



Crisis: France

Hello, my name is Lauren Flotman and I will be your head chair at MVHSMUN this year! I am a Junior at MVHS and this will be my third year in the Model United Nations program. MUN has been an amazing experience that has allowed me to express my love for public speaking through interesting debate and problem solving. Outside of MUN, I am a Spirit/Pep commissioner for ASB and have participated in competitive dance for 5 years. In the summer of 2015, I traveled to Namibia, Africa on a Mission Trip to aid malnourished orphans and to help tutor these children in math and science. I have a strong passion for helping others and hope to make an impact in the world. I am greatly looking forward to meeting you all in committee! Best of luck! If you guys have any questions, feel free to email me at mvhsmuncrisis2@gmail.com.

Hello delegates! My name is Marwa Jalal and I will be your vice chair for the MVHSMUN conference! I'm a sophomore at Mission and this will be my second year of MUN. I enjoy MUN because it helps me become more knowledgeable about what is going on in the world around us. I also enjoy reading all the research about problems that I did not even know existed! Outside of MUN, I did track and field last year as a freshman and am continuing with it this year. This conference will be my first year being a chair and I'm looking forward to meeting you all in committee!

NOTE TO ALL NUNO DELEGATES: *This committee is one where you will be competing against three other committees of similar structure in order to gain money, resources, land and, ultimately, power. The four committees are divided into various countries. Committees will compete against each other to claim the most land on an interactive map. The winning committee is the one who claims the most land on the given map by the end of the second day of the conference. Land can be gained by spending resources to execute various actions. These actions can either aid your country in obtaining land, or sabotage other committees in their quest for land. Committees will find out their designated resources and land they start off with when they first enter committee on the first day of conference. The committee is very free flowing, with a lot of unmoderated caucuses and summit meetings involving delegates from the other NUNO committees. In committee, you will be role-playing a character from your designated country. You must represent your character's description unless otherwise told by your chairs. You can find your character description on the tab right below your country's link that you clicked to get to this synopsis. You will be graded on diplomacy, speeches, comments, and, most importantly, on your ability to cooperate with other delegates to make creative and constructive plans of actions. Also, note that NUNO committees have a different position paper format and grading rubric than all other MVHSMUN committees. This format and rubric can be found on our MVHSMUN website under the 'NUNO' tab of our advanced committees. Just like any other MUN committee, we expect professionalism among our delegates in NUNO but remember to have fun with this committee!! These are committees of a very different, more interactive style that we hope you enjoy! EVERYTHING YOU READ IN THIS TOPIC SYNOPSIS IS THE TRUTH, AND THE WHOLE TRUTH.*



I. Background of Topic:

It is 23 September 1922 in Europe and the first World War is drawing to an end. Though the Central Powers were undoubtedly winning the war during the former half of the conflict, everything seemed to change when the economic world power known as the United States joined the European conflict on 6 April 1917. While the Triple Entente saw the addition of the United States to their side as a sign of a possible end to the gruesome war, the Central Powers saw this addition to be infuriating. They viewed the new addition of the U.S. as “western democracies” trying to expand their sphere of influence overseas and spread democracy to Europe.

Not intimidated by the fresh addition of the U.S. to this three year old battle in Europe, the Central Powers began to mobilize to an even greater extent and continued on with their strategy of total war. Austria-Hungary and Germany even held multiple army drafts from the 1917 until now in order to sustain military personnel. To truly have a chance to win the war, the Central Powers began to utilize child soldiers and produce even more arms in order to have a chance against the Allies and their new ally. The Central Power that increased their arms the most was, undoubtedly, the Germans. With resources gifted to them by their fellow allies, Deutschland increased their production of U-Boats and other naval vessels by 25%, tanks and other land vehicles by 55%, Zeppelins and other aircrafts by 40% and weaponized chemical gases by almost 70%.

With very thorough mobilization of the Central Powers led by Germany, the Central Powers continued their success in the war because the United States provided only monetary funds and supplies for the first three years of their involvement, with very little troop support. However, after the devastating battles of Amiens and Strasbourg that took place in 1920, causing the death of



over 565,000 Allies combined, Woodrow Wilson's United States unified as a country, drafting and mobilizing upwards of 6,000,000 soldiers to cross the Atlantic and end the Central Power (German) reign of terror in Europe. With United States troops now fully active and contributing to a newly revamped set of armed forces within the Entente, the United States and the Allies slowly, but surely, wore down the Central Powers. Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire surrendered and bowed out of the conflict in 1921, leaving Germany the lone actor for the Central Powers in 1922. Eventually, the Germans were forced to look for a peaceful end to the conflict as a direct result of the constant Allied bombardments and brutal offensive attacks on the German home front that killed many soldiers and innocent civilians.

But now here we are, with a feeble German nation that is in desperate need of the war to end and for reconstruction to begin immediately. As the United States try to discuss peace treaties to end the war and begin reconstruction of the decimated continent of Europe, France and Great Britain are furious with the Germans for the scope to which they brought the war and their barbaric use of chemical gas. These two countries believe that they should continue to conquer German territory in order to completely put down the nation of Germany, as well as extend their imperialistic territory in Europe. The United States, however, currently side with the Germans and hope to allow the German people to rebuild their nation and believe in respecting the German's sovereignty. The United States will fight for territory to prevent other nations from claiming land and gaining too much territory in the already volatile state of Europe. After the conflict, U.S. officials state they plan to hand all territory back over to Germany in their fight to keep Germany sovereign; however, they also see benefits in claiming land in Germany and imperializing some of Germany's territory. Will the conflict ever end?



