Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AP World Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Modern Issues: Nuclear Proliferation/Non Proliferation**

**Directions:** Read the sources below on Nuclear Proliferation and Non Proliferation. These sources will help prepare you for our Harkness Discussion. Find **one additional resource on your own,** that will help you further prepare.

Use the chart below to organize your thoughts. You should be able to do the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Define and describe your issue |
| WHY is your issue critical? |
| How has your issue had an impact on the global community? |
| Explain solutions that have been proposed. To what extent have those solutions been successful? |

**Questions to consider:** Why is nuclear proliferation a critical modern issue? What has been done to combat nuclear proliferation? What more can be done?

"The States concluding this Treaty... Considering the devastation that would be visited upon all mankind by a nuclear war [and]... Believing that the proliferation of nuclear weapons would seriously enhance the danger of nuclear war... Have agreed as follows: ....

**Article VI**

Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament... "

Source: *Excerpt from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which entered*

*into force in 1970 and has been signed by 187 nations, including the United States. At a review*

*conference of the treaty in 2000, the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, and China, the five original nuclear*

*weapons nations, pledged "an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear*

*weapons."*

"The core problem is that stopping the spread of nuclear weapons requires more international teamwork than the Bush administration recognizes.... Nuclear weapons, material, and know-how are threats wherever they exist, not only in a handful of "evil" states. The United States cannot defeat these threats alone.... It needs sustained cooperation from dozens of diverse nations to broaden, toughen, and enforce nonproliferation rules-including China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and leading states that have forsworn nuclear weapons, such as Argentina, Brazil, Germany, Japan, South Africa, and Sweden. These and other states must be persuaded to strengthen nonproliferation rules.... The nuclear weapon states must show that tougher nonproliferation rules not only benefit the powerful but constrain them as well."

*-*Source: *Universal Compliance: A Strategy for Nuclear Security, Carnegie Endowment for International*

*Peace*

"Nuclear weapons play a critical role in the defense capabilities of the United States, its allies and friends.... Nuclear attack options that vary in scale, scope, and purpose will complement other military capabilities. The combination can provide the range of options needed to pose a credible deterrent to adversaries whose values and calculations of risk and gain and loss may be very different from and more difficult to discern than those of past adversaries....Nuclear weapons could be employed against targets able to withstand nonnuclear attack (for example, deep underground bunkers or bioweapons facilities)."

Source: *Excerpt from Nuclear Posture Review statement of the George W. Bush administration*

[Any serious effort to stop the spread of nuclear weapons requires] "a clear road map for nuclear disarmament....starting with a major reduction in the 30,000 nuclear warheads still in existence and bringing into force the long-awaited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty....We must abandon the unworkable notion that it is morally reprehensible for some countries to pursue weapons of mass destruction yet morally acceptable for others to rely on them for security and indeed to continue to refine their capacities and postulate plans for their use."

Source: Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General of the United Nations International Atomic Energy

Agency, New York Times, 2/12/04

"Throughout the nuclear age, the fundamental goal has been to prevent the use of nuclear weapons. Now the policy has been turned upside down. It is to keep nuclear weapons as a tool of warfighting rather than a tool of deterrence. If military planners are now to consider the nuclear option any time they confront a surprising military development, the distinction between nuclear and nonnuclear weapons fades away."

-Source: *Ivo Daalder, foreign policy specialist, Brookings Institution*

"The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons remains the global anchor for humanity's efforts to curb nuclear proliferation and move towards nuclear disarmament.... Whatever value the concept of nuclear deterrence may have served during the Cold War... it should be clear that nuclear weapons today serve only as an obstacle to peace and security.... For the five countries recognized as nuclear-weapon States under the NPT, their nuclear arsenals are increasingly becoming either a focal point for resentment or cynicism among the nuclear "have-nots," or, worse, a target for emulation for States that wish to pursue clandestine WMD programs."

Source: Mohamed ElBaradei*, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency*

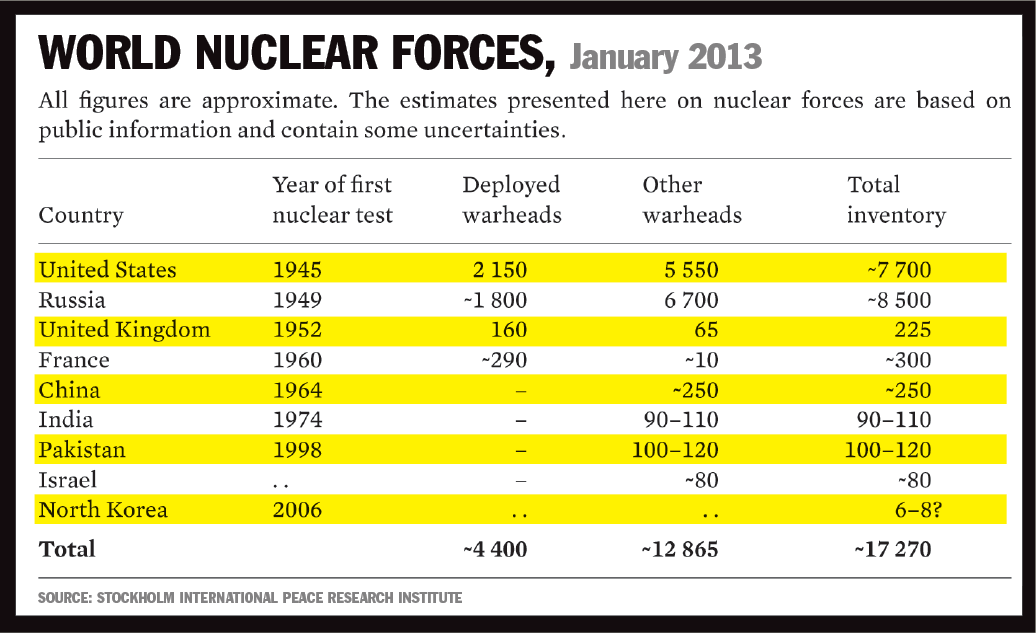
"International terrorism is one of the major threats for Russia. We understand as soon as we ignore such components of our defense as a nuclear and missile shield, other threats may occur....We are not only conducting research and successful testing of the newest nuclear missile systems. I am certain that in the immediate years to come we will be armed with them. These are such developments and such systems that other nuclear states do not have and will not have in the immediate years to come."

