

ARTISTS' REPRIEVE

The Country

Histavia is a relatively small country which is also one of the most densely populated nations in the world. It has some energy resources (mostly gas) but very few other natural resources. Farming, fishing and trading have always been important parts of this country's economy. More recently the country has become quite involved in manufacturing with over 40% of the people employed in various industries. The government is renowned for its bureaucracy and for the extravagant systems it puts together. For example, in order to help with the population problem and overcrowding, the government subsidised emigration.

The government is a constitutional monarchy. Executive power lies in a cabinet selected by the majority in Parliament. Histavia's parliament has two houses. The 1st House contains appointed representatives from each province's legislative body. The 2nd House is elected by direct vote and develops all legislation. A bill passed by the 2nd House is sent to the 1st House for a vote.

Artistic Problems

Visual art has always been a very important part of Histavian culture. Three hundred years ago, Histavia's seaports and rivers made it a major trading hub for the surrounding nations. Histavians became relatively wealthy and wanted to chronicle the times. They wanted pictures of themselves, their families, homes, and the countryside. Demand was so great that an artist could specialise in whatever subject she wanted to paint. Out of this environment came some of the world's greatest artists. The Histavian people thus developed a special regard for art and artists.

This prosperity didn't last. The private market for art has been very weak for a long time. There are currently sufficient jobs available for artists but there isn't enough demand for many artists to make a living selling their works. The government feels a compelling need to do something about this problem. Since the private market isn't there, the government feels obliged to protect the artists' financial freedom and thereby to preserve art for the sake of art. Partially to reward artists for their contribution to Histavia's culture and partially because the main artists' union has made a big fuss over the continuing conditions for art, the government has developed a simple programme to keep artists from having to drive taxi cabs. An artist will sign up on the programme for up to a year. During that time the government will buy the artist's wares. Once the artist's time period is up, the artist must sell his works on his own or find another occupation. During the government purchase period, if the artist begins to sell her works in the private market, the government will end its assistance early.

Counterculture

The programme was accepted and seemed to work well for about twenty years. In the late 1960's the counterculture boomed worldwide. Artists in Histavia were particularly upset with the continuing conditions for artists. They felt anyone who said they were an artist was one, and that the programme's length wasn't sufficient time for an artist to get established given the continuing weak demand for art. To press their point, members of the main artists' union occupied the most valuable room of Histavia's primary art museum. They refused to leave until entrance requirements were relaxed and artists were allowed to remain in the programme indefinitely.

Additional Information

- The conflict occurs in the late-1960's
- This is a developed, industrialised country (i.e.; not Third World)
- Not all artists are members of the main union, but union leaders feel they speak for and represent all of Histavia's artists. They also believe they can gain public support for their cause fairly easily.

Current entrance requirements to the programme involve acceptance by the government on the basis of some criteria.

ARTISTS' REPRIEVE

Roles: Histavian Bureaucrats

You are two Histavian bureaucrats responsible for administering the government's programme for purchasing art. You report directly to the executive cabinet, which represents the majority in both Houses and the view of the Queen. The cabinet has given you negotiating power to resolve the artists' sit-in and feels confident it can win support for whatever agreement you reach with the artists. The government and the people are very concerned for the well being of art and artists. The majority party, as always, is concerned with negative public opinion affecting the outcome of the next election. Additionally, the room the artists are holding contains some of the country's most treasured art works. It's your job to negotiate and resolve the issue.

All facts and impressions that are available are given. Extrapolate as necessary.

ARTISTS' REPRIEVE

Roles: Artists' Union Leaders

You are two leaders of the main artists' union and have taken it upon yourselves to represent not only your fellow union members in the room, but all Histavian artists. You know one of the most important things to Histavian people is their art. Still the private demand for art isn't sufficient to support all the artists Histavia's rich culture has inspired. You're meeting with two government agents responsible for administering the current programme. They are influential people who have been sent to resolve the sit-in and have the backing of the majority party in power. Right now you occupy the room in the art museum which contains the country's most treasured art works. You want exit and entrance requirements to the programme relaxed before you'll leave. You feel strongly you represent the viewpoint of all artists and it will be easy to gain public support for your cause.

All facts and impressions that are available are given. Extrapolate as necessary.

ARTISTS' REPRIEVE

1) What will be the final resolution of the artists' sit-in?

(check one - ✓)

- (A) The government will relax entrance rules and allow an artist to remain in the programme for an indefinite period. []
- (B) The government will extend an artist's time in the programme to 2 or 3 years. []
- (C) The government will extend the programme 2 or 3 years and relax entrance rules. []
- (D) The government will relax the entrance requirements only []
- (E) The government will make no change in the programme. []
- (F) The government will end the programme completely. []

2) Broadly, what approach did you use to derive your prediction?

3) Roughly, how long did you spend on the task of deriving a prediction for this situation?

[____] hours

4) If you have not provided a prediction, please state your reasons:

5) Roughly, how many years have you spent as a game theory practitioner or researcher?

[____] years

*When you have completed this questionnaire, please return either
this document as an email attachment to
kestn.green@vuw.ac.nz
or this page (with your initials printed below) by fax to
(64 4) 499 2080.*

Your initials: [_____]