

Russian Delegation

The Next Big One: Preparing for a Global Pandemic

History has shown Russia to be one of the strongest nations on the face of the earth. For many centuries, our land has stayed safe and well. However, one thing that threatens this security is a pandemic of global proportions. The ever-present threat of a quickly spreading disease makes no nation truly strong without a healthy populace and a detailed healthcare system. Due to this fact, health has always been a priority of the Russian Federation. Recently, the universal healthcare system has been modernized to move with the ever-advancing world, and the increase in government funding has helped to lay down the foundations and branches of a fantastic health care system. Increased aid, along with a proven preparedness for the monitoring of foreign and domestic diseases, places Russia as a top player on the global health spectrum. Socially, politically, and economically our nation stands out as properly equipped and ready for any and all health issues that could come about. The unmatched effectiveness and preparedness of our people and health care workers solidifies the Russian Federation as more than ready to thoroughly handle and eliminate a pandemic in the nation on all fronts, if one were to happen.

Russia is currently functioning under a federation (Russia), which is “a federated body by a number of nations, states, societies, unions, etc., each retaining control of its own internal affairs.” (Federation) However, it is difficult to define their exact system of government because it has gone through such change recently (Evans). Their president, Vladimir Putin, has been their dominating political figure since 2000, starting off as President, then changing to Prime Minister for a short time before becoming President once more (Russia Country Profile). This is allowed under Russia’s amended Constitution of 1993 (Russia Profile). During the

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Agricultural Age, Russia functioned through feudal arrangements and ancient empires. Their government changed with the times, evolving into a representative democracy during the Age of Industrialization. Inspired by the worldwide Information age and many neighboring democracies, Russia's use of democracy is developing into a more functional, better-organized system of government. Today, the federation links twenty one autonomous republics under one country, with a capital in the city of Moscow. There are several branches with hundreds of representatives, which helps to maintain checks and balances (Evans).

The major religions practiced in Russia include Russian Orthodox, Islam, and various forms of Christianity. However, many of Russia's citizens are atheist or practice minority religions (Russia). Christianity was the official religion of Russia for quite some time, and this is credited to Vladimir, who was the son of Sviatoslaff. This is ironic because Sviatoslaff was the son of Olga, who was never successful in her attempts to convert Sviatoslaff to Christianity ("The Religion of Russia").

At 99.6%, the Russian Federation has one of the highest literacy rates throughout the world. In relation to education, the average school year expectancy for a student attend school (primary to tertiary levels) is fourteen years (CIA Factbook). In Russia, a public education system is organized and directed by the state. As a result, a general education is available and free for all citizens, typically beginning at the age of six. At the first stage of school, the teachers frequently focus on basic intellectual skills and activities to ready their students for their several years of schooling to come. An average school year typically consists of 34 weeks per year. There are a few subjects that schools are required to teach, such as Russian language, foreign languages, history, politics and natural sciences; however, each state may add other topics of their choice so essentially the topics of education at every school varies. The Russian

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public education system generally takes about eleven years to complete, which is typically from age six to seventeen (The Education System in Russia).

The Russian Federation's military is one of the largest in the world, possessing the manpower of nearly a million men. Additionally, after the United States, the Russian military retains the largest nuclear weapons arsenal globally. The military is divided into three branches: the Ground Forces, the Navy and the Air Force. Compulsory or voluntary military service is applicable to all men aged eighteen to twenty-seven years old and all males are registered for the draft at age seventeen (CIA Factbook). The Ground Forces are the land forces of the Russian Federation and have been an active sect of Russia's military since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1992. The Ground Forces use advanced and complex tactics and traditional weapons (Russian Army). The Russian Federation's Naval Forces are broken into various fleets based on location; there is the Baltic Sea Fleet, the Pacific Ocean Fleet, the Northern Fleet, and the Black Sea Fleet. The Navy has recently begun to utilize atomic energy to power their ship-carriers, airplanes and helicopters which has significantly increased their capabilities (Structure of the Navy). The Russian Federation's air force is the second largest in the world with about 2,832 aircrafts (Russian Air Force).

