

BACKGROUND GUIDE: Crisis Committee - Post-Valkyrie Germany

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS



University of Toronto Mississauga
Model United Nations

Historical Context

Preface

Adolf Hitler is one of the most famous historical figures, known for being the Nazi dictator that sparked World War II. When Hitler became dictator of Germany, he had the end goal of conquering Europe entirely. In an attempt to prevent war, the European powers appeased Hitler through signing the Munich Agreement on Sept. 30, 1938. Through this signing this, Germany was given Sudetenland (which was the German-speaking part of Czechoslovakia) on the condition that Germany did not invade any more regions. However, Hitler violated this agreement by taking over all of Czechoslovakia by March 1939.

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

On August 22nd, 1939, the Soviet Union and Germany signed a nonaggression treaty and split up Europe into either Soviet Union or German spheres of influence. This treaty was negotiated between foreign ministers, Vyacheslav Mikhaylovich Molotov and Joachim von Ribbentrop. The main agreement was that neither country was allowed to attack the other independently or in partnership with another country. In addition, both Soviet Union and Germany were not allowed to support a third-party country that attacked the other country.

Hitler Invades Poland:

On September 1st, 1939, Hitler invaded Poland to regain their previously lost territory in World War I. Hitler justified this invasion because the Nazis claimed that Poland was planning on destroying Germany from within, and ethnic German people were being persecuted. As a result of this invasion, the European powers no longer trusted Hitler and appeasement was no longer an option. Thus, on September 1st, 1939 Great Britain gave Hitler an ultimatum to leave Poland in an attempt to keep peace. However, Hitler disregarded this ultimatum and proceeded with invading Poland, resulting in both Britain and France declaring war on Germany on September 3rd, 1939. During this invasion, Hitler used the blitzkrieg strategy, which included bombing major regions to demolish Poland's air capacity, communication lines, railroads and munition dumps (ex: ammunition, weapons). He also attacked on land through invading with massive groups of troops, tanks and artillery. Both Germany and Poland's armies consisted of about 1

million troops, but Germany's weaponization (ex: 2,000 planes) and attacks were too advanced for Poland's army to handle. Despite the Poland army's best efforts, they were not prepared for the intensity of Germany's attack and Hitler's invasion was successful.

Operation Barbarossa

On June 22nd, 1941, Nazi Germany broke the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact with the Soviet Union by activating Operation Barbarossa, a complete invasion by the Germans with the goal of conquering the Soviets, acquiring their agricultural and oil resources, and creating more living space for the German people. This was after the Soviet Union took over Bessarabia and northern Bukovina in June 1940 and Hitler's interest in destroying the Soviet Union grew. This is because Hitler was distrustful of Soviet Union's leader Joseph Stalin and wanted to speed up the process of taking over Europe. Thus, Germany invaded in June 1941 with 150 divisions comprising over 3 million German troops. The operation saw over three million German troops cross the nearly 3000 kilometre long border in Soviet-occupied Poland, making it the largest ever invasion force in the history of war. Both sides claimed heavy casualties, but the Germans had managed to seize several important cities and strategic locations before the winter.

Allies invade Italy

Previously, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini planned on making Italy into an empire, but multiple attacks in WWII resulted in Italy being an instrument for Germany. In the spring of 1939, Italian groups that opposed Mussolini were planning on overthrowing the regime, but the strong German military influence over the country made this challenging. On July 10th, 1943, the Allies invaded Axis-controlled Europe, including the island of Sicily. British Army officer Bernard Montgomery and his army arrived ashore on the southeast part of the island. Next, US General George S. Patton, the army came to Sicily's south coast, and in less than 3 days 150,000 of Allied troops arrived. On August 17th, Patton had arrived before Montgomery and thus succeeded in his conquest of Messina. Due to this invasion, Mussolini's regime collapsed and he had to resign on July 25th and was arrested soon later. Later, on September 3rd, Montgomery's 8th army began to invade Italy's mainland, which led to the Italian government to surrender to the Allies.

D-Day

Prior to this, the battle of Normandy led to the allies liberating Western Europe from all Nazi control. Later, D-Day (which was originally named Operation Overlord) took place on June 6th, 1944. This invasion included 150,000 troops from American, British and Canadian forces arriving on five intensely armed beaches at the coast of Normandy in France. This plan was very thorough and required a lot of planning over several months to deceive the Germans to make this plan effective. This deception took a lot of strategic planning to mislead the Germans regarding where the attacks and invasions would take place, through using aspects like fake equipment, false radio messages and double agents. This plan worked and the German army faced confusion and Hitler did not counterattack. At the end of June, the allies secured Cherbourg and continued to travel throughout France. In August 1944, the Allies' plan had succeeded and they had liberated Paris, France.

