



BISMUN 2026



**HISTORIC SECURITY
COUNCIL - World War II**



STUDY GUIDE



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Letter from the director

Dear Delegates,

From nervously delivering my first speech, to sending in chaotic communiqués, to watching my early crisis moves crash and burn (with some truly hilarious assassination attempts along the way), my MUN journey has been nothing short of wild. Today, I write to you not as a delegate but as your Director for BISMUN 2026's WW2 committee, and I can't help but reflect on just how far these rooms have brought me.

MUN isn't just about awards or flowery speeches about growth. It's about stepping up when you're uncertain, owning your ideas, collaborating under pressure, and maybe even laughing at your mistakes. Every moment, from a well-placed directive to a cleverly disguised plot shapes you into a more confident, creative, and capable version of yourself.

One of the most important lessons I've learned through MUN is the power of alliances. In one of my most memorable committees, I represented Romania and my friend represented Bulgaria. At first, we were just two smaller nations, flying under the radar. But through genuine teamwork, consistent negotiation, and shared strategy, we built an alliance that slowly began to shape the course of the entire committee. We went from being background characters to central powers in the room. Even now, we still laugh about those moments, the late-night planning, the crazy directives, and the absolute chaos we helped create. It was one of the most fun and educational MUN experiences I've ever had, and it taught us both that sometimes, the best parts of MUN aren't the speeches you prepare, but the spontaneous moments you create with others.

And now, it's your turn.

The committee will be fast. The stakes will be high. And the crisis? Constantly evolving.

But that's where the magic happens. Don't be afraid to experiment. Be bold, be dramatic, be strategic, and above all, immerse yourself in the chaos.

I look forward to seeing each of you bring your own spark to this cosmic conflict. Let's make this the most unforgettable committee at BISMUN 2026.

Sincerely,

Kanav Parikh

kanav.2421@bis.edu.in

Letter from the assistant directors

Dear Delegates,

My name is Kabir Karkaria, and I will be your Assistant Director in the Historic Security Council this year. World War II is an extremely interesting topic that most of you should have heard about already, and I hope you will further understand the countless dynamics between the involved countries in play. I hope this MUN will teach you leadership, negotiation and strategy, as well as give you a better grasp of one of the most significant events in the history of our world.

More about me: I am in the 11th grade, and have been interested in MUNs since I was your age. I have participated in countless committees, as a director and a delegate, and hope you share the same passion as me. Aside from this, I am extremely interested in sports such as football, basketball and cricket, playing and watching them constantly. In terms of academics I enjoy studying maths, chemistry and physics, and regularly participate in student council and school initiatives.

Please reach out to me if you have any doubts or questions about this committee by email, I will reply as fast as I can! Feel free to ask about anything you are confused about, I will try my best to help out. I look forward to meeting all of you and hearing about all of your perspectives and approaches to tackling this committee.

Yours sincerely,
Kabir Karkaria
kabir.2440@bis.edu.in

Hello delegates,

I am Meet Jain, and I will be serving as your Assistant Director for the World War II committee this year. This committee will give you the chance to engage with one of the most significant conflicts in modern history and understand how diplomacy, strategy, and leadership shaped its course.

I am an 11th grader with a deep interest in MUNs, debates, and I have participated in several conferences as both a delegate and as part of the Executive Board. At school, I enjoy maths, science, and humanities, and I am also actively involved in service activities, and outdoor experiences that constantly push me out of my comfort zone.

In this World War II committee, you will represent key actors and explore how different choices could have influenced the war and its aftermath. Come prepared with thorough research, a strong grasp of your character or country, and a willingness to collaborate, debate, and think critically about every decision you make. I look forward to seeing all of you in committee and watching you bring history to this amazing committee.

Warm regards,
Meet Jain

meet.3264@bis.edu.in

Dear Delegates,

The Historical Security Council welcomes you! This committee is unique in that it asks you to look at and reimagine the Second World War, one of the most important and destructive wars in human history. Millions of lives, the future of international stability, and the fate of entire nations are all on the line. In order to participate in this discussion, you will need to imagine yourself in the position of historical leaders, think strategically under pressure, and develop solutions to crises that influenced the modern world.

