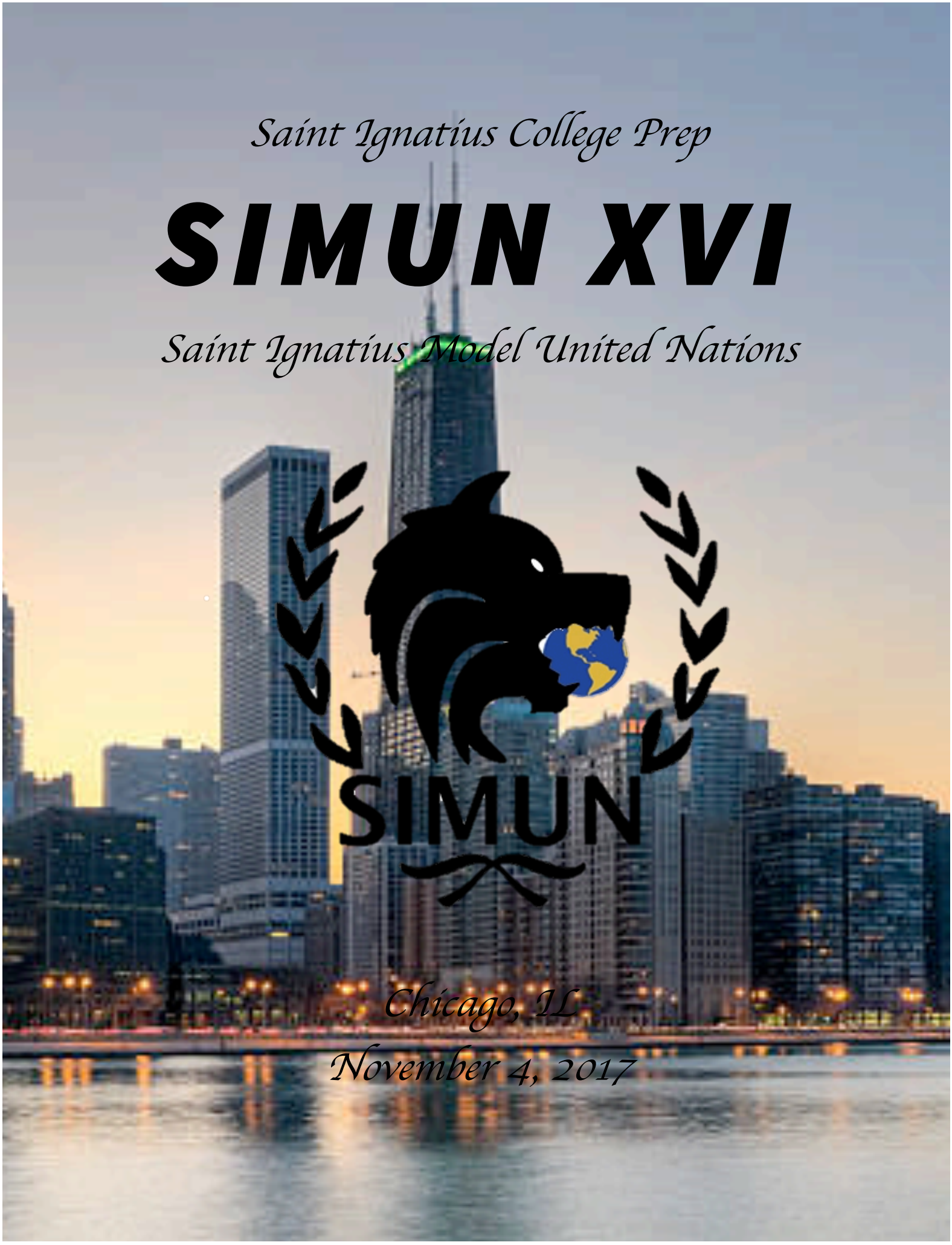
Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



Chicago, IL

November 4, 2017

SIMUN XVII

Background Guide

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Greetings! Welcome to the Saint Ignatius Model United Nations conference. My name is Lindsey Zver and I will be your chair for the Organization of American States. I am a Junior, and I participate in volleyball and Model United Nations. This will be my third year participating in Model United Nations. Model UN has been an amazing experience for me during my high school career. This club has allowed me to develop speaking skills, and has shown me the importance of teamwork outside of school. Even more than a means of academic development, Model United Nations has been a place where I make connections and friendships that last. As you begin your research for this year's SIMUN conference, I hope that you have had positive experiences in Model United Nations, and that this year's conference is a competitive, yet fun conference for all delegates. Most of all, I am excited to see the ideas and solutions that evolve from this conference.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at lindsey.zver@students.igantius.org. I wish you luck, and most of all, I want to remind you to have fun!

