



HISTALYA

MUN 2024

PARIS PEACE CONFERENCE

AGENDA ITEM:
Paris Peace Treaty

STUDY GUIDE

UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL

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I. Letter from the Secretary-General

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all participants of HistalyaMun'24, which will be held in Antalya from August 15th to 18th.

As we gather for this Model United Nations conference, we anticipate engaging debates, enlightening discussions, and invaluable networking opportunities. Our committees, covering a diverse range of topics about historical events, promise to challenge and inspire delegates, fostering both critical thinking and diplomatic skills.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the organizing team and our gracious hosts in Antalya for their dedication and hard work in bringing HistalyaMun'24 to fruition.

I am eager to meet each and every one of you in Antalya as we come together for this enriching experience.

Sincerely,

**Metehan Yıldırım
Secretary-General
HistalyaMun'24**

II. Letter from the Under-Secretaries-General

Esteemed Delegates,

It is our utmost pleasure to welcome you all to HISTALYA'24, We are utterly fraught with the opportunity to serve you in this spectacular conference as Under-Secretaries-General responsible for our committee.

As you may know, your decisions in this committee will be substantial in terms of designating the fate of Europe and the rest of the world in a historical context, so I would like to underline the fact that your preparation and effective discussion are essential for our committee to achieve a concrete final treaty.

In other words, I encourage all participants to read this study guide thoroughly and fully comprehend the main subjects of discussion as well as key policies so that you will not experience any difficulties regarding the process.

The floor is yours,

Çağın Taylan Özgün
Eralp Özsarı

Under-Secretaries-General

**Responsible for the “Paris
Peace Conference”
Committee**

III. Introduction to the Committee - “What is the Paris Peace Conference?”

The Paris Peace Conference (18th of January 1919 - 21st of January 1920) was an international meeting that was convened for the purpose of making peace between the countries at the end of the First World War and also to establish a post-war order. It was hosted at the Quai d’Orsay and included the major Entente Powers, which were the U.S., Britain, and France.

After World War I (or the Great War as it was referred to during the war), major powers of the global arena wanted to settle the dust. Their main objective was to build a peace environment that would last. Also, every country got severely damaged because of the war and they were expecting compensation. Regarding these facts, outcomes such as treaties which had extremely crucial conditions and the foundation of the League of Nations aiming to promote global peace.

In our committee, we aim to revitalize this environment and bring out alternative results to the Paris Peace Conference. Each delegate will represent a country and we will relive the diplomatic process of that period. During discussions, delegates will be expected to follow the policies of the countries or groups they represent and try to make the most out of agreements to benefit their represented group or state. Furthermore, contemporary global dynamics of the historic time period are also a key factor in determining the decisions. Lastly, while being free, all of the delegates should mind that the main objective of the committee is not to claim anything but to be mindful and find creative solutions.



Image: The Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, by Sir William Orpen

IV. Retrospective Study

The Initiation of World War I and the Establishment of Alliances

World War I, commonly known as the "Great War," commenced in 1914 and stands as one of the most lethal conflicts in recorded history. The roots of the war are intricate, stemming from a complex interplay of alliances, militarism, nationalism, and imperialism that had developed in Europe over several decades. The immediate trigger was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary on June 28, 1914, although the deeper causes had been festering for a considerable time.

The assassination took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia. In response, Austria-Hungary, supported by Germany, issued an ultimatum to Serbia, which was believed to be the origin of the assassination plot. When Serbia's reply was found inadequate, Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia on July 28, 1914. This declaration triggered a domino effect due to the elaborate network of alliances that had been established in Europe. These alliances were mainly categorized into two principal factions: the Triple Alliance and the Triple Entente.

The Triple Alliance

The Triple Alliance was composed of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy. This coalition was created to counterbalance the increasing power of France and Russia in Europe. Under Kaiser Wilhelm II, Germany was keen to demonstrate its strength and was apprehensive about being encircled by France and Russia. Austria-Hungary, a diverse empire facing internal strife and nationalist movements, particularly among its Slavic groups, viewed its alliance with Germany as a strategy to preserve its stability. Italy, although initially aligned with this alliance, would later change its allegiance to join the Central Powers, motivated by aspirations for territorial expansion at the expense of Austria-Hungary.

The Triple Entente

The Triple Entente stood in opposition to the Triple Alliance and consisted of France, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Following its defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of

1870-71, France was resolute in its efforts to limit German expansion and reclaim territories it had lost. Russia, a sprawling empire with interests in the Balkans, positioned itself as the defender of Slavic nations such as Serbia, opposing the influence of Austria-Hungary in the area. The United Kingdom, which had historically adhered to a policy of splendid isolation, began to forge closer relationships with France and Russia due to apprehensions regarding Germany's naval growth and its increasing industrial and military capabilities.

Here are some of the major and most important events that happened during the Great War.

1914

Involvement of The United Kingdom

When Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia mobilized its military to support Serbia, prompting Germany to declare war on Russia on August 1. Subsequently, on August 3, Germany declared war on France. The German military strategy, known as the Schlieffen Plan, aimed for a swift invasion of France via Belgium, anticipating that this would allow them to concentrate on the slower mobilization of Russia. However, the invasion of neutral Belgium provoked the United Kingdom to declare war on Germany in defense of Belgian sovereignty.

Battle of the Frontiers

The Battle of the Frontiers, which took place in August, consisted of a series of conflicts along the borders of France and Belgium, representing the initial significant confrontation between French and German troops during World War I. This engagement involved various individual battles, such as those at Ardennes, Lorraine, Charleroi, and Mons.

Within a short period, both the French and German military forces suffered significant losses. The French army alone endured approximately 260,000 casualties, including 75,000 fatalities. The German forces also faced substantial losses, with tens of thousands killed or wounded.

Sack of Dinant

The Dinant Massacre, or Sack of Dinant occurred, in August during Germany's invasion of Belgium. German troops, accusing the town of harboring French forces, executed 674 civilians, including women and children.

The soldiers also destroyed over 1,200 homes and significant parts of the town. This atrocity was part of a broader campaign of terror aimed at suppressing resistance, and it exemplified the brutal tactics used by the German army during the invasion.

Japan's Involvement

Japan joined the Entente during World War I on 23th of August with the aim of expanding its influence in Asia and the Pacific. The country took advantage of the conflict to declare war on Germany, with the goal of acquiring German-held territories in China and the Pacific.

Japan's key actions included the capture of Tsingtao, a German-controlled port in China, and the occupation of German Pacific islands. Through its participation in the war, Japan aimed to solidify its position as a major regional power and gain international recognition.

