

February 10, 2008

Honorable Ministers and Cabinet Members,

Welcome to the British Cabinet of the Great Game at ChoMUN XI!

My name is Blake Rachowin, and I will be your chair, the Honorable Prime Minister Arthur Balfour, at conference. I originally hail from Scarsdale, New York, but have since moved to the Windy City to study here at the University of Chicago. Although I entered the University as a prospective statistics major and declared a history major mid-way through my first year, I am now majoring in Economics with a minor in Biological Sciences. Outside of the classroom, my two biggest passions are skiing and Model UN. Before getting injured, I dreamed of skiing in the NCAA, but I now devote an inordinate amount of time to Model UN. When I am not in the classroom, hitting the slopes, or debating in the committee room, however, I also give tours of campus, obsess over American political campaigns and elections, religiously follow the New York Mets and New York Giants (I have given up on the Knicks), and watch and re-watch Woody Allen films.

Although ChoMUN prides itself on offering the most innovative crisis simulations on the circuit, I am particularly excited about the Great Game. Running this committee, particularly in the Joint Crisis format, has been a dream of mine for years, and I am glad to see it come to fruition. The historical period is fascinating in various capacities, not the least of which is the relevance of the period to the present day. The exploration of foreign oil interests in Central Asia directly mirrors the competing influences of Britain and Russia in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and I am sure our simulation will shed light on the current situation. Moreover, as “The First Cold War,” the Great Game offers a unique style of conflict. Of course neither nation sought direct military conflict with the other, but the competition of their geopolitical interests reached the brink of war at various points during the history of the Great Game. I cannot wait to explore the direction in which you, as the British Cabinet, will lead the conflict.

I hope you are all as anxious as I am for the start of ChoMUN XI. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at any time. I expect you will all come prepared for the most unique simulation on the college circuit yet, and hope that you are armed and ready to destroy the expansion of Imperial Russian interest in honor of the United Kingdom!

Yours truly,

Blake Rachowin
Chair, The Great Game: Edwardian England
ChoMUN XI