



THAIMUN

Historical Security Council (HSC)

Congress of Vienna

July Crisis



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introductory Letters	4-5
Committee Overview	6-7
Topic 1: The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815)	
Topic Introduction.....	8-9
KEY TERMS.....	9
History of The Topic.....	9-10
Timeline.....	10-11
Situation on the Ground.....	11-12
Topics your Resolutions Should Address.....	12-14
Countries Stances.....	15-16
Considerations and Questions.....	17
Research Links.....	17
Works Cited.....	18
Topic 2: July Crisis (1914)	
Topic Introduction.....	19-20
KEY TERMS.....	20
History of the Topic.....	21-22
Timeline.....	22-23
Topics your Resolutions Should Address.....	23-24
Countries Stances.....	25-26
Questions to Consider.....	26
Research Links.....	26
Works Cited.....	27

Introductory Letters

Thanakorn (Burger) Sajjarodom

A very good morning, afternoon, or evening (depending when you are reading this). My name is Burger (this is an open invitation to word play) and I'm a sophomore at Concordian International School. I will be chairing HSC—the quirky and cooler UNSC—, alongside Tata and Phoom.

My credentials are that I have been to ten MUN conferences (of those I have chaired twice), organized a conference (ConcordianMUN on top!!!), and part of the leadership for BarrierMUN (an organization seeking to expand access to MUN). I'm also super interested in international relations, political science, and history—Historia Civilis, Epic History TV, Geography Now are some of my favorites (iykyk).

I have many hobbies which I shall split into “nerdy” and “non-nerdy”. My nerdy hobbies include debate (World Schools, AP, BP, etc) and reading (I'm reading “World Order - Henry Kissinger” right now). As for the non-nerdy hobbies, I'm an avid football fan—if anyone supports Arsenal or Spurs in HSC they are immediately disqualified from awards :). I also play the sport, being a relatively mediocre keeper. Additionally, I'm part of a band (we're called “Hydrogen”), where I'm the habitually syncopated drummer. I like violently bobbing my head up and down when I drum too (gotta get that feeling).

If you guys want to contact me my email is “burger08966683888@gmail.com” and my Instagram is “wut_burger234”. If there are any questions whatsoever please do contact me—or else...

Let's have an amazing conference everyone!



Alvin (Tata) Tang

Hi everyone! My name is Alvin, and I am a sixth form student at Charter International School.

This will be my eighth MUN conference, with this being my second time chairing, and I am unbelievably excited to be acting as one of your chairs for HSC in this year's THAIMUN XI conference! As a pretty big history buff, I am thrilled to be getting into the nitty gritty discussions and debates over the Congress of Vienna and the July Crisis with all of you and since this my first time chairing a special committee, I really look forward to learning more about HSC with all of you!

Aside from reading about history- for any who are interested, I'm currently reading Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar- I spend most of my time playing games, doing film photography, and acting out random monologues from plays I fantasize about performing in. Suffice it to say, I spend a lot of time being pretty nerdy.

If you have any questions whatsoever please feel free to reach out at tata@charter.ac.th or [@ledoodledoo](https://www.instagram.com/ledoodledoo) on Instagram!

Pattapol (Phoom) Sirimangklanurak

Hi hi! My name is Phoom and I am a senior at Chiang Mai International School. This will be my 10th MUN conference and it's an honor to serve you all this year's HSC vice-president. I have both chaired UNSC and hosted a conference before (CMMUN) so I am super excited to be up for a new challenge.

I love history. From the Punic Wars to Operation PBSuccess, delving into niche historical topics has been my hobby since I was a kid. Apart from that, I absolutely adore geography and politics as well! Geography is one of the majors I hope to pursue alongside economics in college next year. As for politics, hit me up anytime if you want to discuss Thai politics or the genocide in Gaza. We'll probably have a day-long conversation (a fruitful one of course).

My hobbies are Magic: The Gathering (please reach out if you play this game! I've been slinging spells since 2016.), playing volleyball and football, supporting Leicester City Football Club, play piano, indulging in Kpop and Laufey's music, and all-things video games (all time fav - Zelda: Botw, current fav - Lethal Company).

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns that you are too scared to ask prez Burger or my fellow vice-prez Tata!

Instagram: [patta.phoom](https://www.instagram.com/patta.phoom)

Gmail: pattapol2006@gmail.com



Committee Overview

When delegates approach a Historical Committee (like the Historical Security Council), it is important the committee not become a re-enactment. The HSC is about replaying these historical events in the context of the UNSC with the hindsight of the present day. A relatively egalitarian system of voting, an open space to discuss stances, and focus on establishing a balance of power all flow from the adoption of UNSC as a framework for international diplomacy. Of course, delegates should try their utmost to research and maintain country positions, but if delegates can come up with relevant justification that seems plausible for their nation, delegates can differ from historical perspectives. It is easy to think that historical figures are un-nuanced—always inclined to the decisions that were made—, but that ignores the multiplicity of considerations they had. In the HSC, history is analyzed as if it were a present day issue. Important questions to consider on delegating in HSC include:

- 1) What were the actual decisions made in the past? What factors led to this outcome?
- 2) What would your country do if they knew the modern day critiques of past actions?
- 3) Who was making the decisions in the past? What were their biases?
- 4) How does the application of the UNSC affect historical outcomes?

In real life, the UNSC is made up of 15 members, 5 of which are permanent members – China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA—, who have veto power for resolutions. The rest are temporary members which rotate every two years. For the conference, several things have been changed to allow the committee to function better in a MUN context. The total number of delegates within the committee will be 18. Furthermore, given the differing time periods of each committee topic, permanent members will differ according to realities of political power in that period.

