Global Nuclear Diplomacy

A Game of Politics and Science

By Brian Dewhirst,
Christopher Dunn and
Glenn Townsend

Advisor
John M Wilkens
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Dear Reader,

Thank you for considering this educational tool as a supplement for the current curriculum. The use of cooperative and active experience based learning is a time honored and well-proven technique. It has been shown by both qualitative and quantitative means to improve the quality of education, as well as reinforce the learning experience in those who are better at learning by doing rather than abstract reading and lecture format classes. This package uses exactly these forms of education in a fashion that is both enjoyable and interesting, so that those who participate will not only learn, they will want to learn.

The issues that are addressed within this book cover areas in many fields, but are of special interest to the fields of physics and political science, though other social sciences and history become involved. Specifically, issues involving the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear power would be of interest in any society and technology minded physics class. Similarly, any social sciences course interested in modern politics and government would find the topics of nuclear disarmament treaties, as well as the tensions between nuclear powers of differing levels of nuclear competence, to be of great interest. These topics, as well as others of similar nature, are the primary interests of this book.

While this particular educational tool may be referred to as a game, please understand that it is a game in the same manner that a debate team or a model government is a game. It is a common colloquialism to call any form of role playing, be it educational or recreational, a game. However, this particular game takes the form of a conference and debate between several delegations from countries as culturally diverse as Russia and Pakistan, and as geographically diverse as Egypt and Japan. The "conference" format is the primary pretext for catching the player's interest and delivering the desired information as "briefings".

Each of the participating countries is represented by a delegation consisting of up to three people, and each person receives his own set of information. This includes a briefing upon the culture and history of their own particular country, along with the personal information detailing the role to be portrayed. While these briefings are quite short, they contain all of the information or experience each player needs to participate and no further information is required. However, additional reading, both online and in the form of certain exceptionally useful reference books, have been provided for anyone seeking further knowledge.

Some suggested uses of this particular tool are as an enrichment exercise to be conducted either after school, or perhaps after state testing has been completed and before the actual end of the school year. It is felt that perhaps an AP social studies class, a physics class, or a joint project would benefit most from this package. While intended for the age group of eleventh and twelfth grades, the game itself is simple enough that a younger audience could enjoy it's benefits, while an older audience will still learn a great deal from use of this tool. Of course, none of these suggestions should be seen as limiting. The only limits upon this game are the limits of its audience.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you find this work to be of use.

Brian Dewhirst
Christopher Dunn
Glenn Townsend

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Preface:

Although formal work upon this endeavor was begun two semesters ago, it is clear in retrospect that this game has been writing itself for years now. The game was written at WPI, a small engineering college in Worcester Massachusetts by two Physics majors and a Computer Science major who shared an interest in games of this sort, history and politics, and the hard sciences. At WPI, I have been deeply immersed in the Physics curriculum for 3 years now, and have had little chance to engage in other interests.

I have had a deep interest in the history and politics that led to the creation of the modern world. By modern world, I refer to the complex interplay of states that sometimes leads to military actions, sometimes leads to recession, and sometimes leads to selfless programs like scientific exploration of space. During my senior year of high school, I had the pleasure to study Advanced Placement European History and Honors Civilizations with Orin Holmes. This teacher engaged his students and went out of his way to explain the smaller points of history that are both crucial for understanding and of interest to the student. Many history students learn that World War I was started through German antagonism of an already explosive situation; few examine the psychology of the young crippled German Kaiser who was in charge at that time, or correlate it to a much longer tradition of proud expansionism. While taking these courses in high school, I knew that I would be majoring in Physics, as science has always been my first love. This project offered me the opportunity to revisit history and politics. In addition to the opportunity to tie in these secondary academic interests, my primary interest of Physics is deeply intertwined with many of the issues touched upon in this game, and my hobby interests in role playing games find expression as well.

Some may examine our game and see a series of disjointed articles. The organization of the game was predicated upon ease of use, but the components of the work were inserted based upon necessity. We would begin by deciding that we wanted to create a game for between 20 and 40 players, and that we wanted the delegations to be of roughly equal size to one another. We then considered which countries should be included, and wound up with a rather long list. When we decided to include China, for instance, it necessitated the inclusion of India, Pakistan, Russia, and Japan. After we

decided which countries should be involved, we started to consider what would motivate this group of countries to assemble on short notice and attempt to conduct fruitful diplomacy on a rather short timetable. This directly led us to the plot, which we chose to express as newspaper articles. The plot led us to select the roles our characters would fill, and those roles led to the character sheets themselves. Many if not all of the decisions that went into what should be in the game were made in this fashion, and we are pleased with what we feel is an organic aggregate of all our work.

This game was written as much through passive absorption and woolgathering over the 4 years previous to the initiation of the project as it was during the actual period of research, writing, and revision. The blessed opportunity to work on this project not only allowed me to put to paper ideas that I had been rolling around for some time, it also allows me to share my interests with others. It is my sincere hope that this game will find use in schools and that other students will find them as stimulating as I find the topics from which this tapestry is woven. I thoroughly enjoyed history in high school, and as a direct consequence have retained much of what was taught. Less interesting classes seldom motivate the student to remember facts any longer than the next test. My partners share my deep interest in this game, and my motivations for writing it are clearly representative of their own based upon our past discourse.

Although we felt quite prepared to begin work on this effort, we did not undertake it solely with either recreation or scholasticism in mind. We feel that we have touched upon an important thread in American society and contemporary education. In American schools, students constantly ask their Physics instructors why they have to learn "all this stuff". Students are discouraged by the mathematics and fail to see the relevance of the subject matter. Given the option, few if any students would take Physics. This, however, is a dangerous phenomenon. The world is becoming increasingly technologically sophisticated. Governmental decisions on technical and scientific topics not only shape economics or international politics, they shape the world. If the citizens of a democratic country are not technologically educated, then they are not prepared to be good citizens. Physics instructors are not able to adequately provide an answer to the question of why a future middle manager or auto mechanic needs to know physics, but instructors of Social Studies are. Scientific literacy is important so one can avoid being deceived by clever

talking individuals with no science to support their claims. One doesn't need to know how to build a nuclear reactor, but one should know the principles on which its designed.

One counter-argument to our assertion that this game is a valuable tool might revolve around the tendency to correct educational deficits in college. American students are said to experience massive social pressures and changes in high school, so sometimes students are allowed to correct earlier mistakes in college rather than while still in high school. I, however, would put forward that high school is still the time for citizenship training. The first and foremost goal of public education in a democracy is to make sure that people become educated voters rather than a mob. For the same reason that one desires a voter to know how to interpret a ballot to make sure they understand the questions they vote on, people must understand the science that they are voting for or that their candidates support. Studies suggest that high school is a low point for interest in science, but interest often rekindles in adulthood. Unfortunately, if an interest in science arises later in life, the individual will be unable to understand the developments of the changing world since they lack the underpinnings. Finally, scientists need a scientifically literate public that they can communicate with if society is to deal with complex issues such as cloning and the pros and cons of nuclear power. High school is the time to impart science education, and the importance of science education can only be adequately demonstrated through social studies. This game is but one small attempt to equip teachers with the tools they need to stimulate their students.

We sincerely hope that any class of students would be able to benefit from this game. Unfortunately, one cannot benefit from it if one is unwilling to make a sincere attempt at it. To quote the lottery motto, "You can't win if you don't play." It is our hypothesis that more self-motivated students in honors classes might be more likely to take an interest in the game. Students at a lower level who are intrigued by it and who put in a strong effort to absorb the provided material and present their character appropriately can also benefit greatly. Since this game will work best with students willing to invest in their own education, we hope that our game will not be judged poorly if those asked to participate unfortunately fail to commit to the endeavor. My partners and I are happy to have shared the work we have done on this game with you, and hope that it is put to fruitful use.

Introduction:

- **What is Global Nuclear Diplomacy?**
- **Why should I play this game?**
- **What is role playing?**
- **What do I need to play?**
- **How to use this book**

Imagine that you are one of the most powerful and influential people in the world. The fate of all mankind rests upon your decisions. Can you choose wisely and act in the best interest of your fellow man, or do you act upon pride, greed, and cultural prejudice to the detriment of all? This is the basis of Global Nuclear Diplomacy, an unwritten story where you play the characters and you get to decide the fate of the world.

Why should I use this game?

GND was first and foremost designed as a teaching tool. The basic idea is to promote interest and facilitate learning by making the process fun. This game takes a multitude of elements, ranging from culture to economy to government, for a plethora of unique and intriguing countries, and blends them together in a mix of education and role playing.

What is role playing?

Role playing, used as the primary educational tool in this game, can be likened to improvisational acting, where the players are the actors and instead of being given a script, they are only given the outline of the character that they must play. This is an effective teaching tool for several reasons. First, there is a great deal of thought involved in playing a person unlike yourself, trying through their eyes, basing judgements on their

values and perceptions. The second part of role playing is that it is active, requiring participation and action on the part of the role player, which makes it both fun and interesting and thus encouraging effort and a willingness to learn. Finally, the game itself takes the form of a diplomatic debate. The relative issues, ranging from nuclear war to the global economy, are taught to the players implicitly through their need to discuss these issues and are thus taught to the players more thoroughly than any textbook and lecture technique ever could.

What do I need to play?

To set up a game of Global Nuclear Diplomacy, you will need three things. The first and most important thing is players. You will need between15 and 40 people to play this game, although perhaps 24 or so players are optimal. This may seem like a large group, however the game is relatively in depth and the number of countries involved and the diversity of roles to be covered requires a fairly large number of players so that more people can read more background material rapidly.

The second thing you need to play this game is time. GNP first requires a fair amount of preparation time, to find players, set up the game, and then coach the players on their roles. Once the game has been set up, it is recommended that the game take place over 4 to 6 hours of time, consisting of alternating periods of debate and recess. The reason for the recess periods are described later during this book, but effectively consist of time for the players to make "back room" deals.

The last item you need for this game will be copies of the materials found in this book. As described later, much of this book must be distributed to various players, while there are other sections of this book that only the game director should see. Thus, distributing copies of the entire book to the players is not recommended.

How to use this book:

In the following chapters you will find all of the necessary materials to play Global Nuclear Diplomacy. There is a chapter on game play, describing how the game is

meant to be played. There is also a chapter which describes the story behind the game, and other historic material specific to the game.

One full chapter is given to the characters and how to interpret and distribute them among the players. The chapter after that includes the cultural briefings and special information to be used during the game. Lastly, the appendices include sources for all information used in the game, as well as additional recommended reading for both the players and the game director.

Chapter 1: Setting up the game

The first question one may ask oneself after deciding to try this game is, "What will I need?". This section of the guide seeks to explain all that needs to be done in order to set up for the game.

The first things that are needed are players and people to run the game. The game can be run with as many as 39 players, or as few as 20. The game is more enjoyable the more players there are, but it may not be possible to schedule an activity for 39 people. One possible strategy to glean more players would be to invite another class to participate at the same time. If there are multiple sections of the class that this tool is being used in, then there are more potential players. Possible collaborations with other teachers are discussed later on, and present other suggestions to increase the base number of players. While when written this game was designed with teachers as the organizers and students as the participants, there is no reason why another group couldn't use and benefit from this game.

After one has people to play in the game, one needs a place and time to run it. The game is intended to be run over 4-6 hours, but scheduling will necessarily vary based upon the duration of a class period. If the game is being run after school, that will place other time constraints on the length of an individual session. Increments of time which are smaller than 30 minutes will probably be less useful than larger segments of time. This is because it takes participants some time to get into character and start functioning as an extension of their government. When the game is broken up into smaller chunks and extended over a longer period of time, it will be more difficult to get the full game experience. The game needs a location large enough to hold the players with the players sitting according to their delegation. It also needs some location where players can hold private conversations when conference is not actively in session but the game is still going on. While out-of-conference conversations may seem trivial, they are an important part of how negotiations happen in the game and in the real world. Participants may not wish to

openly state their position on something, but may be willing to disclose some information to some of the delegates in private. These periodic breaks also allow the players to ask questions of their government or to pose other questions to those organizing the game.

The next task is to assign characters to roles. The characters in the first appendix of this book each have a number assigned to them. If one has 32 players, one will use characters 1-32. There is also one additional character for the person running the game. This character's job is to keep the conference running, and is described more fully in the section on being the Game Master, the person who runs the game. After one has decided which characters will be in the game, one still needs to assign players to them. If some of the players have activities which will prevent them from attending some of the game sessions or plan to be out of school or otherwise unavailable for some sessions, they should not be given the most important characters. In the past, it has been helpful to give players a brief questionnaire and use this to help decide who should play what. Below is a sample of the questions that one might ask.

On a scale of 1-5:
How much acting, role-playing, or public speaking experience have you had?

What is the difficulty level that you would assign to your ideal role?

Would you prefer a diplomatic, scientific, or military role?

Of the following, circle the three countries you would most like to portray: United States, England, France, Israel, South Africa, Russia, Japan, China, Taiwan, India, Pakistan, Egypt, Iran.

More experienced players and those players who desire more of a challenge should be assigned to the more important roles, those roles which occur earlier in the sequence.

Their preference for role type and nation will also help to place them in roles. It is impossible to make everyone happy, but as long as a modest attempt is made to fit players to suitable roles, the game should not suffer for it. A later section will break down a sample character sheet and help to make it more understandable. Before roles are assigned, the individual or individuals running the game should be familiar with the characters that will be included. Additionally, the gender of the characters and the gender of the players may differ. For most roles, the genders can be changed. Military roles cannot, nor can Iranian roles. The military and theocratic cultures don't allow women to assume positions of importance. It is not unreasonable for a female player to represent a male character, but they should make it known in some way that they are portraying a man.

While still planning the game, one should consider how to make the game's timetable fit one's own. If one has decided that the game will be run for 5 one hour class periods in one week, one should consider how much of that time will be in-conference discussions and how much will be for private conversations. The goal is to spend just enough time out of conference to allow all of the players who need to talk to someone else accomplish this, without spending too much time away from the conference itself. If a particular player is overly verbose, it may be necessary to resume before they have a chance to finish. This is also the time to plan out possible homework assignments. While no homework assignments are included as a part of this game, some teachers may feel it necessary to assign homework, and that could enhance the game. We leave it to the individual instructor to create assignments that fit their particular needs.

Chapter 2: Reading the Character Sheets

The single most important game in any role playing game is its characters. If the players do not understand what it is their characters want, or why they should act the way they do, then the game does not really teach the players anything. Therefore, it is very important that the players understand the characters. In the following example, a character sheet is dissected by section, and each section is described. While some character sheets are slightly different (usually pointing out a slight difference in worldview or a quirk of the character), all sheets have the same primary outline with the same basic meaning.

Kusangi Fumiko (family name first, given name second).
Japanese Career Diplomat and head of delegation

1942 - You were born shortly before Japan went to war with the United States.
1960 - You graduated from high school with exceptional test scores and were accepted at Tokyo University
1965 - You received high honors when graduating from Tokyo University, and received a job in the Japanese Government
1968 - You married a diplomat's daughter.
1973 - You became the chief aide for your father-in-law, following the retirement of his former aide. His former aide retired into a cushy position in industry.
1977 - Your father-in-law has arranged for you to become a diplomat to Jordan. Your job is to not offend anyone.
1985 - You become an assistant diplomat in certain important trade talks.
1995 - You have become one of Japan's most influential diplomats and are often in important negotiations

Description:

You were orphaned by the war and were raised by your father's older brother. He had a position translating for the provisional government of Japan before autonomy was restored. You worked hard in school, because you knew it was necessary in order to get into a good college. You managed to get into Tokyo University, which is the most prestigious universities in Japan. You majored in political science, and unlike many of your peers, earned a master's degree immediately after you completed your bachelors. After graduating, you were offered many interesting opportunities. You accepted a position in the Japanese Government as part of a diplomat's staff. You received a number of promotions as you grew older, and the promotions you received tended to place you in more influential positions rather than just being promotions in name only.
Your marriage was arranged with the youngest daughter of the diplomat for whom you work. You were also adopted into your father-in-law's family, as this is a relatively common practice in certain cases. Over the next few years, you and your wife came to have genuine love and affection for each other, but both of you are always very proper in public. This marriage essentially proved you were going places, and you redoubled your efforts at the office.

Having handled your past positions well, you became an assistant diplomat involved with trade talks with foreign nations. Although your official rank may have apparently decreased, this was still a promotion.

Only ten years later, you officially became one of Japan's senior diplomats and are even now involved in some of Japan's most important negotiations. You have recently received renewed offers of jobs in the civilian community from companies affected by international policy issues. You are confident it would be a comfortable retirement.

Personality:

You expect respect from those younger than yourself, you keep your feelings to yourself, and you actively work to stress points of agreement. Additionally, you convey a

sense of wisdom. You are not only in control of yourself, you seem to completely understand the situation. (Even if you don't). Also, you always try to maintain an objective outlook on things, but you have learned better than to turn your back on the Chinese government.

Goals:

You genuinely desire Japan to be viewed well in international circles, as a point of personal pride. You hope to be a neutral and calming influence on the conference, but you trust the Chinese delegation as far as you can throw them. You want to further the cause of peace in the world, so that the world is safe for your children to grow up in. Although you don't like China, you would never want to let this show, because open displays of emotion (especially negative emotion like the distaste you feel for them) are barbaric.

Orders:

You have been told to support Taiwan, because it is an ally against China. You are supposed to facilitate disarmament and peace via an enforced treaty.

Costume ideas: power suit

Contact: You met the Israeli technical advisor when you were on vacation to France. You were both in the same tour group, and did not get along poorly.

Above is the head of the Japanese delegation. This character is an excellent example for a character sheet. It contains all of the appropriate sections, as well as a few divergences from the norm.

The first line of the sheet is the name. You will note that there is a comment in parenthesis. This comment simply points out that in Eastern cultures (Chinese and Japanese specifically), the surname comes before the given name. Following that line is a description of the character's position within the delegation. This description, while

entirely true, is often not a full representation of a character's real position. As is often the case in political dealings, appearances can be deceiving. The nominal head of a delegation may well be simply taking orders from one of his 'subordinates'. Thus it is important to read further into the character sheet to see the full depth of your role as a player.

Following the position on the sheet is a brief timeline outlining the major events in the character's life. This helps the players to get a sense of proportion when reading the character sheets, as well as getting a brief feel for whom it is they're playing. Following the timeline is a description of the character, which has several roles. First, it summarizes what has happened to the character in the past. Second, it gives the character's thoughts on his own life and the people around him, from his own viewpoint. Third, it will often contain subtle hints to the darker aspects of the person's life, things which affect his way of thinking and acting even to present day. The description is the first place a player should look to get a real feel for how their character has lived.

After the description comes the views section. This is a very important section because it describes how the character perceives the world. It is through a character's views that the player should see the world. Any biases, thought patterns, or similar mental orderings are described within the views section of the character sheet.

After that comes the goals and orders of the character. These two sections tell what the character wants, and what he has been told to do. Sometimes, these two sections will correspond and the character will be focused. Other times, a character's orders and goals are completely divergent, and he will have to split his activities or perhaps simply choose one or the other to follow.

The last three sections are special knowledge, costume ideas, and contacts. Because each character is different, each one has his own area of expertise. Therefore, every character has a different set of special information that only they, and perhaps a few others, receive. The costume ideas section is not mandatory, simply a recommendation on

what the player should wear when trying to play the character. And the contacts section describes another character at the conference that this character knows. All such characters are from different delegations, and not all such connections are friendly. However, such contacts make excellent starting points when playing out interpersonal meeting between delegations.

Chapter 3: Being a Game Master

The individual or individuals who organize and run the game have more responsibilities than any individual player. While multiple people maybe collaborating to run the game, the singular term "Game Master," or GM, will be used for convenience. The GM has many roles, including assigning players and providing the players with supporting information, facilitating contact with the government "back home" when necessary, answering questions from players, and representing the Swiss facilitators of the conference.

Assigning the roles will be addressed separately, but it is among the responsibilities of the GM. In most other capacities, it is the GM's job to make sure everything runs relatively smoothly, but not to interfere too often. It is important that the players know the various roles that the GM is playing in the game, including answering questions and providing contact to their own government.

Often, players may wish to ask their government questions. A proposal may have been put forward that the character doesn't have the power to act on independently. An example of such a situation would be if nuclear disarmament were being discussed. If a delegate wishes to make promises that are kept, he will need to ask his government first. On the other hand, saying one thing and expecting one's government to do another requires no contact with said government. When a player wishes to call home, he should speak privately with the GM. The GM answers player questions based upon the GM's understanding of the policies and past decisions of the government. When a GM is unsure of the exact response of a government, a best guess is preferable to long pauses of consideration. Maintaining continuity of conversation helps the players to stay in character, and leads to a more enjoyable experience. As all governments in the game sent what they felt were highly qualified diplomats, technical experts, etc., it is not unreasonable for the government to ask the delegate for their own opinion. The government is often likely to trust the delegate's interpretation. This is also a good place

to give players a reality check. If multiple delegates decided total nuclear disarmament was a good idea, when they ask their governments about it they are liable to be told that it is unacceptable for political and military reasons. Even though the players think it's a great idea, their government may strongly disagree.

GMs will be called upon to answer questions from players. In general, there are two forms of questions. Players usually ask for information, or they ask if they can do something. A player who has played in more active role-playing games, for example, might wish to pull some kind of dirty trick. A player may wish to bug the conference, shoot another delegate, or smuggle prostitutes into the other delegate's hotel room to cause a scandal. These actions, while possible in real life and perhaps quite creative, are to be discouraged in this game. If a player asks, inform them that the location of the conference is very secure and that there are well-trained Swiss security personnel to prevent the more violent or underhanded actions. If they persist and do it anyway, inform them that they fail. In the event of an attack, they are thwarted by Swiss security. If they try to bug the conference, listening equipment is discovered and confiscated before it can be of use. It is probably a bad idea to tell the players outright that these sorts of activities are forbidden, as mentioning the possibility may just generate more scheming along tactless lines. If a player does ask though, tell them that those sorts of tricks are not allowed. While it may seem like this sort of problem would never come up, in the past it frequently has.

When a player asks for information or advice, try to provide it if it seems reasonable. If a diplomat wishes to know exactly how a neutron bomb works, their delegation has a technical advisor, and the diplomat has no reason to know, then there is no need to inform the diplomat yourself. While the briefing sheets and character sheets have attempted to cover the most likely questions to be asked, it is impossible to cover every possible question. Once again, if the GM does not know the answer, it is better to provide a best guess than to ponder the question for an extended period of time. A recommended reading list is provided later, which may help to provide answers. We do

not believe memorization of all of these sources is essential to run the game, as it is only a game. It would be impossible to briefly detail all of the facets of all of the potential questions that might come up in a game, so some degree of flexibility is essential.

There is an important question regarding how much interference a GM should exert on the game itself. Some GMs may feel they should correct every problem as it occurs, others may wish to remain totally hands off. It turns out that this is more of a question of moderation. If a GM tries to correct every small error as it occurs, the game will become static and it is unlikely others will enjoy it. If the GM tells a player exactly what to say and do, it becomes a play instead of a creative and interactive process. In these sorts of games, enjoyment is derived from the way roles interact in a complex and dynamic manner. On the other hand, it is possible to be too standoffish. Often, at the beginning of the game, players will be unsure of how to start and few people will say much of any importance. Some GM intervention can nudge the game along so that people start to attack the issues, and others speak to defend the interests of their country. Also, it is possible for players with incomplete understandings of history and world events to make proposals and to react in manners which cause things to get out of hand or become unrealistic. Sometimes, it is important for the GM to step in and inform either individual players or the game as a whole of mitigating circumstances and technological problems. It is important that a balance be struck between these two extremes of GM-player interaction.

The role of the GM as the Swiss facilitators for the conference is to help moderate discussion and debate. They are also present to represent the Swiss government, but they are not making this their first priority. A sheet is provided for this character in the appendix. It is the position of the Swiss government to remain neutral regarding these topics, not only because it is the default foreign policy, but also because it would be a conflict of interests to become more involved in the talks. It is of course the hope of the Swiss government that the problems between various nations can be resolved peacefully and the notion of the world becoming a safer place with fewer nuclear weapons is of

course attractive. The ambassador also has a staff, but people do not portray them. If they do something and the GM feels dramatic, the GM might state "The Swiss Aide brings this document to you." The Swiss personnel at the conference essentially mirror the role of the GM; they become involved only when necessary, and only as much as is necessary. As the Swiss character, the GM will be spurring and directing debate gently. If a particular delegate is actively trying to offend another delegation, the chair will ask them to curb some of their remarks, and so on. It is the chair's job to recognize delegates when they wish to speak. One member of the Taiwanese delegation is of Swiss decent, but he/she should not be confused with the aforementioned Swiss facilitators. He is not a representative of the Swiss Government, and if he maintains Swiss citizenship, his dealings with the Taiwanese government are as a private citizen.

It is important, as a GM, to keep the players In Character, or IC. When a player continues to remain IC and attempts to address problems and conversations as their character would, they gain a better understanding of the way the character thinks and reacts to situations. This helps the player to more accurately portray the character, and it also helps the player to more fully understand the culture from which the character stems. Additionally, and from some points of view most importantly, staying IC helps to maintain the enjoyment of the game. If people are constantly dropping Out Of Character, OOC, then the illusion of realism is damaged. In order to give the impression that one's classmate or acquaintance is actually the ambassador from a country you have gone to war with three times in the last century, it is important to not discuss the basketball game later that day. Off topic conversations should be minimized as much as possible in this regard. Even when talking about things concerning the game, whenever possible things should be phrased in the first person. One should encourage players to say, "I'm not sure how my government would view that action." One should discourage statements like "Chinese diplomats wouldn't allow that, would they?" It requires practice, skill, and patience to remain IC all of the time and doubtlessly beginner players won't be able to keep it up forever. Still, they should be encouraged to remain IC whenever possible.

Realism is an important part of the game. Having said this, it is possible to spend so much time attempting to more perfectly simulate the real world that important game considerations are lost. Also, the more realistic this game is made, the more briefing material would be produced. The more material produced, and the harder it would be for one person to absorb all of it and attempt to portray what it describes. One obscure example would be the gestural component of the Chinese language. Native speakers of Chinese make use of different body language than American English speakers and in general behave according to a different set of rules of social etiquette. While including a detailed exposition of these factors may well increase realism, it would also increase complexity. Realism *is* important, but so is brevity and levity.

While Realism is being discussed, mention should be made regarding a slight amount of creative license used in the creation of the Taiwanese delegation. While there is indeed a nationalistic streak in Taiwan and their ruling party is a Nationalist party; the Taiwanese delegation presented for this game is a bit over-nationalized. Following Taiwan's forcible acquisition and subsequent police rule, it claimed to still be the 'true' China in exile. Taiwan *has* been moving slowly away from that position in recent years, but they are not yet openly acting like a different country. Conversely, the Taiwan depicted here follows one course history may take, where Taiwan attempts to secure independent protection from neighboring China and slowly continues to emphasize its separate existence. Most of the generation of men who escaped to Taiwan are aging, and in a decade or two, will be gone. Their descendants are outnumbered by people who had bee living on the island of Taiwan for quite some time and do indeed represent an independent culture.

In this case, we wished to reference these new trends in Taiwan, but they are very subtle. For the purposes of emphasis, we created the delegation as it appears in the appendix. While a more realistic depiction would of course be more accurate, it would not necessarily be more educationally beneficial.

Earlier, it was mentioned that more than one GM might work in the same game. The goal of including more than one GM in the game is to ensure all players receive enough attention and to ensure that no GM feels too overworked. Since the maximum game size is larger than any class is liable to be, it may be fruitful for two teachers to combine their classes and work together in running the game. Possible collaborations that might prove fruitful include junior and senior history classes, a history class and a science class, or perhaps a history class and a theatre or english class. All of these situations offer different positive characteristics to the pool of available players. As class times and subjects covered at any one grade level vary, the precise combination must be left up to the individuals who decide to try this educational tool. We, however, have some suggestions on running a game in concert with another GM. It is important to keep all GM's informed about what is happening in the game. If one GM handles a series of complex questions and negotiations with a particular country's government and that player asks a different GM a question, that second GM may accidentally provide a conflicting response if they are not vaguely aware of the prior discussions. It would probably be convenient for GM's to divide up the various tasks of conducting the game. Both can clearly work together on assigning players to characters, but one should plan to be the Swiss facilitator and another should plan to handle most of the contact with home governments, for example. While it would doubtlessly be easier to work together with someone else to run the game, it is not essential. Just one person can run with the game. They will have to keep track of these different responsibilities as a GM, but it can be done. Reducing the number of players may not make it easier for one person to handle, as actions frequently happen by delegation rather than by individuals. 39 people broken up into 13 delegations are roughly as chaotic as 13 people representing 13 delegations are. The additional characters bring other things to the game, but their subtraction doesn't necessarily simplify things, it merely makes it possible to play with fewer people.

Chapter 4: Behind the scenes

The world is a fairly complex place, made even more so by politics. In several cases, the teacher will be required to act as a link to the delegates' home country, handing back decisions made by the government that the delegates represent. While these decisions are solely at the discretion of the teacher, we would like to make the following suggestions.

First, that most of the richer nations, the US, China, Russia, etc., have middling to large slush funds available, should the issue of 'black market' purchases come up between certain delegates. For example, the South African corporate delegate may attempt to sell raw Uranium to several different countries, or the Chinese military delegate may offer to sell or buy reactors or nuclear weapons. In these cases, pure self-interest will always drive the decision.

Second, peace type accords are often accepted, just to look good, unless the treaty is obviously disadvantageous, or runs counter to the current administration's policy. For example, the US is unlikely to accept total disarmament, while nations such as Pakistan are more likely to accept, given that their rivals also agree, or a check is otherwise placed against them.

Also, the characters are very much designed to disagree and argue, and may not reach a consensus. It may also be that the teacher will have to step in and moderate the conference, depending on the group of students involved. In the case that this is needed, a model like the following is suggested. As a topic comes up, each delegation that wishes to comment signals this to the moderator in some way, whereupon their delegation is marked to speak in the order that they have signaled intent. A delegation's turn is over after an arbitrarily imposed time limit, or until they have spoken their peace.

It is worthy of mention that the United States culture briefing is written with a different point of view than most share. The intention is to present America as it might have been written by someone from another country. This should help those playing American roles examine the behavior of their own country. Through honesty and education, perhaps the mistakes of the past can be avoided.

Chapter 5: Tips on running the game

So far, everything necessary to play the game has been said. However, there are several guidelines that you should follow when you attempt this game for the first time. If you are experienced at either role playing or being a game master from any other source or game, then these things should be intuitive. However, if you are new to the idea of role playing, you should read through this section.

First, the fewer players you have when playing this game, the simpler the game will be. However, at the same time each of the players will have to know more and interact more, making the game more challenging for them. This leads to the game being more fun and a better experience for the individual players. Also, games with fewer players tend to be faster, because the players will settle their differences more quickly than if there were large delegations. Thus, if you want an intimate and fun game, run so that the players will have fun and learn chosen topics exceptionally well, then try a small number of players, perhaps around twenty. If you want the players to learn all of the topics moderately well, as well as practicing their debating skills (an excellent idea for a school's debate team), then a full game with all of the players is appropriate.

The second suggestion is that you acquire an assistant to help you run the game. The reason for this is not obvious until you begin playing the game. However, during the course of the game, the players will have questions for both the game master and their own government, and having an assistant to answer the simple questions quickly and without interrupting the flow of the game is a great help when playing. However, this assistant game master must be able to keep a secret from all of the players of the game, and they must also know the entire story behind the game so that they can answer questions quickly and correctly.

Lastly, this game is meant to be fun for the players. This does not mean that the players should be allowed to goof off. In fact, the more the players stay in character, the

more fun they will have. However, so long as the players remain true to the characters, they should be left to their own devices, to make their own decisions. As the game master, you should be there simply to make sure that each person gets a chance to speak, the players stay in character, and the character's and player's questions are answered. All decisions, such as the order in which the issues should be discussed, how long they should be debated, and which countries get a say on certain topics (although everyone should really get a say on every issue).

While these are only suggestions, the recommendations above come from a strong background and personal experience in role playing.

Appendix A: Character Sheets

The following is a set of charts designed to help the Game Master distribute the appropriate information to the appropriate characters. First, there is a list of all of the roles in the game, in order of importance. Next is a list of all of the supplementary information provided in appendix C. Each character also receives a culture briefing sheet for their country. These sheets are found in appendix B. Last comes a chart showing which sheets should be distributed to which delegation. Immediately afterward, there is a list of which character has access to certain sheets.

If the full cast of characters is not being used, sheets may have been included that are appropriate for a character that is not present. If this is the case, the sheets represent explanations given by the characters who should know these things before the delegates left. This was done to try to brief the delegates before they left on the situations they would be facing.