Sincerely,

Lindsey Zver

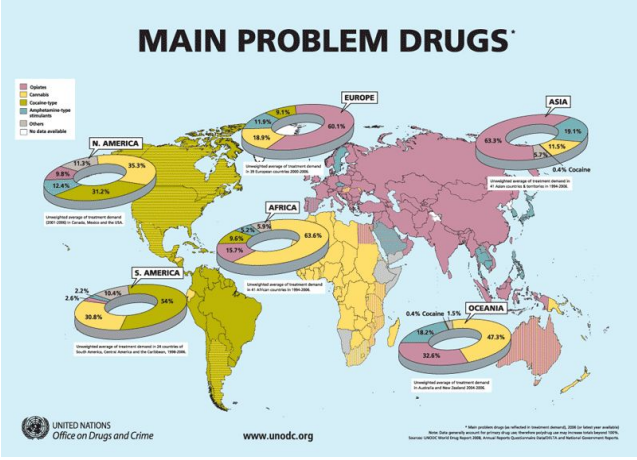
Topic A: Preventing Illicit Drug Trade Between Borders

Background and History of the Latin American Drug Trafficking:

The use of illicit substances for social and medicinal purposes has been common practice in Latin America since the late nineteenth century. The coca plant's migration from Latin America to Europe and Beyond marks the beginning of the demand for mind-altering substances, such as cocaine and later marijuana and heroine.

The use of the coca plant, native to modern day Peru and Bolivia, by the native population originally gave Latin America a negative image. However, as the Old Worldviews began to shift, and demand for the coca plant grew, Latin America became an asset to many of the Old World countries. Scientists began to study the coca plant, and found it to be extremely effective as an anesthetic for various surgical procedures. Consequently, demand for the coca plant, specifically demand for the export of the coca plant, skyrocketed. The high demand for the now medicinal substance resulted in a new method of production: a powdered form of the coca leaf. This new breakthrough allowed for easier and more efficient transport of the drug from the cocaine plants to the targeted countries, the United States included.

The 1900s marked the decrease in cocaine exports. The United States began to limit the export and production of cocaine, along with marijuana and opium. The beginning of Prohibition in the United States led to a movement for an international ban on cocaine, which failed due to Peruvian and Japanese resistance. As the cocaine filled countries of South America struggled to find a new market for their surplus of cocaine, an underground trafficking and production market began to form. The Mexican revolution marked the beginning of smuggling, as Mexico pushed opium through border states in California in order to reach opium dens in major cities. After this, illegal movement of mind altering substances from Mexico and other countries to America, China, and others began to form. A network of smugglers began to push illegal substances through America, mostly concentrated in the southwest territories and states.

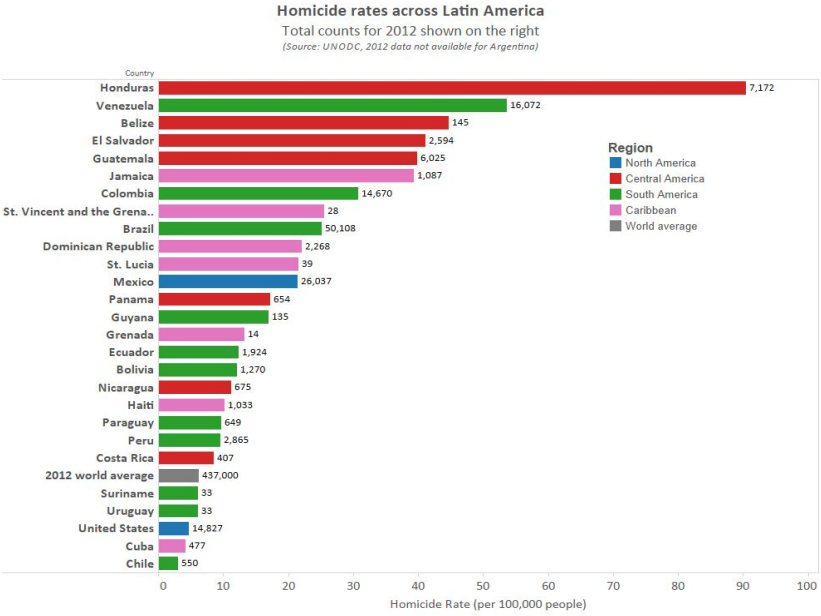


As the illegal production and distribution of cocaine, marijuana and other substances began to shift from a loose collection of smugglers to a