Campaign of Marne

The Campaign of Marne was fought between German and French-English armies during September 6th-12th. It ended with a certain German defeat. The battle was fought at the borderline of Paris, meaning it was an indicator which meant an immediate German victory was impossible and the continuation of the Western Front for 4 more years.

On 29th of October, Ottoman ships bombarded the coastline of the Tsardom of Russia which led the Tsardom to declare war on the Ottoman Empire on 1st of November.

1915

Gallipoli Campaign

On 19th of February, naval forces of Entente powers attacked the Dardanelles Strait. The area was strategically important for both sides. For Central powers, the fall of Dardanelles meant the fall of the Ottoman Empire since its capital was located in Constantinople. For Entente powers, the Straits were the only way to connect the Mediterranean Sea to the Black Sea. Campaign lasted until 9th of January 1916 with Ottoman victory, a huge defeat for the Entente.

Second Battle of Ypres

This battle fought in Ypres between April 22nd- May 25th holds a significant importance since it is the first example of mass use of poison gas by Germans.

Treaty of London

This was a secret agreement on 25th of April. between the Entente and Italy commencing that Italy was now on the side of the Entente.

Involvement of Bulgaria

On 7th of October, Bulgaria with the encouragement of Central Powers declared war on Serbia. Shortly after this event, Serbia fell under the occupation of the Central Powers.

1916

Battle of Verdun

The Battle of Verdun, which took place from February 21 to December 18, stands as one of the most devastating confrontations of World War I. Situated on the Western Front, it involved a fierce struggle between French forces and the German Army. The battle was characterized by severe trench warfare, resulting in substantial losses for both combatants. The French experienced approximately 377,000 casualties, whereas the Germans faced around 337,000. Despite the battle's attritional nature leading to no significant changes in territory, it emerged as a powerful emblem of French national determination. The staggering casualties and dire conditions at Verdun highlighted the harsh realities of trench warfare, leaving a significant influence on military tactics and morale.

Battle of Jutland

The Battle of Jutland, which took place from May 31 to June 1, stands as the most significant naval engagement of World War I, occurring in the North Sea. This confrontation featured the British Royal Navy's Grand Fleet against the Imperial German Navy's High Seas Fleet. More than 250 vessels were involved, with both fleets participating in intense artillery

exchanges. The British forces incurred approximately 6,000 casualties, resulting in the sinking of 14 ships, while the Germans faced around 2,500 casualties and lost 11 ships. Although the British maintained their naval blockade and overall control, the battle did not yield a clear decisive victory. Jutland illustrated the persistent naval arms race and emphasized the limitations of naval power in securing definitive results.

Battle of Somme

The Battle of the Somme, which took place from July 1 to November 18, stands out as one of the most significant battles of World War I. Conducted on the Western Front, it was a collaborative effort between British and French forces aimed at countering the German army. The initial day of the battle remains the deadliest in British military history, resulting in the loss or injury of nearly 60,000 British soldiers. Throughout the duration of the conflict, both sides suffered heavy casualties, with a total of approximately 620,000 casualties for the British and French forces combined, and around 500,000 for the Germans. The Somme battle was characterized by its brutal trench warfare and limited territorial advancements. It served as a poignant reminder of the immense human toll of World War I and highlighted the complexities of modern industrialized warfare, thus becoming a stark representation of the conflict's harsh realities.

1917

Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution began with the February Revolution, which led to the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II. In his place, a Provisional Government was established, composed of moderate socialists and liberals. However, this government faced immense challenges, including continued involvement in World War I, economic instability, and widespread discontent among the population.

The Provisional Government's decision to keep Russia in the war proved deeply unpopular, leading to rising support for the Bolsheviks, a radical socialist faction led by Vladimir Lenin. In October, the Bolsheviks seized power in the October Revolution, overthrowing the Provisional Government and establishing a communist state. This led to Russia's exit from World War, significantly impacting the war's dynamics by allowing Germany to concentrate its forces on the Western Front.

Involvement of the USA

The United States joined World War I on April 6, following a period of neutrality during most of the conflict. Various reasons influenced U.S. participation, such as Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare that resulted in the sinking of civilian and neutral vessels like the RMS Lusitania, resulting in the deaths of American citizens. Moreover, the Zimmermann Telegram, where Germany suggested a military partnership with Mexico against the U.S., further fueled public sentiment. The American entry into the war offered the Entente vital military and economic assistance, including fresh troops and resources, at a time when they were worn out from years of trench warfare. American involvement played a crucial role in shifting the balance in favor of the s, ultimately leading to the end of the war in November 1918.

1918

Treaties of Brest-Litowsk

These treaties were the final trophy that Central Powers gained. Treaty of Brest Litowsk ended the war between the Central Powers and Russia. With this Treaty, from the Caucasia to the Baltics, all of the western Russian lands got under the influence of the Central Powers. The United Baltic Duchy, Ukrainian Hetmanate, Kingdom of Poland, Kingdom of Lithuania, and the Democratic Republic of Georgia became a German puppet. While Germany vassalizing these, Ottomans took Azerbaijan and the Mountainous Caucasia under its zone of influence.

Armistices, End of the Central Powers

Entente powers signed 4 armistices with Bulgaria (Armistice of Thessalonica, September 29th), Ottoman Empire (Armistice of Mudros, October 30th) and Germany (Armistice of Compiegne, November 11th). Also Austria-Hungary signed the Armistice of Villa Giusti on November 3rd with Italy ending the war on the Italian Front. These armistices declared “unconditional surrender” for the Central Powers. With these declarations of surrender, so as the Central Powers, the Great War came to an end.

After 1918

Between 18th of January 1919 - 21st of January 1920, Paris Peace Conference was held to set the decisions about the aftermath of the Great War.

On 10th of January 1920, the League of Nations held its first official meeting officially ending the Great War.

V. Subject Countries of the Conference

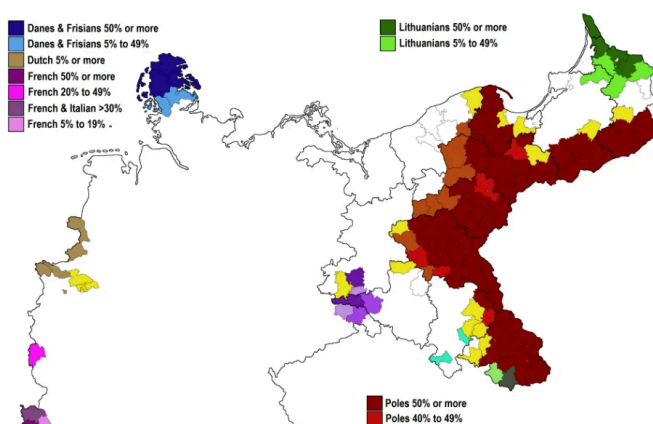
A. Germany

Germany was the most significant of the subject countries of the conference. The leader of the Central Powers, it was also the only country in its alliance to have colonies. In the committee you will partition Germany's territory and discuss major peace terms, such as war reparations.