Throughout the course of the committee session, crises will arise; they test the delegate's knowledge of historical context and their stance. Stances should not be completely up-ended, but crises allow delegates to be the decision-maker; delegates must consider: Based on what I know, what would my nation do?

Within this conference, HSC will be based on the THAIMUN United Nations Security Council rules and procedures which are primarily based on the UNA-USA ROPs. For more information refer to the “HSC Rules and Procedure” PDF in the email or on the THAIMUN website.

In THAIMUN XI, HSC will be tackling three issues, the Congress of Vienna, July Crisis (World War 1), and an Ad Hoc topic (to be released on the committee day).

Topic 1: The Congress of Vienna

The word “freedom” means for me not a point of departure but a genuine point of arrival. The point of departure is defined by the word “order”. Freedom cannot exist without the concept of order.

– **Klemens von Metternich (Austrian Foreign Minister)**

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

At the conclusion of the Napoleonic wars, Europe was devastated—with an estimated 6.5 million civilian and military deaths. In May of 1814, Tsar Alexander I received the surrender of Napoleon after the successful campaign of the 6th coalition. Napoleon had been exiled to Elba, the Bourbons returned to power in France, and “normalcy” had been restored. At this point, there were four great powers which consisted of Russia, Prussia, the UK, and Austria. The question of the continued existence of France as a great power was very much up in the air. Many voices within the congress sought to partition France or gain significantly from its defeat. Along these lines, many nations only cared for their own benefit within the congress.

Despite this, nations like the UK and Austria recognized the peace dividend and the need to pragmatically balance power in the concert of Europe. The long period of war preceding the congress provided the right incentive structures to allow nations to compromise within the structures of their national interest. Preceding the congress, diplomacy was performed through the exchange of notes between capitals and separate talks between individual nations; this was a long arduous process which provided little universal consensus. For the time, the congress was remarkably egalitarian with all powers present; physical proximity allowed the easy exchange of ideas. Furthermore, this congress setting allowed special interests, like abolitionist groups to have an impact on conference proceedings. However, in reality when it came down to it, lesser powers were seldom decision making. This is a key distinction the UNSC format gives to the proceedings.

The congress served as the first test run of diplomacy on such a scale, which conferences like the UN General Assembly, COP, and Munich Security Conference are modeled after. Given the increasingly common criticism that organizations like the UN are useless, it is wise to return to their epistemic origins to get a better idea of why they are the way they are. Furthermore, the congress demonstrates that despite the demagogic and ideological flavor of international relations, agreement and consensus could still be reached.

The Congress of Vienna represented the culmination of 25 years of Napoleonic turmoil and the start of diplomacy’s rise as a tool for the solution of global issues. The congress was a triumph of Realpolitik, through its pragmatic balancing of power that led to nearly a hundred years of relative peace in Europe. Despite this, its suppression of democratic and nationalistic movements has drawn stark criticism—which was a powder keg bound to explode in the late 19th century.

KEY TERMS:

Term	Definition
Nationalism	The political movement that every “national identity” should have a nation-state. This movement gained traction in Europe after the French Revolution and culminated in the Revolutions of 1848.
Balance of Power	A guiding principle of the congress whereby no nation should become overtly powerful as to be able to overwhelm other nations; a status quo of balance that leads to peace.
Concert of Europe	The system of continued power balancing and increased economic cooperation that occurred proceeding the Congress of Vienna.
Conservative Order	The principle held by certain states at the Vienna Congress that legitimate monarchs should be restored under the concept of the divine right of kings. On a larger scale it is the belief that there should be a reversal to the pre-Napoleonic world order.
Abolitionism	The movement for the ending of the practice of slavery.
Divine Grace	The belief that monarchs were given a divine right to rule their respective nations.
Buffer State	A neutral country situated between two large hostile countries, which serve to buffer conflict.

History of The Topic

The Congress of Vienna occurred in the wake of the French Revolution and the eventual rise of Napoleon. The overthrow of an absolutist monarch at the hands of republican forces, and eventual efforts to export this ideology sent shockwaves through Europe. Over the course of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, a total of six coalitions were formed to defeat France. Testament to the success of the French Army was their ability to conquer basically the entirety of continental Europe, leaving the British as their only adversary.

Napoleon’s imposition of the continental system—an order to blockade the UK from any trade with continental Europe—, an invasion of Spain embroiled with the exploits of guerillas, his eventual foray into Russia all led to his eventual demise. British supremacy on waves and economic dominance made it extremely difficult to impose the continental system. Nations were dependent on trade (including even France), which caused a large amount of smuggling to occur. Furthermore, given the superiority of the British navy (especially after French defeats like

Trafalgar), enforcement of the system was rendered impossible. The economic interests of nations (like Russia) caused them to continue to engage in trade with Britain, this disobeying of Napoleon provoked invasions. The invasion of Russia was particularly disastrous for Napoleon, as scorched earth tactics and the Russian winter caused over 400,000 to perish in the Grande Armée. This was compounded by the ongoing Peninsular War, which had been inconclusive for seven years.

Eventually, as the tide was turning against Napoleon, almost the entirety of Europe started to turn against him. The formation of 6th coalition, saw the creation of the most comprehensive coalition against France, with it snowballing after defeats like at the battle of Leipzig. Despite relative parity in troop numbers, the Grande Armée veteran troops were decimated during the Russian campaign. Furthermore, the allies used the “Fabian Strategy”, avoiding the main French army under Napoleon, instead engaging his marshals whenever possible. By late 1813, Napoleon was in full flight back to France.

