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NLCSD MUN

HISTORICAL
CRISIS
COMMITTEE

NLCS DUBAI

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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COMMITTEE SUMMARY

The Historical Crisis Committee (HCC) is a committee within the United Nations that simulates historical events. As a crisis committee, this committee works at a faster-pace and is distinct from other committees in the way that it will operate. In other committees such as the general assemblies, the aim of delegates is to pass documents and treaties created by group consensus of other states, but in the HCC, your aim is to pass “actions” that usually suit the agenda of your state. These actions can be through directives that are created by the entire committee or on a smaller scale through independent note-taking. Both the directives and the note-taking will be further explained below.

The historical crisis committee will orient around pivotal moments in history and will include relevant political figures, states and challenges that could possibly occur. As a delegate in the crisis committee, you must come prepared with knowledge of the historical events leading up to the crisis (provided in your background guides) and be able to utilise data from that period to create your own decisions. In doing so, the crisis committee gives a lot of power to the delegates to be able to shape historical events and create alternative pathways to these pivotal moments in history.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Historical Crisis Committee will contain two rooms - the "Frontrooms" and the "Backroom". The Frontroom is the committee itself, where all the delegates will be focused on passing directives that represent the will of the committee. These directives will represent actions that could relate to press releases, military use, proposing policies or creating allegiances. All these directives passed in the Frontroom will move to the backroom - a room in which the chairs and assistant chair of the committee will utilise these directives and the notes taken by delegates to craft crisis breaks, events and changes to the historical world and timeline. Please note that delegates will not be allowed inside or have any part in the backroom.

The frontroom will have a chair that will manage the crisis process and moderate all debates. These chairs will have to act in character as a president, judge or any other fitting role within the committee's scenarios. Within the backrooms, the crisis director and assistant chairs will utilise the directives and notes from the backrooms and create the crisis breaks and turning points within the historical scenarios. These assistant chairs will then pass on messages and important notes from the backrooms to the frontrooms. Using the work of the delegates, the historical timeline may entirely shift towards a different direction so as delegates be aware of the power that you could have over your committee's progress!

NOTE TAKING 1

Note taking is the aspect of the HCC that differentiates this crisis committee from all other MUN committees. These notes act as a contact to help influence the world's external affairs outside of the frontroom. This writing allows you to prioritise your country's agenda, create alliances and obtain new resources, thus providing you with the power to plan actions that can change the course of the timeline. All notes will be regularly taken by the chairs within the frontrooms and sent to the back rooms to be collected and responded to. By effectively making notes and gaining power through these notes, your state's influence can expand outside of the walls of your room. These notes can even create "crisis breaks" that could be based off of your personal actions and responses to other events and states. By centering crisis breaks around the actions of your state, you become significantly more influential over the actions of the committee, thus providing yourself with more power in decision-making and action.

However, note taking may not be as easy as it seems. To truly master the art of note-taking to your advantage in the HCC, try and do the following:

Remember to assess your resources. Resources are acquired throughout the length of the committee and will change from state to state. By acknowledging available resources for your state (eg. military) and the other delegates, you will be able to effectively harness your state's capability and come to create innovative plans that could change the course of time. When writing your notes, clearly establish the resources you will use and how you will use them.

NOTE TAKING 2

When making requests through these notes make small changes to the resources you currently have, You can extend, transform, redistribute or upgrade the resources you have and by clearly stating it on your notes, they will more likely be approved. Try not to make irrational or unrealistic requests as they are much less likely to be approved. For example, by implementing the use of NATO's military arms you could change the events of history. You could also change leadership positions within your state (request for a friend to be made state governor) or move resources to another area (move the weaponry towards the capital city). This will allow you to further your diplomatic efforts in coming to a resolution.

When making a request there must be valid reasoning behind why this request has been made. By making these adjustments as to why you want to make these changes, they are also more likely to be approved and the backrooms could provide relevant feedback and clarification on your requests. Remember, these requests are JUST NOTES so even though they should be somewhat formally written, you may add charts, visuals, drawings, pictures, and lists to help aid your convincing of those in the backroom. Harness the power of your resources as a state and make this committee your own!

TOP TIPS FOR DELEGATES

When looking into the background guides, look for hints as to what the crisis committee could discuss about these events. For example, if the background guide is titled "Nearing the end of WW2", using historical knowledge and the context of the situation, the crisis committee would be handling events such as: the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the attacks on Pearl Harbor or D-Day. As delegates you must use your own knowledge and the wide range of historical sources available to readily prepare yourself for any crisis that could come your way.

When reading the background guide, be aware of your role within the committee. This background guide will contain all the actors, their aims and what they wish to achieve from these situations. Keep in mind that everything is still fluid and able to ally with one another, just don't stray too far from historical accuracy.