While the war was still going on, the Entente states had made plans to divide the countries of some Central Powers. But Germany was not one of these countries. Therefore, when the conference started, there was no plan that could be taken as a basis for the division of Germany.

The only points on territorial distribution agreed by the Entente powers were the articles in the Fourteen Points of the American President Woodrow Wilson. These principles said three things about the division of Germany. Firstly, Poland should be given land from Germany to become a coastal state. Secondly, the return of Alsace-Lorraine, which Germany had taken from France in 1871. And lastly, all of the German colonies should be taken from Germany's hands. These terms may of course change during the debates during the committee, but historically it is much more consistent to adhere to this position at the beginning of the committee.

Another important issue concerning Germany was the war reparations. For the other Central Powers, this issue was never as high on the agenda as it was for Germany. Britain, France, and Belgium wanted to blame Germany for the war and receive large amounts of reparations. A few countries, such as the United States and South Africa, were more moderate, believing that high reparations would undermine the peace.



The map shown on the left side is the demographic map of the German Empire. During the discussions, using demographic maps and charts could be quite useful.

B. Ottoman Empire

During the war, the Ottoman Empire was the Central Powers state that had the most plans against it. The questions discussed about the Ottoman Empire at the Conference were about territorial partition.

The Ottoman Empire was a state that included numerous minorities. For this reason, the American point of "self-determination" was an important agenda item when the Ottoman borders were being redrawn. According to the Fourteen Points, the Ottoman Empire should have retained the areas where Turks were the majority. However, Eastern Anatolia, Western Armenia, Kurdistan, Syria, Palestine, Iraq, and Hejaz, where Turks did not live or were in the minority, had to be taken from the Ottoman Empire.

Alongside the Fourteen Points proposed by President Wilson, there were also the agreements of the other Entente States. From 1915 to 1917, there were many plans for the partition of the Ottoman territories. It would be useful to take a brief overview of the agreements signed in regard to these plans.

1915 Treaty of London (Italy - France & British Empire)

Treaty of London was a secret multilateral treaty between the Entente and Italy. The treaty was about the conditions of the Italian entrance to the war on the side of the Entente. Alongside with its other articles, the treaty promises an influence/occupation zone in southern Anatolia to Italy.

1915 Constantinople Agreement (Russia - France & British Empire)

The Constantinople Agreement of 1915 was a secret exchange of diplomatic correspondence between the Entente Powers regarding the Russian claims over the Turkish Straits. For the return of this concession which was going to be made to the Russian Empire, the French demanded the Ottoman territories in Palestine, Syria, and Cilicia.

1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement (France - British Empire)

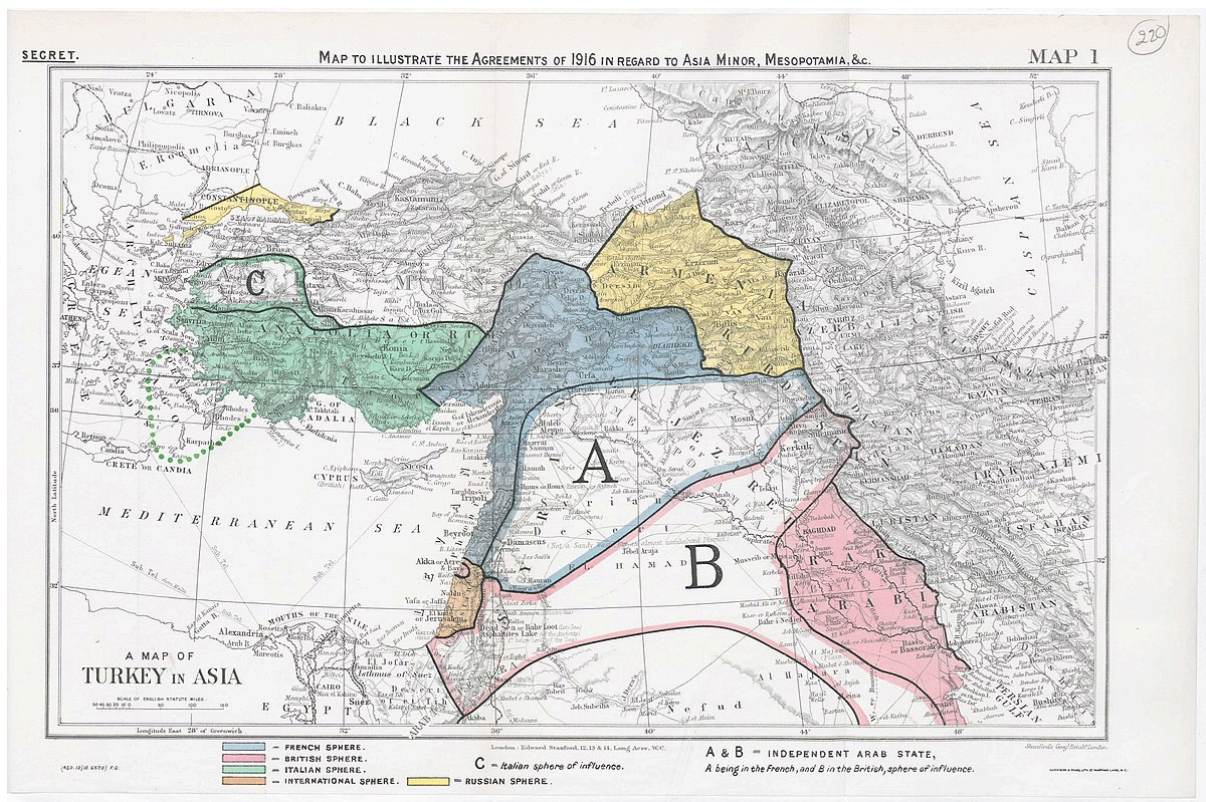
The Sykes-Picot Agreement was the most significant one among these agreements. It even shaped modern borders in the Middle East. Agreement was about the partition of the Eastern Anatolia and *Fertile Crescent* (Syria and Iraq). According to the articles of this agreement, the French gained Syria, northern Iraq (with the city of Mosul), and southeastern Anatolia while the British getting, Iraq, and Transjordan. Palestine was agreed to be an international zone.

