



North Cross School

Xinhe School

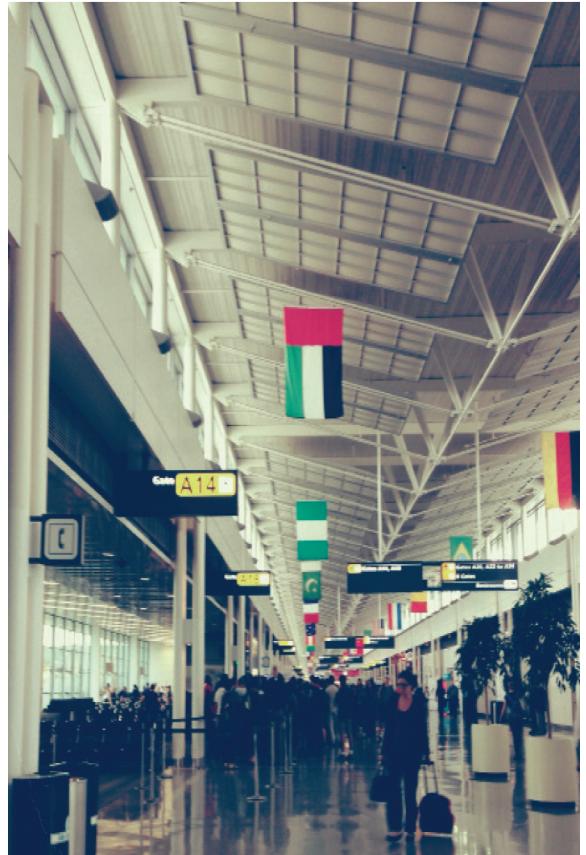
Tapecyu School

first journeys



journies

- 3: Olivia Hanson: "Any issue is a global issue"**
- 4: Tanner Smith: "Why the globalized world matters"**
- 6: Triff H'Doubler: "The line that does not divide us"**
- 8: Albert Newberry: "The three big t's"**
- 10: Shermeen Imam: "Global Studies Final Paper"**
- 12: Philip Schueler: "Jimmy Carter's Foreign Policy"**
- 18: Students Share Global Travel Experiences**



This is a picture of me in Kuzminki Park in Moscow in 2002. I was only three years old, and this was my first time outside of the country. Traveling outside the country at such an early age is important because

you begin to get a real sense of the world and your place in it before most people do. It expands your horizon by introducing you to new cultures. For me it helped establish both America and Russia as my home. - Albert

Cover and back page photos by Olivia Bloch from her summer 2015 trip to Iceland.

geo prism: a global studies journal

Volume I, Issue 1

Summer 2016

North Cross School

4254 Colonial Ave.

Roanoke, VA 24018

www.northcross.org

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Geo Prism is the official global studies journal of the Horace G. Fralin Program for Global Studies at North Cross School in Roanoke, Virginia and its allied schools: Xinhe School in Shanghai, China and Yapeyu School in Corrientes, Argentina. The views expressed herein reflect the feelings of the staff and writers, not necessarily the schools. Geo Prism welcomes international high school students to submit articles, artwork, comics, photos and letters to the editor, which must be signed. Geo Prism reserves the right to edit letters for length. Geo Prism will make every effort to publish contributions online if space does not permit in print.

Any issue is a global issue

By Olivia Hanson (North Cross '16)

In 2013, a building collapsed in Bangladesh. This is unsurprising. It is hard to imagine that this particular concrete hulk is the only precariously balanced, structurally unsound, not-quite-legal piece of construction to lose a battle with gravity in the country this past year. However, two things make Rana Plaza worth mentioning.

First, over 1100 men and women were killed. It was tragic; it was preventable; it should not have happened.

Second, the literal and figurative image of this very saddening event was made available nearly to the entire world almost immediately. The faces of the dead and the bereaved made their way to the iPad screen of a sixteen-year-old sitting on her couch in Virginia, just as easily as it did to businessmen in Egypt and housewives in Germany. More than that, the factory held in that long-gone building manufactured skinny jeans and cotton cardigans for H&M, for Target, for Piperlime. The unfinished sweaters peeking out of Bangladeshi rubble bore the same tags as the worn-and-washed ones hanging in that sixteen-year old's closet, and maybe the German lady's, too. The euros she used to buy them could be in Greece by now; the American girl's mother's sales tax eventually went to buy bullets buried somewhere in the Iraqi desert. The conflict on which those bullets may or may not have had an impact could be traced to a flawed attempt at democratization by a regime known for dominating the world, a Saudi-based terrorist attack on a building from which untold money and goods circled the globe, or perhaps to identity politics and a clash between nations in a state called Israel.

These webs could be drawn for years and touch every state in the United Nations, and they would not map every connection that binds the contemporary world. This is globalization. Invited or not, it affects every person on earth.

To young Americans, this is perhaps most obvious in a social sense. That not-particularly-social sixteen- (now seventeen-) year-old has friends from China, friends from Peru, friends from the Philippines. In 2011, over 60% of views on YouTube were from non-English speakers. As a result of immigration, more Hispanic children will be born in the United States than white children this year, and California now has a larger Latino/a population than any other race. North Cross students tutor children escaped from states where the government is all but nonexistent. The rapid and unprecedented growth in technology in the past twenty years has allowed Americans to talk to friends in Nigeria or cousins in India in real time. This has given rise to new forms of communication in the form of social media, an entity that some would argue rivals nothing else in the lives of American teenagers.

However, it is manifested itself perhaps more importantly

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in the money the millennial generation (and everyone else) spends every day. Four dollars of sales tax on jeans from Old Navy could go to wars in the Middle East, but it could eventually find Chinese agricultural ventures in Mozambique or anti-cartel measures in Mexico—or, eventually, the cartels themselves. This is the nature of a globalized economy. There was a time (for better or worse) when Americans' clothes were made in America by Americans; there was an earlier time when many Americans made their own clothes. The contemporary economy is now globalized to the point that tracking the economy of a single state has nearly become a pointless venture. Last month, the Chinese stock market dropped suddenly and dramatically. American traders panicked, and as a result American stocks fell as well, as did those in Europe. Various Middle Eastern states have become rich off selling oil worldwide—oil that, when processed, perhaps in Canada, fuels the cars sitting in the North Cross parking lots.

Like many things, this has manifested itself in politics. Put simply, borders are not particularly relevant anymore, and domestic policies have less and less effect on increasingly global issues. International organizations such as the European Union and the International Monetary Fund will outpace the importance of individual states. Human security is now one of the dominant concepts in international

politics, and its focus on issues affecting quality of life rather than simple geopolitical security bring problems such as sustainability, poverty, and gender inequality to the forefront. None of these can be dealt with domestically, but rather internationally. For the average person, this means that their actions have global consequences

like they never have. One individual's energy use influences the security of the planet as a whole, and the politicians they elect will have the capacity to make decisions whose implications stretch across the globe. Americans no longer vote for themselves or their countrymates, but for the global community—as do voters throughout the world.

The effects of globalization are not restricted to elsewhere on the globe. Socially, economically, and politically, the effects of the globalized world of "Everything 2.0" are felt in the lives of average Americans, young people, students of Comparative Government. Nearly everyone is "on the grid." Goods, services, and money make their way around the world, and domestic politics have international significance.