Day 1 States:

United States (USA)
Soviet Union (USSR)
Cuba
Turkey
Italy
France (NATO)
Federal republic of Germany (NATO)
United Kingdom (NATO)
East Germany
Poland
Canada

Day 2 States:

France
Great Britain
Austria
Russia
Prussia
Spain
Portugal
Sweden
Germany (Bavaria)
Poland

TOPIC 1 - CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS - TIMELINE

14th October 1962 - USA's U2 spy plane, piloted by Richard Heyser, takes photos of newly built bases found on Cuban soil

15th October 1962 - CIA discovers the transfer of missiles, launchers and transport trucks in Cuba. They fear that the Soviets are expanding their bases closer to the United States.

16th October 1962 - President Kennedy was informed about missile bases in Cuba during his meeting with Ex-comm. Kennedy is offered three choices to deal with the situation: diplomacy with Castro and Khrushchev, a naval quarantine on Cuba or an air strike.

22nd October 1962 - Kennedy formally announces the "missile threat" and begins to place the blockade around Cuba, placing all US military bases globally on DEFCON-2.

23rd October 1962 - Khrushchev sends a letter to Kennedy announcing that Soviet ships will continue to Cuba regardless of the blockade

24th October 1962 - Soviet ships begin to approach blockade but somehow turn back and stop

26th October 1962 - Castor urges Khrushchev to launch missiles on the USA yet Khrushchev instead sends a letter claiming that these missiles would only ever be used to defend Cuba. He stated that if the USA promised not to attack Cuba again, they could negotiate terms to remove missiles

27th October 1962 - THE MOST TENSE POINT IN THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.

How will YOU respond to this issue?

DAY OF CRISIS

DAY OF THE CRISIS: 27TH OCTOBER 1962

It is 11:19 am in Washington, USA. Reports are sent into the government stating that American U2 spy plane pilot Rudolf Anderson gets shot down while flying over Cuba. Soviet army Major Ivan Gerchenov, based in Banes, Cuba, receives orders that the Soviets should fire their missiles. John F Kennedy also receives advice from Excomm and the Joint chiefs that the US should attack Cuba in 36 hours or less. This idea was made as a pre-emptive measure to take out Soviet missiles before the Soviets could get to them. Furthermore, General Taylor, based in Washington, stated that an air attack on Banes should be implemented yet it was not followed through.

A few hours later, a reported Soviet submarine (B-59) was detected near US Navy destroyers in the Atlantic Ocean. To retaliate, the USA dropped explosive depth charges to force the submarine back to the surface. Thirty years after the close face-off, an intelligence officer of the B-59 would end up reporting that the ship's Captain Valentin Savitsky had ordered a nuclear-armed torpedo to fire at these US ships yet the second-in-command, Vasili Arkhipov, persuaded Savitsky to surface instead.

With close face-offs and high tension, both the USA and the USSR were on the verge of total war. At this point, what actions would YOU take to mediate this issue?

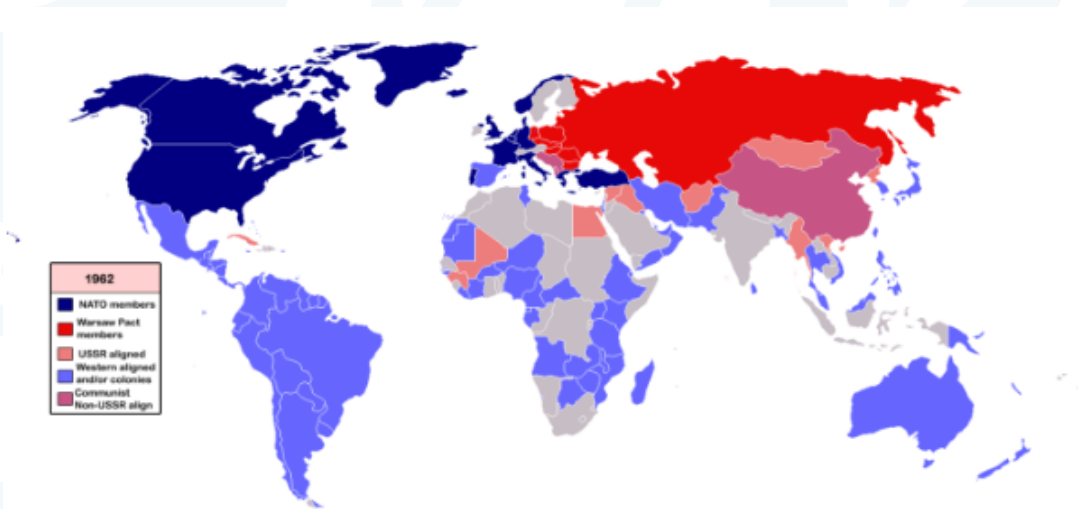
BRIEF HISTORY OF COLD WAR

The Cold war has been described as a period of geopolitical tension that, simply put, was an ideological standoff between the Communist Soviet Union and capitalist United States. After both states had joined together in World War II against Nazi Germany, their “friendly” relationship drastically deteriorated. The USA’s refusal to provide the USSR with enough agency in the international community continued to simmer tensions between the two actors. Alongside this, fears of Soviet expansion and the “red terror” rose in the USA; while the USSR continued to resent the USA’s rhetoric of taking up large numbers of arms. All in all, the Cold War was the product of mutual distrust between two great powers, yet it never reached any open and upfront warfare due to the “mutually assured destruction” ideology, instead taking the form of “cold” threats, proxy wars and a tense global atmosphere.