Certain characters have sheets not listed with their delegations. This is information that they have which they consider trivial to the conference, and therefore did not share with their delegation and would not be available if that member of the delegation were not present. Please not that this information really is trivial for the characters that have it, and should not be present in the delegation if the character is not.

1 Swiss moderator
2 English Diplomat
3 American Diplomat
4 Russian Diplomat
5 Chinese Diplomat
6 Taiwanese Diplomat
7 Iranian Diplomat
8 Israeli Diplomat
9 Indian Diplomat
10 Pakistani Diplomat
11 English Scientist
12 American Scientist
13 Russian Scientist
14 Chinese Military advisor
15 South African Economic/Corporate
16 Iranian Preacher
17 French Diplomat
18 French Military
19 Japanese Diplomat
20 Pakistani Military Advisor
21 South African Diplomat
22 Japanese Scientist
23 American ex-Military advisor
24 Russian Military
25 Israeli Intelligence
26 English aide and advisor
27 Iranian Military
28 Indian Technical
29 Egyptian Diplomat
30 Taiwanese moneybags

31 Taiwanese Military Advisor

32 Indian Military Advisor
33 Chinese Technical Advisor
34 Japanese Intelligence
35 French Intelligence
36 Egyptian Author
37 Pakistani Technician
38 Israeli Technician
39 South African Political Advisor
40 Egyptian junior Diplomat

A The Plot (news articles)
B What really happened
C Economic Summary
D International Tensions
E Aids in Africa
F Pan-Arabism
G Islam
H How Nuclear Weapons Work
I Nuclear Power Plants
J Mirving
K Missile Targeting
L Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction
M Star Wars and SDI
N Tricking Star Wars
O Why other nations dislike SDI
P The Art of War
Q Swiss Culture Sheet (appendix B rather than C)
R Bilateral and International Treaties

Character Index:

Israel	A C D G H I L M N O R			
	Dayin	Head Diplomat	A C D G O R	76
	Hersh	Intelligence Agent	A C D L M P	78
	Sharansky	Technical Advisor	A H I M N	80
Japan	A C D I L M N O R			
	Kusinagi	Career Diplomat	A C D O R	82
	Kanzaki	DOE Official	A C I	85
	Kawamura	Intelligence Officer	A D L M N P	87
Pakistan	A C D G H I L R			
	Khan	Head Diplomat	A C D G R	90
	Azir	Military Advisor	A D G L	92
	Ashiir	Technical Advisor	A G H I	95
Russia	A C D H I J K L M N O R P			
	Krusburg	Ambassador	A C D O R	97
	Ananiev	Russian General	A D H L M N O P	99
	Novikov	Scientist	A H I J K L	102
South Africa	A C D E H I L R			
	Buthelezi	Ambassador	A C D E R	105
	Holomisa	Political Advisor	C D E F G R P	108
	Stackawacz	Economic Advisor	A C E H I L	110
Switzerland	Portrayed by the GM, hence all sheets.			
	Santi	Swiss Ambassador	All	120
Taiwan	A C D L P O Q R			
	Lin	Head Diplomat	A C D O R	112
	Mueler	Military Advisor	A L P Q	115
	Chen	Financier	A C P R	117

Geoff / Heather Hedge (46)

Politically Selected Diplomat, USA

Born Feb 8, 1956 outside of Toledo Ohio to well to do parents, no siblings

1972 - Attended NYU as a Political Science major with a minor in western history.

1976 - He attended graduate school in Washington DC and wrote a thesis concerning the geopolitical effects of certain policies of the Carter Administration (very critical). He worked as an aide for a congressman part time, and when he finished his masters he accepted an offer of a full time position.

1980 - Gets a job at Reagan's White House (far) under the secretary of state

1988 - He transfers to the department of the interior under Bush.

1992 - He worked for a republican senator in DC as his chief aide.

1994 - The Senator becomes a diplomat in the Balkans region and he remains the senator's aide. He begins to interact diplomatically with other aides, to facilitate smoother negotiations.

1997 - His superior, the former senator, becomes very ill following a stroke, and Geoff is forced to take over negotiations. Geoff does well, and becomes more of an assistant diplomat than an aide, although he still does a great deal of research for the ex-senator.

1998 - His boss passes away suddenly after his apparent recovery the previous year. Geoff is appointed to take his place. He continues to serve as a diplomat in the Balkans.

2001 - Under the new administration, Geoff receives another promotion and finds himself in a more important position in the state department. He has been asked to negotiate in these nuclear talks following the recent escalation of tensions.

Costume suggestions: Power suit

Description:

His father was a liaison with the American government for a major defense contractor, and his mother was a political advisor for his father's career. He was schooled privately at a prep school at the insistence of his mother, and was only home during breaks

and holidays. In college he engaged in many political debates with his more liberal classmates and graduated Summa Come Laude in '76. During the Nixon election campaign, he worked at a telephone soliciting delegations from registered Republicans. As his career progressed, it slowly but surely took over his life until there was really nothing left apart from his job. He became an excellent political researcher, a relatively good diplomat, and made friends in several political circles, but had no real life outside of the work.

Personality:

You give off the feeling that you are a politician from inside the beltway. You seem very competent, but perhaps slightly manipulative. You are proud of your Republican status, and will espouse generally conservative viewpoints in more casual conversation and in private life. Your favorite topic of conversation is politics.

Goals:

You are hoping that this conference will lead to new opportunities to advance your career. Although it may be important to keep the world free of nuclear weapons, it's more important still to advance the cause of the United States, and to stay on the good side of the Republican Party.

Views:

You doubt that these conferences will lead to anything of real use other than perhaps a promotion. There have been several such talks in the past and it is unlikely that such a poorly organized conference will yield better results. As for America's involvement in recent affairs, you think that, while it may not be necessary militarily to do missile research, it is somewhat necessary politically.

Orders:

You have been told to convince them that the USA shouldn't be forced to obey old nuke limitation treaties. Agree to a new treaty which places critical deadlines further

into the future for the USA, while encouraging other nations to disarm. Prevent discussion of missile defense as part of the talks, if possible. Try to relax tensions and stall, so lengthy negotiations to relax tensions can take place. Encourage United States or Security Council enforcement of the treaty instead of UN enforcement. The US doesn't want its nation's missiles being monitored by the UN, but its fine for other countries to be watched by the US.

Stanley/ Janet Garen (53 years old)

American Technical Advisor

You were born in 1948, in Greenwich, Connecticut to middle class parents, one younger sister.

1956 - You were accepted at MIT where you pursued a Physics major, and received a 3.5 GPA.

1960 - You went on to Cal Tech as a Masters Student in their Nuclear Engineering program.

1962 - Worked in projects involving nuclear generator construction.

1967 - You accepted a position as chief safety inspector at a major nuclear power plant which had recently been completed.

1971 - You married a girl you'd known since college. You and she were 23 at the time. In the years that followed, you had 3 children.

1978 - Move to a job in the DOE

1984 - Promoted to position within the DOE which allows you to assist in the allocation of research funds

1989 - You received a promotion to help review nuclear weapons testing research

1996-You were promoted once again, and now help to work out who gets what funds in the general category of nuclear power and nuclear research. You still hold this position.

1999-Your oldest Daughter just had her first child, making you a proud grandfather.

Description:

You grew up in Greenwich Connecticut, and attended a very good public high school. Your father was a physicist associated with the Manhattan project and research that followed its completion. You took after him in many ways, unlike your younger sister. After having a relatively quiet childhood, you were accepted to MIT and enjoyed the academic atmosphere. However, you didn't feel that a Ph.D. in physics followed by years of lab work was what you wanted to do. Instead you went to Cal Tech. Having received your masters in Nuclear Engineering, you began work on projects involving the

construction and design of nuclear power plants. You felt it was important to use nuclear power constructively, rather than for military applications (perhaps because of your father's legacy). You were a part of a group within the company which addressed optimization of the use of fuel rods, and you proved yourself very capable, hardworking, and intelligent to your peers and superiors.

After proving yourself to be an excellent inspector, you decided that you would like to be involved in actually writing the regulations which govern the operation maintenance and construction of nuclear plants. Being something of a perfectionist, you'd noticed a large number of imperfections and poor decisions in the regulations as they stood. You easily got a job at the Department of Energy, but temporarily had to settle for a salary cut. Through several years of effort, you managed to advance in the DOE into a position which involves deciding how research funds should be allocated. Although you weren't directly responsible for deciding who gets what funds, you were supposed to review various ongoing programs to make sure they were using funds efficiently. Since some of these programs were somewhat secret, you had to undergo a more detailed background check. Since your first employment in the nuclear industry, you have had a number of background checks run on you, but this search checked every speck of dust you'd encountered since kindergarten. To make the long story brief, you received the necessary clearance but you considered it a major hassle.

Views:

You are a geek, but you can act businesslike when you have to. Technical problems are much more interesting to you than politics. In addition to an interest in science, you are also an Engineer to the bone. This makes you practical to a fault. Your motto is "keep it simple, stupid."

You don't think the current or past generations of missile defense system designs would work. You believe the United States may have a greater capability to design the yield of a nuclear weapon and to vary the relative amount of energy released as heat,

radiation, and blast than publicly acknowledged. You are somewhat pessimistic about the outcome of this meeting, but you hope things will change anyway. You have never understood American's attitudes towards nuclear power, and consider the common overwhelming negative reaction the result of a failure to understand how safe and clean nuclear power really is.

Goals:

You plan to retire in a few years, but plan to continue to work as a consultant part-time. You'd like to see this conference succeed, but you feel your job is to provide technical information and not to be a diplomat.

Orders:

You have been asked to advise Geoff Hedge on technical matters concerning nuclear weapons and science in general. You have never met Mr. Hedge, but you spoke with him very briefly on the telephone.

Costume suggestions: Oxford shirt and khaki's, but no tie. Wallet with baby pictures, calculator.

John Armstrong (mid 50's)

American Military Advisor

Born 1946 in Greensburg Pennsylvania, which is a suburb of Pittsburgh. You graduated from Greensburg Central Catholic University in 1962.

1962 - You entered the Air Force and went straight into officers candidate school after boot camp.

1963 - Served in Vietnam as a communications analyst

1967 - You are sent home with a promotion following your tour in Vietnam.

1967 - You are stationed at New Edwards Airforce Base, where you worked as an intelligence analyst and received additional training.

1970 - You spend two years assigned to a cornfield nuclear silo.

1972 - Promoted again and sent to NORAD.

1988 - You served as an advisor to the Civilian head of the Airforce, the Airforce Chief of Staff.

1992 - You retire from the military after 30 years in the service. (48 years old).

Description:

During the Vietnam War, both you and your unit were studying and breaking the enemy's cryptography. You assisted in this by providing reports on the frequency of use of various wavelengths used by enemy troops in their transmissions, which provided useful information even before the codes themselves were broken. Once the war was over, you were promoted and assigned to New Edwards to study more about cryptography. Soon after, you served as both a launch officer and conducted a secret (from the others in that silo) study to see if American military personnel were prepared to conduct nuclear war if they received orders to that effect. The conclusion of this particular study was that they would not in fact turn the launch keys. Once you were finished with that study, you ended up working at NORAD. There you continued to function as an intelligence analyst, but your focus was now nuclear strategy and deployment. This involved analyzing reports from satellite analysts to generate a larger picture of a strategic situation.

Your career path changed slightly when you ended up advising a cabinet member in a Republican White House. After the Republican Party lost the next election, you soon decided to leave the military. This transition occurred as a result in the change in political parties in Washington, but the CIA took you on as an analyst. You have been working for the CIA as a military intelligence analyst specializing in Nuclear Weapons, including potential use by terrorists and rogue states and potential counter-strategies. It is important to note that although you work for the CIA, this is not public knowledge at the conference.

Views:

You project a very military attitude, stand very rigidly, and so on. You also seem very confident. Your years of experience as a commander have taught you that if you project an aura of confidence and assurance, it will have beneficial effects on the performance of your peers. However, you have also gotten a rather dogged dislike of Russians from your stint in the military. To sum you up in two words, "Cold Warrior."

Goals:

It is important to you that the country remains militarily secure and well defended. You feel it is important to protect the United States advanced nuclear arsenal, such as neutron bombs, high yield warheads, etc. Having hundreds of thousands of less advanced weapons is less important than having state of the art nukes. You DO NOT want anyone to learn you are in the CIA, but if they learn this fact through other channels you know better than to make a big deal about it.

Orders:

The State department has asked you to advise the American Diplomat by providing technical and strategic knowledge on the subject of nuclear weapons. The CIA has ordered you to keep your eyes open for any interesting or incongruous facts, and has also cautioned you not to give too much information to the Diplomat about sensitive matters. They would appreciate it if you would encourage him not to make too many concessions

that might negatively effect national security. They want to know what other countries claim to have, and wish to know your opinion on the authenticity of their claims.

Costume Suggestion: not a military uniform. Regular businesses wear

Deng Lao/Lei (50)

Ambassador for the Chinese Delegation

1951 - Born to a Factory worker in Beijing, Two brothers, no sisters

1965 - You spent a great deal of time working in your father's factory, due to changes to the educational system by Mao, demanding that students do manual labor as part of their education

1969 - You managed to obtain a party position with the Ministry of Trade.

1977 - You are promoted within the Party to a position of some power

1982 - You are sent to the US embassy, in order to better learn what the Party can sell to America. Dirt-cheap consumer goods are high on the list.

1993 - Marries a colleague in the ministry, in a simple civil ceremony while both are on leave.

2001 - Due to your negotiating abilities, and your familiarity with America, you are selected for the conference by the foreign ministry.

Description:

Your father was promoted to the factory overseer during your very early childhood, during one of the ambitious 5 year plans. During your later childhood, the relative military unimportance of the factory, which produced consumer goods for domestic use, almost led to its shutdown. Minor grafts and other forms of corruption kept your family relatively comfortable and free from interruption and excessive bureaucracy. It took you a few bribes, as well as your father's position, to get you into the Ministry of Trade. But within a few years, due to natural aptitude and a few more bribes, you are promoted within the party structure. Your new position allows you to decide the output of several factories, pending contradiction from above. You spent your time in the Trade Ministry pushing the exportation of cheap goods to America, and the wealth that this position brings to the Party slowly raises you through the Ministry of Trade. Your position allows you to quietly push for a more normalized trade between America and China.

As you continue to advocate flooding America with cheap consumer goods. This of course has the effects that the people back home are looking for, and you begin to rise within the ministry.

In a major push with in the Foreign and Trade ministries to gain Most Favored nation status from America, aware that this can only accelerate the import of high technological goods, and increase the output of his factories.

Views:

More or less a diplomatic professional, you should remain calm under most circumstances. You are used to the give and take of the negotiating table, and understand that compromise can be reached without compromising ideology.
You have no family back home, and have become very attached to your occupation. Your greed may occasionally trip you up as well.

Goals:

Do not antagonize the US. Too much of the Chinese economy depends on exports to the US. Look for moneymaking opportunities, and if needed, use under the table methods of dealing to ensure completion of orders. Make sure that this is not detected if used, for you will surely be executed upon arrival at home if caught.

Orders:

Protect China's nuclear stockpile. Sacrifice older model warheads as needed to ensure that sufficient strike capacity remains to destroy any one nation without major missile improvements. Do everything in your power to force other nations to sign a treaty banning nuclear defense. The only nation in a position to erect one is a potential enemy.

Tang Lu (42)

Military advisor

1959 - You were born to a collective farmer along the Yangtze River

1980 - You leave the farm to join the PLA as a private

1982 - Having been promoted to lieutenant for general merit, you are now accepted for officer training

1983 - You are given a minor commission in an outlying district.

1985 - You are promoted through tenure, to leadership of a brigade in Beijing.

1989 - You obey the orders to use any means needed to break up the demonstrators in Teinamen square

1993 - You take part in choosing locations for nuclear silos

1994 - After exhaustive testing, you are given further security clearance into China's nuclear programs.

1995 - You lobby for a Chinese space program

1999 - You become well known for your support of the space program

2001 - You are selected for the conference by the commander of the PLA.

Description:

You led a relatively impoverished childhood, as the son of a simple Chinese farmer. Still, you showed a marked tendency towards leadership during your schooling years, and were often placed in charge over younger children in your adolescence. Once you reach the minimum age to enlist, you do so and immediately attempt to enter officers training. Failing that, you enlisted as a private. It was not long before you were promoted to the rank of lieutenant on general merit, and once again requested officer training. This time, you were accepted and given a commission.

After several years of impeccable service, you are promoted through tenure and given commission of a new brigade in Beijing. Things are quiet for a while, until the incident at Teinamen Square, where you followed orders by leading a small squad through

the massacre. Due to the international outcry and despite your willingness to obey orders, you are transferred out of active service to a desk job where you assist the commander of the People's Liberation Army.

You are placed in contact with nuclear strategy for the first time when you are present as a trusted, secure assistant during a meeting planning the location of a few new silos for the PLA. A handful of well-placed comments added a great deal of respect from your higher ups that day. You also end up suggesting that China attempt to obtain commercial orbit capable rocketry, realizing that it can be adapted into ballistic weaponry.

With the basic success of the program initiated with these recommendations, you found yourself enjoying minor prestige within the command structure of the PLA. This new authority is why you were chosen for this arms conference.

Views:

You are a soldier and a leader, not a diplomat. You are unused to the negotiating table, and you will bring a forceful personality and the tendency to give orders to these negotiations. (You may tend to use the phrase 'Herding cats.')

Orders:

Protect China's nuclear stockpile. Sacrifice older model warheads as needed to ensure that sufficient strike capacity remains to destroy any one nation without major missile improvements. Do all in your power to force other nations to sign a treaty disallowing nuclear defense. The only nation in a position to erect one is a potential enemy. Keep China from having to sacrifice the ability to test arms. Don't declare war just yet.

Goals:

Like all weapons, nuclear weapons are a means to an end. Power. This power is to be protected, and if it must be taken from China, see to it that it is taken from all,

especially the Yankees. Otherwise, you are simply out to protect your own position, which means following orders to the letter.

Pao L. (30)

Chinese Scientific Advisor

1971 - You were born to a pair of university professors in Beijing

1989 - You entered into your parent's university for education

1993 - You graduated with honors as a nuclear engineer

1998 - You were awarded a Ph.D. in the field of nuclear engineering

1999 - You help to design a MIRV type warhead

2001 - You are selected as a technical advisor to Tang for the purposes of evaluating foreign abilities.

Description:

Your childhood was steeped in academia, since both of your parents were professors. You were effectively raised to be a scholar. After primary school, you entered into your parent's university as a nuclear engineering student. During your school years you were an energetic scholar. You find time for both your studies as well as a vast number of more social activities, including party activism.

After graduating your BS with honors in Nuclear Engineering, you entered grad school, in Cambridge, England. During the long, difficult days of graduate school you were forced back from your previous activities, but remained in contact with many friends moving deeper into the bureaucracy of China. Your relative secrecy and your ability to keep secrets were looked upon with great enthusiasm by many back home.

After receiving a Ph.D., you returned home and took up a job as a weapons designer for the PLA. Background security checks came up clean, although you are placed under extreme scrutiny since an uncle was involved in Teinamen square as a demonstrator. Your research included designs for MIRV type warheads, despite personal objections to the concept. The design is mostly successful, having a 90% separation ratio, though it is kept extremely top secret.

Views:

Although not in any position whatsoever to bring about changes, you have become disgusted with the idea of weapons of mass destruction over the last few years. You have so far managed to conceal this from your superiors. You feel that such weapons must only be used against military targets, not population centers. You act relatively meek and subservient where the other delegates are involved, being many years their junior, and far weaker than them in the party.

Goal:

You are very attached to your family back home, and will in many cases consider the possible well being of your parents and sisters before you takes sides on an issue. You know, however, that it is their best interest to bring the conference to a peaceful conclusion.

Orders:

Compare claims of nuclear capacity with estimates; advise Tang and Deng accordingly. Also, advise them on the technical feasibility of proposals and technology discussed at conference.

Abdul-Rafi Said

Egyptian Intellectual

1960-You were born in Cairo in a low to middle class family. Your mother died soon after your birth.

1976-You were accepted at Princeton University where you majored in History with a minor in political science and a strong emphasis on Arab and Middle Eastern history.

1980- You were accepted into their graduate program with an Associateship.

1986-You received your doctorate in history and returned to Cairo to teach there.

1988-You married (and later had 3 children). Later that year, you received tenure.

1995-You became the head of the history department at Cairo University following a rash of retirements.

1996-You continue to publish works with an intellectual, Pan-Arab viewpoint

Present- You've decided to attend this conference and advise the other members of your delegation on the issues at hand.

Description:

Your father was a chemist, so you grew up in an intellectual environment and were able to attend more years of school than many children in Egypt. You completed your pre-collegiate education by age 16, and spoke very good English, even compared to your father who had studied in England for several years. You attended college at Princeton, majoring in history. It was an enjoyable experience, but all the while you longed for your native land. After college, you returned to Cairo and began teaching English, History, and some social science courses at Cairo University. A few years after joining the faculty of Cairo University, one of your books became recognized as "the single best piece of literature published in Egypt for years." You had published a few books in the past, but your recent book on history was intended for a more general audience, leading to it's popularity. You also made a tidy sum of money from its sale. Soon after, you developed decidedly pan-Arabic views and politics, although you approach the issue from a very intellectual level. You continue to publish books from this viewpoint. Your books sell

fewer copies, but amongst similar thinkers your work is praised. Amongst those critical of the notion of pan-Arabism treat your work seriously, but they don't exactly 'like' it.

Views:

You are an intellectual and a pacifist. You are very sharp when it comes to your area of specialization, but you think you know more than you actually do about most other topics. Your tendency to preach is rather annoying, but you usually know better than to go too far. It is your firmly held belief that all Arab nations should be united into one country ruled by a democratic constitution. You are a Muslim, but don't support theocracies like Iran. You believe such countries are more about certain atavistic cultural behaviors than Islam itself.

Goals:

You hope to advance the intellectual ideas of Pan-Arabism. You also hope to offer useful council to the other members of your delegation.

Orders:

You invited yourself to the conference. The rest of the delegation is aware of your national origin and someone in the foreign office informed you that your advice would be welcome amongst your delegation.

Yaseen/ Karida Masri

Egyptian Junior Diplomat

1969-You were born in Memphis, with no brothers or sisters

1987-You were accepted at the University of Memphis, majoring in Political Science

1991-Instead of finding a job, you traveled on Hajj to Mecca, and joined the Sufi branch of Islam

1993-After returning home, you accepted the position of Junior Diplomat under your father

1999-You began to work directly for your father, and often interacted with aides from other governments.

Description:

Your father is the current head of the Egyptian delegation, a renowned Egyptian diplomat. Because he happened to have political influence and some amount of personal wealth, he could afford to send you to private school as you grew up. You graduated from your high school and applied to the University of Memphis, Egypt at your father's request. You were accepted even though you weren't at the top of your class. You majored in Political Science.

After graduating from college, you passed up your father's offer to help you find a job and went on Hajj. While in Saudi Arabia you met several individuals who were very passionate about religion. You shared long talks with them, and they altered the way you viewed not just religion, but life in general. The best way to describe Sufism, in your opinion, would be Islamic Mysticism bent on development of the spirit. Upon returning home your father insisted that you get a job, so you reluctantly accepted his offer of a position as a diplomat's assistant. You did your research work well, and you were able to talk to people when necessary. You have always kept your interesting religious beliefs to yourself.

So far, your father doesn't know about your heretical leanings. You're not sure how he'd react, and you don't really want to find out any time soon.

Views:

You are the black sheep of the family. Although you generally behave yourself at work, you still convey a sense of boredom at times. You occasionally make things a little difficult for your father, just to get back at him/her for not letting you lead your own life. You don't really want to be a diplomat, but you also don't want to anger your father. If you could do whatever you wanted, you would spend all your time pursuing the Sufi religion.

Orders:

As your father's aide, you are supposed to meet with other aides to speed along negotiations, and to otherwise speed the talks. The head of your delegation is your father, of course.

Wadi/ Adara Masri

Egyptian Senior Diplomat, head of delegation

1941-You were born to a war veteran who became a merchant and a nurse who became a housewife.

1959-You were accepted to the University of Memphis, Egypt. You started out as a communications major, but decided to become a political science major instead.

1964-Graduated late from college, received a job under Egyptian Ambassador of Yemen

1968-You finally got around to getting married.

1973-A conflict between Egypt and Israel know as the 7 Days war lead to your boss being replaced

1979-Egypt signs a peace treaty with Israel, thanks in part to your own work

1981-Your elder partner passed on after a yearlong fight with cancer. You became the senior diplomat, and you watched over junior diplomats and coordinated their efforts.

1986-Your eldest son graduates high school and follows in your footsteps by attending U-Memphis Egypt.

1990-As tensions within Egypt rise as fundamentalist violence rocks your nation, you assume a harsher tone with neighboring nations that are suspected of harboring these saboteurs.

2001-You are selected as the head of a mediating delegation at a nuclear weapons conference

Description:

Your father was an officer in the Egyptian Army before Germany and Italy invaded. He was involved in resistance against the invading powers. Following WWII, he was involved in establishing Egypt as an independent country, totally autonomous from the United Kingdom. When the King was overthrown in 1951, a republic was erected and a former general became president. Your father also entered into government service at

that time. As a consequence, you received more education than most children your age. After high school, you attended the University of Memphis. You graduated in the top quarter of your class, but you graduated a year late as a result of changing your major. Afterward, your father arranged for you to get a job as an aide to the Egyptian ambassador of Yemen.

As you gained experience, your father felt he could help you along further. He arranged for you to become a junior diplomat. You basically ran errands for a senior diplomat most of the time, but you were involved in the Israel-Egyptian conflict via him. This was a consequence of the senior diplomat being deeply involved in negotiations with the United Nations to convince the UN to withdraw their troops on the Egyptian/ Israeli boarder.

In 1970, your father passed away, but you found you could continue in your current position even without his patronage. When the United Nations withdrew from the boarder, Egypt invaded. In 5 days, the Israeli army had not only repelled the force that had seized the Suez Canal, but had also conquered more Egyptian territory. Your senior diplomat was replaced as a result, but you were not. You were very helpful to your new supervisor, since you knew all about what your predecessor had been asking the UN and what answers he had been giving to sensitive questions. Following the talks, which ended that particular conflict, you were in a rather good position politically.

Later, you and the more senior diplomat began to function as more of a team than as superior and assistant. To put it bluntly, he acted as the hard-liner that is unable or unwilling to compromise. He made the demands, then you talked to the other side's diplomats or aides and explain that it might be possible to make an arrangement and work the issue out. This worked well, and along with the many other negotiators, eventually Israeli troops were withdrawn from the West Bank in '74 and the Sinai oil fields in '75.

Views:

You are a moderate and a very calm person. You are one of those people who can make a situation calmer by your very presence. When necessary, you are strong and stick to your guns. You are capable of masterworks of subterfuge, but you only get sneaky when you feel you must.

You are also politically moderate, and very much in favor of democratic rule in the world in general. You believe your country's insistence on attending this conference is for two reasons. First, you believe Egypt wishes to look like a global player, and second, you believe Egypt wants to be the peacemaker this time.

Orders:

You have been instructed to attend the conference and to attempt to mediate between more extremist Islamic nations and other governments they might find themselves at odds with.

Goals:

You hope to further the causes of peace and democratic self-rule by ensuring that weapons of mass destruction don't spread further than they already have.

Jack/Jill Edmonds (39)

Head diplomat for English delegation

History:

1962 - Born in the suburbs of London, England. Parents are Charles and Elizabeth Edmonds. You had Two brothers, one sister, and were the youngest child.

1968 - Moved to central London and began attending Elizabeth Memorial Elementary School. Met two good friends, B. Jesserit and Pat McDowel.

1978 - Became head of the debate team at her high school, start of junior year.

1980 - Moved to France to attend college at Sorbonne, nearly a full scholarship.

1984 - Graduated Sorbonne with honors, moved back to London.

1985 - Hired at the United Nations in London as a clerk, but was soon moved to the position of Assistant Diplomat. Hired Betty Jesserit as a personal secretary, and began having Patty McDowel over for tea at least weekly

1998 - Promoted to head diplomat for foreign relations in London. Still invites friends over for tea regularly.

Description:

You have always been good at speaking. You just have a way of expressing yourself that everyone around you agrees with. This has been true ever since you were a little girl, and you have learned to use this particular talent effectively. Also, you learned early on the importance of close friends. Your two best friends, Betty Jesserit and Patty McDowel are good examples. Both of them are influential and experienced in their own fields, and they often assist you when you receive an important assignment. They will be assisting you as advisors in this conference, and you are very grateful for their help.

Views:

Your greatest virtues are peace and cooperation, but they are not overriding features of your personality. There is a time and place for everything, and violence can have its uses. If at all possible, you will find a non-violent middle ground for all

concerned. You do not play favorites and you do not bow to threats. And most importantly, you do not bluff.

Trust your advisors, Jesserit and McDowel, they've been loyal friends since elementary school. Jesserit is very good at understanding people, so she might have some information on what the other delegates are thinking. McDowel is very up to date on the science behind nuclear weapons, their capabilities, and roughly which countries have what capabilities.

Goals:

To keep this conference peaceful, prevent any conflicts from cropping up, and get as many signatures on the final treaty as possible. You will do this in the most expedient means possible, which may be negotiation, but can also come in other forms. Keep you eyes open for alternative solutions to problems, because at conferences like this one, the most direct route is very seldom the easiest.

Orders:

See goals.

Costume ideas: Good dress or business suit, professional and charismatic.

Ben/Betty Jesserit (40)

Secretary and political advisor to head diplomat of the English delegation

History:

1961 - Born in Wales to a house of minor nobles

1967 - Was sent to central London to Elizabeth Memorial Elementary school, began studying people

1968 - Met a pair of younger students who stood out from their classmates. One was Jill Edmonds; the other was Patty McDowel. Became friends with them and looked out for them.

1974 - Became much more outgoing, looking for new friends and making contacts with anyone you met

1978 - Voted most popular girl in school by the students, elected as homecoming queen, graduated with high marks and moved back to Wales to attend college. Vowed to keep in touch with everyone.

1984 - Graduated college with a math degree, moved back to London to look for a job. Hired as a bartender, hairdresser, personal secretary, etc. Never satisfied with any one job.

1985 - Hired by her old friend Jill to be a personal secretary. Actual job was to be aware of the social climate during diplomatic negotiations and inform Jill.

1986 - Began working on a degree in social psychology at Harvard by correspondence.

1988 - Began attending Harvard night courses for social psychology master's degree.

1996 - Received a Doctorate degree in social psychology and group theory. Continues to work for Jill Edmonds as a personal secretary, but maintains a consulting firm on the side.

Description:

Ever since Betty was a little girl, she wanted to know what other people were thinking. It wasn't that she wanted to read minds, it's simply that she wanted to know if she was really all that different from everyone else. So, for the first twelve years of her life, she remained a quiet, studious girl who liked to watch people. Once she was thirteen,

she came to the realization that she was as much like any other person as they were like their neighbor. She decided to work on understanding the differences between people, and how these differences made people act. She became more talkative, always asking people how they were doing and what had been happening in their lives. She became an expert listener, and through this she developed a lot of friends.

As she continued to grow, Betty found that she had an innate understanding of people. She could say a few words to someone and just from looking at their posture tell what they were feeling. She wasn't sure for many years what to do with this ability, but after being hired by her best friend Jill for this talent alone, she went back to school to learn everything she could about people. Now, Betty is a trained psychologist, specializing in group behavior. She can read a person like an open book, and can easily tell when someone is bluffing or lying.

Views:

The entire world is a myriad of social gatherings. Nothing of any real import can occur without leaving traces in the social posturing of others. To understand a group, you must understand its individuals. People are open books, waiting to be read, and the story that they tell is the history of the world.

Goals:

Betty wishes to assist Jill in any way possible, using all of her insights and the tools at her disposal. Also, she would like to see this conference remain peaceful, because war is always bad for the social climate.

Orders:

See goals.

Patrick/Patty McDowel (40)

Scientific advisor to the English delegation

History:

1961 - Born in Northern Ireland to a poor family, Greg and Marry McDowel

1963 - Family is killed in an automobile accident. As the only survivor with no known relations, she is sent to Belfast as a ward of the state.

1965 - Adopted by Laura and Roger Downing, lower middle class family. Adoptive family moves to London.

1968 - Sent to Elizabeth Memorial school for education, with government aid to help pay tuition. Meets a pair of rich friends, Jill Edmonds and Betty Jesserit.

1970 - Taken out of Elizabeth Memorial school, put into regular school. Parents no longer able to pay for private school. To her surprise, Jill and Betty remain her steadfast friends.