Why the globalized world matters

By Tanner Smith (North Cross '16)

While oceans and land borders separate the seven continents of the world, they are now united by technology and economics. While different types of government, or the formal part of the states, subdivide the continents, each state in the world now relies on other states and governments in some form or another.

For example, the United States of America is one of the world's predominant superpowers and has formal diplomatic relationships with most of the countries in the world. Even the United States is dependent on these allies in order to sustain its economy, as the country was \$1.2244 trillion in debt to Japan and \$1.2237 trillion to China at the end of February according to a report from CNN. Even though the United States has never had a perfect relationship with the current regime of China it is forced to peacefully cooperate with them for economic and peacekeeping reasons. The United States also has economic relations with another tenuous historical ally in Russia, formally the Soviet Union. These relations are maintained even in the aftermath of the Cold War, which pitted the United States' efforts to democratize the world against the Soviet Union's efforts to spread communism. This shows how vital the global economy is to each state, as advanced industrial states are practically forced to have relations with other similar states, no matter their historical differences.

Globalization, a popular term used to describe how international economic, social, cultural, and technological forces are affecting events inside individual countries, also occurs on much smaller scales however such as the spread of products. One example of this is the movie industry, as films are spread all over the world and are even subtitled into different languages for different countries. Similarly, baseball has also been globalized, as the best players from across the world are now able to play in Major League Baseball. Superstars such as Ichiro Suzuki even have nations, or groups who are attached to them and identify with them, who follow their every move in the United States.

While the effects of globalization obviously affect North Cross students' lives on a larger, more indirect scale it can also touch closer to home for them. North Cross itself is a great example of this, as it is a motif of the effects of globalization with the number of international students it hosts, the foreign language programs and the Global Studies program. The influx of international students, especially Chinese students, has been made pos-

sible by a variety of factors. One of these factors is technology such as electronic communications has sped up the pace of change in the world. For example, the Chinese program was made possible by numerous phone calls, emails, video chats and quick flights to China, all of which are recent inventions in the scope of history. Another factor that has allowed the influx of international students is democratization, as states tend to interact better when they have more similar regimes. Without political cooperation between the two countries the Chinese program would not be possible. The United States and China still do not agree perfectly on political issues, as China is more of a hybrid regime than a democracy, but they cooperate better than they did when China was a communist state. A third factor, which is a bit of a virtuous cycle, is that the more students that China sends to the United States the better the two countries relations become. According to David Lampton, director of China studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, there is a "great respect for American technological and financial wizardry." It would also follow that the more Chinese students come to America, the closer the identities of the two countries, or how people define themselves in racial, linguistic, ethnic or religious terms, will become.

For a small school in the middle of Roanoke,

Virginia North Cross has access to most parts of the world in one way or another. Not only can students learn about other cultures in books, but they also have opportunities to travel and see other cultures first-hand if they desire. Ultimately globalization as demonstrated by North Cross could have a positive impact on human security, as states, or all individuals and groups that make public policy, as familiarity

can lead to trust. If every state trusted one another, which is a utopian sort of idea, then the world would have fewer conflicts in all aspects of human life. That is the lofty final goal of globalization, as ultimately the process of interaction and cooperation could lead to a more peaceful world, which would affect everyone.

Ultimately globalization as demonstrated by North Cross could have a positive impact on human security . . . as familiarity can lead to trust.

summer scenes

Seventh-inning stretch at Salem Red Sox baseball game

Tanner Smith, far right, (North Cross '16) helps teacher Lynn Liu and others from Xinhe appreciate the ritual on July 15.



Making dumplings Shanghai-style

Xinhe students, Edison and Logan, help host Robyn Sharkey and her dog.



Xenia sees a photo of her sunburn



The line that does not divide us

By Triff H'Doubler (North Cross '19)

As the old parable goes, “East is east and west is west, and never the twain shall meet.” This line, the first in a ballad by poet Rudyard Kipling, alludes to the infamous dichotomy between Eastern and Western societies. It is not location, but language, philosophy, and culture, that define the border for what we identify as ‘the East’ and ‘the West.’

These terms of East and West, then, are simply names broadly symbolizing the principal ideas and customs of certain places. However, the differences between these two general ideas are so great that they seem virtually unable to cooperate; “and never the twain shall meet.” This is especially apparent in the ongoing relationship between China and the United States. It is one of cautious negotiation, regarding each other not as foes, but not quite as friends either. The two countries have very different political and economic ideologies, no doubt the root for their hesitant relationship. Without delving into a discussion on international affairs, as would be beyond my ken, I would like to acknowledge how cultural differences impact our personal relationships with foreigners.

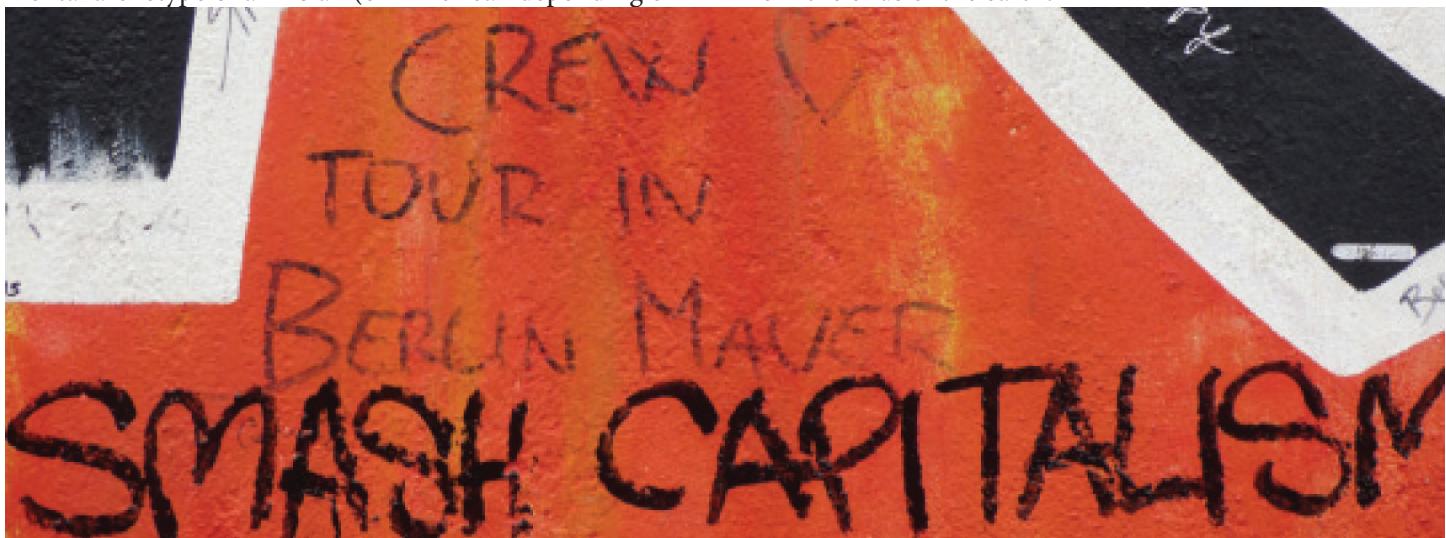
It is hard for two people who have few things in common to relate to each other. Apply this principle to the larger scale of whole cultures, and we can understand why we sometimes avoid interactions with foreigners. Perhaps it is not a fear of the people themselves, but a fear of misunderstanding and possibly slight discomfort with the unknown. There are times when certain factors deepen this irrational xenophobia. For those who were alive during The Korean War (many of our grandparents fall into this category), it is fair to say that the mental archetype of an Asian (or American depending on