Historians do contest the official origin of the Cold War but the most widely accepted time frame is at around the end of 1945. As aforementioned, both the USA and the USSR feared mutually assured destruction and thus a “hot war”. While both possessed nuclear weapons, they acknowledged the fact that if put into use, the impact of nuclear warfare would eradicate, exterminate and annihilate a large population of innocent civilians and bystander states. The sheer possibility of such warfare expanding into mass extinction or even a nuclear winter led to the war being done through numerous proxy states. The Cold War period, in its entirety, has been stated to have had up to 58 total proxy wars. While this number includes the numerous minor conflicts seen throughout the war, the four most notable proxy wars were the Korean War, the Vietnamese War, the Afghan-Soviet crisis and of course, the Cuban Missile Crisis.

BRIEF HISTORY OF COLD WAR - 2

It is important to note that during this period the USA and the USSR were in their “arms race”. The fierce competition between both states was a demonstration of the tension between the two and led to the increased purchase of arms. The rapid nuclear development, accumulation of weaponry and establishment of military sites globally drastically increased the threat of global war. Their competitiveness expanded into many other areas, including hegemonic power, the number of allies they could create, and even who could become the fastest to reach the moon - otherwise known as the space race. The competitive nature of the two powers led to the increased volatility of the situation, especially due to the take up of military arms. Furthermore, the involvement of other states, through proxy wars or allegiance, meant that the consequences of a potential “hot war” would cause the creation of WWIII. The image below helps to picture the number of states that could face repercussions in the turnout of all-out war.



CONTEXT ON CUBAN REVOLUTION

In 1959, the US-backed Cuban dictator Fulgenico Batista was ousted by rebel Fidel Castro's revolution. At the time, Batista was favoured by the USA as they believed that a democracy in Cuba would provide them with geopolitical advantage and cheap labour. At the time, Batista had become an unfavourable and unpopular leader for the Cubans as many believed that his allegiance to US-backed industry was deteriorating his earlier promises. This was prevalent through the US government's mass involvement in Cuban affairs, through the creation of Guantanamo's naval base and mass investment into land and agriculture. The mass amount of US involvement is what Castro, and many other Cubans, believe was the root of all Cuban problems, including the widespread poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. Castro's revolutionaries believed that to solve these issues, the removal of the USA and thus Batista was essential.

Not only was Castro a figurehead of a revolution but his promises of policies were very popular with the people. His most famous policy was named the Agricultural Reform Law and promised to effectively redistribute US owned land to the people. This policy aimed to move the American land holdings, approximately 75% of Cuban land, to the people and once implemented, led to nearly 100,000 Cubans receiving 27 hectares each. While these policies showcased the strength of Castro as a leader, it was not received well by the USA. Their forced upheaval of both an ally in Batista, and their agricultural ownership did not rub well on them. Not only did Eisenhower claim that Castro was a "communist" but this led to the US believing that Cuba would eventually turn communist and thus side with the USSR. IN fear of such an event happening, the US did everything that they could to erode Castro's confidence. The US attempted to assassinate him, overthrow him, impose economic sanctions or faced Cuba with hostility. Instead of scaring Castro, Castro utilised this as fuel to become openly anti-American, leading to the logical conclusion that his next action would be to side with the USSR against the US - something that would have significant danger on the US during the Cold War.

CONTEXT ON BAY OF PIGS INVASION

While Castro had secured loyalty in his “first generation of the revolution”, he was also successful through his policies of education, healthcare and equality for all. And while these may seem like generic policies, Castro was a man who followed through with his promises, naming 1961 the “year of education” and aimed to eradicate illiteracy across Cuba in just 12 months. His focus meant that 100,000 students taught 1 million people how to read and write, providing free education for all Cubans. Now not only did this drastically improve his popularity with the people but real change was visible in Cuba, with Cuba having the highest literacy rate in all of Latin America.

While Castro’s rule was seen as successful by the Cuban people, the Americans were not too happy about the new pro-communist leader. Kennedy decided to tackle this by approving a planned invasion of Cuba that would remove Castro and return Cuba to a US-supported state. The plan involved 1,400 CIA-trained Cuban exiles (men who had left Cuba because of the initial revolution) and armed them with US weaponry. The initial invasion occurred on 16th April 1961 when old US bomber planes (painted like Cuban air force planes) attempted to bomb the actual Cuban air force. However, their bombing was not accurate and many Cuban planes weren’t actually destroyed. By 17th April the exiles landed in the Bay of Pigs in Cuba. While the exiles thought that the Cuban people, and even the Cuban armed forces, would join their attack against Castro, the CIA trained exiles actually faced an army of 20,000 men, Cuban air forces and a strong civilian support base for Castro.