1977 - Graduated school two years early, with the top grades in her class. You were offered a full scholarship at nearly any college you chose. You attended Cambridge for a degree in physics. Maintains her friendship with both Jill and Betty despite college work.

1982 - You received a physics degree from Cambridge, and continued as an assistant professor to earn your Doctorate.

1992 - Hired as a full time professor at Cambridge. Occasionally does consulting work for Jill.

Description:

You have always been a quiet and introverted girl. When you were just starting to make close friends at the orphanage, you were adopted. After being adopted by the Downings, you didn't speak much for nearly a month. They cared for you and loved you like any parents would, but it made little difference. When Mr. Downing received a job offer from a London based stock trading company; they debated giving up on you. Unbeknownst to them, you were listening in on the conversation. When they decided that

they would keep you no matter the consequences, you resolved to make an effort to treat them like family.

Once your new family had arrived in London, they decided to send their daughter to the best school that they could afford. They sent her to Elizabeth Memorial, but kept her at home rather than sending her to live there. You walked to school every day, but you were happy to be going to such a nice school. At that school, you became very close friends with Jill Edmonds and Betty Jesserit. Unfortunately, a drop in the English stock market caused your father to lose his job and your family was force to remove you from private school. It amazed you that both Jill and Betty remained your close friends, and you determined that you would never leave them as long as they did not leave you.

Once at college, you maintained your connections with your friends still in their junior and senior years at Elizabeth Memorial. When Betty graduated and moved back to Wales, they all promised to keep in touch. But then when Jill graduated and went off to France, you suddenly felt more alone than you had since the orphanage. You still had your adopted family, but they were having enough problems just making ends meet. So you buried yourself in your work, trying to learn everything there is to learn about Physics. You became the shining star of Cambridge for two years, making every honor role and getting recommendations from every teacher on campus, even though you were a woman. (If a man plays the role, disregard the caveat in the previous sentence). Finally, you graduated, but that didn't even slow you down. You went on to graduate work, announcing your intention to get a Doctorate in physics.

When your friends came back to London the next year, you once again felt like a person. While you still intended to get your Doctorate, you did keep to a sane and steady pace. You became a well-known physicist, publicizing your own works and doing research for Cambridge. You are now one of the most respected professors at Cambridge.

Views:

Your friends are your lifelines. Without them, the world really wouldn't be worth living in. You must keep them safe, and if that means attending a pointless conference filled with stodgy politicians, so be it.

Goals:

Jill says that there might be a nuclear war if these politicians don't agree to sign a treaty. You know the facts; you've memorized all the relevant data. Nuclear war is a stupid proposition, where everyone loses, including the ones who launched the weapons in the first place. You'll just have to convince them. Still, you should probably let Jill do the talking.

Orders:

Who do you think I am? Some kind of military drone? I don't follow anybody's orders but my own, thank you very much!

Costume ideas: Casual formal dress.

Laurence/Laura Bedeau

Nominal leader of the French Delegation

History:

Born February 19, 1950

1960 - Began attending LeBeau Private School, an expensive and exclusive school for boys

1965 - Became captain of his school's fencing and equestrian societies.

1969 - Began attending Sorbonne University as a dual management and law major

1970 - Met two other underclassmen, Jean-Paul Curlay and Maurice Conté, for the first time, did not like either of them

1971 - Met Josephine LeBeau, a quiet, pretty freshman of good breeding.

1972 - Became engaged to Josephine LeBeau.

1974 - Graduated Sorbonne University at the head of his class.

1975 - Hired as a political speechwriter. Also worked as a secretary to several politicians

1976 - Married Josephine LeBeau Bedeau, had first child (girl) seven month later.

1978 - Moved to a position as Senior Mayoral Assistant in the city of Lorraine (France's second largest city)

1979 - Had second child (girl) early this year. Hopes for a male child soon.

1980 - Elected to a seat on the National assembly by a district of Lorraine. Continues in this position until the present day.

Description:

You are a true son of France. You are the descendant, although not directly, of several of the royal bloodlines of France. Your parents are wealthy, and you were thoroughly pampered during your young life. After growing up, you continued in this vein to become a power politician with ties and political connections throughout the French government, on both a local and national level. Your years as a speechwriter and bureaucrat also led to your being both an eloquent speaker and an effective diplomat.

Views:

You believe that France is the focal point of all of European history. France has been the seat of power for nearly every great empire since Rome. Its invasion started both World Wars, and it is now one of the biggest and most stable economic powerhouses in the world. Therefore, France is the chosen kingdom of God, and the decisions of the French government are to be protected in an almost religious manner.

Goals:

To place France in the number one position in every field of competition in the world, starting with nuclear power if possible.

Orders:

To judge whether nuclear testing and re-armament is necessary given the growing tensions between nations, and to avoid signing a nuclear disarmament treaty.

Costume ideas: As flamboyant and visible as possible

Jean-Paul/Maria Curlay

Chief political advisor for the French delegation

History:

1951 - Born in a small French village on the outskirts of the Paris suburbs

1968 - Graduated primary school a year early, and started attending Sorbonne with a full academic scholarship.

1969 - Joined several clubs at Sorbonne, including the debate team and the student government. Also, managed to stir up a rally against the ongoing nuclear arms race of both his own and several other countries.

1970 - Met two other undergraduates, Laurence Bedeau and Maurice Conté, for the first time, but did not care for either of them

1973 - Graduated with honors from Sorbonne and was immediately hired as a secretary and researcher for the French Republican Party

1975 - Upgraded to the position of head of public relations and press releases for the French Republican Party

1980 - Elected as a Senator for Paris, and has maintained this position ever since.

Description:

You are a Senator in good standing with his party, the French Republican Party. This is neither the biggest nor the smallest French party, and is usually second or third from majority. You are also a fair diplomat and a good judge of character, with strong goals and stronger views. This makes you a very effective diplomat when you wish to be.

Views:

You had a peaceful life growing up. You have only a few strong beliefs, but you cling to those relentlessly. First, your parents were not the types to withhold ugly truths from their children, and you came from a Jewish family, born just after the war. They told you of their experience during the Second World War, and while they were not actually

imprisoned in a concentration camp, it made a very deep impact upon your young mind. This has made you an ardent, almost militant pacifist.

Second, through your schooling and upbringing, you have come to associate nuclear weapons with mass violence on a terrible scale. Thus, in your worldview, they are much more heinous even than war. The only thing worse that you could conceive of would be the concentration camps themselves. Thus, you have always strongly opposed the nuclear armaments of your country. However, this does not preclude the use of nuclear power, and you will most likely lobby for this end rather than against it.

Goals:

You will do whatever is necessary to remove your country from the silly arms race. There is no need for the pompous posturing and self-righteous airs that they are flaunting these days. You will do whatever you can to see the peaceful purpose of the conference fulfilled, while at the same time quietly sabotaging your own delegation by giving away their wish to quietly re-arm the country while claiming to be disarming.

Orders:

To assist the delegation's leader, Laurence Bedeau, so long as it benefits France and the Republican Party.

Costume ideas: Simply dressed, perhaps a shirt and tie

Maurice/Monique Conté

Chief Military advisor to the head of the French Delegation

History:

1946 - Born to a middle class family living in Paris, your father was a Commander in the French Foreign Legion at the time of your birth.

1961 – You attempt to join the Foreign legion, but are prevented by your father, who soundly beats you for trying, especially at your young age

1964 - Leaves home for education at Sorbonne University, with both an academic and a sports scholarship to fund you

1962 - Decides on a degree in law, and pursues this course with fervor

1963 - Decides on a degree in mathematics, and pursues this course with fervor

1964 - Decides on a degree in philosophy, and pursues this course with fervor

1965 - Receives a degree in management, despite never having majored in the subject.

1966 - Is hired by the French Intelligence agency and put to work decrypting messages and studying foreign intelligence

1971 - Returns to Sorbonne for several semesters of more advanced math courses, while still working for the Intelligence office. Meets two other undergraduates at this time, named Laurence Bedeau and Jean-Paul Curlay

1975 - Is promoted to a higher position within French intelligence, and is now managing many other people who's job he was once doing

1981 - Is promoted to a position outside French intelligence and is given a higher clearance level and a job advising government officials based on French intelligence

1994 - Is promoted to be the assistant vice-secretary of the Minister of defense, advising his primary advisors on what other countries are doing.

Description:

You have always been a bit quieter and more introspective than most other people. You will occasionally sit for hours on end thinking your own private thoughts and ignoring the world. However, this does not mean you don't care about what's going on

around you, just that you spends more time thinking about how things work than the next guy. Thus, you don't make a very good diplomat, and have only the basic interpersonal skills you were born with.

You also have access to French foreign intelligence. While that isn't very accurate, it still turns out to be useful on occasion. You will use this to the best of your abilities to accomplish your goals.

Views:

Everything can be accomplished through just a little bit of effort, if one knows where to apply the pressure. If it is done right, you can just sit back and enjoy the benefits of a moments work for the rest on you're life. Of course as far as you are concerned, you are the real leader of the delegation, and with your little pushes in the right direction, you will lead them into exactly the situation you feels is appropriate for France.

Goals:

If we can simply convince the other countries that we have no intention of re-arming, they'll leave France alone. This does not mean disarmament, nor does it mean we have to stop testing nuclear devices. We must simply do it quietly, so the other countries can't prove anything. A more advanced nuclear arsenal would surely be beneficial to France, after all.

Costume ideas: Something simple that won't draw attention

C. Amist (42)

Indian Diplomat: Semi professional

1958 - You were born in a small suburb of New Delhi, both parents were Brahmin caste

1976 - You graduate near the top of your class and enter the University of Calcutta

1980 - You graduate, and join your country's diplomatic corps

1982 - You are promoted and are responsible for minor agreements with Pakistan

1986 - Despite your parent's wishes, you marry a local girl

1987 - Your wife gives birth to a son.

1988 - You are promoted again to the head of the Corp you once worked with

1990 - You receive a second child, a daughter.

1992 - You are moved into a translator's position at a slight pay increases

1994 - Your wife gives birth to a second daughter.

1996 - In a pinch, you help with the negotiation of a minor trade treaty with China

2001 - You are selected for the conference, due to your negotiating and linguistic skills.

Description:

Because of your parent's lineage, you were able to attend a private school in your neighborhood. There, you studied sometimes and relied on natural aptitude at other times, especially when dealing with languages. You received some of the highest marks in your class, and on that merit (and that of your caste) you were accepted into the University of Calcutta. At your chosen school, you entered into a study of politics and languages, especially foreign languages. You were, in general, more concerned with socializing than with studies, but natural aptitude allowed you to excel in your chosen areas at the university.

Once you had graduated from college, you were given a position working with the embassy of Pakistan. You were comfortable with this job, and showed a great deal of responsibility in it. At the same time, you met with and began dating a local girl. This annoyed your parents, as they had already begun to arrange a marriage for you.

Not too long afterward, you were promoted within the embassy, and you were then given the responsibility over minor contacts with Pakistani functionaries and government, as well as the issuing of entrance documents. After your promotion, you marry the girl you had been dating, despite massive protests from your family.

After a second promotion you were overseeing the issuing of entrance documents to India, and in control of the small staff of which you were formerly a member. You showed responsibility and skill in this position. Four years later you were moved to the translation services because no one else was either available or capable for the position. You received a slight increase in pay, for the extreme stress of the job. Here you finally begin to flourish as your skill in languages is once again serving you very well. You are selected as a negotiator in a trade agreement with China because everyone else is busy. You deal with this most effectively and you are eventually recognized in your own right as a diplomat. You become a full member of the diplomatic corps, and are selected for the Nuclear Peace conference.

Views:

You are relatively patient with negotiations, and your thoughts will frequently turn to your family. Protecting them is a priority. You can see the balance between threats and warfare, though. You understand how deterrents such as nuclear capability and a large standing armed force are your nation's main method of survival in the often-tense atmosphere of the East. You will remain calm, almost phlegmatic, in many cases. You know that threats and other gyrations are standard tools at the table, and that angering one of the other powerful nations can only harm your family.

Orders:

You have been ordered by your government to do all within reason to reduce the tensions between Pakistan and India, and reduce the potential of warfare. India cannot afford to go to war, be it nuclear or conventional, nor can it afford to back away directly.

Goals: You wish to fulfill your orders as swiftly as possible, only wishing to return 'home' to your wife and children, hopefully with a promotion.

L. Gaurav (49)

Indian Military advisor

1951 - Born to a father of the warrior caste, you received a solid upbringing

1965 - Once you complete primary school, you begin to work at odd jobs to supplement your family's income.

1966 - You enlist in the Indian military and are given an officer's position due to your caste

1968 - Promoted to 1st lieutenant, through tenure.

1969 - Promoted again, for skill and bravery in combat in the Chola incident

1970 - Promoted to a desk job in New Delhi

1988 - You are recognized for strategic capability while putting down a coup at Moldives, and promoted again

1990 - You are given the position of liaison between army commander and nuclear weapons technicians

1998 - You begin to advocate nuclear testing, as a show of military might.

2001 - You are selected for the conference based on your strategic abilities and position on certain topics

Description:

As a child, you received a fairly solid middle class upbringing, with only the occasional discomfort. This did not phase you, however, because you saw first hand the kind of squalor that the lower castes lived in. After you had completed primary school, in about the middle of your class, you do not choose to enter secondary school. Instead you begin working what odd jobs you can find that are not beneath you in order to supplement your family's income. Soon after, you decide to join the Indian Military forces. Because of your caste, you are given an officer's position, a 2nd lieutenant.

At Chola, a minor skirmish with China, you are recognized and promoted for both skill and bravery. During this skirmish you are bayoneted in the left arm, and due to the

nature of field medicine, you never regained full use of that hand. A year after the incident, you are promoted to a desk job in New Delhi where your injury will not hinder your work. You spend most of your time shuffling papers, accumulating promotions through tenure.

Several years later, during a particularly violent incident in which you were called back to the field, you are placed in command of a small force. With minimal casualties to your side, you put down a budding coup in Moldives and are thus noticed for your strategic ability during the quashing of this coup. Your acts earn you a promotion again, putting you in the position of assistant to the General.

Once again, due to your injury, you are placed in safe duty as a liaison between the army commanders and the nuclear weapons team, and you are now responsible for coordination of strategy based on the results of the team's work and experiments. Your position is aggressive, and you support nuclear testing for the sole purpose of intimidating your enemies. Eventually, these suggestions are carried through, prompting similar testing by your major opponents in the region.

Views:

You are neither polite nor are you subtle, but you get the job done. While you are prone to making demands, and very impatient with the negotiation process, it is in your hands to get something done at this conference. Increasing your own personal influence and leverage are both of paramount importance to you, although you realize that you cannot endanger your country for your own benefit. After all, if it's gone, who will pay you?

Orders:

You are commanded to make judgment calls as needed on the strength of foreign militaries and their nuclear capacity. As such, you are to advise Amist as needed on matters of strategy, how much India can afford to sacrifice, etc.

Goals:

Find peace without sacrificing national security or pride. As such, you will follow the majority of your orders, to the letter.

G. Kaushal/Kushala (30)

Indian Technical Advisor

1971 - Born in New Delhi, child to two parents of the Brahmin class.

1989 - You graduate with top honors from a private school in New Delhi and enter MIT

1991 - Despite high marks at MIT, you are desperately unhappy

1993 - Your romantic plans are shattered, as you both graduate and are ordered to return home

1997 - You marry another member of the Brahmin caste in an arranged marriage

1998 - Your wife gives birth to a daughter

2001 - You are sent to the arms conference as a technical advisor

Description:

As a member of the Brahmin caste, you lacked for little in your childhood. You lived a life of relative luxury in the big city. This, as well as your tendencies toward hard work, allowed you to graduate from secondary school with high marks in the sciences, mathematics, and english. You then chose to apply for a foreign education, and you were accepted into the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. You enter MIT already having a decent education, and with much of your tuition underwritten by the government of India. You chose to major in physics and aerospace engineering.

While at college, you begin feeling isolated from your fellow students. You must work exceedingly hard in order to maintain a good average, a 4.0, and this leaves you with no time for socializing. Your spirits are eventually lifted by a wild fling with an American student. But your dreams of romance and adventure are dashed when you graduate and are immediately recalled to India with only a bachelor's degree. You are immediately recruited by the military, and your specialized knowledge is put to work designing India's first generation of home built, medium range, guided missiles. As your parents dictate, you marry a daughter of another Brahmin caste member. After finishing the primary

designs on the missile, your confidential work is mostly stripped from you, although you are retained for some design work.

Eventually, you receive some training in diplomatic areas and are sent to an arms conference as a technical advisor.

Views:

You are generally scared and uncertain at the table, unsure of what you should do. You are, simply, a technician. You are very savvy when it comes to technology, but you are definitely not a people person. You received a two-day lecture on how not to cause trouble at an arms conference before you left, which decidedly didn't help matters.

Orders:

Advise diplomat on technical matters, being careful not to step on his authority.

Goals:

You are nervous about the concept of nuclear weapons, and feel guilty for aiding in the creation of vehicles capable of delivering warheads to your country's neighbors. As such, you will likely try to use your influence with your fellow Indians to push for wide spread reductions, as well as nuclear disarmament.

Note: All Iranian figures should be played as male, regardless of the sex of the player, due to the nature of the division of duties between the sexes in Islamic culture.

Amr Al'Aziq (34)

Iranian Political appointee.

1963 - Born the only son of a wealthy oil baron, you were raised in Kerman

1981 - You enter the University of Tehran

1982 - Your father is a civilian casualty of the Iran-Iraq war.

1985 - You graduate with a bachelors degree in economics and begin managing your father's estate

1988 - You begin slowly rising in the bureaucratic structure of oil miners

1997 - Your direct senior moves from oil ministry to nuclear energy department, and you accompany him.

2001- With your department officially committed to reducing tensions, you are appointed by Khatami to head up the delegation from Iran, given your public views on war.

Description:

You grew up in Kerman, close to the wells that your father owned. A child of wealth, you were nominally raised in the Islamic faith, and you were not lacking in material comfort. More bluntly put, you were a spoiled child. After a fairly normal primary and secondary school education, you enter into the University of Tehran, majoring in economics. The science of economy is not one of the most popular courses at the time, as there was still a backlash against western ideas and sciences from the leaders of the revolution.

After the death of your father, his estate reverted to you. But you were not especially happy with the transfer, since the government officials ended up digging quite deeply into the company's finances and ties to the western world. You graduated from Tehran not too long afterward, and moved back to your old hometown, in order to run the

oil wells. You did this efficiently and adroitly, but not with exceptional enthusiasm. You are more interested in spending your money rather than investing it. Your current government doesn't allow the widest of selection of dissipations for the wealthy.

Your familiarity with the oil industries, along with certain acquaintances, lands you a low post at the Oil ministry. Your younger cousin begins to run the family business in your name. You begin a slow and plodding upward trek in the bureaucracy, until you are a secondary assistant to Aghazadeh, the then head of the Oil Ministry. As Aghazadeh moves from the Oil Ministry to the Atomic Energy Commission, he retains you as a primary assistant in his new post.

Views:

You do not want to see nuclear defense over Western states, in case Iran ever does come to blows with them. You do not want a situation where this is needed. You've lost enough family to war that you're genuinely interested in averting conflict. While not exceptionally devout, the Islamic viewpoint does shape your life. You certainly cannot afford to personally cross Mohammed, and therefore you are wary of Ali, the religious advisor.

You will remain cool and gentlemanly, but you may at times seem to have a poor temper, which you try to hide. You are decidedly neutral towards nuclear controls; after all, they're just weapons. Very powerful ones, of course, but all weapons kill.

Goals:

You wish only to see that war does not break out, while at the same time attempting to get your hands on a source of Uranium. While your country has been slowly developing the technology for nuclear power, and in fact you now have a nuclear power agency, you still do not have a source of Uranium, or even a nuclear generator.

Orders:

You are to do whatever is needed to reduce the risk of open war. Iran cannot afford the active aggression of any of its neighbors in the Middle East. As a secondary goal, you are to do all you can to prevent Israel from obtaining nuclear weapons and defense.

Note: All Iranian figures should be played as male, regardless of the sex of the player, due to the nature of the division of duties between the sexes in Islamic culture.

Ali Maraf (45)

Iranian Military Advisor

1956 - You were born the second son of a third wife, and were therefore given almost nothing by your family

1973 - With little choice left to you, you joined the Iranian armed forces

1979 - You desert from regular Iranian army and join in the revolutionary movement

1981 - You are decorated for bravery during a skirmish in the Iraq-Iran War.

1983 - Again decorated for bravery, you are promoted to officer rank

1988 - Towards the end of the Iran-Iraq war, you transfers into the Revolutionary Guard

1991 - Promoted for excellent work in the field

2001 - As a high ranking member of the Revolutionary guard, you are selected to assist the other members of your delegation

Description:

As a child, you received little more than food, clothing, and a roof over his head, and lots of discipline. You grew up attending the public schools in Tehran, one of the few public schools in the primary education system of Iran. After graduating from high school you have no real choice open to you and enter into the military forces of the Shah, perfectly used to and comfortable with your life being decided arbitrarily by others. You have a rather uneventful, enlisted military career. You rise slowly from a private, to a sergeant, moving well on the way from border patrols to eventual retirement.

However, dissatisfied with the Shah's dependence on America, low pay, and a lack of morality in the highest offices, you defect to the revolutionary movement. You are eventually accepted at your previous rank into that army.

During the Iran-Iraq war, you are decorated twice for bravery and promoted to officer status. Towards the end of the war, you rise rapidly through the ranks, aided by your personal bravery and keen grasp of tactics. Towards the end of the war, battle weary, you apply for a transfer to the Revolutionary Guard. Your transfer is approved, along with a reduction in rank.

After some years of experience in the Guard, you receive an important assignment. Aided by your tactical skill and experience, you make a political bust against a small-scale conspiracy to dispose of the Ayatollah, one funded in the background by the CIA. This brings you to the notice of several prominent figures, and you are once again promoted. As a high officer in the Revolutionary Guard, you are selected to aid the political and religious members of a diplomatic party. Your background, as well as proven devotion to the Path of Islam, make you are a perfect choice to watch the other delegations and to reinforce the Shia member's decisions within the delegation.

Views and Goals:

You believe in the purpose of nuclear disarmament. If no one has nuclear weapons, then Allah will not have work quite as hard when the time for the jihad against the west comes. As such, you will seek reductions in all nuclear arms races, and speak out against nuclear shields. After all, if the devil nation has a shield, they will not fear to attempt to destroy Islam. They will fail, but too many of the faithful will die. If you can keep such weapons in the hands of Islam, then all the better.

Orders:

Support and reinforce Mohammed at the council. His views are yours. Do not allow the diplomat to compromise the local situation. Also, observe the other parties and gather what intelligence on them you can, without revealing this.

Note: All Iranian figures should be played as male, regardless of the sex of the player, due to the nature of the division of duties between the sexes in Islamic culture.

Mohammed Alshan (35)

Religious Attaché to Iranian delegation

1966 - Born in Tehran, the first son of your father's second wife

1984 - Graduates in the middle of his class, from a public secondary school.

1984 - Enter the army as a private, but are discharged due to a leg injury

1985 - Enters the University of Tehran, a theology major, graduates with honors in 1989.

1989 - Joins the ranks of the Shia priests.

1995 - Appointed Imam, or prayer leader, of a district in Tehran.

2001 - Sent to the delegation by the religious overseers of Iran, hoping to keep the secular diplomat from 'giving away the fort' so to speak.

Description:

You have few memories of your early life under the shah. You were the first son of your father's second wife, however, which means that you were given some small recognition by your family. You attend both public school and college, doing fairly well in both. Your extremely brief stint in the military, before college, led you to believe that a higher fate awaited you. Your primary study in college was religion, and after graduating you went to continue your studies in the ranks of the Shia priesthood.

You became a devout follower of Islam, the sacred path. You believe that Western culture is suffocating in the dross of it's own decadence, and that they should remove their influence from the holy lands of the Middle East. However, you do not see the nuclear flame as the tool of choice because, after all, it was spawned by infidel scientist as a weapon of darkness. Thus, all nuclear weapons being dismantled would not be a terrible thing. But, if such an evil must exist, Iran must not be barred from having those

weapons, and the systems with which to deliver it. There would be no more just of an irony than to strike down the Great Satan with a weapon forged in the flames of Hell.

While there is not a hierarchical organization quite like the Catholic Church among the Shia, you soon gather a good reputation as a public preacher, and as a strict interpreter of the rules of the Koran. They send you to be a prayer leader, and for several years your zeal becomes legendary. Your charisma and speaking skills bring out the more fervent side of the city, and your superiors look on with approval.

The conference is liable to be both a reward and an opportunity for you. If you are able to guide the head of the delegation to a satisfactory end, you will be raised high in the eyes of Allah.

Views:

Religious to a fault, you will not let Iran lose or falter in its quest to bring the light of Allah to the world, nor will you allow this to be prevented by another nation. Your zealous nature, combined with your charisma, will make him a dangerous foe indeed for the enemies of his Lord.

Goals:

Optimally, you would see that Iran and other Islamic states are not barred the path to nuclear defense, while the Western states are. This being unlikely, you would see the shields barred to all, as Iran and it's allies do not have the resources to compete with the Western states in the development of the technology, a technology likely to be given to Israel.

Orders:

You are to restrain the diplomat from excessive compromise. He is used to the process of give and take, but there are some things that cannot be sold. You are also to keep Israel from being able to obtain nuclear weapons. We cannot tell if the unbelievers

would turn them against us, and even in jihad, the mass slaughter of the faithful must be prevented. May you walk the true path of Allah.

David Dayin (59)

Head of the Israeli delegation and Minister of Defense

History:

1942 - Born to a Jewish family in Eastern Europe, holocaust survivors, no siblings

1949 - Began home schooling because parents are unable to provide a formal education

1951 - Parents immigrate to Nazareth, Israel, hoping for a better life. You are placed into the public school system

1960 - You graduate with honors from the Nazarene public school. You move to Tel-Aviv for college. Begins attending Tel-Aviv University, unsure of your major

1965 - Graduates from Tel-Aviv University with a philosophy degree, moves to Hadera to find a job.

1967 - Drafted for the Arab-Israeli war, serves as a clerk in Hadera for the duration of the war, and is released afterward

1968 - Becomes a speechwriter and clerk for political candidates in Hadera

1969 - Is elected to the city council of Hadera for a three year term

1972 - Moves to home town of Nazareth to continue political career

1988 - Elected to the Kneesh (legislative body) and becomes an active supporter of the clandestine nuclear armament program

1998 - Appointed assistant to the Minister of Defense

Description:

You have led a somewhat harsh life. Your parents were survivors of the holocaust. You were always the underdog in both high school and college, and you never really knew what you wanted to do with your life. Eventually you fell into politics and found that you were fairly good at it. As a believer in the "Ein brera" philosophy, otherwise known as the last resort, you support the creation and hiding of several small nuclear weapons for the last ditch defense of Israel.

Views:

You're a long-term supporter of nuclear armament, so disarmament sticks in your craw. You will certainly not concede the fact that there are nuclear weapons in Israel, nor will you deny it. You know exactly how many nukes Israel has, but you're not sharing that information. You also have a distaste for Arabs in general, but you will not let that affect your performance at the conference.

Goals:

Maintaining the delicate balance of peace and threats that keeps Israel from being destroyed is a difficult thing at the best of times. You will do your best, however, even if it conflicts with your personal views.

Orders: See goals

Ibid Hersh (44)

Israeli Intelligence Agent

October 19, 1957 - Born in Ashdod to Yesa and Eric Hersh. One brother, two years older, one sister one year younger, Father makes a moderate sum and is the primary income of the family

September 3, 1965 - Begins attending Weizman Memorial elementary school

September 13, 1969 - Begins attending Mertz Junior High school

September 8, 1972 - Begins attending Levi-Eitan High school

December 2, 1972 - Joins math club at Levi-Eitan, begins plans for a cryptographic society

January 23, 1974 - Forms Levi-Eitan cryptographic society as an after school activity. Membership: 3

May 22, 1975- Graduates Levi-Eitan high school, cryptographic society disappears

September 16, 1975 - Begins attending Tel-Aviv Technical Institute with a specialization in math

May 11, 1979 - Graduates from Tel-Aviv Technical Institute, receives a degree in math with a specialization in cryptography

June 30, 1979 - Hired by Israeli Intelligence Agency (IIA) to decrypt and interpret foreign communications

September 30, 1998 - Promoted to senior advisor to the minister of intelligence

Description:

The keystone to Ibid Hersh's life is accuracy. Everything you do is completely on target, each and every time. Your inherent philosophy in life is "measure twice, then recheck your calculations". You never make a mistake, and for this reason you have been assigned directly to the Minister of Intelligence as a personal advisor. Of course, all your years at the IIA have also given you a bit of background knowledge into other countries as

well. In fact, you seem to know everything about everyone, and secrets are simply not safe around you. If one wants a piece of information found, you are the person to go to.

You also have complete access to the Israeli Intelligence spy satellites that circle the globe and record pretty much the entire surface of the earth twice a day. It is not at all unreasonable for you to know what a certain delegate ordered for lunch that day, or what flight they will be leaving on when the go home from the conference.

Views:

There are two things in this world which are inherently evil: lies and mistakes. Both of them spread false information, cause problems to everyone involved, and simply complicate life more than is really necessary. Therefore, you have resolved to rid at least one of these from your life. And since you are in the business of dealing with lies and deceit, you simply decided to eliminate mistakes. You have never been in error in your life, and by God you're not going to start now.

Goals:

Israel is an excellent place to live and work. The people are tidy and relatively kind, and the IIA office is immaculate and a wonderful environment to work in. Therefore, you will do his best to protect the status quo and prevent nuclear war. The means, however, you are leaving up to the head of the delegation.

Orders:

Assist the delegation in whatever capacity you are able. You will receive regular intelligence reports to assist you in this.

Elijah Sharansky (47)

Technical advisor to the Israeli delegation

History:

1954 - Born to a wealthy couple in Dimona, Israel, one sister

1960 - Begins attending Gouldin Memorial elementary school

1972 - Graduates high school with honors and decides to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the United States for a major in nuclear engineering

1977 - Graduates from RPI with the highest grades in her major. Returns home to Dimona and is placed on a project to build and run a nuclear reactor.

1987 - Reactor is running at full capacity, creating additional weapons grade materials at the rate of approximately a 1 megaton reaction bomb's worth per month

1990 - Reactor is set to run at low capacity until more fissionable material becomes necessary. Elijah is still head of the design and maintenance staff for the reactor

Description:

You are a very trusting and complacent individual. While you may be highly competent in the field of nuclear engineering, you have no real understanding of the world of politics. The only reason you were picked for the delegation is your complete, nearly encyclopedic understanding of the material. If you were given state of the art facilities to work with, you would most likely make reasonable breakthroughs in the field of nuclear energy. However, you seem to be content maintaining and experimenting with the Dimona plant. You have already written several papers on topics relating to more efficient ways on tracking the internal temperatures of nuclear reactors, so your name may well be recognized by others of a technical bent.

Views:

You see the world as one large experiment. Data is to be collected, experiments are to be carried out, and theories are to be developed. This conference is a perfect example. Given a certain set of people A, and a mission to accomplish B, with rules and guidelines F(A,B), then the output of the conference should be a calculable determinant. However, the function F is complex, and the variables are not clearly defined...

Goals:

You are curious to see how the conference turns out. You will watch, take notes, share insights, and generally have fun being a scientist.

Orders:

Keep the head of the delegation informed as to the accuracy of the scientific data being used in the conference. Also, learn from the other scientific advisors present any new or relevant information about nuclear weapons and power.

(Family name first, given name second).

Kusangi Fumiko (59)

Japanese Career Diplomat and head of delegation

1942 - You were born shortly before Japan went to war with the United States.

1960 - You graduated from high school with exceptional test scores and were accepted at Tokyo University

1965 - You received high honors when graduating from Tokyo University and received a job in the Japanese Government

1968 - You married a diplomat's daughter.

1973 - You became the chief aide for your father-in-law, following the retirement of his former aide. His former aide retired into a cushy position in industry.

1977 - Your father-in-law has arranged for you to become a diplomat to Jordan. Your job is to not offend anyone.

1985 - You became an assistant diplomat in certain important trade talks.

1995 - You have become one of Japan's most influential diplomats and are often in important negotiations

Description:

You were orphaned by the war and were raised by your father's older brother. He had a position translating for the provisional government of Japan before autonomy was restored. You worked hard in school, because you knew it was necessary in order to get into a good college. You managed to get into Tokyo University, which are the most prestigious universities in Japan. You majored in political science, and unlike many of your peers, earned a master's degree immediately after you completed your bachelors. After graduating, you were offered many interesting opportunities. You accepted a position in the Japanese Government as part of a diplomat's staff. You received a number of promotions as you grew older, and the promotions you received tended to place you in more influential positions rather than just being promotions in name only.

