The second War Games were definitely much easier in terms of the structure comprehension as I already knew what was following after what and what should be done at this or that point. However, what concerns the content the second War Games was more challenging for me as the topic of my expertise was more narrow and specific. I was supposed to do research on non-elite India and Indian developmental economy. From what we had seen I could mention just struggling people living in the slums and poor water distribution systems in agriculture. Thus, to get some decent and valid points I decided to elaborate on those that I knew a lot about (as I could witness both of them having visited Dharavi and a farm). As I found out quite soon after my arrival to India, slums are not places where poor, low-class people live. In India, slums are industrial and manufacture centers that contribute to the country’s economy a lot. So, my team and I decided that India needs more development in its “slum areas”, needs better conditions there – more space for work, more health regulating modes and advanced production means.

Agriculture sector definitely needs more energy access and water availability. To achieve those goals there is a lot to be improved and created in local industry and infrastructure. Those could be assisted by such countries as China and those in South Asia. That is when our ideas for negotiations came. At that point my team knew what we wanted to negotiate about and who with.

When the first War Games period began and the first team presented, I realized how many questions I had, how many uncertainty there was – should India seek for help among those countries that are at somewhat the same economic level or among those that are more advanced? If among the latter, would not India become dependent on them accepting their help? Could the States help India without changing its economic system and its government structure? Without making it adopt completely new methods while America’s economy is so different from the rest of the world’s one. And many other questions rose so it was really difficult for me to figure out what deserved most attention.

Of course, almost everyone referred to the Kyoto Protocol that did not work out in 1990s. All the teams decided that all the countries we were presenting should meet to discuss the drawbacks of the Protocol and add some more specific and important points to it. That was the only common decision. Other points were either accepted partly or just by not everyone.
The United States, surprisingly for me, would promise to finance India’s plans completely – they promised to help with money but partially. That was ambiguous and weird. Why the States that have the most global and powerful economy in the world would not fully invest Indian projects? The two countries are in a really good trade relationship. There were a few things that stayed unclear for me. The United Nations were being helpful and generous during the negotiations which really made my team “India” happy.

I was really confused and somewhat shocked how different people within teams can be. Even when you have same areas of interest, you still sometimes struggle to come to consensus. It was not difficult to decide who would do what in our team during the first War Games (to determine roles); however, it was a real struggle to pick who would present for the second ones. I had a kind of excuse that I am not a native speaker but in fact I am an introvert that is afraid to present in public so my candidate was easily eliminated. Eric had presented before so the choice was between Anique and Mathew; and none of them wanted to present the slides. Finally, after continuous fights and arguments (Anique said that Matt had learnt that stuff before, that he is really good at economics and so on while Matt said that Anique has better presenting skills. But, how can you present well if you do not not what you are talking about!?) Eventually, Laura took her initiative and decided to learn all the information. She did a great job, by the way!

It was a little bit funny when during negotiations other teams would specify the extent they were willing to help each other to, the points they wanted to work on or when they would just ignore voting because it did not touch their region. Especially, I liked it when China refused to make any changes about the dam construction. Yes, on the one hand that was fairly reasonable as the work was already in progress and nothing could be actually done about that but on the other hand, the dam affected India a lot – it restrained some water supply to India. And India, as it is known has a water deficit in most of its areas. That just showed how smart and bright the students in my group are as we right away asked for some compensation and China just could not refuse us as it would just lose its good reputation.

I also liked the fact that during the break between the phases of War Games 2 Prof. Ganguly assigned some guys to give an interview asking them about their opinion and impressions on the Games. Mariana was
our moderator during the first War Games so he told to the camera how it was to control and sort of stir the whole process. I think she managed to do complete her part very well.

In addition to that, Prof. Ganguly gave other teams (all of them except for the team India) some advice on what they could focus on to “win” the negotiation part, to make it beneficial for India and themselves as well. It was interesting because the points were mostly profitable for India which was the purpose of the game (to come to some decisions that would improve India’s current situation).

I really liked the fact that we had many coffee breaks when I could empty my mind and think over my team’s possible strategies. During the lunch break – the longest break between two important parts of the Games, we ordered pizza and were meeting with other teams. India was the team that needed to talk to all of the teams but our moderator Patricia decided that all of the teams should meet with each other. It was great that China and U.S. teams agreed to finance some of the Indian plans and constructions; and South Asian countries did not have any pretensions on the water sources they had in common. China knew that it had to pay out the damages India would have because of the dam that was being constructed, and told it would help India with technologies and development progress as compensation.

When my team was getting ready for the second, five-minute presentation, we came up with the same points that we had while talking to other teams during the break – no changes were made. We knew that India has few solid points that need to be worked on. However, everyone was being really careful and watchful – nobody would accept a point that was not either specific or valid. The teams acted like they were real representatives of the countries. I was even so confused by the end of the first stage that I personally wanted the second phase to begin the next day rather than in one hour after the first one. I felt much more confident about water in India than non-elite India and its economy which is weird as my major is international business so I am supposed to be good at all that stuff. However, India is so different from any other country – you can see that enormous gap between the rich and poor – that I had to do a lot of research within a little of time. It was interesting to find out that seventy five per cent of Indian workforce is in agriculture but that is a small part of the country’s GDP. That is something the guys and I were thinking about as any country should do what it is good at, and India is apparently really good at growing up crops and taking care of cattle so why
would it follow all those developed countries that suffer air and water pollutions while it could gradually become the world’s greatest agriculture exporter?!

I loved having War Games 2 because they helped me completely understand what problems and issues India is facing now and how much potential it has at the same time that is not manipulated. So yeah, War Games are a great way to solve even extremely difficult problems on a global scale as you usually have a team of really intelligent people that give stunning ideas to each other.

I never thought I would be able to negotiate on something I had not had clue about before. That was an awesome experience that contributed to my personality’s and versatility’s development.