When the Soviet Union broke apart, Russia's economy became more of a themed, and globally involved economy, instead of separated and central economy. Economic reforms, taking place in the 1990's greatly improved and modernized Russia's economy. In 2011, Russia became the world's number one producer of oil, bringing in large amounts of commerce. (Economic Profile) Russia has set out to make itself more self reliable, and less dependent on other countries. The 2008 stock market crash, however, made it much harder, because foreign oil prices decreased greatly. Russia took one of the most significant blows from the crash, also many of the foreign credits Russia needed were no longer available. In

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2010, however, the percentage of the population who were under the poverty line was surprisingly only 13 %. (Economic Profile) In 2012 the unemployment rate was 6.2 % . (Economic Profile) Russia's recovery from the crash was a much needed event., and their economy is on its way to becoming even stronger.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia became much more regionalized. The main source of national news is television, whereas newspapers and magazines tend to be about more individual topics. The collapse brought around a large sense of freedom, but also weakened the social elements of the central government. Things like employment and simple health care could no longer be promised. (Russia-Social Structure) When the Soviet Union came to an end, it also took away a sort of expectation of Russians, and many spread out to do a variety of things with their new found freedom. Since 1991, Russian divorce rate has risen and marriage rate has decreased. This had led to more single mothers. Woman in Russia are expected to do all the housework, even with a full time job. Woman have a high unemployment rate, and tend to receive lower paying jobs. (People and Society) Russia struggles with abject poverty in areas, and many families cannot pay for household appliances. Russia struggles with several social issues, but had made a large amount of progress since the dismemberment of the Soviet Union.

As laid out in the Constitution of the Russian Federation (1993), Russia is a democratic federation with a republic type of government (Russia). The Russian Federation is a social state in which the state power is divided into legislative, executive and judicial power (Government Structure). These various branches of power are independent from one another, working separately to achieve a common goal of general success in Russia. Essentially, state power is shared amongst the President, the Federal Assembly, the government and the court system; however, the President of the Russian Federation is the head of state, ultimately holding the

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most power (Government Structure). Russia's current President, Vladimir Putin has been a dominating political figure since the year 2000, when he was elected (Russia). The President of the Russian Federation is elected for six years by the citizens on the basis of universal suffrage. In order to run for President, one must be 35 years of age or older and must have been residing in the Russian Federation for at least ten years (Russia).

The policy of the Russian Federation is to create conditions that assure a person's decent life and free development. Consequently, the President takes measures to achieve this goal, as well as to protect the nation's sovereignty and independence. The Parliament of the Russian Federation, the Federal Assembly, is Russian Federation's representative and legislative body (Government Structure). The Federal Assembly is broken into two chambers: the Federation Council and the State Duma. The Federation Council has two representatives from each constituency: one representative each from the representative and executive bodies of state power. The State Duma has 450 deputies who work on a professional permanent basis. The State Duma is elected for a four-year term and must be at least 21 years of age (Government Structure).

The government of the Russian Federation holds the executive power of the nation. The government is comprised of the Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, deputies of the Chairman, and federal ministers. (The Chairman is appointed by the President and approved by the State Duma). In the Russian Federation, solely the court administers justice. The nation's constitutional court has nineteen judges and it settles cases of compliance with the Constitution of the Russian Federation at the request of the President, the Federal Council, the State Duma, the Federation Council, the deputies of the State Duma, the Government, the Supreme Court, the Supreme Arbitration Court and the legislative and

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executive bodies of the Russian Confederation (Government Structure). The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation is the judiciary body for civil, criminal, administrative and other cases that are under the jurisdiction of general courts (Russia). The Supreme Arbitration Court is the judiciary body for settling economic litigations and other cases, which are heard, by the arbitration courts. The Judges of the court systems are appointed by the Federation Council and by the request of the President of the Russian Confederation (Government Structure).

Russia is regarded as a hybrid regime that resembles other Eurasian states. An “innovator of the field”, Russia integrates a highly centralized state without democratic institutions, but instead uses substitutions that pose the positive functions of democracy without challenging the incumbent’s hold on power (Petrov 1).

The Russian constitution promotes “welfare protection, access to social security, pensions, free health care, and affordable housing” and “guarantees local self-governance” (Britannica 16). Thus, once the age of eighteen, a citizen cast a vote on a number of political incumbents running to represent the political parties of Russia: United Russia, Communist Party, A Just Russia, Yabloko, Liberal Democratic Party of Russia. Each of these represents different views on progression of the Russian Federal Government, the most influential being United Russia which supports Putin, the Duma, and the Federation Council. The most dominant political presence would be the Siloviki made up of veterans of the security and military establishment lead by Putin himself; however, others believe there is a rival, more liberal clan around Medvedev, the current Prime Minister.

The Russian Federation takes pride in the more than effective universal health care system, which makes the nation strong in the field of global health. Healthcare is more than strong and prepared in the country, with many more medical workers, large hospitals, and

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physicians when compared to other countries in the world. Russian citizens visit doctors, on average, about ten times per year. This is much more frequent than other countries as well. Only one area is not superior to other nations, however; and that is the life expectancy of men. The lower lifespan is due to diseases that are preventable, non-communicable, and overall not due to the health care infrastructure set up presently. Even with that, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has gone as far as to pledge 10 billion USD to healthcare reforms, further aiding the medical system of Russia (Prime Minister). All of these factors combine for the makings of a solid healthcare system, one that is extremely competitive on the global front, and makes Russia extremely prepared for an outbreak of global proportions.