While this invasion had failed and the USA was defeated, Cuba actually became more united under Castro’s government. Castro even responded to the invasion by brokering a deal with the USA to exchange \$53 million of baby food and medicine from the USA for the US prisoners seized in the Bay of Pigs invasion. Furthermore, Castro’s defeat of the USA made Khrushchev more comfortable in working with Cuba, knowing their anti-US intentions. However, for the USA things were not so positive. New president Kennedy faced mass humiliation and only retaliated by becoming even more determined to eradicate Castro and prevent the spread of communism in neighbouring states.

PRESIDENT JOHN. F. KENNEDY - USA

JFK was the 35th President of the United States and began his service on January 30th 1961, meaning that he was new, young and underestimated at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis. After the Bay of Pigs Invasion, JFK may have felt some humiliation but will his emotions and personal prejudice get in the way of him coming to a stable outcome.

Key positions to consider:

- John F Kennedy has direct diplomatic contact with Khrushchev. Can you utilise this to your advantage?
- As President, he has the ability of publicly addressing his whole country. How can you manage societal tension around fears of war while utilizing this as a method of warning the other states?
- Kennedy created ExComm, a group of his closest advisors, to help advise his actions in relation to military action, diplomacy, etc. How will you utilise this to change your decisions?
- Kennedy has already placed a naval blockade around Cuba. What will you do with this and how will this help retaliate against opposition forces?

Key military resource: 170 ICBMs

Main goals:

Deterrence: Maintain a firm stance to deter further Soviet aggression in the Western Hemisphere.

Resolution Through Diplomacy: Prioritize diplomatic solutions to avoid escalation into armed conflict.

Protection of National Security: Ensure the removal of Soviet missiles from Cuba to safeguard the security of the United States and its allies.

NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV - USSR

Khrushchev was the Soviet Premier from 1958 and was a headstrong and strategic individual. The initial idea to plant missiles in Cuba was his idea and one could even go so far to say that he was the one who set the foundation of the Cuban Missile Crisis. However, while Khrushchev was responsible for the initial military action, it is important to consider how Khrushchev does acknowledge the concept of mutually assured destruction. In this committee, it is up to you to see how far you will follow the path to peace or conflict.

Key positions to consider:

- Khrushchev has claimed that he placed Soviet missiles in Cuba in retaliation to the US's placement in Turkey. How far will you take military action and potentially even utilising these missiles
- Khrushchev's direct access to Kennedy means he does have secret communication that could help negotiate the reduction of such tension. Will you utilise this method of communication to prevent all-out war?
- The USSR strongly believes in the communist cause and thus will avidly support Cuba's socialist movement. Will you utilise Cuba to your advantage or allow it to go rogue?
- The threat of Turkey and Italy are key to your foreign policy. Make sure that some involvement of either those states, or the current crisis in Germany is leveraged in your negotiations

Key military resource: 75 ICBMs

Main goals:

1. *Protection of Soviet Interests:* Ensure the security of the Soviet Union and its allies, including Cuba, against perceived threats from the United States and NATO.
2. *Avoidance of Nuclear Conflict:* Prevent the escalation of the crisis into a full-scale nuclear war through diplomatic negotiations and strategic decision-making.
3. *Preservation of Socialist Achievements:* Uphold the principles of socialism and support revolutionary movements against imperialism and capitalist aggression.

FIDEL CASTRO - CUBA

Castro, the Cuban revolutionary who became Prime Minister in 1959 was the face of revolution. After overthrowing Batista, Castro became a man of the people. He was popular, well-supported and made real change within Cuba.

Key positions to consider:

- Cuba's geographical location is what makes this crisis so important. Its proximity to the USA, especially during the Cold War is what threatens global stability. How will you utilise this location to your advantage?
- Castro truly cares about his people. While conflict may be necessary in some cases, what will you do to ensure that the Cuban people are satisfied under your rule?
- Cuba's acceptance of Soviet missiles is what has caused some regional tension. What will you allow to happen on your soil, especially in regard to military action?
- From a rocky history with the United States, you have to remember to approach any negotiation with them with some hostility or drawback. Yes you are ideally aiming for peace, but many of your people stand with you in solidarity against the USA. So if negotiating always consider at what cost will you concede?

Main goals:

Defence of Cuban Sovereignty: Protect Cuban territory from U.S. intervention and ensure the security of the Cuban Revolution.

Support for Socialist Allies: Maintain strong ties with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries to counter U.S. imperialism and capitalist influence in the region.

Assertiveness in Foreign Policy: Demonstrate Cuba's willingness to confront U.S. aggression and defend its national interests on the world stage.