A little about myself: I have participated in around 5 MUN conferences as a delegate, and this will be the 1st time I assist a chair in a committee. I look forward not only to witnessing your creativity and critical thinking throughout the sessions but also to sharing my own experience to help guide you in navigating this complex historical simulation.

You will be evaluated in this council not only on your research and analytical abilities but also on your capacity for negotiation, adaptation, and decision-making in a rapidly changing conflict environment. I encourage all of you to do extensive research on the causes, strategies, and effects of World War II because a more complex knowledge of the conflict will allow you to make stronger arguments and create practical solutions.

You will be challenged to rewrite history in real time while managing military, political, and humanitarian concerns at this conference. It's a chance to think critically about diplomacy, leadership, and the lessons we can learn from the past.

With that, I wish you all the very best. Please feel free to reach out to me or my chairs with any questions prior to the conference.

Yours sincerely,
Reha Mawandia

MANDATE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

In order to understand some portions of the background guide and history leading up to WW2, it is essential to know the purpose of establishing the League of Nations. The League of Nations was an international organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, created after the First World War to provide a forum for resolving international disputes.

The League's purpose was to:

- Guarantee the territorial integrity and political independence of member states
- Authorize the League to take "any action...to safeguard the peace"
- Establish procedures for arbitration
- Create mechanisms for economic and military sanctions

The covenant of the League, its charter, was attached to the Treaty of Versailles. While President Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, presented before the US Congress, reinforced the importance of the League and helped lay the foundation for its creation, the United States never joined the League of Nations. Many historians believe the League performed far less efficiently without US participation.

Later, disillusionment with the Treaty of Versailles diminished support for the League in the United States and the international community. Wilson's insistence that the Covenant be linked to the Treaty proved to be a blunder. Over time, the Treaty was discredited as unenforceable, short-sighted, or overly harsh, and the League failed to either enforce or revise it.

It is important to understand that the failures of the League of Nations were partly responsible for the outbreak of the war. These failures were not only due to aggressor nations undermining its authority, but also because of its own members. Britain and France, the two most influential members, ignored the League in their efforts to appease Hitler.

SIGNIFICANT FAILURES

In the 1930s, the world economic depression encouraged nations to be more aggressive toward each other. Fascist dictatorships took power in Germany, Italy, and Japan, intent on empire-building, and these countries openly defied the League.

- Japan conquered Manchuria (1932): The League objected but could do nothing. When the League supported China, Japan left the League.
- Germany left the League (1932): Hitler announced Germany's withdrawal.
- Italy invaded Abyssinia (1935): Although officially condemned, Britain and France were secretly negotiating to give Abyssinia to Italy.

These crises destroyed the authority of the League. By 1935, it was powerless to stop Germany, and by the Sudeten Crisis (1938) Britain and France were ignoring the League entirely and pursuing appeasement.

History Recap: General Events Leading Up to Committee

Italy's Invasion of Ethiopia

The Second Italo-Ethiopian War (October 1935 – February 1937) was a war of aggression fought between Italy and Ethiopia. It exemplified the expansionist policies of the Axis powers and the ineffectiveness of the League of Nations prior to World War II.

The war resulted in Ethiopia's occupation and annexation into Italian East Africa (AOI) and exposed the League's weakness as a peacekeeping body.

Both Italy and Ethiopia were League members, yet little action was taken despite Italy's clear violation of Article X of the Covenant. Sanctions were imposed but not fully enforced, and they failed to stop the invasion. Italy later dropped objections to Germany's annexation of Austria.

Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)

The bombing of Guernica (1937) raised fears across Europe that future wars would involve heavy civilian bombing.