The violence and destruction caused by Napoleon invigorated the conservative order in Europe and highlighted the need to form the Congress of Vienna. The treaty of Paris (1814) started this restoration by putting the Bourbon’s back in power and set the intention to have the congress.



Timeline

Date	Description
27 June 1789	Disbandment of the Estates General: The Estates General of France was disbanded, because the third estate composed of those not part of the nobility or clergy refused to participate due to the unfair structure of the body. This is considered one of the first actions of the French Revolution.
20 April 1792	France Declares War on Austria: After the revolution, many monarchies throughout Europe became hostile to France's new republican government. Therefore France decided to declare war on Austria. This conflict would eventually lead to the War of the First Coalition, when nations like the Dutch Republic, Spain, and Great Britain joined the war with Austria. This event would lead to nearly 25 years of continuous warfare in Europe.
9-10 Nov 1799	Coup of 18 Brumaire: Napoleon took control of France and became its first consul—effectively a dictator. He used the pretense of a false Jacobin plot to overthrow the government to relocate the legislative bodies and proceeded to surround them with his own troops. This act effectively walked back many of the French Revolution's reforms.
2 Dec 1804	Napoleon's Coronation as Emperor: Napoleon was crowned as emperor of France, therefore effectively returning France to a monarchical system.
24 June 1812	Napoleon Invades Russia: Napoleon decides to invade Russia as one of the first acts of the War of the 6th Coalition. Scorched earth tactics and the brutal Russian winter eventually lead to the demise of the Grande Armee, setting the stage for the French surrender two years later.
1 March 1814	Treaty of Chaumont: An agreement between the 4 major powers of Austria, the UK, Russia, and Prussia which dictated an ultimatum that Napoleon restore pre-Napoleonic borders or face destruction by the 6th coalition. The agreement served to define the common aim of the powers in war against France. The treaty solidified the main powers for the Congress of Vienna.
11 April 1814	Treaty of Fontainebleau: An agreement that ended Napoleon's rule as the emperor of France and sent him into exile on the island of Elba.
30 May 1814	Treaty of Paris: An agreement which restored the Bourbon monarchy in France and served as the official declaration of peace between the 6th coalition and France. France's borders reverted back to those of 1792. Furthermore, this treaty set the intention to have the Congress of Vienna.

Situation on the Ground:

After the Treaty of Paris (1814) the allies had settled on the map of 1792 as the basis for negotiations. However, the realities on the ground were starkly different from those of 1792. Military occupation was a reality in much of Europe, prime examples include France, Poland, and Saxony. Even though Poland existed on paper, in actuality it was under Prussian and Russian military occupation. France too was occupied by the forces of the 6th coalition. Lastly, Saxony was under Russian military occupation. How would these military realities impact the congress's decisions?



Furthermore, the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) which had existed since the time of Charlemagne still existed on paper, but many viewed it as an archaic organization which served no real purpose. The HRE had an emperor, but the role was largely ceremonial with very little political power. States were obligated to the “empire” militarily, but this drastically differed by state. Its original use as a defense pact was shown obsolete, culminating in Napoleon's victory at Austerlitz. It was in the power of the congress to bring the Holy Roman Empire back, but would they?

Topics your Resolutions Should Address:

1) Borders and Restoration Nations

After a long period of war nations wanted compensation in terms of territory, but there were those who recognized that the reconstitution of Europe's borders was more than a zero-sum game.

a) Poland

Poland in the form of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth had been a pre-eminent force in eastern Europe from the 16th century, but in a series of partitions in the late 18th century at the hands of Austria, Prussia, and Russia the state had ceased to exist. In the wake of Napoleon's conquests in eastern Europe he had established the Grand Duchy of Warsaw; this state was erased off the map after the War of the 6th Coalition. Poland was one of the key aims for the Russians during the congress, with the Russians currently occupying Polish lands. There was

sympathy for Polish nationalism in Britain and strategic interests for a buffer state in Austria. On paper the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth existed, but its future was uncertain.

i) Proposed Solutions

Enlarged Poland: Austria, Prussia, and Russia return their Polish provinces to a Polish state.

Rump State Poland: Austria, Prussia, and Russia only return part of their Polish provinces to a Polish state.

No Poland: Austria, Prussia, and Russia keep the territories from the 1795 partition, but grant Poles within their states political protections.

b) Saxony

Throughout the congress, Saxony was both sought after and used as a bargaining chip. At this point, Saxony was occupied by the Russians. Prussia wanted to incorporate Saxony into its territory to gain more territorial coherence, helping make Silesia less disconnected from the rest of the state. At the same time, Austria wanted to maintain Saxony's sovereignty, with the Austrian Emperor Francis I mandating that they settle for no less than 50% of Saxony's survival. Given Russia's military presence, it was beginning to seem like either Saxony or Poland would not survive the congress.

c) Italy

Italy was seen as a natural route for French expansion, especially given the weak city states that made up Northern Italy. Nations which wanted to contain France paid particular attention to Italy. Napoleon had reconstituted the whole of Italy during his rule; the congress had to determine how much of this reconstitution should persist. The Austrians viewed Italy as part of their sphere of influence, therefore wanted control of the region. The British on the other hand were apprehensive of Austrian efforts of imperialism, given current British public opinion.

d) Germany

The issue of Germany was an issue both on the micro in terms of the dealings of the many small German Kingdoms, but also the macro in terms of the geopolitics of central Europe. The German issue was dominated by the two superpowers in the region—Austria and Prussia. Since the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire, small German states were desperate for guarantees of protection. This all comes together with the rising tide of German nationalism.

i) Proposed Solutions

Complete Independence: German states are given complete independence.