NATO STATES - FRANCE, UK, FR OF GERMANY

While not considered as a centre stage in the Cuban Missile Crisis, the NATO states of this committee do hold significant importance in the global political scene. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) states are a military alliance that have collective power. What is important to note is that France, the UK and the FR of Germany are in the middle of both the USSR and the USA and stand as some form of mediation in this conflict. While the NATO states are clearly aligned with the United States, they must be able to effectively moderate and maintain the issue to prevent it getting out of hand.

As European states, France, the UK and the FR of Germany are in close proximity to Italy and Turkey and could definitely play a role in the negotiations between these states. Furthermore, NATO states have strong intelligence forces and could be effective mechanisms of communication across Europe. While diplomacy implemented by NATO is preferable, it is important to note that these NATO states do have access to NATO's military forces including nuclear assets. At the time of the crisis, all forces were on high alert. As influential NATO states, harness your resources and communicate as a collective to come to a resolve.

TURKEY AND ITALY

Both Italy and Turkey also play a role as NATO states yet their role in this scenario is separate from the other actors. Both Turkey and Italy played a pivotal role in this crisis due to the fact that they are US allied states and are harbouring US missiles near the USSR. Khrushchev claims that the USA's addition of missiles on Italy and Turkey's territory is the cause of the crisis yet it is how your states can manage this to solve the issue.

Both Turkey and Italy were convinced to side with the USA, especially due to their presence in NATO. This allowed the Jupiter ballistic missiles to be placed on their territory. Remember, similar to other NATO states, both Turkey and Italy do have access to NATO conversations, as well as their military capabilities. How you leverage your possession of US missiles or your place in NATO could change the direction of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Also remember that your proximity to the USSR and the Mediterranean Sea could be a source of conflict so attempt to combat this obstacle.

WARSAW PACT - POLAND, EAST GERMANY

Formed in May 1965, the Warsaw Pact was a military alliance that solidified the USSR's relations with their "satellite states". Poland and East Germany were two pivotal players in this treaty. Due to their proximity to the Soviet Union, they were under a lot of influence by the USSR and also acted as a counterbalance against NATO states. Their importance lies in their aid to the USSR, especially as they stood at the forefront of solidarity with the Soviet Union. These states acted like the Eastern Bloc against the USA and played a pivotal role in expanding and aiding the USSR's communist influence.

As Warsaw Pact members, Poland and East Germany fully backed all actions made by the USSR and this quite obvious bias could be a root of further conflict. While the Cuban Missile Crisis was happening in the Americas, tensions rippled worldwide and much of Europe stood in standstill in fear of total war. The role of Poland and East Germany in this case is to combat the work of NATO and utilise their resources and connections to spread communism globally. Turkey and Italy could be swayed in negotiations and the conflict within East and West Germany could escalate drastically if the USSR and USA actually end up performing total war. While the crisis that occurs in Germany post-WWII was a proxy, it could become a hot war very quickly if not handled correctly.

REGIONAL ACTOR - CANADA

Canada has been a peaceful actor throughout history and during the Cuban Missile Crisis, their role as a mediator could not be overstated. Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, Foreign Affairs Minister Howard Green and other diplomats and politicians acted as a method of communication between the USSR and the USA. While Canada could be said to have bias towards the United States, the fear of war, especially due to its geographical proximity to Cuba, the USSR and the USA, meant that Canada did everything possible to maintain peace. Canadian diplomats acted as communicators between Washington and Moscow and played a role in involving the United Nations to prevent further conflict. Prime minister Pearson did pitch the use of UN peacekeeping forces and at this point in time, this remains to be unanswered. Let's see what the response to this proposal is and how that could help the issue. As the state of Canada, utilise its geographical location and access to foreign powers to attempt to mediate the conflict. While peace is your priority, your access to intel from both the USSR and the USA may prove to be pivotal in changing the tides of the Cuban Missile Crisis.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS?

1. Withdrawing missiles from both sides?
2. USA-USSR diplomacy?
3. Creation of emergency committees?
4. Creating a compromise, negotiation, exchange?
5. Eradicating nuclear arms?
6. Creating a treaty?

TOPIC 2 - THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

The Congress of Vienna was a congress held from September 1814 to June 1815, and is perceived to be one of the most significant diplomatic gatherings in European history. After the Napoleonic Wars of 1803 to 1815, the Congress convened with several states, claiming that the primary objective was to restore stability to Europe - especially after Napoleon and the French Revolution.

The origins of the Congress can be traced back to the Treaty of Paris in 1814, which concluded the War of the Sixth Coalition and saw the defeat and abdication of Napoleon. With France's power significantly diminished, the victorious Allied powers—Austria, Russia, Prussia, and the United Kingdom—sought to establish a new international order that would prevent the return of more French aggression and attempted to maintain a balance of power on the continent.

