

## Overview

Students will assume the role of advisor to the leader of a South or Central Asian country, read a scenario, and make a policy recommendation.

## Length

1-2 classes

## Materials

South and Central Asia (World101)

Handout (attached)

## Instructional Plan

- Assign or have students choose countries from South and Central Asia to represent.
- Assign one or more scenarios from the handout. Have students, alone or in groups, give an oral presentation, as if briefing the president of their country on what to do with the situation.
- Lead a full class discussion on patterns that emerged about issues that the region faces.

## Extension and Additional Resources

- A writing assignment could replace or be added to the presentations.

## Scenarios

1. The Chinese government has approached your government with an offer to help fund a seaport or railroad depot with a large low-interest loan. Your country badly needs the investment in its infrastructure, but you have seen other countries accept loans from China, fail to pay them back, and have the infrastructure seized by China. Should your government make the deal?
2. The majority ethnic group in your country is advocating that its language and religion become the official language and religion of the country because members of that group see the country as theirs. However, your country also has several other ethnic groups that have their own languages and religions, and many of these groups do not speak the language of the majority group at all. How should your government react?
3. Last summer, a city in your country experienced several days of extreme heat, and hundreds of people died of heat stroke. What steps can you take to tackle this problem? Consider both alleviating suffering and addressing the root cause.
4. Your government is setting budget priorities for next year. Some factions of the military, concerned about a rival country and ongoing border disputes, would like to receive funding for additional troops and new tanks and aircraft. Domestic advisors are advocating investment in infrastructure, education, health care, and small business development to help grow the economy and improve the living standard. Finally, some in the military are suggesting that your country should invest in a nuclear weapons program to counter the rival country, even though doing so will likely lead to international condemnation. (Assume for this scenario that your country does not have nuclear weapons.) Your country only has enough money to make a major investment in one of these three areas. Which should be your country's priority?