

Opp/choice, opp chooses one continent for immediate elimination, to be replaced with the sea. Choices are North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, or Australia.

If they pick Australia (as is likely), I pick Asia. Otherwise I pick Australia.

## ASIA

### 1. Global security

Pretty much every serious security threat comes from Asia. Without Asia, the U.S. and Europe could cut their defense budgets to almost nothing, and use the savings to do other things like fight poverty in Africa.

### 2. Global warming

Most emissions come from Asia (paging Indian cow flatulence), and Asian emissions are growing very quickly. If left unchecked, in a couple hundred years the entire Earth will be a basket case, and most of Australia will be flooded out of existence anyway.

2.5 Lifts Africa out of poverty since investment would be diverted there

Reduce the U.S. current account deficit and trade deficit

### 3. Pandas

Ownership of the Washington Zoo's pandas would revert to us!

(for use later on)

### 4. Defense of Australia

I have one word for you: kangaroos. I have another: koalas. The point is, Australia's got lots of really awesome animals that we don't want to kill. What I'm trying to say is, Australia kicks ass.

## AUSTRALIA

1. Utilitarianism. Eliminating Australia would kill the fewest people, by a wide margin.

2. Natural resources. Most of Australia is a desert. Wiping it out would destroy the least farmland, the least coal, the least iron, etc. Basically, the Earth's population carrying capacity would decrease by the smallest amount.

So not only do we take the fewest number of lives now, but we also maximize the potential for *future* life.

3. Geography. Australia is out of the way. Its absence won't hurt global transportation or communications networks. By contrast, if someplace like Asia were taken out, that

would wreak havoc with road and rail links, as well as shipping stations for ships to dock at.

4. An optional fourth point would be singling out an Australian celebrity (like Mel Gibson) and pointing out the benefits of him being gone.

egybert: if you had to get rid of a contienet, which one would it be  
uncreativerAIM: by "get rid of" do you mean "instantly eliminate, right now"?  
egybert: yes  
egybert: and new jersey  
egybert: doesn't count as a contienet  
uncreativerAIM: Antarctica, reluctantly  
egybert: that one is not allowed  
uncreativerAIM: unless New Jersey counts as a continent  
uncreativerAIM: darn  
egybert: because a) no people  
egybert: b) penguins  
egybert: but if you had to get rid of another one  
egybert: which one would it be  
uncreativerAIM: OK, then I eliminate Australia on utilitarian grounds, since it'd kill the fewest people  
egybert: but KANGAROOS  
uncreativerAIM: which is a shame, because Australia kicks ass  
egybert: AND WALLABIES  
egybert: and it does  
egybert: and we like australia  
egybert: so we wouldn't get rid of it  
egybert: pretty much everybody picks africa  
egybert: or south america  
uncreativerAIM: maybe I'd pick Asia  
uncreativerAIM: it'd reduce global conflict by the most  
egybert: cut down on foriegn textiles competition  
uncreativerAIM: even though it'd wipe out over half of humanity  
uncreativerAIM: also, without Asia the USA would pretty much totally dominate the world

uncreativerAIM: hmm hmm hmm  
uncreativerAIM: thanks for the info  
uncreativerAIM: and upon second thought, I think I will pick Asia  
egybert: okay  
egybert: good to know  
egybert: areguments are solid too  
uncreativerAIM: pretty much every national security threat the US faces is in Asia  
uncreativerAIM: without it, we could pretty much reduce our military spending to almost nothing  
uncreativerAIM: and use the savings on other things  
uncreativerAIM: or is that too callous  
egybert: hmmm  
egybert: what is your definitian of asia?  
egybert: like what does that include  
uncreativerAIM: everything east of the Ural Mountains  
uncreativerAIM: on the Asiatic landmass

uncreativerAIM: including the middle east, that's part of asia

uncreativerAIM: no pacific islands, they can stay

uncreativerAIM: but everything in between goes poof

uncreativerAIM: it's either that or the wallabies die

egybert: brb

uncreativerAIM: how's this, everything colored green on a Risk board

uncreativerAIM: as a bonus, ownership of the Washington Zoo's pandas would revert to us!

uncreativerAIM: also, global warming would cease to be a serious problem

uncreativerAIM: since Asian carbon emissions are growing way more rapidly than any other continent's

uncreativerAIM: so if we don't magically-vanish Asia, in a couple hundred years Australia and its wallabies would be flooded out of existence anyway!