

JCC Russian Civil War: Red



Chair: Nico Bezzerides

Co-Chair: Lucas Patel

Boston College High School Model UN



I. Message from the Chair and Co-Chair

Greetings, Delegates!

My name is Nico Bezzerides, and as a senior at BC High and secretariat member of BC High Model UN, I thank you for your interest in the Red Army side of the Russian Civil War Joint Crisis Committee. I am very excited to engage in debate and deliberation, and hopefully reach conclusions in this conflict, one of the most important in our world's history, and hope you all will deeply enjoy the experience.

As for a personal introduction, I have been involved with Model UN on and off for several years. I rejoined fully last year as a junior and now will be chairing a committee for the first time along with my co-chair Lucas, which I am very excited about! Outside of Model UN, I am involved with BC High's Logic Puzzle Club, the Cyclocross team, Jazz Band, and Jazz Rock Ensemble, and amateur radio and speedcubing in my free time. Feel free to ask me about any of these when we get the chance to meet!

As you may know, we require that you submit a position paper (1-2 pages) **one week in advance of the conference** outlining your country or historical figure's position regarding the conflict. Your paper will be considered for the Ben Maher Position Paper award. This is to facilitate meaningful discussion—we want to avoid delegates entering the room with minimal knowledge of the Russian Civil War and their character's position, to promote the most fruitful discussion (We do understand that there is more information on some historical figures than others; do your best!). Please **email the paper to the email addresses below**. I look forward to seeing you all in March!



Kind regards,

Nico Bezzerides '23

Chair

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Fellow Delegates,

My name is Lucas Patel, a junior here at BC High as well as your co-chair. This year is my first year being a member of the BC High Model UN club, and I am excited to share my first experience co-chairing a committee with all of you, alongside my chair, Nico! A little more about me outside of Model UN includes my participation in Business Club, Investment Club, and the JV hockey team. Please feel free to ask me any questions regarding any of these topics when we are able to meet together. I am looking forward to a great time in committee with all of you!

All the best,

Lucas Patel '24

Co-Chair

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II. Information on the Joint-Crisis Committee

This is a Joint Crisis Committee. By the nature of this style of delegation, the committee will be fast-paced and will operate with directives rather than resolutions. Directives call for specific actions addressing a specific issue rather than solutions to a general problem. Like resolutions, they will involve the entire committee's attention and consideration. For example, in



a warfare committee, one side of the JCC might pass a directive that calls for the preparation for war with a missile strike and 5,000 troops. They will require a 50% simple majority to pass.

Furthermore, 2 sponsors and 3 signatories will be required to present the directive.

In addition to general committee directives, there will be personal directives. This means as a delegate representing a character, you can request specific actions within the character's power. These are accomplished through paper notes to the crisis staff. The crisis staff will make periodic visits to the committee. These actions must be approved by the crisis staff and will not be considered legitimate without their approval. These personal directives are kept confidential with the crisis staff and will not be shared with other delegates. If crisis staff approves, they will come into the room with "crisis updates" which will detail the effects of the personal directives and general committee directives.

Note that both the White and Red sides will not interact face-to-face. Rather, they will interact and respond to each other through their directives. Crisis updates will contain moves made from the Red side and the effects of any personal directives.

III. Introduction

Near the end of the Great War, and amidst great military losses, Russian revolutionaries in Petrograd began a litany of workers' strikes, forcing the entire industrial backbone of Petrograd to halt and provoking the fall of the centuries-old tsarist regime. Now you, as members of the Bolshevik Party and Communist Party sympathizers, must chart a path forward for your



fledgling government and work to prevent the White Army from defeating communism and instituting their Western regime. Plan military strategy, manage fragile supply chains and contend with waning support from troops. Lead on, and create the legacy that your new nation will stand upon.

IV. Background

In the early 1900s, Russia was a strong monarchical autocracy on the surface with a large underclass of impoverished industrial workers that had just been converted to city life by Russia's late adoption of industrialism. From 1890 to 1910, the populations of large cities, like Moscow and St. Petersburg, nearly doubled, and these new urban denizens suffered from overcrowding, horrible living conditions, and often poverty in these cities. In addition, Russia lost the Russo-Japanese war in 1905, and in addition to demoralizing the populace, they lost thousands of soldiers, myriad ships, and most importantly, international respect.

Prompted by the Bloody Sunday massacre, wherein the troops of Czar Nicholas II killed hundreds of unarmed protestors in St. Petersburg, thousands of workers deeply displeased with the monarchy went on strike in the Russian Revolution of 1905. In some areas, even soldiers and common farm workers banded together for the cause of anti-imperialism, and they created worker councils, known as soviets, that advocated for the common laborers, organized strikes, and served as the beginning of the collectivized labor movement in Russia. This led to Czar Nicholas II, in 1907, abolishing his authoritarian rule and instituting a constitutional monarchy headed by the Russian parliament, the Duma, intended to appease revolutionaries and push toward reform policies.



