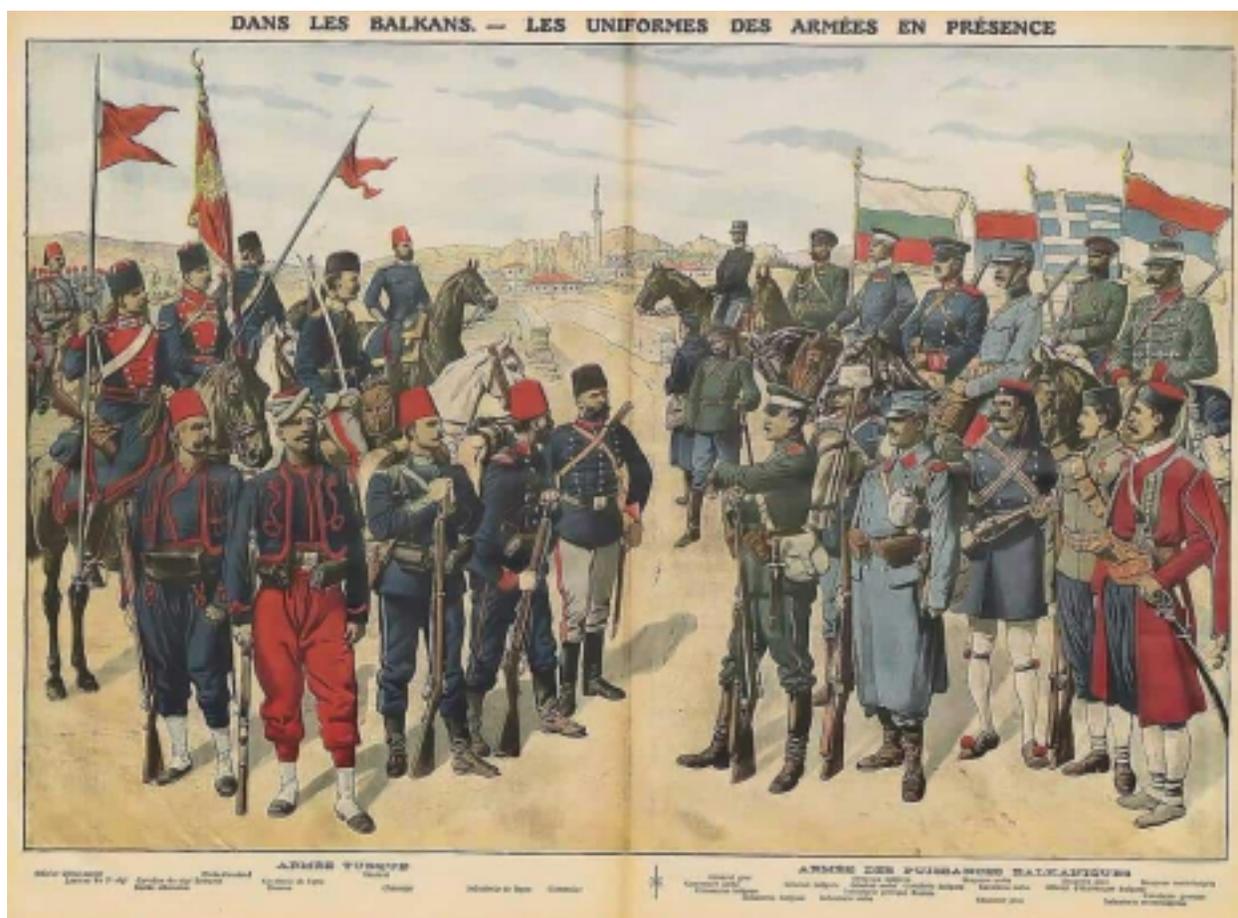




The Balkan Wars

Crisis Committee



Chair: Aaron Fernandes '24

Co-Chair: Bryan Rosa '24



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I. Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome! It is my pleasure to welcome you to BC High MUN 31. It is my privilege and honor to welcome you to the Balkan Wars Committee. I am a junior from Quincy at Boston College High School. I have been a member of Model United Nations since my freshman year of high school. I am a multi-award-winning delegate who is currently serving as BC High MUN's Chef du Cabinet (Chief of Staff). I have always had a passion for politics, especially world politics, and Model UN has given me a phenomenal forum to express my passion with many Scholars. My favorite moment from Model UN was when I completed my first conference. It was an incredibly proud moment for me, as I overcame many of my fears of publicly expressing my beliefs. I encourage everyone to be as free with their thinking as possible. This will be the first committee I chair and I am extremely excited to meet all of you!