The organization of the healthcare system makes Russia ready to face an outbreak, if one were to happen. On the smallest scale are the polyclinics, which distribute care to a specific geographic region of the country. They are sometimes associated with hospitals, but can also be independent. When patients have certain diseases, such as tuberculosis, asthma, cancer, or mental illness, they are registered with the state and given treatment from specialist. Medicine is provided free of charge for these patients as well. If a disease, which was highly infectious, were to come about, the access to clinics would make its appearance easy to discover for the government (Farmer). But Russia also shows preparedness for a terrorist attack, or a forced biological outbreak. In 2010, Putin announced increased measures on security of Russian railways, to help anticipate and prevent terrorist attacks. These measures would help stop an attack, whether one that was chemical in nature or ballistic. The increased security makes Russia more fortified against a premeditated biological attack. Overall, Russia has systems in place for the monitoring and curing of current infectious diseases, and these systems could

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easily be used to handle a new disease. National security also is set to predict and effectively manage a terrorist attack, making Russia quite secure.

The public health sector in Russia has prepared for a potential pandemic outbreak by increasing funding devoted to public health, cooperating with surrounding countries, and being quick to respond immediately to any potential threats or signs. There has been a dramatic increase of funds devoted to public health, used for research on current pandemics and stored for any potential pandemics. Russia has made it its priority to respond quickly to any threats of pandemic to prevent them from becoming full blown pandemics. It prepares medical professionals to quickly find a vaccine and cure and it instills a set of recommended actions to decrease the number of people infected. For example, after the first cases of the avian influenza in Siberia in 2005, Russia adopted the avian flu plan. The plan recommended that people working with birds should wear protective suits and receive training in recognizing symptoms (Deromana). Additionally, there would be “no chicken farm workers over the age of sixty, or with chronic cardiac and lung conditions” (Deromana). Along with trying to contain the outbreaks, the government also conducted research into vaccines and gathered enough antiviral stocks for all of its 150 million citizens (Deromana). Finally, only trained doctors and biologists wearing full protection suits could work with birds showing symptoms and ordinary citizens were discouraged from approaching places where there had been the flu (Deromana). Furthermore, Russia cooperates with surrounding countries currently, to fight the outbreaks of HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and the avian influenza; Russia currently cooperates with Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, and Kazakhstan to help fight the avian influenza (Cooke) and when first signs of an outbreak appeared in British, Russia banned British poultry imports (Levi). These protective measures helped keep the level of affected people to a minimum.

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Further, history has shown Russia to be keen on boarder protection and ensuring highly infectious diseases do not make their way into the country. For example, in 2009, China was showing a rise in cases of bird flu deaths. In response to what was really only a minor increase, Russian border control was tightened. Quarantine stations were erected along the border shared with China, airports receiving flights from China saw increased disease control, and even stores selling birds and poultry were inspected and investigated. All of these precautions for when the World Health Organization said they “did not believe China was facing a bird flu epidemic.” This firm and decisive action proves Russia’s readiness to respond to an impending world pandemic (Russia Tightens). Something capable of creating a pandemic is Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis, or MDR TB, is a major problem facing the world now. Russia is taking steps to minimize transmission. Hospitals create an environment for very rapid transmission. Samara Oblast has a risk rate of 742 per 100,000; nearly ten times that of the general population (Olson). Russia is working to combat transmission in hospitals though. The Infection Control Program reforms in 2003 gave staff and visitors respirators, separated infected patients by risk of spreading the disease, added shielded bactericidal lamps, and finally a reconstructed ventilation system for the structure. In 2008 and 2009, no new cases were reported among hospital staff due to these reforms. Finally, The National MDR TB Surveillance System was revamped in 2010, and has far greater accuracy now. The goal is to acquire excessive data on TB’s drug resistances, infection rates, risk groups, drug effectiveness, and other statistics. These figures will aid researchers in further action against this disease (Olson).

In the day and age where technology has taken over people’s lives, it is fairly easy to communicate in Russia. If there is an outbreak, citizens will notify the Ministry of Health or

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Rospotrebnadzor immediately and appropriate actions are taken. Diseases are report as soon possible. In order to contain the disease, surveillance is conducted to keep track of the disease and make sure no new people are infected. During the HIV pandemic, the population of people infected was surveyed and all new babies born with HIV were recorded down. If or when there is a vaccine discovered, the people most susceptible and medical professionals or biologists who have to work with the disease are vaccinated first but all citizens are taken into account when vaccines are being produced. Russia is more than ready to face such challenging epidemics similar to this and others mentioned above. Overall, the methods of disease control in Russia have shown to be effective in controlling infection, and keeping the nation's population guarded from disease.

Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation has, since his election, enacted many laws which benefit public health by supporting free healthcare laws. When he was first elected, Putin signed a bill ordering his government to increase the life expectancy of Russians from 66.5 years to 74 years by 2018. According to Putin, "our top priorities are to improve public health-care services and public health in general, increase life expectancy, reduce mortality, and improve the demographic situation." Because of high rates of certain diseases and addictions which plague the nation, government provided health care will cover, according to the publicized Russian Healthcare System Overview, when the government budget is available, treatment and care for AIDS, drug addiction, tuberculosis, and skin and venereal diseases. Regardless of the budget, healthcare is required to provide free treatment to citizens who have contracted contagious and parasitic diseases and other such pathology. The Russian Federation also has instated laws such as the Mandatory Medical Insurance which enforce some employers to provide basic healthcare beyond what the government provides gratis to the

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public. In St. Petersburg, the Law on the Health Protection of the Citizens of St. Petersburg was instated which gives tax exemptions to organizations which work to maintain and better the public health of the city and its citizens. The law also approved special healthcare programs for St. Petersburg which made healthcare packages which included the coverage needed by the citizens of St. Petersburg, thus making healthcare for their essentials less expensive. Just ten years ago, the Russian Federation had little hope for its healthcare, but great steps have been made in the recent years to improve the healthcare system which has significantly benefitted the Russian people.

Due to public health concerns in Russia, laws have been instated over the past few years which aim to make public areas cleaner and safer for everyone. There have been concerns for several years about drug addiction and illegal drug use. Just a few weeks ago the two year old daughter of Nikolai Leonov, when she was walking on the sidewalk, picked up and began to play with a used syringe which had contained heroin. It is incidences like this which has spurred us to crack down on public health and safety infractions and create new laws to keep public property clean. President Putin recently signed a bill which will help lower lung cancer rates: the bill banned smoking in public places and made selling cigarettes at a kiosk illegal. The bill also addressed alcoholism in Russia. It changed the status of beer from food to alcoholic beverage, thus only allowing stores with a liquor license to sell beer. Another bill was passed to ban alcohol ads on the internet, television, radio, and on the front or back covers of newspapers and magazines (Goltsblat BLP). The most dangerous addiction in Russia though is heroin. Before the collapse of the USSR in 1991, heroin was never considered a problem in Russia, but the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan created a business of inexpensive heroin to be shipped into Russia. The age group which was hit hardest by the heroin imports is now ages 18-39 years old, “a generation of Russians lost to heroin” (St. Petersburg Times). The

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government, however, is cracking down on heroin addicts. While addicts do face punitive measures for their infractions, they also receive help at hospitals which allow them to recover from their addiction and are helped to restart their lives drug free. While Russia has faced many health problems, constructive laws are being passed both to reduce the number of drug users and to help addicts recover.

President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation reserves the power and right to propose martial law whenever he or she feels it is appropriate. After said proposal the Russian Federation Council must approve the law within forty-eight hours of the proposal. After forty-eight hours the proposal for the institution of martial law will cease to be valid without any further action. It is mandatory for the President to notify the Secretary General of the Organization of the United Nations so that no international treaties are broken, and that the rights of the Russian citizens are not violated. The law is designed so that military dictatorship is prohibited, and therefore other forms of mass military control are also prohibited. With all this being said, the use of Martial Law is only possible in the case of military aggression. However, according to the Federal Law on Health in the Russian Federation, it is the duty of the Russian government to assure health care delivery in emergency situations. There is a minimum requirement for standardization and quality of living in the area of health protection. It is therefore the duty of the Russian government to actively impose laws that are applicable and beneficial to certain areas of the country, in the hopes of protecting the health of the citizens of the Russian Federation. In an emergency situation, the Russian Federation will bring supplies pertinent to health care (such as medicines, bandages, machinery, etc.) to its citizens. However, with the minimum standardization and quality laws of the country, massive health threats should not be an issue in an isolated location (Geneva Centre for the Democratic

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Control of Armed Forces). While Martial Law is purely military, the Russian Federation ensures protection of the health of the citizens of the Russian Federation in any emergency health situation.