1916 Sazonov-Paléologue Agreement (France - Russia)

This agreement could be considered as an attachment to the Sykes-Picot Agreement. Topic that this agreement took on its objective was the Russian approval of the Sykes-Picot Agreement. To convince Russia, the French agreed to give Western Armenia to Russia.

1917 Agreement of Saint-Jean-de-Maurienne (Italy - France & British Empire)

This agreement was also an attachment to the main Sykes-Picot Agreement. It was elaborating which districts and cities will be promised to Italy in case of an Entente victory. In accordance with this agreement; Smyrna, Antalya, Konya, Karaman, Alanya, Muğla, Aydın, and Silifke were going to become a Italian territory.



Map: Final demarcation status after aforementioned secret agreements.

It is up to you, delegates, whether you want to remain under these decisions or not. It is especially worth remembering that American policy is in conflict with this situation.

C. Austria

The situation in Austria and Hungary can be a bit tricky. These two countries, which were under the umbrella of a single state during the war, were separated about 10 days before the end of the war when the Austrian Emperor Carl recognized the independence of Hungary. For this reason, we will take these two countries in hand separately, based on the borders within the former empire.

The situation in Austria was very complicated. During the war, only one treaty was signed for Austrian territory, the Treaty of London. According to this treaty, South Tyrol and Dalmatia were ceded to Italy. The Slavic peoples living in the north of Austria are a separate issue. The Ukrainians and Poles living in Galicia had separate claims to the region. In the region called Bohemia, the Czechs were trying to establish an independent state. There was even a border dispute between the Czechs and the Poles. To summarize it up, minorities all over the country were either trying to become independent or trying to join another country. You will make the partition of Austria based on these.

D. Hungary

As mentioned, the situation mentioned in the first paragraph of the section "Austria" also includes Hungary.

After the Ottomans, Hungary had the highest number of minorities in the Alliance states. In fact, Hungarians made up less than half of the country's population. There were Serbo-Croatians in the South, Romanians in the East, Slovaks in the North, and Germans all over the country.

During the war, two secret treaties concerning Hungarian territory were concluded by the Entente. The Treaties of Bucharest and London. According to the Treaty of Bucharest, Banat, Maramureş and Transylvania were planned to be given to Romania. According to the London Treaty, eastern Croatia was to be given to Serbia.

Towards the end of the war, the Croats declared independence and joined Serbia to form Yugoslavia. Likewise, Czechoslovakia took the north of the country. The context in which you would partition Hungary is that there is already a war going on.



Map: Demographic Map of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

E. Bulgaria

Bulgaria was the last country to join the Central Powers. Although it was the weakest country in its alliance, its entry into the war led to the defeat of Serbia, Montenegro and Romania. During the war they annexed three quarters of Serbia and the Dobrudja region of Romania, but Bulgaria was forced to retreat from these territories after surrendering. Therefore, the division of Bulgaria's territory will start from the borders of 1915. Bulgaria has Romania to the north, Greece to the south, and Yugoslavia to the west. All these states are members of the Entente.

VI. Policies of the Participant States

The United Kingdom

Delegates: David Lloyd George, Bonar Law, Alfred Milner, Arthur Balfour

Britain's ambitions are many and varied. But basically they pursued a harsh policy that wanted to penalize Germany. They supported the establishment of the League of Nations, even though they disagreed with America on many points.

Let's start with Germany's colonies. The British government was very clear about this, they stated that all of Germany's colonies should be taken and be given to the victorious countries.

They hoped that the German navy, like the colonies, was doomed. The Battle of Jutland in 1916 was a disaster for both sides. Britain had feared Germany's monster navy ever since. So they wanted the German navy to be abolished or reduced.

Another important part of punishing Germany was war reparations. Britain, together with France, argued that all the blame for the war should be placed on Germany. So they demanded reparations that Germany could not afford to pay. On this question, Britain disagreed with its own colony, South Africa. Like America, South Africa argued that war reparations should be kept low in order to secure the peace environment.

After Germany, Britain's main focus was on the Ottoman territories. During the war, Britain made many agreements with France, Italy and Russia, aiming to divide the Ottoman territories. Although it accepted that the Muslim Holy Land would remain under a Muslim state, Britain wanted to control the regions to the north of this region, such as Iraq, Jordan and Kurdistan.

As for Palestine, this is where it gets complicated for Britain. According to the Balfour Declaration, which the British government supported during the war, they supported the creation of a Jewish state in the region. But according to the secret agreements it had signed with the Entente countries during the war, the territory was supposed to be internationally administered. While they pursued a policy towards other countries that shifted and differed in this way, they wanted Palestine to be directly annexed to Britain on this issue as well. Britain also opposed Japan's Racial Equality Proposal.

Commonwealth of Australia

Delegate: Billy Hughes

Australia had 2 important political points. The first and more important one was that Australian ambition to annex German New Guinea. German New Guinea was a colony in the northern part of the eastern part of the island of Papua, with Australian territory to the south. Hughes, the head of the Australian delegation, wanted to take it from Germany and dominate all of East Papua.

Australia's other sticking point was Japan's Racial Equality Motion. Australian Prime Minister Hughes firmly rejected this proposal. There were two reasons for this. The less important reason was that they did not want Japan to become too powerful in the international arena. The other reason was that during Hughes' lifetime and youth, there was strong public opposition to Asian immigration. The people of Australia, and Hughes, wanted a "White Australia".

Kingdom of Belgium

Delegates: Paul Hymans, Jules Van del Hovel

Before the war, Belgium was a neutral country. But when the Conference convened, it was the first country to demand war reparations from Germany. Belgium's requests were quite absurd. The war had been fought against Germany, yet Belgium wanted the south of the Netherlands and all of Luxembourg. The Netherlands had been neutral in the war and Luxembourg, like Belgium, had been occupied by Germany. In addition, Belgium also demanded territory in German East Africa

Republic of China

Delegates: Lu Zhengxiang, Wellington Koo

China was already fragmented. But the central government in Beijing, although not active, was involved in the war. So they also came to the Peace Conference. Their demands were quite obvious. They wanted German possessions on the Chinese mainland. Said

possessions were the German concession of Tianjin and the Kiautschou Bay Leased Territory. However, Kiautschou Bay was invaded by Japan during the Great War.