Source: *President Vladimir Putin of Russia,* 2004.

“There are also concerns that a “nuclear renaissance” could soon take place, with nuclear energy being seen as a clean, emission-free alternative at a time of intensifying efforts to combat climate change. The main worry is that this will lead to the production and use of more nuclear materials that must be protected against proliferation and terrorist threats."

Source: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Address to the East-West Institute "The United Nations and

security in a nuclear-weapon-free world" October 24, 2008.



**Fill out the following chart with background information on other critical issues:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Terrorism:** |
| **Child Soldiers:** |
| **Environmental Concerns (Global Warming, Desertification, Deforestation):** |
| **Spread of Disease (Ebola & AIDS):** |
| **Refugees:** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AP World Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Modern Issues: Global Terrorism**

**Directions:** Read the sources below on Global Terrorism. These sources will help prepare you for our Harkness Discussion. Find **one additional resource on your own,** that will help you further prepare.

Use the chart below to organize your thoughts. You should be able to do the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Define and describe your issue |
| WHY is your issue critical? |
| How has your issue had an impact on the global community? |
| Explain solutions that have been proposed. To what extent have those solutions been successful? |

**Questions to consider:** Why is global terrorism a critical modern issue? What has been done to combat global terrorism? What more can be done?

**“An Attack on Us All: NATO’s Response to Terrorism”**

Remarks by NATO Secretary General, Lord George Robertson of the United Kingdom, at the National Press Club, Washington DC, October 10, 2001

“The events of September 11 have changed the world. Like the attack on Pearl Harbor 60 years ago, they have seared deeply and unforgettably into our consciousness . . . But unlike Pearl Harbor, it was not just America that suffered. On September 11, the entire civilized word was transformed. In Paris, the headlines read, ‘We are all Americans now.’ On both sides of the Atlantic, pundits are writing epitaphs for the ‘post-Cold-War era’ and birth notices for ‘the age of terrorism.’ Horrifying as September 11 undoubtedly was, it does not in my view warrant this bleak analysis. We do those who lost their lives no service at all by adopting a victim mentality. Yes, we have suffered a great blow. But we have not lost our ability – or our will – to shape events. If this is indeed to become the ‘age of terrorism’, then we will be as much at fault as Osama Bin Laden. I say this because I have been enormously heartened by events since September 11, in NATO and beyond. And because it is already possible to identify a strategy not only to defeat Bin Laden, but to ensure that any terrorist successors remain confined to the margins of history . . . The U.S. government is setting a strong example by its measured determination. No retreat. No knee-jerk quick fixes. No revenge attacks. Instead, there is a deep awareness that this is going to be a long struggle, a struggle in which patience and persistence will be key. Those who expected US unilateralism have witnessed instead a masterpiece of multilateralism – rallying the world behind a common purpose in a way only the U.S. can. This has been coalition-building at its very best.”

Although the term terrorism has been around since the French Revolution and it has been used to describe a variety of differing activities over the past two hundred years, modern terrorism is a new phenomenon. It requires supporting systems from the technological world. First, to be effective, terrorism must be seen and heard. As one terrorist commander summarized, it is better to kill one person in front of a camera than to kill a hundred in a secret location. Terrorists need an audience. The second aspect of modernity’s impact on terrorism involves mobility. This can be done locally or globally. The goal is to get to the target and get away. An attack can originate in the hills of South Waziristan and be carried out in London, or can be launched from a local neighborhood in Boston because the supplies needed for an attack can be gathered from a distance. Finally, the modern world provides weapons or materials that can be turned into weapons. These devices, in turn, are more powerful than instruments of the past. They can be used to kill a relatively large number of people. The destructive power of weapons-grade or homemade explosives have only increased since the Second World War.

Source: Jonathan R. White,author of *Terrorism and Homeland Security and Defending the Homeland.*

Terrorism increased by 80% in 2014 reaching the highest levels ever recorded, according to the [Institute for Economics and Peace's](http://economicsandpeace.org/) annual [Global Terrorism Index](http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/English%20Media%20Release%20GTI%202015.pdf) published on November 16th.