Your marriage was arranged with the youngest daughter of the diplomat for whom you work. You were also adopted into your father-in-law's family, as this is a relatively common practice in certain cases. Over the next few years, you and your wife came to have genuine love and affection for each other, but both of you are always very proper in public. This marriage essentially proved you were going places, and you redoubled your efforts at the office.

Having handled your past positions well, you became an assistant diplomat involved with trade talks with foreign nations. Although your official rank may have apparently decreased, this was still a promotion.

Only ten years later, you officially became one of Japan's senior diplomats and are even now involved in some of Japan's most important negotiations. You have recently received renewed offers of jobs in the civilian community from companies effected by international policy issues. You are confident it would be a comfortable retirement.

Personality:

You expect respect from those younger than yourself, you keep your feelings to yourself, and you actively work to stress points of agreement. Additionally, you convey a sense of wisdom. You are not only in control of yourself, you seem to completely understand the situation. (Even if you don't). Also, you always try to maintain an objective outlook on things, but you have learned better than to turn your back on the Chinese government.

Goals:

You genuinely desire Japan to be viewed well in international circles, as a point of personal pride. You hope to be a neutral and calming influence on the conference, but you trust the Chinese delegation as far as you can throw them. You want to further the cause of peace in the world, so that the world is safe for your children to grow up in. Although

you don't like China, you would never want to let this show. Open displays of emotion (especially negative emotion like the distaste you feel for them) are barbaric.

Orders:

You have been told to support Taiwan, because it is an ally against China. You are supposed to facilitate disarmament and peace via an enforced treaty.

Costume ideas: power suit

(Family name first, given name second)

Kanzaki Tohsako/ Matoko (56)

Japanese Department of Energy Official

1945 - You were born to a veteran and a loving wife, with two brothers and a sister.

1963 - You graduated from high school with excellent grades, particularly in science and math. You were accepted at Sapporo Technical Institute in a Nuclear Engineering program.

1967 - You got a job at Kyoto Nuclear Power Plant.

1991 - Hired by the Department of Energy

1996 - Promoted within the DOE, and continue to prosper in spite of your engineering roots.

2001 - Still working for the Japanese DOE, you have been asked to advise the diplomat on technical matters during talks about nuclear disarmament.

Description:

Your father was a returning veteran who got a construction job helping to repair and rebuild Japan after WWII. You did well in school, and after college you received a job at the Kyoto Nuclear Power plant. Your career progressed well and you worked there for many years, eventually being promoted to chief maintenance coordinator, then chief safety inspector. You filled an opening in the Japanese DOE based largely on your experience at an actual nuclear power plant. You were in charge of drafting a revision of the safety protocols, but were overseen by a number of more experienced bureaucrats. You were promoted within the Japanese DOE and will probably continue to do well within its bureaucracy despite your engineer roots.

Views:

You are very respectful and withdrawn. When working with other members of your delegation and other technical specialists, try to think of yourself as a "humble servant." You are happy to be of help, as long as you won't give away any secrets. You believe

that you have much information to offer under the category of nuclear energy, but don't believe yourself to be overly well informed about nuclear weapons. You consider nuclear weapons and nuclear reactors totally different subjects and different issues, both academically and ethically. You know that approximately 98% of Japan's power comes from nuclear power, and that burning coal or oil could represent an even greater dependence on outside resources.

Goals:

You wish to serve well in your role as advisor. You don't want the legitimate use of nuclear power crippled by any treaties.

Orders:

You are to provide technical information for your delegation. You have been cautioned to be careful for misinformation or deception by the Chinese delegation.

Costume suggestion: Business wear

(Family name first, given name second)

Kawamura Hirohito/ Hitomi (47)

Japanese Intelligence Official

1954 - You were born in Nagasaki, to your father's second wife.

1970 - You win a Kendo Tournament

1972 - You graduate high school with high honors and are accepted to Tokyo University.

1975 - You received your undergraduate degree a year early and decided to complete your masters in Psychology.

1977 - After graduated, accepted a job offer at the Japanese Ministry of dealing with external affairs

1979 - After two years of in an entry-level position and a lengthy background check, you are promoted into a position analyzing terrorist threats.

1987 - Promoted to the head of your office

1993 - You were promoted to a position with broader responsibilities including administrating the investigations of foreign intelligence agencies presumed to be working in Japan.

1996 - You lead in the investigation of the Seran gas attack on the Japanese subway

2001 - You volunteered to join the Japanese delegation in the disarmament talks so that they will be informed concerning espionage and intelligence issues involved in the talks

Description:

You were born in one of Japan's new hospitals, constructed under the Marshall plan. Your father was a Shinto priest, and you are the product of his second marriage. During WWII, your father's family was living in Nagasaki when the second atomic bomb was dropped. Your father was an officer on an aircraft carrier during the closing days of the war. He arranged for you to receive the best education he could afford, because you are the last surviving member of his family, as he has no living brothers, sisters, cousins, etc. You won a national kendo competition in your age group. Kendo is a sport fought with bamboo swords and protective gear styled after samurai armor. While it bears some

superficial resemblance to western fencing, it is more concerned with psychologically overcoming your opponent than displaying superior swordsmanship. Many Japanese youths study kendo.

You graduated from high school with test scores amongst the best in the nation that year. You went to Tokyo University, the most prestigious university in Japan. You majored in Psychology with a minor in history. After completing your Bachelor's study early, you went on immediately to Masters study. Masters students are somewhat rarer in Japan than in the United States, particularly right out of college. This is because there are many job opportunities with only a Bachelor's degree, and many of the offers are very tempting. You completed your masters and were inundated with job offers. One in particular caught your attention. The Japanese Ministry had offered you a position. You accepted.

You were promoted to the head of your section after many years within it. Others transferred in and out, but you drifted into organizational positions within the research group early on, so you remained and rose up within it.

You were asked to head your agency's investigation of the Seran gas attack in the subway. You were able to disprove the hypothesis that an exterior terrorist organization or foreign government was responsible in whole or in part for the attack. The concern was that the Japanese cult was being backed by a foreign power.

Personality:

You are a contemplative, sometimes scheming person. You are also something of a control freak. You defer to your superiors, but wish to make sure they are always informed of all the little details before a final decision is reached. To an American, you would seem emotionally withdrawn, but to another Asian, you are likely to be seen as more fiery than usual.

You dislike the United States but would never let this show. You respect and defer to those older than yourself, such as both of the other members of your delegation.

Goals:

Overall, you hope to help protect Japan. That is why you chose to go into the Japanese Government. At the conference, you want to provide the diplomat with valuable information. His security clearance is lower than your own, but there is much you are allowed to share with him.

Orders:

You were asked to advise the delegation as necessary. You are to encourage the diplomat to promote a treaty that has enforcement. This means there must be watchdogs to make sure the treaty is being followed. This should be engineered so that Japan is one of the countries that gets to do the checking, and therefore the UN Security Council member states are not the only states which should be allowed to make up those who check on enforcement.

Costume: Normal suit, nondescript in general.

Ali Khan (42)

Pakistani Diplomat: Semi professional

1958 - You are born in a small suburb of Karach to fairly wealthy parents.

1976 - You graduate near the top of your class and enter Pakistan's largest college

1980 - You join the diplomatic Corps of the Pakistani military

1982 - You are promoted within the embassy and are now in contact with functionaries from India

1986 - You marry a local Muslim girl, who begins to work towards Pakistani citizenship.

1987 - Your wife gives birth to a son.

1988 - Promoted once again, during the transition from a military government

1990 - Your second child is born, a daughter.

1992 - No one else capable being available, you are moved to translation services, with a slight increase in pay, for the extreme stress of the job.

1994 - Your wife gives birth to a second daughter.

1999 - In a pinch, you help with the negotiation of a cease-fire treaty with India

2001 - You are selected for the conference due to newfound negotiating and linguistic skills.

Description:

Your parents are affluent merchants, specialized in selling foods. Your childhood never really lacked for the material things, and you were rather popular among your fellows. The later unrest during the split from India meant little to your family, as people need to eat one way or the other regardless of circumstance. After graduating from public school with honors, excelling in foreign languages, you chose to enter Pakistan's most famous college. You primary areas of study were politics and languages. Once out of college, you join the Diplomatic Corp of the military and are given responsibility over minor contacts with India's functionaries and government, as well as the issuing of entrance documents. At the same time, you begin to see a local girl; having been rather unhappy with your family's arranged marriage.

During Pakistan's move from a wholly military government, you are promoted and begin overseeing the issuing of entrance documents to Pakistan, as well as being in control of the small staff of which you were once a member of. Several years later, you are moved to the position of chief translator, because all other potential translators are unable to fill the position. Your pay is increased due to the stress of the job.

Nearly seven years later, due to problems during a cease-fire negotiation, you are placed in the middle of negotiating with representatives from India. Through both skill and luck during this high-pressure incident, you are recognized in your own right as a diplomat. You are promoted to full membership in the diplomatic corps.

Views:

You are mild in manner since, after all, anger and flair have never particularly served you in the past when dealing with people, and there is no reason to suppose that this might change any time in the near future.

Goals:

You hope to fulfill your orders as swiftly as possible, only wishing to return 'home' to your wife and children, hopefully with a promotion. As such, you will be relatively eager to reach a compromise; your first order of business always being the protection of those you care for.

Orders:

You have been ordered by your government to do all within reason to reduce the tensions between Pakistan and India, and reduce the potential of warfare. Pakistan cannot afford to go to war, be it nuclear or conventional, nor can it afford to back away directly.

Fahad Azir (49)

Pakistani Military advisor

1951 - Born to an officer of the military, you have a solid middle class upbringing

1965 - You complete primary school, in about the middle of your class. Instead of college, you begin work

1966 - You enlist in the Pakistani military, and after a short regimen of training, you are selected for officers school.

1968 - You are given a commission in the Army.

1971 - Promoted for skill and bravery in combat in Bangladesh's war for freedom

1976 - Promoted to a desk job in Lahore

1980 - You marry a city girl, against the wishes of your parents.

1984 - Your wife gives birth to their only child, a daughter.

1990 - You are now the liaison between the army commanders and the nuclear weapons team

1998 - You advocate nuclear testing, as a show of military might.

2001 - You are selected for the conference based on strategic abilities and certain viewpoints

Description:

Your parents, being of the middle class and having a fair number of children, do the best they can to raise you. You get through childhood with only the occasional discomfort. During your childhood you were often forced to move about when your family followed your father from post to post. After completing primary school, you do not choose to enter secondary school, instead working what odd jobs you can find that are not beneath you in order to supplement your family's income. Left little choice, you decide to enlist.

In the military, you are quickly singled out as officer material. After basic training and officer's school, you are given a commission in the general army. You fought bravely during the Bangladesh war, as your unit remained in its assigned area until Indian forces began to overwhelm them with sheer numbers. Your unit was the last one out. Unfortunately, you received an injury in your left leg and now walk with a continual limp.

You are promoted to a desk job due to your leg injury and end up spending most of your time shuffling papers and accruing promotions through tenure. You meet and marry a city girl, despite the wishes of your parents. She is unacceptable to them because she is a Hindu.

A few well placed remarks about India's burgeoning nuclear program cause several higher-ups to notice you. Because of your viewpoint on the issue, you are promoted to a post as liaison between army commanders and the nuclear weapons designers. You are now responsible for coordination of strategy with the army commanders based on the results of the team's work and experiments. Eventually, your suggestions on the nuclear weapons tests are carried through, prompting similar testing by Pakistan's major opponents in the region.

Views:

You are neither polite nor are you subtle, but you get the job done. While you are prone to making demands, and very impatient with the negotiation process, it is in your hands to get something done at this conference. Up until recently, your countrymen have been dominated by their peers in the military. As such you feel that the other members of the delegation are little more than your personal attaches. Thus, you have little compunction about ordering them around.

Goals:

You wish to find peace without sacrificing national security or pride. As such, you will follow the majority of your orders, to the letter.

Orders:

You are commanded to make judgment calls as needed on the strength of foreign militaries and their nuclear capacity. As such, you are to advise Ali as needed on matters of strategy, how much Pakistan can afford to sacrifice, etc. You are also expected to keep matters in hand if needed.

Shahib/Ahb Ashiir (30)

Pakistani Technical Advisor

1971 - Born in a suburb of the capital, you are the child to a pair of government officials.

1989 - You graduated with top honors from a private school, and chose to attend the California Institute of Technology

1991 - Despite high marks at Caltech, you are desperately unhappy and begin a wild fling with an American student

1993 - Your romantic plans are shattered as you are ordered back to Pakistan as soon as you graduate

1997 - You marry as arranged by your parents, and most of your confidential work is taken away

2001 - You are sent to the arms conference as a technical advisor

Description:

Being the son of two wealthy politicians, you lacked for little in your childhood, living a life of relative luxury in the big city. In primary school, you receive high marks in the sciences, mathematics, and english. After graduating, you chose to apply for a foreign education, and were accepted into the California Institute of Technology. You enter already having a decent education, and with much of your tuition underwritten by the government of Pakistan. Your chosen field of study is physics.

Although you are receiving high marks, the effort of continual study to maintain a 4.0 average has left you feeling isolated from your fellow students. Your spirits are eventually lifted by a wild fling with an American student. Your thoughts of marriage are shattered, however, as you both graduate. You are called back to Pakistan with only a bachelors degree. You are almost immediately recruited by the military, and your specialized knowledge is put to work designing Pakistan's first generation of home built nuclear warheads.

Your parents, in an attempt to lift your depression somewhat, arrange a marriage between you and the daughter of an influential politician. Your confidential work is mostly stripped from you because of this, although you are retained for some design work. After a bit of tutoring in diplomatic matters from your wife, you are instructed to attend an arms conference so that you can advise the diplomats on technical manners, as well as to assess India's claimed technical capacity.

Views:

You are generally scared and uncertain at the table, unsure of what you should do. You are, simply, a technician. You are very savvy when it comes to technology, but you are definitely not a people person. You received a two-day lecture on how not to cause trouble at an arms conference from your wife before you left, which decidedly didn't help matters.

Goals:

You are nervous about the concept of nuclear weapons, and feel guilty for aiding in the creation of warheads to be delivered to your home's neighbor. As such, you will likely try to use your influence with your fellow Pakistanis to push for wide spread reductions in the number of nuclear weapons.

Orders:

You are to advise the diplomat on technical manners. You have also been warned not to overstep your authority.

Peter/ Natasha Krusburg (41)

Russian Diplomat, and head of delegation

1960 - You were born outside of Moscow to a father in the Communist party

1978 - Finished high school and entered the University of St. Peter

1982 - Found a job at the Bureau of Foreign Affairs

1989 - Period of political upset in Russia, you managed to rise while others fell from grace

1998 - Your friend assists you in some political dealings, leading to your selection for the conference

2001 - Your diplomatic position has required you to do another job, this time without the luxury of a large bribe to grease palms.

Description:

Because your father was a politician in the Communist Party, you received a good education and never had to worry about there being enough food on the table. You finished your high school education and were accepted to the University of St. Petersburg. There, you studied political science and some history.

After you got a job in the Bureau of Foreign Affairs, you quickly moved up in the ranks thanks to blackmailing your superiors. You used the funds you gained by these means to ingratiate yourself to the real movers and shakers in the USSR, which probably prevented those you were blackmailing from getting rid of you. Most of your influential "friends" didn't stay influential after all of the political upsets, but some did. You rose to a comfortable position and continued to build personal political support within the new Russia. A friend of yours decided to see to it that you received a diplomatic assignment, and you managed to convince the two parties involved in the discussions to agree to a compromise thanks to your charms. The money passed underneath the table didn't hurt matters either. You knew better than to question where your friend got money for bribes

of that size. Despite his lack of a visible source of income or official government position, he still handed you a tidy sum to hand over to each of the negotiators of the disputing factions. You made sure he gave you a generous tip... not a tip he knew about, but you're sure he meant for you to skim some off the top.

Personality:

You give the impression that you are very friendly and charming, but sometimes-perceptive people notice you're a little slimy. Pretend to be a used car salesman, but a little more subtle and quiet.

You don't think you are corrupt, nor do you think that taking advantage of every weakness you can find is wrong. You don't believe that anyone else is any more honest than you are, which is something of a corollary to the previous statement. You don't believe the situation at this conference will actually result in nuclear war if it happens to fail, as you don't believe nuclear war to be in anyone's vested interest.

Goals:

You wish to advance your own political career and look good back home.

Orders:

You were told to ensure that the conference concludes in Russia's favor, but you haven't been given the official authority to ensure a treaty ratified at this conference will receive the blessing of those back home. You hope to schmoose this past anyone who objects, either inside or outside of your government.

You have requested and received a military and scientific advisor, as you wanted to know exactly what is in Russia's best interest before you started to work for it. You'll take credit for what they say of course.

Costume: blue jeans and a polo shirt, to look American and cool.

General Ivan Ananiev (51)

Russian General

1950 - You were born in the Ukraine, and your father was in charge of your villages farming

1967 - After finishing your education, you join the Russian military

1968 - After basic training, you were accepted into officer candidate school and became a lieutenant.

1971 - You were stationed at a military base 200 miles north of Moscow.

1973 - You received another promotion to a Nuclear Defense Initiative

1977 - You are stationed in Afghanistan during the Russian war effort there

1981 - Receiving another promotion, you now begin a more "command staff" career. You are no longer a field officer, rather now you work behind a desk and on a larger scale.

1985 - You now are directly involved in large-scale strategic plans and troop deployment

1989 - As the Berlin wall fell, you waited in vain for the marching orders to come

1995 - In spite of increasingly difficult circumstances, you stay with the Russian Military

2001 - You were sent to the conference by your superiors to back up the diplomat with some amount of "official" authority even though there is very little you or he can do without permission from back home.

Description:

You were born in the Ukraine, but consider Russia your home in the present day. Your father was in charge of farming around the town where you grew up. You had 2 brothers and a sister. In addition to working on the farm, you also went to school. You had little free time for friends or entertainment as a result. After having completed your education, you joined the army. It became like a second family for you, and it filled the hole that had been your lack of friends in your youth.

During the period you were stationed at the military base North of Moscow, you received additional training in military theory and tactics. Your next promotion got you assigned to a division that transported nuclear missiles around to try to prevent the United States from knowing where the real missiles were, and where the decoys were. Later, you were stationed in Afghanistan for three years, and it was not a pretty tour of duty. The United States was backing the rebels in Afghanistan, and it was impossible to tell who was a harmless local and who would be planting an explosive next to the gas tanks. In the movie Rambo III, there is an apt quote "We had our Vietnam, and now you're having yours."

The fall of the Berlin Wall was the beginning of the end for you and the Russian military both. In the next few turbulent years, you watched the powerful Soviet war machine rust. You chose to stay with Russia as things fell apart.

The massively downsized Russian army continues to cut back and mothball, but you remain in the military and retain your position. There are many months when you can't cash your paycheck and consequently can't buy anything apart from food, but you suffer through it.

Views:

You are very proud of Russia, even though you aren't technically Russian. You are a bit of a dinosaur, a Russian Cold Warrior. You are very concerned about honor. Although there are a myriad of temptations to become corrupt, you desire integrity more than anything else.

You are cynical about what has happened to Russia and the world in general. You believe the Russian military is unprepared for military conflict any time soon, as vital equipment is either lacking or non-functional. Minor skirmishes could be managed, but that's about it. You believe nuclear weapons are Russia's (and the other former Soviet states') one ace in the hole. In terms of defense, they shouldn't be gotten rid of

completely. The United States Star Wars program is a threat to Russia because it neutralizes Russia's nuclear retaliation capability

Goals:

You want to keep your position in the military because you know no other life any longer. You don't wish to fall out of political favor with whatever government winds up in power, as that would be a bad thing in light of your first goal.

Orders:

You have received orders instructing you to attend the conference and not to reveal any state secrets. Beyond that, you received few instructions, although you are aware that the diplomat is in charge of the negotiations and you are allowed to tell him anything you know.

Costume: "military uniform."

Isaac/ Catherine Novikov (51)

Russian Scientist

1950 - You were born in St. Petersburg Russia to parents who were both in the field of nuclear weapons research.

1964 - You graduated from high school at the age of 14, and you were accepted into the university of Moscow.

1967 - You received your degree in Nuclear Physics & Mathematics and immediately entered into graduate school in Leningrad

1972 - You completed your Ph.D. in nuclear physics by explaining a complicated decay of several rare radioactive isotopes, including isotopes produced in nuclear weapon reactions.

1973 - You accepted a post-doctorate position with the government research laboratories. You proceeded to do advanced nuclear weapons research

1975 - You accept a position as a full-time professor at your graduate school

1983 - You finish your first study of specific-radiation nuclear warheads, and begin a study on stealth bomber capabilities.

1989 - Conditions continue to worsen in Russia

1997 - You join an organization of Russian scientists who are trying to convince the Russian government that the way to revive Russia's economy is to increase government funding for research in science and technology. This organization wishes Russian science to re-enter its glory years.

2001 - You are joining the Russian Delegation at the request of your government, to inform the delegation about technical and scientific matters. You agreed only after they tripled their initial pittance of a payment for working as a consultant.

Description:

After a very bright and promising childhood followed by several years of higher level academic advance, you manage to receive a doctorate in Nuclear Physics by the incredibly young age of 22. You accepted a position as a professor and continued your

research in the physics of nuclear weapons. This included research on making nuclear weapons that generate blasts that are primarily radiation, kinetic blast, fast neutrons, etc in preference to the other kinds of things that can be generated by a nuclear weapon.
Finally finished, you submitted your research on an almost-only-kinetic blast and heat nuclear warhead to the appropriate bureau and began research on ways to counteract the star wars program proposed by the United States.

However, the USSR was deeply concerned by the stealth aircraft and proposed laser defense systems of the Reagan administration. They didn't feel they had the resources to deal with the star wars technology. Your job was to determine the capabilities of such a system. Your report, once finished, suggested that the Americans could indeed create a screen against ICBM's by neutralizing as many missiles from the "edge" of Russia as possible. Then they would deal with those missiles that became orbital through a combination of precision-aimed X-ray lasers and supercomputers (which assumed that America would continue to outpace Russia in computer technology at the current rate). This argument was predicated on a first strike by America, but it appeared as if America, armed with star wars, could nuke Russia with minimal losses. The cost to develop such a system would be enormous, but your study suggested that it was technically feasible for America to accomplish.

As Russia begins to fall apart, funding for research in science (and research in everything else) begins to go away fast. In the years that passed, you were almost never paid for the work you were "supposed" to be doing. You continue out of intellectual interest and a feeling of patriotism. Numerous clandestine offers are made to sell your professional skills to a foreign power, buy you refuse despite the fact you feel you are all but starving to death as a scientist in Russia. Independently, you've continued to investigate the problem of anti-star wars technology. You discovered a number of cheap ways to divert anti-missile lasers and other anti-missile technologies. You consider your earlier report paranoid and motivated by gross over-estimation of the American scientific and industrial capacity.

Views:

You are distant, brilliant, and somewhat egotistical. You are a bit absent-minded when it comes to small details like where you left your keys, but you aren't a buffoon. You consider the Russian government corrupt and the Russian nation doomed to slow and complete decay. You feel that the United States can't exist long without an enemy, and you don't trust the intentions of the USA. You no longer believe star wars is technically feasible.

Goals:

You'd like to see Russia become advanced technologically and scientifically again, but you don't consider it likely. You've finally given up hope in Russia and you're looking for a new patron nation to move to and research for, provided they aren't going to destroy the world. You wouldn't consider working for any predominantly Arab country, because of the common false assumption that all Arab countries harbor terrorists.

Orders:

You were paid to provide technical advice on this conference and you have enough professionalism to do so. Beyond that, you aren't beholden to anyone as far as you are concerned.

Costume: lab coat, jeans, casual clothing

Constand Buthelezi (57)

Primary Ambassador for the South African Delegation

1944 - Born in Orange Free State, two brothers, one sister, four aunts, three uncles, many cousins.

1945 - Both brothers and many cousins die to a particularly bad epidemic of influenza.

1950 - Began attending a private school inside the borders of South Africa.

1959 - Joined in the student protests of 1959 and was expelled. Began educating himself from his family's books and the local library

1963 - Began travelling into Kimberley to use their library and look for a job

1964 - Started delivering mail for the local post office to earn a living. Continued to educate yourself with whatever materials were available.

1969 - Got a job at the South African Republican Party's office in Kimberley as a desk clerk. Joined the Republican Party, despite the fact that he was unable to vote.

1973 - Continued to work for SARP while still ineligible to vote. Given a position managing the Mayor of Kimberley's personal affairs and coordinating activities at the Mayor's office.

1979 - Began educating himself in political affairs, taking note of current political winds in South Africa. Became aware of the impending bill to give Native Africans suffrage in South Africa and end Apartheid.

1987 - In support of the growing anti-apartheid movements and protests, he organizes political organizations and groups which would be of use *after* apartheid has ended.

1993 - Ran for and received a seat on the African National Assembly. Elected to a five-year term by the Orange Free State provincial vote.

1998 - Appointed to the president's cabinet as foreign political advisor. Became interested in international politics and nuclear proliferation.

Description:

Constand has been a long-standing supporter of the South African Republican Party. It is your personal belief that through their direct action, blacks in South Africa were given the right to vote, better living conditions, and a higher education. While you did not have a formal education during your youth, you are a very well educated person. Some might call you a scholar, although you're really too much of a politician to be something that impractical. Really, you're just very well read and very intelligent. If you had received a formal education, you would most likely have a master's degree or better in the field of your choice, but you now feel that you are too old for formal education and will not go back to school.

The one thing that has you worried is that your brother in law, Thabo Mbeki, is current president of South Africa. While it is well known in your country where you have a reputation as an excellent diplomat and a very worthy individual, if this information were to get out at the conference, you would almost certainly be discredited in the eyes of the other ambassadors. Therefore, you will do your best to both participate in the conference and not become a major figure in the proceedings.

Views:

Equality and fairness are all well and good, but to be perfectly honest they're not always what are needed. Throughout your young life you heard constantly that as soon as blacks got the vote in South Africa, things would get better and everything would be all right. Well, while everyone else you knew was waiting for the right to vote, or else suffering and striving for it, you worked within the system. You got a reasonably good job simply by being good at it, and worked in a political office. You ended up in a position of power in a major city before any real concessions had been made in South Africa. In effect, you bypassed the entire issue. You believe that a little hard work and effort can carry you through almost any situation if you just try.

Goals:

You look after the interests of South Africa first, then the needs of your party, the SARP, and finally you look to what you can get out of this conference for yourself. A little prestige couldn't hurt, but first and foremost, you wish to secure a reasonable treaty that will keep South Africa safe from encroaching foreigners looking for a place to mine Uranium. If you can work a defense treaty into this conference, great! But always in the back of your mind is the thought of someone finding out about your brother in law being president.

Orders:

Do what you can to protect our country, bring home something that will look good in a 30 second blurb on the evening news, and listen to your financial/technical advisors advice to help make sure the treaty does not affect the Uranium trade negatively.

Rianna/Ryan Holomisa (44)

Chief political advisor to the South African delegation

History:

1957 - Born in Swaziland to native parents, upper middle class family, with four brothers

1964 - Began attending private school in Mbabane, the capital of Swaziland

1976 - Became valedictorian of your high school, chose to attend college out of country. Moved to New York City to stay with an aunt and uncle and began attending New York University.

1981 - Graduated NYU with a degree in political science and management. Was offered a job locally, but decided to return to Swaziland.

1984 - Moved to South Africa to participate in the growing political movements to help end apartheid.

1989 - Hired as a political and diplomatic attaché for the committee to better the lives of Native Africans in South America. While apartheid had not yet ended, conditions in South Africa were much better.

1994 - Hired by the National Council of Provinces as a recorder and archivist

1999 - Promoted to head archivist for the National Council of Provinces

Description:

You are a living encyclopedia. While you may not be the most politically savvy, or the best speaker, once you see or hear something you never forget it. You could quote the stock prices off of the morning newspaper or the exact wording of a bill that never passed three years ago both with equal ease. You have picked up nearly a dozen different languages, including English, French, German, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Indian and several others. You also have an extensive knowledge of the cultural backgrounds of many other countries. In essence, you make a most excellent diplomatic attaché. However, you seem to prefer the relative quiet and anonymity of your job as head archivist for the NCP.

Views:

You have never had much use for things like fame, fortune or even politics. You would have been just as happy as a historian or biologist, except that your parents always told you that you should go into politics to make a "future for your children". Since you don't yet have any children, the issue has never really mattered to you. You seem a bit too logical to most people, and perhaps a bit shy as well. You are not likely to offer information, but will answer any question asked to the best of your ability. You know your capabilities, but don't see anything extraordinary about them.

Goals:

To get back to the quiet of the National Archives, and then do a bit of work in your garden.

Orders:

To keep an eye on the chief ambassador and to listen to everything that goes on at the conference. If contradictions come up between what you're hearing and what goes down on the treaty, you are to point them out to the head of the delegation.

Professor Jeff/Barbara Van Stackawicz (33)

Economic and technical advisor for the South African delegation

History:

1968 - Born to a rich South African family, one brother

1979 - Sent to a private school in the United States to avoid the growing unrest in South Africa

1986 - Graduated from high school in the top ten percent of your class. Decided to continue your education in America and went to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute for a double major in business and nuclear engineering.

1991 - Graduated from RPI with a dual major and was immediately hired by the South African Atomic Energy Corporation.

1995 - Promoted to assistant head manager of the AECSA (Atomic Energy Corporation, South African, Ltd.) public interests department.

1997 - Recognized as AECSA employee of the year for your work in diverting public attention away from allegations of misconduct with regards to illicit Uranium smuggling

2000 - South African Atomic Energy Corporation changes its name to South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, and is declared property of the State. Business continues as normal.

2001 - Promoted to head liaison to the government.

Description:

You are neither politically inclined nor are you particularly interested in fame. However, you do have a knack for back room dealings and spin doctoring that would make some American politicians think twice before taking you on. While you don't have the real political background that most of the other delegates have, that doesn't stop you from doing what you came to the conference to do. In fact, nothing has really been able to deter you from what you want since you were born. Just be a bit subtle, witty, and ready to stab the other guy in the back and you can accomplish anything.

Views:

You see yourself as a force of nature: ruthless, unstoppable and completely without morals. The truth of the matter is that you do have a conscience, it's just a bit underdeveloped. You won't start a nuclear war, and you certainly won't kill for what you want, but you have no problems with lying, stealing and blackmail.

Goals:

Cash. Cold hard cash. You know exactly how to get it too. The NECSA has a lot of Uranium lying around, quite a bit more than has been reported. If you can find a buyer at this conference, then you get a commission. The commission is a small percentage, but then again, a small percentage of a huge sum can be quite significant.

Orders:

Make sure that the conference does not adversely affect the Uranium trade. This means that if all nuclear weapons are banned (which will never happen) and nuclear power is stopped as well (even more unlikely), then the Uranium trade, along with 1/10th South Africa's GNP goes up in smoke. That can't be allowed to happen. If possible, nuclear power is to be promoted (and nuclear weapons as well, as long as they're not aimed at South Africa).

(Family name first, given name last)

Lin Hsin-i/ Donglu (46)

Taiwanese Diplomat, and head of delegation

1955-You were born in Taiwan's largest hospital to two Taiwanese natives.

1972-You graduated high school and went to college in the United States, Dartmouth to be more precise.

1976-You returned to Taiwan after graduating from college and entered into government work.

1984-You are promoted to be an assistant to a trade diplomat

1987-Emergency rule finally ended, and your boss stresses democratic reforms a bit more strongly than before.

1991-When democracy came to Taiwan, you were promoted to your bosses position, as he became a Member of Parliament

1996-This was the first year that Taiwan directly elected their president.

1999-You have increasingly seen a movement in public policy away from insistence on being "China" and towards independence.

Description:

Both of your parents were Taiwanese, as opposed to Chinese or Japanese, both of which make up fractions of Taiwan's total population. Both of your parents instilled into you a sense of cultural pride. You have never considered Taiwan to rightfully be a part of China; therefore you don't believe your country should insist on being the legitimate government of China in exile. Official policy hasn't changed enough to add this into Taiwan's public policy. After receiving excellent grades in school, you visited the US to attend Dartmouth College. There, you majored in political science and graduated with a 3.8 GPA. You didn't get into as much trouble as your classmates and avoided most of the American students' experimentation with illicit substances.