- Germany and Italy supported the Nationalists under Francisco Franco
- Mussolini sent over 70,000 troops, 6,000 aviation personnel, and 720 aircraft
- The Soviet Union supported the Spanish Republic
- Over 30,000 International Brigade volunteers fought against the Nationalists

Germany and the Soviet Union used Spain as a proxy war to test new weapons and tactics.

The Nationalists won in April 1939. Franco remained officially neutral during WWII but favored the Axis and sent volunteers to fight on the Eastern Front.

Japanese Invasion of China (1937)

Following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident, Japan captured Peking and launched a full-scale invasion of China.

Key events:

- Battle of Shanghai (1937)
- Fall of Nanking (December 1937)
- Nanjing Massacre of civilians and prisoners

Despite major Japanese victories, Chinese resistance did not collapse. The government relocated to Chongqing and continued the war.

Soviet–Japanese Border Conflicts

During the mid-to-late 1930s, Japan and the USSR clashed along the Manchurian border.

- Japanese doctrine: Hokushin-ron (northward expansion)
- Soviet victory at Khalkin Gol (1939)

This led Japan to sign a Neutrality Pact with the USSR (1941) and shift focus southward (Nanshin-ron), eventually leading to war with the US.

Pacts, Meetings, and Agreements Between Countries

Treaty of Versailles

The Treaty of Versailles formally ended World War I and imposed harsh penalties on Germany:

- War Guilt Clause blaming Germany
- Territorial losses (13% of land, 10% population)
- Military restrictions
- Reparations of \$5 billion
- Anschluss with Austria forbidden

The treaty fueled resentment and helped enable the rise of Nazism. Hitler systematically violated the treaty between 1933–1938, while Britain and France failed to respond decisively.

Relations Between Countries

Anschluss (March 1938)

Germany annexed Austria with minimal resistance. The action violated the Treaties of Versailles and Saint-Germain. A manipulated plebiscite claimed 99% support.

Appeasement

Appeasement was the policy of conceding to aggressive demands to avoid war.

Britain and France tolerated Italian and German expansion due to:

- Fear of another world war
 - Belief Versailles was unfair
 - Fear of communism
-

Munich Agreement (September 1938)

Britain, France, Italy, and Germany agreed to allow Germany to annex the Sudetenland. Czechoslovakia was excluded.

Chamberlain declared “peace for our time.”

Invasion of Czechoslovakia (March 1939)

Germany broke the Munich Agreement, proving Hitler’s expansionism and ending appeasement.

British–French–Polish Guarantees (March 1939)

Britain and France guaranteed Poland's independence after Germany demanded Danzig and transit rights.

Pact of Steel (May 1939)

Germany and Italy signed a military alliance committing to mutual support in war.

Nazi–Soviet Pact (August 1939)

A non-aggression pact with secret protocols dividing Eastern Europe. It allowed Germany to invade Poland without Soviet interference.

Freeze date

Freeze date - 3rd September, 1939.

The committee is set in early September 1939, immediately following Germany's invasion of Poland and the subsequent declarations of war by the United Kingdom and France.

Impact of the War on Assembled Countries

1. USA

American policy substantially favored Britain and its allies. Unlike the loans in World War I, the United States made large-scale grants of military and economic aid to the Allies through Lend-Lease. Industries greatly expanded to produce war materials. The United States officially entered World War II against Germany, Japan, and Italy in December 1941, following the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. This time the U.S. was a full-fledged member of the Allies of World War II, not just an "associate" as in the first war. During the war, the U.S. conducted military operations on both the Atlantic and Pacific fronts. After the war and devastation of its European and Asian rivals, the United States found itself in a uniquely powerful position due to its enormous economic and military power .

2. UK

Having signed the Anglo-Polish military alliance in August 1939, Britain declared war against Germany in September 1939. This declaration included the Crown colonies and India, which Britain directly controlled. The dominions were independent in foreign policy, though all entered a state of war with Germany either immediately after the British declaration of war, or in the days after the declaration was made. After the French defeat in June 1940, Britain and its empire stood alone in combat against Germany, until June 1941. The United States gave strong diplomatic, financial and material support, starting in 1940, especially through Lend Lease, which began in 1941. In August 1941, Churchill and Roosevelt met and agreed on the Atlantic Charter, which proclaimed "the rights of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they live" should be respected. This wording was ambiguous and would be interpreted differently by the British, Americans, and nationalist movements. All in all, the British were vital in driving the allied powers to victory in World War 2, and for a large portion of the war were the only ones standing against the axis, as France was transformed into a puppet state and the US had not entered the war yet.

