



**BISMUN 2026**



**PARIS PEACE  
CONFERENCE**



**STUDY GUIDE**



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## Letter from the chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Amatullah Poonawala, and I'll be your director for this committee. I myself have been where you are, nervous and scared to go for a MUN, thinking what's the point? It's safe to say I've learned the point over the past few years. From plotting to assassinate heads of states with cocaine laced starbucks to claiming that dictatorships are the only types of government that work, MUN has given me a lot of laughs, but more importantly it's taught me the importance of cooperation, quick problem solving and how to think on my feet, all skills necessary in life as well.

This committee is to help prevent history from repeating itself, the outcome of the original Treaty of Versailles led to World War 2 in a way, it set in stone the path Germany would walk for the next 25 years. You have the ability to change that, you have the power to make a change through using your voice, your ideas and your ability to tackle a crisis hands on. I hope that delegates use this opportunity to learn what Model United Nations truly has to offer and how the skills you gain from this are applicable everywhere. Most importantly I urge delegates to speak in committee, it may seem daunting and it may make you feel a bit uncomfortable, but this is the best platform to put yourself out there and gain public speaking skills. I look forward to seeing you in committee soon, and if you have any questions or concerns along the way, feel free to reach out, I hope to see well researched position papers coming my way soon!

Best Regards,

Amatullah Poonawala

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## Letter from the assistant directors

Dear Delegates,

We are Tia Lakra and Cyrus Vajifdar, and we will be your assistant directors for BISMUN 2026. First of all, we would like to applaud the confidence you've shown by participating in this Model United Nations. We, as your Assistant Directors, are here to support you, whether it's clarifying procedures or brainstorming strategies. There's so much to do! We can't wait to see your ideas and passion in the committee. Aside from the academic aspect of MUNs, we've seen them foster public speaking abilities, communication skills and confidence. We are certain that after this conference, you will feel different from how you did before. So iron your suits and pull up your socks because this is going to be an experience for the books. See you soon, delegates!

Best regards,

Your ADs,

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## Introduction to the Committee

### *Historical Security Council (HSC): Paris Peace Conference, 1919*

Agenda: Deciding on the Treaty of Versailles and determining the terms of new found peace and post war reconstruction in Europe as well as globally.

Freeze date: 21st June 1919

The Historical Security Council (HSC) is a special type of MUN committee where delegates travel back in time and act as leaders from the past. In this committee, delegates will step into the year 1919, just after the end of World War I, one of the deadliest wars in history.

World War I caused massive destruction. Millions of soldiers and civilians lost their lives, cities were destroyed, economies collapsed, and many countries were left weak and unstable. After the war ended, world leaders met in Paris, France, to decide how peace should be created and maintained. This meeting was called the Paris Peace Conference.

Unlike a normal MUN committee:

- Delegates must follow history
- They cannot use modern ideas or technology
- They must think and act like leaders of 1919
- The committee can change history, but only in realistic ways

### Committee Format and Flow

This Paris Peace Accords will work in a fast-paced and interactive way:

- Delegates will participate in moderated debates, where they speak one at a time on the agenda
- Unmoderated caucuses will allow delegates to move around, talk freely, form alliances, and negotiate
- Directives will be passed to suggest decisions like borders, punishments, or peace terms
- The Chair may introduce crisis updates, such as protests, economic problems, or political threats

**Delegates must always remember: “What would their country realistically do in 1919?”**

## Introduction to the Agenda

Agenda: Deciding on the Treaty of Versailles and determining the terms of new found peace and post war reconstruction in Europe as well as globally

### *Deciding the Treaty of Versailles and Creating Peace After World War I*

The main goal of this committee is to decide the terms of peace after World War I. Even though the fighting has stopped, true peace has not yet been achieved.

By 21 June 1919, the world is facing many difficult questions:

- Should Germany be punished or forgiven?
- How can another world war be prevented?
- Who should pay for the damage caused by the war?
- How should new countries be created?
- What should happen to old empires that have collapsed?

The Treaty of Versailles is the most important peace treaty being discussed. It focuses mainly on Germany, but it affects many countries across Europe and the world.

### Main Issues to Be Discussed

Delegates will discuss:

- War Guilt – Who should take responsibility for the war?
- Punishments and Reparations – Should Germany pay money for the damage caused?
- Military Limits – Should countries be allowed to keep large armies?
- Territorial Changes – How should borders be redrawn?
- Self-Determination – Should people choose their own countries?
- Future Peace – How can another war be stopped?