highly organized network, violence began to form alongside the trade. The illicit trade proved to be competitive, and its illegal nature allowed increased crime and fatality to surround the smuggling. As trafficking spread, smugglers began to form connections to the local government officials and gained political influence and power. The U.S. provided support through criminal groups. Mexico began to use air trafficking to transport drugs to America quickly, leading to a flight ban in many known drug producing cities.

Today, laws regarding these illicit substances are widely varied from country to country, not to mention ineffectively enforced. Certain nations are able to focus on reducing the violence and harm that comes alongside the illicit substance trade. However, many nations rely on these illegal substances as their source of production and income.

In many areas, especially Latin America, the production and trafficking of illicit substances has become a part of the nation's identity. Columbia, Peru, and Bolivia are marked as the world's primary cocaine producers, allowing Mexico and the Caribbean to become the main paths of transport for these drugs to the United States and to Europe. The illicit drug trade has supported these countries for decades now. However, the production and transportation of these illicit substances have made them targets for United States' suppression efforts. In addition to these outside threats, Central America holds the most dangerous cities worldwide, and possesses the highest global homicide rate of any country.



The history of drug production and Trafficking began for medicinal purposes, supported by wealthier countries and their scientific studies. As it evolved however, the illicit drug trafficking system became entwined with violence and harmful consequences to those involved. Today, the illicit drug trade runs vastly unchecked and unregulated, because it lacks a unified response equally enforced by all nations. In order to lower the violence that follows the illicit substance trade, concrete and feasible standards must be created to help regulate the illicit substance trafficking in Latin America and beyond.

Questions to Consider:

Would the legalization of the illicit substances in question lead to more harm than good? What standards would need to be placed on these now legal substances to ensure the safety of the population?

What incentive would Latin American countries need in order to better enforce these restrictions?

At what level (production, transport, etc.) would regulations prove to be most effective both in limiting the amount of illicit substances that reach their endpoint and eliminating the violence that follows the trade?

What are the economic ramifications of dismantling the illicit drug trade? How will the countries most affected recover any lost economic stability?

Sources:

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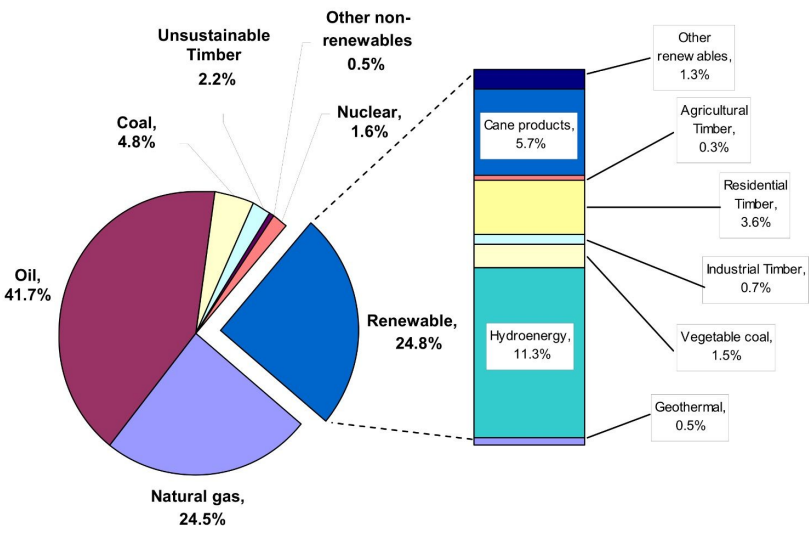
Topic B: Energy Security

History and Background of Energy Security in Latin America:

Energy Security is an extremely important issue, especially for newly independent countries that may still rely on their previous rulers in order to meet the required fossil fuels and other energy sources to survive and thrive as a nation. Having Energy Security allows nations an additional layer of power and sovereignty within themselves, and keeps competitive rates on resources, which can be beneficial for Latin American countries. Latin America, however does face quite a few issues regarding Energy Security, including access to modern energy sources, supply reliability, and overall cost of these energy resources. In addition to these issues, concerns between Energy Security and climate change push these countries to update their Energy sources to more sustainable solutions, often inflaming the issues that exist already.