3. Soviet Union

The USSR followed a general policy of neutrality in Europe until 1939, when they developed relations with Germany for the invasion of Poland. The USSR helped supply oil and munitions to Germany as its armies rolled across Western Europe in May–June 1940. Despite repeated warnings, Stalin refused to believe that Hitler was planning an all-out war on the USSR. following which German relations deteriorated following which through a series of terms they cemented their relationship with Great Britain and the US. During the stage of the war that the committee covers, the USSR is leaning towards allying with the Hitler led Nazi Germany, to ensure that Poland could be taken over with ease. The USSR still maintains a certain level of suspicion against the Nazis, so they do not trust them entirely. The USSR maintains semi hostile relations with the capitalist United Kingdom and United States, and at this stage of committee, are considered enemies to the USSR.

4. China

China is in a standoff with one of the great powers of the world, Japan. They maintain neutrality in 1939, as their battles are being fought in the war stricken areas of Manchuria, where the Japanese are unleashing hell upon the chinese. China is on the allied side, and is a crucial weapon in their armory, as the Chinese are vital in fighting the Axis powers in Asia. China is allied with Britain, and will provide assistance and

aid to the war efforts in the Pacific. However, they tend to stay out of conflict when it does not include Japan.

5. Japan

Japan is a resource hungry country that has to go searching for treasures elsewhere, as the island that it is situated upon is barren of natural resources like oil and coal. Throughout the 1930s, it embarked on a ruthless operation to take control of Chinese Manchuria, to seize natural resources and gain a sphere of influence in Asia. At the time of committee, Japan is not allied with anyone, but shares similar views with Germany and Italy, those of world dominance and expansion. The Japanese committed huge atrocities against the Chinese people, and have made themselves visible on a global stage as a threat. The Russians are not particularly fond of the Japanese either, following the Russo-Japanese war of 1905.

6. Germany

Germany were the perpetrators of World War 2. Hitler and Stalin signed a nonaggression pact between Germany and the Soviet Union. In a secret protocol, the two states agreed to divide Poland between them. Italy entered the war on Germany's side in June 1940, and in September Germany, Italy and Japan formed the Tripartite Pact. By the end of 1940, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia joined the Axis powers, followed by Bulgaria and Croatia in 1941. However, even during committee, Germany maintained close relations with all these countries. Germany was enemies with the allies, and despised the victors of World War 1 greatly.

7. Italy

In 1935, Italy initiated the Second Italo-Ethiopian War, "a nineteenth-century colonial campaign waged out of due time". The war also marked a shift towards a more aggressive Italian foreign policy and also exposed vulnerabilities of the British and French. This in turn created the opportunity Mussolini needed to begin to realize his imperial goals. In 1936, the Spanish Civil War broke out. From the beginning, Italy played an important role in the conflict. Their military contribution was so vast that it played a decisive role in the victory of the rebel forces led by Francisco Franco. Between 1936 and 1939, Italy supplied the Spanish Nationalist forces, fighting under Francisco Franco during the Spanish Civil War, with a large number of weapons and supplies practically free. Mussolini engaged in "a full-scale external war" due to the insinuation of future Spanish subservience to the Italian Empire. The aftermath of the war in Ethiopia saw a reconciliation of German-Italian relations following years of a previously strained relationship, resulting in the signing of a treaty of mutual interest in October 1936. Mussolini referred to this treaty as the creation of a Berlin-Rome Axis, which Europe would revolve around. Italy is unprepared for war now that Hitler has attacked Poland, but if the Italian leader, Benito Mussolini, is to reap any positive advantages from partnership with Hitler it seems that Italy will have to abandon its nonbelligerent stance before the western democracies are attacked by Germany singlehanded.

