

## AWQ NOTES:

### RUSSIA:

- USSR Dissolved in Fall 1991
- Putin took over control from Boris Yeltsin in 2000
- Russia began separating ties from the West due to its newfound petroleum wealth
- Putin has been portraying the US as the enemy and 60-65% of Russians view US Policies as “hostile” towards Russia.
- NATO threatened sanctions toward Russia if they occupied or were overly controlling to Ukraine.
- NATO was originally created to control the power of USSR Russia
- After the breakup of the USSR – NATO pivoted to include Baltic Nations – A decision which both alienated and angered Russia
- The first ever NATO combat mission occurred in 1994 – Operation Deny Flight – Shooting down Bosnian Serb Aircraft
- Yugoslavia dissolved in Early 1990s.
- Russia's main exports are petroleum and metals.
- NATO is headquartered in Brussels
- NATO took command of the 2011 no fly zone in Libya
- NATO's military structure is split between two strategic commands: the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe located near Mons, Belgium, and the Allied Command Transformation located in Norfolk, Virginia.
- NATO's secretary-general (currently Norway's Jens Stoltenberg) serves a four-year term as chief administrator and international envoy.
- The North Atlantic Council is the alliance's principal political body
- Lake Baikal in Russia contains 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the world's fresh water... additionally it holds enough water to cover all of Russia 3ft deep
- Many current and former Russian leaders believe that NATO's inroads into the former Soviet sphere are a clear betrayal of alleged guarantees to not expand eastward after German reunification in 1990.
- Rapid expansion of NATO could make a neo-imperialist Russia a self-fulfilling prophecy
- Russia's annexation of Crimea is “the gravest threat to European security since the cold war”
- A major point of contention with Russia has been the US created ballistic missile defense shield, which Russia claims could tip the balance of power to the west. “When a nuclear shield is added to a nuclear sword, it is very tempting to use this offensive defensive capability.”
- NATO allies agreed to establish new command centers in six eastern periphery states: Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania. The outposts, which are expected to open in 2016, will support a new rapid reaction force, known as the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force, which can respond to threats within days – and will be jointly led on a rotating basis by France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, and the UK.
- In 2014 Allied Jets intercepted Russian Warplanes more than 400 times without altercation.
- NATO is considering offering membership to both Finland and Sweden, traditionally peaceful, nonengaged countries.
- In 2008 Russia went to war with Georgia over break away territory.
- Russia pushed toward the Georgian capital, and all out war was only avoided via France's

mediation.

- A key factor in said conflict however was that Georgia moved first, Ukraine has been careful not to give the Russians any excuse to open fire.
- Georgia had also been flirting with NATO, which Putin hated.
- The conflict centered on South Ossetia and Abkhazia, two "breakaway provinces", both of whom are supported by Russia, and both have Russian peace keeping operations, in Georgia. They are officially part of Georgia, but have separate, unrecognized governments.
- Russia originally began conflict with Georgia due to rumors they were harboring Chechen rebels.
- In North Korea (38<sup>th</sup> Parallel), the Soviets backed a Stalinist regime under their client Kim Il-sung and created the North Korean Peoples' Army, equipped with Russian tanks and artillery. In the South, the chaotic political situation resulted in an American-backed administration under the presidency of Syngman Rhee, whose openly declared aim was the imposition of national unity by force. As a result of this stance, the American-trained South Korean army was limited to a lightly armed gendarmerie, lacking tanks, combat aircraft and all but a small amount of field artillery.
- South Korea was invaded by the North in 1950.
- Khrushchev promised not to move missiles into Cuba, and Kennedy allowed them to put in defensive machinery, so long as they did not put in offensive missiles.
- Kennedy and a small cabinet were originally in favor of surgical strikes on Cuba, but as "doves" and not "hawks" changed to a more diplomatic solution: giving Khrushchev time to capitulate and move his weaponry out of Cuba.
- In 1961 Khrushchev and the East Germans built a wall around West Berlin.
- Kennedy's cabinet was called The ExComm.
- As Khrushchev went to move Soviet Merchantmen into Cuba, Kennedy was pushed by McNamara to fire a warning shot if they crossed the boundary. Fortunately Khrushchev pulled all Merchantmen back before it became an issue.
- Kennedy's brother, Robert Kennedy, was the Attorney general
- The US used U-2 Planes to monitor Cuba.
- Khrushchev agreed to move out of Cuba if Kennedy would not invade Cuba, but later reneged on his promise, and only agreed to move out of Cuba if the US would leave Turkey.
- Kennedy told Khrushchev that the missiles in Turkey were obsolete and be pulled out within 6 months anyway as to not lose face, and found Khrushchev had already agreed to pull out of Cuba.
- Gorbachev succeeded Chernenko as president of the Russian Communist party in 1985, within 7 years the USSR would be dissolved (December 1991).
- Stalin lead from 1920 to 1953
- Boris Yeltsin introduced Glastnost – openness or transparency
- USSR lost 27 million soldiers in WWII
- Gorbachev was in charge of the Kremlin, stepped down gracefully
- Yeltsin became head of the new Russian Republic and reintroduced spheres of influence