### Different Views in the Committee

- France wants strong punishment to ensure safety
- The United Kingdom wants balance—punishment but also stability
- The United States wants fair peace and cooperation between nations
- Germany and other defeated powers want fair treatment
- Smaller nations want independence and security
- Colonies and national movements, such as the Indian National Congress, want self-rule

Each country has different goals, which makes agreement difficult.

## Why This Committee Is Important?

The decisions made at the Paris Peace Conference will:

- Decide the future of Europe

- Shape global politics for decades
- Either create lasting peace or lead to future conflict

Delegates must understand that:

A harsh peace may create anger, while a weak peace may create chaos. Finding the right balance is the biggest challenge of this committee.

## **Timeline**

### **1870–1871: Franco-Prussian War**

The Franco-Prussian war is fought between France and Prussia (later part of unified Germany). It results in a humiliating loss for France along with Germany's gain of Alsace-Lorraine. This creates a rivalry between France and Germany and embeds a desire for revenge in France.

### **1882: Formation of the Triple Alliance**

The Triple Alliance is formed between Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy. These nations commit to defending each other in the event of a war, creating a tense political environment. However, Italy is not completely aligned with the other nations, therefore, the alliance between Italy and the others is fragile.

### **1894: Franco-Russian Alliance**

As Germany gains political and military power, it is seen as a threat to France (west of Germany) and Russia (east of Germany). This leads to an alliance between France and Russia to protect themselves from Germany.

### **1904–1907: Entente System Formed**

The Triple Entente, an alliance between Britain, France and Russia is formed. Britain decides to ally with France as France acts as a barrier between Germany and Britain. Therefore, Britain would be left vulnerable if Germany successfully invaded France. The formation of the Triple Entente further divides Europe into two opposing alliances.

### **1912–1913: Balkan Wars**

The Balkans is a region in Europe which comprises numerous small countries. Initially, the Balkan nations were mostly ruled by the Ottoman Empire, however, the Balkan wars makes the region extremely volatile and intensifies nationalism, causing the weakening of the Ottoman Empire.

### **1914: Assassination at Sarajevo and Outbreak of World War I**

The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by a Serbian nationalist triggers a chain reaction of alliances. Austria-Hungary declares war on Serbia; Germany supports Austria-Hungary; Russia mobilizes to protect Serbia; France and Britain enter the war. Belgium's invasion draws Britain in, while the Ottoman Empire later joins the Central Powers.

### **1915: Expansion of the War**

Italy switches sides and joins the Allies after being promised territorial gains. Bulgaria joins the Central Powers. The Ottoman Empire fights on multiple fronts, including Gallipoli. The war becomes increasingly global, affecting colonies and dominions such as India, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

### **1917: USA enters the war, Russia faces internal turmoil**

The United States enters the war following unrestricted submarine warfare and the Zimmermann Telegram. Russia experiences two revolutions; the Bolsheviks seize power and begin withdrawing from the war. The war becomes ideological, with democracy and self-determination emphasized by the Allies.

### **1918: End of the War**

Russia formally exits the war through the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. Germany launches a final offensive but is halted by Allied forces bolstered by American troops. Bulgaria, the Ottoman Empire, Austria-Hungary, and finally Germany surrendered. New states such as Poland, Finland, and Czechoslovakia emerge as empires collapse.

### **1919: Paris Peace Conference**

The victorious Allies negotiate peace treaties. The Treaty of Versailles imposes harsh penalties on Germany. Austria-Hungary is dissolved; Hungary and Austria become separate states. The Ottoman Empire faces partition. The League of Nations is proposed. Nationalist dissatisfaction arises in Germany, Italy, Hungary, China (May Fourth Movement), and the Ottoman territories, planting the seeds for future conflicts.

## **Delegation Profiles**

### **United States of America**

The United States of America is one of the most powerful nations in the world. While it initially had a neutral stance, the USA was forced to enter the war after German navy vessels sank the American passenger ship 'Lucitania'. The United States is now a member of the allied powers.

### **United Kingdom**

The United Kingdom is one of the main powers which emerged victorious from World War I. The UK stands firmly with holding Germany and other nations accountable for the war and intends to ensure that Germany's navy is reduced to a fraction of what it was so that Germany doesn't pose a threat to Britain. However, the war has financially drained the UK, therefore, the United Kingdom wants to leave Germany stable enough to be able to trade with Britain in the future.

### **France**

France has emerged victorious from the war, however, like Britain, France is economically crippled and has faced the most casualties of the war. France is eager to receive a princely sum in reparations from Germany to help rebuild its economy. France also intends on having Alsace-Lorraine returned by Germany.