After returning to Taiwan, you began working for the government. You started out as an aide, doing clerical work and research in the Taiwanese trade department where you kept your nationalistic political views rather quiet. When the United States officially recognized Communist China, it severed contact with Taiwan. You were both pleased that political reality had begun to reflect the real world and concerned that mainland China would invade. Martial law was still in place, of course. Many of your fellow employees went into more profitable fields, allowing you to advance a little more quickly. You became an advisor to a minor trade diplomat, but he had political aspirations. He began to lobby for democratic reforms with those in control. It soon became clear his politics were nationalistic.

Later, thanks to the support of a rising political movement, the diplomat you worked for found himself in a more influential position and your station rose along with him. You allowed yourself to make your politics more public. At the first true election in Taiwan, you were thrilled to vote. After the populace selected the Nationalist candidate, your position was elevated in importance thanks to your party leanings. Since '96, the Nationalist party's majority in parliament has decreased, but it still remains. In light of recent events, you have been chosen to represent Taiwan in these talks.

Views:

In an international setting you are very personable, breaking the Asian stereotype of being withdrawn. You conform to Asian norms when in that kind of a setting, but you always come off as being very sharp yet tactful. You are very proud of your Taiwanese heritage and of Taiwan in general, and sometimes this is obvious. You believe Taiwan is a sovereign nation with a history and culture separate from that of mainland China. You don't wish to remain dependent on the United States, a nation that doesn't even recognize Taiwan's existence, for your defense. You think Taiwan should become more independent and should seek alliances with nations such as Japan.

Orders:

You are to represent the interests of Taiwan. You aren't to anger the Chinese delegation overly much, but you should guard against treachery. Your first task will be to ensure you get to speak at the talks, as neither the United States nor China recognizes Taiwan as a country.

Goals:

Your chief goal is to aid Taiwan in becoming a recognized independent nation with the capacity to defend itself if attacked. You would also like to advance professionally and politically, but that is much more of a secondary concern.

Christian/ Ilsa Mueler (41)

Taiwan's Military advisor

1960- You were born in Switzerland to a father of German ancestry who was an investment manager for one of the smaller Swiss banks. Your mother was of Italian extraction, and her father had been a diplomat for France before World War II.

1977- Having completed high school, you entered into two years of mandatory military training.

1979- Following your stint in the military, you entered into college at the University of Berlin. You studied military history with a minor in languages.

1983- During your senior year, you read Sun Tzu's The Art of War. You found it extremely compelling.

1984- You were accepted to the graduate program at Harvard to study Asian military theory.

1990- Hired by the Taiwanese Government as a tactical military advisor

2001- Invited to the conference to advise the Taiwanese delegate

Description:

During your stint in the military, several of your natural aptitudes became apparent to you. While you didn't particularly like the exercise or target practice, you took to tactical and strategic problems like a fish to water. At the University of Berlin, you studied military history, and there you first read The Art of War. You decided to pursue graduate school in this area after reading this book for the first time. Your doctoral thesis was on applying western military tactics and technology to an eastern style of generalship and strategy.

Having finished your Ph.D., you were concerned that your obscure chosen field would afford few job opportunities. You considered the paper you had written to be purely hypothetical, and assumed you were merely putting into words what all professional generals must know already. The research position offered you by the

Taiwanese government suggested otherwise. You accepted their generous offer and became a tactical advisor to the civilian head of the Taiwanese military.

Since then, you have been analyzing vast quantities of information and offering tactical suggestions given hypothetical scenarios. Mainland China's enormous conventional military presents a very interesting tactical and strategic challenge, even to someone of your savant-like abilities.

Views:

You believe that for the time being, the United States will continue to posture on behalf of Taiwan, but believe the furthest they will go is threatening China with economic sanctions. The United States still claims that they would go to war to protect Taiwan, but you don't believe the United States has the stomach for that kind of war, or the casualties involved in such a conflict.

You do believe that if Taiwan is targeted by China with nuclear weapons that the United States would retaliate out of fear that failure to do so would be an invitation to launch nuclear missiles against the United States.

China can't get anything from a post-nuclear Taiwan, so you believe the chances of them employing nuclear devices against Taiwan are low.

Goals:

You wish to advise your delegation well, so that Taiwan doesn't become militarily disadvantaged as a result of this conference.

Orders:

You have been asked to offer advice to the diplomat in evaluating military and strategic concerns of other nations. You have been asked to explain to the diplomat how various decisions by those gathered at the meeting might effect Taiwan in a military sense.

(Family name first, given name last)

Chen Fei/ Mai (66)

Taiwanese financier and a government representative

1935-You were born in Taiwan to parents who were both schoolteachers.

1952-You graduated from high school and were accepted to the University of Michigan at Anne Arbor as an exchange student. You studied economics with a minor in history.

1956-You returned to Taiwan and went into business. You worked as a translator from and to English for a company involved in Trans-Pacific shipping.

1959-The owner of the company recognized that your talents were being under-utilized, so you were promoted to a management position.

1965-You became a vice president in the company, and your stock in the company was worth quite a bit.

1978-Due to political changes, your company went under and your stock became worthless

1979-Started a new business of your own, involving electronics assembly

1995-You sold your business and now live off of interest and dividends.

1996-When free elections are held you run under the Taiwanese Nationalist party. You are elected to parliament and serve there until the present.

Description:

You grew up quite patriotic, as you were proud of the small island you and many generations of your ancestors had been calling home. When you were 15 years old, two million refugees from Mainland China basically announced that they would be running the island. As a consequence of their arrival, Taiwan received a seat on the UN Security Council, then later lost official contact with the United States Government. This was a consequence of being treated as the "legitimate" China, and then being considered not even a nation. This wasn't something you were too happy with.

The United States severs official ties with Taiwan because of Taiwan and China both repeatedly insisting that there is only one China. Consequently, your stock became near worthless when the company went out of business. This did not set you back too long, though. Having dusted yourself off and secured investors from Japan, you were able to launch your own business assembling parts from a variety of different sources and selling them through Japan. After a few slow years, you managed to build yourself up again economically. Your business was doing well and Taiwan was prospering despite the crazy politics relating to China. You are still conscious of the fact that China might decide to absorb Taiwan militarily.

When the Japanese scandal hit and stocks across Asia started to go down, you were not as harshly affected as many others. You had diversified sufficiently that you didn't go broke this time. This reaffirmed your belief that it is important for good things to happen in all of Asia if any part of Asia is to prosper. Occasionally your peers in the Taiwanese Government asked you to speak to influential or talented individuals from other countries. You were essentially a part-time recruiter for the Taiwanese government, looking for talent wherever it could be found.

Views:

You are a workaholic and something of a control freak. Your long ties with American business have given you a more Western manner in dealing with others. While still respecting personal space more than others, you are seen as almost overly friendly by your peers back home. You are concerned China plans to overrun Taiwan sometime relatively soon. You believe Taiwan will completely ditch the "we're the real China" stance in a few years.

Goals:

You wish to strengthen Taiwan politically and to maintain your personal wealth.

Orders:

You are a government representative sent to help give authority and legitimacy to the delegation. You are older than the diplomat of your delegation, so you expect him to treat you respectfully even though he is in charge.

Otto/Heidi Santi (53)

Swiss Ambassador/Game Master

1948 - Born to a German father and an Italian mother, both immigrants to Switzerland during WWII.

1965 - Graduated from primary school, and traveled to the United States to attend College at Cornell.

1969 - Graduated from Cornell University, and returned to Switzerland to find work.

1970 - Moved to Germany in search of a job as translator.

1973 - Continued on to Denmark, Sweden and Norway, working as a translator and tutor, as well as other odd jobs

1974 - Moved on to England as and received a temporary post at the United Nations in London

1976 - Went to France and traveled to all of the major cities, living off of savings

1977 - Returned to Switzerland, where you received a job at the United Nations Conference Center as a translator

1982 - Promoted to the position of assistant to the head translator

1984 - Were required to help host a diplomatic conference between England and France, and showed great skill at diplomacy, promoted to position of diplomatic assistant

1989 - You go on a sabbatical and visit most of the Middle East and Africa, including Israel, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa and several others

1992 - Promoted within the diplomatic corps at the Swiss UN

1993 - You take a vacation and head to India, visiting Pakistan along the way

1997 - You once again go on another sabbatical, visiting the Eastern world, including China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and several South-east Asian countries.

1999 - You travel to Russia on a UN Humanitarian project

2001 - You are chosen to oversee the most recent nuclear weapons talks held at the conference center

Description:

You have been just about everywhere at some point in your life. Starting with your youth, immediately after World War II, your parents took you on frequent trips to both of their former homes in Germany and Italy. You developed a taste for both foreign culture and language, and this showed in your studies of these topics during your education. At Cornell, you received a bachelor's degree in linguistics, as well as a pair of minors in anthropology and political science. You decided to return home, but it wasn't long before you once again grew tired of Switzerland. You moved north, going from job to job as you passed through Germany, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. You either knew or learned the local language as you moved there. You made a living by acting as a translator and guide for tourists (an amusing twist, but certainly profitable). You then headed south through England, France and some of Italy, doing mostly the same work. Finally, after returning to Switzerland and getting a job at the United Nations, you decided to settle down. You only took sabbaticals for a year at a time, visiting nearly every major country in the world. At the same time, whenever you helped to translate or host a conference, your knowledge of the delegate's home cultures has helped immensely. Your superiors have been handing you all of the explosively violent or culturally diverse conferences, but you take them in stride. Really, you find the diversity refreshing more than anything else. Perhaps next year you can finally visit Australia. You've always wanted to see the Outback.

Views:

You are a calm individual, with a knack for handling diversity and an understanding of nearly every culture in the world. Nothing fazes you and almost nothing frightens you. However, you've never been very strong on the sciences, and therefore you do not really understand the scientific end of this nuclear conference. However, that really doesn't matter, as your job is simply to keep the peace and keep the conference running as a UN conference should.

Goals:

You want to understand people. Where they come from, who they are, why they do what they do. At the same time, you want to keep the peace. So you are continually traveling to both learn for yourself and to help those around you.

Orders:

Keep the conference running, and keep the delegates talking. It's their conference, and Switzerland is, as always, neutral. Still, nuclear war would certainly not be a positive end to this conference.

Appendix B: Cultural Briefings

The following cultural summaries were compiled and summarized by the authors using publicly available information. The sources of that information are listed in the Bibliography at the end of the book. For further information on these countries, please check the Recommended reading section of this book.

Briefing Index:

The United States of America

The United States of America is one of the most affluent and powerful countries in the world. It has a population of 272 million people, with a population density of 73 square miles per person.

The government of the United States is a Federal Republic, with a separation of powers into three branches of government, Legislative, Judicial, and Executive. The head of the government is President George W. Bush. The United States has one of the longest standing democratic governments in the world. The United States has not had a war on its own soil since its civil war in the 1860's.

With a gross domestic product of 8.08 trillion dollars and a per-capita income of 30,200 dollars, the United States is one of the most prosperous nations in the world. Major trade partners include Canada, Western Europe, and Japan. The US spends 3.4% of its GDP on defense, but since its GDP is so large, this is quite a bit of money.

Education in the United States is free and compulsory from the ages of 7 to 16, and the United States has a literacy rate of 97%. The life expectancy of men is 73 years, and the life expectancy of women is 79 years. The birth rate is 1.43 percent, and the mortality rate is 0.88 percent.

The citizens of the United States value personal freedom, particularly freedom of expression. The entertainment and communications industries of the United States have had profound cultural impacts on others. Other countries often view the United States as imperialist bullies, and have been known to view American citizens as ungrateful for what they have, ignorant of the world outside their boarders, as well as loud and rude. This combination of a generally isolationist attitude on the part of the citizens and imperialism on the part of the government might go a long way towards explaining why people don't like the United States.

The United States began as 13 colonies of the British Empire, which rebelled because legislation affecting them was being written without any representation on the part of those affected. Additionally, the citizens of the United States didn't feel like paying taxes. The British Empire had put high taxes in place to try to recoup some of the large cost of having colonies in the first place, such as its seven year war with France. The revolutionary war began as a guerilla action on the part of the United States, but as other nations lent support in an effort to irritate Britain, the war became more conventional. The war ended when Britain withdrew because it considered the war too expensive to pursue. In addition, the war was not popular at home.

In the following decades, the United States cemented its form of federal government by writing a Constitution and Bill of Rights designed to protect the rights of the individual citizen and to ensure a balance between the rights of individual states and the powers of the nation as a whole. In 1812, confident due to the success of the Revolutionary War, the United States went to war with Britain over the impressment of United States citizens into the British Navy. Britain would probably have reduced all of the United States to ashes, much as it did the US capitol, but Napoleon presented himself as a greater threat, and the United States survived its adolescence.

Over the next hundred years, the United States continued to expand westward, purchasing land from foreign governments in some cases, cheating the native population for it in others, and sometimes driving that same native population off by force.

Many southern states generated a large portion of their income from agricultural pursuits, and these same states had a vested interest in the cheap labor that slavery provided. When an election didn't go the way that southern states liked and a president who was a member of a party, which supported abolition, was elected, the southern states rebelled. In the war that followed, the south scored many early victories thanks to talented generals, but the war was eventually won by the superior industrial capacity and

greater population of the northern states, setting a precedent for future conflicts. As a result of the civil war, the question of state's rights was settled. The states did not have the right to separate themselves from the United States without the consent of the Federal Government.

During the two world wars, the United States was able to advance technologically thanks to help from allied nations, and was able to advance economically, since none of its factories came under attack. The United States could have become a global player after WWI, but popular isolationist opinion lead to dodging that particular responsibility until after WWII.

Following WWII, the United States was locked in a cold war with the USSR. Both nations obtained nuclear weapons technology and rocketry technology following WWII and the conflicting political viewpoints of the two superpowers led to a very high state of tensions. The two nations came into conflict through proxy-wars in Cuba, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and other nations.

As a result of a policy of arming nations which were allies against either the USSR or nations which were themselves allied with the USSR, Iran found itself armed by the United States while the USSR armed Iraq. When a religious movement opposed to the corrupt western government overthrew the government of Iran, the United States backed Iran in a seven year long war against Iran. Iraq received oil rights from the war, and looked to the south at oil rich Kuwait. When Great Britain had dissolved its colonies, it had broken up the region into smaller countries to try to ensure that oil would be available. Iraq and other states viewed this as a great wrong, and Saddam Hussein had decided he wished to right that wrong. Iraq was eyeing the next major oil producer, Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia called upon its powerful sponsor, the US, for support. In Desert Storm, a coalition of nations liberated Iraq's military capacity to a manageable level and liberated Kuwait.

Since the decay of the former Soviet Union, the United States has found itself involved in a number of peacekeeping actions, many of which have met with limited success. Both the United States and the member nations of the former Soviet Union possess millions of megatons of nuclear weapons, and the number of confirmed nuclear powers has recently risen again, as Pakistan and India have recently developed their own nuclear bombs. Together with China and a number of nations suspected but not confirmed to possess nuclear weapons, there are a great number of nuclear weapons in the world today.

It is worth mentioning that the United States is not on good terms with the United Nations general assembly. After a failed attempt to oust the president of the general assembly, the United States started to withhold its dues to the UN. The United Nations has been contemplating ejecting the United States from the General Assembly as a consequence, but the United States retains a seat on the UN Security Council with veto rights.

Peoples Republic of China

China has a population of about 1.3 billion people, making them the single most populous nation in the world. Like many Eastern nations, China has large areas of rugged desert land, where little can be scratched from the land, and even fewer people live, leading to crowded cities and riverbeds.

Ethnically, China consists of almost 90% Han Chinese, with a handful of other, related cultures. This has lead to a very uniform nation, free of many of discontinuities from place to place that appear in more multicultural nations. The official language of the nation is Mandarin Chinese, though many people also speak Cantonese as well as several other minor languages. An estimated 2% each of Chinese citizens are Taoist, Islamic, or Buddhists, while another 1% is Christian. However, all citizens are officially atheists.

The government of China is one of the last remaining communist regimes, though its economy is increasingly capitalist. Sun Yat-Sen led a successful democratic revolt against the former government of China, and after his death the government was taken over by Chaing Kai-Shek. Chaing drove communists in his country almost to the brink of destruction, but at the last moment the United States influenced the Chinese government to spare them. The communists later recovered and overthrew the democratic government. The former democratic government moved to Taiwan, along with the portion of the army loyal to them. The current leader of China is Jiang Zemin

China has a GDP of 4.8 trillion dollars, making it the second richest country in the world, behind only the United States. However, the GDP per capita is still only $3,840. The economy is mostly serviced based, with industry of major importance. Major trade partners include the United States, Japan, Germany and South Korea.

The average Chinese citizen has a life expectancy of 70 years if male, and 74 years if female. The birth rate is 1.61%, while the death rate is .673% It should be noted that

Chinese law discourages a woman from bearing more than one child, in an attempt to control the population of the nation. 81.5% of the population is literate in Chinese, with compulsory education.

China is an ancient nation, steeped in history, and while the current, communist government does not embrace the old culture, it does acknowledge that past. The old feudal system was swept away by the Revolution after World War II, and the current communist government was put into place in 1949. These revolutionists, calling themselves the People's Liberation Army (PLA), drove the armies of General Chaing Kai-Shek off of mainland China to Taiwan, after a long, bitter period of civil warfare. In 1949, Jiang declared Taipei, Taiwan, as the temporary capital of the Republic of China, while the Peoples Revolutionary Army went about the work of creating the People's Republic of China, under the leadership of Mao.

Like the other communist governments being established at the time, the PLA's first acts were to collectivize agriculture and industry, in order to feed and employ the surprisingly large population of 583 million people enumerated in China's first modern census. This process occurred quickly, and was over 90% complete by 1956.

Unlike many other communist governments, China at first allowed 'constructive criticism' of the government and it's programs. As soon as its people became used to the idea, the government came under a surprising amount of fire from those who lost the most during the revolution, the more capitalistic sections of its populace. However, this policy was soon left by the way side. Unsure of Soviet support, Mao launched a major program designed to incite ideological fervor, and enhance China's economy by enhancing the commune. The resultant economic disaster in China led to Mao stepping down as official chairman of the nation, as well as an institution of hard line foreign policy.

In the beginning of the 60s, the suspension of Soviet aid to China forced major reforms with in the nation, put into effect mainly by Mao's underlings. Most important of

these were releasing production control from government authority, as well as a strengthening of the military. In China, the military became a peasant elite. Only one in four volunteers are accepted and one in ten ever become anything but a foot soldier. The PLA build roads and help at harvest time. While apparently just a huge pool of manual laborers and soldiers, the PLA is a road of advancement for commoners in China. By 1965, China was headed towards recovery under Deng Xiaoping.

In the late 1960s, Mao lead an ideological purge of the nation, one which eventually led to his downfall as leader of the PLA, and later as leader of the Communist Party. Deng Xiaoping slowly emerged as the new leader of the nation, and despite heavy political attacks by radicals in the party, had solidified his power base by the late 70s.

Deng's first act once he was no longer vulnerable to his enemies was to reverse the iron grip that Mao once held on Chinese policy, weaning China away from the policies that Mao carried to his death. Deng took further steps to moderate his nation, placing economic progress over the class warfare ideals of Mao. Economic reforms, capitalist policies and social inequality followed.

These reforms have carried China far, despite the murky politics of the 80s and 90s, and have created a unique blend of capitalism and Communism, and perhaps the label of communism is no longer truly appropriate for the current Chinese government.

Still, a diplomatic cloud still hangs over China, its unique government rife with corruption and inefficiency despite repeated attempts at reform, and its poor record on the recognition of the Western version of human rights.

China has also seemed to be an active partner with Brazil in space technology and the Islamic nations on other technology. China is suspected of supplying Iran and Saudi Arabia with medium range missiles.

The Arab Republic of Egypt

The Arab Republic of Egypt has a population of 67 million people and a population density of 174 people per square mile. Much of Egypt is desert, and this leads to crowding in urban areas. 95% of Egypt is of Eastern Hamitic decent, a group which includes people of Egyptian, Bedouin, and Berber decent. In a sense, this means that most of Egypt is Egyptian, as compared with the USA, where there is a more diverse ethnic makeup. Arabic is the official language, but French and Egyptian are also spoken. 94% of the country are followers of Islam, with the majority of the other 6% being Coptic Christians.

The government of Egypt is a Republic, but 50 years ago it was a monarchy much like many neighbor nations, and before that it was a colony of a western power. Which western power changed sometimes, but it was usually England or France, along with Germany and Italy during WWII. The president of Egypt is Hosni Mubarak.

Egypt has a GDP of 267 billion dollars, which means it has a per capita income of 4,400 dollars. Major trade partners include the United States, Germany, and Italy. Life expectancy for men is 60 years, and life expectancy for women is 64 years. The birth rate is 2.68%, and the mortality rate is 0.827%. Education is compulsory for 5 years, between 6 and 13. The literacy rate is 51%.

In 1882, Britain took control of governmental administration. From 1914 to 1922, it was a British Protectorate. It is worth noting that the Turkish Ottoman Empire was one of the principal players in WWI, and this conflict obviously involved the British territory of Egypt. It was part of the United Kingdom following that, but did not receive any additional autonomy until 1936. During WWII, Germany and Italy occupied part of Egypt as a part of their North African campaign. Allied troops helped liberate Egypt, but following WWII, Egypt wanted to become a totally independent nation. In 1951, it got its wish, but the Sudan became a separate country in 1956. In 1952, General Nasser led an

uprising against the king of Egypt. In 1954, he found himself in charge of the country. Two years later, he became the country's first president and held that position until 1970, when he died.

In 1948, Israel proclaimed its own existence. The surrounding Arabic nations, who felt Israel was a western power and that this was yet more colonialism, or yet another crusade, all attempted to invade. To everyone's surprise, they failed.

In 1956, following terrorist raids from the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, Israel invaded. The United Nations deployed peacekeeping troops along that boarder from 1956-67, until President Nasser demanded their removal. Egyptian troops seized the Suez Canal and prevented shipments to or from Israel via it. Five days later, Israeli troops, along with French and English support, were in control of both sides of the canal, as well as the Gaza strip and Sinai Peninsula and the canal was reopened. In 1973, Egyptian forces crossed the Suez Canal into the Sinai. Egypt was receiving Soviet backing, so the USA supported Israel. The conflict ended in Israel's favor. In 1974 and '75, Israeli troops withdrew from the canal's West Bank and yielded the Sinai oil fields. These peace negotiations were motivated by a worldwide desire to use the canal, which had been tied up for three years as a consequence of their conflict. In 1979, Israel and Egypt signed a formal peace agreement. This move signaled Egypt becoming one of the most moderate Muslim states in the middle east. In 1981, tensions between Muslim fundamentalists and Christian group caused riots and ultimately led to the assassination of Egypt's president. Tension between extremists and those who had more moderate views continued, peaking in the 90's with fundamentalist violence and multiple assassination attempts on President Mubarak. In 1991, Egypt was a full supporter of the Allies in the Persian Gulf War. Israel was excluded from participation in the war to prevent the Arab nations from backing out. Careful negotiations were involved in persuading the Arab nations, including Egypt, to participate while convincing Israel to stand back.

The United Kingdom (England)

England has a population of about 59 million people, living in a land of rugged hills and mountains. It is impossible to get very far from the sea in the United Kingdom, and that sea has always been a part of their history.

Ethnically, the people of the United Kingdom are descended from various Celtic and Teutonic tribes, all of whom have maintained their own traditions, and until comparatively recently, their own nations. Thus, no one claims the United Kingdom as their nationality or ethnicity, but they are rather English, Scottish, Irish, Welsh, or one of a few others. The official language of the nation is English, though a fair number of folks also speak Welsh and Gaelic. Anglican and Roman Catholicism are the most common religions, although there are also large numbers of Muslims, and other variants of Christianity.

The government of England is one of the first modern republics, one that came about by use rather than constitution, and in fact, they are still, technically, a constitutional monarchy. Queen Elizabeth II is then the symbolic head of the government, while Tony Blair is the Prime Minister.

England has a GDP of 1.29 trillion dollars, with a per capita GDP of $21,800. The economy is mostly service based, with industry of major importance. Major trade partners include the United States, though the majority of trade is within the European Union.

The average British citizen has a life expectancy of 74 years if male, and 80 years if female. The birth rate is 1.17%, while the death rate is 1.04%. 99% of the population is literate, with education being compulsory.

The English are both a proud and humble people. Although they are proud of their cultural heritage, they are friendly to other nations, and they have no real hatreds of any

other country. Despite a history of repeated warfare with Scotland, Ireland, France, Germany and tensions with former colonies, they treat people of other nations in a dignified and polite fashion. This attitude has been a hallmark of English society for many years, and is a basis for several American stereotypes.

The United Kingdoms, consisting of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, roughly constitutes an area about the size of California and Nevada combined. Each of the above areas is both a separate entity and a part of the whole, in the same manner that the United States is composed of individual states. The current government of England is a Constitutional Monarchy, which effectively means that all eligible voters (all people of eighteen years or more who are not nobility) vote for members of parliament. The nobility is represented by the Hours of Lords, which is now primarily ceremonial. The parliament will then vote for a Prime Minister to act as the head of the executive government. The Queen will then appoint this Prime Minister to the position. This traditional, indirect system of government is important to the English people.

Each of the separate kingdoms of the United Kingdoms has a state religion: Anglican for England, Catholic for Scotland, Anglican, Methodist or Baptist for Wales, and in Ireland there is religious freedom. While some might see this as somewhat archaic, it has been defended vehemently by the peoples of each kingdom.

England has long been a driving force on the world stage. In earlier periods, it was a force for war, conquest and violence. During the 1500's and 1600's, England was a force in terms of both Military and Naval supremacy, to be feared throughout Europe. As time marched on and the Renaissance began, they moved to a more peaceful form of conquest: colonial imperialism. They established colonies and trading posts throughout the known world, staking claims in some of the best territories, including India, South Africa, and much of the North American continent.

This led to conflict, and there were several wars between England and other colonial countries during this period. Most notable were the 30 year French and English War (the French and Indian War on the North American Continent) and the subsequent American Revolution. While England had the military resources to reconquer the American Colonies, it felt the endeavor would require troops that were needed elsewhere. Also, they felt that the United States would fall apart on its own. In 1812, England again went to war with the United States and would probably have reconquered if the Napoleonic War hadn't provided a distraction.

During this period, the British Commonwealth expanded through trade and industry, and thus grew economically. In the early stage this still involved violence, as demonstrated by the Opium War to open China to trade. Honk Kong was also seized by demanding a 99-year lease, which only recently expired. The English were the first to experience an Industrial Revolution under a capitalist philosophy, and it was their textile innovations that triggered America's own Industrial Revolution. The Commonwealth was a shift from Empire to cooperating independent nations that forestalled repeated revolution by former colonies. India's peaceful revolution led by Gandhi was the critical moment in this evolution into partner nations.

In World War I and II, England suffered blows to public spirit, military might, and financial solvency. The blockade around England put in place by the German submarine navy forced England to go to the United States to help produce weapons of war. England shared many if not all of its technological military secrets, leading to the post-war military strength of the United States. After World War II, many of its colonies expressed a desire to break away and to convert their English currency for dollars. England was in no condition to go to war with all of its colonies, so it allowed its empire to fade away. It also bore the economic burden of allowing its satellites to convert their English pounds for American dollars.

Since then, England has continued to expand in the economic sense. They were the initiators of both NATO and the growing Euro-community movement, which is slowly but surely binding all of Western Europe into a single economic superpower. England's active intervention in the Middle East has involved securing the Suez Canal, the occupation of Egypt, Palestine, war against Turkey in alliance with the Arabs, and the creation of Kuwait to limit the power of Iraq in an effort to control oil prices.

The United States has to some extent adopted England's role as a colonial power. The United States has tried to frustrate the nationalistic liberation movements on several occasions, most notably Vietnam. The United States has experienced complications from interfering with foreign governments, such as the consequences of propping up the Shah of Iran. Learning from history, the English have learned that one should never try to hold the reigns of power in a country that you are not willing to go to war with. They have chosen to lead a movement to foster nuclear disarmament. The English have done what they could in light of recent events to bring about a peaceful end to the trouble with nuclear weapons and international tension, especially in areas involving former colonies such as Israel, India, and Pakistan.

Republic of France

France has a population of about 59 million people. Geographically, the areas of France that are not mountainous are mostly plains or rolling hills, suitable for either agriculture or inhabitation, and has several desirable regions of great beauty for living and vacationing.

This was the land of Gaul in the time of the Roman Empire, captured at the time of the fall of the empire by the invading Franks, a Germanic people. Mostly Celtic, Roman and Germanic in origin, the French people have been a relatively tolerant community in the same location long enough that the rest of the world considers French an ethnicity. There are smattering of minorities of course, Teutonic, Slavic, and others, but most of France is, indeed, French. The official language of the nation is French, a Romanic Language, and the few other dialects spoken are in decline. The vast majority of Frenchmen profess Roman Catholicism as their religion, as the French Protestants, called Huguenots, were unable to capture Paris, and their Leader converted to Catholicism in order to be allowed to become King of the Nation, with the famous phrase "Paris is worth a mass."

The government of France is now a pure Republic, with President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin presiding over the Republic. The monarchy was overthrown in a bloody revolution shortly after the American Revolution.

France has a GDP of 1.4 trillion dollars, and the GDP per capita is $23,300. The economy is mostly serviced based, with industry of major importance. Major trade partners include the United States, and the rest of the European Union.

The average French citizen has a life expectancy of 74 years if male, and 72 years if female. The birth rate is 1.23%, while the death rate is .914%. 99% of the population is literate, with compulsory education.

The French are, above all else, a proud people. They take great care and effort both to preserve and display their cultural heritage, so that everyone can know the greatness of France. It is this pride in their own culture that makes France a leading country in world affairs, more than anything else. However, France is also a country of immigrants. Its borders are relatively open to immigration, and nearly 6% of France's total population consists of immigrants. Despite this, everyone in France feels that they share in France's rich cultural heritage.

While France is not a large country, possessing an area approximately as large as Texas, it is fairly heavily populated. The population of France mainly resides in its cities and urban centers. In Fact, approximately 89% of its people live in one of France's major cities and 49% of the total population live in Paris itself. Other major cities include Lyon, Marseilles, Lille, Bordeaux, Toulouse, Nantes and Strasbourg, in order of population size.

Many countries border France, each having a long and often troubled history with France. Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain are it's largest neighbors, as well as its smaller neighbors Belgium, Luxembourg, Monaco and Andorra. Across the English Channel is the United Kingdom. Historically, France has been both allies and enemies with nearly all of its neighbors. However, Switzerland has nearly always remained neutral and unassailable in the Alps. In particular, the French people still feel strongly about both the Hundred Years War, a conflict that lasted throughout the 14th and into the 15th centuries with Britain. France also found itself at war with Germany no less than five times since participating in the 30 years war from 1618 to 1648. These countries are considered to be bitter rivals by the French.

The history of France was also filled with great leaders and victories. In the 8th century Charlemagne, named Emperor of the Western world, nearly succeeded in re-creating the Roman Empire with France as his seat of power. The Renaissance, while not started in France, greatly impacts the views and philosophies of the French, and it is a time when many of the nation's greatest cultural treasures were created. Lastly, Napoleon,

named emperor of France in 1804, was known to be the greatest military mind of his time. He was eventually defeated by the English and exiled. After he escaped and returned to France, the English defeated him again and sent him to a less comfortable exile. England reinstated a monarchy to France afterwards, in an effort to return to a state of normalcy.

The rather bloody history of France lead eventually to it's present state, known as the fifth republic. Like America, the government of France is based on a Constitution that was adopted in 1958, by a referendum of the people. It has been revised several times, most notably in 1962 when another referendum called for direct universal suffrage of the people. The president of the French republic is elected to seven-year terms. He appoints the Prime Minister and he presides over the cabinet. Like America, the French president is the head of the Executive branch, making him the head of armed forces, as well as giving him the power to pardon and also allowing him, if necessary, to dissolve parliament.

The Prime Minister determines the nation's policy and runs the administration, submits bills to Parliament and is responsible for the execution of these bills once they are ratified. The cabinet determines general policy, and also has the ability to submit bills to Parliament. The French Parliament consists of two houses: The National Assembly (577 members), who are elected by direct suffrage to 5 year terms, and the Senate (321 members), who are elected by indirect suffrage to 9 year terms, 1/3 of whom are re-elected every 3 years. France has a multi-party system, which has at least 5 different strongly supported parties. Historically, a different party has been in power at every election of the National Assembly, while the Senate has remained, for the most part, evenly split.