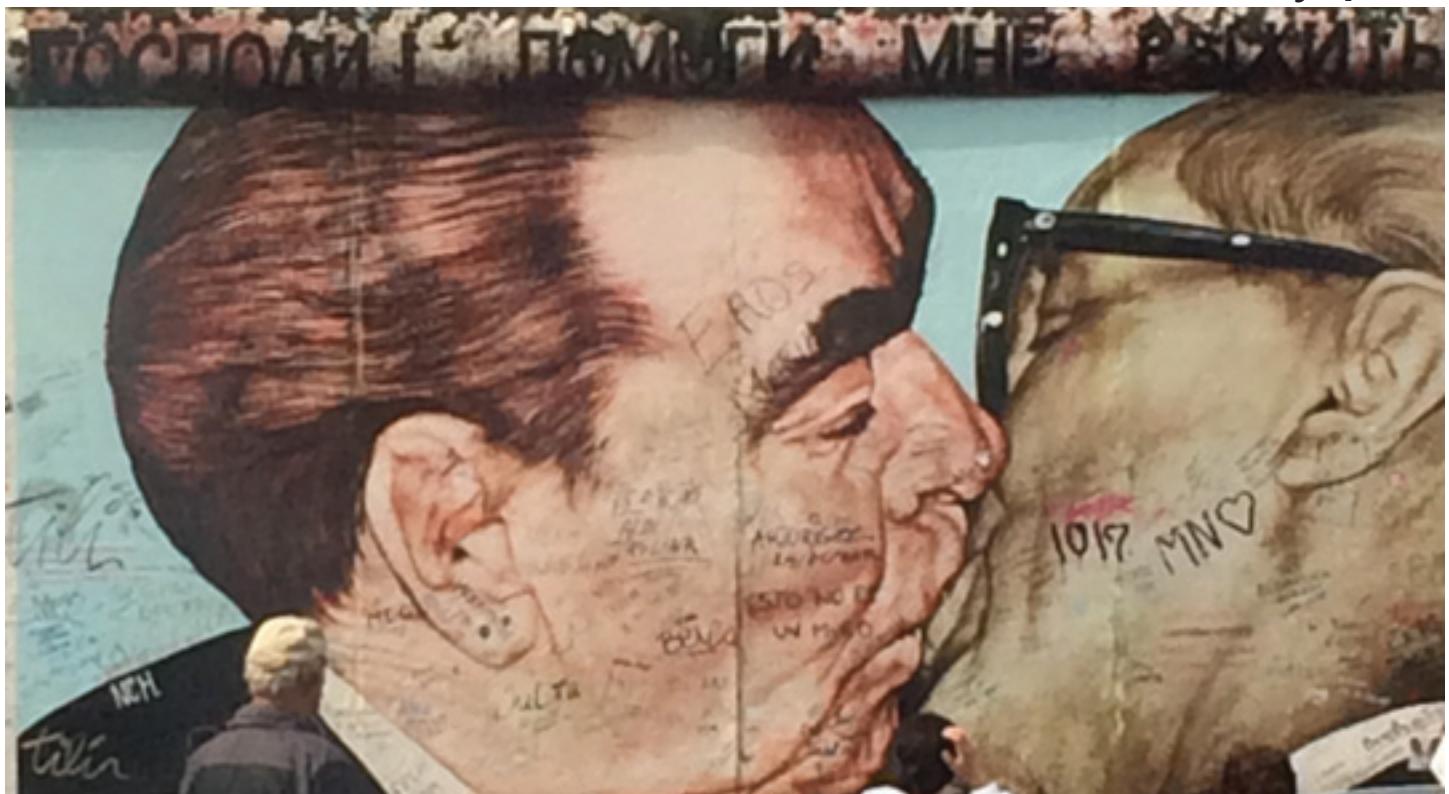
your point of view) is associated with violence, negatively effecting the view of the culture as a whole.

Our mental idea of a disparity between East and West was greatly exacerbated by the conflicts in the latter half of the 20th century, but the effects may only be generational. A survey by Pew Research Center in 2015 found that “Americans ages 18-29 are more than twice as likely as those ages 50 or older to have a favorable opinion of China (55% vs. 27%).” The same age groups surveyed in China produced almost identical data. These results show that younger generations are not lensed by the same prejudices as their elders. This opens up whole new doors for future interactions between Eastern and Western societies. As the conflicts of the 20th century and their resulting social effects fade out, the only thing standing in the way of a strong relationship between the two

cultures is not trying to build relationships at the individual level; and however there is no denying the deep contrasts in language, history, and tradition, these things don’t compare to the things we have in common.

Rudyard Kipling ends the stanza in his ballad, “But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth, When two strong men stand face to face, tho’ they come from the ends of the earth!”





Scritti Politti

As students toured during the summer of 2015, they witnessed various issues politicized in graffiti that appear more rarely in the United States. Triff H'Doubler studied WWII and the Western Front on a tour that started in the United Kingdom, then France, Belgium, Germany and Austria. She found a number of powerful statements on walls in Paris and Berlin, including the famous "Kiss" on a part of the Berlin Wall. At right is an Irish immigrant to Barcelona, who enjoys protesting the impact of tourism on his adopted city. Opposite page, top and upper left photos by Triff H'Doubler



The Three Big T's

The three biggest global trade deals of all time aim to undermine democracy and solidify a global oligarchy.

By Albert Newberry

Right now, there is a U.S.-led push to further liberalize the global economy, and it's in the form of three massive "free trade deals." They are called the TPP, TTIP, and TiSA, and include nearly 60 countries altogether and account for two thirds of global GDP. Most major media outlets have played them off as just some "lowering of tariffs" and new regulations which promote free trade. In reality, the deals have very little to do with free trade, but instead create a large economic block which excludes emerging economies. Most Americans are entirely unaware of their existence — and that's because they have been negotiated entirely in secret. Only now, through the remarkable work of WikiLeaks, we are finding out exactly what is included in parts of these deals.

Let's take a step back though. When the WTO (World Trade Organization) first came about the U.S. accounted for more than half of the world's economy, and thus was pretty much able to dictate the rules to serve U.S. interests. However, the WTO began to democratize, as countries like India and China became more economically prominent. In order to regain dominance over the global economy, the U.S. (and the EU) aim to bypass the WTO with three giant trade deals that ensure their continued dominance. In all three deals, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) are excluded because they are the emerging economies that pose a threat. It is designed to pull Latin America away from Brazil, Western Europe away from Russia, and Asian countries away from China. In short, it is economic warfare.

This sounds ominous enough, but that's only the beginning. One of the most controversial aspects of the TPP and TTIP is the Investor - State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which allows multinational corporations to sue the government of a member nation if any policy or law 'conflicts' with their interests, enshrining the concept of corporate nationhood. For example, if anything in the U.S. might hurt a foreign corporation's profits, it can sue the U.S. government, but the U.S. government cannot sue back. Unfortunately, this system has secretly been in place, in a more limited



form, for several years now, including cases like: British American Tobacco suing the government of Australia for requiring the health effects of cigarettes to be listed on the packages, or the French company Veolia suing Egypt for simply raising the minimum wage. The ISDS bypasses the courts of all nations, including the U.S. Supreme Court. It is clear that this system is contrary to "democracy", and undermines the sovereignty of governments. This makes it much harder for a government to pass any legislation on climate change, and includes the plan for offshoring more U.S. jobs, for example to Vietnam and Japan.