Article 2 of the Russian Constitution concerns the rights of man in relation to the government. It reads: “Human, his rights and freedoms are the supreme value. The recognition, observance and protection of the rights and freedoms of human and citizen are duties of the State”. It is brief. It is hopeful. It is summarily ignored by the government of the Russian Federation. In reality, Russia’s policies regarding human rights are as holographic as this statement. In a country that claims freedom of speech and expression (Article 21 of the Constitution of the Russian Federation), journalists are regularly being threatened, attacked, and in some instances killed (Amnesty). Freedom of Peaceful Assembly is guaranteed in Article 31, however that has not halted the dispelling of protests by police and the arrest, both preemptively and after the fact, of demonstrators. Other large areas of concern include the treatment of minorities—ethnic, religious, and sexual—and defenders of human rights who wish to ameliorate the human rights issues faced by the citizens of the Russian Federation (HRW). The poor state of human rights in Russia is detrimental to the health of the population. Widespread corruption and a lack of transparency in the government, substance abuse, a high rate of HIV/AIDS infection, a lack of treatment and prevention, and the deplorable condition of Russia’s prisons, hospitals, and orphanages all negatively impact the health of the Russian people.

The government’s corruption and lack of transparency put Russian citizens at a health risk. Article 41 reads “[everyone] shall have the right to health protection and medical aid. Medical aid in state and municipal health establishments shall be rendered to individuals gratis,

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at the expense of the corresponding budget, insurance contributions and other proceeds... The concealment by officials of facts and circumstances posing a threat to the life and health of people shall entail responsibility according to federal law” (Constitution). The Russian healthcare system is at least partially socialized, and is therefore subject to the corruption found in other areas of Russia’s government and bureaucracy. In Article 42, the state promises to be honest and thorough in notifying the population of environmental risks to their health stating that “[everyone] shall have the right to a favourable environment, reliable information about its state and to restitution for damage inflicted on his health and property by ecological transgressions” (Constitution). Vladimir Putin, however, has moved to disband some of Russia’s environmental ministries, and the government suppresses advocates for a cleaner environment as freely as any other group. Due to limited funds and a lack of awareness, citizens in places like Kyshtym, Murmansk, Norlisk, and some areas of northern Siberia are at risk of being exposed to radiation and pollution from industry.

Another health issue faced by Russia is an epidemic of substance abuse and addiction, mainly alcohol and tobacco products. The official World Health Organization study of smoking habits among middle-income Russians showed that 36% of that population used tobacco products daily (Tobacco). Most of the tobacco products used were cigarettes. For non-smokers, second-hand smoke is a real concern because the Russian federal government has taken no steps to create smoke-free areas and regional governments are forbidden from taking action. Packages containing tobacco products must carry a warning label, however it is legal to obscure the warning label with price tags and tax labels in stores (Tobacco). There is also no legislation to prevent certain tobacco products from being misrepresented as healthier than others. With regards to alcohol consumption, total per capita consumption is 26.71 liters per

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person. 16% of men have a disorder related to their alcohol use. Annually, there are roughly 50 alcohol-related vehicle accidents per 100,000 people (Alcohol).

Russia also suffers from a high rate of HIV and AIDS carriers. In Russia, HIV/AIDS cases are focused in major cities. The two populations most affected were injecting drug users and men who have sex with men. By the beginning of 2007, there had been 416,290 cases of HIV reported and 3,378 cases of AIDS reported (EFS). It is estimated that there could be over one million cases of HIV that have gone unreported and undetected. Of the over 400,000 reported cases, only 31,000 people are being treated with antiretroviral drugs (EFS). A World Health Organization survey also shows a lack of knowledge regarding the transmission of HIV/AIDS and safe-sex practices among younger populations.

One main flaw in the Russian healthcare system is the lack of money being put towards cures and treatments. In 2003 only \$551 million was spent on healthcare with \$325 million from government spending. Recently, however, there has been talk of \$7 billion that will be spent towards for components of Russia's country, one of them being healthcare. While we do not know how much will be given towards healthcare specifically, it gives us hope that not all hope is lost for affordable and cheap healthcare for Russian citizens. In some cases like pregnancies 66 of 100 are aborted in Russia due to lack of funding for simple medical care or procedures. The lack of population growth in Russia may be due to the multitude of miscarriages. The birth rate per woman in Russia has decreased from 2.19 in 1986 to 1.34 in 2003 all because of the lack of affordable healthcare (Nations of the World). The premature death rate due to chronic diseases in Russia has slowly increased since 1980 where most countries including, Australia, Canada, UK and the US have actually dramatically decreased due to effective programs to reduce these diseases. A simple program like the ones employed in these countries could do wonders for the Russian healthcare system. In 2005 chronic

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diseases accounted for 81% of all deaths in Russia and many of these could be prevented by simple measures like these programs established in other countries. If Russia has the ability to provide affordable and effective care for its citizens, then it has an obligation to do so (WHO).