This sharp escalation in violence killed 32,658 people in 2014, compared to 18,111 in 2013, according to the Index. The rise in terrorism can largely be attributed to two groups: ISIS; and Boko Haram, the Nigerian jihadist group that [pledged allegiance to ISIS in March of 2015](http://www.businessinsider.com/isis-accepted-boko-haram-pledge-2015-3). Combined, these groups were responsible for 51% of all terrorism-related deaths in 2014. Terrorism also has a disproportionate impact on a small number of countries. [According](http://www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/English%20Media%20Release%20GTI%202015.pdf) to the index, five countries — Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria — accounted for 78% of all terrorism-linked deaths.  Boko Haram was the single deadliest terrorist organization in 2014, according to the Index. The group was responsible for 7,512 deaths in Nigeria, an increase of 300% from 2013. Overall, Iraq had the highest number of terrorism-related deaths, with 9,929 people killed in the course of the year. The Global Terrorism Index also [noted](http://www.businessinsider.com/www.visionofhumanity.org/sites/default/files/GTI15_Results_Rank_300dpi.jpg) that beyond the number of people killed, the general scope of terrorism also increased. Eleven countries suffered over 500 terrorism fatalities in 2014. In 2013, only five countries were affected by that volume of terrorism.

Source: Business Insider, November 2015

“The Internet is a prime example of how terrorists can behave in a truly transnational way; in response, States need to think and function in an equally transnational manner.”

Source: Ban Ki-moon Secretary-General of the United Nations

Despite increasing international recognition of the threat posed by terrorists’ use of the Internet in recent years, there is currently no universal instrument specifically addressing this pervasive facet of terrorist activity. Moreover, there is limited specialized training available on the legal and practical aspects of the investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases involving the use of the Internet...Technology is one of the strategic factors driving the increasing use of the Internet by terrorist organizations and their supporters for a wide range of purposes, including recruitment, financing, propaganda, training, incitement to commit acts of terrorism, and the gathering and dissemination of information for terrorist purposes. While the many benefits of the Internet are self-evident, it may also be used to facilitate communication within terrorist organizations and to transmit information on, as well as material support for, planned acts of terrorism, all of which require specific technical knowledge for the effective investigation of these offences.

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

**Means by which the Internet is utilized for terrorist purposes:**

For the purposes of the present publication, a functional approach has been adopted regarding the classification of the means by which the Internet is often utilized to pro- mote and support acts of terrorism. This approach has resulted in the identification of six sometimes overlapping categories: propaganda (including recruitment, radicalization and incitement to terrorism); financing; training; planning (including through secret communication and open-source information); execution; and cyberattacks…The promotion of violence is a common theme in terrorism-related propaganda. The broad reach of content distributed via the Internet exponentially increases the audience that may be affected. Further, the ability to directly distribute content via the Internet diminishes the reliance on traditional channels of communication, such as news services, which may take steps to independently evaluate the credibility of the information provided or to edit or omit aspects deemed to be unduly provocative. Internet propaganda may also include content such as video footage of violent acts of terrorism or video games developed by terrorist organizations that simulate acts of terrorism and encourage the user to engage in role-play, by acting the part of a virtual terrorist.

Source: The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, United Nations Office on

Drugs and Crime (UNODC)/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, 2012.

Civilian uranium is found at nonmilitary sites. It is used to conduct scientific and industrial research or to produce radioisotopes for medical purposes. This uranium can also be used to make highly enriched uranium (HEU), which is used in nuclear weapons.

**Overview/Securing Civilian Uranium 235**

Terrorists who acquired less than 100 kilograms of highly enriched uranium (HEU) could build and detonate a rudimentary but effective atomic bomb relatively easily. HEU is also attractive for states that seek to develop nuclear weapons secretly, without having to test them. Unfortunately, large quantities of HEU are stored in nuclear research facilities worldwide— especially in Russia, often under minimal security. The U.S. and its allies have established programs to bolster security measures, convert reactors to use low-enriched uranium (which is useless for weapons) and retrieve HEU from research-reactor sites around the world. Dangerous gaps remain, however. High-level governmental attention plus a comparatively small additional monetary investment could go a long way toward solving the problem for good.

Source: Glaser and von Hippel, “Thwarting Nuclear Terrorism,” Scientific American, February 2006

**Fill out the following chart with background information on other critical issues:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Nuclear Proliferation:** |
| **Child Soldiers:** |
| **Environmental Concerns (Global Warming, Desertification, Deforestation):** |
| **Spread of Disease (Ebola & AIDS):** |
| **Refugees:** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AP World Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Modern Issues: Child Soldiers**

**Directions:** Read the sources below on Child Soldiers. These sources will help prepare you for our Harkness Discussion. Find **one additional resource on your own,** that will help you further prepare.

Use the chart below to organize your thoughts. You should be able to do the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Define and describe your issue |
| WHY is your issue critical? |
| How has your issue had an impact on the global community? |
| Explain solutions that have been proposed. To what extent have those solutions been successful? |

**Questions to consider:** Why are child soldiers a critical modern issue? What has been done to combat the use of child soldiers? What more can be done?

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict represents a leap forward in international law to protect children from the harmful effects of recruitment and use in hostilities. In this section, the Optional Protocol’s most substantive provisions regulating the participation and recruitment of children in hostilities are reviewed. A good understanding of these provisions is crucial to promoting ratification and implementation of the treaty by States.

**Direct participation in hostilities**

**ARTICLE 1**  
States Parties shall take all feasible measures to ensure that members of their armed forces who have not attained the age of 18 years do not take a direct part in hostilities.