II. Country Involvement in WWI:

At the sign of European outbreak, Jean Jaures, an influential French Socialist leader, brought upon workers, unions, and socialist parties all over Europe to end the spread of the crisis. His message of stopping the outbreak of war was a cry for a large majority of French civilians during the summer of 1914. Unfortunately, Jaures was assassinated on July 31, 1914 and his plans for European peace in France seemed to die along with him.

The mobilization of Russia, however, reinstated France's decision of preserving peace, but through means of action in the conflict, rather than the spread of peaceful ideology as Jaures promoted. Soon after war broke out, France declared war upon Germany on August 3, 1914, in order to defend the Franco-Russian alliance, protect their economic interest, and free the border of Alsace-Lorraine from German control. As a result of entrance into the World War, the country split into three sections: a war front, an occupied area, and a "behind the lines" France.

Following the entrance into the war, the first Battle of Marne transpired on 9 September 1914 leaving Germany's hope for a quick victory on the Western front shattered, and thus their Schlieffen plan was doomed for failure. This first Battle of Marne proved that regular warfare was ineffective on the crowded Western front, and called for a different style of battle known as "trench warfare". Two years into the war, on February 21, 1916, the Battle of Verdun occurred which allowed France to slowly regain lost land on the Western Front. Germany had intense pressure on France within the battle of Verdun, forming an immediate need for defense at the Somme River. In the midst of Verdun, the Battle of Somme urgently broke out on July 1, 1916. The Battle of



Somme, a joint offensive launched by British and French forces in the trenches, was designated in an attempt to surprise and push back Germans out of Northern France. British soldiers took on the great role of defense within Somme while France ensured a victory for the Entente by the year's end. The two battles established a strong international alliance between France and Britain that would soon contribute to the Allied victory in 1918.

Approaching the end of the World War, on 18 July 1918, the Second Battle of Marne emerged. The Second Battle would be the last offensive push of WW1, and a significant triumph for the Allied forces. Finally, on November 11, 1918 a major day in world history occurred where France, Britain, and Germany gathered together at Compiègne, France to sign the Armistice of Compiègne. The signature of Armistice was an agreement between the warring parties to end the first world war.

Sources:

www.iwm.org.uk/history/10-significant-battles-of-the-first-world-war.

www.france-pub.com/world-war-1.php.

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III. Possible Course of Action:

With the recent request for an armistice, the general consensus among the French population is to ignore the ceasefire and continue the fight out of spite for the Germans. The Germans are viewed by the majority of France to be awful people, who utilize child soldiers as well as unethical chemical weaponry. The Germans can be viewed as “rats” who are all for total war until they start losing, because when they start losing and suffering defeats, they all of the



sudden become civilized diplomats who just want world peace. The French government is currently enraged at the German's request for a ceasefire and want to utilize their strong infantry to annihilate the Germans and take the southwestern portion of the German nation. This is, after all, fair given the millions of casualties that the Germans have caused the French during their senseless period of aggression during the war. France does recognize the great benefits of attempting to gain German territory as they could expand territory and have closer access to the economic markets in North and Eastern Europe. Not to mention, that they could gain control of the valuable Ruhr Valley/Alsace-Lorraine which France has desired complete control over for so long. The colonizing of territory in Germany could just be the economic boost that France needs to get back to the stable economic state they were in before the outbreak of war.

However, these militaristic ideals are not shared by all French citizens. There is also a large movement in France to pardon the German's and accept their request for an armistice. This group's rationale is that the World War has gone on for far too long, yielded far too many casualties, and worsened France's economy too much. For the reasons listed, they see this armistice as a way to end all the hardship the French people have had to undergo during the war. Extension of war for no viable reason besides revenge is barbaric, and the extension of imperialism into German territory is a direct assault on the German's sovereignty. This request for an armistice is viewed as the German's finally coming to their diplomatic senses, and the international community should all accept this ceasefire and begin reconstruction of the dismantled continent of Europe.

In this time of crisis, France has not only been wary of the German's intentions in this war, but have heavily questioned its allies intentions as well. France questions the rationale behind the



British forces moving heavily onto mainland Europe and almost entirely abandoning their original idea of “supporting” in the war. Though the English have aided the French in this war and they are grateful for it, the people of France question why Great Britain have mobilized their infantry and convoyed so many soldiers over onto mainland Europe so late on in the war. The nation of France is fearful that Great Britain have just been using the war as a way to claim land in mainland Europe and begin imperializing in mainland Europe. The French fear that the Brits are strictly trying to gain territory to start to become an economic superpower and slowly take over all of Europe, France included.

France is also wary of the United States who took far too long to send troops over to help the Entente during the war. Had the United States sent over troops immediately after they had joined the war, the war would have ended some time around 1918 and we would not be in the current situation we face today. Most importantly, we would not have lost millions of soldiers had the United States fully supported the Allies early on in the war. The United States are viewed as a selfish nation, and have, like Great Britain, only seemed to join in on the conflict for imperialistic purposes of colonizing the feeble nation of Germany. Even though the United States claims they want to reconstruct Europe to become a “peaceful and stable continent again”, many in France view US intervention as another instance of the western hemisphere democracies trying to expand their sphere of influence to where they do not belong.

So what will you do now? Will you use your own military power to destroy the Germans, or will you attack alongside your fellow allies? Will you attack at all? Will you accept the German request for armistice so that reconstruction can begin? If not, will you colonize Germany? Where



specifically will you attempt to fortify land in Germany? How will you respond to international competition for German land? The choice is yours.