

Envision | Issue Statement Paper

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Issue and Topic

How can the United States and Russia work together for global peace?

Problem Statement

In a changing world where threats are always increasing, countries need something to rely on for security. For the past several decades that “safety net” has been the United States. But we can’t be the world’s policemen by ourselves. It is essential that in a time of conflict we can find a compromise. Government officials have to deal with a broad range of threats. From cyber attacks all the way to economic sanctions. However, there is a way to decrease these threats towards the United States and find peace with the rest of the world. But we can’t do this on our own. While the country of Russia may not be our first choice to have as an ally, it is one of our only options to create peace worldwide in this day and age.

Before we continue on the issue itself, we must understand why Russia and the United States have not been able to work together for the past several decades. Ever since the beginning of the 20th century, the United States and Russia have had a small flame of conflict going on between them. Gradually, as Russia transitioned to the Soviet Union, that small flame started to grow. To this day, that flame is still going strong. Some people argue that the reason for this conflict has to do with the fact that the U.S has always had an economic advantage over Russia, causing Russia to be “jealous” in some way. Others argue that the U.S. wanted to focus on a more sanction approach, whereas Russia wanted an aggressive approach to conflicts. While all of these are correct, the main reason for all this tension has to do with their different views on the world. Because of this, the U.S. and Russia can never actually reach a common ground. Because of this, peace is hard to achieve.

Sustainable Solution

As seen by many reports from the United States Intelligence Community, Russia can not be trusted and has even gone as far as hacking the United States. However, to achieve global peace we need to recognize the problems we currently have across the world. Let's start off in the Middle East where ISIS continues to be a growing threat and the crisis in Syria has not been resolved. Russia has a lot of influence on the countries of Iran and Syria, as well as a strong military presence in the Middle East. If the United States and Russia could work together, we could potentially help bring peace to the Middle East while limiting casualties. That is just one example of how Russia can help us create a better world for peace.

While you might think that this alliance would only affect the people living in countries directly affected by this, in reality, it has an impact on a much more diverse group of individuals. First, like we talked about earlier, this will affect people living in the Middle East, as Russia and the United States can work together to end the conflict in that area. Secondly, it will affect residents in the country of Ukraine, as the United States has said time and time again, "If Russia leaves Crimea, we will lift sanctions on them." Lastly, it affects the citizens of Russia and America, as both countries economies can be improved by working with each other. When talking global peace, you have a very diverse group of people affected, and we can see that when Russia and America work together that many people are affected.

It would be great if an alliance were possible with Russia; but before we begin working together, we need to make sure that Russia stops harassing smaller countries. As we saw in 2014, Russia feels that they have the right to invade smaller countries and take land from them. It's just their view on the world. That view is something the United States can't stand for. For this alliance to work, Russia needs to leave Crimea and end their funding for "anti-Ukraine" groups. If they can accomplish this, not only will it be the beginning of a great alliance, but also the end of sanctions on Russia. However, if this does not happen, an alliance is not possible if we believe in American values - another reason why finding common ground with Russia is important.

To create a sustainable solution with varying opinions on an issue is very hard to do. That is why we came up with a way to make sure that we see both perspectives. Our plan for a sustainable solution to the problem presented is to create a committee with six members from each country, so we can have a productive discussion on what Russia and the United States want to be done to contribute to global peace. There will be a moderator for these discussions, and the moderator will be a special ambassador from the United Nations. This will ensure that we have an unbiased moderator for these talks to make sure that both sides can express their opinions. On top of that, the resolution (R.A.C.) and the treaty will serve on figurative moderators for the discussion. Finally, the U.S. and Russia will discuss four issues in total. First, an issue the U.S. decided on. Second, an issue Russia decided on. Third, an issue decided on by U.S. citizens. Finally, an issue decided on by Russian citizens. The thing is, these issues will

have to be global issues, not domestic ones. They will then try to come up with an approved solution to these problems. This will be one of the first steps to global peace.

To carry out this committee, we need resources. Mainly, we need to get the people of Russia, and the U.S. involved, as well as the leaders. Besides that, one of the most critical resources is a place to meet. Most likely the meeting place will be a location that is unbiased and known for peace. Somewhere like Iceland or Switzerland would be an ideal location. As well as a meeting place, an ambassador and people to write R.A.C. are necessary to this committee. Finally, good security is vital. Without proper security, we raise our chances of an attack which could disband the committee entirely.

Like we talked about earlier, Russia and the United States have not been able to find common ground on the Crimea issue. This issue could be seen as a potential challenge to our goal to achieve world peace as Russia has refused to budge on this issue. However, in a recent speech given by Russian President Vladimir Putin, he stated: "Russia and the United States will unite." It is clear that both parties involved want to compromise so long as Russia leaves Crimea and ends support to anti-Ukraine groups, our path to peace should be clear.

A relationship between the United States and Russia would be the trailblazers for world peace. First, as mentioned multiple times, a Russia and United States alliance could "stabilize" the Middle East and bring peace to a region of conflict. This is due to Russia's influence in Syria and Iraq, as well as their significant military capability. Secondly, both countries could significantly reduce their nuclear stockpiles and help lead the example for other nations. This will not only ensure greater peace between the two nations but possibly encourage states to follow their lead of reducing nuclear weapons. Third, in the ever technological world that we live in, cyber attacks are on the rise, and both the FBI and CIA have stated that Russia has one of the best Cyber Security departments while the United States lacks an effective one. A coalition of these two countries will ensure peace in Cyber Warfare between the two countries and throughout the world. Finally, Russia and the United States have the potential to become significant economic partners. According to a report done by Goldman Sachs, the Russian and American economies are very similar, as both have massive oil industries. If these two countries worked together, they both could help their oil industries and increase economic growth overall. As you can see, there are many ways that this alliance can benefit both the U.S. and Russia and make the path for peace.

Resolutions take time, and peace is no exception. To carry out our resolution, we first need to remove all current conflicts off the table, or only agree to disagree. This is because, in order to create a committee for peace, we need a peaceful relationship. Next, every logistical detail should be solved. Everything from security arrangements all the way to a meeting place. Then, the leaders or government need to elect representatives (a moderator needs to be appointed, too) and the two superpowers should create their treaty (with a moderator of course). After electing representatives, R.A.C. should be written, and the people will decide some of the first issues. Finally, the

meeting[s] will commence, and hopefully, the path to world peace will begin. All in all, this process will decide its length, but it should begin within the next 4-8 years (the next 2 U.S. presidential administrations).

To achieve this alliance, we have a proposed resolution to Congress that would create a committee between America and Russia. This resolution is called the R.A.C. (Russian and American Coalition). Its aim is to increase economic relations between the two countries and to better spread peace throughout the world. This resolution would also create a committee between the two nations so we can better communicate to each other what we want to be done. This action taken with the R.A.C. will allow us to better cooperate with Russia benefiting us, and other countries again. With this resolution, world peace can be achieved. Without a doubt, this resolution will give us hope. Because after all, in a world of conflict, our most powerful weapon is hope.

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