Week of Uncertainty

The 20th July Plot involved a group of high-level German military leaders led by aristocrat and army officer Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg. Upon realising that their head of state was bound to lose a war on two fronts, certain officers affiliated with the Wehrmacht, Germany's defense force, conspired to assassinate Hitler in hopes to save their country from the Allies. Amongst them, Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg was chosen to be the assassin. The attempt took place at a command post with more than twenty staff members and German officers in attendance. Stauffenberg had planted a specially selected British explosive in proximity to Adolf Hitler during the meeting after which he excused himself in order to make a phone call and escape the subsequent blast.

Thus, on the afternoon of July 20th 1944 Stauffenberg and other high ranking members of the Wehrmacht's plot to assassinate Adolf Hitler had succeeded. The Nazi officials who served Hitler were removed and government offices were seized immediately following the news of the dictator's passing. After framing the SS for Hitler's assassination, Stauffenberg along with the rest of his collaborators from the Wehrmacht commanded the Reserve Army to arrest their officials in accordance with Operation Valkyrie. By July 22nd riots and political instability overtook the nation's capital. Germans, regardless of ideological leanings, took to the streets in thousands amidst the uncertainty of the regime change.

The following day, development of a provisional government was announced. Amidst the continuing public riots and protests, those who were best suited for the new administration were undergoing selection in order to fulfil the Wehrmacht's vision of a post-Hitler Germany. By July 24th, the Allies were involved in the trial of the arrested SS officials. The Japanese Empire released an official statement severing its ties with Germany and recalling its diplomats from Berlin. Taking advantage of the upheaval, the Allies began to move troops further into French territory in order to secure the tactical upper hand by July 26th. On the conclusive day of the week of uncertainty, the new provisional government had been finalised and declared their state's new name. Nazi Germany was now officially titled the Federal Republic of Germany to mark the beginning of a new era in the country's history.

Political Climate - Allies

Great Britain

After extremely successful African and Middle Eastern campaigns, Great Britain has been able to now focus their efforts in Italy as well as assisting the other allies in the Normandy invasion. The British currently control a majority of the Italian mainland, as well as Italian Libya which has been a major boost of morale and confidence for not only the soldiers, but the public opinion as well. They are also extremely likely to withdraw more troops away from consolidated areas in the aforementioned captured areas, in order to make sure that more territory is gained in France and Italy. In addition, Hitler's assassination as well as formation of a new government will certainly have the British questioning whether more lives must be sacrificed, or if peace can be achieved sooner than expected. Great Britain's government will be eagerly awaiting communications from the German government.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union has suffered millions of casualties thus far in the war at the hands of the Finns, Germans, and Romanians on their offensive front. Although they have experienced heavy losses throughout the surprise war, the Soviets have recently gained a lot of strength as well as territories thanks in part to the Allied invasion distracting the Germans. The Soviet government is especially keen on securing the former Baltic states as well as the German-influenced Romania and Hungary in order to weaken and destabilize Germany's positions. In addition, Japan's withdrawal from the Axis will most likely cause the Soviets to reserve less troops for the far East and instead focus all of their efforts in the West and Caucus regions. The Soviet Union is not likely to forget and forgive the German government quickly, and would expect many concessions in exchange for peace as a result of their betrayal of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact. Furthermore, Germany's decision for government type will certainly sway the Soviets towards or against the idea of negotiation.

France

Currently, the French government exists in exile due to the mainland being occupied by the Germans. France controls several regions in Africa and the Middle East in tandem with Great Britain, as well as the island of Corsica. France will not stand for ending the war with Germany

until they have returned either all or a majority of their mainland back, and is extremely hostile to the idea of peace with Germany in any capacity other than a complete defeat for the Germans.

United States of America

The USA have seen a tremendous amount of success in the war so far, as evident in their current campaigns in Italy (coordinated with Great Britain) as well as the Normandy invasion (coordinated with most Allies). In addition, the United States have seen massive victories against the Japanese in the Pacific which has ultimately boosted their morale and confidence continuing in this war. Furthermore, there are reports that the USA is in the process of developing a new superweapon capable of taking out an entire city, could this be true? The United States might see a reason to make peace with the new German government in exchange for a few concessions, seeing as it was Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor that caused Hitler to declare war.

China

The nation of China currently sits at a standstill war with the Japanese, in a very compromising situation. Luckily, due to the assistance of the Allies, China still stands. However, since Japan has technically left the Axis and is no longer supporting Germany whatsoever, the Japanese are sure to recommence their offensives in mainland Asia. If China falls to the Japanese, this could prove to be a very fatal loss for the Allies which would certainly strengthen Japan's fight against the United States of America in the Pacific.