Article 1 raises the minimum age of direct participation in hostilities from 15 years to 18 years. Initially, the minimum age for direct participation in hostilities was set at 15 by Protocol I – Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 – and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Additional Protocol II to the Geneva Conventions also sets the standard at 15, but does not make a distinction between direct or indirect participation

Source: Guide to the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, December

2003

The internationally agreed definition for a child associated with an armed force or armed group (child soldier) is any person below 18 years of age who is, or who has been, recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity, including but not limited to children, boys and girls, used as fighters, cooks, porters, messengers, spies or for sexual purposes. It does not only refer to a child who is taking or has taken a direct part in hostilities.

Source: Paris Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups,

2007

To commemorate our 25th anniversary, The Advocates for Human Rights would like to dedicate this issue of Rights Sites News to the abolition of one of the worst forms of child labor, child soldiers. When armed conflict exists, children will almost inevitably become involved as soldiers. In over twenty countries around the world, children are direct participants in war. Denied a childhood and often subjected to horrific violence, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 children are serving as soldiers for both rebel groups and government forces in current armed conflicts. These young combatants participate in all aspects of contemporary warfare. They wield AK-47s and M-16s on the front lines of combat, serve as human mine detectors, participate in suicide missions, carry supplies, and act as spies, messengers or lookouts.

Physically vulnerable and easily intimidated, children typically make obedient soldiers. Many are abducted or recruited by force, and often compelled to follow orders under threat of death. Others join armed groups out of desperation. As society breaks down during conflict, leaving children no access to school, driving them from their homes, or separating them from family members, many children perceive armed groups as their best chance for survival. Others seek escape from poverty or join military forces to avenge family members who have been killed....

Despite progress achieved over the last decade in the global campaign to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, large numbers of children continue to be exploited in war and placed in the line of fire. The international treaty on child soldiers, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, entered into force on February 12, 2002. With over 100 countries signed on, this treaty is a milestone in the campaign, strengthening the legal protection of children and helping to prevent their use in armed conflict....

Source: “Child Soldiers Edition,” Rights Sites News, The Advocates for Human Rights, Spring 2008

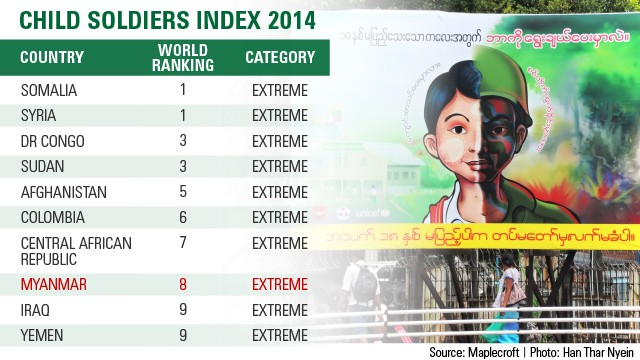
There have been reports of child soldier use in the following countries since January 2011:

Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iraq, Israel, Mali, Myanmar, Pakistan: Philippines, Thailand, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen

Source: Child Soldiers International

Children continue to be recruited and used by both armed forces and armed groups in Afghanistan, a country destabilised by years of conflict. The UN Secretary-General’s 2015 annual report documented this ongoing abuse, with the Afghan National Police, the Afghan Local Police and three armed groups having consistently been listed as parties which recruit and use children since 2010. Recruitment and use of children in Afghanistan is triggered by a complex set of reasons including duty to the family, patriotism, honour and economic difficulties. Inadequate age verification procedures, low levels of birth registration and an easy ability to falsify identify documents facilitate recruitment into armed forces. Children have been both formally and informally recruited into fighting forces. Some children have been used by the Afghan National Police as “tea boys” and guards at check points. Others have been recruited by the Taliban to carry out suicide attacks and plant improvised explosive devices. Children have also been used as spies, in active combat and for sexual purposes. Compounding this abuse, some children suspected of association with armed groups have been unlawfully detained on national security related charges and experienced ill treatment or torture.

Source: Child Soldiers International

** **

The rebels had blockaded the doors and windows with big wooden planks. Inside, one of the rebels told me, were about 20 people. A single voice stood out, that of my friend Mariatu. She was wailing, calling for help, trapped with the others. My eyes darted away from the house to a terrifying sight. Two rebels were shoving Ibrahim and Mohamed up the road toward us….When my cousins were directly in front of us, the rebels grabbed them by the neck and pushed them down hard into the dirt. Using their gun barrels, the rebels nudged the boys until they were back to back. Then they tied Mohamed and Ibrahim together. Next, the rebels forced the boys to stare up into the blinding noonday sun. “Are you the soldiers watching the village?” one rebel yelled at them. “Are you the soldiers? Are you the soldiers?” he shouted over and over again. Mohamed and Ibrahim shook their heads, but the rebel would not relent. The boys started crying. Ibrahim had wet his pants, and I watched the stain grow. I had to look away when the rebel began waving a knife around their bare backs and scalps. I tried to find somewhere my eyes could rest, but the first place they landed was back on the house. Three young rebels, no older than me, were walking alongside it, brandishing torches that set the thatched roof on fire. Everyone inside started to scream as the fire became an inferno. A woman with a baby tied on her back managed to punch through the wooden planks blocking one of the windows. The baby had curly black hair and big eyes that were looking all around. One of the young rebels threw down his torch and grabbed the machete slung on his back. In one violent swoop, he chopped off the woman’s head. The baby wailed as the woman’s body fell back into the house on top of him. Her head rolled onto the road toward me. I started to cry again, and my body convulsed. “Do you want to join them?” the rebel watching over me threatened. Part of me did.