This committee is incredibly interesting as it will cover the series of events of the first and second Balkan Wars. This is an incredibly tense moment in history, especially for the people of the Balkan states. Many aspects of this war lead to World War I. I encourage everyone to do thorough research on this committee to ensure a high level of discussion and debate. I also encourage you to write a position paper. There will be an award given out to the delegate with the best position paper, the *Ben Maher '11 Best Position Paper Award*. To be considered for this award send your position paper to apj.fernandes24@students.bchigh.edu and CC our co-chair Bryan at bw.rosa24@students.bchigh.edu. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email either Bryan or me. I cannot wait to meet you all!



Sincerely,

Aaron Fernandes '24

Balkans War Crisis Chair

BC High MUN Chef Du Cabinet

II. Letter from the Co-Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 31st Annual BC High Model United Nations Conference! It is my honor to welcome you to the Balkan Wars Committee. My name is Bryan Rosa, I am a Junior at Boston College High School from Brighton. This is my first year being a part of Model UN. I have always had a passion for politics and history and with my short time being a part of this wonderful community, I can say that I have been able to express my passions in a new way. I would like to invite all delegates to participate in this committee no matter the level of experience in Model UN. This will be my first time being Co-Chair of a Committee, and I cannot wait to see what this committee has in store for all of us.

This committee covers an interesting bit of history which is often forgotten but, ended up sowing the seeds for the First World War. I encourage you all to research this series of conflicts to better understand the delicate moment in time in which it takes place. I would also like to invite you all to write a position paper as there will be an award given out to the delegate with the best position paper, the *Ben Maher '11 Best Position Paper Award*. To be in contention for



this award email your position paper to Aaron at apj.fernandes24@students.bchigh.edu and CC me at bw.rosa24@students.bchigh.edu. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email either of me or Aaron. I hope to have a memorable time with you all and can not wait to see what scenarios arise during this committee.

Sincerely,

Bryan Rosa '24

Balkans War Crisis Co-Chair

III. Introduction to the Balkan Wars

The Balkan Wars was a series of two wars that took place from October 8th, 1912 - August 10th, 1913. The First Balkan War was composed of Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece, and Montenegro, who make up the Balkan League, and the Ottoman Empire. The First Balkan War took place from October 8th, 1912 - May 30th, 1913 with the Treaty of London ending the conflict. The Second Balkan War was composed of the same parties that took part in the first war with the addition of Romania. The Second Balkan War took place from June 29th, 1913 - August 10th, 1913 with the Treaty of Bucharest ending the conflict.

With a rise of nationalism in the Balkan region-states, Greece, Serbia, Montenegro, and Bulgaria declared war on the Ottoman Empire. As the Ottomans enter an increasingly unstable phase in their history they attempt to hold back against the Balkan states. As the Ottomans face internal fractures from oppressed Christian populations and weakening from the Albanian Revolts and Italo-Ottoman War, the newly formed Balkan League may take advantage of this predicament. With the launch of coordinated attacks from the Balkan League against the



Ottomans, each leader will have to make decisions for the protection and betterment of their nation.



IV. History of the Balkan Wars

The Ottoman Empire, which was becoming weaker by the minute, began to lose control over its territory in the Balkans with the repeated Albanian Revolts in the Albanian Provinces, the recent loss to the Italians over control of their North African Territory of Libya, and the Great Powers failing to ensure that the Ottomans carry out the necessary reforms to ensure the State's survival. All of this allowed the Ottomans to be left vulnerable and susceptible to potential rebellion from rising nationalistic ethnic groups within the empire.

The Balkan League declared war on the Ottoman Empire because of nationalistic fervor to take back lands that they believed were rightfully theirs. And with the recent defeat that the Ottomans suffered to the Italians, the Balkan League decided that the time was right for them to strike at the Ottomans. Serbia and Bulgaria had a secret pact to divide up some of the Ottoman Empire before the outbreak of war, with Bulgaria being given Southern Macedonia and Serbia



being given the majority of Albania. After the war, the major powers pressured the Balkan League to allow Albania to become independent. With this demand, Serbia lost a lot of the land that they had agreed to split with Bulgaria. As a result, Serbia reneged on the agreement that they had with the Bulgarians. Serbia's fear of a Bulgarian invasion created a secret defensive pact with Greece.

After Serbia's reneging from their agreement, Bulgaria began pressuring Serbia and Greece to give up Macedonia, but Serbia and Greece were unable due to public pressure to keep the newly acquired territory. After Montenegro announced that they would back Serbia in a Serbian-Bulgarian War and Romania announced that they would not remain neutral in a new Balkan War.