Republic of Czechoslovakia

Delegates: Edvard Beneš

Czechoslovak demands were clear. They aimed to create a new state in areas where the Czech and Slovak populations were the majority. A week before the end of the Great War, they had declared independence in the Czech-majority areas of Bohemia in Austria. By the start of the conference, they had occupied the north of the former Hungarian Kingdom and extended their territory into Carpathian Ruthenia. Their demand was the annexation of the lands they are controlling. They also wanted an additional article to be included in the peace treaties to prevent Austria from uniting with Germany in the future.

French Third Republic

Delegates: Georges Clemenceau, Stephen Pichon, Louis-Lucien Klotz, André Tardieu

If we look at France's main policy at the Peace Conference, it is clear that their intention was not peace. They were pursuing a policy more linked to France's own expansionist ideals than to peace. Their proposals, the solutions they found were not suitable for keeping peace as they were centered only on France.

If we start with Germany, we see that France was the country that treated Germany the most harshly during the Conference. French Prime Minister Clemenceau had seen Germany invade France twice, in 1871 and 1914, so he intended to punish Germany severely.

Regarding the acquisition of territory, they first demanded Alsace, which they had lost in 1871. Immediately afterwards, they advocated the dismantling of the German colonies. And finally, they supported states against Germany, such as Poland, which were willing to take territory from Germany.

In terms of reparations, France was the most brutal country in the Entente. They said that Germany was entirely and solely guilty for the war. Hence, Germany should pay for all the destruction.

As for the partition of the Ottoman territories, although they started to make concessions to the British government in 1918, they claimed Syria, Palestine and Cilicia. They based these claims on the 1916 Sykes-Picot Agreement and aimed to become a sovereign power in the eastern Mediterranean.

Kingdom of Greece

Delegates: Eleftherios Venizelos, Nicolas Politis

Prominent policy of Greece was Venizelism as the Greek Prime Minister Venizelos was one of the negotiators during this conference. Venizelism focuses on gathering all Hellenes (Greeks) under one roof. Therefore, this will be the main objective of the Greek delegation in the committee. The Greek population which was left outside mainland Greece was dense on the opposite side of the Aegean sea. Although Turks had administered Western Anatolia for nearly a thousand years, Greeks were still a significant minority in the region. Hence, Venizelos and the Greek delegation demanded the Eastern coast of the Aegean sea (including Smyrna), Thrace, and the Marmara Region (which contains the Ottoman capital Constantinople and Çanakkale). Additionally, Venizelos, as a liberal Prime Minister, gave his full support to American President Wilson's idea of the League of Nations.

Arabian Delegation - Kingdom of Hejaz

Delegates: Faisal al-Hashemi, Rustam Haidar, Abdul Hadi Aouni

The main objective of the Arab delegation was to establish the united Arab state that had been promised to them throughout the war. For centuries the Arabs had lived under the Ottoman Empire, unable to establish an independent state. During the war, with British support, a revolt broke out in the Hejaz region of the Ottoman Empire and spread northwards. By the end of the war, rebel Arabs and British forces occupied the southern part of Syria.

Faisal, the son of Sharif Hussein, the leader of the rebellion, attended the conference as a representative for the Arabs. His aim was simple. He aimed to establish an independent Arab state including Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Hejaz, and the interior of Arabia. Even though they had agreed upon the "Faisal-Weizmann agreement" which makes Arabs recognize the Balfour Declaration with the Zionist Organization and declared their support for the creation of a Jewish state, they secretly wanted to bring the Palestine region under the United Arab State.

British India (as known as British Raj or British Indian Empire)

Delegate: Edwin Samuel Montagu

British India was, so to speak, a thorn in the side of the British Empire. To begin with, Sir Edwin Montagu, who represented India at the conference, was an anti-Zionist. He had objected to the British government-backed Balfour Declaration that the Zionist organization had announced in 1917. During the Conference, he opposed the creation of a Jewish state in Palestine.

Such divergent views existed on many issues. He opposed the partition of the Ottoman Empire, in particular the ceding of territory from Anatolia to Greece. He said that the Sultan should stay in Istanbul. He also defended the rights of the Muslims of the world at the Conference.

Kingdom of Italy

Delegates: Vittorio Emanuele Orlando, Sidney Sonnino, Guglielmo Imperiali, Silvio Crespi

During the negotiations Italy chased the objectives of Italian irredentism. Italian irredentism aims to unite all Italians and lands that were historically ruled by Italian states.

If we take a quick look at the history of Italian nationalist movements, we will be faced with the Italian Wars of Unification at the beginning. This period of unification endured for 23 years with a series of wars, battles, and bureaucratic plots. Before these revolutionary decades, Italy was fragmented with 6 regional realms. One of them, the Kingdom of Sardinia, gathered Italy under a single roof and established the Kingdom of Italy. Most of the wars of the unification period were done against the Austrian Empire (subsequently, Austro-Hungarian Empire). They had taken Lombardy, Venetia, and Friuli from Austria. Yet still a considerable number of Italians were left out from Italy. Majority of those left were living in Tyrol, Istria, and Dalmatia.

During the Great War, Entente's quest for new alliances was a great opportunity for Italy to fulfill their interests over Austrian Lands. They were allied with Austria prior to the war; however, they did not refuse Entente's offers, especially in those times that proto-fascism was on the rise. During the diplomatic correspondences with Entente, Italy focused on getting promised for aforementioned lands. Their rationalization behind claiming Austrian territories was simple: Demographics and history. Southern parts of Tyrol and western parts of Istria were predominantly Italian. However, although they were still a significant group, they were a minority in Dalmatia. To excuse it they came up with historical facts. Dalmatia is a land which was administered by an Italian merchant state for centuries, The Most Serene Republic of Venice.

At the end of these negotiations a secret treaty was signed in London. Subsequently this treaty became the spine of Italian policy during the Paris Peace Conference. Here is a synopsis of the 1915 Treaty of London:

Article I, calls for a new agreement between the commanders-in-chief of the participant countries to rearrange the numbers of regiments fighting against Austria-Hungary.

Article II, commits Italy to use all of their resources for the purpose of waging war jointly with Entente, against all of their enemies.

Article III, makes French and British navies obligatory to give naval support in order to “destroy” the Austro-Hungarian fleet.

Article IV, states that in case of an Entente victory, Cisalpine (Southern) Tyrol and Istria will be rewarded to the Kingdom of Italy.

Article V, defines the boundary of Dalmatia, which was also promised to Italy.

Articles VI and VII, promise full sovereignty for Italy over the city of Valona, Albania. Also, according to these articles, Albania was going to be an Italian protectorate/vassal.

Article VIII, gives full sovereignty over Dodecanese Islands which Italy had already occupied prior to the treaty.