The French economy is one of France's greatest strengths. France has the Fourth largest economy in the world, totaling more than 8 trillion francs in 1997. While the economic growth in the US has been more vigorous, France is an economic powerhouse in the European community. A great deal of this wealth comes from foreign investors and supporters of the booming French economy. Direct foreign investment counts for a third

of France's industrial production in almost every sector of its economy. France is also one of the biggest exporters of products and services in the world. Among other items, France is the number one exporter of luxury goods, mainly due to its reputation for excellent, if costly, products ranging from wine and cheese to perfume and high culture designer clothing, especially for women.

Republic of India

The Republic of India has a population of 1 billion people. India has a varied geography, with terrain ranging from high mountains to low deserts to tropical flatlands. 72% of India is Indo-Aryan, while 25% is Dravidian, with the balance made up of people of Mongol decent and others. Despite this relatively simple ethnic make up, India is a melting pot of cultures. Official documents are printed in English and Hindu, while a bedlam of other tongues dominates the streets. 80% of the country are followers of the Hindu religion, with the majority of the remaining people being Islamic.

The government of India is a Federal Republic, but has only been independent of England since 1947. Unlike most nations, India gained its freedom through mostly peaceful methods. The president of India is Kicheril Raman Narayanan, while the Prime Minister is Atal Behari Vajpayee.

India has a GDP of 1.8 trillion dollars, which means it has a per capita income of 1,800 dollars. Major trade partners include the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany. Life expectancy for men is 62 years, and life expectancy for women is 63 years. The birth rate is 2.48%, and the mortality rate is 0.888%. The literacy rate is 52%, but only 37.7% of the women can read.

One of the oldest civilizations in the world, India's modern history begins at the end of British colonial rule in 1947. The parliament of Great Britain gave the colonial era India to two governments, due to the politics of the time. The vast majority of the land and people went to the Hindu state of India, while the remainder went to the Muslim state of Pakistan. England was forced to abandon India during World War II, and this led to a renewed desire for independence. Since gaining its independence, India has found itself in military conflict with Pakistan and China. Pakistan began its existence as an eastern and western portion separated by disputed territory with India. When the eastern portion attempted to become independent, India interfered on its behalf to weaken Pakistan. India

and Pakistan have gone to war multiple times since their creation, and both sides have sworn never to lose another conflict with the other. More recently, India has successfully developed nuclear weapons on its own. It is believed to have the capability to launch its missiles a short distance, but is not capable of striking targets on other continents. There is no small amount of tension between the United States and India about India developing nuclear technology despite an international embargo on the transfer of such technology.

For many years, India was forced to deal with the troubles of separation, including riots, mass migration, and repatriation. Gandhi, who took no office in the new government, wandered the nation, attempting to use his personal influence with the people to quell the violence, however fruitlessly, and ultimately fell to an assassin's bullet himself.

India is the original crossroads of the world, and as such, cannot really be said to have a single, overarching culture. However, in many cases, when one considers the Indians as a people, the Hindu 'majority' is immediately thought of, and so we will say a few words on the culture of these people.

The Hindus are guided by the religion from which they take their name. This religion has two important tenets that must be taken into consideration when looking at the people. First, Hinduism states that one is placed on earth to live life to the fullest and achieve true inner peace. Thus, the religion does not disapprove of many of the dissipations that western Christianity has worked so hard to eliminate in the past, after all, in time even the most corrupt of men will learn that wealth, drunkenness, and other such amusements do not bring lasting happiness. Second, time works in a scale far, far vaster than a man can ever comprehend. It is on this time scale that a man has to reach enlightenment, and he will be continually reincarnated until he does so and reaches Nirvana.

As such, the basic values of the society reflect these principles rather than the sanctity of life and law.

These two principles have lead to one more development that must be understood. As each soul progresses through the circle of life, it tends to aggregate with those similar in understanding to itself, especially in families. And so, a caste system was born. This caste system placed everyone into their place in life by the family of birth, and although no longer officially accepted by the government, it stratifies the society along the lines of these castes, regardless of rule of law. The castes can be broken into a few major categories, including the priests, soldiers, merchants, laborers, and Untouchables, but there is a caste for almost every profession. The traditional notion was that there would be no social mobility, each son and daughter being taught their place and any necessary skills by their parents.

Special notes: The vast majority of Indians do not have family names, and as such, they are not given here. Usually, the 'surname' given by a member of this melting pot culture is a patronym, or caste name. For example, Gandhi is not a surname, but rather, the name of the grocer caste. It is recommended that students do some minimal background reading on castes and sub castes, and make up a last name on the fly, as many real Indians are forced to do when in contact with Western civilization.

The Islamic Republic of Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran has a population of 66 million people. Much of Iran is desert, and this leads to crowding in urban areas, concentrated along the rivers and the Caspian coastline. 51% of Iran is of Persian decent, with another 24% being Azeri. The remainder of the population is a large blend of other ethnic groups, including the Kurds. Parsi, the Persian language, is the official language, but Turkish is another widely spread tongue. 89% of the country are followers of Shiite Islam, while another 10% follow Sunni Islam.

The government of Iran is a Theocratic Republic, dominated by the Imams and the Ayatollah. During the Cold war it was an absolute monarchy, but corruption and a rejection of Western ideals brought about the Islamic Revolution in 1978. The government backed by the United States was overthrown. The United States then backed Iraq in a seven year long war with Iran. This war was very damaging to Iran. The president of Iran is Mohammed Khatami-Ardakani, but ultimate power rests in the hands of Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei.

Iran has a GDP of 348 billion dollars, which means it has a per capita income of 5,300 dollars. Major trade partners include Japan and Italy. Life expectancy for men is 68 years, and life expectancy for women is 71 years. The birth rate is 1.83%, and the mortality rate is 0.545%. The literacy rate is 72%.

Cradled in the birthplace of human history, Iran possesses one of the oldest cultures of mankind. However, this history will not begin until 1978, with the Islamic revolution that overthrew the Shah.

Unhappy with the effects of an industrialization process pushed too far too fast by the ruling Shah and his American aides, an emerging middle class, an oil rich economy, and a Royal family trying to control everything and scornful of religion, revolt came to

Iran. Many radicals began to oppose the government, in support of the traditional values espoused by Shiite Islam. Directed by Ayatollah Khomeini from afar, masses of comparatively peaceful protesters forced the Shah to flee Iran in 1979. On April 1, 1979, after a national referendum in which only one choice was offered, the Ayatollah created a constitutional republic in Iran.

This constitution was imbued with Khomeini's ideals for an Islamic government, and encouraged a massive wave of fundamentalism, with patrols to enforce anti-western codes. When the old Shah was admitted to America for medical treatment in July of 1980, activists seized an American embassy. They held it until January of 1981, releasing them in part due to the changeover of authority in America.

For Iran, the next 8 years were filled with war, a trial by fire for the new government. A fair amount of territory was lost to Iraq, then regained, and the war soon settled into a war of attrition. Oil production, and thus income, in the region plummeted, as refineries were assaulted, and the Persian Gulf became unsafe for travel. Iran and Iraq signed a UN sponsored cease-fire in 1989.

The cease-fire brought to light a deal with the Ayatollah's 'Great Satan', America, in which weapons were exchanged for assistance in the release of hostages held in Lebanon. The US had equipped the Persian Army during the period of the Shah's rule, and the Soviet Union equipped Iraq. The critical shortage of familiar arms replacements and spare parts had reduced the Iranians to human wave assault tactics, which Iraq halted with dug in tanks and the use of poisonous mustard gas. With no airforce left to ward of Iraq's bombers and terrible loss of life in the field, Iran sought peace by treaty after having been invaded, a humiliation. What Iraq wanted was control of its one oil rich peninsula.

With the Ayatollah's death by natural causes in 1989, a smooth and peaceful transfer of power occurred, the old president becoming the new Ayatollah, and a new president being elected, nearly unopposed.

This new more moderate president began to modernize Islam, allowing capitalism, and creating diplomatic ties with certain Western countries, while still holding strong ties to the idea of an Islamic state.

This situation continues to the present day, although a few attempts by the most recent president to soften some of the hardest regulations of the nation, particularly in the area of women's rights, have been met with harsh resistance. Iran is still controlled by the radical fundamentalist Shiite priests, and they will resist any Westernization of their people.

Iranians are mainly Shia Muslims, who support the existence of a priest class to read and interpret the Koran. For more information, see the Islamic information sheets.

The State of Israel

The state of Israel has a population of about 5.8 million people, living on a thin strip of land bordered by the Mediterranean. Large portions of Israel are desert, and only a very small portion of the land is arable, leading to a highly urbanized nation.

Ethnically and religiously, 80% of Israel is Jewish. The two main branches of Judaism are Sephartic and Ashkernazie. Christianity and Islam also have a presence here, due in part to holy places for all three of these religions being located in Jerusalem.

Israel is a parliamentary democracy with a constitution designed to ensure that minority views have a voice. This sometimes leads to an unstable state of affairs where the party in power shifts more often than one might expect. President Ezer Weizman is currently the head of state, while Prime Minister Ariel Sharon directs the nation.

Israel has a GDP of about 1 billion dollars, with the GDP per capita then $18,300. The economy is mostly service based, with industry of minor importance. Major trade partners include the United States, Benelux, and the UK.

The average Israeli citizen has a life expectancy of 76 years if male, and 80 years if female. The birth rate is 1.93%, while the death rate is .662%. 95% of the population is literate, with Education being compulsory.

First and foremost, Israel is the homeland of the Jews. Israel is based upon the notion that the Jewish people need a country where they are in the majority and can protect themselves. According to the Jewish religion, Israel is located where God promised the Jewish people a homeland thousands of years ago. The Jews, as a people, have not had a true homeland since the rule of King David. After the Roman Empire expanded into the Middle East, the Jewish people led two revolts. They were unhappy with the requirement that in addition to whatever local religion they might have, they must

worship the Emperor. Following the second revolt, the Roman Empire enslaved and scattered the Jewish people throughout their Empire in what is known as the Diaspora. This caused there to be small communities of Jewish people throughout the area once controlled by Rome. At first, the Roman Empire rejected Christianity. One missionary, Paul, set about converting a great many people. He was largely responsible for Christianity blaming the death of Christ on the Jewish people for 1500 years. Later, when Christianity became the state religion, the Jewish people were in a poor position. Following the fall of the Roman Empire, they were continually oppressed and discriminated against. Until quite recently, Islamic countries were not overly oppressive to Jewish citizens. They were seen as having a common religious background, as Islam accepts the Old Testament. Jews and Christians were allowed to live as second class citizens, but pagans had to either convert or die. In more recent times, Islamic countries have come to associate Israel with the Crusades and western intrusion into the Middle East.

Throughout these troubles, the main population of Judaism remained near Jerusalem. Despite being an oppressed people, the Jews remained strong and continued to struggle for survival. With the coming of the 20th century, Jews began to talk about a homeland and a place to live in peace, away from oppression. On May 14, 1948, the Jewish people as a whole declared their independence from the oppression of Britain. Because it was embroiled in World War II at the time, Britain was unable to respond with force, and thus Israel was formed.

As World War II wound to a close, many of Britain's colonies demanded independence and received it. At the same time, Israel declared itself the homeland of the Jewish peoples of the world, and any Jew that wished it would receive sanctuary in Israel. This brought in millions upon millions of refugees from the previously German occupied territories and other countries. While not all Jews migrated to Israel, many were tired of the oppression so readily directed towards them. The United Nations stepped in and tried to negotiate between the Jewish people and the neighboring Arabic factions. The United

Nations had put forward a peaceful compromise, but the Arabic nations rejected it and tried to invade. The Arab nations lost, thanks in part to financial support from Jews living in the United States. In the end, Israel became the Jewish homeland.

There followed, between the years 1948 and 1967 a period of struggle for recognition and to retain independence. Many battles were fought, entire wars started and ended over the course of this struggle, but eventually there was peace. The wars included the 6 Days War, where Israel attacked surrounding countries that were preparing to attack Israel and were very successful thanks to their air support. The Yon Kippur war was also a victory, but it was less one sided. Conflict continued with the PLO, which used Lebanon as a hiding place. In 1967, Egypt, an Arabic country, recognized Israel as an independent nation. Israel has been continuing to achieve peaceful coexistence with neighboring nations despite the numerous tensions that exist. Recently, Israel has shown a renewed willingness to trade land for peace. Israel has achieved peace with Jordan and Egypt, and has mixed relations with Lebanon, but relations with Syria are still poor at best. The group of people who had been living where Israel now stands are known as Palestinians, as the region was previously known as Palestine. These Arabs are unhappy with Israeli rule and desire autonomy, if not the return of the entire country. Multiple terrorist organizations exist to bring about an end to Israel, but many Palestinians simply wish for peace. Israel has reacted strongly to terrorist attacks, and has been criticized at times for how the Palestinian community is treated.

Several struggles have ensued since. Terrorist attacks by Palestinians based in surrounding nations still plague the country. However, for the most part, Israel has maintained a careful balance between peace and watchful readiness. One of its greatest strengths is the network of satellites that Israel has managed to assemble above itself and the surrounding nations. With it's state of the art imaging technology, the Israeli Intelligence Agency has been able to keep very close track of the troop movements, bomb and missile placements, and to a certain extent the counter-espionage activities of its neighbors. This, along with a very well trained army, makes the Israeli military one of the

best, for its size. While their standing army is small, there are many talented reservists. Israel is also an economic power in the region, but the Arabic countries are oil rich.

Currently, Israel has produced several nuclear bombs worth of weapons grade material from the Domina plant. It is unclear exactly how many operational devices Israel actually has, but one reasonable estimate is three low-yield man portable nuclear bombs have been produced for use in an "Ein brera" or no alternative scenario. Thus Israel has enough nuclear capability to act as a threat and a deterrent, but not enough to really be perceived as a major nuclear threat to it's many hostile neighbors.

The Jewish people have always been said to have a long memory. This certainly holds true for the Israeli nation. They will not soon forget the horrors of the holocaust or the unwillingness of their neighbors to concede them the right to a homeland. So, in essence, the Israeli mindset can be summed up into two facts. They wish to retain a homeland where they are in the majority and can ensure the protection of their people. They also wish to have peace with their neighbors, but are unsure if their neighbors can be trusted to let them live in peace.

The Republic of Japan

Japan has a population of 126 million people, roughly half of that of the United States. Its population density is 865 people per square mile, roughly ten times that of the US. Japan is 99.4% Japanese, which has in the past created a very "us versus the world" outlook on their part. The official language is Japanese. The chief religion is Buddhism and Shinto, with different kinds of religious functions being performed by members of one group or the other. Weddings, for example, are Shinto. Funerals are Buddhist. Buddhist/Shinto Japanese people comprise 84% of the population, but although many citizens practice this religion, that doesn't mean they aren't agnostic towards whether or not it is grounded in reality, much as many people who go to church every week don't necessarily believe there is a God. The next largest group is Christian, but many ideas get changed in translation and Japanese culture takes what it likes from a concept and changes other parts to make it fit. It is not uncommon to see Christmas decorations of Santa Claus on the cross, for example. The Christian influence stems from Portuguese trade in Nagasaki before the entire nation was formally opened to trade. Portugal controlled the one annual trade ship between China and Japan.

The government of Japan is a Parliamentary Democracy, with a constitution written under the supervision of the United States following WWII. Although this constitution prevents Japan from spending more than 1% of its GDP on defense, and this military force is intended for purely defensive purposes, it is one of the nations which spends the most on their military, having the 4th largest army. This is because 1% of Japan's GDP is much more than a third of the net worth of a less affluent nation. Japan has reason to feel the need to defend itself, as it has Russia and China as neighbors. Both nations and Japan don't exactly see eye to eye on everything. Korea is also a hostile ex-colony. Although the official head of state is Emperor Akihito, he holds no actual political power. The head of the government is Prime Minster Keizo Obuchi. Throughout Japan's history, the emperor has often been more of a ceremonial and religious position rather than

a military or governmental position. Emperors tend to be less like generals than like 'Popes' of the Shinto religion as well as symbols of national pride.

The GDP of Japan is 3.08 Trillion dollars, which gives it a per capita GDP of 24,500 dollars. Major trade partners include the United States, South East Asia, the European Union, and China. The life expectancy of a man in Japan is 77 years, and the expectancy of a woman is 83 years. The birth rate is at 1.048 percent and the death rate is 0.812 percent. Given Japan's limited resources and relatively small amounts of land suitable for living upon, Japan encourages zero population growth. Education in Japan is compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15, and Japan has a 100% literacy rate.

In the mid-1600's, the noble group in power in Japan declared Japan closed to outsiders. This caused Japan to remain at a feudal level of technological and societal sophistication. This was partially done to help keep the peasants under control, as guns (for example) make the difference between a samurai on horseback and a peasant on foot nil. In 1854, however, the United States sent a fleet and forced Japan to open its boarders. This was as a result of Japan allowing American citizens to die at sea rather than allowing them to land. Japan was forced open because there was nothing they could do with horses and bows against cannon laden gunboats. Japan instead decided to catch up with the outside world, and began to rapidly modernize. In 1894, Japan took Taiwan from China through war. In 1904, Japan defeated Russia soundly in a surprise attack on the Pacific Fleet. This was very significant in a historical sense. It was one of the first times a non-western civilization was able to defeat a western power. In 1910, Japan annexed Korea. In WWI, Japan expanded into previously German colonies in the Pacific. In 1937, Japan went to full-scale war with China, and captured the entire facing coast of the country. In 1941, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. At its peak, the Japanese Pacific Empire controlled over one third of the earth's surface, making it one of the largest empires in history. World War II ended without invasion when the United States demonstrated (twice) that it could do something that Japan couldn't fight against. Many of the Pacific Islands had been recaptured, the Japanese fleet had been sunk, and a full-

scale invasion was being planned when the decision to use atomic weapons was made. The bomb was used to prevent loss of life on both sides, as the Japanese troops and citizens were expected to resist to the bitter end. Japan was as unable to defend against nuclear weapons in 1945 as it was unable to deal with an American battleship in 1854. Since there was no way for them to honorably die fighting back, their emperor surrendered to MacArthur, who represented the allies. Japan was rebuilt under the Marshall plan, a plan to lend money to buy American supplies to rebuild the territories destroyed during WWII. Japan received additional economic boons during the Korean War, when it was a major rear base of operations, and its occupying 8th Army regiment left for duty on the peninsula. In 1947, Japan's current constitution was adopted. This constitution included renouncing the right to wage war, and assigning the emperor a purely ceremonial role in government. In 1951, many nations opposed to communism or threatened by communism signed a mutual defense treaty. Japan developed into an economic powerhouse. In 1989, the Liberal Democratic Party wasn't re-elected. This was the first time the LDP wasn't in power since its inception. This came in response to an economic slump. In 1994, Japan elected its first socialist prime minister. In 1996, the LDP returned to power. Japan is currently in the middle of a long recession, but before this took place, the United States was concerned it was falling behind both Japan and Germany in terms of economic growth and trade. In 1999, an accident at a Japanese Uranium-reprocessing facility exposed plant workers and residents nearby to extremely high levels of radiation. This fanned sad memories in a nation with Hiroshima and Nagasaki survivors, demonstrators grieved the arrival of nuclear powered warships but the economy is largely dependent on nuclear power plants, as nuclear power comprises 98% of the nation's power. Largely, the Japanese people are not opposed to nuclear power for purposes of electrical generation

Culturally, Japanese people appear calmer and quieter than Americans do. This is because strong outward public displays of emotion in Japan are discouraged. Teamwork and group identity is valued more strongly than individuality, but one shouldn't make the mistake of assuming all Japanese citizens are drones. In a diplomatic setting, or even a

social setting, people strive for consensus. Points of agreement are stressed; points of contention are avoided. In general, those who are older are respected and deferred to. Japan has been criticized for being sexist. It could be said that Japan is a more sexist country than the United States. On the other hand, if a woman chooses to abandon the traditional goal of raising a family to pursue a career in business, she will eventually be treated with an amount of respect as if she were a man, once she is older. In a sense, successful Japanese women are treated as if they actually were men. Indeed, elder women past child rearing years are treated much as younger men are, and have power over younger women in the household. In order to build consensus, in a diplomatic setting, sensitive subjects are generally broached outside of formal talks, and then the formal talks are used to announce the decisions reached outside of the formal conference.

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has a population of 141 million people. Much of Pakistan is hot, dry desert, with temperate areas in the northwest, and an arctic north in the mountains. Ethnically, Pakistan is a blend of Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun, and others. Punjab is the widest spread tongue, spoken by 48% of the population, with a wide variety of other languages spoken by the rest of the people, including Sindhi, Siraiki, and Urdu. 97% of the country are followers of Islam, about 77% Sunni, and the rest Shia.

The government of Pakistan is a Federal Republic, with a long and rocky history of martial law, which it is currently under. The president of Pakistan is Mohammed Rafiq Tarar, while the military commander is Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Pakistan has a GDP of 282 billion dollars, which means it has a per capita income of 2,000 dollars. Major trade partners include the United States, China (Hong Kong), and Japan. Life expectancy for men is 60 years, and life expectancy for women is 62 years. The birth rate is 3.21%, and the mortality rate is 0.951%. The literacy rate is 38%, who are mostly men.

The history of modern Pakistan begins in the 1930s, during British colonial domination of the area. The previous Muslim rulers found themselves unsuited to colonial control, and as the British plans for eventual independence under a parliamentary government became clear, the Islamic minority became worried about being mistreated at the hands of this majority government.

Under the leadership of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the Muslim community began to agitate for an independent state in the north of India, to be known as Pakistan. The British disliked this, not wishing to destroy the unity they had created during their own rule, but Jinnah would not accept any other proposals, and India could not stand on its own with

the active resistance of the Muslim people. Mahatma Gandhi was in jail at the time, so Jinnah was not effectively challenged.

And so, in 1947, Pakistan became a separate state with 2 parts, West and East, in what is called the Bengali Region. It was divided geographically, in much the same manner as Germany was before World War I. The separating area, Kashmir, which had not submitted its popular vote on which nation to join, immediately became disputed territory. This territory is nominally Indian. The division and India's control over several of Pakistan's waterways threatened to cripple the new nation.

All of this was not aided by the 1948 death of Jinnah, and temporary leadership passed to Liaquat Ali Khan, Jinnah's lieutenant. He began the drafting of a constitution based on Islamic values, despite the objections of the Hindu members of the parliament.

With Khan's assassination in 1951, Pakistan's politics, and thus its leadership, dissolved into a murky mess of chaos, as various regional, economic, and religious factions struggled for power, and the chance to define the constitution. This chaos ended with the ascent of Iksander Mirza.

Mirza and his fellow, Chaudri Mohammed Ali, finally succeeded in creating a constitution, and getting it accepted. Chaudri was appointed the new Prime Minister, while Mirza became president, with very restricted powers.

Politics interfered again, and Chaudri was soon replaced in office, and legislation ended as the government began to fall apart. The East Pakistani legislature demanding almost total autonomy.

With Pakistan disintegrating, President Mirza declared martial law, with General Mohammed Ayub Khan as the chief administrator. The martial government shortly exiled Mirza, who ended up in London.

General Ayub began to construct a political system with the intent of expressing Islamic ideals, while a committee began to create a constitution. Under Ayub's leadership, the economy of Pakistan slowly improved, but the first thing to recover was industry.

In 1969, Ayub passed the leadership of Pakistan to General Yahya. Yahya set about holding a general election to draft a constitution, but the results of the election led to a civil war, as East Pakistan again demanded virtual independence. An army from West Pakistan began a brutal occupation with considerable looting, rape, and murder involved. With vast numbers of refugees streaming across the borders, India intervened militarily in this war, and East Pakistan became the fully independent, but desperately poor nation of Bangladesh thanks to interference from India.

Yahya resigned in 1971, passing power to Bhutto of the Pakistan people's party. Bhutto's policy of socialist Islam brought about no real change, but he was popular. A constitution was adopted in 1973, with elections to be held in 1977. This program also reverted to martial law with in months, not to be lifted again until 1985.

Pakistan found itself caught in the war between Afghanistan and the USSR in 1979, as guerillas used refugee camps within Pakistan as a base of operations. This was stepped up, as the United States began to funnel assistance to the Afghanistan guerillas, and became an ally of Pakistan, given India's neutral stance combined with taking aid from the Soviet Union.

After India successfully test detonated a nuclear weapon, Pakistan followed with their own tests a few days later. Pakistan and India have fought a number of wars since both states came into being in their present form, and both nations have vowed never to lose a war to their neighbor again. They are currently locked into a sort of cold war in miniature. Pakistan has the capability to launch missiles at India, and India has the capacity to reciprocate, but they are both presently unable to threaten nations further

away. China is another nuclear neighbor nearby, and India, Pakistan, and China all have disputed territory in the regions where their countries meet.

As martial law was lifted, the power struggles began anew, over a background of heavy narcotic use, and civil unrest, continuing until the mid 90s, when the issue became graft in government and economic growth in the private sphere. Pakistan remains a major player in world drug trade, and illicit sales of drugs are a major factor in their economy. The United States has tried to change this, but to no avail.

In addition to these social factors, Pakistan is religiously fundamentalist. Recently, someone said that Mohammed was probably a member of a pagan tribe before he became the Prophet. While possibly historically accurate, this man is being tried and will most likely be executed for his opinion.

The Russian Federation

The Russian Federation has a population of 146 million and a population density of 22 people per square mile. Russia is the largest country in the world. 82% of the citizens of Russia are Russian, 4% are Tartar, and the rest are of various ethnic backgrounds thanks to multiple relocations and numerous migrations. The two most widely practiced religions are Russian Orthodox Christianity and Islam. The Government is a Federal Republic led by Vladamir Putin.

Russia spends 5.8% of its GDP on defense. With a GDP of 620 billion dollars, its citizens have a Per capita GDP of 4,200 dollars. This is a fraction of the GDP of the United States, indicating that Russia is one of the less economically well off nations. Major trade partners include Germany, the United States, and China. The life expectancy of a Russian man is 59 years, and the life expectancy of a woman is 72 years. The birth rate is 0.964%, and the death rate is 1.496%. This makes Russia one of the few European countries where the death rate outpaces the birth rate. Education is mandatory between the ages of 7 and 17 and Russia has a 99% literacy rate.

In the 19th century, Russia expanded eastwards, until it hit the Pacific. In 1905, Russia's pacific fleet was defeated soundly by Japan. This was a rather embarrassing defeat for Russia, but the government survived a negotiated peace. WWI ended economic progress and Russia sent 2 large armies against 1 German army in the opening days of WWI. Reinforcing that Army cost the Germans and stopped any chance of success on the western front, but the Germans held the Russians for 2 years. Then the Germans sent Lenin "home," releasing him from prison to do so. Soon, the troops were going home and the provisional government in Russia was threatened. Russia took very heavy casualties and its men were poorly equipped. This led to revolt. In 1917, the revolution began with strikes by workers. A democratic provisional government was put in place after the Czar was deposed, but Russia had yet to withdraw from the war. Communists led by Lenin overthrew this provisional government. Lenin arranged for peace with Germany in

exchange for a portion of the western territories. Following Lenin's death, Stalin took power in 1924. Trotsky was supposed to be Lenin's successor, but Stalin had the backing of the army. Many years later Trotsky was murdered in Mexico. Stalin's purges of political rivals began shortly after he came to power. Stalin's army support was ironic, as some of his earliest purges were within the army. These early purges of experienced officers cost Russia when war with Germany finally came about. In 1939, Russia and Germany signed a non-aggression treaty. Stalin didn't trust Hitler any further than he could throw a boulder, but Stalin was caught unprepared and went into hiding for 2 years, initially offering little direction. In 1941, Germany attacked Russia. Russia moved its factories out before the German troops moved in. As a result of errors that were Hitler's personal decisions, the Russian winter, and the mud that followed, the German army was unable to subdue Russia. The USSR sent 10,000,000 men against the Germans, tying up many German troops and adding another front to the war. The Kazaks and Turks that Russia sent to face Japan in China turned the tide on that front. Following WWII, the United States and the Soviet Union eyed each other cautiously. The United States feared Russia intended to invade the rest of Europe, and the USSR soon had nuclear weapons of its own. The next 50 years were of course the Cold War.

In 1953, Kruschev became Party Chairman and also assumed control of the USSR. Kruschev was anything but a fan of Stalin, and began a process of de-Stalinization. This involved correcting mistruths spread during Stalin's administration, destruction of posters and statues of Stalin, renaming things named after Stalin something else, and so on. On becoming President, Kennedy found that the Eisenhower administration was planning to invade Cuba using Cuban refugees as shock troops. He pulled back from the overt intervention and moved the invasion site, support and other arrangements trying to mask US involvement. As a result, the invasion failed and the survivors of the Bay of Pigs were captured a rather than being able to escape into the interior and start guerilla activities. Castro turned to the USSR to protect Cuba from a second more serious attempt at invasion. The USSR responded by providing nuclear missiles. The Cuban missile crisis came about when the United States discovered the USSR was trying to place missile silos

in Cuba, which would allow the USSR to bomb Washington in a manner of minutes. The United States had missiles in Turkey which were already as threatening to Moscow as the Cuban missiles would be to the United States, but the United States didn't feel the situation was balanced. Kruschev was hoping that both sides could withdraw their missiles after he matched the US by placing missiles in Cuba, and was guaranteed that Cuba would be left alone. Kruschev was under pressure from hard-liners in the Communist party to be tough with the west. In return for Russia not placing missiles in Cuba, the United States agreed to remove the Turkish missiles. The United States removed the missiles from Turkey and replaced them with better missiles, after allowing the Russians to save face and avoid nuclear war.

In 1964, Brezhnev replaced Kruschev. During the 60's and 70's, the USSR and China extended massive amounts of aid to North Vietnam. The United States felt it "got back at" the USSR by arming and training Afghanistan rebels when they attempted to drive out the Soviet troops propping up a puppet regime of the USSR in 1979. In 1988, Soviet troops were withdrawn from Afghanistan, ending a brutal and bloody conflict. The rebels trained by the CIA didn't necessarily like America. Terrorist groups in Afghanistan which are opposed to the United States are able to draw on the same resources that the United States provided them with.

After Brezhnev, the leaders chosen for the USSR kept dying of old age after short periods of time in office. Older leaders were chosen because they held more conservative views. Eventually, they appointed Gorbachev, who was much more liberal. He held summit meetings with President Reagan, helping to relax tensions. In 1987, A number of peace treaties were signed with the United States. At home, he attempted to expand freedoms and cause the government to become more democratic. He also wished to bring about economic reform. This was Glasnost (openness) and Perestroika (restructuring). Many of the more conservative Communists opposed these changes, leading to an attempted Coup in 1991. Then Mayor of Moscow (later President) Yeltsin opposed the coup, and saved the captured Gorbachev, who was restored to power, but still he and

Yeltsin clashed. Gorbachev remained a Communist in a nation where the party was discredited, and tried to go slow on economic reform. Yeltsin wanted to see a capitalist democracy established and rejoin the western world. Gorbachev was in control of the Soviet Union, a multi-state nation, and the leaders of several states wanted to get rid of him. Yeltsin was now President of Russia, so he proposed the dissolution of the Soviet Union in favor of a Confederation of Independent States. This left him in charge of the largest chunk of the former Soviet Union. While portions of this Confederation still work together and negotiate as a diplomatic bloc, Russia does more or less what it wants. In 1992, subsidies on goods were eliminated, causing prices to rise far above the ability of average citizens to pay. Under the old system, goods such as bread, cigarettes, and cabbage were priced artificially low. After restrictions were lifted, people charged as much as they could get for their goods. This was massively inflationary. In 1993, many of the state run industries were privatized. In 1995, troops were sent into Chechnya to prevent it from breaking away from the rest of Russia. Russia pulled its troops out two years later, only to send them back after several terrorist episodes and a threat to keep doing so until Chechnya was recognized. In 1998, Russia's economic problems grew worse, leading to a number of cabinet positions being re-arranged and officials resigning. This has been likened to re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic to try to prevent it from sinking. This eventually led to the resignation of president Yeltsin, in favor of ex-KGP leader Putin.

South Africa

South Africa has a population of about 43 million people living on the edge of the African Savannah, most of which is used as pastureland.

South Africa is divided ethnically. About 75% of the population are of assorted black descent including a major block of Zulu people, 14% are Europeans, while various mixtures of the two comprise about 9% of the population. There are 11 official languages, including Afrikaans, English, and various native dialects. Christianity is the religion of about two-thirds of the people, while another quarter follow native religions.

The government of South Africa is a republic, presided over by President Thabo Mbeki.

South Africa has a GDP of 296 billion dollars, with a GDP per capita of $6,900. The economy is mostly service based, with industry and mining of Gold, Uranium, and diamonds of major importance. Major trade partners include the United States, Germany, and Japan.

The average South African citizen has a life expectancy of 50 years if male, and 51 years if female. The birth rate is 2.54%, while the death rate is 1.46%. 82% of the population is literate. Aids is a major factor in the low life expectancies in South Africa. The disease has reached epidemic proportions there, and shows no sign of decreasing its spread. There are also a large number of orphaned children who have Aids as a consequence of the infection and subsequent deaths of their parents.