German Empire: The formation of one centralized German state under the leadership of either the Austrians or Prussians.

Loose Confederation: A confederation is formed with German states still remaining independent. The confederation would be led by both Austria and Prussia. Some aspects of the “state” would be shared like certain aspects of the legal system and military.

Austrian and Prussian Conquests: Austria and Prussia would both conquer smaller states near them, growing their spheres of influence.

2) Considerations for Territorial Changes

a) Balance of Power

When spheres of influence are clearly defined, nations know which areas were off limits. When there were balanced alliances, no nation would seek to attack another for victory was unclear. No single nation would be able to overpower the others as France did. If a balance of power could be achieved, the concert of Europe could go on without war.

b) Rule of Law, Precedence, Tradition

Nations should consider precedence and the rule of law. Many recognized “divine grace”--or the god given right for monarchs to rule over their territories--, as a justification for the continuation of the conservative order. Furthermore, tradition played a role in considerations, for instance the Austrian insistence to be head of a united Germany, because the Habsburgs had historically served as the emperors of the Holy Roman Empire. These factors play a role in the perceived legitimacy of an action. When countries consider solutions, beware that past precedence may influence the wants of other stakeholders.

c) Nationalism and Republicanism

A common criticism of the congress of Vienna is that it ignored nationalistic and republican movements in its territorial considerations to the detriment of eventual peace. During Napoleon’s conquests he had set up republics throughout Europe. The tide of nationalism and the advocacy of nation-states began to see real life impacts in Germany, Italy, and the Balkans. The conservative order may be inclined to suppress these movements, but too great of a suppression and it all blows up in your face later on.

3) Additional Issues

Many additional issues were discussed throughout the course of the congress. A variety of lobbyist groups made their way into the gatherings to advocate for their own interests. As a first of its kind gathering of basically all European nations, the congress served as grounds for the hashing out of issues other than the political reconstruction of Europe. It is important to note that these issues were largely secondary to the redrawing of European borders.

a) Slavery

The abolition of slavery gained steam throughout the 19th century. In Britain there was a large abolitionist movement, at one point even sending over 1 million signatures in a petition to Castlereagh (the British representative in Vienna) urging the end of slavery. This mood however was not shared by nations more reliant on the slave trade, for instance Portugal and Spain. Given this public pressure on the largely democratic British government, they had to push this issue within the congress.

b) Freedom of Navigation

Major rivers like the Danube and Rhine had been major routes of European commerce and trade for millenia, but disruptive practices like toll collecting have led to the impediment of trade. The granting of freedom of navigation on rivers would allow for international commerce to occur more freely and allow for a more prosperous Europe.

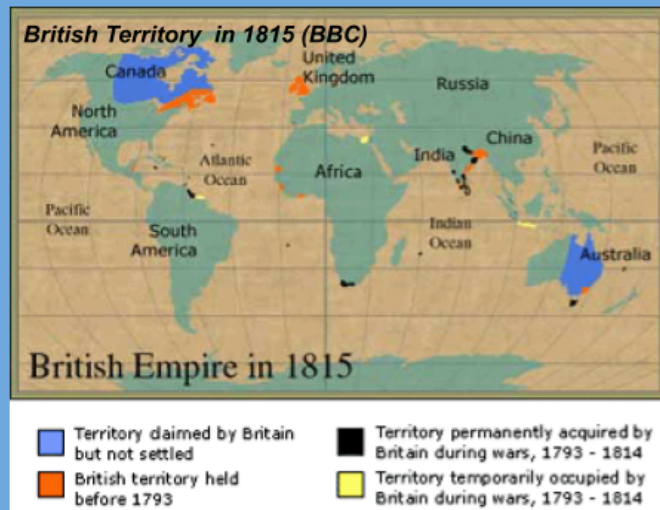
Countries Stances:

Kingdom of France

France was put in a precarious position after the end of the Napoleonic Wars as their government had completely capitulated. Represented by Talleyrand at the congress, France should attempt to argue for the pre-war status quo. France aimed to promote the restoration of monarchies overthrown throughout the course of the conflict (including its own Bourbon dynasty). Furthermore, France favors a weak central Europe, because a strong presence would pose a threat to French sovereignty; as such efforts to create a unified German state were opposed by the French. In this effort, the French supported the continued existence of Saxony in territorial partitions, as the nation was a traditional French ally. Despite losing the war, France presented itself as key to the European balance of power, therefore arguing against its partition.

United Kingdom

The end of the Napoleonic wars saw Britain gain a huge victory. Britain left the war as the most industrialized nation, the only colonial nation, and with a heap load of strategic depth. The British had a relatively robust parliamentary democracy which was dominated by the progressive Whigs. As such, British policy was often influenced by public opinion at home. This made Britain more conscientious of national movements and expansionism in Europe. British foreign policy was dominated by the desire for non-interventionism in Europe. The goal was to achieve a balance of power that would guarantee peace, and allow Britain to focus on its colonies. To this end Britain supported the Bourbon restoration, but advocated the containment of France. The British felt that the Netherlands and Sardinia had to be strengthened to act as buffer states, and Italy had to become stronger. Furthermore, Britain firmly supported starting the process of the abolition of slavery, with efforts to get guarantees from the other congress participants, in line with their Slave Trade Act (1807).



