



Crisis: Great Britain

Hello delegates! My name is Tyler Graffeo and I will be your head chair for this great committee. I have been a part of MUN for the past 4 years of my high school career. I am involved in a few things at Mission Viejo High School like our MUN program (obviously), the boys golf team, Cross Country, member of numerous clubs that differ from spending our lunch with the special needs students to BBQing food before sports games. I love to have a good laugh, just like the rest of you but will also do my best to keep everyone in place during conference. I am beyond excited to be the head chair for our NUNO committee and cannot wait to meet you all and hopefully make your experience at our conference a memorable one! If you have any questions regarding this committee, feel free to email me at mvhsmuncrisis1@gmail.com.

Hello, delegates! My name is David Plesco, your vice chair for this committee. I am a sophomore at Mission Viejo High School, and this is my second year of MUN. I am also involved in the water polo team, orchestra, and the swim program. I was a legal for NUNO last year, and I hope that I will be able to make your experiences here at MVHS as fun as possible while still keeping the same level of professionalism that is expected in MUN. I cannot wait to meet you all and make sure this is one of the best conferences ever! If need be, contact me at mvhsmuncrisis1@gmail.com and make sure to mention it is for me. I can't wait to meet all of you, and most of all, remember to have fun!

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 1918, leaving Germany the lone actor for the Central Powers in 1919. 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:

The British originally got into the Great War for one simple reason, money; or the fear of losing it. The Germans were fastly growing into a superpower with their economy at an all time high, and with a new Kaiser Wilhelm II in charge who wanted Germany to be the next superpower in Europe, it left Britain nervous. Originally, Britain believed that if the countries were all to go to war and Britain were to not pick a side, then they would be the most powerful after the war and be the best for them. This philosophy did not last long though, and the British joined the Triple Entente with France and Russia soon after the initial outbreak of war. Britain tried to distance itself from France and Russia when war broke out, calling their alliance treaty “just a scrap of paper”, but the final straw was with Belgium. The Treaty of London 1839 required Britain to protect Belgium from any foreign countries, so when Germany marched through Belgium to get to France, Britain decided to wholeheartedly join in the war effort.

Britain did not let anything stop them in their fight to free the continent from the Central Powers, one such instance was the Battle of the Somme. One of the greatest battles in history, and deadliest; the battle of the Somme lasted 141 days and resulted in nearly 1 million dead on both sides. On the first day alone, 19,240 British soldiers lost their lives due to Germans occupying trenches in the area. The British attempted, but were never able to, break through the German defense; however, after losing so many soldiers, the Germans decided to retreat. Great Britain after 1916 was running out of troops and needed to think of things fast because nobody was signing up for the war anymore. British Parliament introduced conscription which made it so all single men in



non vital jobs aged 18-41 were automatically enlisted. This resulted in over 250,000 men just aged 18 to be enlisted to go and fight for their country.

On 31 May 1916, Great Britain's navy was tested like never before. The battle of Jutland, just off the coast of Denmark, was the largest naval battle in World War 1 between the British and the Germans. Though the British did not win the battle with them losing more ships than the Germans, the Germans retreated up into the Baltic Sea. This battle was the single reason that U-Boats became so popular because the Germans were running out of ships and suffering too many casualties. Germany used their U-Boat to destroy large supply boats from the United States and Britain in a time before the sonar radar. Britain, in retaliation decided to block off the all of Germans ports in a blockade and did not allow any boats to pass in or out without being shot down.

This Great War devastated the population of the British people, men especially, with 700,000 dying. By the close of the war in 1918, over 6 million English men were mobilised (1/5 of the population) for Navy, Army, or Air Force, and around 8% were killed: 4% of the entire population. Another 3% of the 6,000,000 were held as prisoners of war by the Germans and were used to build more artillery to be used against their fellow countrymen.

Sources:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/timelines/zqbhn39#zwvtpv4>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-25776836>

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/united-kingdom-facts>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/greatwar/g2/backgrounds1.htm>



III. Possible Course of Action:

The British have the best navy in the world, and for good reason. One possible course of action is for them to attack the Germans first in areas like Hamburg or Bremen, which are major cities for the German economy, and close to or on the shore. Destroying German docks could hinder their entire navy and cause a total overpowerment of them. Since planes are being used for only the first time this war, the air force is still a somewhat new tactic for countries, so developed and full scale attacks may not be possible. Boots on the ground, though an unpopular decision, could also be viable, but considering you will be attacking German occupied land, (or French) there will be a severe disadvantage in fighting by infantry. However, that does not mean it is impossible.

Great Britain has varying reasons to be for or against the continuation of war. The nation has been heavily affected by the passionate style of war the Germans have carried out, losing the lives of almost 2.3 million soldiers during the war, with about two-thirds of these casualties occurring after the Central Powers greatly remobilized in 1917. Great Britain could deny the German request for a ceasefire, purely out of vengeful spite for the German's. Germany is, after all, the main villain in this story though in the eyes of almost all Brits. 8 years of death, destruction, millions killed and entire cities destroyed; the people want vengeance for the struggle they have gone through: over 500,000 children lost a parent in this pointless power struggle.

However, the British could also fight for more tactical reasons. Suppressing the Germans could be a good idea long term, as the Germans have proven that their current goal is to be respected and tip the balance of power in Europe in their favor. Also, by taking German land, Great Britain may be able to colonize and settle in Germany, giving them new access to mainland



European markets, as well as, decreasing the distance needed to travel to some of Great Britain's already established colonies. The colonization of area along the German coastline is also beneficial, as Great Britain can then establish their own trading port cities connected directly to mainland Europe.

However, continuation of the war may not be completely beneficial for Great Britain as it could allow France and the United States to gain excessive amounts of land in Germany and extend their hand in Europe, upset the balance of power and only cause more conflict in Europe. There is also noticeably decreased morale among the general English population and their disdain for getting involved in the war in the first place.

What is most interesting, however, is Great Britain's caution toward trusting either France or the United States in this conflict. Even though the three nations leaders have had meetings regarding the war against Germany, Great Britain questions the United States' motivation for still fighting in the war. The Brits are terrified that the United States will attempt to conquer the German nation and establish a colonized nation-state in Europe and spread western democratic ideals to Europe, causing continental anarchy. The United States was a former ally to the British government and sees them as both an enemy and a friend. Not entirely neutral, it is more like a love-hate relationship whereas they do not like the US, but owe them a great service for their help in the war. However, tensions are rising as the American leadership become more friendly with the Germans.

After working together with the French for so long and their prior history, the British public have turned against them and now see them as one of the sole perpetrators of the war which killed millions of their men. Not to mention, the French acted very selfishly during the war, withdrawing



troops multiple times from attacks that were supposed to be joint attacks by both British and French troops; consequently, causing many deaths of British soldiers.

So what will you do now? Will you attempt to finish off the German's, or seek a peaceful alternative? Will you use either of your fellow allies to help gain territory in Germany, or compete against them? Where will you colonize? How will you fight? By land, or sea? The choice is yours.