Commonwealth Nations

The commonwealth nations are those which are considered either formerly part of or currently directly part of Great Britain's colonization efforts. This includes countries such as Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and the British Raj. These nations have all been generally assisting Great Britain's efforts in the war, and will most likely continue to follow this trend. If these countries were somehow persuaded to do something by another country, it is entirely possible that this will affect Great Britain's response to certain situations.

Political Climate - Axis

Germany

Currently, the Federal Republic of Germany exists in a slightly fragile state. Due to protests and riots around the country, as well as an unhappy and outspoken presence of SS supporters, the German government will attempt to maintain order and stability within their borders as well as occupied territories. Currently, Germany controls a large portion of Europe (see Map of 1944), but can quickly lose territory. On the Eastern front, the Soviets are gaining momentum after seizing several key locations in the Baltics, Romania, and former Poland. This trend seems like it will definitely continue as the Soviets continue their strategic operations. On the Western front, it has been two months since D-Day, and the Allies have managed to occupy a very large portion of Normandy. In the South, Italy had shown to be a very unreliable ally as the Allied presence had taken back more than half of the country. It would certainly be within the interests of the German government to cease fighting on three fronts and attempt to make a deal with one enemy, and attempt to retain as much territory as possible.

Hungary

As a close ally of Germany since the start of the war, it is highly unlikely that Hungary will ever consider 'switching sides' as some other members of the Axis may be more prone to doing. Hungary has devoted a large amount of resources and manpower in order to assist the German army mainly on the Eastern Front with the Soviets. They have also received many territorial gains throughout the conflict which they consider to be their historical lands, and extremely grateful to Germany. However, the Soviet Union has already reached the current borders of Hungary, which could cause some more communist influence to spread throughout the nation.

Romania

Unlike Hungary, Romania has had an extremely unhappy time in the Axis due to territorial losses as well as concessions to allies within the group themselves. Romania found itself left along when the Soviet Union annexed Bessarabia, as well as when Hungary was simply given Transylvania. After promises from the Germans of returning their Eastern territories, the Romanians now find themselves pushed back even further than they had ever been by the Soviets, as well as a large communist presence within their country. It is entirely possible if the

German government does not consolidate their alliance and power with Romania, that the nation could, like Italy, switch sides in this conflict.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria is similar to Hungary in terms of territorial gains, as they have seen a moderately successful campaign against Yugoslavia and Greece which has netted them several key locations. Bulgaria seems to be a strong ally to the Germans but if Romania falls to the Soviets, it could cause the Bulgarian government to attempt to make negotiations with the Soviet Union in order to save themselves.

Finland

Finland is currently at war with the Soviet Union, making moderate but impressive gains in the Arctic weather. Due to the assistance of German troops in their nation, the Finns have actually managed to push into the Soviet territory. If Finland manages to take the city of Leningrad, this would certainly alleviate the pressure of the Soviets on the Eastern front for the Germans. On the other hand, if Finland begins to falter and German forces withdraw from the area, it may be possible that the Finns turn towards the Soviets to survive.

Puppet States

The puppet states of Germany are considered to be the Italian Social Republic, Slovakia, the Independent State of Croatia, and Serbia. These nations are all extremely loyal towards Germany and can be swayed in any direction the German government wishes them. However, if the Allies or Soviets manage to infiltrate the puppet's government, it is entirely possible that a coup d'etat can occur.

Japan

Japan is no longer considered to be a part of the Axis, and has officially severed all diplomatic ties with Germany. This however is open to change, solely dependent on how well the Japanese are doing in terms of the war with China, the Allies, and specifically the United States of America.

Political Climate - Neutral

Spain

Throughout the conflict, Spain has somehow maintained its neutrality without having provoked the Allies. Nevertheless, Spain has supported the Axis in terms of trade and volunteers and has all but officially joined the Axis directly in war. Currently, Spain is ruled by a fascist dictatorship and could possibly join the Axis if the government was confident enough in Germany's ability to win the war. As the situation stands however, Spain sees Germany as being pushed back on all fronts and is unlikely to join either side at this point.

Switzerland

The beautiful and delicate nation of Switzerland has historically been considered a buffer country between France, Germany, and Italy. For centuries, the Swiss have maintained their neutrality due to their geographically superior defence, as well as their usefulness to hide Germany's gold and riches. Throughout the war, there have been various skirmishes between the German and Swiss forces but war between the two nations has never broken out. It is entirely possible that Switzerland is more useful to the German government as a neutral nation, but this could prove to change.

Ireland

Ireland's ruling government had declared throughout the war that they would maintain neutrality. However, it is fairly clear to observe that Ireland has assisted the Allies in multiple ways, including the fact that the Normandy invasion decision was influenced by an Irish weather report. If Ireland's government were to be influenced or changed, it is entirely possible that they would immediately and directly support Great Britain in their efforts.