Another horrid aspect of the "trade agreements", particularly in the TTIP, is the standardizing of regulations between the U.S. and the EU. Europe has high standards for food: GMOs are banned, most pesticides used in the U.S. are banned, and hormone-induced meat, which has been proven to be carcinogenic, is banned. The U.S. however, seeks to make the U.S. standards universal, thus revoking all previous EU regulations. America has some of the highest obesity, diabetes, and cancer rates in the developed world, due to very lenient food regulations. When the citizens of Europe discovered that the TTIP included such measures, they took to the streets. Massive protests across Europe: in Berlin, Hannover, Rome have put serious pressure on the



EU, and now negotiations for the TTIP have completely fallen apart. European nations are wary to sign away their current standards. French president Francois Holland went so far as to say that "at this stage [of talks] France says 'No'" to TTIP, adding that it goes against the country's "essential principles."

TiSA is the one that has gotten the least coverage, but people should be wary of it too, because it includes 52 countries and seeks to privatize services around the world,

such as health care, which would become more like the unpopular current American health care system. These deals include much more: thousands of pages more. As Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump put it, the TPP alone is "nearly 6,000 pages, and nobody's read it." For once, he and Senator Bernie Sanders agree; Sanders said "all Americans, regardless of political ideology, should be opposed to the 'fast track' process which would deny Congress the right to amend the treaty and represent their constituents' interests." President Obama is trying "fast-track" the TPP through congress, which means giving the president ultimate authority over the deal, and not allowing congress to amend or filibuster it, all they have to do is agree to it.

The TTIP is a similar situation, where EU parliamentarians cannot have copies or take notes on the documents. The only way to see the documents, according to Julian Assange, is to schedule an appointment with the U.S. Embassy, which can only happen twice a week, to go to the embassy with no more than one other person where they will make sure you have no electronic devices on your person, and then to go to a "reading room" where you will be closely monitored by Embassy guards as you read the document. And thus, in addition to the public not knowing, most government officials do not know what is in the deal either. WikiLeaks have leaked many sections from all three agreements, and you can access them for free on wikileaks.org.

What can we do about it?

Well, protests in Europe have already proven that we have the power to hurt negotiations. The constant leaks by various sources also have had a negative impact on the passing of these agreements. The main task for Americans who know about these deals is to spread the word, because the mass-media corporations aren't doing a good job, and given who funds them, it's probably not in their best interests to inform us about these deals. The TPP negotiations too, have encountered serious problems, and president Obama doubts whether he can get it done in the remaining months of his presidency. Trump and Sanders are vehemently opposed, and it seems now that even Hilary Clinton, who supported it in its early stages of development, has changed her mind about it as well.



Global Studies Final Paper

Shermeen Imam recounts her time as one of the first scholars in the Horace G. Fralin Program for Global Studies

By Shermeen Imam (North Cross GS Scholar '16)

In eighth grade, I was hesitant to join the Global Studies Program at North Cross School. I did not know much about this new program besides its name and that I would be taking some different classes from other students. I did not realize the greater impact and impression that it would leave on me. Four years later I am looking back on how much I enjoyed the unique experiences I gained through this program. I am now planning on studying abroad while at college and possibly majoring in International Relations, a major that I would not have considered without first taking Global Studies.

In freshman year, the Introduction to Global Studies course taught by Mr. Thompson showed me what global studies actually means. It brought me out of my bubble in a small community in Roanoke, Virginia and taught me about the lives of people from other countries, religions, and cultures. I learned how the lifestyles of people in one country can affect another country's economy or environment. I learned that while I am sitting in a pristine, expensive private school thinking about what I want to eat for lunch in the United States, there are millions of people who could not even dream about my life. I learned that poverty, lack of education, and hunger are all problems that are still pertinent today. We did this through studying population growth, economic positions of countries, countries' energy sources, food, water, and international conflict. I never had a class before structured in the way Introduction to Global Studies was structured. It was different from a traditional history class. Rather than learning and reflecting on a country's history, we learned about current issues in the world and about the greater impact these issues can have in an interconnected world. This course opened my eyes to look at other countries with another perspective. I felt a noticeable difference of this when I went to India the following year.

During spring break of my sophomore year, I visited my family in India. The entire time I was there, I was unknowingly analyzing the differences of certain aspects in the United States to India. For example, as soon as I landed and walked out of the airport, I noticed that many people in Delhi wear masks around their mouths. I did not realize the city's pollution was so terrible that people wear masks. I have been to New York City numerous times, and I do not recall ever seeing people wearing masks due to pollution. However, this concern makes sense in India, a country that does not seem to care about the environmental damage it is creating. I remember watching my aunt throw trash out at my family's house in the western city of Jaipur, Rajasthan. She literally threw the trash out, out the window. Jaipur is a developing city, but it is not at the point where garbage is being collected. There is a mound of trash outside my family's house. No one knows what to do with all the trash, so

they burn it or it sits in the heat. These chemicals released cannot be good for anyone's health. Also in Jaipur, I remember going to the mall which was fifteen minutes from the house. I was astounded by how there was a random, grand building amongst these neighborhoods. Houses in this city do not come with an air conditioner. They are old houses that are very open, typically with an open square shaped section in the center. Therefore, I was incredibly surprised that people built a mall minutes away from these houses that do not even have proper garbage disposal. I would expect to see a mall in a more modern location.

Another major difference I noticed while in India was the way girls act and are treated compared to boys. This difference actually struck me the most. I learned about how women are often treated more poorly in undeveloped or developing countries. I had previously heard about the lifestyles of my relatives when they were younger, but my trip to India was the first experience where I saw these words and stories that I remembered in real action with my own two eyes. For example, I have always heard that the girls in a family are supposed to do the work around the house. My female cousins were to do chores in the house while their brothers would either go out with friends or just stay at home. They were expected to do these chores without even being asked; however, it is not expected from boys. Actually, very little is expected from boys in India. This is not only different from the norm in the United States but also blatantly unfair to girls. They are simply expected to find a job and get married, but girls are expected to do work around the house, get married, and some even have to keep up with an occupation. On the other hand, some girls are only expected to reach an education up to a certain level but not too far as to get a job. The level of education is only just for show. A higher education improves a girl's chances of marrying a man with a sustainable job. One of my cousins was of a select few to attend a competitive college because her math skills are above average; however, her parents did not want her to go to that college because it was too far. The college was only twenty minutes away from her house, but girls leaving the house or travelling further distances is seen as an unnecessary need.

I am not sure if these differences between boys and girls would bother me to the extent that it does if I did not first learn (through Global Studies) about the impact it can have on society. What was explained in this paragraph is what drove me to do my DeHart Project on "The Importance of Educating Girls in India." Through my research, I learned about all the potential jobs that are going to waste because education is not being used for what it should be: change. Indian society are giving more attention to marriages and less attention to problems that will soon be threats to



their health, such as the pile of garbage mentioned earlier. These girls who are getting educated for a husband, could be using this knowledge towards change and becoming environmentalists, teachers, leaders, or any employment they desired if they were steered to the right direction. Global Studies has made me realize that this is what I would like to spend more time doing. I want to help those who do not even realize there freedom is being taken away from them. This decision was definitely influenced by the actions from people like Melanie Blanding and Lisabeth List in their presentations on Women in War Zones and Doctors Without Borders, respectively. Seeing how they have worked with people from other countries and were able to bring awareness on the lives in those areas truly gathered my interest. I hope that in college I can work with others and maybe even study abroad to India to help girls get an education and use it for a good purpose.