Kingdom of Prussia

Prussia was militarily strong, but had many splintered territories and a small population. The Prussians were a strong regional power, but a weak great power. Prussia largely wanted the consolidation of their lands in an effort to maintain territorial integrity. Prussian land was divided in many enclaves and exclaves, with two main areas being East Prussia and the Duchy of Prussia. Specifically, control over Saxony and the Ruhr were requested. Given the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806, Prussia also sought to unite the German speaking world under one banner, jostling for influence against Austria. However, this diplomatic approach would be rejected by many small German states, as there was a dominating view of Prussia as an aggressive military power.

Russian Empire

The Russian Empire was largely a wildcard at the Congress, because their foreign policy effort was led by Tsar Alexander I, who was known for erratic and sometimes illogical decision making. The Tsar was known to have many personal grudges, including against Klemens von Metternich and Louis XVIII of France. The Russians opposed the Bourbon restoration, even advocating for Napoleon's young child to be put on the throne. The Russians were keen on the incorporation of Poland into their territory, especially given they had 200,000 troops already stationed there; at the moment of the congress's beginning Poland was nominally a Russian territory. In the conference, it is notable that the Russians often used these troops to threaten other congress participants on the issue of Poland.



Napoleon Surrenders at Fontainebleau at the behest of Tsar Alexander I and Abdicates (Bouchot, Ferri)

Austrian Empire

Austria was weak militarily, but had major diplomatic clout, especially with smaller German states. The Austrians wanted to portray themselves as supporters of the rule of law and conservative order. This characterized much of Austrian history, being that they mostly territorially expanded through marriages rather than military conquest. Similarly to the British, the Austrians wanted to achieve a balance of power in Europe. To achieve this, they advocated for the creation of Poland as a buffer state between Prussia, Russian, and Austria. Furthermore, they were less territorially aggressive in their desire for a more centralized Germany, advocating for a German confederation. This was in part to satisfy their foreign policy ethos, but also to contend with the delicate balance of power in their state; where an influx of Germans would dissatisfy the other ethnicities in the empire. They largely supported the sovereignty of smaller German states, notably guaranteeing that Saxony would retain at least 50% of its territory. Contrary to this, Austria sought more influence in Italy to act as a French buffer, but had to pursue it through indirect means, like installing sympathetic rulers.

Questions to Consider

- How will the addition of the UNSC format serve to empower smaller states?
- How does the mechanism of the veto (especially in terms of France) help to guarantee stability?
- How do absolutist regimes use liberalism as a tool for self-preservation?
- What does your nation want to gain from the congress? How do these “wants” weigh up against each other?
- What is your nation willing to compromise at the congress? What is the weighing of these compromises with what you want to gain?

Closing Considerations

- Countries sent a variety of emissaries, ministers, heads of state, and diplomats to the congress; with some like Talleyrand, Metternich, and Castlereagh gaining notoriety. However, within this conference you will not be a specific person, but a representative of your country in general (just like in general assembly committees).
- The P5 for this committee topic are the Kingdom of France, United Kingdom, Kingdom of Prussia, Russian Empire, and Austrian Empire.
- Despite the propensity of nations of this time period to resort to violence, recognize that as diplomatic representatives this is not within your power.
- Consider the power of your nation—1800s Europe is a largely dog eat dog world.

This topic starts on September 1st 1814.

Research

- [Abolitionism - Project Manifest](#)
 - [Congress of Vienna - Britannica](#)
 - [Nationalism - Britannica](#)
 - [The Congress of Vienna \(Part 1\) \(1814\) - Historia Civilis](#)
 - [The Congress of Vienna \(Part 2\) \(1814 to 1815\) - Historia Civilis](#)
 - [War of the 6th Coalition - Lumen Learning](#)
-

Works Cited

- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Alexander I | Biography, Accomplishments, & Facts | Britannica." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2023, www.britannica.com/biography/Alexander-I-emperor-of-Russia. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Congress of Vienna | Goals, Significance, Definition, & Map | Britannica." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2023, www.britannica.com/event/Congress-of-Vienna. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
- Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "History of Austria - the Age of Metternich, 1815–48 | Britannica." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Austria/The-Age-of-Metternich-1815-48. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
- Gash, Norman. "Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 7 Dec. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-Stewart-Viscount-Castlereagh-2nd-marquess-of-Londonderry>. Accessed 31 December 2023.
- Ghervas. "What Was the Congress of Vienna? | History Today." *Historytoday.com*, 2014, www.historytoday.com/archive/what-was-congress-vienna. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
- Historia Civilis. "The Congress of Vienna (Part 1) (1814)." *YouTube*, YouTube Video, 29 Jan. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtOXq9SwarQ. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
- Historia Civilis. "The Congress of Vienna (Part 2) (1814 to 1815)." *YouTube*, YouTube Video, 2 Apr. 2022, www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGJHE6O7Mhk. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
- Lesaffer. "The Congress of Vienna (1814–1815)." *Oxford Public International Law*, 2014, opil.ouplaw.com/page/477. Accessed 31 Dec. 2023.
-

Topic 2: July Crisis

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

At the turn of the 20th Century, several issues that were previously unknown to the world reared their ugly heads and struck all at once, culminating in a perfect storm that would ultimately lead to the First World War. These stem from four major causes, being: increased militarism, alliances and treaties, European expansionism, and virulent nationalism.

Following the industrial revolution, global advancement to industry and technology gave many major western powers new opportunities to progress themselves in the capitalist world. This reinvigorated many western nations to re-embark on a previously abandoned effort: Imperialisation. As a result of this 'New Imperialism', western nations began expanding their influence in Africa, in a period that we would come to know as the 'Scramble for Africa'. This competitive nature amongst nations simply added to the growing tension in the international community as countries competed to gain more colonies.

