Overview

Model Diplomacy is a free classroom simulation of either the U.S. National Security Council or UN Security Council that takes place both online and in the classroom in a blended learning environment. It presents hypothetical situations based on real issues of the past and present. It has several cases that include a globalization angle.

Materials

The Model Diplomacy website

Instructional Plan

The following Model Diplomacy cases include a globalization angle:

- Economic Crisis in Europe
  One of France’s largest banks needs a bailout that its government likely cannot provide, roiling global markets. The National Security Council meets to recommend to the president how the United States should respond to this evolving European financial crisis, which threatens to infect U.S. banks. With Europe expected to enter an economic downturn, and the unity of the European Union and the eurozone challenged by the rise of extremist political parties in many countries, the crisis jeopardizes Europe’s ability to act as a strong partner to the United States in confronting global challenges.

- Russia and NATO in the Baltics
  In recent months, relations between Latvia’s ethnic Latvian majority and its ethnic Russian minority have grown more tense. When intelligence services receive information that a Russian special operations unit has crossed the border, the Latvian prime minister declares a state of emergency and imposes martial law. The United States faces a seeming repetition of Russian actions in Ukraine, but the stakes for the United States and its allies are considerably higher in Latvia, a fellow member of the North
Atlantic Treaty Organization.

- Dispute in the East China Sea
  Tensions are escalating rapidly in the East China Sea, where Japan and China have competing sovereignty claims over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands. Both nations have asserted overlapping Air Defense Identification Zones over the islands. Moreover, Beijing and Tokyo do not agree on their maritime boundary, and thus their navies operate in close proximity in the East China Sea. Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force surveillance planes and Chinese People’s Liberation Air Force fighter jets have repeatedly come in dangerously close contact off the coast of China. Both Tokyo and Beijing refuse to relent, claiming their militaries are operating legitimately in accordance with international law.

- Cyber Clash With China
  Cyberspace is a new domain of conflict that has few accepted standards of behavior. In recent years, China has exerted authority over areas of the South China Sea also claimed by other Asian countries, leading to tension with the United States. A few days ago, following several incidents in both cyberspace and the South China Sea itself, the Nasdaq stock market was hacked, which significantly harmed the U.S. economy. U.S. intelligence agencies believe some in the Chinese government knew about the attack, for which a Chinese hacker collective claimed credit. National Security Council members need to advise the president on the merits of a cyber response, economic sanctions, or military measures.

- NATO Enlargement [Historical Case]
  It is January 1994, and the world is dealing with the aftermath of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States' main adversary. The country has disintegrated into several independent states, many of them dealing with political turmoil and economic challenges. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance formed to defend Western European allies from the Soviet Union, is at a crossroads. Members of the National Security Council must decide whether NATO should survive, and if so, how its purpose and activities should evolve in this new era.