8. France

France currently has extremely close ties with the UK, its close ally from the Great War. Both have so far adopted a policy of appeasement, and have decided to allow limited German and Italian expansionism in exchange for peace. However, many other countries such as France Poland-- their ally-- are feeling more and more threatened by Nazi Germany, and are likely to continue exerting pressure on France to take a firmer approach to these nations' expansionism. They also will want mutual defense accords set up, and guarantees that France will not forsake them should Germany invade. The strength of the heavily armed Maginot Line France erected to fortify the Franco-German border and the quality of the French military make it unlikely that Germany poses a threat to France itself; however, should France choose to take preemptive action on Germany, there is a strong chance that open long-term hostilities would break out between the two countries, which would pose significant economic hardship on French people.

9. Finland

Finland - During World War II, Finland was anomalous: It was the only European country bordering the Soviet Union in 1939 which was still unoccupied by 1945. It was a country which sided with Germany, but in which native Jews and almost all refugees were safe from persecution. Finland participated in the Second World War initially in a defensive war against the Soviet Union, followed by another battle against the Soviet Union acting in concert with Nazi Germany and then finally fighting alongside the Allies against Germany.

10. Hungary

During World War II, the Kingdom of Hungary was a member of the Axis powers. In the 1930s, the Kingdom of Hungary relied on increased trade with Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany to pull itself out of the Great Depression. Hungarian politics and foreign policy had become more stridently nationalistic by 1938, and Hungary adopted an irredentist policy similar to Germany's, attempting to incorporate ethnic Hungarian areas in neighboring countries into Hungary. Hungary benefited territorially from its relationship with the Axis. Settlements were negotiated regarding territorial disputes with the Czechoslovak Republic, the Slovak Republic, and the Kingdom of Romania. On November 20, 1940, Hungary became the fourth member to join the Axis powers when it signed the Tripartite Pact. The following year, Hungarian forces participated in the invasion of Yugoslavia and the invasion of the Soviet Union. While waging war against the Soviet Union however, Prime Minister Miklós Kállay engaged in peace negotiations with the United States and the United Kingdom.

11. Romania

Following the outbreak of World War II on 1 September 1939, the Kingdom of Romania under King Carol II officially adopted a position of neutrality. However, the rapidly changing situation in Europe during 1940, as well as domestic political upheaval, undermined this stance. Fascist political forces such as the Iron Guard rose in popularity and power, urging an alliance with Nazi Germany and its allies. As the military fortunes of Romania's two main guarantors of territorial integrity—France and Britain—crumbled in the Fall of France (May to June, 1940), the government of Romania turned to Germany in hopes of a similar guarantee, unaware that the then-dominant European power had already

granted its blessing to Soviet claims on Romanian territory in a secret protocol of 1939's Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact.

12. Spain

During World War II, the Spanish State under Francisco Franco espoused neutrality as its official wartime policy. This neutrality wavered at times and "strict neutrality" gave way to "non-belligerence" after the Fall of France in June 1940. Franco wrote to Adolf Hitler offering to join the war on 19 June 1940 in exchange for help building Spain's colonial empire. Later the same year Franco met with Hitler in Hendaye to discuss Spain's possible accession to the Axis Powers. The meeting went nowhere, but Franco did help the Axis—whose members Italy and Germany had supported him during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939)—in various ways.