The return of imperialism can also be attributed to a strong sense of nationalism that was becoming more prevalent in countries, an example of which is in the Kingdom of Serbia where nationalist terrorist groups like the Black Hand were appearing. On a larger public scale, countries like the United Kingdom and the Republic of France had nationalist rhetoric and other nationalist sentiments everywhere from popular culture, the media to politician's speeches. This growing sense that one's country was superior to others gave many of the major western powers the drive to compete in the Scramble for Africa, but it also gave occupied nations like the Kingdom of Serbia the belief that they should be self-governed instead of being under the control of another country.

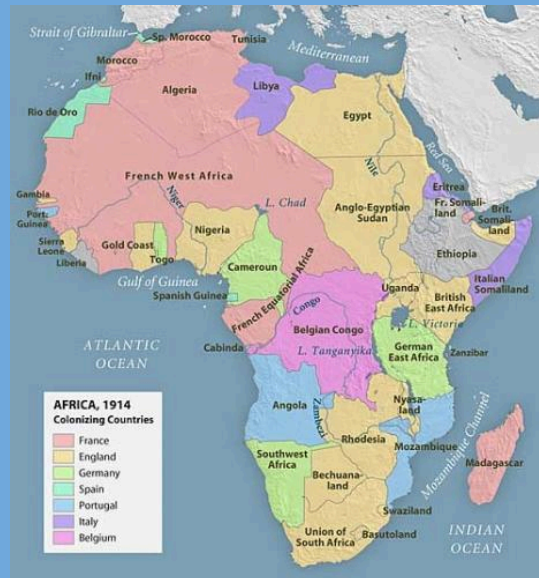
The strong sense of nationalism also created a global environment which encouraged nations to build up their armies. Many nations wished to prove themselves superior to others, and one way to reach this goal was through the expansion of that country's military. Subsequently, an arms race began, which only served to heighten tensions between all parties involved. The rise in militarism and the existence of allies and treaties would also grow to be one of the major causes that would lead to the first world war.

While all the aforementioned factors seem to point towards war, a major catalyst was also needed to kickstart this horrifying reaction. The July Crisis is the series of events attributed as being the immediate causes of World War I. Following the assassination of the Austria-Hungarian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand, a series of events would occur due to the previously mentioned factors that would lead to war.

The security council in this scenario is charged with the duty of preventing the First World War from occurring. The events of the committee will begin shortly before the death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand on the 28th of June 1914 to give delegates some time to make preparations before the major dominoes begin to fall.

KEY TERMS:

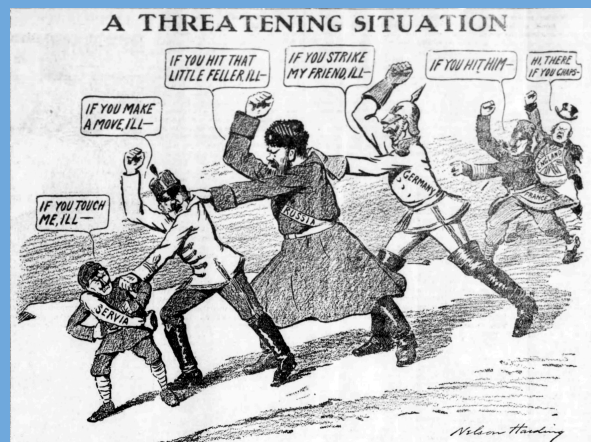
Term	Definition
Militarism	The belief that one's own country should have strong military capabilities which would allow them to pursue their interests through aggressive means, or have the power to defend themselves in the case of aggression from external or internal powers.
Alliances	An agreement between two or more nations to defend each other in the case of aggression from another power.
New Imperialism	A system wherein countries expand their sphere of influence through the acquisition of one or more colonies with the use of force or coercion. 'New Imperialism' in particular is attributed to the late 19th and early 20th Century; the major difference between New Imperialism and Old Imperialism lies in the newfound economic benefits brought about by the industrial revolution.
Nationalism	A feeling of pride in one's own nation and the belief that one's nation needs to be governed by the people who share the same language and customs.
Scramble for Africa	A period of time between 1885 to 1914 where western powers began reasserting their control over their colonies and tried to gain more territory in areas that were previously uncolonised.
The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885	The conference called by the German chancellor, Otto von Bismark, to settle how the western powers would claim territories in Africa. As a way to prevent conflict, all nations involved in the conference agreed to bring civilisation- through Christianity- and trade to their colonies. As a significant point, countries who wished to have a valid claim over a certain territory had to inform the other powers and must show 'effective occupancy'- treaties with local leaders, and a military presence. It should also be noted that not a single African was invited to the conference.



A map showing the colonies in Africa in 1914

History of The Topic:

In the days shortly prior to the murder of the Austro-Hungarian archduke, tensions were already clearly on the rise. With the Scramble for Africa, which normalized competition between nations and propelled many into a nationalist craze leading to many believing that their country was entitled to the uncolonised territories in Africa. The technological advancements brought about by the industrial revolution opened up doors to new opportunities in colonizing that were previously unavailable to them, reaching new areas which were inaccessible, and now the ability to extract natural resources which could be better taken advantage of by the European powers.



The feeling of competition would further be added to due to European countries' self-interest in expanding the control they have. Countries like Austria-Hungary who wanted to increase the amount of power they have in Europe, whether to expand their territory or increase the influence they have, would also increase the severity of nationalism in these countries. The increase in nationalism would also work against the expansion of European powers since nations who lose territory or are annexed tended to hold massive grudges against those who took their land. This would eventually amount to a massive strain on international relations.

