

# Surrey Model United Nations 2019

## Historical United Nations Security Council

BACKGROUND GUIDE



## Letter from the Director

Dear delegates,

My name is Tony Xun and it is my honour and delight to serve as the Director of the Historical United Nations Security Council (HUNSC). I am a grade 12 student at Semiahmoo Secondary in the International Baccalaureate program, and I welcome all delegates, new and veteran, to Surrey Model United Nations 2019. I started Model United Nations in my first week of grade 8 and haven't slowed down since. I've been to over a dozen conferences now, but my favourite part about MUN will always be the community that it creates. By bringing together like-minded people in a fun, light-hearted setting, MUN will always live in my heart as a place where real connections can be formed over a weekend, a day, or even one committee session. It is my hope that I can bring to all of my delegates the same experiences that I had in this wonderful community.

When I'm not overstuffing my schedule with MUN, I like trying different foods, getting lost in the vast chasm of the internet, or forgetting about tomorrow's test. I also love learning about history, complaining about homework, and helping out various nonprofits as I stumble through high school. Feel free to say hi to me wherever you see me in the community!

I have high expectations for all of my delegates, even for first-timers. Therefore, all delegates should do their research and take some time to learn their position and thoroughly prepare for the conference. The magic of MUN is entirely created by you- the delegate! You will get out of this conference what you put into it, so make sure you're ready before you step into the committee room. Most importantly, remember to have fun! My job is way more fun when everyone is enjoying themselves. Finally, I have the honor of introducing Skylar Chan and Kevin Roe, my fabulous chair and AD.

Skyler Chan is ecstatic to serve as the Chair of the UNSC. Outside of MUN, he can be found fencing, cramming a last-minute debate speech, trying not to go sharp on the flute, and studying for his glider exam. During his real free time, he can be found storming the streets of downtown with his camera and writing run-on sentences. He's looking forward to welcoming all delegates this year at SurreyMUN 2019.

Kevin Roe, a sophomore at Pacific Academy who enjoys playing the saxophone horribly, stressing out about AP tests he doesn't need to do, and trying to speak in front of others. He is honoured to serve as the Assistant Director and welcome all delegates to HUNSC at SurreyMUN 2019.

## Committee Description

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) traces its roots to the ideals of American president Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR).<sup>1</sup> The Charter of the United Nations, which came into force on October 21, 1945, established the UNSC as one of six committees in the aftermath of the Second World War to carry on the mandate of the League of Nations and prevent international conflict. To this day, the UNSC remains as the sole UN body with the power to enforce binding resolutions over member states. Although tasked with keeping international peace and security, in the aftermath of the failure of the League of Nations to prevent WWII an untested UNSC has much to prove.

The United Nations Security Council is composed of five permanent members and six non-permanent rotating members of the rest of the international community. The P5, as the major victors of WWII, sit on the UNSC permanently with the power to veto any substantive resolution. The other six members hail from all regions of the world and are elected every two years by the General Assembly. Delegates are highly encouraged to engage in diplomacy and compromise in order to get results, but it is also necessary for delegates to stay true to their foreign policy and strive to achieve the best possible result for their nation. However, the volatile nature of international relations means that delegates may be forced to take issues into their own hands. Due to the unique nature of this committee, it offers a challenge for any delegate looking to prove themselves.

*Note that for SurreyMUN 2019, non-permanent members from both the 1948 and 1949 terms are included, as well as a country from 1950. Thus, the committee size will stand at 15 delegates—the same size as “modern” UNSCs.*

As the flagship body of the United Nations, the UNSC has a powerful imperative to improve upon the mistakes of the League of Nations. While the League’s problems were varied, nuanced, and complicated, they can be generalized into a few main points. Perhaps the most obvious weakness of the League was that it was not representative of the international community. For much of the League’s life, Germany, the USSR, and Japan, all major regional powers, were not in the League, and the United States, the world’s largest economy,<sup>2</sup> had never been admitted. The power of the League was severely limited because of these absences, including a lack of relevance, enforcement, and willingness to adhere to the League’s decisions.<sup>3</sup> The other major issue with the League was that it had little real power to enforce its decisions. A notable example is Japan’s decision to leave the League because of its condemnation of the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1933.<sup>4</sup> The failure to commit to collective security is one of the main reasons why the League of Nations failed. The United

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<sup>1</sup> Dallek, 11

<sup>2</sup> Dallek, 16

<sup>3</sup> Kissinger, 219

<sup>4</sup> Kissinger, 234

Nations Security Council represents an attempt to address problems: the inclusion of the P5 works to ensure that the world's Great Powers are permanently represented and incentivized to contribute to the success of the UNSC, while the exclusive nature of the UNSC itself functions to balance the teeth of the UNSC's enforcement and the sovereignty of member nations. Delegates are encouraged to examine the role of the UNSC in global politics and how its design can contribute or hinder national interests.