The area in which Russian healthcare is also severely lacking is the treatment of public facilities. Russian prisons in particular are severely lacking the necessary conditions for safe imprisonment. Lack of funding has again struck this particular nerve in the Russian government. Places like prisons, orphanages and even hospitals are breeding grounds for germs and diseases because of the deplorable conditions they face. Tuberculosis or TB is a major disease rampant in many Russian prisons. Research has shown that many of the drugs used to try and counteract TB are ineffective because they are either too weak against a certain strand of this disease or just the entirely wrong type of medicine entirely. Between 1991 and 2001 there were 7,000 cases of TB for every 100,000 inmates, a staggering amount. The social and economic changes in Russian lifestyle after the collapse of the Soviet Union have been some of the causes of either the weakening of the Russian immune system or the fact that increase of crime has increased the number of prisoners, making it harder to control the spread of diseases like TB (NYT and SCIENTIFIC AMERICA).

The main social and medical afflictions Russia's population now faces include a lack of knowledge on the subjects of tobacco and alcoholism, as well as the abuse of these substances, the government's lack of support towards healthcare reforms and the negligence of the government regarding the treatment of their medical patients. These subjects are cause for major concern and are being debated right now in the hopes of a healthier and more self-reliant Russia.

Russia is striving to discover and enforce new ways to help its population in research facilities and medical facilities. Russia's citizens encourage not only the government, but also

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themselves as well as business corporations to invent new hi-tech instruments in our research facilities. The Invention of the DIACOM, which is a diagnostic scanner device developed by a Russian Company, was designed to give doctors a non-invasive internal view of the patient, which is then used to help diagnose an issue. An employee of DIACOM who helped to design this software says that “Our device connects to electromagnetic waves of the brain which then through the computer screen communicates to us the condition of the entire body, including all the organs, blood cells, chromosomes, micro-organisms, etc. Through graphs, images and coefficients, we can read and determine the health problem. Then with the help of the software we can suggest foods, herbs and other ways to help” (Toxa). A benefit of non-invasive visual depictions of the body is there will be neither scars nor open wounds. This benefit decimates chances of infection. The main goal of the software is to help our Russian population with its overall health, so DIACOM is invaluable to us. The DIACOM software was a development off of the original Oberon project and other Russian developments on this project are Iceberg, AURUM-Oberon, Sensitive-Imago, and Biolaz-Oberon/Dianel. These technological advancements are part of a great effort to examine citizen's overall medical health. In addition, researchers have noticed that Indians and Russians both have extremely high rates of heart disease, so they've been searching for a common gene linkage that might be at fault. The discovery of such a gene would be extremely helpful in our quest to improve and protect the health of our citizens; it could lead to the curing or preventing of many heart disease cases in Russia. Great technological advancements in recent years will aid our people to lead healthier lives.

With the outbreak of diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis, many changes we have made many changes in order to help our country. Russia is constantly changing and adding to

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hospitals with hope of improving medical care for its crowded cities and rural lands. In the past two months, a new law has states that it is now illegal to smoke in public. This law is a preventative measure taken to discourage smoking and is very important because of the diseases and infections that commonly infect the respiratory system. Also, within the last two months, another law, stating that hard liquor cannot be taken past a certain hour, has been put into place. Russia has struggled with both tobacco usage and alcoholism for a long time, so these are milestone measures.

The set up of our healthcare still resembles the West in the sense that those who can afford better health care receive it, and while some may argue that this is a major flaw, it is important to recognize that many countries struggle with this same situation and that we hope to improve our state facilities so that all health care is high quality and reasonable for all of our citizens. Even with innovative ideas like covering every civilian with medical care, some struggles still exist, such as having the medicine ready to be given. However, the fact still remains that not many other countries cover their citizens' medical costs. Despite this fact, many of our citizens prefer Eastern medicine. It has been made known that we are currently "deficient in hospital equipment, technology, and pharmaceuticals" (Country-data). This "deficiency" is due to the public's not showing a need for more medical attention. We provide our citizens with options for either cheaper, more affordable medicine or expensive, foreign medicine. The press argues that the country is ill due to a shortage of medicine, but in truth our people have chosen eastern methods or foreign, brand name medicines rather than Russian medicine, which is cheap but not as effective. It has previously been pointed out that "Russia relies increasingly on imports from former Soviet-bloc nations in Central Europe" (CountryStudies), and this system would be an issue except that these nations, which once let us barter in rubles, "now demand hard

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currency, a scarce item in Russia” (CountryStudies) for their medicine. Our ability to purchase foreign products has been hindered by the “nonconvertibility of the ruble” (CountryStudies). It’s to the point where “Even when pharmaceuticals are available in Russia, they often are priced beyond the reach of doctors and patients” (CountryStudies). The Russian government has been trying to both decrease the public need for medicine and increase the availability of the medicine, but the fight is hard. Many desire these drugs from the government but not enough to hold a majority because in 1995, it was estimated that as many as 80% of Russians turned to these eastern practices. Our people are practicing their own forms of medicine so the government has made provisions, and enough medicine for the 20% of people who wish to take western medicine and more. Our hope as a country in the next few years is to convince people to use the medicine made by the government, so that we can westernize together.