In World War I, Russia suffered great losses against the German army, even with help from Western Europe, and while the nation did not fall, their victory came at the cost of the already weak supply chains, leaving even more Russian citizens, especially common laborers, impoverished and angered. As Russia's involvement in World War I became more and more unpopular, the Russian parliament, headed by individuals such as Alexander Kerensky, doubled down on the war effort. This culminated in two revolutions in 1917—first the February Revolution, wherein a large group of factory workers began strikes in Petrograd with hundreds of thousands of participants, upending the fragile balance of power in pre-communist Russia and eventually leading to the final downfall of the Romanov Dynasty. A new government was formed with the Duma at its head, but after numerous coup attempts and a temporary absence of authority in St. Petersburg, the October Revolution in October 1917 led the Bolsheviks to power, collapsing the Provisional Government that had been established earlier that year.

V. The Russian Civil War

The Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, took a strong hold on power in Russia almost immediately, temporarily eliminating the threat from imperial sympathizers and anti-communists, and ended the World War with Germany very soon after, signing the treaty of Brest-Litovsk in February 1918 after it became clear Russia could not endure renewed conflict and needed time to rebuild.

However, soon after this peace was signed, removing Russia from the Great War, the new Soviet state was embroiled in a fierce struggle for power against two groups: the left-leaning politicians and leaders who had been broadly supportive of the reform government before the Bolsheviks but were turned off by the harsh communist revolutionary reorganization of power,



and the right-leaning, broadly imperialist generals and political figures. These groups would come to compose the White army. By August 1918, British forces had landed and were fighting at Archangelsk and Murmansk in western Russia. Russian anti-communist troops were being trained by Adm. Aleksandr Kolchak, with the help of the United States and Great Britain, in Omsk in Central Russia, and Japanese troops controlled and were fighting in Vladivostok and much of Western Russia.

Foreign intervention was divided: while Britain and the USA were quick to help initially, they soon became more interested in reaching an amicable solution with the Red Army, the military force led by the Bolsheviks. On the other hand, France and Italy were solidly on the side of the Whites, seeing the Revolution and the resulting state to be an existential threat to the stability of Europe, and sent many supplies (more so than troops) to the White army in order to support them.

While Admiral Kolchak managed to advance in the Ural Mountains, the Red Army began its counteroffensive in April 1919, conquering back territory the White army had taken and forcing Kolchak's fighting force to flee into Siberia. He attempted to use Irkutsk in Central Russia as a base and center of administration but was overthrown in December 1919. In European Russia in early 1919, General Anton Denikin conquered much of Ukraine and the area surrounding Moscow, but the Red Army managed to prevent the city and St. Petersburg from being taken and pushed the last vestiges of Western-backed troops out of their territory.

Millions of civilian lives were lost as a result of the war, both through contact with anticommunist forces and through the starvation of the Russian people via Lenin's grain



confiscations. Disease and malnutrition were seemingly everywhere. Nationalist movements from minority groups in Russia, such as the Tatars, lost all hope for their own, independent, self-deterministic nations. The Bolsheviks had won freedom for the communist experiment but at a great cost.

VI. Current Situation

At the beginning of this committee, you will be placed in **August 1918. This is several months after the treaty of Brest-Litovsk, which ended the fighting between Russia and Germany, but before the end of WWI.** This means that the Great War should still factor into your preparation but that the main fighting you will encounter will be in Russia: in Murmansk and Archangelsk courtesy of the British, in the areas around Omsk with the White Army section led by Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak, and with the Japanese in Eastern Russia around Vladivostok.

In general, you may assume that any leadership position your character holds around the time of August 1918 (give or take a year) your character will hold in the committee. For example, if your character only achieves a significant leadership position in January 1919, they will have it for the purposes of the committee. If your character would die soon after the beginning of the committee, assume they survive unless the committee proceeds otherwise.

Chair's Note: Please make sure you have a good understanding of the conflict and your position before entering the committee room! Writing your position paper should help with this.



We are looking forward to lively discussion and debate and preparation is essential to this goal coming to fruition.

VII. Positions

Bolsheviks

1. Joseph Stalin
2. Vladimir Lenin
3. Leon Trotsky
4. Jukums Vācietis
5. Yakov Sverdlov
6. Felix Dzerzhinsky
7. Maria Spiridonova
8. Vasili Altfater
9. Nikolai Bukharin
10. Mikhail Frunze (Central Asian Front)
11. Sergo Ordzhonikidze (Caucasus Front, Georgian)
12. Stepan Shaumian (Caucasus Front, Armenian)

Far Eastern Republic

13. Aleksandr Krasnoshchyokov
14. Nikolay Matveyev

Chinese



15. Sun Yat-sen

16. Chiang Kai-shek

Mongolian People's Republic

17. Damdin Sühbaatar

18. Soliin Danzan

Finland

19. Kullervo Manner

20. Yrjö Sirola

Ukraine

21. Yukhym Medvedev

VIII. Sources

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