Articles IX and X, assure Italian goals on the Ottoman province of Antalya and its surroundings. Additionally, the article states that in case of a partition regarding the Turkish Empire, Italy will have the right to occupy southwestern Anatolia. Moreover, Italy promised to seize all rights belonging to the Ottoman Sultan over Tripolitania. These articles were later elaborated in a treaty called the *Agreement of St.-Jean-de-Maurienne (1917)*. Southern Anatolia, including Smyrna, Konya and Antalya, was promised to Italy.

Article XI, promises a share from war indemnity to Italy at the end of the war.

Article XII, declares that signatories of this treaty have agreed for an independent Muslim state that rules the Muslim Holy Places.

Article XIII, makes sacrifices on behalf of France and Britain for lands in Africa in favor of Italy.

Article XIV, obligates Britain to loan 50.000.000 Italian Lire to the London market.

Article XV, stipulates that Entente will support Italian opposition to potential participation of the Holy See (Vatican) to any peace negotiations regarding this war.

Article XVI, Conceals this treaty from the public until the Italian declaration of war against the Central Powers.

Empire of Japan

Delegates: Saionji Kinmochi, Makino Nobuaki

Japan had a political and a diplomatic objective. The first political objective was to annex German territory. They intended to take what was presented to the Japanese at the beginning of the war, in 1914. Britain had promised Japan at the beginning of the war the colonies of the German Empire in Asia and the Pacific. Accordingly, Japan demanded these territories at the Conference.

Their other goal was a diplomatic one. The Japanese delegation prepared the "Racial Equality Proposal" before coming to the conference. This proposal argued that all races were equal. The real intention of the Japanese was to try to equalize their race, which had been considered inferior to Europeans for years.

Republic of Poland

Delegates: Ignacy Jan Paderewski, Roman Dmowski

Poland's policy was quite clear. Before looking at Poland's policy, look at the article on Poland in the Fourteen Points:

“**Point XIII:** An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.”

The whole Polish policy was based on this Article. Their aim was to take from Germany the Polish inhabited areas, including a coastal strip. Likewise, they claimed the Galicia region from the collapsed Austro-Hungarian Empire. This is the region where they had disagreements with the Ukrainians. Because the Ukrainians claim the eastern part of Galicia.

Kingdom of Romania

Delegates: Ion I. C. Brătianu, Constantin Coandă

Romanian policy was shaped around the articles of the Treaty of Bucharest. This treaty was a secret multilateral treaty signed between the Entente Powers and the Government of the Kingdom of Romania in 1916. The treaty was contexted about the conditions of Romania to enter the Great War within the side of Entente. According to the treaty, Romania annexed Transylvania, Maramaros, Körösvidék, Banat, and Bukovina. However, especially with the Yugoslav delegation they had conflicts over the territory of Banat.

Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (as known as Yugoslavia)

Delegates: Nikola Pašić, Ante Trumbić, Milenko Radomar Vesnić

During the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, Yugoslavia, newly formed as the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, focused on securing its territorial and political interests in the aftermath of World War I. The primary goals were to gain control of regions with significant Slavic populations, such as Dalmatia, Istria, and Slovenian territories, while also preventing Italian expansion along the Adriatic coast—a key point of contention known as the "Adriatic Question. Yugoslavia sought international recognition as a legitimate state.

Their territorial claims were simple. If we take the old Serbo-Montenegrin territories as a starting point for Yugoslavia; they claimed Bosnia, Croatia, Banat, Bajka, Vojvodina, Baranja, Pecs, Carinthia, Southern Styria, Dalmatia, and Slavonia from the former Austro-Hungarian State. Moving on with Bulgaria, Yugoslavia claimed bordering cities, such as Vidin, for annexation.

Union of South Africa

Delegate: Jan Smuts

There were two main points that South African policy centered upon. Their initiative was the annexation of German Southwest Africa, which was located on the northwestern borders of South Africa. During the Great war, with the British Army, South African troops invaded German Southwest Africa. Aside from the American demands upon German colonies, the cession of this aforementioned German colony to the British Empire was almost precise. However, the essential subject here was how will this former German colony be incorporated into the British Empire. It can either be a separate colony, or be given under the authority of South Africa. There is no need to say which path that the South African Government advocated. Of course they intended to annex German Southwest Africa into their territory.

The other point that the South African Delegation pursued a policy on was the severity of the terms that will be imposed on Germany. On this issue, South Africa followed a policy which was similar to the American one. Distinct from the view of the British

Government, they were in favor of reconciliation with Germany and limited reparations. Shortly, they pleaded that the terms should not be harsh. The South African Delegation, led by the PM Jan Smuts, also objected to the Japanese “Racial Equality Proposal”. This objection was not about the content of the proposal. Along with their role in the Great war, Japanese influential power had risen. With the other dominions of the British Empire, South Africa feared this rise. To prevent this, they intended to reduce Japan's international influence. Jan Smuts opposed Japan except where it was compatible with their policies.

The United States of America

Delegates: Woodrow Wilson, Robert Lansing, Henry White, Tasker H. Bliss

America was the one which ended the war with their entrance. However, they did not enter the war to do charity work. When the Entente Powers asked America to join the war, American President Wilson stipulated a series of points, which would later be called the “*Fourteen Points*”. During the Conference, American policy shaped around these points. Here is a synopsis of said conditions.

Point I, prohibits secret international agreements and emphasizes that diplomacy should be open to the public.

Point II, highlights the requirement for free navigation in the seas and oceans, outside territorial waters.

Point III, demands free trade between all countries willing to make peace.

Point IV, calls for a reduction in national armaments.

Point V, sets out the conditions for the colonies of the Losing States. Later on, the "League of Nations Mandate" system was developed in accordance with this article.

Point VI, states that the Allied powers should leave the Russian territories seized by the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and calls on other states to end the civil war in Russia.

Point VII, orders Germany to evacuate Belgium.

Point VIII, orders the evacuation of France. Point also ordered the return of the Alsace-Lorraine region that Germany had taken from France in 1871.

Point IX, states that Italian borders should be demarcated in accordance with their irredentist claims.

Point X, mentions that any opportunity should be given to the minorities in Austria-Hungary to develop themselves within an autonomous status.

Point XI, orders the evacuation of Serbia, Montenegro, and Romania. Point also clearly states that Serbia should have free and secure access to the sea, which simply means a cession must be done by Austria-Hungary to Serbia in order to free Serbia from being a land-locked country.

Point XII, Says that the Turkish portion of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Ottoman rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations.