Diseases such as AIDS and Tuberculosis have risen to become concerns to the Russian govt. Unlike the USA, which had its first case of Aids in 1981, the Soviet Union didn’t officially acknowledge the presence of the widespread disease until 1987. When the first case broke out, the Supreme Soviet stepped in to try to protect the Russian people by passing “the strictest anti-AIDS law in the world, making the knowing transmittal of the infection a criminal offense punishable by up to eight years in jail” (MongaBay). This act was not to punish the ones who were sick, but to quarantine them from the rest of the population in hopes that keeping them in a locked facility would protect everyone else. The hope was that even if the disease were to spread, at least people could potentially get the medical care they need. This plan worked for some time but eventually AIDS spread infecting the population. When the futility of quarantining people became apparent, we added AIDS to the universal coverage offered by the government. Medicine such as Fuzeon, which treats HIV and has already been

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approved in both Europe and the USA since 2003, has not yet been approved in Russia but hopefully will be soon. Recently new advancements from research have resulted in "a diagnostic and screening infrastructure for AIDS prevention and control at the central and subnational levels" (CountryStudies). While AIDS and Tuberculosis may currently be big issues for all governments, we clearly are providing hope and preparation for our country's future.

As Russia grows as a global power, the nation's health security measures and protocols are becoming stronger. State security and public health go hand in hand with each other. The security strategy of Russia states that the nation will aim to secure an "appropriate quality of life for citizens". The Federal Security Service (FSB) is Russia's main form of security in their Federal Government. Formerly the KGB the duties of the KGB were reconstituted into the Federal Counterintelligence Service but soon renamed by President Boris Yeltsin to the FSB. Diseases and pandemics are a threat to the quality of citizen's lives and, therefore, are areas of focus for security concerns.

It is necessary to halt the spread of disease into Russian territory because national health has a great impact on citizens and interests such as trade, economics, and foreign relations. Trade and the economy are affected by pandemic security through the limitation of trade with nations whose populations are infected. In order to prevent the spread of diseases from other nations into the Russian population, trade and interaction between individuals must be limited. This limitation of commerce can impact the overall trade of Russia, but is necessary to protect the population. Trade can also be impacted by the need for certain drugs not made in Russia during a pandemic. As a government, it is important that medications for pandemics be purchased from corporations that manufacture the medications so that there is an ample supply

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for the Russian people. Russia's foreign policies can be hurt by the negative perceptions that develop from a pandemic outbreak. If a disease breaks out in a particular nation, that nation will seem like a less attractive trade partner. People will view the nation as unsanitary or unclean and will be less likely to do business with that nation. Not only is health security vital to the people of a nation, but it is also essential to the interests of that nation.

Among 1,000 of Russia's political figures 78% of them worked within a service of the FSB. FSB oversees all security for the Russian government. It is the largest security service throughout all of Europe and is extremely effective at the counterintelligence work they perform. December first of 1991 there was a vote that passed and enlarged the rights of the FSB to counter terrorism. Which includes, of course the use of disease from terrorists. This protects the citizens of Russia from disease outbreaks from terrorism and is very important. Not only are they important for security but for surveillance as well. The FSB foresees all domestic surveillance and Foreign Intelligence. The vote that allowed them to expand their defense on terrorism also impacted the domestic surveillance rights. They may pursue any suspected act of terrorism and mass disturbance including disease related.

The FMBA is a more narrowed down form of the government on the other hand which focuses solely on epidemics and securing non-hazardous environments. They were the successors to the USSR's ministry of health and now handle all forms of disease control. The Russian Federation Legislation says that the FMBA is responsible for any state sanitary epidemiological monitoring. The US on the other hand has no comparable organization in their federal government that focuses on these hazardous health issues. They do inspections on nuclear power plants to make sure there are no radiation disease problems and monitor foods to

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insure no diseases are past in that manner. The FMBA is in charge of all jurisdictions as well for each sub organization under their power. All major problems will go to them and they will have the final say which is the best way for them to deal with the problem correctly. Representatives from each organization are part of the FMBA itself which brings the expertise of all fields of disease control together.

Similarly, Russia has committed to create new mediums and policies of preventing the spread of disease and pandemics.

“Russia used its G8 summit in St. Petersburg... to address global health challenges in a major way, making infectious diseases a priority for the first time in the history of the institution” (CSIS.org).