The Congress or Treaty of Vienna brought together representatives from all major European powers, along with numerous smaller states and principalities, to negotiate a settlement that would address territorial disputes, redraw national boundaries, and establish mechanisms for collective security and diplomatic cooperation. While this may be ambitious, there were some attempts at addressing these issues. The Treaty was led by prominent statesmen and politicians such as Prince Klemens von Metternich of Austria, Tsar Alexander I of Russia, and Viscount Castlereagh of the United Kingdom, the Congress deliberated on a wide range of issues with profound implications for the future of Europe.

TOPIC 2 - THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

The biggest “issue” or principle of the Congress was the looming question of legitimacy. This meant that after the fall of Napoleon, European powers wanted to restore monarchies and traditional political structures that had been disrupted by the French Revolution and its consequential actions. This meant that the question of legitimacy was at the core of these discussions and is an imperative factor to consider in this crisis committee. The Treaty attempted to restore monarchs and recognize pre-Napoleonic boundaries.

As aforementioned, another aim of this congress was achieving a balance of power among European states that would help to ensure regional and global stability. This meant that these political leaders had to be careful when negotiating these territorial arrangements, especially as mutual interests and aspirations needed to be satisfied among all powers. While major powers realistically may be more assertive in pursuing their strategies, the attempt at a balance of power does shift power towards the smaller states too.

But the Congress’s aims were more than just these two core aims. These issues even expanded to include the future of Poland, the status of Italy and the German states, the fate of territories formerly under French control, and the establishment of ways that they could resolve disputes and maintain peace in Europe. While in reality, the treaty ended up creating a comprehensive framework that helped to establish peace in Europe, YOUR job is to see if you will actually be able to compromise, or will this treaty ultimately resolve in more regional turmoil?

CONTEXT ON FRANCE AND EUROPE

Before the formation of the Congress of Vienna, France had entered a period of mass turmoil in its history, marked by the French Revolution, the Napoleonic Wars and French expansionism. The unique geopolitical and economic situation that France was put into shifted its place in the world political order.

In 1789, France underwent the “French Revolution”, a revolution initiated by an angry mob of unhappy civilians and repressed peasants that aimed to overthrow the French monarchical system. The French Revolution was an important marker in French history as it established the first French Republic and was a symbol for the fall of the French monarchy, a system that had been in place in France for centuries. The revolution began with the peasantry being extremely unhappy that the French monarch King Louis XVI's increased taxes to pay off debts of the Seven Year War. In an attempt to quickly reduce the debt from the war, skyrocketing taxes led to resentment of the people, skyrocketing prices for basic necessities, hyperinflation and mass financial instability.

Due to the fluctuations in the French economy's stability and King Louis XVI's neglect of France's finance, the First and Second Estate, composed of the French clergy and nobility, began to not pay their taxes. The Third Estate, a larger estate comprising the majority of the French population, began to form the National Assembly to truly create radical change within France. While the National Assembly began to create France's new constitution (the August Degrees, eventually named the National Convention), mobs of peasants raided Bastille, a famous prison in Paris and a symbol of the rich, to retrieve weaponry and arms. Across France, peasantry and members of the lower class revolted against upperclassmen, attacking them aggressively and spreading violence across the country. By August 1789, the new National Assembly established the constitution, officially claiming that France was a republic. While the new revolutionaries took control of France, the country was put into war with Austria and Prussia, two key European actors that aimed to reinstate the monarchy in France, especially as they feared a similar revolution in their own states.

CONTEXT ON FRANCE AND EUROPE - 2

In creating this constitution, France made the guillotine as a symbol of the countless executions that occurred during the process of creating this new French republic. The guillotine was even famously used to execute the ex-King Louis XVI and his wife Marie Antoinette in 1793. As France failed in the war against Austria and Prussia, Maximilien Robespierre came into power, initiating the French Reign of Terror to remove any counterrevolutionaries from combating his reign. While his rule was unpopular with many, a young man named Napoleon Bonaparte was of particular interest to Robespierre and was a lot like his biggest fan. Napoleon supported his ideas, wrote letters to him and became a more active member in politics due to this. After Robespierre's removal from power, a group of five executives called the Directory were created. While they attempted to control France through this upheaval, Napoleon became increasingly popular with ordinary French citizens and was a skilled military general, successfully defeating the Austrian army in Italy, announcing himself as head of Italian provisional government and negotiating deals with Austria to provide more land to France.

Due to Napoleon's popularity in France, he conducted a coup d'etat against the Directory and successfully secured control over France, officially marking the end of the French Revolution. Not only did Napoleon conclude France's ongoing revolution but also established peace and prosperity in France. His public works projects, implementation of bureaucracy and unification of the government and the Catholic Church allowed him to restore France back to its former glory. But that still wasn't enough for him - Napoleon wanted more.

CONTEXT ON FRANCE AND EUROPE - 3

By 1803, after several military victories, Napoleon established a new legislation that applied to his expansion on all other European states. He even went far enough to declare himself Emperor of France, conducting expansion efforts in Prussia, Austria and Italy to gain more land. Yet of course, things could not be perfect forever. British, Portuguese and Spanish militaries united against Napoleon, winning a victory against him in the Iberian Peninsula in 1813. After this defeat, Napoleon attempted to expand to Russia yet found that the inhospitable climate, rough terrain and lack of resources left his French army defenceless. While Napoleon began to retreat, many of his European territories liberated themselves from French expansion and Napoleon's government began to crumble, leading to his eventual exile to Elba.