Source: *The Bite of Mango,* Memior of Mariatu Kamara.

As we mark the International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers, tens of thousands of boys and girls are associated with armed forces and groups in conflicts in over 20 countries around the world. “Again this year, the multiplication of conflicts and the brutality of tactics of war have made children extremely vulnerable to recruitment and use,” said Leila Zerrougui, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

In the most recent Annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, 56 of the 57 parties to conflict identified for grave violations against children are named because they are recruiting and using child soldiers. Children are sent to the frontlines as combatants, but many are also used in functions that put their lives in danger such as cooks, porters, spies and informants. During their association with armed groups or forces, children are exposed to high levels of violence. They are witnesses, victims or forced to commit acts of brutality. In addition, a majority of girls, but also boys, are victims of rape and sexual violence. When they are captured or arrested for alleged association with armed groups, too often, children are not treated primarily as victims and denied the protection guaranteed by international norms and standards of juvenile justice.

Source: United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and

Armed Conflict, February 12, 2016.

Human Rights Watch interviewed more than two dozen current and former child soldiers from the former Western Equatoria and Unity states in South Sudan in November and December 2017. Human Rights Watch found that commanders from both government forces and rebel groups have been abducting, detaining, and forcing children, some as young as 13, into their ranks since the warring parties signed the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) in August 2015. The parties to the conflict once again promised to demobilize any child recruited or enlisted by their group to UNICEF by the end of January 2018. However, they have not followed through on this commitment.

Many boys said soldiers abducted them from their homes or off the street, detaining them for days or weeks at times in overcrowded containers, sometimes tying them up. Several described harsh training conditions and physical punishments such as lashing and confinement. “The food was not enough – we had to run, jump, use wooden guns,” said Makuach, a 17-year-old boy recruited by government forces in Unity in 2016. “If you refuse, they punish you by forcing you to stand under the sun, I was tired once and then I was beaten. They poured water over me and beat me with a stick on the buttocks 40 times, until I was bleeding.” As with others interviewed, he is not identified by his real name, for his protection.

Others were forced to commit or witness horrible crimes. “The order was to kill anything we found,” said John, who was recruited by government forces in Unity at 17, about an attack on rebel forces. “Some of us went to loot. Others gang-raped a woman. There were also those who took the children – some of them infants – by their ankles to crush their heads against the trees or any hard thing. And then civilians were taken into a house and the soldiers set it on fire. I saw it.” Many appeared traumatized from the violence and from being separated from their families; almost all said they missed being at school.

South Sudan: Warring Parties Break Promises on Child Soldiers, February 5, 2018 (Human Rights Watch)

**Fill out the following chart with background information on other critical issues:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Nuclear Proliferation:** |
| **Terrorism:** |
| **Environmental Concerns (Global Warming, Desertification, Deforestation):** |
| **Refugees:** |
| **Spread of Disease (Ebola & AIDS):** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AP World Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Modern Issues: Environment**

**Directions:** Read the sources below on Environmental Issues. These sources will help prepare you for our Harkness Discussion. Find **one additional resource on your own,** that will help you further prepare.

Use the chart below to organize your thoughts. You should be able to do the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Define and describe your issue |
| WHY is your issue critical? |
| How has your issue had an impact on the global community? |
| Explain solutions that have been proposed. To what extent have those solutions been successful? |

**Questions to consider:** Why are environmental issues a critical modern issue? What has been done to combat environmental issues? What more can be done?

Desertification is a major environmental problem. Nearly one-quarter of the Earth’s land is threatened by this problem. China is one of those areas.

Whipped by the wind, sand from Sky Desert swept through this village [Longbaoshan] last month like sheets of stinging rain, clattering against dried corn husks and piling up in small dunes against buildings.

Longbaoshan, a farming community about 40 miles northwest of Beijing, stands on the front line of China’s losing war against the country’s advancing deserts. Driven by overgrazing, overpopulation, drought and poor land management, they are slowly consuming vast areas of the country in a looming ecological disaster.

Official figures tell a frightening story.

Between 1994 and 1999, desertified land grew by 20,280 square miles. Desert blankets more than a quarter of China’s territory. Shifting sands threaten herders and farmers in a nation with one-fifth of the world’s population and one-fifteenth of its arable land. Scientists warn of calamity if the government fails to stop the sands.

“Pastures, farmland, railroads and other means of transportation will be buried under sand,” said Dong Guangrong, a research fellow in environmental engineering at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. “People will be forced to move.”. . .

In March, the worst sandstorm in a decade blinded the capital, painting the sky yellow and engulfing 40-story buildings as visibility dropped to less than a football field. Beijingers gritted their teeth as a seasonal storm known as the Yellow Dragon dumped 30,000 tons of sand on the city. People on the street covered their mouths with surgical masks or their faces with scarves in a futile attempt to keep the sand out. . . .

Officials here are trying to stop the sands by building green buffers. A project intended to protect Beijing in advance of the 2008 summer Olympic Games involves reclaiming desertified land in 75 counties. . . .