As soon as there were skirmishes along the Serbian Bulgarian border, King Ferdinand I of Bulgaria ordered a surprise attack against the Greek and Serbian positions without a formal declaration of war. Romania, seeing that Bulgaria is at war with Serbia and Greece, decided to declare war against Bulgaria and invade Northern Bulgaria. With all of this, the beginning of the Second Balkan War began. The Ottoman Empire, seeing Bulgaria being invaded on 3 sides, decided to invade as well as attempt to reclaim some of their lost territory from the First Balkan War. Bulgaria, being invaded from all sides, decided to sign the Treaty of Bucharest and saw most of its gains in the recent First Balkan War lost.





V. Issues to Consider

We will begin our committee at the beginning of the Balkan Wars and aim to end whenever some peace agreement is made to end these wars. This committee will focus on the first two Balkan Wars, though we hope to potentially lead into World War I for the third Balkan War. How far this committee goes through history will entirely depend on the overall mood and decisions made by delegates in this committee.

One of the main issues at hand is the idea of self-determination; the idea that one's own people should be able to control their nation. The nature of a country's sovereignty is essential considering the various ethnic groups and tensions within the vast Ottoman Empire. There is a rise in nationalism around Europe during this period causing much unrest in certain areas like the Balkan states. During this time many nations, including the Ottoman Empire are experiencing pushes for independence from their colonial or imperial leaders. These fights for independence often come with revolts, rebellions, and, in this case, war.

Like any war, peace should always be sought. Delegates should try to come up with ways to potentially broker peace between the Balkan States and the Ottoman Empire in hopes of as little bloodshed as possible. Delegates have the freedom to demand any concessions their nation may desire. Watch out for any internal conflicts that may be occurring in one's own country because it may impact how the country will be able to act during times of war. The Ottoman Empire, in particular, is facing increasing tensions with revolutionaries fighting for change and



democracy. There is a rise of the Young Turks, the successors of the Young Ottomans, who raise problems in the Ottoman Empire as they search to reform the government according to certain Western ideals like democracy.

Resources and economic policies between nations may also play a major role in determining the outcome of the war. A larger empire like the Ottoman Empire may have more access to trade alliances and relationships than the individual Balkan States. The Ottoman Empire may also in general have had more resources for its people and army for the fights. How can individual nations band together to take down this larger entity? Can they achieve this? Or are the Ottomans simply too powerful? Have the Ottomans weakened? All of this is to be determined by this committee.





VI. Questions to Consider

- 1) How can all nations/nation-states prevent excessive bloodshed in the field of battle and come to a mutually beneficial treaty?
- 2) What role does national sovereignty play in this war and what importance does it play for one's own country?
- 3) How does war affect the common people of one's nation and other nations?
- 4) How do the changes among alliances and sides affect the outcome and impact of the war?
- 5) How does one's nation align itself during the war?
- 6) What are my nation's allies and partners?
- 7) What role do my country's resources play in my economic and war policy?
- 8) Are there any common goals between the opposing viewpoints?
- 9) How does the war affect nations beyond the scope of the original conflict?
- 10) How can we rewrite history?





VII. List of Positions

*Note to Delegates: Nations' positions change over time as the war progresses, so please make sure to understand these changes through research. Watch out for countries that have opposition within. This is an intermediate committee; therefore, a higher level of research is expected.

Position 1: Balkan States

Balkan League

- Greece -
 - a. Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos
 - b. Giuseppe Garibaldi II
- Serbia -
 - a. King Petar I
 - b. Prime Minister Nikola Pasic
 - c. General Radomir Putnik
- Montenegro -
 - a. King Nicolas (Nikola) I
 - b. Prime Minister Mitar Martinovic

Outside Balkan League but Position 1

- Bulgaria - King Ferdinand I
- Romania - King Carol I



Position 2: Empire

- Ottoman Empire
 - a. Sultan Abdul Hamid II
 - b. Gazi Ahmed Muhtar Pasha
 - c. Ahmed Niyazi Bey

Position 3: Other

- German Empire -
 - a. Kaiser Wilhelm II
 - b. Chancellor Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg
- Austro-Hungarian Empire -
 - a. Emperor Franz Joseph
 - b. Archduke Franz Ferdinand
- British Empire
 - a. King George V
 - b. Prime Minister Herbert Henry Asquith
- Third French Republic
 - a. Prime Minister Raymond Poincaré
- Russian Empire -
 - a. Tsar Nicholas II
 - b. Rasputin



- United States of America -
 - a. President William Howard Taft
 - b. Vice President James S. Sherman
- Kingdom of Italy -
 - a. King Victor Emmanuel III

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