Thus, by 1815, Europe was left a haphazard mess of uncharted territories, unmarked borders and displaced people. Poland, Germany, part of Italy, Austria, the Netherlands (Holland) and Spain were all one partly occupied by France and this completely diluted previous borders. In order to keep that balance of power we mentioned earlier, the European leaders needed to organise a meeting to distribute these territories without starting a regional war. Remember to note that right before the Congress of Vienna reconvenes, Napoleon escapes his exile and does face off in the very famous Hundred Days and his defeat in the Battle of Waterloo. That's where the Congress of Vienna comes in and that's where YOUR role becomes extremely important. In order to mitigate the repercussions of Napoleon's fall and manage territorial distribution, you must be able to understand each state's perspective and keep your own interests at heart. Will you be able to mitigate conflict and ensure that there isn't all-out war in Europe?

TIMELINE

TIMELINE:

1789: The French Revolution begins, marking the dawn of a turbulent era of political upheaval in France and across Europe.

1799: Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in France through his infamous coup d'état, laying the foundation for his rise to Emperor in 1804.

1803-1815: The Napoleonic Wars erupt across Europe, as Napoleon's French Empire clashes with a series of coalitions led by major European powers.

1812: Napoleon's invasion of Russia fails completely and he retreats, starting the inevitable fall of the French Empire.

1813: The Sixth Coalition, comprising Austria, Russia, Prussia, and other European powers, forms in a united front against Napoleon's forces.

1814: Allied forces march into Paris, ending Napoleon's rule and exiling him to Elba.

September 1814 - June 1815: The Congress of Vienna convenes, as diplomats, politicians and leaders from across Europe gather in the Austrian capital to redraw the map of Europe

March 1815: Napoleon escapes from Elba and returns to France, triggering the Hundred Days.

June 1815: The Battle of Waterloo occurs where Napoleon's army clashes with the British and leads to his dramatic defeat,

June 9, 1815: The Treaty of Vienna is signed, cementing the agreements reached at the Congress and showcasing a new era of diplomatic relations in Europe.

AIMS OF THE CONGRESS OF VIENNA

AIMS OF THE CONGRESS:

- *Creating a balance of power in Europe* - Ensure that no sole power should have dominance like France during the early 19th century. There needs to be an equal footing for most European states.
- *Restoring the monarchy in France* - Neighbouring coalitions are attempting to replace the House of Bourbon's monarchy in France. This was an unpopular move for the French people, especially as this was the initial cause of the revolution anyway)
- *Establishing clear borders* - The Congress needs to clearly remake European borders, especially for France, Poland and Germany. Furthermore, areas need to be delegated to the correct people, keeping in mind that the mismanagement of such land would drastically change diplomatic ties in the region.
- *The Poland Issue* - Historically Poland has been a part of several disputes over their territory and due to their land being exploited by other states, the people became extremely nationalistic. While Poland would argue for their independence, a new independent state would cause problems in Europe's power dynamics.
- *Personal Gains* - Below you will see each main actor and what they would generally like to achieve - keep these in consideration when making your decisions on creating the Treaty of Vienna.

MAPS - IN 1812 AND 1815



Map of Europe in 1812 - before the Congress of Vienna and during Napoleon's rule



Map of Europe in 1815 - at the time of the Congress of Vienna and right after the fall of Napoleon

FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

France: Represented by diplomat Charles Maurice de Talleyrand

- Was supported by Great Britain due to geographical location (especially as such an alliance would help Great Britain in the long-run)
- The new monarchy was extremely reactionary and thus unpopular with French citizens. Due to the fear of what the French people could do, many European states conceded or listened to France in the hopes of preventing any revolution from spreading across Europe. This really helped to increase France's political agency in this congress.

Great Britain: Represented by Lord Castlereagh

- Great Britain wanted to ensure a balance of power of all European States
- While this was relevant to their policy, consider that Britain's nationalistic values also meant that at the core, they really wanted to expand their empire for more trade and economic growth.
- They supported the French monarchy but did not want France to get too powerful again as that would threaten Great Britain greatly
- Contrastingly, Britain does not want to weaken France too much as that would allow Austria or Prussia control of many areas in which Britain trades from. Try to balance this out!