Another initiative I was motivated to take on was raising money for the earthquake in Nepal at the end of my junior year. Doing the Tutoring Club pushed me to do this. From the Tutoring Club, I learned about the lives of all these children who are younger than me and who have come from more difficult lives than me. It shook me when I learned about children who saw their parents murdered before their eyes. Additionally, I tutored so many Nepali students, I felt that had to do something after the earthquake or I was turning against them. They might not know that I raised money, but that is not the purpose of fundraisers. I built a connection with the students, anyways, and even tutored some of them for their full three years of middle

school. I actually saw some of them at the Local Colors Festival recently.

I have attended this festival for years, and it is always great from the food to the performances. This year there were two girls performing a Bhutanese dance. Bhutan is a very small country that has a vast mix of cultures because it sits between China and India and it is not very far from Nepal and Bangladesh. I actually first learned about this country at the Local Colors Festival a few years ago. I noticed that the dances that these two girls performed looked very similar to Indian dances. Also, I really enjoyed the music they performed to. This is probably because it sounded very similar to Indian music from the beats and rhythms to the words said in the song.

Through Global Studies, I have had numerous unique experiences meeting incredible people, learning about various countries and cultures, tasting delicious foods, and getting opportunities to help others around the world from my little city of Roanoke. I have also gotten to make great friends, especially with the Chinese Students. I loved talking to them about their art or about their performances. They are so nice, and it was fun to occasionally compare aspects of their culture to mine. I hope that we can still stay connected after I leave for college. I am glad that I made the right decision in eighth grade to be part of the Global Studies Program. It has never failed to teach me something from the speakers to the off-campus events. From what I have gathered and learned about this universal and interconnected world, I hope that I will be able to make a bigger mark but a smaller footprint on the globe.

Jimmy Carter's foreign policy

By Philip Schueler (North Cross GS Scholar '16)

Jimmy Carter left the White House on January 20, 1981 as one of the most hated men in America. Three months earlier, Ronald Reagan won the 1980 presidential election in a landslide, ejecting Carter from office, while in the congressional elections the same year Republicans won a majority in the Senate for the first time since 1952. After years of crisis and recession, Carter was criticized from all sides of the American political spectrum. At its nadir, his public approval rating was 28 percent, one of the lowest in recent history. At the time, his presidency, especially his foreign policy, was widely considered to be a total failure.

Today, however, Carter is more controversial. His presidency, which lasted from 1977 to 1981, has become one of the most disputed episodes of recent history. Some have attempted to rehabilitate Carter's reputation, and argue that his policies and accomplishments as president, such as the Camp David accords, the Torrijos-Carter treaty, and the second strategic arms limitation treaty, benefited the nation in the long term. Many others, however, continue to believe that the behavior of his administration gravely harmed the strategic position of the United States.

While historians can learn valuable lessons from any presidency, Jimmy Carter's presidency and foreign policy are exceptionally important now. The political environment in the United States today closely resembles the political environment in the late 1970s, with many Americans fed up with traditional Washington politics, tired of war, and ready for new and unconventional leadership in the White House. Studying the Carter administration and its successes and failures will help us better understand our present political situation, and what choices need to be made in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past. But even more importantly, the Carter administration, more than almost any other of its time, best reveals the ideological divisions and conflicts which have defined American foreign policy from its inception. In short, Carter's presidency reveals much about the challenges of American foreign policy and about America itself.



At the time, his presidency, especially his foreign policy, was widely considered to be a total failure.

Carter, an inexperienced politician from Georgia, was elected by a narrow margin in 1976, running against incumbent Republican Gerald Ford. Carter could not have been elected in any other year. In 1976, Americans were fed up with a government that they perceived as corrupt and dishonest. The agony of the Vietnam War, which left over 57,000 Americans and over a million Vietnamese dead and had destroyed the American people's trust in both their government and military, had finally ended a year earlier with the Fall of Saigon. The Watergate scandal, which began in 1972 and culminated with the resignation of President Nixon in August 1974, further angered the public and added to their sense that the American government was morally bankrupt and mendacious. Finally, the Church and Pike Committee hearings of 1975 revealed many of the illegal activities of the CIA, FBI, and NSA, including the assassination of a number of foreign leaders and the overthrow of several foreign regimes. The political atmosphere was ideal for someone like Carter, a candidate with little political experience or connection to the corruption of Washington, who could promise to "clean up" the government.

Outside of his time in the Navy, Carter had no foreign policy experience to speak of, but he made foreign affairs a signature part of his presidential campaign. Famously, Carter promised to create "... a foreign policy that reflects the decency and generosity and common sense of our own people." Carter was a devout evangelical

Christian, and his faith played a large role in his political philosophy and worldview. The concept of repentance, key in evangelicalism, was applied by Carter to international relations. Carter believed that if the United States returned to the moral principles upon which it was founded, which were abandoned by the Johnson and Nixon administrations, the United States would regain its footing as a confident superpower. In the words of Gaddis Smith, author of *Morality, Reason, and Power: American Diplomacy in the Carter Years*, Carter was an “internalist,” or someone who believes issues in American foreign policy are primarily caused domestically, either by corrupt economic interests or power-hungry politicians. In contrast, “externalists,” such as Franklin Roosevelt or Ronald Reagan, believe the primary cause of foreign policy issues to be external forces, such as authoritarian governments or cultural movements. “Internalists” are usually critics outside of the government; Carter was one of the very few “Internalists” to achieve a position of power in American history.

When Carter took office in January 1977, he was faced with a crucial task: finding experts in foreign affairs who could serve as his top foreign policy advisors. As the President himself possessed only general knowledge of international relations, it was of utmost importance that these advisors could work well with Carter and each other. Two of these advisors and their respective departments would dominate the administration: Zbigniew Brzezinski and Cyrus Vance.

Zbigniew Brzezinski was a professor at Columbia University who served as Carter’s principle foreign policy advisor during his presidential campaign. Born in Poland in 1928, Brzezinski was vehemently anti-communist; during his childhood he witnessed the rise of the Nazis and watched as his country was invaded and transformed into a Soviet satellite. Brzezinski wrote several books about international relations, all of them focusing on the primacy of power, especially military power, in politics and strategy. Throughout the Cold War, his perceptions of the world strayed little from the traditional assumptions of the 1950s: that the Soviet Union, and communism in general, was the arch-enemy of the United States. With their seemingly contradictory views of the world, Carter and Brzezinski made an odd team, but nevertheless Carter installed Brzezinski as National Security Advisor, one of the most influential positions in the American government. Brzezinski would go on to become Carter’s most trusted foreign policy advisor.

Cyrus Vance, whom Carter appointed Secretary of State, was a lawyer from New York who had served in the Department of Defense during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. During his time in government he had gained a reputation as a skilled negotiator. President Johnson sent Vance around the world to resolve international conflicts, from Panama and the Dominican Republic to Vietnam, Cyprus, and Korea. Vance was patient and persistent, and, unlike Brzezinski, who preferred force over negotiations, was skeptical of the efficacy of military power in solving international problems. Vance’s biggest concern as a diplomat was that the United States and Soviet Union would be drawn into a nuclear conflict, and worked tirelessly throughout his career to prevent this. Vance sought

to reduce world conflict by pursuing mutual interests with American adversaries, which closely resembled Carter’s own vision for foreign policy.

