the situation, if they have at all. If anything the Cuban government is still as oppressive as it was in 1960.
	+ Example argument
		- Claim: Sanctions generally hurt the people more than the government
		- Warrant 1: When sanctions are imposed, imposing governments are trying to change the behavior of those in power of the country. In general, however, many of these nations are dictatorships or pseudo-dictatorships, meaning that they control the resources in their nation. So instead of depriving themselves from valuable resources and goods, the people are deprived of these goods, harming them more than the government.
		- Warrant 2: Economic sanctions immediately strike at private firms within a country, closing them off from foreign markets. The result is a decrease in demand and potentially an increase in the operating costs of each firm, decreasing profits and reducing the number of employable people by that firm, harming the citizens of a nation.
		- Impact 1: Citizens turn against the imposing nation because they see the government, who can be using incredibly well orchestrated propaganda, as justified in their actions. Empirically this is proven true by Putin’s move into Crimea. Thus, sanctions strengthen the current regime and don’t change behavior.
		- Impact 2: There is a negative harm to the citizens of the country which the imposing country is generally trying to protect. Thus we show that imposing sanctions causes a net humanitarian harm.
* Practice with Organization (20 min)
	+ Pair students off into Gov and Opp teams.
	+ Have the students generate arguments on the topic:
		- THBT the economic sanctions placed on Russia by the US do more good than harm.
	+ Have the students present their arguments in order, flow, and write responses.
	+ Have the students respond to the arguments – the emphasis is on signposting (labeling arguments 1, 2, 3, identifying impacts, warrants, claims, etc. and moving through the flow in a logical manner.)

**Week 3 – Supranational Organizations**

* Explain the concept of a supranational organization (15 min)
	+ Ask if they know of any supranational organizations
	+ Ask what they do
	+ IMF, World Bank are development/stabilizing organizations
	+ UN – idea of a government of nations
	+ ASEAN – Asian association of nations
	+ AU, EU, etc. All of these organizations have different roles and responsibilities and purposes
* What Supranational organizations do (30 min)
	+ Military Intervention
		- Democratic Republic of the Congo
			* The DRC has been embroiled in a Civil war that has killed up to six million people. There are anti-government rebels that are facing off against government forces. Both sides have committed human rights abuses and are fighting to control the mineral wealth and natural resources in the country. Most rebels are contained in the east and a large UN force is attempting to still root them out.
			* Offensive force used by UN peacekeepers to create peace in one of the deadliest and worst conflicts since WWII
			* Has been decently successful in pushing back rebels from certain areas of the DRC
		- UN Peacekeepers in South Korea
			* Korean war (1950-1953) – UN peacekeepers authorized to go to South Korea to fight off the North Korean and Chinese invasion into South Korea
			* Ultimately successful in establishing an armistice, but tensions are still flaring up
	+ Economic Stability/Intervention
		- The IMF uses its funds to counteract economic disaster and financial failing
			* Lender of last resort
			* Stabilizes economies by providing credit to governments that need it desperately
			* Controlled by the largest contributors (USA)
		- World Bank
			* Global development bank
			* Helps create and implement development policy
			* Also controlled by the largest contributors (USA)
		- EU
			* Single currency
			* Free labor market
			* Common Market
				+ Notion of merging markets into one large market with individual countries maintain their own governments and fiscal policies
	+ Election Monitoring
		- Used in nations to validate and regulate elections
		- Cambodia, Russia, Ukraine, and a number of nations that have had a history of election rigging or other practices have had election monitors
			* Cambodia – has had monitors since 1992. Primary partner is the National Democratic Institute, an NGO made to improve transparency and political participation. 2013 Cambodia had an election where the opposition “gained a substantial number of seats in the National Assembly.” (National Democratic Institute) Working to help implement policies to develop political participation and a healthy system with multiple strong political parties. Includes lots of community organizing and helping citizens voice their opinions in elections.
		- Generally used to make sure that a democratic process is correctly implemented
* Game! (15 mins)
	+ Debate Baseball – set a certain amount of time to be a run and have students talk about the topic. The longer they talk, the more runs they get. Divide them up into two teams and have each team member go one at a time.

**Week 4 – Practice Practice Practice**

* Have the teams debate on the following topic(s):
	+ THBT the United Nations does more good than harm.
	+ This House would put US ground troops in Iraq to fight ISIS.
	+ THBT economic sanctions are an effective means to prevent the development of nuclear weapons.
	+ This House would give the United Nations peacekeepers offensive military power in conflict zones.
	+ THBT Common markets such as the EU hinder economic success for member nations.