

# Gov 40 Crisis Simulation

An international crisis has occurred that demands a response from the United States. Formulating the optimal American action requires a coordinated effort from the multiple institutions of the US government that help craft foreign policy. Each of these institutions must collect information and use its own expertise to contribute to the national response. The simulation will culminate with the president adopting a policy response, and the press secretary issuing a opening statement to a Presidential press conference that outlines and defends America's policy choice.

## Preparation before class

Before the simulation on Monday 4/28 you should learn more about your assigned role. Focus on how your role fits into the broad US foreign policy landscape and what its contributions are to policy formation. Additionally, do some research on the capabilities and resources at your disposal. On Sunday 4/27 you will receive the actual content of the crisis and can begin preparing your response.

## Structure

Time within the 50 minute simulation will be divided as follows.

- **Fact Finding (10 minutes):** There are numerous salient facts each individual should research. First, identify your assigned role's function in US foreign policy formulation. Second, learn what capabilities are at your disposal to address the crisis. Third, find out more about the crisis location and the important background conditions which could pertain to its military power, alliances, regional considerations, importance in international trade, poverty, and domestic institutional arrangements (e.g., constitutional arrangements).
- **Interfacing and Collaboration (10 minutes):** Coordinate with those in other related institutions. For instance, those from the Department of Defense ought to gather input from members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when considering whether a military response is wise. Similarly, the president and advisors should liaise with congresspersons from both parties.

- **Finalize Positions (10 minutes):** Reconvene with your institutional colleagues and reach a consensus on your optimal role and response to the crisis. Enter your positions/suggestions into <http://bit.ly/1hpkNH0>
- **Craft Press Statement (10 minutes):** The president, White House advisors, press secretary and staff take a few minutes to adopt a final position and craft a statement to be made public. This should be done based on listening in to conversations of different groups and extracting content from the Google doc. During this time students not in the Executive Branch review content entered by other actors.
- **Press Conference (10 minutes):** The president and press secretary deliver a speech.

## Roles & Likely Collaborators

- **President:** You are a Democrat with all of the resources, responsibilities, and constraints (e.g., congress, the public) typically associated with the job. You will ultimately decide what form US policy will take and lead a press conference to describe and defend your choice. Virtually anyone could be a helpful collaborator and resource but you can divvy out the information collection role to your advisors. You will want to be sure to hear from congresspersons.
- **Presidential Advisors (including NSC officials):** You are White House staff, potentially affiliated with the National Security Council, and assist the president in collecting and synthesizing information. You will want to consult with nearly all institutions to get a multi-dimensional view of the crisis and potential responses. You must help the president prepare for the final press conference.
- **Press Secretary and Staff:** You will assist in the drafting of and final delivery of a statement outlining America's policy response. You will work closely with the president and advisors while reaching out to other institutions to get briefings and greater expertise for the statement. Be sure to stay on the president's message.
- **Department of State:** You handle US diplomacy and relations abroad. Any peaceful settlement to the crisis will likely involve your efforts. Be sure to collaborate with US representative to the UN (who does report to the Secretary of State), USAID, and Department of Defense. You must convey your findings to the president or advisors.

- **Department of Defense:** You oversee national security and the US armed forces. A military response to the crisis will likely involve your efforts. Humanitarian assistance is also often coordinated through the Pentagon. Be sure to collaborate with Department of State, CIA, the Joint Chiefs, and congresspersons. You must convey your findings to the president or advisors.
- **CIA:** You are responsible for collecting and analyzing intelligence from abroad. You should be the experts on the salient facts about the country, players, and regional actors involved in the crisis. Covert operations are also in your purview. Be sure to collaborate with Department of State, Department of Defense, the Joint Chiefs, and congresspersons. You must convey your findings to the president or advisors.
- **Joint Chiefs of Staff (specified by branch):** You are the most senior uniformed military officers in the US tasked with advising the Defense Department and president on military options. You should gather information about the capabilities available to partake in any military or humanitarian response. Be sure to collaborate with Department of Defense, CIA, and congresspersons. You must convey your findings to the president or advisors.
- **Congresspersons (including leadership):** You are elected officials representing a specified constituency. Re-election is never far off and is always a concern. You should collaborate with any institution that can provide information on the crisis as well as relevant lobbying interests. Political concerns are always present and potential responses by the president will carry implications for your position (e.g., whether to (dis)agree based on party lines).
- **US Agency for International Development:** You oversee civilian foreign aid. Any policy response involving foreign aid disbursements will require your input and expertise. Be sure to collaborate with Department of State, UN representatives, and CIA. You must convey your findings to the president or advisors.
- **US Representatives to UN:** You represent US interests at the United Nations. Your input to the policy response should reflect the likely responses from other states and how the UN can facilitate, it at all, policy implementation. Be sure to collaborate with Department of State, USAID, and Department of Defense. You must convey your findings to the president or advisors.

- **Relevant Lobby:** Be sure to collaborate with congresspersons and any institution that has interests directly tied to your lobby. You must attempt to gain access to the president or advisors. Prior to the simulation you will be told what interest groups you represent.