South Africa was originally a colony founded by the Dutch. The entire southern half of the continent was originally claimed as South Africa, back in the mid 1700s, but a tribe of Africans called the Zulu challenged that claim. The Zulu warriors were the best fighters on the continent. They were partially nomadic and partially agricultural. They

began a thousand years ago on the North side of the continent and would move a village at a time south, staying in place for a few years, and then continuing on to the next village south. Entire tribes took on the Zulu and lost. Eventually, it became a regular pattern. The Zulu would march on a tribe, and that tribe would retreat south. After a thousand years of this, both the retreating tribes and the Zulu hit the southern shore of Africa, but by this time that area had been claimed by the Dutch. Since South Africa is so far south, agriculture there mimics that of the Northern Hemisphere. Crops grown in Central Africa won't grow far to the south. The Dutch brought European crops capable of surviving in South Africa, as well as herd animals suited to the environment.

A battle ensued. The Dutch had muskets and masted boats. The Zulu had spears and reed canoes. The Zulu very nearly won, but finally the Dutch managed to hold the Zulu back from their encampments. By the time they were finished, the Dutch controlled only the very tip of Africa, and their colony was surrounded by several tribes of various origins who had been retreating from the Zulu.

From these origins came the nation of South Africa. After freeing themselves from Dutch rule, the same area was colonized by the British. They set up a government to control the native population and maintain a colony for trade purposes. Eventually, in 1910, South Africa declared independence from the United Kingdoms. This allowed the Dutch population to retake control, but disenfranchised the black population.

In order to do this, South Africa maintained an oppressive Apartheid government. It used the native population of Africans effectively as slave labor, giving them few rights, little land, and harshly putting down any resistance. The form of government was termed apartheid, and became a major point of conflict, both nationally and internationally.

The battle against apartheid in South Africa has been considered one of the major milestones of the last century. The key to the entire struggle was Nelson Mandela, who was a socialist rebel imprisoned by the government between the years 1963 and 1990.

During these years, there were protests and violent uprisings throughout South Africa. It was during this period of time that the South African government went through a very serious and thorough transformation. Before giving the black population of South Africa the right to vote, the government of South Africa systematically changed itself, though slow but steady bills and legislation, from an apartheid government into a constitutional republic.

Finally, with the release of Mandela and other party leaders in 1990, the black population of South Africa was given voting rights. This lead to Mandela's election to presidency of the African National Congress in 1991, and the presidency of South Africa in 1994. Since these events, South Africa has been relatively peaceful, with only a few small retributive actions against the oppressive white population.

The economy of South Africa is one of the strongest on the African continent. With a GDP of nearly three hundred billion, South Africa has more buying power than any other country in Africa. While the unemployment rate in South Africa is rather high, the export industry, South Africa's biggest enterprise, has not slacked since it first became a colony in the 17th century. The standard exports of South Africa are gold, diamonds, heavy machinery, and most importantly Uranium. In fact, South Africa is the third largest source of Uranium in the world, and the largest source outside of either Russia or the US.

Taiwan

Taiwan, officially known as The Republic of China, has 22 million citizens. Of those, 84% are Taiwanese, and 14% are mainland Chinese. The official language is Mandarin Chinese, but Taiwanese is widely spoken. The reason it calls itself The Republic of China is that it officially claims to be the legitimate government of China in exile. This is also the reason the official language is Mandarin. It is worth noting that the Taiwanese are clearly in the majority. The primary religions are Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism. These religions comprise 93% of those in Taiwan, with another 5% following Christianity. The head of state is President Lee Teng-hui and the Prime Minister is Vincent Slew. Taiwan spends 4.7% of its GDP on defense, and has a GDP of 308 billion dollars. This means it has a per capita GDP of 14,200 dollars. Major trade partners include the United States, Hong Kong, and Japan. The life expectancy for men is 74 years, and the life expectancy for women is 81 years. The birth rate is 1.463, and the death rate is 0.532%. Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 5 and 15. 94% of Taiwan is literate.

Taiwan exists in the shadow of one of the world's most powerful militaries, but the US never seems willing to sell it the best available weaponry. There was one exception, the sidewinder Air to Air missile. When it was first used on attacking Migs from the People's' Republic, 5 defending jets brought down 12 of 15 intruders, but one Mig got back across the Formosan strait with an unexploded sidewinder through its wing. That missile was soon being dissected with care by admiring Soviet scientists and Engineers. Since then, Taiwan has not gotten the latest equipment in the US arsenal. There has always been tension, since Taiwan has at the heart of its political doctrine ideas that put it directly at odds with China. Taiwan clearly has cause for concern, and this will doubtlessly factor into the personalities of its citizenry. While there will be many Asian cultural impacts, there will presumably be many western ideas as well, thanks to its robust trade with the United States and Japan, which is itself rich with adopted Western ideas.

In the 17th Century, large scale Chinese immigration began. Taiwan became a part of Japan when it was captured in 1895, but it was returned to China following World War II. China, of course, was on the side of the allies. China then began a lengthy civil war between those groups that favored Communism, and those groups at odds with the Communists. The communists won, and in 1949, Kuomintang supporters fled mainland China, invaded Taiwan, but said they were the legitimate government of China in exile. Since China had a UN Security Council seat, the government in Taiwan retained that seat, since according to the United States "Taiwan was the real China." This did little to relax tensions between the US and China. In 1978, the United States of America officially recognized mainland China as the "real China." This forced the United States to sever diplomatic ties to "that other China," but trade and other contact remained. Most importantly, the United States continued to protect Taiwan. Theoretically, if China were to launch nuclear weapons at Taiwan, the United States is supposed to respond by launching nuclear weapons at China. Likewise, if China were to invade the United States would defend Taiwan. Why the United States would defend a government that doesn't officially exist isn't perfectly clear, but clearly the US Navy is the major line of defense of the nation, and regularly conducts war games in the area.

In 1987, Taiwan lifted martial law after 38 years. Martial law had been in place ever since Kuomintang forces fled there. As time passes, those who invaded are growing old and dying. This has allowed some changes to come about. In 1991, emergency rule was ended, allowing free elections to take place. 1996 marked the first direct presidential election. Since then, the Nationalist party has remained in power, but has faced increasing competition from other political parties. Both Taipei and Beijing have considered themselves the "real China" since 1949, but signs have recently appeared as of July 1999 that Taiwanese officials might be shifting their stance. Taiwan has resisted innumerable attempts to reunify it with mainland China, and these attempts often included threats and shows of force, but have never included a full scale invasion of even Quemoy and Motsu. These are two smaller islands closer to the mainland, both of which are so close that teams

of Frogmen have been known to pass each other in the night going opposite ways, without acknowledging one another.

Switzerland

The nation now known as Switzerland began in the 1500's as an alliance of several cantons (their major political sub-division, analogous to states in the USA) in the Holy Roman Empire. Eventually they gained autonomy and started conquering the surrounding area. They were very successful and expanded their borders until losing to a larger force of combined French and Venetian troops. Since losing to the aforementioned forces, they decided to remain neutral and cease expansions, but prevent conquest from the outside. They did so, but kept a large "standing" army, Swiss Guards worked as mercenaries for other countries and the Pope at the Vatican. The mercenaries were hired by the unit, rather than by the individual. This mercenary tradition and the money it generated were the beginning of the Swiss reputation as bankers. The mercenaries were well respected, and as a result of cyclic hiring, most Swiss citizens had military experience. The Swiss pike tactics and unit movements were so good that all other major nations tried to copy them. When firearms became more prominent on the battlefield, pike tactics were influential in how troops were organized and employed on the field. They stopped working as mercenaries when they started ending up on both sides of the battlefield. This was a part of an international treaty that prevents them from hiring out as mercenaries, except for providing bodyguards for the Pope, as that had become something of a tradition. During the Napoleonic wars in the early 19th century, Switzerland was conquered by Napoleon and forced to fight for him. However, in both world wars, Switzerland maintained neutrality. There were some German sympathizers in the German section, but they were largely prevented from accepting German refugees. Their government is a confederation, which means that most of the power lies with the canton (each canton sets tax rates and deals with policy). Most Swiss speak Swiss German, Italian, and French. Most also speak English and High German. Switzerland has three sections, a French region in the southwest near France, a German region in the north near Germany, and an Italian region in the southeast near Italy. Geneva is in the French part and is very international; it has been the site of numerous treaties and negotiations. Zurich is in the German part and is very clean and well run. Zurich is known primarily for its

banking. Bern is the capital, and is located in the German region. The Swiss are considered relatively private people. They don't say hello to strangers or concern themselves overly much with what their neighbors are doing. The country is considered very affluent; taxis are BMW's and Mercedes. Goods in Switzerland also tend to be expensive. Vacationers and luxuries such as watches and chocolates are important parts of their pattern of trade. Switzerland has two big chains of stores, which are similar to supermarkets, but also sell clothes, gas, and act as banks. Use of public transportation is very common. They don't have ticket takers on the public transportation, they just have police officers that occasionally come on and check tickets, fining offenders 60 Swiss francs if they don't have a ticket.

Appendix C:

Special Information index:

The following articles and essays are meant to be distributed to the players in the game. Immediately before the first appendix containing the character sheets there is a chart indicating which handouts should go to which players. Two items that should be noted again, however, are the facts that every player should receive copies of the news articles, but no player should receive copies of "what really happens." Necessary information provided by the player's government is contained in the culture briefing sheets regarding these news articles.

The Plot:

New York Times
India's New Toy
January 14, 20--

India rocked the world today when they announced the underground testing of a hydrogen bomb in their Pokhran Special Weapons testing facility. Although this is not a new technology, it is a very advanced and dangerous weapon, and current tensions with Pakistan make its very existence in India a threat to world security. While they have no new comments on the topic of war with Pakistan, they continue to say that they "will never lose another war to Pakistan again, no matter the cost."
The Pakistani ambassador had this to say...

Newsweek
Pakistan performs marvel of engineering, at India's expense
February 26, 20--

As of yesterday, the Pakistani have accomplished a completely new and unique feat of engineering. The project, termed Mission Watershed, was to deliver more water to a small village on the border of India and Pakistan by diverting a small river. The real marvel comes from how they accomplished this. A small, truck-portable nuclear device

was used at a strategic location along the river's course. Russia tried to perform similar feats of engineering years earlier, but managed only to create unusable water as a result of radiation.

The bomb was designed to produce a nearly clean explosion, with as little residual radiation as possible. The project's prime benefactor, a wealthy Pakistani businessman, commented saying, "It has been my desire all along to help the less fortunate people of my country. While it may not seem a worthwhile investment now to assist this small and impoverished village, this new inflow of water will allow the farming industry in that area to flourish." When asked about the impact on India, he replied that, "My environmental experts assure me that the impact on the environment will be inconsequential, and that no harm will come to India's ecosystem."

India, of course, refutes this statement vehemently and is currently talking the United Nations council about reimbursement...

CNN
China finds new Allies in the Muslim Bloc
March 16, 20--

"And in other news, the Republic of China has opened negotiations with Iran to sell them one of their old nuclear reactors. While this has been in the works for several months, the actual opening of the talks have created an uproar throughout it's surrounding nations. Most prominently, Israel has submitted a formal protest to the United Nations Security Council to prevent Iran from getting their hands on fissionable materials. Rumors persist that China will veto any such motion of censure. And in other news..."

London Post

Russia sells Military Advisors to Taiwan

March 21, 20--

The former USSR has agreed to a deal in which nearly one hundred of their most famous, experienced, and capable Spetsnaz officers and troops are sent off to Taiwan to train, educate, and advise the Taiwanese national guard under the new Taiwanese nationalist movement along with other Russian advisors. China's official position on Taiwan holds that it is rightfully a part of China. China, of course, is furious with their former allies, however can do nothing directly without losing the extremely profitable and delicate Taiwan or risking conflict with the United States.

The Taiwanese nationals claim to have no wish for military conflict with China, noting the comparative difference in size and size of armed forces (Taiwan has a standing army of less than 10,000 people). Rumors have been flying that Russia sold more than advisors to China. Certain factions wonder at Taiwan's need for military force.

The Russian president commented on this saying, "This is of course merely a rumor..."

Washington Post

Star Wars is Reborn, Says US Government

March 23, 20--

The president has issued a bill to Congress today in response to the growing nuclear tensions around the world. The bill is in support of a new Star Wars like program to create a more effective defense against nuclear weapons. The United Nations, however, is claiming that this is a violation of the spirit of the START II treaty, signed by the United States governing nuclear disarmament. Although the president himself refused to comment, the cabinet was out in force defending his position as one of needed defense

in times of growing hostility and tension. Similarly, members of the private sector have donated large sums of money to the development of nuclear defense systems. The growing public support of this position also strengthens the government's resolve.

England's Prime Minister has sent a formal letter to the president beseeching him to change his position...

CNN

New deposits of Uranium Found

March 25, 20--

"The nation of South Africa has announced today that a new deposit of Uranium has been found in the Orange Free State, the central area in that country. Already the third largest source of Uranium in the world, (outside of the United States and Russia) South Africa may well become the largest source of fissionable materials in the world. They have also announced that they will be looking for markets for this new wealth of mineral in the near future..."

London Post

France breaks treaty with nuclear test

March 26, 20--

France has angered the signatories of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) today by doing aboveground testing of nuclear weapons on its old Fangataufa Island test site. France is one of only a few nations not to sign this international agreement to not conduct aboveground nuclear tests. While this is not a formal act of war, it does mean that there is no binding force preventing another nuclear arms race like the Cold War. The

Prime Minister has announced his intentions to do everything in his power to bring peace to the growing atmosphere of distrust and tension...

CNN

England announces nuclear peace talks

March 28, 20--

England has announced that it will be holding Peace Talks in Switzerland to discuss the growing nuclear tensions that are engulfing the world. The following countries have agreed to join the talks:

India, Pakistan, China, Russia, Iran, Israel, Taiwan, America, South Africa, France, and Egypt, Japan, and England are hoping to act as moderators along with Switzerland.

The talks will take place in April and will meet over the course of several days...

And here's what really happened (For GM's eyes only)

India's New Toy

Yes, India really detonated a hydrogen bomb. This is an increase in their current level of nuclear technology, and they're producing more at present.

Pakistan performs marvel of engineering, at India's expense

Just in case India had forgotten, Pakistan decided to prove that they've been working on some new toys as well. This stunt was accomplished with some good old-fashioned know how and a bit of duct tape. The engineers of the explosion hoped to contain the radiation near the blast site in a glassy layer, and currently don't believe the water has been overly polluted.

China finds new Allies in the Muslim Bloc

Well, China has decided that now is as good a time as any to reveal the deal they've made with Iran. They're going to be sending over an old Russian plant design, but it should be fairly safe. Iran, of course, has been trying to get its hands on nuclear power for years. And in fact, they really do plan on just using it as a power plant. They see it as a sign of strength in the international world to have it, and are pleased that it will anger the United States. China doesn't intend to transfer nuclear technology; it simply wishes to sell a power plant and train its initial operators how to use the controls.

Russia sells Military Advisors to Taiwan

Russia really is in some dire straits for money. And why pay your elite military forces when someone else is willing to pick up the tab and pay you for the privilege? Some of these advisors were on the committee that decided where to target the nukes in the event that the Americans really attacked the Russian government. So why should Taiwan need them? To advise them on the best place to send their own nuclear device (singular), in the event that China should invade.

Star Wars is Reborn, Says US Government

This has the potential to be the single most controversial waste of time in the history of mankind. Star wars is a touchy subject (in fact, it could touch off heated arguments, another arms race, or even possibly nuclear war itself). Why would the United States government bother when the nation's brightest minds agree it won't work? Because the gracious Senator from Iowa and the now somewhat more wealthy Senator from New York decided that putting a multi-billion dollar grant into certain hands was a good idea.

New deposits of Uranium Found

This is what it seems, a bad thing. Materials for more nuclear weapons, in the hands of an impoverished government, cannot be construed as a good thing. The nuclear material could be used simply as fuel for nuclear reactors, but if South Africa were willing to sell some of its Uranium illegally it could make quite a bit of money. The government is hoping to make new allies and generate new sources of revenue with the money. South Africa also has a very large portion of its adult population infected with Aids. The potential deaths of a large percentage of their adult population will do nothing to stabilize their international relations.

France breaks treaty with nuclear test

Why aboveground testing? They decided to conduct aboveground testing to confirm their theory that the new design of their bomb would generate far less fallout than earlier weapons designs. This hypothesis had been tested in underground detonations as much as possible, but further data was very difficult to obtain. Also, this device leaves an area safe for re-habitation within a matter of years rather than decades. This is the one and only test, so they have no problem playing by the rules from now on. They have collected the data they desired. The theory behind going ahead with the testing was "it is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission."

England announces nuclear peace talks

And so it begins…

Economic Summary

The following list summarizes the economic positions of the various nations in the game. GDP is the Gross Domestic Product, or a measure of the overall wealth of a country. The GDP/Capita is a measure of the average wealth per person for a country. Please not that this figure is an average, and the majority of people in a country will be earning either somewhat less, or somewhat more than this figure.

Countries:	GDP	GDP/Capita
China	4.8 Trillion	3,800
Egypt	200 Billion	3,000
France	1.3 Billion	23,300
India	1.8 Trillion	1,800
Iran	348 Billion	5,300
Israel	105 Billion	18,300
Japan	2.95 Trillion	23,400
Pakistan	282 Billion	2,000
Russia	620 Billion	4,200
South Africa	296 Billion	6,900
Taiwan	357 Billion	16,100
UK	1.3 Trillion	29,800
US	9.3 Trillion	33,900

International Tensions

The following is a chart of the relative tensions between various nations in the game. It is not exact, but is intended to provide direction where ambiguity may lie.

Tensions: The tensions of each country are on a scale of 1 to 5, with a 1 being peaceful alliance, and a 5 being a state of war. A country's tension towards itself is it's internal state of dissonance.

Tension Key:

1 - Peaceful Coexistence

2 - General Tolerance (Normal attitude)

3 - Dislike and Distrust

4 - Edge of War and Extreme Dislike

5 - Outright Warfare and Hatred

Name	China	Egypt	France	India	Iran	Israel	Japan	Pakistan
China	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3
Egypt	2	1	2	2	2	3	2	2
France	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
India	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	4
Iran	2	1	2	2	2	4	2	1
Israel	2	2	2	2	4	1	2	3
Japan	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Pakistan	3	2	2	4	1	3	2	2
Russia	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
S. Africa	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Taiwan	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
UK	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2
US	3	2	2	2	3	1	2	2

Name	Russia	S. Africa	Taiwan	UK	US
China	4	2	3	2	4
Egypt	2	2	2	2	2
France	3	2	2	4	3
India	2	2	2	3	2
Iran	2	2	2	2	3
Israel	2	2	2	3	1
Japan	2	2	2	2	2
Pakistan	2	2	2	2	3
Russia	3	2	1	3	3
S. Africa	2	3	2	2	2
Taiwan	1	2	2	2	1
UK	2	2	2	1	1
US	3	3	1	1	2

AIDS in Africa

Unlike the comparatively small problems in America with AIDS, this ravager of the human immune system is rapidly reaching epidemic proportions in Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa alone accounts for over 80% of the world's deaths by AIDS and AIDS related diseases. It also accounts for about 70% of the total cases of the disease in the world, but is not among the most populous nations in the world.

Why, then, is this particular region of the world so vulnerable to a disease transmitted not by the very air as such plagues as small pox, Ebola, and the black plague? No one factor can explain this phenomenon, but cultural differences play a major part. While in the United States the disease may seem to be easily preventable; this is not the case in Southern Africa.

The first and simplest reason for the spread of Aids is probably denial of the disease's transmission mechanism, and in some cases, even its existence. There are a great number of Africans, both educated and not, that believe that the disease is evidence of Western and apartheid warfare against the black race. Many of these people then begin to work against the health workers' attempts to stem the spread of the disease, speaking out against such measures as abstinence, condoms, and drug treatments, as a way of fighting back against the foreigner. The current president of South Africa believes that poverty, not sex, is the cause of Aids. He has chosen as his advisor one of the few scientists or doctors who disagree with the wide body of evidence suggesting that Aids is the result of the sexually transmitted HIV.

The second reason is the sexual culture of many areas of Africa. In these areas, men are encouraged by their society to have intercourse with as many women as possible, leading to an exponential rate of infection. These cultural practices are related to pre-colonial polygamy. The high infant mortality rates mixed with an agricultural society in need of help farming made having many children advantageous. There are other factors

related with the sexual culture that aid the spread of the disease, although they are not fit for discussion here.

The third major factor in the spread of Aids in South Africa is the comparative poverty of the nations of Africa. Neither the governments nor the people can afford to pay for costly treatment and prevention programs, and the people suffer because of it. Even the more affluent governments, such as that of South Africa, chose to allocate funding elsewhere. Rather than spending millions of dollars to acquire drugs and medical professionals to stem the spread of Aids and provide treatment for those who already have the disease, the government instead spent millions of dollars on military technology.

Much like any other plague, the AIDS epidemic in Africa is having far-reaching social and economic effects. As most new infections occur between the ages of 14 and 19, death tends occur in the middle of one's 20's, when a man or woman is the most productive. This is depriving many areas of both skilled and unskilled laborers, hurting the economy drastically.

Furthermore, many of the victims are parents. AIDS is leaving a vast wake of orphans that the nations and cities of Africa are ill equipped to deal with. This is leaving Sub-Saharan Africa in even greater economic distress.

The drastic effect on the society, economy, and culture from the Aids epidemic and the massive depopulation that is almost certain to result from it will have unforeseen consequences for Africa and the world as a whole. Wars have started over far less, and a nation on deathwatch might do anything at all.

Islam, the Straight Path

Islam is one of the most widely practiced religions in the world, only slightly behind the multitude of Christian churches in terms of numbers of worshippers. However, to the average Westerner, the religion is shrouded in mystery, or perhaps hatred, as he never sees anything but reports of yet another Islamic terrorist in the Middle East. Almost all followers of the religion have nothing to do with terrorism. The question that must be asked, then, is "What is Islam?"

Islam is the third of three major religions descended from the ancient religion of the Hebrew tribes, the other two being Judaism and Christianity. As Christianity differs from Judaism by the acceptance of Christ as the Messiah, so does Islam add a prophet, and the Prophet of Islam is named Mohammed.

For the people of Islam, Mohammed delivered to them the Koran (Qu-ran), which is the written word of God. To the Islamic worshippers, there is no such thing as interpreting the Koran, or translating it. It is to be read in the original Arabic, and the original Arabic alone. Its meaning is to be taken to be exactly what the words say. Unlike Jesus, Mohammed chose to deliver his teachings as law, rather than as parables to be puzzled over and debated. Since the faithful have both the exact word of Allah, and a living exemplar of how to live that word in Mohammed, all debate and argument over the meaning of those words has become pointless.

It is worth noting that Islam acknowledges all the prophets of Judaism and Christianity, but believes them to have strayed from the path that Allah (The one God) set forth for them. This is due in part to their belief that the Koran is the final word of Allah. Consequently, one finds that to the educated Islamic mind, followers of Judaism and Christianity are not mere unbelievers, but instead, heretics fallen from the favor of Allah. This is arguably much worse than being a mere unbeliever. This is a relatively recent theological conclusion. In the past, Christianity and Judaism were seen as other religions

of the book and were often allowed to live unmolested in Islamic countries. Furthermore, it is believed that a man or woman who dies in a battle for Allah will gain immediate entrance to the eternal Paradise in the afterlife. When both of these facts are viewed together, it is immediately obvious why so many young men will sacrifice themselves as in the news clips at 8. It is only a small fraction of the Islamic community that condones such activities, but they are a very active and loud minority. Additionally, as a result of the crusades, the Arab world has seen westerners as invaders often in the past, and is likely to suspect them of similar behavior in the future.

Despite this, we cannot fall into the trap of believing Islam to be a religion of warmongers and terrorists. Islam preaches, in many, many cases, forgiveness and brotherhood. However, this forgiveness is often tempered by an understanding of the harsh realities of desert life, and a sometimes-striking understanding of men.

Also, the Koran was the first single document accepted as law that guaranteed what the west considers the basic rights of women, including a husband's duties towards his wife and the property rights of women. However, these rights, as well as the rights of a man, can be taken away by failing to follow the laws of the Koran.

Much like Christianity, the leaders of the Islamic communities have not always chosen to walk the same path, and a number of branches exist. Unfortunately, these sects tend to be much like the sects of Christianity were in the past, fighting each other with great zeal.

Shia Islam is distinctive because of a belief in the Imamate. An Imam is both a spiritual and worldly leader. This arose from the claims of Ali to the Prophethood upon the death of Mohammed. However, in the past, there were only a total of twelve of these Imams, the last of whom disappeared from the world as a child. To this day, the Shia believe this Imam to be hiding from the world, waiting for the day that Allah commands him to return to it as a Messiah. Around these beliefs, a powerful clergy came into being,

similar in scope and role to the Catholic Church of the Middle Ages. This has lead countries where the Shia doctrine is widely accepted to become theocracies more often than not.

Sunni Islam is the next major variant of Islam. This branch shares many of the Shia beliefs, only there is no strong clergy. A committee instead makes decisions. This committee makes its decisions based upon one of several legal schools. Theology and law are so intertwined in Islam that it is impossible to point to where one ends and the other begins. This is what makes Islam as a religion so involved in politics and government. Sunni Islam is by far the most widely accepted branch.

Sufi Islam should also be mentioned. Sufi Islam is a spiritual side to Islam, intent on finding an understanding of Allah and the Prophet. However, while not incompatible with other branches, it is considered by many adherents to be alien to Islam. Sufis dance and whirl in an effort to commune with Allah and reach enlightenment. Their fundamental theological disagreement with the rest of Islam is whether or not man can or should attempt direct communion with God through a means other than prayer. The whirling dervishes are an example of a Sufi group. Sufis are just one of many other branches of Islam in the world, showing a wide diversity of belief within the central beliefs.

Pan Arabism

In the 12th century, the Middle East was controlled by one of the most culturally and scientifically advanced civilizations in the world at that time. Much of Greek philosophy and medicine only survived to the present day through Arabic translations. Gradually, this changed. After a number of western crusades, and the failure in the 15th century of Arab forces to conquer the rest of mainland Europe, the Arabic world became increasingly fractious and technologically disadvantaged.

Still, even today, almost all of the Middle East shares Arabic as their common language and Islam as their common religion. They are all ethnically and culturally closely related to one another. In some ways, it seems very logical to suggest political and military alliances with the aim of eventual (re)unification. This desire for one unified Arab nation in the Middle East is known as Pan-Arabism, and it is a notion which has existed for at least a hundred years in its present form. In World War I, the Allies encouraged Pan-Arabism to help bring additional force against the Turkish front. After World War II, the movement led to the creation of a number of the modern countries in the region, such as the United Arab Emirates, the United Arab Republic, and others. The existence of Israel has long been a rallying cry for Pan-Arabism, and the Camp David Accords between Israel and Egypt are considered a major blow against Pan-Arabism, as was the death of Egyptian president Nasser several years previous to that treaty.

Oil has long been a political and economic weapon used internationally by Arab countries. The Gulf war is considered another movement away from Pan-Arabism. Saddam Hussein considers himself a Pan-Arabist, but appears to have intentions of accomplishing his aims by force. Other neighboring countries chose to ally with an outsider rather than be threatened by Iraq. Today, many of the Arabic states have a Ba'athist party, which is a party in favor of Pan-Arabist aims. In 1994, talk began of an "Arabic NATO" to provide collective defense without dependence on outside powers like

the United States for military protection. Towards this aim, Iran and Egypt have begun talks to try to bring about more friendly relations. As Egypt is one of the most moderate nations in the area and Iran one of the most conservative, this is a bold move on both nations' parts. The future of Pan-Arabism remains uncertain, but it does seem likely that the idea will be around for a long time to come.

How Nuclear Weapons Work

Nuclear weapons come in all manners of shapes and sizes, with a variety of effects upon detonation, but all are designed to be destructive. The classic fission nuclear bomb was the easiest and first to be manufactured, and consisted of enriched Uranium or Plutonium. Fissionable materials give off neutron radiation, and the neutrons given off in this manner are capable of splitting apart other atoms, which give off energy and more neutrons. If the material gives off enough neutrons so that on average more than one atom splits for every neutron that is given off, a chain reaction results. This reaction happens very quickly, and gives off an enormous amount of energy. The chance of a neutron splitting apart a neighboring atom is dependant upon how close it is to other atoms, and how many atoms are nearby. Additionally, some materials absorb neutrons while others reflect them. If neutrons are absorbed, it makes it less likely for a chain reaction to take place, and if neutrons are reflected it increases the probability of atoms splitting. The mass of nuclear material that is required to bring about a chain reaction and therefore a nuclear explosion is referred to as a critical mass. In order to prevent a premature reaction, nuclear weapons are designed so that the act of detonating them causes the critical mass to be assembled. One might think of two cylindrical chunks of Uranium that are slammed together incredibly fast, each cylinder less than a critical mass but both comprising at least the critical mass for that particular nuclear material. Most nuclear materials give off neutrons relatively reluctantly, but some, such as weapons grade Uranium and Plutonium give off neutrons more often. This means that a critical mass of these materials is much lighter and smaller and therefore easier and more reliable to build. Plutonium is such a good reactant that the explosion must be more precise and rapid, or else the material would react before the two pieces impacted each other. This would cause the two pieces to explode away from each other enough to prevent a full reaction. Another way of creating a nuclear bomb would be to make a sphere of nuclear material surrounded by explosives so that when detonated all the explosives would explode simultaneously, applying uniform compression to the sphere and causing it to have a critical mass by reducing its volume. In order to build such a bomb, the United States had

access to hundreds of the best minds in the world on the subject. They were the ones who initially worked out how to create a nuclear chain reaction in the form of a bomb, and it was they who designed the infrastructure to produce and refine weapons grade Uranium and Plutonium from the Uranium mined from the ground. Plutonium is an artificial element. It was man, using nuclear reactors, which created almost all the Plutonium on Earth. While it is theoretically possible to create a nuclear weapon from fuel grade Uranium, it would be very difficult and the bomb would be a great deal more cumbersome. In order to build the bomb after it had been designed, expert machinists had to build the bomb with great precision. Chemists had to ensure the explosive would be very reliable, very powerful, and would react very quickly so that the slabs of material were propelled or compressed.

All nations that have developed nuclear weapons since the Manhattan project have had a number of advantages when trying to create their own nuclear fission devices. Many countries have received information on some of the specific details of the design and fabrication from the United States directly or indirectly. Some acquired it because they are allies, others acquired it via espionage, or by negotiating with the nations that had gained nuclear weapons technology by either of the previous methods. Some of the more recent nuclear powers may have done much of the research themselves, but much more is now in textbooks and publications than there could have been before nuclear fission weapons were invented. This means that the major stumbling blocks against a nation developing a working nuclear device are getting precise machined parts, high quality explosives (which are now more readily available than they were in the 40's), and the nuclear material itself. After Uranium is pulled from the ground, it must first be refined. In order to produce weapons grade material one needs a nuclear reactor. A nuclear power plant may well be such a reactor, but the reactor doesn't need to be nearly that large. Additionally, a nation may be able to purchase nuclear material that has already been prepared. There are international treaties and many cooperating national law enforcement agencies to prevent the legal or illegal sale of such materials. Additionally, if a nation is suspected of having a nuclear weapons program, its fuel grade materials are usually

closely watched. Even so, it takes less than a hundred pounds of weapons grade material to build a nuclear bomb, and the actual reactor required is small compared to the size of even a tiny country.

Nuclear fusion weapons, on the other hand, are much more advanced and difficult to produce. In a fusion warhead, hydrogen is fused together to create helium in a manner which produces energy. The reaction requires a tremendous amount of energy to get started, and in order to create a fusion chain reaction there are a number of conditions which need to be met. The power source used is in fact a fission bomb; one uses a fission bomb to set off a fusion bomb. The destructive power of a fusion bomb is much greater than a fission bomb, and it is fusion bombs that the major nuclear powers had pointed at each other throughout the cold war. The hydrogen used in fusion bombs includes deuterium and tritium, both of which are forms of hydrogen that have one or two neutrons instead of none. This helps to encourage fusion reactions for reasons that are difficult to understand without some understanding of higher level physics. Phrased vaguely, the extra neutrons make the hydrogen move slower, and help hydrogen stick together. Deuterium and Tritium are difficult to obtain, and engineering a device to bring about a fusion chain reaction is very difficult. This puts creating a fusion nuclear warhead out of the reach of most countries. Nations who already have nuclear reactors and an economic and scientific base might be able to produce such weapons if they became inclined. One such country that could almost certainly build a fusion bomb would be Japan, as they are presently the world's leaders in fusion as a potential but as yet unrealized source of electrical power.