The UNSC, as the executive branch of the United Nations, has perhaps the most responsibility of any postwar international organization. As the United Nations was created in the wake of the failure of the League of Nations, it has many of the same responsibilities and restraints that the League had, but also changes meant to improve its functioning and address many of the issues that hindered the effectiveness of the League. Perhaps the most notable aspect of the UNSC is its inclusion of France, Britain, the USA, the USSR, and China as the sole veto powers. This is designed to allow the UNSC to act decisively in the international community and take meaningful actions against members of the international community, while keeping each of these five major powers invested in the UNSC. The UNSC is symbolic of the new world order created by the triumph of communism, capitalism, and democracy over fascism, and thus is seen by many in the international community as the next great hope for world peace. It is up to delegates to ensure that the UNSC lives up to these expectations in the face of tensions between the superpowers of the USA and USSR, as well as political chaos in much of Europe and Asia.

## Topic Introduction

World War II was won by a coalition of unlikely nations. By the onset of war, France and Britain stood as the leaders of a small group of European allies against the untested Nazi war machine. Poland had been marked for division between the USSR and Germany, the United States had entered self-isolation, and Imperial Japan was fighting a brutal war in China. The situation would change dramatically within a few years.

When the pact between Joseph Stalin, Winston Churchill, and Franklin D Roosevelt was finalized in 1942, the Nazi war machine had reached its zenith. France, along with most of Europe, had fallen to fascist regimes. Berlin stood omnipotent as the proud center of Nazi power, prestige, and culture. Blitzkrieg and the Wehrmacht had pushed deep into the Russian heartland, bringing the USSR to its knees, while the once-dominant British Empire had been taken to the brink of collapse by the Battle of the Atlantic and the Battle of Britain. In this desperate atmosphere, the USSR, Britain, and the USA came together in order to destroy Hitler's Germany - and to decide the fate of postwar Europe. The wartime alliance was bound together by a shared desperation and a common enemy, but as victor governments looked over the ashes of Europe in 1945, many wondered if this alliance between radically different ideologies, countries, and leaders could be preserved.

After the end of the Second World War and the fall of Axis countries as significant powers, the Potsdam and Yalta conferences of 1945 had established the postwar division of Europe.<sup>5</sup> The Soviet Union, contributing the majority of Allied armies and having taken the brunt of the casualties inflicted by the Nazi regime, was allowed to occupy much of Eastern Europe. The United States and Britain were permitted to stretch their influence over much of Western Europe. Notably divided was Germany; divided into four occupation zones, Germany ceased to exist as an independent nation. Germany, the Allies decided, was too important, too dangerous, and too powerful to be allowed to govern itself, at least for the foreseeable future. Germany was divided into four occupation zones for each of the four allies, with the Soviet Union taking a slightly larger portion than any of the other allies.<sup>6</sup> Berlin, as the capital of conquered Germany, was likewise split into occupation zones.

Stalin soon showed his intentions in Eastern Europe. Although many of the occupied nations had been promised free elections, Moscow soon controlled the vast majority of Eastern Europe, including Poland and Czechoslovakia,<sup>7</sup> through the installation of puppet governments through thinly veiled coups or Soviet-sponsored uprisings.<sup>8</sup> While the fate of Yugoslavia, Austria, and France seemed unclear, with massive domestic upset rocking all three countries, it was clear the Soviet Union held a dominant position over much of Europe.

Views on American and British power in Western Europe were mixed. While the American army was the most powerful army in Europe by far, except for the Red Army, the Americans didn't want to stay in Europe. By contrast, using American influence to secure the European continent against Soviet control was a major tenet of British and French foreign policy. Britain and France, the last two nations to come out of the Second World war with the power to influence over Europe, were devastated by the war. The French economy and army had been shattered by the German occupation, while the sheer cost of fighting the entire duration of the war, coupled with the loss of Britain's greatest colony, the British Raj, had sapped Britain of the strength to militarily oppose the Soviet Union.