### **Russia**

By 1919, Russia is engulfed in civil war following the Bolshevik Revolution and has withdrawn from World War I via the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The new Soviet government rejects imperialist war aims and denounces the Versailles system as a capitalist arrangement designed to suppress revolutionary movements. Russia is diplomatically isolated and focuses on consolidating internal control rather than international cooperation. It opposes foreign intervention and seeks eventual recognition as a legitimate state.

### **Italy**

Even though Italy has emerged victorious from the war, Italy remains dissatisfied as it has not received all of the territories promised in the Treaty of London. Furthermore, Italy is not yet recognised as a major international power and is keen on establishing itself as a force to be reckoned with.

### **Japan**

Japan emerges strengthened from World War I and has gained recognition on the global stage. Japan is determined to maintain its control in China and other parts of Asia. However, Japan seeks greater international recognition and racial equality on a global stage.

### **Germany**

As a result of their defeat in the war, Germany stands humiliated and politically unstable. The

Autocratic regime of the Kaiser has been abolished to make way for the Weimar Republic. Germany rejects sole war guilt and considers the Treaty of Versailles to be extremely unjust. Germany is under immense financial strain due to the high reparations to be paid to France along with the major loss of territory.

### **Austria**

Austria has been reduced from a major international power to a small land-locked nation as a result of the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The new republic of Austria wishes to join Germany, however, the union of territories between Austria and Germany known as Anschluss is forbidden by the allied powers. Currently, survival and international recognition are Austria's primary concerns.

### **Hungary**

Hungary emerges from the dissolution of the defeated Austria-Hungary. Hungary has faced major loss of land and has been reduced to a fraction of its size. Furthermore, Hungary has been land-locked and lost a majority of its territory and population.

### **Ottoman Empire**

The Ottoman Empire has been defeated in the war and faced a major loss of territory. Additionally, the allied powers intend on making the Dardanelles Strait an international waterway and restricting Turkey's military to a fraction of its size. This leaves the Turkish public outraged and sparks a national uprising led by Mustafa Kemal.

### **Bulgaria**

Bulgaria, defeated as a Central Power ally, faces territorial losses and economic hardship under the Treaty of Neuilly. In 1919, Bulgaria resented the peace settlement, particularly the loss of lands to neighboring states, and views itself as unfairly punished. Political instability and revisionist sentiments dominate Bulgarian policy.

### **Belgium**

Belgium emerges from World War I as a victimized but victorious nation, having endured brutal occupation and destruction. In 1919, Belgium demanded security guarantees, reparations, and recognition of German responsibility for wartime atrocities. It supports strong measures against Germany while aligning closely with France and Britain to ensure its future safety.

### **Serbia**

Serbia stands among the moral victors of the war, having suffered enormous losses yet emerging on the winning side. In 1919, Serbia played a central role in the formation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (later Yugoslavia). It seeks regional leadership in the Balkans while emphasizing unity and recognition for its wartime sacrifices.

**Greece**

Greece, having joined the Allies later in the war, seeks territorial expansion in accordance with the Megali Idea. In 1919, Greece advocated for control over territories in Asia Minor and the Aegean, supported by Allied powers. National ambition and regional influence guide Greek diplomacy.

**Romania**

Romania emerged from the war significantly enlarged after fighting on the Allied side. In 1919, it sought international recognition of its territorial gains, particularly Transylvania. Romania supports the Allied peace system and prioritizes national unity and security against potential revisionist neighbors.

**Spain**

Spain remains neutral throughout World War I and enters 1919 diplomatically cautious. While benefiting economically from neutrality, Spain faces internal instability and seeks to avoid entanglement in European power politics. It supports peace and stability but plays a limited role in shaping the postwar order.

**Poland**

Poland re-emerges as an independent state in 1919 after more than a century of partition. It prioritizes securing its borders, particularly against Germany and Soviet Russia, and seeks international recognition. Poland strongly supports self-determination and views the postwar settlement as an opportunity to solidify its sovereignty.

**Czechoslovakia**

Czechoslovakia was newly formed in 1919 from former Austro-Hungarian territories. It supports the Allied peace framework and emphasizes democratic governance, territorial integrity, and minority protections. The state seeks international recognition and security against German and Hungarian revisionism.

**Finland**

Finland, newly independent from Russia, emerges from a civil war in 1918 and focuses on stabilizing its government. In 1919, Finland sought international recognition, security from Soviet influence, and neutrality in broader European conflicts. National sovereignty is its primary concern.