Source: Frank Langfitt, “Desertification,” The Post-Standard, May 13, 2002 (adapted)

. . . Desertification directly affects 1.2 billion people, and more and more productive land is being lost year by year. It has presented a challenge for governments and aid agencies in over 110 countries for some time, and is a contributing factor in poverty and regional conflicts, for example in Sudan. It has also been a major issue in Egypt, where 90% of the country’s land mass is desert. Faced with a rising population, the government has had to undertake a number of settlement and irrigation projects to create additional living and working space. In China, almost two-thirds of the country and over 400 million people are affected, the worst hit areas being the Gobi desert in the northwest of the country and the Takla Makan desert in the west. . . .

Source: Ute Schaeffer, “Deutsche Welle reporters on the ground,” Down to Earth: News & Views on

Desertification, UNCCD, June 2006, Volume 21

According to the World Resources Institute, more than 80 percent of the Earth’s natural forests already have been destroyed. Up to 90 percent of West Africa’s coastal rain forests have disappeared since 1900. Brazil and Indonesia, which contain the world’s two largest surviving regions of rain forest, are being stripped at an alarming rate by logging, fires, and land-clearing for agriculture and cattle-grazing. Among the obvious consequences of deforestation is the loss of living space. Seventy percent of the Earth’s land animals and plants reside in forests. But the harm doesn’t stop there. Rain forests help generate rainfall in drought-prone countries elsewhere. Studies have shown that destruction of rain forests in such West African countries as Nigeria, Ghana, and Ivory Coast may have caused two decades of droughts in the interior of Africa, with attendant hardship and famine. Deforestation may have catastrophic global effects as well. Trees are natural consumers of carbon dioxide—one of the greenhouse gases whose buildup in the atmosphere contributes to global warming.

Source: National Geographic

At the dawn of the twenty-first century, the Earth’s physical and biological systems are under unprecedented strain. The human population reached 6.3 billion in 2003 and is projected to increase to about 9 billion in the next half century. The United Nations estimates that one-third of the world’s people live in countries with moderate to high shortages of fresh water and that this percentage could double by 2025. Many of the world’s largest cities are increasingly choked by pollution. As carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases build in the atmosphere, the average surface temperature of the Earth has reached the highest level ever measured on an annual basis. The biological diversity of the planet is also under heavy stress. Scientists believe that a mass extinction of plants and animals is under way and predict that a quarter of all species could be pushed to extinction by 2050 as a consequence of global warming alone. Without question, the human impact on the biosphere will be one of the most critical issues of the century. . . .

Source: Norman J. Vig, “Introduction: Governing the International Environment,” The Global

Environment: Institutions, Law, and Policy, CQ Press, 2005 (adapted)

"We must limit global temperature rise to 2 degrees. We are far from there, and even that is enough to cause dire consequences. If we continue along the current path, we are close to a 6 degree increase".

"Too many leaders seem content to keep climate change at arm’s length, and in its policy silo. Too few grasp the need to bring the threat to the centre of global security, economic and financial management. It is time to move beyond spending enormous sums addressing the damage, and to make the investments that will repay themselves many times over".

Source: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations, February

2013.

“Emissions of greenhouse gases — primarily of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels and the destruction of forests — have been rising for decades, interrupted only briefly by economic downturns. They [stalled](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/08/science/carbon-emissions-decline-peak-climate-change.html?version=meter+at+1&module=meter-Links&pgtype=article&contentId=&mediaId=&referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.morningsidecenter.org%2Fteachable-moment%2Flessons%2Fteachable-instant-global-climate-accord&priority=true&action=click&contentCollection=meter-links-click) this year, projected to fall 0.6 percent in part because of the softness of the Chinese economy, in what some experts hope is an early sign of things to come.

Yet 2015 will nonetheless be the hottest year in recorded history, breaking a mark set only one year earlier. All 10 of the hottest years in a global record stretching to 1880 have occurred since 1998. No one under 30 has ever lived through a month of global temperatures below the 20th-century average.

The research organization Climate Central found recently that 280 million people live on land that could eventually be submerged by the sea if warming were allowed to reach the higher number. If it were kept to the lower target, that number would be cut by more than half, to 137 million people.”

Source: New York Times, December 12, 2015

More than 80% of people living in urban areas that monitor air pollution are exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO limits. While all regions of the world are affected, populations in low-income cities are the most impacted…Ambient air pollution, made of high concentrations of small and fine particulate matter, is the greatest environmental risk to health—causing more than 3 million premature deaths worldwide every year. “Urban air pollution continues to rise at an alarming rate, wreaking havoc on human health,” says Dr. Maria Neira, WHO Director, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health. “At the same time, awareness is rising and more cities are monitoring their air quality. When air quality improves, global respiratory and cardiovascular-related illnesses decrease.” Most sources of urban outdoor air pollution are well beyond the control of individuals and demand action by cities, as well as national and international policymakers to promote cleaner transport, more efficient energy production and waste management.

Source: World Health Organization, May 12, 2016

**Fill out the following chart with background information on other critical issues:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Terrorism:** |
| **Child Soldiers:** |
| **Nuclear Proliferation:** |
| **Spread of Disease (Ebola & AIDS):** |
| **Refugees:** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AP World Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Modern Issues: Spread of Disease**

**Directions:** Read the sources below on the Spread of Disease. These sources will help prepare you for our Harkness Discussion. Find **one additional resource on your own,** that will help you further prepare.