13. Netherlands

Despite Dutch neutrality, Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands on 10 May 1940 as part of Fall Gelb (Case Yellow). On 15 May 1940, one day after the bombing of Rotterdam, the Dutch forces surrendered. The Dutch government and the royal family relocated to London. The invaders placed the Netherlands under German occupation, which lasted in some areas until the German surrender in May 1945. Active resistance, at first carried out by a minority, grew in the course of the occupation. The occupiers deported the majority of the country's Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

14. Switzerland

Switzerland found itself completely surrounded by the Axis powers and Axis-controlled territory for most of World War II. Nazi Germany planned an invasion of Switzerland, and Switzerland made preparations for such an occurrence. At one point, Switzerland mobilized 850,000 soldiers. Under the leadership of Henri Guisan, Switzerland developed its National Redoubt plan in case of an invasion. Switzerland was surrounded by Axis-controlled territory; this meant that they also suffered from Allied bombings during the war. These bombing incidents tested the neutrality of Switzerland as it showed the leniency of the Swiss towards Allied airspace violations. The bombings persisted and eventually Switzerland declared a zero-tolerance policy for violation by either Axis or Allied aircraft and authorised attacks on American aircraft

15. Norway

With the outbreak of hostilities in 1939, Norway again declared itself neutral. On April 9, 1940, German troops invaded the country and quickly occupied Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, and Narvik. The Norwegian government rejected the German ultimatum regarding immediate capitulation. The Norwegian Army, which received help from an Allied expeditionary force, was unable to resist the superior German troops, however. After three weeks the war was abandoned in southern Norway. The Norwegian and Allied forces succeeded in recapturing Narvik but withdrew again on June 7, when the Allied troops were needed in France. The same day, King Haakon VII, Crown Prince Olaf, and the government fled to London

16. Australia

At the beginning of World War II, Australia was part of the commonwealth of the British Empire, and depended on Britain for its security against Japan. On 3 September 1939, Prime Minister Robert Menzies announced, "Great Britain has declared war on Germany, and as a result, Australia is also at war... There can be no doubt that where Great Britain stands, there stand the people of the entire British world". Australia was the first nation to come to Great Britain's aid, sending its combat divisions to fight in the Middle East and North Africa.

17. New Zealand

When World War II broke out in 1939, New Zealand whole-heartedly joined in the defense of Britain. New Zealand soldiers served in North Africa, Italy and the Pacific, and airmen in England and the Pacific, throughout the war, even when New Zealand had concerns about invasion by the Japanese. The Fall of Singapore during World War II made New Zealand realize that she could no longer rely on Britain to defend the British Empire. New Zealand troops supported the British in the successful battle against Communist insurrection in Malaysia and maintained an air-force fighter squadron in Singapore, and later on Cyprus, again supporting British forces. New Zealand diplomats sought an alliance with the United States of America

18. South Africa

South Africa made significant contributions to the Allied war effort. Some 135,000 white South Africans fought in the East and North African and Italian campaigns, and 70,000 Blacks and Coloreds served as laborers and transport drivers. South African platinum, uranium, and steel became valuable resources, and, during the period that the Mediterranean Sea was closed to the Allies, Durban and Cape Town provisioned a vast number of ships en route from Britain to the Suez.

19. Canada

In 1939, the Canadian King government began to abandon its support of appeasement and publicly warned that it would support Britain in the event of a war. After the outbreak of World War II in September 1939, Canada rapidly expanded its diplomatic missions abroad. While Canada hosted two major Allied conferences in Quebec in 1943 and 1944, neither Prime Minister Mackenzie King nor senior generals and admirals were invited to take part in any of the discussions. Indeed, Roosevelt and Churchill did not allow Canada a seat in any conference or major war planning committee. Ugly false rumors of systematic Japanese spies and saboteurs, combined with long-standing hostility toward Japanese Canadians, led to the internment in inland camps of 21,000 Japanese in British Columbia.

20. Lithuania

During World War II, Lithuania was occupied by the Soviet Union (1940–1941), Nazi Germany (1941–1944), and the Soviet Union again in 1944. Resistance during this period took many forms.

Significant parts of the resistance were formed by Polish and Soviet forces, some of which fought with Lithuanian collaborators.