Point XIII, Clearly mentions that an independent Polish state should be established which should include the territories inhabited by the Polish population, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea.

Point XIV, states that a general association of nations must be formed for the purpose of affording mutual guarantees of political independence and territorial integrity. This point led to the creation of the *League of Nations*.

Beside these points, American policy was quite simple. They were looking for the best way to achieve long-lasting peace. Therefore, they did not want to impose severe conditions on the Central Powers, especially on Germany. They never approached the issue as roughly as Britain and France. German Colonies, for instance. President Wilson said that those colonies should not be given to any other state but should be administered by the League of Nations.

His view on the partition of the Ottoman Empire was also smoother than the other Entente countries. The British and the French delegations' proposal on dividing the Ottoman lands was notably harsh. They argued that Ottoman lands must be partitioned between the Entente. However, Wilson objected to this proposal. He believed in self-determination. According to the *Point XII*, minorities should have the right to determine their future, whether they will stay as a part of the Ottoman State or be independent.

Republic of Armenia

Delegate: Avetis Aharonian

During the Paris Peace Conference, Armenia was seeking international recognition, as with the other Caucasian republics. They sought support for an independent Armenian state in the aftermath of the Armenian Genocide and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The Armenian delegation sought to secure much of the historic Armenian homeland, including

territories in eastern Anatolia/western Armenia.. Armenia also requested protection from the Entente to ensure its survival as a nation amid regional instability.

Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan

Delegate: Alimardan Bey Topchubashov

So as other break-away nations of the Russian Civil war, Azerbaijan's intention was also gaining recognition of their independence and sovereignty. Other than the recognition issue, despite their weak influential power, they tried to prevent Armenian expansion in Western Anatolia.

Democratic Republic of Georgia

Delegate: Nikolay Chkheidze

So as other break-away nations of the Russian Civil war, Georgia's intention was also gaining recognition of their independence and sovereignty. Head of the Georgian Delegation, Chkheidze, also demanded protection from Britain and France.

Kurdish Delegation - Society for the Rise of Kurdistan

Delegate: Kurd Şerif Pasha

Prior to The Conference, Society for the Rise of Kurdistan assigned Kurd Şerif Pasha as their representative. It would be wrong to envision the Kurdish Delegation as a separatist organization against the Ottoman Empire. Before anything else, Şerif Pasha was an Ottoman military official at the time. So, he did not precisely demand a fully independent Kurdistan. Instead, they had a slightly more complicated policy. Their initiative was to keep Kurdish-predominant territories under the Ottoman Empire. However, if the conference had the trend of giving the areas where Kurds are the majority to Armenia, they argued that Kurdistan should be independent, instead of being an Armenian territory.

Although the Ottoman Empire, as a defeated nation, was not invited to the conference, Şerif Pasha advocated the Ottoman interests, beside him being the Kurdish Representative.

Greek claims for instance. Putting historical evidences forward, Şerif Pasha asserted that the Greek-claimed Thrace and Western Anatolia is a Turkish territory.

Republic of Lithuania

Delegate: Antanas Smetona

Lithuania had two objectives. The first and the most significant one is the international recognition of the Lithuanian Republic. Lithuania was taken from the Russian State in 1918 as a separate political entity under the German Empire. After the German surrender in November 1918, Lithuania technically got its independence. However, neither the Bolshevik Government nor the Russian State recognized its independence. Moreover, as with the other break-away nations of the Russian Civil War, Lithuania could not gain any recognition from the international community. 4 months later a conference convened in Paris to settle the peace in Europe. Such a conference was a great opportunity for Lithuania to gain international recognition.

The other objective that the Lithuanian Delegation dwelled on was the Klaipeda Region (as known as Memel Territory). This region was one of the historical subregions of East Prussia, which was under the German Empire. The region's area was pretty small. It consists of the lands between the Memel River and the northern borders of Prussia. Despite its tiny land, the Klaipeda Region was substantial for Lithuania. Originally, without the Klaipeda Region, Lithuania possessed a quite narrow coastline which was approximately 25 kilometers long. Yet, with the Klaipeda Region, the length of their coastline increases up to 90 kilometers. Moreover, the Klaipeda port, one of the most important ports in the Southern Baltics, would be under Lithuanian authority. Of course the Lithuanian Government was not claiming this strip of land without any justifications. Their justification was simple; 50 to 75 percent of the region's population was Lithuanian.

Russian State

Delegate: Sergei Sazanov

Russia was in civil war at the time of the Conference. The revolutionary Bolsheviks on the one hand, and the successor to the Empire, the Russian State, on the other, had been at war since November 1917. The country was completely divided. But the Entente did not recognize the Bolshevik Government. That is why Sergei Sazanov, former foreign minister of

the Russian Empire, representing the Russian State, led by Alexander Kolchak, attended the conference.

Although it is not known exactly what kind of policy the Russian State followed during the Conference, a few comments can be made based on the policies of the Government. The Russian State saw itself as the legitimate successor of the Russian Empire, and therefore considered the entire territory of the former Russian Empire as its own. This shows that they did not recognize the states that declared their independence in the Russian Civil War, which were participating in the conference. Poland, Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, and Ukraine, for instance.

Therefore, the territories they claimed were based on the borders of the Russian Empire. For example, about partition of the Ottoman Empire, they claimed Anatolian Armenia on the basis of the 1916 Sazonov-Paléologue Agreement which is based on the 1914 borders, even though they had lost the Caucasus territories in 1918.

Ukrainian People's Republic

Delegate: Hryhorii Sydorenko

So as other break-away nations of the Russian Civil war, Ukrainian PR's intention was also gaining recognition of their independence and sovereignty. For Ukraine, the situation was very complicated. They were simultaneously at war with both sides in the Russian civil war and with Poland. That's why it was important that their independence was recognized. Apart from the territories they claimed inside Russia, what was of interest to the conference were the territories Ukraine claimed outside the borders of the Russian Empire. These territories were Eastern Galicia (a.k.a. Western Ukraine or Red Ruthenia) and Carpathian Ruthenia respectively. These territories, formerly part of Austria-Hungary, were mostly populated with Poles, Rusyns and Ukrainians.

Zionist Organization

Delegate: Dr. Chaim Weizmann

To understand the goals of the Zionist Organization, we must first look at what Zionism is. Zionism is an ideology that aims to gather Jews scattered around the world and establish a Jewish state in the Palestinian territories. At the time of the Paris Peace Conference, there was no such state as Israel. In fact, there were almost no Jews living in the territory of today's Israel. In the second half of the 19th century, the Zionist Organization was founded to bring back the ancient Jewish state to this region. They were present at the Paris Peace Conference for this exact reason. Moreover, 2 weeks before the Conference, they had

even concluded a cooperation agreement with the Arab Kingdom of Hejaz to establish a Jewish state in Palestine (see Faisal–Weizmann Agreement).