The next category of nuclear weapons might be called third generation nuclear devices. When a nuclear reaction takes place, there are a number of things produced by the weapons that are damaging to the enemy. A great deal of heat, a form of kinetic energy, is produced. There is also a great deal of radiation, including neutrons, alpha and beta particles, and gamma rays. Gamma radiation is the most penetrating of the three, as gamma rays are a form of light rather than a massive particle. There is also a powerful

shock wave created when the bomb detonates, which can level buildings and simulate earthquakes. Additionally, the matter near where the blast takes place becomes radioactive and is expelled away from the blast sight. This fallout is deadly to the enemy for many years to come, and this fallout can be carried enormous distances by wind currents. After the United States understood how fusion bombs worked, nuclear testing continued to try to understand how the construction of a bomb affects the strength of the weapon as well as relative proportion of the aforementioned effects. A neutron bomb, for example, is a hypothetical or perhaps realized weapon that has relatively little fallout, heat, or shock wave, but produces an enormous amount of lethal radiation with the intent of killing living beings but leaving little damage. The original impetus for research into neutron bombs was a hypothetical full-scale tank assault on Western Europe. Tanks are relatively resistant to the heat, blast and fallout, and one wouldn't want to make Europe unlivable to prevent its invasion. Radiation, on the other hand, would kill the drivers and crew of those tanks, as the armor wouldn't stop the lethal radiation that would be produced. It is also possible that those who started research on the neutron bomb were undertaking the process in the hopes that it could be used as a form of propulsion in space. When news of the neutron bomb became more public, the thought of dropping a bomb on an enemy city and invading a week later, taking over the prize intact, seemed far too sinister. It would be possible to design nuclear weapons that consisted of primarily heat and shock, perhaps to crack open enemy missile silos or destroy massive fortifications and bunkers. It is not unreasonable to assume the United States make progress in these areas of research, although the extent of such progress is difficult to determine. Even if the United States found out it couldn't develop these kinds of weapons, there might be motivation to cause your enemy to think you have such capabilities as a form of deterrent. Similarly, it seems quite reasonable that the Soviet Union conducted similar research, but proving that beyond a shadow of a doubt on a civilian level is quite unreasonable. Third stage weapons still generate radiation, fallout and heat, but they have managed to shift the relative percentages in one direction or another.

Nuclear Power Plants

Nuclear power plants generate electrical power from fissionable material kept in fuel rods or pellets. The rods or pellets are designed to allow for replacement after their nuclear fuel has been spent. Raw Uranium needs to be refined before it can be employed to generate nuclear power. As the Uranium slowly decays, it gives off energy and neutrons. These neutrons can encourage neighboring Uranium atoms to split and give off energy. In a nuclear weapon, this process is encouraged to the point where a chain reaction occurs, and the amount of energy produced climbs exponentially. Reactors are designed to prevent an uncontrolled chain reaction. Graphite absorbs neutrons and helps to reduce the rate at which fission occurs. In most modern reactors, in the event of a major problem such as loss of electronic control of the reactor or the beginning of a melt down, the reactor will scram. Scramming basically means all of the control rods are dropped as fast as possible into the reactor, absorbing all the neutrons and preventing almost any energy from being produced. A melt down occurs when a reaction is allowed to proceed too rapidly and the reaction material exceeds its melting temperature. This means a pool of melted fissioning Uranium is on the bottom of one's reactor and there is little that can be done. This can produce all sorts of problems, including outside contamination as steam is vented to prevent even worse problems. Since the nuclear material is not only radioactive but probably toxic as well, the fissionable material isn't allowed to come into direct contact with anything outside of its own closed system. The fuel rods heat up the pool of water in which they are kept, and that water is circulated through a heat exchanger. The hot water from the reactor heats different water through the side of its pipes. This heated water is sent into a region that has lower pressure, which allows the water to boil at a lower temperature. The steam generated in this manner is allowed to pass through a turbine, which spins. This spinning turbine rotates a dynamo. The dynamo involves rotating magnets near coils of copper wire to generate electrical current.

One may wonder why the needed number of control rods is not calculated and then left in the reactor, to prevent tinkering from accidentally creating problems. Control rods are inserted dynamically because the output of the reactor changes as fuel rods wear out. When loaded into the reactor, the fuel rods contain their requisite amount of Uranium. As time passes and fission occurs, the Uranium gives off energy and is no longer available to produce energy. Additionally, Uranium is very expensive. When additional control rods are inserted, a plant generates less energy. The excess energy isn't wasted because the splitting of random Uranium atoms doesn't cause other Uranium atoms to split. While the power plant needs to constantly receive electricity to maintain safety unless they wish to totally shut down the reactor, they can turn it down on low when the demand is decreased. If there is a major problem such as the local generators failing after the power lines are knocked down by a storm, and then the plant is forced to shut down. After shutting down, it takes a long time and a great deal of money to get the plant up and running again. Ideally, power output is maximized at all times for financial reasons, but this is not always possible. Owning operating, and disposing of waste from a nuclear plant is very expensive, costs which are only offset if power is being generated.

In general, nuclear power plants operate without major safety concerns for the surrounding community. There have only been three major incidents since the creation of nuclear power, and those incidents led to steps to try to prevent future occurrences. The major problem with nuclear power is the waste generated. After exposure to high levels of radiation, even common objects such as pen caps and pennies can become major health concerns. The question is "Where can these items be stored until such time as they are no longer harmful?" Also, there are concerns that terrorists could steal nuclear material from a plant or intercept the Uranium before it reaches the plant.

Nuclear power plants are not only a source of electrical power. Within the reactor, different radioactive elements and isotopes are being generated. Weapons grade nuclear material, such as Plutonium, is produced in nuclear reactors. If a reactor is designed specifically to generate more material that could fission in an effort to extend life,

then that reactor is known as a fast breeder reactor. The promise of a fast breeder reactor is limitless energy, but due to the amount and potency of the waste it produces, the United States and France have both abandoned their research in the area. Japan is the only nation continuing to research in that area. The waste of a breeder reactor contains an unusually high amount of weapons grade material. A fast breeder reactor multiplies the amount of weapons grade material available to its owner many times. Having said this, even conventional nuclear reactors can be used to generate weapons grade material.

In the Chernobyl accident, the operators manually pulled up all of the control rods and switched the controls to manual. This was during a training exercise. The reaction was far too complicated to monitor by hand, and a meltdown occurred. The reactor was supposed to be electronically controlled at all times. It is believed in the nuclear community that if properly trained personnel had been operating the reactor the accident would have never taken place. Additionally, Chernobyl was an older design of reactor. Newer reactors are safer and have more precautions put in place to prevent things like that from occurring. Many nations, such as France and Japan, generate nearly all of their electrical power from nuclear power plants.

Mirving

Nuclear missiles and the warheads they carry are expensive investments in time, money, and technology. Their stated purpose is to dissuade attacks from other nations. This goal is only served if one can convince the enemy that in the event of nuclear war, retaliation would be effective and brutal. During the cold war, one strategy to multiply the threat of a nuclear missile was to place more than one warhead in a single missile. This is known as Multiple Reentry Vehicle technology, or MRV. A more sophisticated technology is to equip the warheads so that they can strike multiple targets independently. This, logically, is referred to as a Multiple Independent Reentry Vehicle, or MIRV.

MRV's deploy more than one warhead, often but not always at the same target. MIRV's on the other hand, have the capability to strike more than one target by targeting their warheads independently.

The Start II treaty prohibited use of multiple warhead missiles on intercontinental ballistic missiles and restricted their use on shorter-range missiles, but the only two nations beholden to that treaty are the United States and Russia. Neither country is currently in full compliance with that treaty, but the time period to reach the specified levels of disarmament leaves both countries a few years left to reduce their arsenals.

Placing multiple warheads on a rocket requires stabilizing multiple warheads and, in the case of MIRV's, targeting those warheads independently. This, along with the requirement for additional heat shielding and the weight of the additional warheads, makes deploying multiple warheads a more challenging feat of engineering. The fact that most nations can't effectively test their MIRV warheads before using them makes their development even more challenging.

Missile Targeting

Missile targeting is essential to make full use of a nuclear arsenal. If a nation has nuclear weapons and rockets capable of carrying something to another continent but lacks guidance and targeting technology, then they are less of a threat.

The simplest strategy to target warheads is to perform calculations based upon the weight of the rocket and warhead, the friction of the atmosphere, the shape of the warhead upon reentry, and so on. Using these calculations, the rocket is fired so that the warhead will impact where desired. The launch profile of an ICBM is very different from a satellite launch, but the technical know-how and resources required to make effective calculations are very similar. Texts on this subject are not restricted, nor are they terribly difficult for skilled engineers to derive. Since most modern nations allow foreigners to attend college in their countries, it is difficult to prevent other nations from acquiring the capability to 'target' nuclear weapons using this technique.

A more advanced technique for targeting nuclear warheads is to use satellite guidance to help target and maneuver the weapons after they have been fired. The Global Positioning System enables United States military personnel to calculate the location of anything with enormous precision. In order to prevent enemies from using this technology, the last few digits of the information from the GPS satellites are encrypted. The accuracy of the satellites can be adjusted at will by the Air Force. Other nations could design their own satellite network, but more elegant solutions present themselves. It is entirely possible to perform calculations upon the satellites to get back the digits of encrypted information without actually decrypting the signals. This is known as a differential GPS receiver. Ordinary civilians have designed and constructed such devices on their own for a relatively small amount of money, suggesting that other governments could do the same and make use of this information to target their missiles. While the United States could shut down the GPS system, if the US didn't know that the enemy was making use of their own GPS signals, they might not think to do so. While shutting them

down would negatively impact the US military's capabilities, the US has the capability to encrypt the entire signal. Since differentiable receivers may require some of the GPS signal to derive the rest, it is possible that the US could prevent the enemy from co-opting their resource through these means.

Even without GPS satellites, other means of satellite navigation exist. Nations with the capability to launch ICBM's also are able to launch satellites. Nuclear missiles could be directed based on radar information, or they might work via a target designation system. Target designation requires someone or something to use a device, such as a laser target designator, to mark a particular target. After the target is marked, a weapons system can home in on the specific signal. Both radar and active target designation require having personnel closer to the site of detonation than halfway across the world. Even so, it need not be a suicide mission, as target designation and radar equipped hardware can be further away than the blast radius of a nuclear weapon and still function.

Above and beyond the actual targeting, it is important to have good rockets if one desires precision. Having a rocket which fires when told to do so greatly increases the chance of hitting something, which is presumably better than nothing at all. The warheads themselves must be protected against the heat of reentry into the earth's atmosphere. They also need to be stabilized so that one can predict where one's own warheads will fall. Calculating complicated launch trajectories is aided greatly if computers are available. If the only computers available are outdated, calculations will take a very long time, but can probably still be performed. If advanced computers are not available, the various launches will need to be calculated ahead of time and will be difficult or impossible to tailor on the fly. This is one area where many different kinds of civilian technology can advance one's military capacity. Even though a wealthy nation will have access to more resources and more advanced computers, it should not be forgotten that given enough time and properly educated technicians these calculations could be worked out on paper. This means that while technology helps, it is not essential for rough targeting. The technology really

makes a difference when one talks about higher levels of precision, such as targeting an individual missile silo rather than a missile base or New York City.

Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction

Nuclear weapons, nerve gas, and biological weapons all are considered Weapons of Mass Destruction. Having stated that, nuclear weapons are the ones that receive the most attention. One may logically ask, are nuclear weapons any worse than other available WMD?

Nerve gas and other chemical weapons can kill a great many people, and are relatively easy to synthesize when compared to building a nuclear weapon. They also don't have the disadvantage inherent in biological weapons that after it has been used; it can spread back to one's own troops. If wind conditions are poor, it might blow in an unexpected direction, but when compared to nuclear weapons, which can make the location used unlivable for decades, they seem far more sanitary. While it is possible to create antidotes for some nerve agents and other poison gasses, this is by no means certain for all compounds. While deploying nerve gas in missile form is more complicated because one wishes to deploy it over a large area but not create temperatures so high that the gas is damaged, these obstacles are not insurmountable. A weapon delivering nerve gas or biological weapons would deploy a number of sub-munitions that would dispense the gas or biological agent.

Biological weapons are harder to develop from scratch than nerve agents. After one has a biological weapon, one can create a great deal more by culturing it. It might be impossible to create an antidote for a biological weapon, and after it is released it can spread back to one's own population. This makes it very effective as a doomsday weapon, but not terribly effective as a strategic weapon. To create a biological weapon from an existing virus or bacillus, one would experiment and select strains that showed desired characteristics. Ebola, for example, is too potent for use as a biological weapon. It kills its victims before they can spread the disease to a large number of other victims, and it is difficult to transport outside of human beings. If one had some samples, one might try to select for a more prolonged death or greater capacity for transport. Although

not ideal in terms of incubation time, Ebola demonstrates the potential ease of "inventing" a biological weapon from a virus. Ebola already exists; it is merely a matter of finding and collecting it. This kind of development is probably more dependant on chance than a chemical weapons program, as it relies on the virus or bacillus' own random mutations for the process of refinement.

One might wonder why nuclear weapons seem to be feared more than these other potential killers are. The reason has to do with the use to which nuclear weapons are put. Nuclear weapons are a deterrent, and they are possessed in great enough numbers by the United States and the Soviet Union to kill almost all, if not all, of the human species. Possession of nuclear weapons and effective delivery systems means that a country is big and powerful. The perception that one is big and bad is desirable, and many nations have decided they wish to join that club. They believe they can use nuclear weapons as a negotiating tactic and tool for intimidation. Nuclear weapons aren't something that any sane government is ever supposed to use. On the other hand, conventional weapons have killed millions of people over the years. Chemical and biological weapons fall into this category. They aren't necessarily meant to threaten, at least not entirely. A country may plan to use a chemical weapon in some limited fashion against their enemy, but a nuclear weapon would generate a decidedly negative counter-attack from some ally of the targeted power. Biological weapons are far more dangerous to use and are seen as somehow less threatening. This means that nuclear weapons are desired for psychological reasons rather than military reasons. The display of scientific prowess and destructive potential is what is usually desired, rather than a device to kill many people at once. Phrased bluntly, other Weapons of Mass Destruction are seen as less stylish and slick than nuclear weapons are.

Star Wars and SDI

The earliest anti-missile defense programs involved firing nuclear missiles at the ICBM's that were targeted against one's own country. These programs were developed by both the United States and the USSR, but relatively few sites were built because Anti Ballistic Missiles, ABM's, were limited by the START I treaty to two sites each. The United States began closing down its sole ABM site almost immediately after it was built because it relied upon radar to target the ABMs. Radar is blinded by the intense electromagnetic pulse generated by a nuclear detonation, so the ABM system would go blind before it could be usefully employed. In 1983, President Reagan stated in his national address that the United States would be undertaking a massive anti-nuclear-missile program. This proposal, referred to as Star Wars or the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), was immediately attacked on multiple fronts. There were allegations in Congress that this program was merely an excuse to increase defense spending and that the program would not work, but the program went through.

Billions of dollars were spent to develop a system of supercomputers and lasers in space that were supposed to target enemy missiles and destroy them. The entire system was supposed to be automated and the devices that destroyed the warheads were either supposed to be lasers or nuclear weapons. One idea to come out of the program was the X-ray lasers, which supposedly would work by detonating a nuclear weapon in such a manner as to create a focused beam of high-energy X-rays that could be used to destroy incoming missiles. Tests were conducted, but their success or lack thereof is unknown. Of the 9 components of the SDI system, only 2 were even moderately successful in tests. With the decay of the Soviet Union in 1992, the United States moved towards a smaller program that could defend a specific theatre of operations against a smaller number of ICBM's or shorter-ranged nuclear missiles.

This program is still continuing today and involves research in targeting, lasers, and anti-missile missile technology. The fate of this program was altered as a result of the

Gulf War. In the Persian Gulf War, Scud short-range ballistic missiles were used against American troops and its allied countries. Fighter missions to destroy the Scud sites were largely unsuccessful because the mobile launchers were hard to find and were moved frequently. The military reported a high degree of accuracy with their Patriot missile launchers, which had originally been designed to fire against enemy fighter craft. After the Gulf War, the number of missiles shot down was revealed to be much less than announced. This is presumably because the military wished to reassure both its own troops and its allies that they were safe from attack. Israel had to remain out of the conflict to maintain the delicate balance between Arabic and non-Arabic countries. Scud missiles weren't particularly dangerous, as they couldn't carry a very large payload. Although there was concern that Iraq could use biological or chemical weapons in their rockets, it has not been demonstrated that they did so during Desert Storm. The initial success reports of the Patriot missile batteries encouraged Congress to authorize a program of National Missile Defense.

The National Missile Defense program demonstrated a success record of 1 missile shot down in three tests. It displays no capability to deal with even elementary efforts to confuse it, such as launching random scrap metal (such as a number of soda cans) along with the missile to confuse it's targeting. The status of this program is uncertain, and the direction has shifted away from an all-encompassing shield and towards a smaller program designed to protect against a less robust threat. Whether the program will be scrapped or will be invested in more heavily to overcome its technological shortcomings is as yet uncertain.

Tricking Star Wars

The Strategic Defense Initiative and all related programs to protect against missile attacks from a foreign nation rely on detecting an incoming missile and precisely hitting the missile before it strikes its final target. Detection methods include satellites that recognize the size and shape of a warhead, or radar sites that notice incoming metal. Systems might also be based upon mathematical calculation from the known characteristics of takeoff to predict where it will be at a later time, but there are methods to circumvent precise detection. Most, if not all, of these methods are far less expensive than the cost of developing and implementing a SDI system. Furthermore, developing countermeasures forces the nation embarking on missile defense to spend even more money trying to overcome those new countermeasures.

According to experts, it seems likely that an emerging nuclear power wishing to avoid destruction of its nuclear weapons would employ chaff, balloon decoys, radar absorbing materials, low powered jammers, and modifications to their warheads. Warhead modifications might involve Reentry Vehicle separation, RV spin-stabilization, RV reorientation, and booster fragmentation. Decoy strategies aim to overwhelm the defense so that it can't reliably hit the real weapon. In the case of chemical and biological weapons, producing so many smaller weapons that there is nothing that can be done to prevent some of them from hitting also makes use of an overwhelm strategy. Decoys are much cheaper to build than actual weapons, and they force one's target to either fire at everything that looks like a warhead to their sensors, or to not fire at anything and allow the real weapon to hit. If a nation made their warheads not look like warheads through the use of jammers or through varying the appearance of the warheads themselves, it would be even more difficult to spot the real target. Chaff is any material that will reflect radar well, so that the actual location of the target is obscured by a large amount of shredded aluminum cans and left over tinfoil. If one conceals decoys with chaff as well, then those decoys are all the more realistic and hard to detect as fakes. It is also possible to create electronic decoys. If the warhead contains a radar jammer to prevent

interception, the target may attempt to lock onto the jammer. To prevent this from being effective, launching a large number of jammers that aren't attached to the warhead will probably function effectively.

Most of these countermeasure methods were mentioned with radar in mind, but analogous methods exist for other technologies. Cooling a warhead to prevent infrared detection is similar to coating a warhead in material that is radar absorbent. If a lot of rocket material is reentering the atmosphere at the same time as the warhead, then it will also be generating infrared radiation and acting as both decoys and chaff. Detection by spy satellite would be difficult if decoys were employed that were the same size and shape and moved in similar ways. It has been suggested that metallic balloons would be appropriate for the task, as they would fool both radar and visual targeting.

Many American scientists and engineers have been critical of the current SDI proposals for these very reasons. It seems clear that in this case, the technology to tear down a state of the art weapons system is far less difficult to produce than the state of the art system itself.

Why other nations dislike SDI

In large part, the cold war was not so much about what one side or the other was doing, but what one side felt his adversary was doing. The entire notion of force as a deterrent is based on the premise that if one side were to attack, the other side would counter-attack so effectively that both sides would be annihilated. Whenever one side or the other threatened to outpace the other, or to gain a significant tactical advantage, their enemies became frightened and angry. This is the situation into which Strategic Defense falls. China, Russia, France and England dislike the idea, despite their disagreement on other topics. While the United States doesn't necessarily intend use it to attack Russia or China, it would allow the United States to do so with some level of impunity. After a working system is operational, it wouldn't be possible to counterattack an American nuclear attack. Consequently, the Soviet Union or China might reach the decision that to prevent the system from going operational they must launch an attack before it becomes operational. That didn't stop the United States from researching in that area, and it doesn't prohibit theatre level defense systems such as the one currently being developed by the United States.

One might ask how important a SDI system is against a smaller nuclear power. Presumably, the missiles of such a power would be easier to target. Unfortunately, countermeasures against SDI systems appear far less expensive than SDI or the nuclear weapons being protected. This of course assumes that the warheads are launched in a ballistic trajectory, rather than smuggled into a port or fired from the sea. Both of these delivery methods afford little or no opportunity to stop such an attack.

Other nations can't see SDI as a deterrent, as its mere existence is a threat. Their only alternative is to attempt to build SDI systems of their own to prevent American ICBM's from hitting. Unfortunately, SDI and even smaller theatre-defense systems are almost outside of the United States' technological and financial capabilities. China, which only maintains a few dozen missiles capable of striking the United States, is in no position

to develop such a system. Russia, which is having major problems creating a stable and productive economy out of a train wreck, is also in no position to be doing such research. England and France dislike the idea because it creates international tension. Additionally, there is no guarantee that the United States and Europe will always be allies. Three hundred years ago, nobody would have suspected that the major European powers would join together economically and militarily to try to stand up to the economies of America and Japan and the military might of Russia. The only conclusion that can be reached is, there are many good reasons for other countries to dislike the United States offering to protect the world from nuclear weapons, even if the United States feels it is only attempting to protect its citizens and allies.

Bilateral and International Treaties

Past treaties almost always have an impact on treaties that follow. There have been a number of treaties restricting nuclear weapons in some way, both bilateral and multilateral. Bilateral treaties exist between the United States and the Soviet Union, and have been adopted by the states that came into existence after the Soviet Union broke up.

The first major bilateral treaty was the result of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, also known as Salt I. Salt I was the result of negotiations from 1969 to 1972. The treaty was carefully phrased because the Soviet Union and the United States had different numbers and kinds of nuclear weapons.

Salt I was not a permanent treaty, so Salt II talks began in 1972 to create a more permanent weapons limitation agreement. As a result of various factors, this treaty was never signed, although negotiations continued through 1979. The Soviet Union agreed to abide by the unsigned treaty, but in the mid-80s this agreement fell through on both sides.

Start I was the first weapons reduction treaty. Start I established specific weapons reduction goals and categorized weapons separately. Start I also includes provisions for both sides to inspect the other to insure that weapons reduction goals are indeed being met. Satellite Soviet states agreed to abide by the treaty after the dissolution of the USSR. Start I also restricted the use of nuclear weapons systems designed to target incoming missile systems to two sites. Rules do not prohibit a laser based defense system, but the act of investigating missile defense that one's opponent can't also obtain is against the spirit of the Start I treaty.

The Russian Government ratified Start II in 2000. It calls for additional reduction of nuclear weapons, including the destruction of all multi-warhead intercontinental ballistic missiles. The reduction goals of Start II have yet to be met, and Start II must near

completion before future arms limitation talks between the United States and the Soviet Union can take place.

The treaties just discussed are bilateral treaties between the United States and the countries that were once the Soviet Union. Multilateral treaties also exist that restrict nuclear weapons in various ways.

The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty prohibits the sale of nuclear weapons or explosives by the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, China, and Russia to other nations that don't possess nuclear weapons. It also prohibits the transfer of information on how to create nuclear weapons to states that don't already have nuclear weapons. Furthermore, this treaty requires that all civilian nuclear plants be accounted for. All fissionable materials are supposed to be openly accounted for. This treaty is the most widely agreed to treaty amongst world powers. In 2000, 187 countries had signed the treaty. As of that year, only Cuba, Israel, India, and Pakistan have not signed the treaty. The treaty also calls for eventual disarmament. If the nuclear signatories don't disarm, the non-nuclear states will feel that they must arm themselves in order to protect themselves. The United States and Russia are both not complying by maintaining large arsenals. One school of thought holds that the other nations should hold to the treaty, as it is unlikely that one could get the United States and other signatories to sign a treaty like it again. Others hold that the treaty isn't working and a new treaty should be constructed with better potential for enforcement.

A second widely accepted treaty is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. This treaty prohibits any nuclear tests except those conducted underground. Explosions are also required to be less than a certain number of kilotons. Most modern nations have signed the treaty, but there are exceptions. No open-air tests have taken place since earlier provisional bans on open air testing were established.

Additional treaties exist which prohibit the use of nuclear weapons in space, in the Antarctic, and which attempt to prevent terrorists from getting nuclear material. There are also treaties concerning chemical and biological weapons. In short, the signatories agree not to use or mass-produce them. Chemical and biological weapons are worthy of note in a section on nuclear weapons treaties because they are also weapons of mass destruction.

Sun Tzu's: The Art of War

Sun Tzu was a general and philosopher thousands of years ago in China, during one of many periods when the country was divided into warring states. For hundreds of years, it was considered one of the best sources to learn to be a good tactician. It is more than a book on unit formation or how to ford a river; it takes a philosophical approach to warfare. When western readers got a hold of translated copies of it, many recognized it as a brilliant work. Prominent modern tacticians have written books about how The Art of War influenced the Asian perception of warfare. While the book can't be given justice in just a few words, an effort will be made to outline some of the major points chapter by chapter.

In chapter 1, "On Assessment", Sun Tzu makes clear that war is of vital importance to the state and must be taken seriously. He advises prospective generals to examine their troops and assets before they go to war, to make sure their army is better disciplined than that of the enemy. He immediately suggests deceiving the enemy into thinking your force is weaker than it is, or into hitting the enemy so hard he believes the other side to be much stronger than it is. Sun Tzu would much rather trick his enemy than have to expend valuable soldiers fighting him. In the second chapter, "On Waging Battle," Sun explains that war is very expensive, and should be over with as soon as possible. He advises taking food from enemy territory rather than provisioning one's own troops and capturing enemy troops and chariots when possible. The point of this is to not deplete one's homeland whenever possible. In chapter 3, "Planning the Attack," Sun states that it is more important to be strong than to make your enemy weak. Sun Tzu says that the best idea is to attack strategies, the next best to attack alliances, the next best to attack soldiers, and the worst strategy is to attack walled cities. In chapter 4, "Strategic Positioning," Sun emphasizes a good defense. He says one should strive to make oneself invincible, so that the enemy reveals his own vulnerabilities. The vulnerabilities of one's enemies are often out of one's own control. This is accomplished by selecting regions of superior defensibility and holding them, forcing the enemy to come to you.

In Chapter 5, "Strategic Advantage," Sun advises using straightforwardness to fight the enemy, but surprise to win the battle. If one's battles were fought only with fancy tricks, one would be overcome. The trick is to not let them know when you're going to throw in a surprise. Chapter 6, "Weak Points and Strong Points," starts by stating that the army that reaches the eventual field of battle first will be better rested. He then advises being in the position where the battle will take place if possible, but if not possible, to weaken your enemy by drawing him out and harrying him. He also advises attacking that which is not defended, rather than engaging the main force of an enemy. If one's neighboring state was invaded, one might invade the invader rather than charge into the entrenched enemy in the ally's back yard. This forces your enemy to come to you, to return from that which he conquered to deal with you while you are well rested and ready for him. Chapter 7, "Armed Contest," once again cautions against direct confrontation whenever possible. He states explicitly that battle can bring rewards, but can also be very costly. He notes that as the day gets closer to night, morale sags as the enemy gets tired. He suggests reserving your troop's strength and attacking as the enemy weakens, to further break morale. He also warns against attacking a cornered enemy, or following an enemy that feigns retreat, as both of these can lead to turnabouts. It is a good idea to direct enemy troops into a disadvantageous position, but never corner the enemy or you will have to fight all of his men to the death. Chapter 8, "Adapting to the Nine Contingencies," talks about always having backup plans. Always leave yourself an escape route; don't commit everything to one attack. Don't depend on the enemy not showing up; instead; be sure you're ready for him to show up. Even though you should be cautious, he is not advising cowardice. Excessive aggression or concern for your own hide will either get you killed or captured.

In Chapter 9, "Deploying the Army," Sun talks about how one should position one's troops in various terrain so as to not exhaust one's troops or place oneself in a tactically unfriendly position. He once again insists that you leave your troops an escape route and to watch out for things that can trip you up, in a literal and metaphorical sense. Rather than saying superior numbers win the day, a very western way of analyzing war,

Sun Tzu says that any general can win a battle if he is careful. He must analyze his enemy, make sure his men are skilled and not ready to desert, and he must be sure to have a clear plan. Chapter 10, "The Terrain," continues where the last chapter left off, stating that one should be aware of one's surroundings. The difference is, in this chapter he speaks of how various types of terrain in the abstract sense can effect the outcome of a battle. For example, he defines entangling terrain as terrain that is easy to enter but hard to leave. He states that if the enemy is unprepared for your assault, you can defeat him in this kind of terrain, but if he is prepared and you are unable to defeat him, then you are in serious trouble. Chapter 11, "The Nine Uses of Terrain," talks about how you can use various terrain types to your advantage. Knowing what you're supposed to do in various specific kinds of terrain precedes a discussion of how various terrain effects the outcome of battle, and finally leads to a discussion of how to capitalize on various terrain situations. He also continues to include cautionary statements about situations one doesn't want to allow oneself to be placed in. In Chapter 12, "The Incendiary Attack," he discusses how fire can be used to a general's advantage. This is another set of examples of ways to employ general principles established earlier. He suggests burning enemy supplies, making sure you don't put an enemy's back to fire then place yourself in the way of his only escape, and always take note of the direction of the wind. The final Chapter, Chapter 13: "Using Spies" deals with espionage. He goes beyond simply discussing having your men sneak into camp and investigate, he talks about how the locals can be a source of information, or how if you discover a spy you can feed him false information.

While any one of these things seems like common sense, when taken as a whole it clearly has an organized philosophy behind it. While he may appear pacifistic, Sun Tzu is merely efficient. He has no qualms about killing; he realizes that he can't win any battles with a dead army and seeks to keep his own men alive. This, no doubt, led to the historical Sun Tzu having loyal troops. Western warfare has been contrasted to eastern warfare by saying that in European warfare, there is a definitive winner and a loser. Sun Tzu is aware of how you can win a battle or the war and yet still lose in the long run. If you destroy your enemy but reduce your own land to ash, you're just as dead as your

fallen foes. Many have heard of the Chinese curse "may you live in interesting times." This phrase is a curse because, in China, war or an earthquake meant that there would be starvation. Rice grown on one half of the country couldn't make its way to where it was needed. Starvation is the result of war, and starvation leads to more unrest. This means one should avoid war whenever possible, and win it as quickly as possible to make the war end. War is not politics by other means; war is a dirty last resort if you can't find a smarter way to get what you want. War is not a contest of honor; war is an unfortunate circumstance that should be dealt with flexibly and intelligently.

Appendix D: Recommended readings

Hopefully, one planning on running this game has enough information to successfully do so. Many, however, may feel that they do not know enough about the topic at hand or the cultures involved to answer specific questions that arise. It always behooves an instructor to know more than the student, and many instructors will desire to read up on these topics. We do not feel that it is essential to read all of these topics if one already has a strong background in history and the social sciences. Having said that, below are a number of references by topic. We have included a number of web-based resources, since anyone with access to the Internet can get a hold of these sources as long as they remain up. Most if not all of our sources are stable enough that they should be present for years to come. Titles and sites are listed below, but more information is available in the Bibliography.

Books of interest:

Global Sociology: Introducing Five Contemporary Societies.

This work contains information on Egypt that may be useful, as well as information on Japan.

Modern China, Modern India, Modern Iran, Modern Japan, Modern Russia.

This series of books provides information on modern culture in countries around the world. While not all delegations in the game are currently represented, more works may later become available.

The Straight Path, by John Esposito.

This book provides invaluable information and insight into Islam.

Web Sites of Interest:

http://www.fas.org/nuke – This site provides information on the Start Treaties.

http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/nie/nie99msl.html – This site provides useful information on nuclear weapons in general.

http://www.uic.com.au/ne.htm (nuclear power, fast breeder) – This site provides information on nuclear energy.

http://www.stateofisrael.com/ -- A general information sight on Israel.

http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/2975/uk-info.html – Information on the United Kingdoms can be found here.

http://www.info-france.org/famerica.htm – This site on France is very general, but still quite useful.

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