Vance and Brzezinski could not have been more ideologically different. In public they denied any rivalry between one another, but in private they held each other in high contempt and often competed for the President’s influence. Carter understood very well the differences between Vance and Brzezinski; in fact, he originally intended for them to balance each other, with Carter picking the best from both sides of the debate. However, Carter lacked the leadership skills needed to manage the two, and the conflict between Brzezinski and Vance and their respective departments would tear the administration apart, and make the President’s already handicapped ability to manage foreign affairs even worse.

Carter assumed office at a dangerous time. In 1977 the Cold War was still ongoing, although its worst crises of the 1950s and 1960s were over. Détente, the period in the Cold War when relations between the Soviet Union and United States warmed for a time, began under President Nixon in the early 1970s, and continued during the early years of Carter’s term. In 1972, President Nixon had also begun to restore relations with the People’s Republic of China, ending over a decade of non-recognition and diplomatic isolation of China by the United States. Meanwhile, the last European colonies in Africa and Asia were being granted their independence, and these developing countries were beginning to play an increasingly important role in international affairs. Thanks to the Vietnam War, the American people had no appetite for foreign conflict after American troops withdrew from the country in 1973, making this period one of the least militarily active periods for the United States in the twentieth century. The world continued to be faced with serious dangers, but there were also many opportunities to end many of the world’s conflicts.

The early years of Carter’s presidency were relatively uneventful. In some ways, Carter pursued many of the same goals that the Nixon and Ford administrations sought. The United States officially recognized the People’s Republic of China as the sole legitimate Chinese government in 1978, revoking recognition of the Nationalist Chinese government-in-exile on the island of Taiwan. The strategic arms limitation talks were also continued, the ‘second round’ of which became known as SALT II. But in other ways the Carter administration differed substantially from its predecessors. Human rights became a major focus of the administration, with Carter pushing for unprecedented levels of moral standards in American diplomacy. Sanctions and other penalties were imposed on foreign regimes, both allies and adversaries, who did not meet the administration’s standard of human rights. Controversially, Carter also signed a treaty with Panama, the Torrijos-Carter treaty, which ceded the Panama Canal Zone, a sovereign U.S. territory since 1903, back to the Panamanian government. In the early years Vance had more influence over Carter, and as such the administration decided the SALT negotiations, Vance’s most treasured objective, were the nation’s biggest foreign policy priority. Meanwhile, Brzezinski fought for a more aggressive approach to the Soviet Union, which was beginning to rub



Cyrus Vance advises President Carter. Courtesy of Wikipedia

elbows with the U.S. in other areas of the world. New proxy wars in Angola and Cambodia threatened to scuttle the SALT negotiations, but Carter kept Brzezinski from creating any negative linkage between SALT and the Soviet Union's increasingly paranoid and aggressive behavior.

Carter's vision of an ideal foreign policy differed substantially from his predecessors. Instead of seeking a balance of power or strategic parity with American rivals, Carter sought to use the lessening of global tensions brought on by détente to bring world powers together to address the perennial issues which have faced human civilization since its inception, such as poverty, hunger, and injustice. Carter's vision was incredibly ambitious and idealistic, and one which was never realized. A variety of factors contributed to this failure, almost all of which were outside of Carter's control. Despite his optimism, the rest of the world did not share Carter's idealism, especially the Soviet Union, which adopted a foreign policy that was dominated more than usual by fear and paranoia. Many Americans also rejected Carter's approach, and often interpreted his idealism as arrogance and moralism. Despite this, Carter did have moments in his presidency where his ideas and skills were applied to great effect, and solved problems which many considered intractable.

An excellent example of this was the signing of the Camp David accords, Carter's greatest accomplishment in foreign policy. The Camp David accords led to a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. No president has ever had as much success in working towards a solution to

the Arab-Israeli conflict as Jimmy Carter. At Camp David Carter was at his best. When he threw himself at an issue with all his willpower and idealism, he was able to achieve a long-lasting, successful peace between two countries that just five years earlier were at war. All American Presidents before Carter had tried and failed to get the two sides to work together; Camp David was a major breakthrough in finding peace in the Middle East and was due in large part to Carter's own hard work and extraordinary effort.

In the beginning of his term, Carter quickly connected and formed a friendship with Anwar Sadat, the President of Egypt and one of the most powerful and influential leaders in the Arab world. Carter became closer to Sadat than any other foreign leader, and relations between Egypt and the United States, which had for decades been characterized by tension and hostility, soon became warmer than ever. Negotiations for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel began, to be arbitrated by the United States, but after several months both sides were ready to drop them. With the treaty and peace in jeopardy, Carter decided to "go all out." He invited Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to Camp David, the President's private retreat in Maryland, to continue the negotiations. Incredibly, Carter convinced the two leaders to stay as long as it would take to hammer out an agreement.

Carter devoted all his time and energy to the summit. He read thousands of pages of research on the conflict and took hundreds of notes. He became familiar with every inch of disputed land, and memorized the names, popula-

tions, and countless other details of every village, town, and city in the occupied territories. The summit lasted thirteen days, and when the accords were finally signed on September 17, 1978, it was a watershed moment for the Middle East and the world. A final peace treaty between Israel and Egypt was signed in March 1979.

The peace treaty initiated a new era for American relations with both Israel and Egypt. Never again would a major war break out between Israel and its neighbors, and Egypt's position as a strong American ally was solidified, a complete reversal from just eight years earlier. The treaty was immensely beneficial to the United States, increasing its influence both in the Arab world and in Israel. None of this would have been possible if it had not been for Carter's efforts and incredible will power.

But as Camp David revealed the best traits of Carter's personality, the single foreign policy event which most dominated Carter's presidency, the Iranian revolution and subsequent hostage crisis, exposed the worst of his administration, and for many Americans defined his presidency. No other event so drastically affected Carter's popularity at home or his ability to drive foreign policy. The collapse of the Shah's regime in Iran was a strategic disaster for the United States on par with the victory of the People's Liberation Army in the Chinese Civil War in 1949 and the American defeat in Vietnam. The Iranian fiasco illustrates best Carter's inexperience and the split nature of the Carter administration's foreign policy. For decades the Shah had been a crucial American ally, supplying the U.S. with valuable oil and checking Soviet power in the region. The end of the Shah's regime fueled the already dire energy crisis, endangered American national security, and damaged the American economy.

The causes of the Iranian revolution stretch back to before the 1950s. Reza Shah Pahlavi, Iran's reigning monarch, had been a close American ally for years, and one of the Defense Department's best customers, purchasing billions of dollars worth of American military equipment and receiving enormous amounts of economic and technical aid. The Shah and Iran's ruling elite became incredibly rich from their relationship with the United States, alienating Iran's rural, poor, conservative Shi'ite Muslim majority, who suffered thanks to the American presence in Iran and their support of the Shah. The Shah used his relationship with the United States to enrich himself and enforce his reign of terror across the country. The Iranian people became increasingly restive as the years went on, culminating in a nationwide revolution during Carter's term. It is important to note that neither President Carter nor his policies caused the revolution or hostage crisis. However, the actions of his administration only made the situation worse.