#### Youth, Jobs, and Social Unrest:

- Youth comprise a ¼ of the world's population
- Youth Development index is comprised of six categories: citizen participation, economic opportunity, education, health, information and communications technology, safety and security
- A large majority of the World's youth are experiencing lower levels of wellbeing
- Even where young people are doing well they still face specific challenges and limitations

- Even where youth may not be thriving, they still display success in certain areas
- How young people feel about their own wellbeing does not always align with what the objective data suggests
- Across countries, domain average scores indicate youth fairing strongest in health and weakest in economic opportunity.
- 30 different countries included in the index
- About 85% of young people surveyed by the index live in countries that demonstrate lower median and low youth wellbeing
- 15% are living in countries in the upper ranks of median and high youth wellbeing.
- The index score among the 30 countries is the highest in the health domain: .67, and lowest in the economic opportunity: .47
- Australian youth have highest wellbeing, and Nigerian youth the lowest
- Results from Russia and South Africa show that high income doesn't immediately demonstrate young people benefit from strong economic growth
- Colombia is top in citizen participation; even with a low income
- Many OECD and MENA countries are low in citizen participation
- Recommendations for next steps: Advance youth voices and participation; Promote deeper dive and targeted research and analysis; Consider integrated policies and programs; Advance the body of age disaggregated and youth survey data
- Global Youth Wellbeing Rankings: Australia, Sweden, South Korea, UK, Germany, US, Japan, Spain, Saudi Arabia, Thailand...Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Nigeria
- 1.8 billion youth aged 10 to 24 in the world, and another quarter under age 10
- Half the youth are un-or under-employed
- more than 120 million youth are still illiterate
- and other 40% of HIV AIDS infections are on youth
- Roughly 85% of youth live in low- and lower middle income countries
- Current data on youth is often incomplete, inconsistent, and uncoordinated
- The average wellbeing score is .576
- Only 15 of 232 million international immigrants were refugees
- The majority of young migrants live in developing countries (60%)
- Spain youth unemployment reaches record 56.1%
- Spain holds over a quarter of the 3.5 million youth unemployed in the EuroZone
- Spain Adults hold the highest unemployment at 25.3%
- Total number of unemployed across the EuroZone is 19.2 million, decreasing. At the EU 26.7 total, at 12.1% unemployed and 11% in the EuroZone
- Millennials range in age of 18 to 33
- 50% of Millennials are independent and 30% are nonreligious
- Fewer Millennials are getting married (26% at the same age as previous generations who were at 36%, 48%, 65%) , and most vote Liberal
- 55% of millennials have posted a selfie on a social media site
- 43% of Millennials are non white
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