21. Yugoslavia

World War II in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia began on 6 April 1941, when the country was swiftly conquered by Axis forces and partitioned between Germany, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria and their client regimes. Shortly after Germany attacked the USSR on 22 June 1941, the communist-led republican Yugoslav Partisans, on orders from Moscow, launched a guerrilla liberation war fighting against the Axis forces and their locally established puppet regimes, including the Axis-allied Independent State of Croatia (NDH) and the Government of National Salvation in the German-occupied territory of Serbia. Both the Yugoslav Partisans and the Chetnik movement initially resisted the Axis rule. However, after 1941, Chetniks extensively and systematically collaborated with the Italian occupation forces until the Italian capitulation, and thereon also with German and Ustaše forces. The Axis mounted a series of offensives intended to destroy the Partisans, coming close to doing so in the Battles of Neretva and Sutjeska in the spring and summer of 1943.

22. Denmark

At the outset of World War II in September 1939, Denmark declared itself neutral. For most of the war, the country was a protectorate and then an occupied territory of Germany. The decision to occupy Denmark was taken in Berlin on 17 December 1939. On 9 April 1940, Germany occupied Denmark in Operation Weserübung. The Danish government and king functioned as relatively normal in a de facto protectorate over the country until 29 August 1943, when Germany placed Denmark under direct military occupation, which lasted until the Allied victory on 5 May 1945.

23. Poland

Poland occupies a central position in the escalating crisis in Europe. Following the end of the First World War, Poland was re-established as an independent state, but its borders remained contested, particularly with Germany and the Soviet Union. Throughout the 1930s, Germany increasingly challenged the territorial settlement of Versailles, making demands over Polish territory such as the Polish Corridor and the city of Danzig. Poland has signed mutual defense agreements with the United Kingdom and France, who have issued guarantees of Polish sovereignty. At the time of committee, Poland is facing extreme diplomatic and military pressure from Germany and represents the most immediate point of tension in Europe.

24. Bulgaria

Bulgaria emerged from the First World War dissatisfied with the territorial settlements imposed upon it, having lost land to neighboring states. During the interwar period, Bulgaria pursued a revisionist foreign policy while attempting to avoid direct military confrontation. In the late 1930s, Bulgaria developed increasingly close economic ties with Nazi Germany, which became its largest trading partner. However, Bulgaria has not formally aligned itself with any major power bloc. At the time of committee, Bulgaria is

attempting to balance its desire for territorial revision with its aim of maintaining stability and avoiding another devastating war.

Questions to Consider

1. Did appeasement enable German and Italian expansion?
 2. Should the League's mandate be revised?
 3. How should refugees be handled?
 4. Who assigns blame after war?
 5. How are reparations enforced?
 6. How can global war be prevented in the future?
-

Guide to further research

1. Understand Your Country

Start by learning about your own delegation.

Ask yourself:

- Where is my country located?
- Was my country directly involved in the war in 1939?
- Was my country a major power or a smaller nation?
- Who were my country's allies or enemies?

Focus on your country's interests and fears, not just its actions.

2. Why Did World War II Begin?

Try to understand the reasons behind the war.

Research:

- What happened after World War I?
- What problems did the Treaty of Versailles create?
- Why were some countries unhappy or angry?
- What events led up to September 1939?

3. What Happened on 3 September 1939?

This committee is set on the first day of the war.

Find out:

- Which countries had already invaded or been attacked?
- Why did Britain and France declare war on Germany?
- What were countries afraid would happen next?

This helps you speak as if the situation is happening right now, not in the future.

4. What Does Your Country Want at This Moment?

Every country has goals.

Ask:

- Does my country want peace or war?
- Is my country trying to protect itself?
- Does my country want allies?
- What is my country most afraid of losing?

Your speeches should reflect these priorities

5. Possible Actions Your Country Could Support

Think about realistic actions countries might discuss in 1939:

- Diplomatic talks

- Warnings or ultimatums
- Sanctions
- Alliances
- Military preparation
- Calls for peace conferences

You do not need complex military plans — focus on decision-making.

6. How Might Other Countries Disagree With You?

Good delegates understand opposing views.

Think about:

- Which countries might oppose your ideas?
- Why would they disagree?
- How could you convince them?

This helps in debates and negotiations.

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