Despite his reputation for fighting arms sales and protecting human rights, Carter continued providing arms and material to the Shah during his term while doing little to criticize his human rights abuses, strengthening the Shah's hold on power and his brutal internal security forces, the SAVAK. This video shows Carter when he visited Iran in 1978. He was treated to a lavish ceremony, but instead of condemning the behavior of the Shah and his government, he praised him as a great leader and a personal friend.

Iranian demonstrations and riots against the Shah began in autumn 1978. The regime acted quickly and deployed the military to suppress the protests, killing hundreds of civilians. Carter and his advisors were slow to realize the gravity of the situation and the risk to the Shah's government. The ambassador to Iran, William Sullivan, and top State Department officials, led by Vance, recommended that the U.S. open communications with Ayatollah Khomeini, a fundamentalist cleric and one of the most prominent leaders of the revolution, but Carter, under the influence of Brzezinski, declined. Brzezinski had convinced Carter that the Shah could still survive, and worked to exclude the State Department from any major decisions regarding Iran. Within months, the Shah was forced to leave the country and followers of Ayatollah Khomeini solidified their control over the country. The full extent of the disaster sank in, and the gap between Brzezinski, and Vance and the State Department widened even further.

Carter, after initially turning him down, accepted the Shah's request to stay in the United States and receive medical treatment in October 1979. Enraged, a mob of young Iranians, supported by Khomeini and extremists in the Iranian government, swarmed into the U.S. embassy and took 76 Americans hostage on November 4, 1979, demanding that the Shah be returned to Iran to face trial by revolutionary authorities. Thus began the most grueling and intensive diplomatic crisis the country had seen in many years, and was the primary reason why Carter lost the election in 1980. Returning the Shah to Iran was out of the question, and negotiations revolved around frozen Iranian funds in American banks. The negotiations stretched out for months, and every night Americans watched on television the latest news from Tehran regarding the hostages. Carter seemed weaker than ever. Inside the White House the administration was paralyzed again between Brzezinski and Vance. Vance, as usual, pushed for a patient, long-term approach which would take months of negotiated settlement but extricate all the hostages alive. Brzezinski believed that American honor was at stake, and that the lives of the hostages could be sacrificed for that honor.

At first Carter took Vance's approach, but after five months of talks with little progress the President decided to attempt a military rescue of the hostages as Brzezinski was suggesting. Vance decided to resign in protest. Whether or not the rescue mission succeeded, Vance believed, relations with Iran would be permanently damaged and the United States would be condemned throughout the Islamic world. On April 24, 1980, eight helicopters flew into Iran to rescue the hostages, but experienced mechanical problems, causing the mission to be aborted. Eight Americans were killed when a helicopter and a transport plane crashed by accident. After the embarrassing disaster of the rescue attempt, the hostage situation stabilized, and Iran withdrew some of their demands for the hostages' release. After intensive negotiations, the hostages were finally flown back to the United States on January 20, 1981, just minutes after Ronald Reagan was sworn into office.

The Iran debacle cost Carter immensely. It seemed to confirm to the American public that Carter was a weak, ineffectual leader who was unfit to lead the nation. No Pres-



The Iranian Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, meeting with Arthur Atherton, William H. Sullivan, Cyrus Vance, President Jimmy Carter, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, in 1977. Courtesy of Wikipedia

ident, however, could have prevented the disasters of the revolution and hostage crisis. The crisis did, however, best illustrate the worst flaws of the administration. Cyrus Vance became the first Secretary of State to resign in protest since William Jennings Bryan in 1915. With Vance's resignation Carter had decisively chosen Brzezinski's philosophy over Vance's, an almost complete change of ideology for Carter, who began his term believing military force was ineffective in solving international problems. Carter's ignorance of Iranian society and culture and of international affairs in general were also evident, and cost the United States's international position dearly. Iran represented the Carter administration's worst performance in foreign affairs.

The late years of Carter's presidency were characterized by a stagnating American economy, international embarrassment in Iran, and the collapse of détente. On Christmas Eve, 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, a neutral country on its southern border, irreparably damaging relations with the United States and the rest of the world. Carter imposed economic sanctions, withdrew the SALT II treaty from consideration in the senate, and led a boycott of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, but the Soviets were already too invested in Afghanistan to withdraw. With the hostage crisis in Tehran dominating news coverage, and the world closer to World War III than it had been in decades, Carter appeared as if he was losing control of the country. In his 1980 state of the Union address, Carter appeared visibly shaken. This speech illustrates best the triumph of Brzezinski's views over Vance's. Gone were any hints of accommodation towards the Soviets, and gone was the spirit which brought the Soviet Union and United States together to limit their nuclear arms race. Instead, Carter sounded absolutely militant and uncompromising in his stance, a stark about-face from just a few years earlier.

By the end of the year, Reagan had trounced Carter in the general election. The two campaigned on similar foreign policy platforms, but Reagan was able to provide a more consistent and compelling message to the American people, who were totally sick of Carter and his administration.

While in some respects Carter's presidency and

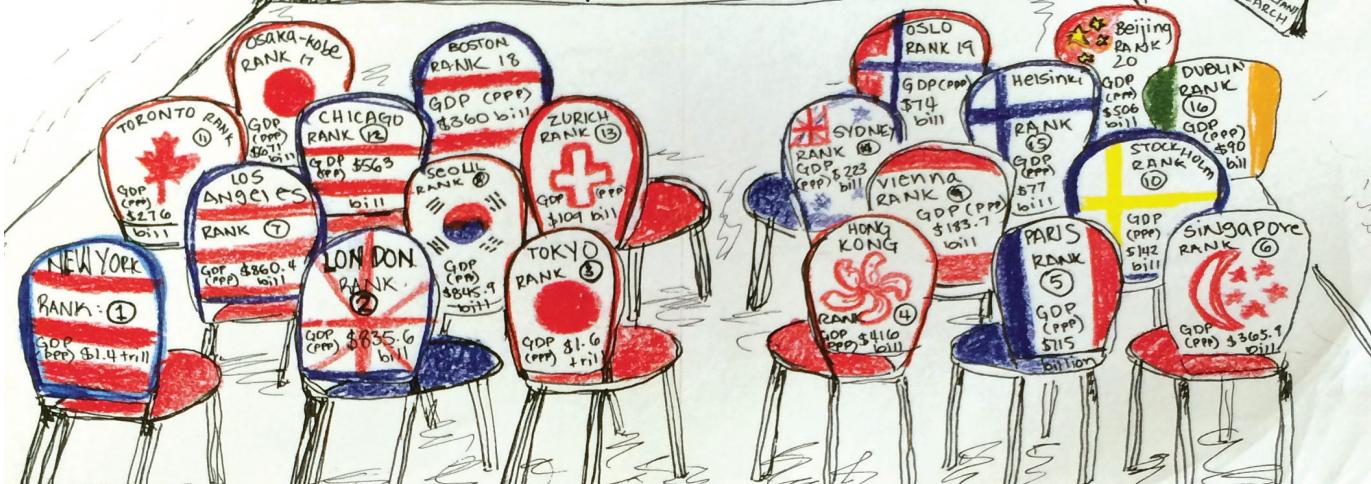
foreign policy are arguably failures, in many ways Carter's time in the White House was little different from his predecessors and successors. The same divisions and bureaucratic conflicts which plagued the Carter administration can be found in almost every presidency from Washington's to the present day. The Carter administration can be seen as a microcosm of American foreign policy. The United States, with its inherent obligations to the values of morality and justice, which are enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and have dominated our culture for centuries, continues to struggle to balance its immense power as a global hegemon with its obligations to the moral high ground. In a way, the United States suffers from schizophrenia, with one side of its brain embracing the ethical values of the revolution, as Vance during Carter's time in office, while the other embraces the power and control of military might, as Brzezinski did. The dueling ideologies of realism and internationalism which Brzezinski and Vance respectively espoused have manifested themselves in countless policy-makers and institutions throughout American history, before and after Carter. From the debate over American imperial expansion in the early twentieth century, to the battles over policy towards communism during the Cold War, to the invasion of Iraq in 2003, neither side of America's brain has been able to dominate the other. The battle between the two goes on, but it is certain that this dichotomy, which has divided the United States for centuries, will continue to play a major role in American foreign policy for many years to come. Finally, I'd like to remind everyone in the audience, especially the senior class, many of whom will be able to vote in next year's presidential election, of the consequences of Carter's presidency. Carter was one of the most inexperienced and unprepared American presidents ever elected, and it showed when he was required to act in times of crisis. Many of the presidential candidates currently running for office are even less experienced than Carter in this respect. No matter which party or candidate you support, remember that the presidents in our history who constructed the most competent and successful foreign policies were also the most experienced and qualified for the office.