Across Europe, chaos reigned while Soviet, British, and American forces guarded strategic strongholds. While the aftermath of the First World War had seen the redrawing of borders according to ethnic lines, the aftermath of the Second saw mass migrations of populations to fit borders, which stayed mostly stable. German populations, held responsible for the atrocities of the Nazi regime, were persecuted across Eastern Europe, where economic damage was massive and Nazi crimes were found difficult to forgive. In Czechoslovakia, for example, killings of Germans were commonplace while the government, sympathetic to popular outrage and too preoccupied with re-establishing effective administration, turned a

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<sup>5</sup> Dobbs, 54

<sup>6</sup> Dobbs, 153

<sup>7</sup> Dallek, 216

<sup>8</sup> Dallek, 173

blind eye. Jewish populations also saw migrations – away from Europe and to Israel, the newly founded Jewish state in the Middle East. In Poland, migrations and chaos were the name of the day. The Polish borders had been shifted several hundred kilometers West, benefitting the USSR at the cost of Germany, prompting more forced evictions of German settlers.

At the center of the postwar political situation stood Berlin. Economically desperate and under French, British, Soviet, and American occupation, it emerged a symbol of post-fascist Europe. Berlin, as the capital of Germany, was clearly a crucial strategic objective for the victors. Whether Germany would fall under the influence of capitalist West or communist East was a matter of paramount importance for the future of Europe. Germany, the key player in two world wars, was still the key to the future of Europe.<sup>9</sup>

All of this was set to the backdrop of economic devastation from the sudden downfall of the fascist regimes and the invasion forces from the east and west. Germany, after all, had fought on to the bitter end, sacrificing its economy, military, and population to do so. Entire cities had been leveled and prosperous towns and villages turned into rubble. Refugees fled to wherever they could find food. Most pre-war businesses had collapsed by 1945. Some companies, such as Coca-Cola, had been twisted by the Nazi government, forced to produce goods for the war effort, only to have their materials restricted and factories destroyed by RAF or American bombers.<sup>10</sup> Others, especially small businesses, had closed as the economy imploded and their owners and employees looked to ensure their own safety.

The political control that France, Britain, the USA, and the USSR had over Europe was nearly total. Even in the years after the war, occupation forces stayed in Austria, Germany, and much of Eastern Europe. Even nations that were granted full control over their own sovereignty, such as the Netherlands or Italy, were often economically and politically dominated by the nations that had liberated them from fascist control. Therefore, any conflict between Britain, the USA, and the USSR would spill over into Europe.

In 1945, few believed the Cold War inevitable. None thought it desirable. All nations were exhausted by the war; France and much of the continent was in near-anarchy. The victors of the war all benefited from the wartime alliance in some way- France and Britain could not compete with the sheer size of the Red Army, the USSR had been badly shaken and needed to rebuild, and the United States of America wanted to leave Europe in the hands of capable, stable allies. However, by 1948, the alliance was fracturing. All four allies had different and competing visions for Europe. At the heart of Europe in 1948, as in 1939, was Berlin, and how European powers would respond to the German question.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Judt, 601

<sup>10</sup> The Berlin Airlift: The Cold War Begins - Extra History

<sup>11</sup> Judt, 614

## Timeline of Events

### **October 9, 1941**

FDR approves the creation of the Manhattan Project, a secret nuclear program run in conjunction with the British with the goal of creating an atomic weapon that could one day be used against Nazi Germany.

### **December 8, 1941**

FDR gives the “Infamy Speech” in response to Japanese attacks in the Pacific. The United States, an industrial and economic giant, emerges from isolation in order to join the war against the Axis powers. At this point, the birth of the wartime alliance between the USSR, Britain, and the USA is inevitable.

### **June 6, 1944**

American and Commonwealth soldiers land in France in the D-Day landings, indicating not only the deterioration of the Axis military position, but the desire of the wartime allies to occupy as much of Europe as possible.

### **April 12, 1945**

FDR dies. His successor, Harry Truman, succeeds him and learns about the Manhattan project. Both Joseph Stalin and Winston Churchill already knew about it.

### **May 8, 1945**

Following Adolf Hitler’s suicide, Germany officially surrenders, ending the war in Europe. VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) is celebrated with British Governments increasing sugar rations as a celebratory gesture.

### **July 17- August 12, 1945**

The Potsdam Conference between Stalin, Churchill, and Truman meets near Berlin to decide the postwar order of Europe. They officially agree to decide to divide Germany into four occupation zones.