This compounded with the fact that most nations were in allegiances with others, and the regularisation of warfare as a solution instead of better diplomacy, it becomes far clearer to see why international tensions were at an all time high. As such, one can almost make the comparison that the decades preceding the July Crisis are the setting up of dominoes in a line and the July Crisis is the falling of the first few dominoes that would ultimately result in the First World War.

Timeline

Date	Description
1885	The Berlin Conference was called by Otto von Bismark, creating the New Imperialism movement. Acting as the first step for the European powers to rush in and capitalize on the territories that were previously unclaimed in Africa. This would also be the first stepping stone towards a stronger sense of nationalism as nations felt entitled to more land than others.
18 June 1890	The highly secretive Reinsurance Treaty between Germany and Russia was unrenewed due to the dismissal of Bismark as Chancellor and German internal politics. While the treaty itself bears little significance, the ending of the treaty is a turning point for Russia to seek allies in France and steer away from Germany.
1894	Following the discontinuation of the Reinsurance Treaty, Russia and France formed the Franco-Russian Alliance . This would further put a wedge in the relationship between Germany and Russia, increasing the international tensions.
1897	The Greco-Turkish War of 1897 begins and ends within the same year, the result being an Ottoman victory. Whilst the conflict is generally seen as a small war, the result of the conflict has major consequences. For the Ottoman Empire, this gave them the confidence to pursue war, after decades of humiliation by European powers. For Greece, this is a turning point in redefining their politics and alliances to create a “Greater Greece”.
1903	The collapse of the Anglo-German Alliance talks ends the chance of a friendly relationship between Germany and England. This occurs due to the amateur diplomatic prowess on both England and German sides.
19 August 1908	The country of Austria-Hungary decided that it would be most beneficial to annex the countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina to expand its hold on the region. In the period where nationalism is a growing concept, this would culminate in the formation of terrorist

	groups in retaliation.
1913	The First Balkan War ended, leading to territorial changes in Europe. This is followed by the Second Balkan Wars, which end in the same year, leading to further territorial changes in Europe.
28 June 1914	Heir to the Austrian-Hungarian throne, archduke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife Sophie are shot and killed by a Bosnian terrorist group- known as 'The Black Hand', who fought for the independence of Serbia from Austria-Hungary occupation after the annexation of Bosnia.

Topics your Resolutions Should Address:

Below there are several topics that resolutions can include, they are placed in this background guide to help delegates focus their research.

Topic 1 - Militarism

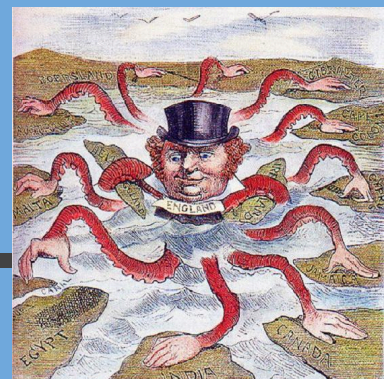
Since countries were constantly building up their own military, reasons for which range from mistrust of their neighbors, to building up national pride through the expansion of the military. The increase in each nation's military was also a form of threat to other nations, but with nationalism, no nation was willing to back down and wanted to prove their own military superior to everybody else's. Resolutions should find a solution to this issue, which could include demilitarization, creation of international laws to restrict militaries, or other ways which could maintain international peace and decrease the threat of the stronger armies.

Topic 2 - Alliances

Due to the increased mistrust in other nations, countries tended to want to form alliances to ensure their own safety, or to spite other countries. As a result the international community was practically split into partisan groups. A few examples of these alliances include: Germany and Austria-Hungary, Serbia and Russia were also in cahoots. It is clear to see that these alliances would lead to a snowball effect that would force every nation to be involved. Different countries could employ different tactics to try and tackle the effects of the alliance system, countries could try to improve the international relations so alliances are not needed in the first place, or ensure more alliances like the Anglo-German alliance are actually put in place.

Topic 3 - Imperialism

One of the first reasons as to why tensions were increasing in the international community was the Scramble for Africa that came about because of New Imperialism. Countries rushing in to colonise as much of Africa as possible. The new technologies allowed for the extraction of new materials which led to more



economic gain depending on how much territory a country had in Africa. As such, competition and conflict were bound to happen with the land that was being fought for, even if the Berlin Conference of 1885 set up rules and regulations to decrease the possibility of conflict as much as possible. Alongside this, imperialism also refers to the gaining of more land in Europe, with countries wishing to have a greater control over the territories which are nearest to their actual country. The increase in military spendings also gave nations the confidence to invade and take over countries if they felt they had the power to do so. As such, resolutions should find ways to ensure that competition for land in Africa and land in Europe should be done in such a manner that would not lead to an increase in tensions, this could be done through giving lands in Africa proportional to the population of each nation, or other means which would ensure that the nations involved would benefit, while not overstepping their boundaries with other countries.

Topic 4 - Nationalism

One of the largest factors that contributed to the July Days and the First World War, nationalism can be seen as the glue that holds all other factors together. The expansion of any nation's military power can be attributed to an increase in national pride and the feeling that one's own nation is stronger than others. The same can be said about imperialism as the people of a nation feel that their country is entitled to the land in Africa and that their country has the right to expand their influence. This factor is also self-perpetuating as the more influence and power each nation has, the more media and the general public of that nation peddle the ideas of nationalism to the general populace. For this topic, resolutions should strive to find a way to ensure that the national pride of a nation is maintained in such a way that does not overstep other nations' pride and does not lead to the other aforementioned factors.