Welcome to The New G-20

Since 1999, 20 countries from around the world have gathered at the G20 forum to discuss international financial stability. However, with the 21st century phenomenon of planetary urbanization, we concede the increasingly vital role of CITIES to the prosperity of our global economy. Therefore, the G20 happily accepts the 20 most economically powerful cities ranked by a combination of these factors:

- *Overall economic clout (GDP-PPP)
- *Global competitiveness
- *Financial power
- *Equity and quality of life

By Triff H'Doubler



1880

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE → 56°

- not as much greenhouse gas in the atmosphere
- less pollution
- colder temperatures
- larger glaciers and more room for the polar bears to live :)

Greenhouse Gases

- Carbon dioxide is responsible for 91% of global warming
- Methane accounts for 9% and comes from waste

2016

AVERAGE TEMPERATURE → 59°

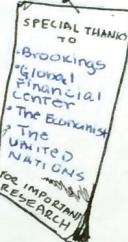
35% more greenhouse gas in the atmosphere

Burning fossil fuels and releasing more greenhouse gas causes warmer temperatures.

Greenhouse gas is what traps heat in the atmosphere.

Polar ice caps are melting, and there's less living space for the polar bears :/

By Emily Allara (North Cross '19)



Students describe study-travel experiences

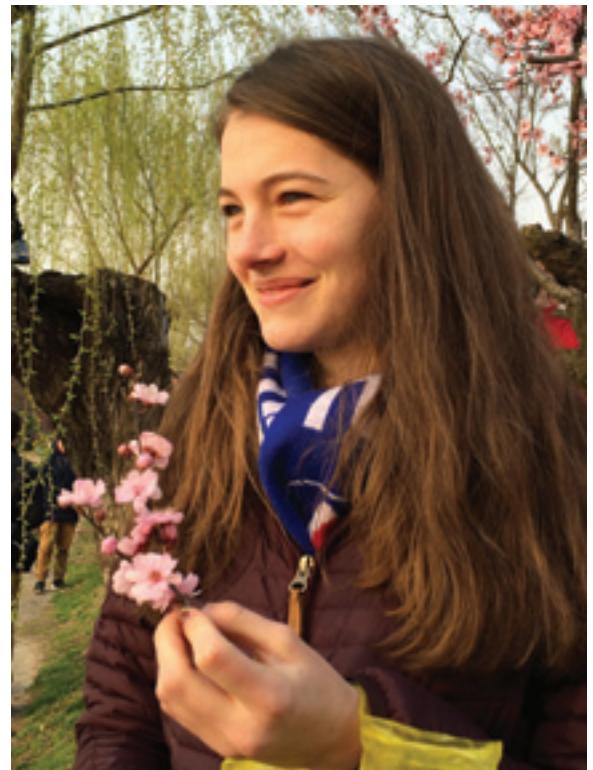


"Well I couldn't have a better experience at Roanoke, I met a lot of nice people. I would love to keep in touch. I loved NCS, We always had something to do there. I learned a lot about American culture and how daily life and that's something really cool because you can see how is the reality from other point of view and that's something you may not know if you go there for just a couple of weeks, also having two Chinese girls as my host sisters was really nice and fun because I could learn about their culture as well and they were really sweet girls."

- Sofia Almiron (The English Center, Corrientes, Argentina, '17)

"The first trip I took was to visit my exchange student, Marcelle Iten, in Guatemala city. I had the chance to observe both the lifestyle of her family and friends, which I am extremely jealous of- luxury cars, houses, dances, and bodyguards- and the life of the majority of those living in Guatemala, extremely different from that of Marcelle and her friends- observing a country overcome by poverty and violence and travelling to a secluded market with Marcelle's maids. I believe that I may have been the very only white person to ever step foot in this market. I am not exaggerating; I have never had so many stares in my entire life."

- Jane Ward (North Cross '16)



"The difference between North Cross experience and my school in Corrientes is that in North Cross all the students have a good relation with each other without depending if they are seniors, freshmen, sophomores or juniors.

The second is that you have to move to your next class in my school the teachers come to your classroom, so you don't have to move.

What can help us about this type of experiences is that you can know people of your same age but from a different country (and you will find that we have pretty much many things in common), you can learn about what teenagers do, improve your English, and know more about a culture."

- Juan Castello (Yapeyu School, Corrientes, Argentina '17)



"On the first day I came to the U.S, we had dinner at Wendy's. I ordered the kid's meal, since I was not that hungry. It included grilled chicken wrap, apple slices and chocolate milk. The size of the grilled chicken wrap was really small, but the chicken inside the wrap was comparatively large and really tasty. The apple slices were fresh, but a little bit sour for me. The taste of the chocolate milk seems familiar for me, like the beverage that I drink in China. [My] home-stay mom Christian took me to the bowling alley on Sunday. I was still excited after bowling for half an hour." PU "Tess" Xuan, (Xinhe School, '18)



It is amazing how people treat you at school.
Freedom- study hall - you get to chose what to do.
Teachers are extremely nice and open - approachable - very understanding.
The Dean is very approachable, too. Extremely satisfied with the overall experience.
The culture and the school system... the people...this kind of experience opens up your mind to learning more about the world and making the most of it...exploring other alternatives to travel around the world and continue learning about it...
- Pamela Jordan (Yapeyu '17)



"Someone who we met that affected me was Eva. She was nice, playful and fun and her jokes were funny. Meeting and talking to her broke some of my pre-conceptions about China and Chinese people.
Of my time there, I'd say my favorite part was the trip to Nanjing. I enjoyed walking around the city and seeing the monument at the top of the stairs. The night out with the students was also really fun. The kids were very friendly and the whole outing was awesome.
Something I thought was remarkable was how efficient and clean the trains and subways were. China has the cleanest train and subway stations I've ever seen.
From the boys' presentation last fall, I'd expected the difference in toilets, but I was shocked by how few people spoke good English. The trip would have been very different without Kevin and his mom. I'd love to visit China again, but maybe I'd learn some Chinese this time before I go."
- Thank you, Ruxandra Dancea (North Cross School, '19)



North Cross School

Xinhe School

Yapeyu School

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