AUSTRIA AND GERMANY (BAVARIA)

Austria: Represented by leader Klemens Wenzel von Metternich

- National security was imperative, especially due to Austria's pivotal location between Great powers Russia and Prussia.
- Austrian leader Metternich was not very fond of Russia, due to its dominant army and its strong dislike for their leader Tsar Alexander I
- Initially wanted an alliance with Prussia and Great Britain against Russia but when that wasn't received well by Prussia, Austria became somewhat hesitant to work with them as well
- Territorial expansion was key. Belgium was once under Austrian control and having control over the region would allow Austria to restore their dynasty and have access to Atlantic ports. Furthermore, Austria wanted parts of Italy, specifically Venice and Milan to itself.
- Reducing French aggression by surrounding it by stronger states would ensure European security

Germany (Bavaria): Count Montlegas

- While not an official state that partook in the Congress of Vienna, the HCC finds that its inclusion is imperative in changing the path of the Congress.
- Germany was fractured into 39 different states and the Congress of Vienna attempted to unify such a diverse region into one confederation.
- While this was somewhat effective, Bavaria's inclusion in the Congress could shift the tides of the congress.
- The Kingdom of Bavaria was the largest of Germany's many states and in this congress would utilise their superiority to try and establish and expand their current state.
- This means that they wish to expand into prized areas such as the Rhineland, manage neighbouring superpowers and attempt to seize control of neighbouring German states

RUSSIA AND PRUSSIA

Russia: Represented by Tsar Alexander I

- Russia aimed to ensure that they were a dominant power in Europe. Due to their success against Napoleon's invasion, aiding liberation of states across Europe, Russia felt confident that their military strength was key to achieving such dominance.
- While not opposed to violence, the Tsar had liberated lands and helped allocate them peacefully in order to gain diplomatic traction in achieving power for Russia at the Congress.
- Russia shows particular interest in Finland and Sweden, the Baltic regions and parts of Poland. Important thing to note: Russia is not close to Germany and Italy. When distribution land, remember that distributions must be given in the East for Russia as well

Prussia: Represented by chief minister Karl August Furst von Hardenberg

- Prussia hated France due to the embarrassing humiliation they faced at the hands of Napoleon. The fact that France had diminished their power meant that Prussia felt a sense of revenge was necessary at the Congress of Vienna.
- In contrast, Prussia had a significantly strong allegiance to Russia. The Prussian leaders had a fond relationship with the Tsar and as willing to agree with the majority of Russian decisions in politics
- Prussia's main aim was to receive territories in Saxony and Germany that were lost under Napoleon. While they were dedicated to this, their overall goal was to restore their Great power status by gaining land and thus power
- Prussia also rivalled Austria, especially over mineral rich and industrialised Rhineland, to be the supreme Germanic Great Power

SWEDEN AND POLAND

Sweden: Count Carl Löwenhielm

- Sweden had lost significant portions of its land to Russia and would like to utilise the Congress of Vienna to get some reimbursement
- Sweden also controlled much desired regions that could help in negotiations in favour of Sweden. This included the consolidation of Swedish controlled Pomerania, an area wanted by Prussia.
- Furthermore, Sweden controlled Finland, an area that was very much wanted by Russia. If they were to concede Finland to the hands of Russia, an appropriate compensation should be provided for Sweden. If not, it is up to Sweden to utilise this as a way to challenge Russian dominance in the region.

Poland: Polish diplomat and representative of the people

- In the Congress of Vienna, Poland was created and allocated to different states such as Prussia, Russia and Germany
- While this was effective in satisfying the Great powers, this was not what the true aims of Poland was
- By including Poland in this Congress they should be able to speak for their nationalistic people in favour of an independent, sovereign and unchallenged state
- Poland was especially prominent in being a symbol of potential revolution. While larger states may attempt to control Poland, remember that unifying with lesser states such as Sweden, Spain or Portugal, or negotiating with neighbouring Germany and Prussia may allow for Poland to be sovereign.
- Utilise Poland's geographical location to its advantage and attempt to challenge the dominant powers that want to control you, such as Russia.

SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

Spain: Represented by diplomat Pedro Gómez Labrador

- Spain wants to return to being a Great power, like it was in its colonial days, especially after Napoleon's army had taken away significant portions of Spanish land, their ports and humiliated the Spanish army.
- The Spanish leader was related to the new monarch (Bourbon family) in France. Thus, many states feared that Spain and France would unite against them. However, Spain feared revolution in its South American colonies and thus may need the help of the Great Powers to secure their empire
- Spain needed to handle Portugal, especially as the Portuguese laid claim to Spanish controlled territory of Olivenza.
- Spain is also pushing for some southern Italian territories and their selling point is the fact that the Spanish military, one that is organised and great at guerilla warfare, would aid other European states needing excess manpower.

Portugal: Represented by António de Saldanha da Gama, Count of Porto Santo

- Portugal had fallen off Great Power status yet still played a very influential role in the Congress of Vienna
- They were one of Great Britain's strongest allies, especially when fighting back against Napoleon's invasion of Iberia.
- They wanted to secure their Western border with Spain to prevent any chances of Spain invading them, especially after their common enemy of Napoleon had been eradicated.
- Compensation through external territories would also aid Portugal's successes as they aimed to conquer parts of South America, Africa or Southern Asia.

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