Topic 5 - Turning Point Events

All the other factors mentioned above seemingly point to war, but the main reason they do so during this time period is because of the actions that each nation took immediately after the assassination of archduke Franz Ferdinand. These turning point events are the essentials of what caused the First World War to happen when it did. For this, resolutions should find a way to tackle these turning point events to ensure that the events after the murder of the Austria-Hungarian royal does not lead to the breaking point that is the July Crisis, which would ultimately end in the Great War.

Once again for these topics, delegates are reminded that this is not a re-enactment of history and with the benefit of hindsight, delegates should find solutions that are beneficial to their countries first and foremost, but also would not lead to war by the end of the July Crisis.

Countries & Party Stances:

Austria-Hungary

As the largest country in mainland Europe, Austria-Hungary was a politically complex country. With a dual monarchy system that meant that both Austrian and Hungarian royal families were still in control of their own domestic kingdoms, but with a central government which controlled both kingdoms. Having gone through a period of industrialisation and modernisation in the late 19th century, the industrial output of Austria-Hungary was only second to that of Germany. The leader of the country as a whole being Emperor Franz Josef who had dictatorial-like powers, while he himself was not a warmongering leader, the people around him who influenced his actions were aristocrats and militarists who pushed Austria-Hungary towards being a more military state. As such, with its modern army and strong industrial powers, Austria-Hungary became a powerful force which was capable of taking lands from its neighbors and entirely annexing others.

United Kingdom

Britain being the foremost major power in imperialistic actions, the political powers in control took the approach known as 'splendid isolation'. This policy was such that Britain would continue her imperialist actions abroad, but in such a way that would not lead her to war or be involved in mainland Europe conflicts. This was seen clearly in the fact that throughout the 19th century, Britain was only involved in one conflict, being the war with Russia in Crimea over the expansion of the Russian navy into the Mediterranean. This policy would come to an end by the turn of the 19th century as the unification of Germany in 1871 led to increased suspicion and paranoia from Britain towards Germany as it became clearer that Germany was soon to be the power that dominated Europe, and feared the expansionist policies of Germany.

Sublime Ottoman Empire

Having been the victor in the conflict against Greece and having been humiliated by the European nations for the decades preceding the July Crisis, with the new nationalistic push, the Ottoman Empire grew in confidence especially with their increased military abilities. This newfound confidence for conflict propelled the Ottoman Empire into taking part in the Balkan Wars. This was also in part due to the war minister of the Ottoman Empire, Enver Pasha who made a desperate push for the nation to take part in more military campaigns. During this period, the Ottoman Empire also had good militaristic relations with Germany as German officers aided the Ottoman army during the Russo-Turkish War of 1877.

Kingdom of Spain

At the beginning of the 20th century, the Kingdom of Spain faced a series of issues that meant their position by the beginning of the July Crisis was one of neutrality. By the end of the 19th century, the population of Spain had increased by 7.5 million in a geographical location that

could not sustain such a large population size. This heightened with the fact that the nation was facing agricultural issues- which caused low yields and much land unsuitable for farming- and lack of infrastructure which could not support an industrial revolution yet, forced Spain into an isolationist state.

Kingdom of Greece

Prior to the July Crisis, Greece was in a complicated position politically. Having only gained independence from the Ottoman empire in the early 1830s, Greece was in a position of still recuperating their country. With one Government led by King Constantine who wished for Greece to be left in a neutral stance towards the upcoming conflict, whereas the Prime Minister, Eleftherios Venizelos, wanted Greece to ally with the Entente Cordiale. This would eventually lead to a split in the nation before the beginning of the July Crisis. This political disagreement over the foreign policies of Greece, beginning in 1910, is known as the National Schism, or the Great Division.

Questions to Consider

- How can direct diplomacy between states prevent conflict?
- If the war does happen, how can the it's impacts be mitigated?
- What does your nation want to gain?
- How is the elevation of minor powers through the UN a force that can prevent conflict?
- How does hindsight affect actions without changing the positions they are premised on.

Recommended Websites to Use

[How Did Militarism Lead To WW1?](#)

[Austria's Ultimatum to Serbia](#)

[Origins of the July Crisis](#)

Works Cited

Llewellyn, Jennifer, et al. "Nationalism as a cause of World War I", *Alpha History*, World War I, 2017.

"Six Causes of World War I", *Norwich University*, Norwich University.

Faal, Courtney, "The Partition of Africa", *BlackPast.org*, 21 February 2009.

"Reinsurance Treaty." *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 4 January 2024

"The 1897 Greco-Turkish War a Minor War With Major Consequences." *History is Now Magazine*, 9 December 2020.

"Timeline of Events, 1870-1914." *The World War I Document Archive*, Pre-1914 Documents, 28 November 1997.

Llewellyn, Jennifer, et al. "Austria-Hungary Before World War I", *Alpha History*, World War I, 2014.

Llewellyn, Jennifer, et al. "Great Britain before World War I", *Alpha History*, World War I, 2014.

"Ottoman Empire enters the First World War", *NZ History*, The Ottoman Empire, 30 July 2014.

"History of Spain", *La Moncloa*, Spain.

"The War Before the War: World War I and the Treaty of Sèvres, 1830-1920." *University of Michigan Library*, Nation Building and the Lives It Changed Forever: A Reflection on the 100th Anniversary of the Greco-Turkish War.

Lajeunesse, Adam. "The Anglo-German Alliance Talks and the Failure of Amateur Diplomacy". *Past Imperfect*, vol. 13, Mar. 2008.
