

## **DISPUTATION CXL**

November 5, 2015

Hello Peucinians,

Last week we shared stories huddled around a roaring fire in Chase Barn (thanks Facilities). Now, as mid-terms and the slowly shrinking daylight hours consume our weary souls, we return to disputations. By the way, if you are reading this email and you've never once come to Peucinian (but would like to) I would highly encourage you to attend this week's discussion...

### **RESOLVED: THE STATE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO ACCEPT REFUGEES**

**Affirmative: Johann Wolfgang von Goethe '18**

**Negative: Fabius Maximus '16**

Many arguments on the current refugee crisis hinge entirely on the idea that developed states - by merit of their wealth and capacity - have a responsibility to help those evicted from their homelands. It is somewhat assumed that because these states have the ability to house refugees, they have an obligation to therefore fulfill. This, however, is not the terms of tonight's debate. The focus will center on the relationship between the state and the refugee and what their association entails.

Given that these people, removed from their homes because of violence, poverty, etc., have no legal or formal association with the states they find themselves in, it could be argued that the state - who only bears a responsibility towards its own citizens, has no responsibility or obligation towards another state's. "It's not my problem, so why deal with it?" Indeed, sympathy can only extend so far before it is broken by the reality of limited resources and the prioritization of one's own citizens.

On the other hand, the case could be made that we - as human beings, moral creatures, or (if you want to be bold) global citizens - have an obligation to help those in need. We are perhaps, if one has this view of history, connected by our shared past, present, and future. As time moves on and borders rise and fall, the simple fact remains - we are all fragile human beings, placed on this planet by some unknown force, and we must coexist. Ethical obligations extend beyond the border, and the state must therefore be compelled to assist those who don't hold the same passports that their own people do.

I am really excited to speak on this issue with you all tonight.

**7:45 PM Thursday November 5th**

**Massachusetts Hall Faculty Room (Top Floor)**

**Semi-Formal Attire**

Sincerely,

Αϊαντος

*Pinos Loquentes Semper Habemus*