Research Question

• How do the unique aspects of the Holy See augment the Roman Catholic Church’s capacity to exert its will within international law? Does this capacity depend on whether the Holy See engages in bilateral or multilateral international relations?

• I found this question to be particularly interesting, as the Roman Catholic Church has a unique influence due to its widespread following, and I wanted to explore how that intersects with international law, an interest of mine. Further, I wondered if the Church’s widespread influence would make it more capable in multilateral situations.

Method

• I plan on comparing the Holy See’s work around bilateral examples of arms treaties and the multilateral example of the Paris Climate Agreement.

Findings

• I believe that this research shows that the Holy See is more capable of asserting its will in international law effectively in multilateral situations due to its capacity to take advantage of its ideals being spread across the international system. Bilateral situations will rely more on political circumstances and the partner state.