For example, by having mandatory healthcare, vaccinations developed for pandemics are administered to the entire population. This system of mandatory vaccination can be used to immunize as much of the population as possible in the case of an outbreak. Russia has been making efforts to improve regional and national disease surveillance by helping nearby nations to improve their systems of surveillance. In recent years, Russia has supplied over 40 laboratories in former Soviet Republic States with modern technology and trained 200 specialists from these countries in surveillance of influenza epidemics. Russia has taken on the role of a leader in global health security and aid.

Major leaps in scientific research have been obtained from the FMBA. They have produced results on the effects of radiation on the body, radiobiology, and radiation medicine and hygiene. Any sort of “Dirty Bomb” terroristic attack which is a major explosion that emits massive amounts of radiation the FMBA has done what they can to help keep citizens safe.

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Radiation and Disease are two major things that they keep track of from foreign and domestic threats and help to keep Russian citizens from harm's way.

Russia, being the globe's largest country, has become one of the world's most dominant forces. The Russian government has put several systems and associations in place against different emergencies, providing citizens with the comfort that they can depend on their government in case of an emergency. EMERCOM and the Russian Rescue Corps were set up in the early 1990s. Their goal is to ensure safety and an efficient solution to issues associated with global emergencies, i.e. national disasters, pandemics, terrorist attacks, etc. In 1995 two more laws were added; "On Protection of Population and Territories from Natural and Man-Made Emergencies" and "On Emergency and Rescue Services and Status of Rescuers". The common goal of these laws and associations are to provide uniformity even in times of dire need and panic (Russian Federation). Another large factor that provides efficiency and safety for the people of Russia is the Governmental Commission for Prevention and Elimination of Emergencies and for Ensuring of Fire Safety. Created in 2003, their goal is to stabilize Russia in a time of emergency. These groups and ministries, such as the Federal Agency of Communication and the Federal Agency Health and Social Development work together to provide a system in the case of an emergency. Russia, has proven to be well prepared for almost any sort of emergency. The systems and laws Russia has set up in case of emergencies has proven them to be well equipped for dangerous situations. The intricate plans prove to have had a lot of thought put into them, and will provide a sense of stability in the state of an emergency.

Russia has proven to be very well developed in the area of disease and infection. Their money and resources has been well spent on improving their medical conditions. In the case of

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Tuberculosis, nurses and doctors observe and are educated on everything about the disease. In terms of economics, labs and hospitals are constantly receiving new and better equipment that is better accustomed to the new needs of the nation's health problems. The labs are updated with "current diagnostic technologies and strengthened laboratory systems." (CDC in Russia) Lots of money, time, and thought are put into the medical branch of Russia. Russia has become well equipped to the smaller, low scale diseases and health issues, that when the time comes, they will be well prepared for any sort of medical issue. Their work and effort put into the day to day, manageable sicknesses and diseases will assist them in the time of a worldwide pandemic. Russia has become one of the super powers of the world, and will have no issue with protecting itself and the nations that in can in the case of a pandemic.

While Russia is "one of the world's richest countries in raw materials," (Russian Natural Resources), the country is currently experiencing a water supply calamity. There are 11 million residents using non-potable water, while 50 million other residents are using poor quality water on a daily basis. While Russia's current situation is not officially classified as a crisis at this point, there are obvious visible signs of disaster. The urban water supply uses outdated technology and its strongest points are breaking down over time. In residential and commercial areas, water supplies are exhausted (Russian Water Sector). A lack of available water can severely limit an area's ability to grow. Water is also vital for agricultural development. Limits on agriculture translate to limits on food, which mean limitations on population. Russia really needs to bring in experts to help them manage what water they do have. Educating the population on how to improve quality and reduce usage of water could potentially go a long way towards preserving and improving the supply.

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The Russian Federation participates in efforts towards disaster control, which provides further security for the country by setting up plans for collecting foreign financial aid in the event of an emergency situation. However, the emergency preparedness of Russia is far from flawless. For example, relying at all on external aid is not ideal. United Nations could benefit from building up their bank account as to increase their preparedness to lend out money to any member country in need. Another issue is that not all of the countries belonging to the United Nations are willing to follow U.N.'s advice in the event of a disaster. In addition, different countries have different systems set up for disaster preparation, and these systems are not integrated with one another (Russia Report)

Russian leaders are actually working with Russian Central Bank to create plans in the case of an emergency situation. The goal is to “make sure lenders will have enough reserves and planning to tackle a crisis without state aid.” (Russian Banks) Looking back to 2008, when an economic crisis hit, most of the aid money used was state money. Looking forward, it would be ideal for Russia to be ready for a crisis rather than to be taken by surprise.

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