Weizmann presented a series of arguments to the Conference. He said that Jews suffered the most during the war, both workers and bourgeois. He argued that the Palestinian territories were sparsely populated thus the Jewish people should be rewarded by settling in Palestine.

VII. Rules of Procedure

General Provisions for the Committee

1. Quorum

- a) The committee may begin its official discussion with the participation of at least a quarter of its members therefore constituting the quorum.
- b) Despite the required quorum for an official session, a simple majority is the utmost requirement to move on with a substantive voting procedure.

2. Committee Board

- a) The board, often called “Conference Secretariat”, comprises at least one committee director and if the secretariat deems necessary, a rapporteur.
- b) All governing processes within the committee shall be in the direction of the board unless there is an emergent circumstance in which they might be temporarily/permanently removed from their position with the discretion of the Secretariat.
- c) The Committee Board will declare the opening and closing of each meeting and hold the ability to propose procedural motions throughout the sessions. Voting procedure for motions can either be through procedural voting or chair discretion depending on the circumstance.
- d) Advisory statements directed to members of the committee from the committee board shall be in order at any given time.
- e) In case of a discontinuation to follow the Rules of Procedure the committee board is directly responsible to the Secretariat.

3. Rules Governing Discussions

a) A roll call shall be taken at the start of every session and members may state whether they are present or present and voting. If they were absent during the roll call, members may send the dais a message paper stating their presence within the session.

b) Commencement Declarations must be conducted at the very beginning of the first session. All speeches shall not exceed 1 minute.

c) Directorial Speeches will be entertained subsequent to the commencement declarations and at the start of each session thereafter. Directorial Speeches can be entertained whenever the Dais deems it necessary. The board will ask for every member within the committee to raise their placards and add all those who would like to the list. The board will entertain speakers accordingly with their order of recognition. Speeches shall not exceed 90 seconds and members can refrain from the list whenever they feel necessary. All three yielding procedures are in order.

d) Three types of caucuses shall be in order within the committee. Said caucuses are: Moderated Caucus, Semi Moderated Caucus and Unmoderated Caucus. In the beginning, every session shall entertain at least one moderated caucus between a duration of 5-20 minutes and an individual speaker time of 90 seconds at most. Extensions and terminations are in order.

4. Rules Governing Points and Motions

a) As stated in clause 2c, the committee board will be responsible for proposing the required motions during the committee's proceedings, points on the other hand may be raised by members at any time unless they interrupt a speaker.

b) There is no requisition for a topic except the proposition of a moderated caucus. Semi Moderated Caucus does not have a total time therefore it must always be terminated after the discussion reaches its final point. Unmoderated caucuses cannot exceed 20 minutes.

c) Precedence of Points shall be the following: Point of Personal Privilege, Point of Order, Point of Parliamentary Inquiry, Point of Information.

d) Point of Personal Privilege shall always be directed to the board via message paper. Point of Order can only encompass the board's setbacks regarding the diplomatic courtesy and rules of procedure.

5) Rules Governing Voting Procedures

a) All motions shall utilize procedural voting and abstentions are ultimately out of order.

b) Final document can be voted by both acclamation and roll call voting depending on chair discretion.

VIII. Notes From the Under-Secretary-General

As a person doing this treaty-agreement committees for half of my MUN journey, I believe I have some valuable tips to facilitate this experience for you. There are two main things that you should use in this committee: Solution based creativity and analytical argumentation.

Working principle of our committee is quite simple: If you have strong arguments to support your claims, you win. These arguments should be historically accurate. You may use any resource to get them. The deeper that you research, the number of potential arguments will increase. Certainly, the raw information would not be convenient. You should analyze and turn them into a reasonable argument which will help you to impose your demands on the opposing side.

Another significant feature that we are looking for is creativity. During the discussions some questions may remain unsolved due to the conflicting ideas. At that point, as the committee administration, we expect innovative solutions from you. Remember, you rewrite and rewrite the history in historical committees, which means you can change history. Role of creativity starts there. You can offer your outlandish plans; invent some new diplomatic terms; and even propose a thing that has been never told before in human history. In addition, you shall memorize the geographical features regarding our committee in order to be capable of negotiating your plans.

The floor is yours.

IX. Committee Matrix

The United Kingdom

- David Lloyd George
- Bonar Law
- Alfred Milner
- Arthur Balfour

Commonwealth of Australia

- Billy Hughes

Dominion of Canada

- Robert Borden

Kingdom of Belgium

- Paul Hymans
- Jules Van del Hovel

Republic of China

- Lu Zhengxiang
- Wellington Koo

Republic of Czechoslovakia

- Edvard Beneš

French Third Republic

- Georges Clemenceau
- Stephen Pichon
- Louis-Lucien Klotz
- André Tardieu

Kingdom of Greece

- Eleftherios Venizelos
- Nicolas Politis

Arabian Delegation - Kingdom of Hejaz

- Faisal al-Hashemi
- Rustam Haidar
- Abdul Hadi Aouni

British India

- Edwin Samuel Montagu

Kingdom of Italy

- Vittorio Emanuele Orlando
- Sidney Sonnino
- Guglielmo Imperiali
- Silvio Crespi

Empire of Japan

- Saionji Kinmochi
- Makino Nobuaki

Dominion of New Zealand

- William Ferguson Massey

Republic of Poland

- Ignacy Jan Paderewski

- Roman Dmowski

Portuguese Republic

- Alfonso Costa

Kingdom of Romania

- Ion I. C. Brătianu
- Constantin Coandă

Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes

- Nikola Pašić
- Ante Trumbić
- Milenko Radomar Vesnić

Union of South Africa

- Jan Smuts

The United States of America

- Woodrow Wilson
- Robert Lansing
- Henry White
- Tasker H. Bliss

Republic of Armenia

- Avetis Aharonian

Democratic Republic of Azerbaijan

- Alimardan Bey Topchubashov

Democratic Republic of Georgia

- Nikolay Chkheidze

Irish Republic

- Seán Thomas O'Kelly

Kurdish Delegation - Society for the Rise of Kurdistan

- Kurd Şerif Pasha

Republic of Lithuania

- Antanas Smetona

Russian State

- Sergei Sazanov

Ukrainian People's Republic

- Hryhorii Sydorenko

Zionist Organization

- Dr. Chaim Weizmann