

## Russian Diplomacy in the Modern World



Utah Valley University (UVU) had the privilege to host deputy Permanent Representative of Russian Federation to the United Nations (DPR of RF to the UN), Ambassador Dmitry Polyanskiy on our campus on April 5, 2019. Because of UVU ties with Russia, it was expected for every seat to be taken, and so they were. The Russian diplomat began his presentation with informing us about his career. He is responsible for the UN Security Council. He described it as a difficult job to master and that he tends to get headaches occasionally. Despite the hardships, he continues to be there a great representative for Russia.

To understand the Russian position on global issues, we have to take a step back into certain history. As Ambassador said, the aggression between Russia and Ukraine needs to be eliminated. Ukraine is and will always have a Russian-speaking population that shares values with Russia. After the Soviet Union broke up in 1991, Russia developed interests with the West. The European Union and the United States had different perceptions of what is occurring in the world and within each country.

Ambassador Polyanskiy talked also about situation in Venezuela. Although Russia does not support Venezuela's president, Nicolas Maduro, it does support the country itself. Whatever the people of Venezuela decide, that's good enough for Russia. The Ambassador Polyanskiy spoke on a conspiracy about campaigns organized by the United States and other countries towards elections. The only thing that can be spoken about freely is on how far Maduro will last in his presidency, but nothing else outside of that parameter. An interesting fact mentioned by the Ambassador was how the United States and United Kingdom stole thirty billion dollars from Venezuela. Because of the conflicts Venezuela has encountered, they did not accept any aid from anyone when offered because do not want to be associated with foreign intervention.

When the host of the event opened up the floor for questions, tensions in the room began to rise. It was noticeable that the Ambassador Polyanskiy had a strong personal opinion towards certain questions that were asked. Through everything that was talked about, the Ambassador repeatedly said the necessity to check our sources. We should consider different sources that will display accurate information rather than fake news. I agree with the Ambassador Polyanskiy in the context of making the effort to check our facts through research of a variety of articles instead of quickly believing hoaxes. This event was a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the true intentions of Russia.

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