Energy supply Latin America and the Caribbean - 2004[3]

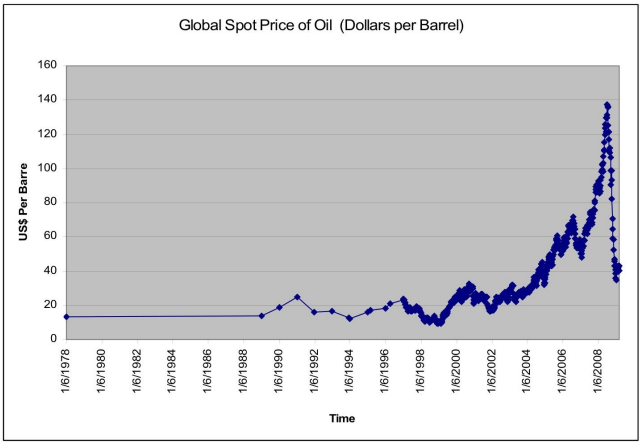


The main energy source in Latin America is fossil fuel, including oil, coal, and natural gas. These non-renewable resources make up over seventy percent of the region's energy supply. Other types of energy resources include unsustainable timber, nuclear energy, hydro energy, and industrial timber. In order to keep up with the growing rate of consumption, extreme monetary investments must be made. These investments are too large for Latin America to reasonably fund on their own, especially countries who have just recently achieved their own energy security, to shoulder by themselves. Without this investment, thousands will be left without power and other energy resources needed to carry out simple day to day tasks.

Reliability of resources is another pressing concern for Latin American Energy Security. Oftentimes, reliability waivers due to unreliable transport and delivery of these energy sources. In order to make these sources more reliable, connections between countries in different regions of Latin America need to form and grow. These connections can come in many forms, one of the most important being infrastructure

development. Additionally, allowing multiple resources to supply energy to basic functions can increase the reliability of these energy supplies.

Events outside of each country's control also threaten the status of energy reliability. Mechanical failures can threaten energy reliability, especially in developing countries. These failures include spillage or breaks in the containment systems of these resources, power line disruptions, and plant failure. Acts of terrorism and war constantly threaten the violence-ravaged cities in Latin America. Finally, depletion of natural oil reserves, or water or wind shortages can all negatively affect energy reliability. The fluctuation in energy prices can also have a negative impact on the reliability of these energy sources. National budgets and foreign income can be negatively affected by both the raising and lowering of natural gas prices. These dropping prices can also damage the efforts to transfer from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy.



Weekly All Countries Spot Price FOB Weighted by Estimated Export Volume (Dollars per Barrel) (EIA, 2009)

(Climate Change heavily influences the future of energy resources, especially concerning non-renewable resources and resources with strong carbon emissions. The fossil fuels currently needed to support the constant stream of energy consumption emit 59 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions. These emissions damage the natural ratio and order of the atmosphere, causing disastrous effects that can in turn damage energy security. These effects include water supply fluctuations, affecting power generators and other plants, damage caused by increasing natural disasters including hurricanes, and increased flooding that can damage the infrastructure already created in the energy district.

Energy Security is essential to the prosperity of Latin America and the relationship with other countries outside of their region. Although large steps have been made to increase Energy Security in Latin America, large monetary investments need to be made in order to keep up with rapidly growing consumption. New forms of affordable sustainable energy are needed to counterbalance the effects of climate change, as well as to combat unreliable energy sources. Energy Security can be a valuable asset to Latin America, as long as the correct steps are taken to ensure the reliability and safety of these energy sources.

Questions to Consider:

How can other countries support the increasing need for Energy sources in Latin America, while still respecting each country's existing degree of Energy Security?

Does the push to shift from natural energy resources to sustainable energy threaten Energy Security in Latin America?

How does each country's ability to support these necessary changes to their own energy sources and supply help or impede the systems needed to ensure energy security in Latin America?

Sources:

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