### **July 26, 1945**

Clement Attlee of the Labour Party defeats Winston Churchill in a shocking general election while Churchill is at the Potsdam Conference.

### **August 6, 1945**

The United States drops an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, causing the destruction of the city and massive shock in Japan. Roughly 40% of the population is killed and another 30% injured. Three days later, another bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. Six days after the Nagasaki bombing, Japan surrenders, ending WWII.

#### **October 24, 1945**

The Allies officially create the United Nations in San Francisco, replacing the defunct League of Nations. France, Britain, the USA, and the USSR take veto seats on the UNSC.

#### **November 20, 1945- October 1, 1946**

The Nuremberg Trials take place, prosecuting Nazi war criminals, even as many top Nazis had already committed suicide. The panel of judges consists of French, British, American, and Soviet judges. Several important conventions on personal responsibility are established.

#### **March 21, 1946**

In the wake of Japanese withdrawal from vast parts of China, the Chinese Civil War resumes with a heavy Nationalist disadvantage. The Communist Party receives considerable support from the rural Chinese peasantry, while the Nationalist Party receives heavy support from the American military.

#### **January 1, 1947**

Despite French and Soviet opposition, Britain and the USA merge their occupation zones of Germany into the Bizone.

#### **March 12, 1947**

The Truman Doctrine is proclaimed by US President Truman to combat the spread of communism.

#### **November 10, 1947**

Riots begin in France that paralyze the entire country. France appears to be on the brink of civil war.

#### **March 17, 1948**

The Treaty of Brussels, a mutual defence pact between France, Britain, and the Low Countries, is signed, anticipating future German or Soviet aggression.

#### **April 3, 1948**

The Marshall Plan, an American economic plan designed to aid European recovery, is enacted. Much of the aid goes to western countries, including France and Britain. The USSR refused aid and prevented Eastern European countries from receiving it.

#### **June 20, 1948**

Despite Soviet opposition, the old German Reichsmark, rendered useless by inflation, is phased out in favor of the new Deutsche Mark. The currency reform is intended to combat the black market where much of the postwar economy operated and is regarded as the most immediate catalyst of the Berlin Blockade.

## Postwar Europe

Postwar Europe was defined by the competition of the members of the old wartime alliance in the ashes of the defeated Axis powers. As the wartime alliance slowly crumbled, British, American, French, and Soviet interests seemed increasingly divergent. At the heart of the controversy of European settlements was Germany. Twice Germany nearly had the capabilities to destroy Europe; as such, many leaders keen to see the country divided.

After the war, Europe was in ruins. Cities like Stalingrad, Dresden, and Berlin were barely functional and in real danger of starving in the winters.<sup>12</sup> Though victorious, British, American, and Soviet armies were exhausted. Aside from nations whose infrastructures were largely spared, such as the US, the world economy was in tatters. International trade was stagnant and rebuilding was lethargic. A new order was to be constructed out of the ashes of the old.

Several powers looked to fill the political vacuum that the demise of Nazi Germany left. The Soviet Union, while exhausted, commanded by far the most powerful army in Europe. Riding high off the Great Patriotic War, Stalin quickly set to work converting Eastern European states into the Warsaw Pact — a bloc of communist states loyal to Moscow. Britain, France, and other European nations looked to secure their own interests with their limited power.<sup>13</sup> French leaders looked to destroy Germany as a threat for once and for all, while Britain worked to secure long-term peace in Europe through diplomacy and realpolitik.<sup>14</sup> The US, however, wanted to achieve a stable peace in Europe and leave — the American public called for American troops to return home, and the share of the American economy dedicated to the overseas expenditures was considered unsustainable by many.

Britain, the USA, and the USSR dominated the continent. Hence, their greatest geopolitical struggles revolved not around lesser European nations, but each other. Along with France, the other European power who could wield any real power, they all had suspicions of each other and their intentions. The postwar years would be defined by the struggle between these nations. For example, American, French, and British politicians feared a sweep of the Red Army to the English channel, while American and Soviet leaders disapproved of the maintenance of British imperialist holdings around the globe. However, there were a few undeniable facts about the postwar situation. Firstly, Stalin's Red Army was easily the