Use the chart below to organize your thoughts. You should be able to do the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Define and describe your issue |
| WHY is your issue critical? |
| How has your issue had an impact on the global community? |
| Explain solutions that have been proposed. To what extent have those solutions been successful? |

**Questions to consider:** Why is the Spread of Disease a critical modern issue? What has been done to combat the spread of disease? What more can be done?

... Millions of children in developing nations die from diseases like pneumonia, measles and diarrhea that claim twice as many lives each year as AIDS. Vaccines prevent these basic illnesses. Bill Gates pledges billions of dollars to vaccinate the world’s children. Problem solved. But it’s not that easy.

Money alone won’t rid dirty water of parasites that can blind and cripple. It won’t fix bad roads that keep people from getting care. It won’t end the political corruption and violent unrest that erase health advances. It won’t stop a population explosion that contributes to poor health. It can’t even prevent a rat from gnawing through the power cord of a refrigerator used to store vaccines in a remote West African clinic....

In late 1998, Gates donated $100 million to create a program dedicated to getting new and underused vaccines to children in the poorest countries. A year later, he gave a stunning $750 million to help launch a new superstructure for improving childhood vaccinations, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)—a coalition of international public health agencies, philanthropists and the pharmaceutical industry....

Gates knows that vaccines can’t do it all, not when a regional hospital in Nigeria draws its water from an open pit in the ground. Or where a 6-year-old Ivory Coast boy with a leg twisted by polio faces a life of begging because his mother couldn’t afford a trip to a clinic for vaccines. Or where a broken board on a bridge can halt the shipment of medicine for days....

Source: Tom Paulson, “Bill Gates’ war on disease, poverty is an uphill battle,” Seattle Post-

Intelligencer, March 21, 2001

. . . Across the [African] continent, AIDS has robbed schools of their teachers, hospitals of their doctors and nurses, and children of their parents. Until recently, orphanages have been relatively rare, because in Africa families take in the children of relatives. But AIDS has created some 12 million orphans. Orphanages have sprung up everywhere, and in rural villages, one can find huts where one big sister or one grandmother is trying to find food for 10 or more children. On a poor continent, the disease is overwhelming family love.

At this stage of the epidemic, health authorities say preventing new cases—by distributing condoms, for example—is not enough. In order to spare the continent from complete collapse, something must be done for the millions already infected. But in a region where most people live on less than $2 a day, drugs that cost more than $10,000 a year are not an option. Of the 26 million HIV-infected Africans, only 10,000 have access to the drugs. . . .

Source: Donald G. McNeil, Jr., “A Continent at Risk,” New York Times Upfront, May 14, 2001

. . . Like many countries before it, China has been slow in facing up to AIDS. Misconceptions, taboos and outright deceit have fostered denial among both officials and the broader population. This reluctance to be open and realistic is dangerous, as the experience of other countries shows.

In India, for example, deeply rooted cultural norms and taboos still thwart [hinder] frank assessments and effective preventive measures, even though the United Nations estimates that if the disease is not checked, a mind-boggling 37 million people in India could be infected over the next 10 to 15 years. South Africa, where AIDS was barely acknowledged for years and whose president remains doubtful even now about its cause, today holds the dismal distinction of having the world’s largest caseload of H.I.V. infection and AIDS, 4.5 million. And even in industrialized nations, like the United States, lingering social stigmas [disgrace] can still create substantial hurdles to combating the spread of H.I.V. . . .

Source: Bates Gill and Sarah Palmer, “The Coming AIDS Crisis in China,” Op–Ed page, New York

Times, July 16, 2001

* HIV continues to be a major global public health issue, having claimed more than 34 million lives so far. In 2014, 1.2 [980 000–1.6 million] million people died from HIV-related causes globally.
* There were approximately 36.9 [34.3–41.4] million people living with HIV at the end of 2014 with 2.0 [1.9–2.2] million people becoming newly infected with HIV in 2014 globally.
* Sub-Saharan Africa is the most affected region, with 25.8 [24.0–28.7] million people living with HIV in 2014. Also sub-Saharan Africa accounts for almost 70% of the global total of new HIV infections.
* HIV infection is often diagnosed through rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs), which detect the presence or absence of HIV antibodies. Most often these tests provide same day test results; essential for same day diagnosis and early treatment and care.
* There is no cure for HIV infection. However, effective antiretroviral (ARV) drugs can control the virus and help prevent transmission so that people with HIV, and those at substantial risk, can enjoy healthy and productive lives.
* It is estimated that currently only 54% of people with HIV know their status. In 2014, approximately 150 million children and adults in 129 low- and middle-income countries received HIV testing services.

Source: World Health Organization, November 2015

This report concentrates on the surveillance of nine infectious epidemic diseases that are either new or volatile or pose an important public health threat. All have high epidemic potential and most are increasing in incidence.

They include: Yellow fever, Plague, Cholera, Meningococcal disease, Dengue fever and dengue haemorrhagic fever, Influenza, African trypanosomiasis, HIV/AIDS, Leishmaniasis and leishmania/HIV co-infection

These diseases are difficult to track because of their complicated epidemic patterns, their ability to develop new strains, and their tendency to spread quickly to new locations. Most of these diseases have high case fatality rates and severe symptoms increasing the urgency of fast identification of new occurrences to prevent further transmission.