**Denmark**

Denmark remained neutral during World War I and entered 1919 focused on peaceful diplomacy. It supports stability in Europe and benefits from border adjustments through plebiscites, particularly in Schleswig. Denmark advocates for peaceful conflict resolution and supports the League of Nations.

**Norway**

Norway maintains neutrality throughout the war and emphasizes maritime rights and economic recovery in 1919. It supports international cooperation and peaceful diplomacy, seeking to avoid future conflicts through collective security mechanisms like the League of Nations.

**Canada**

Canada, as a dominion of the British Empire, emerges from the war with a stronger national identity due to its significant military contributions. In 1919, Canada supported the Allied settlement and the League of Nations while seeking greater autonomy in foreign affairs.

**Australia**

Australia entered 1919 as a loyal member of the British Empire, deeply affected by wartime losses. It supports harsh measures against Germany, particularly opposing German colonial influence in the Pacific. Australia prioritizes regional security and imperial unity.

**New Zealand**

New Zealand strongly supports the Allied victory and Britain's leadership in shaping the peace. In 1919, it advocated for maintaining control over former German territories in the Pacific and emphasized collective security through imperial cooperation.

**Indian National Congress**

In 1919, the Indian National Congress acknowledged India's significant contribution to the Allied war effort but demanded greater self-governance in return. Disillusionment grows due to repressive British policies such as the Rowlatt Acts. The INC advocates for political reform, civil rights, and eventual independence through constitutional means.

**China**

China entered 1919 deeply dissatisfied with the postwar settlement, particularly the decision to transfer German concessions in Shandong to Japan rather than return them to Chinese sovereignty. This sparks nationalist outrage and the May Fourth Movement. China supports self-determination and seeks an end to foreign imperialism while calling for international respect and territorial integrity.

**Alliances leading up to the Paris Peace Accords**

France, Italy, Japan, The United Kingdom, and the United States As the Principal Allied Powers. They have contributed the greatest amount of soldiers and resources to fighting against the Central Powers, and thus have suffered the greatest number of casualties and financial setbacks. The Principal Allied Powers will be able to fulfill their role as victors in the war and shape the balance of power in Europe as well as international politics for the decades to come. Topics covered at the peace conference will mainly affect the state of relations within each nation, particularly in France where a majority of the fighting on the Western Front took place. While

ideally the members of this bloc should join forces to determine how reparation should be made, each nation received larger or smaller damages than the other, allowing each nation to have the autonomy to determine how severe the punishments should be.

## **Guide to further research**

### **1. Your Country's Role in World War I**

Delegates should research:

- When and why their country entered World War I
- Whether their state fought as an Allied, Central, or neutral power
- The political, economic, and human cost of the war on their nation

Understanding wartime experiences will help explain each country's priorities during peace negotiations.

### **2. National Objectives at the Paris Peace Conference**

Research your country's:

- Desired territorial gains or losses
- Position on reparations and punishment versus reconciliation
- Security concerns, especially border wise, regarding Germany or neighboring countries
- Stance on self-determination and minority rights

Delegates should be able to clearly articulate what their country hoped to achieve in 1919.

### **3. Key Political Leaders and Negotiators**

Delegates are encouraged to research the leaders who represented their country at Paris, such as:

- Woodrow Wilson (USA)
- Georges Clemenceau (France)
- David Lloyd George (UK)
- Vittorio Orlando (Italy)

### **4. Use of Primary and Secondary Sources**

Delegates are encouraged to consult:

- Treaty documents and official speeches before the freeze date
- Academic articles and historical articles

## Questions a resolution must answer

1. How will responsibility for the outbreak of World War 1 be assigned?
2. What political, economic and military conditions will be imposed on defeated powers, especially Germany?
3. Should defeated countries be included in future international decision making bodies, if so, under what conditions?
4. Should reparations be imposed on defeated states, and if so in what form?
5. How will reparations be enforced and monitored over time to prevent economic collapse and political instability?
6. Should territorial changes be made to Germany's borders?
7. What military restrictions should be imposed on Germany and other defeated states?
8. Should some zones in Europe be demilitarized, and if so where and how will that be decided?
9. Is long term European security guaranteed?
10. What role should non-European allies play in shaping the peace settlement?
11. What consequences will follow if a state is in violation of the treaty?
12. Does the resolution prioritize punishment and consequences or reconciliation and long term stability?
13. How does this treaty aim to prevent future conflicts of such scale in Europe and globally?

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