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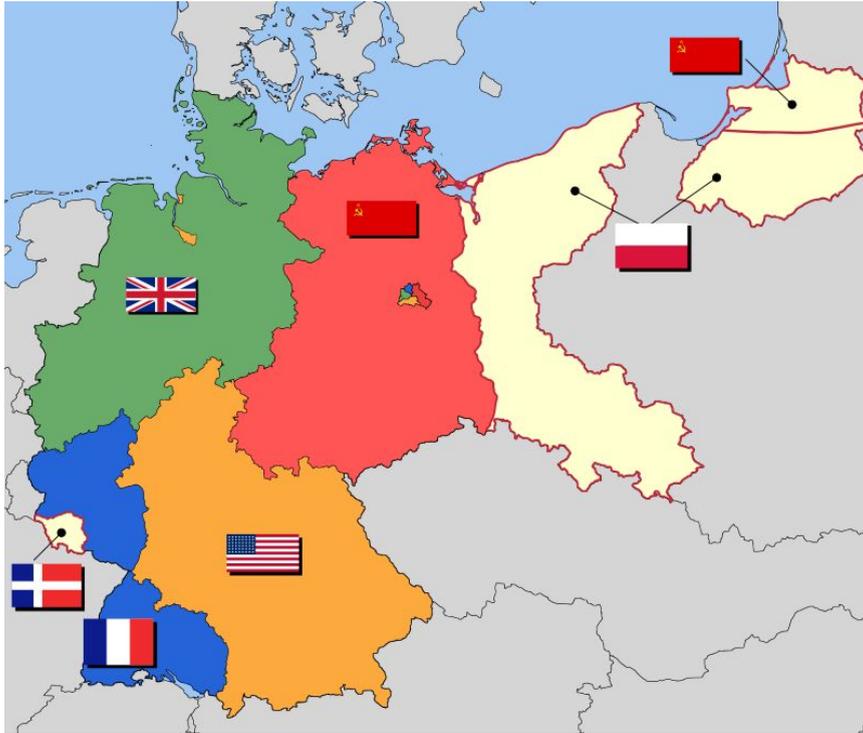
<sup>12</sup> Clay, 104

<sup>13</sup> Dallek, 296

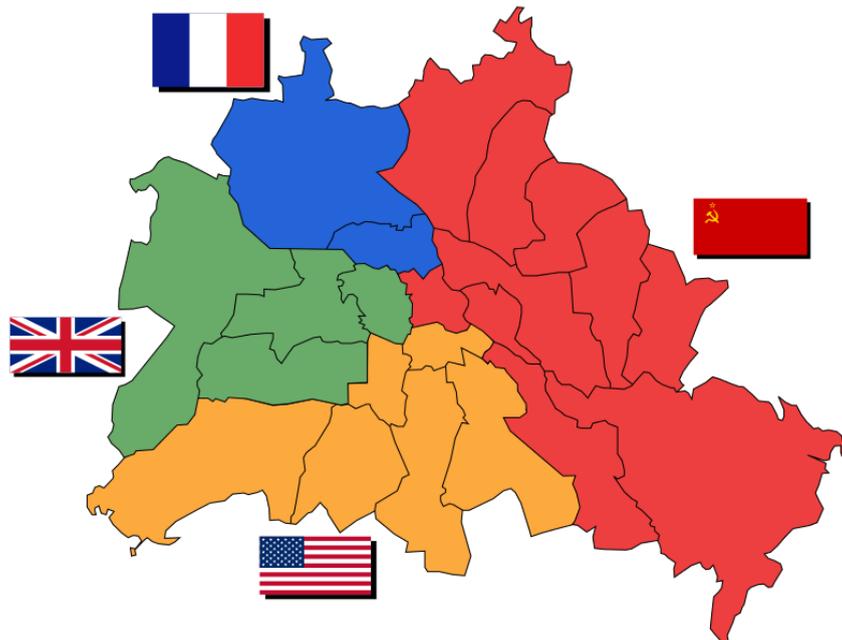
<sup>14</sup> Kissinger, 341

dominant power in Europe, and without the counterweight of the American army in Europe, the Red Army could conceivably take Europe in one swift push. Secondly, France and Britain were dependent on the US for recovery. Not only was the American army the sole force capable of protecting them from Soviet domination, but the US was the only source that could provide the types of aid that could prevent depression from dragging down the British and French economies. While it is true that France and Britain have the capability to be self-sufficient, Soviet influence in Europe is difficult for these nations to counter without American support. The third and perhaps most weighty fact was that none of the former Allies were truly ready for another war. Aside from the exhaustion of all armies and economies, the implicit threat of nuclear destruction loomed over the head of any leader bold enough to challenge the United States. The US itself had little interest in major European commitments if it could help it, besides, the Red Army still greatly outnumbered the American army. These three facts concerning the short-term balance of European power dictated how the peace settlement would be achieved.