Source: World Health Organization Report on Global Surveillance of Epidemic-prone Infectious

Diseases

Discovered in the Congo in 1976, Ebola is a deadly disease caused by a virus that infects the African fruit bat, humans, and other primates. Humans get the virus from exposure to fluids of infected people or animals. The disease causes extensive bleeding, organ failure, and, for the majority of infected people, death. In 2014, a massive outbreak in West Africa caused fear around the world. As of 2015, no effective treatment has been found.

Source: AMSCO School Publishing, 2015

On February 1, Margaret Chan, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), acting on the recommendations of 18 infectious disease experts, stated the following on the Zika Virus: "I am now declaring that the recent cluster of microcephaly cases and other neurological disorders reported in Brazil, following a similar cluster in French Polynesia in 2014, constitutes a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.” Chan’s decision is only the fourth PHEIC since revised International Health Regulations came into force in 2007. It follows the Director General’s declarations on swine flu (2009), polio (May 2015), and Ebola (August 2015)… Upwards of 1.5 million persons have become infected, while the WHO projects that number will reach 4 million in 2016.

Source: The Global Health Policy Center, February 2016

**Fill out the following chart with background information on other critical issues:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Terrorism:** |
| **Child Soldiers:** |
| **Environmental Concerns (Global Warming, Desertification, Deforestation):** |
| **Nuclear Proliferation:** |
| **Refugees:** |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ AP World Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**Modern Issues: Refugees**

**Directions:** Read the sources below on the Refugees. These sources will help prepare you for our Harkness Discussion. Find **one additional resource on your own,** that will help you further prepare.

Use the chart below to organize your thoughts. You should be able to do the following:

|  |
| --- |
| Define and describe your issue |
| WHY is your issue critical? |
| How has your issue had an impact on the global community? |
| Explain solutions that have been proposed. To what extent have those solutions been successful? |

**Questions to consider:** Why are Refugees a critical modern issue? What has been done to combat the refugee crisis? What more can be done?

The world is witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 65.6 million people around the world have been forced from home by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016. Among them are nearly 22.5 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18. There are also 10 million stateless people, who have been denied a nationality and access to basic rights such as education, healthcare, employment and freedom of movement.

Source: UN.org, 2018

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Source: UN.org, 2018

***Millions of Syrians displaced***

The conflict in Syria, now in its seventh year, was the world’s biggest producer of refugees (5.5 million).  Humanitarian needs in Syria have increased significantly since the beginning of the crisis, with 13.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 6 million children. Over 400,000 people have been killed and more than 1 million injured since 2010.

Many Syrians have been forced to leave their homes, often multiple times, making Syria the largest displacement crisis in the world with 6.3 million people internally displaced and almost 4 million people registered as refugees in neighboring countries. An estimated 4.53 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in hard-to-reach areas and besieged locations.

Turkey hosts over 2.9 million registered Syrians. The majority of them live in urban areas, with around 260,000 accommodated in the 21 government-run refugee camps.  There are more than a million registered Syrians in Lebanon and 660,000 in Jordan. Iraq has also seen a growing number of Syrians arriving, hosting more than 241,000, while in Egypt UNHCR provides protection and assistance to more than 122,000.

Source: UN.org, 2018

In addition to persecution and conflict, in the 21st century, natural disaster (sometimes due to climate change) can also force people to seek refuge in other countries. Such disasters – floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, mudslides – are increasing in frequency and intensity. While most of the displacement caused by these events is internal, they can also cause people to cross borders. None of the existing international and regional refugee law instruments, however, specifically addresses the plight of such people.

Displacement caused by the slow-onset effects of climate change is largely internal as well. But through its acceleration of drought, desertification, the salinization of ground water and soil, and rising sea levels, climate change, too, can contribute to the displacement of people across international frontiers.

Other human-made calamities, such as severe socio-economic deprivation, can also cause people to flee across borders. While some may be escaping persecution, most leave because they lack any meaningful option to remain. The lack of food, water, education, health care and a livelihood would not ordinarily and by themselves sustain a refugee claim under the 1951 Convention. Nevertheless, some of these people may need some form of protection.

All of these circumstances - conflict, natural disasters, and climate change pose enormous challenges for the international humanitarian community.

Source: UN.org

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“The UN’s findings sadly echo our own – there is no question that the Myanmar authorities’ vicious campaign of ethnic cleansing against Rohingya is still ongoing. Fleeing Rohingya told us how they are still being forcibly starved in a bid to quietly squeeze them out of the country.

“This is yet more evidence that any plans for organised repatriation of Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh are extremely premature. No one should be returned to Myanmar until they can do so voluntarily, in safety and dignity – something that is clearly not possible today.

“The Myanmar authorities must end all operations aimed at forcing Rohingya out of their homeland, whether at gunpoint or through starvation. It is also high time the international community took meaningful action, including by imposing an arms embargo and targeted sanctions.” On 7 February 2018, Amnesty International published a briefing that showed how the ethnic cleansing campaign against the Rohingya was still ongoing. It detailed how authorities were withholding food, engaging in systematic theft and subjecting women and girls to sexual violence.

Source: Amnesty International, March 6, 2018

**Fill out the following chart with background information on other critical issues:**

|  |
| --- |
| **Terrorism:** |
| **Child Soldiers:** |
| **Environmental Concerns (Global Warming, Desertification, Deforestation):** |
| **Nuclear Proliferation:** |
| **Spread of Disease:** |