Sweden

Sweden surprisingly maintained its neutrality and independence through the conflict thus far, with seemingly important strategic ties to both the Allies and the Axis. Sweden is an extremely important trading partner for Germany as the vast amounts of iron are essential for Germany's weapons industry. Sweden continues to trade with Germany due to their complete disbelief of Great Britain's claims that they would be protected from an invasion, after seeing what has

occurred in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and most of mainland Europe. While generally supporting the Allies in small ways here and there, it is entirely possible that Sweden would formally join the Axis in the event of a coup d'état or promises of territorial expansion.

Neutral Nations

Through World War II there have been multiple minor nations that have maintained neutrality, and these nations are still certainly able to be interacted with (through Crisis). A few of these nations include the likes of Portugal, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, etc. These nations will most likely remain neutral, but through extensive persuasion could have a more active role in the conflict.

Map of Europe - 1944

Accurate map link that will be updated throughout the conference:

https://www.scribblemaps.com/maps/view/UTMMUN_2020/UTM_MUN



It is important to note that this map is not a fully accurate reflection of the borders, and should mainly be used as a visual reference.

Character Descriptions

Ludwig Beck - President

In early Nazi-Germnay, Beck was a German general and a German Chief of general staff. He once believed in a strong Fuhrer, like Hitler. As a German patriot he strongly condemned the Treaty of Versailles. A strong proponent of the military and not previous operations like the SS. He plays a key role in military operations and will continue to take on such a role.

Claus Von Stauffenburg - State Secretary

A strong enemy of the Nazi Party, Stauffenburg was closely involved in the German resistance movement.. A strong proponent of German invasion into Poland and the Soviet Union. He will continue to support German expansion, as a strong supporter of a Europe under German control.

Freiderich-Werner Schulenberg - Foreign Minister

Before Operation Barbarossa, Freideruch-Werner was a German diplomat and ambassador to the Soviet Union. He will continue to serve in his agenda of diplomacy, as he never supported Hiter's policies.

Karl Blessing - Economics Minister

President of Deutsche Bundesbank, Blessing was a prominent German banker. Goerdeler lists Blessing as the Minister of Economics or the President of the Reichsbank. He will serve as an accomplished and prominent economist, maintaining key control over Germany's financial matters.

Bernard Letterhause - Reconstruction Minister

A prominent member of the Association of Christian textile workers, Letterhause was a textile worker. Letterhause offered his services in WW1. He was associated with Nikolaus Gross, who also opposed the previous Nazi party. As a soldier, he will continue to render his military services to the new German regime.

Erwin Rommel - Minister of War

Rommel was a very reputable military official in WWI. He once held a strong alliance with Hitler. However, he will now hold a military position in the new German regime.

Carl Friedrich Goerdeler – Chancellor

Goerdeler held a key position in the operation that assassinated Hitler. He aims to become chancellor. He holds key interest in the future of Germany's political regime. He is very knowledgeable about the political operations that will now be implemented in Germany. He seeks control of Germany and aims to conduct affairs in his way.

Paul Löbe – President of the Reichstag

Lobe held a respectable position in the operation to assassinate Hitler. He is a socialist. Lobe will try to hold a position in the lower house of the Weimar Republic's Legislature. He will now get involved in politics to implement his agenda of socialism in Germany.

Julius Leber – Minister of the Interior

Leber was a German politician who strongly opposed the Nazi Regime. Leber is a socialist. He strongly disliked Hitler's method of conducting economic affairs. His goal is to now implement socialist economic policies in Germany.

Josef Wirmer – Minister of Justice

Wirmer is a German lawyer. He wants to hold a position as the Minister of Justice. He was not satisfied with the Nazi Regime's legislation. Hence, he aims to take more of a role in judicial affairs, and can now do that with Hitler's recent death.

Henning von Tresckow – Chief of Police

Tresckow was an important part of the German army. He helped with organizing the German resistance in the assassination of Hitler. He possessed the power to hold key military operations during the assassination. He will now continue to take an influential role in military operations, in the new German regime.

Wilhelm, German Crown Prince (Head of State – legitimacy)

Once a prominent monarch, Wilhelm was frustrated with Hitler's treatment of the German monarchy. In Wilhelm's eyes, Hitler failed to instate the German Crown Prince as the Head of State. His goal is to now serve as the head of state, and to have his authority legitimized in the new German regime.

*****IMPORTANT NOTE REGARDING CHARACTERS*****

The descriptions of characters are merely preliminary as written above. Assigning jobs in terms of ministry positions or presidential/chancellor roles are at the discretion of the delegates which will be done through crisis. Delegates can collectively vote and agree on a public directive which assigns a particular role to each member in the committee, ex. Ludwig Beck is assigned the role of Chancellor. At the start of the first committee session, specific information detailing what each character's role entails will be distributed.