Though defeated, the critical issue at the heart of Europe's new power structure was Germany. The Great War had taught Europe a hard lesson about the power of Germany. The industrial powerhouse of the continent, Germany had long been positioned to be the foundry of Europe, a center of innovation and production. Now, the question was about the fate of Germany. Would Germany be shaped by the capitalist West or the communist East? Would it be broken and forbidden from reclaiming its former power, like France and the USSR desired, or reborn as an economic powerhouse and bulwark against communism, like the USA desired? Would the German economy be subservient to the victors of Europe, or allowed to rebuild itself and serve the German population? Would German borders stay true to ethnic borders, or would Germany be geographically crippled to ensure European peace?



*The postwar division of Germany. Note the permanent cessation to land to the USSR, Poland, and France, and the division of the rest of Germany into occupation zones.<sup>15</sup>*



*The division of occupied Berlin. The Reichstag, along with much of Berlin's electrical infrastructure, is within the Soviet zone.<sup>15</sup>*

<sup>15</sup> "The Berlin Blockade" - Wikipedia.

## Current Situation

June 24, 1948. Soviet troops have just blockaded Berlin over controversies between the former Allies about the future of Berlin, Germany, and Europe. Stalin had wanted a Germany to simply act as a “buffer state” between the East and West further developing the tensions of the cold war. Meanwhile, American and British governments decided to merge their respective occupation zones into one. “Bizonia” meaning two zones was now a glimpse into a newly established Western Germany. Europe, although divided was slowing rebuilding to full potential.

The Congress of the United States of America voted on March 1949 on the Marshall Aid Plan. Economic aid is slowly trickling into Western Europe, a vital life line was finally secure. France, Belgium, Netherlands, and most importantly, Western Germany was now able to rely on aid to build their damaged infrastructure. Meanwhile, Stalin’s Eastern block had slowly been stripped of all resources and machinery. Money was allocated to the rebuilding of the Soviet Union rather than the war torn regions of Poland, Ukraine, and Eastern Germany.

However, the final action that made Stalin blockade Germany’s capital was the introduction of a new German currency in the west. East Berliners and Germans quickly exchanged their inflated old currencies into a currency that was strictly controlled by the allies. The Soviet Union, losing influence on their occupied zone, felt threatened. Western Germany served as a shining example of a hopeful future. Eastern Germany, on the other hand, was a place where dictatorship, censorship, and communism was spreading.

The former Allies had agreed to divide Berlin into four separate zones, but there had never been a formal agreement establishing land access to Berlin. The French are all but paralyzed by domestic instability, and the British and Americans are left to decide their next course of action.<sup>16</sup> If they do nothing, Berlin and the western soldiers stationed there are sure to starve. Tensions are high for each country involved.

Relations between France, Britain, the US, and the Soviet Union are complicated. The declaration of the Cold War is not yet explicit, but the actions of delegates will decide when, if, and how the final confrontation will come. Each of the events in the timeline have significance beyond what is written; this is deliberate. Delegates are expected to do their own thorough research about the Berlin Blockade and postwar relations between the wartime allies. Because of the complexity of secret relations between nations, there will be no bloc positions section. Instead, emails will be sent out to delegates before the conference.

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<sup>16</sup> Collier, 78

## Bloc Positions

### **Western Europe and Allies**

Slowing being rebuilt, European countries west of the Iron curtain fear rising influence of the Soviet Union on the continent. The Red Scare is sweeping across North America, America and Canada are determined to help their European countries to contain communism. The Berlin Blockade is an viewed as a political move by the dictators of Soviet Union. Berlin is a very small city compared to the whole of Europe. Many question the need to break out a potential another world war other a small land. On the other hand, countries believing in the domino effect may attempt to support Berlin to contain the spread of communism.

### **Eastern Europe**

East of the Curtain, Countries are slowly being dominated under the military and influence of the Soviet power. Secret Police, Gulags and puppet governments are common place. Countries representing Eastern Europe countries will follow similar views as the Soviet Union. The Berlin Blockade is viewed as an ability to gain more influence on the borders of the Iron Curtain. Seeing a united Western Europe has put many eastern countries at ease.

### **Neutral Countries**

The Berlin Blockade is a concern for many neutral countries. Although neutral, many countries view this as a humanitarian crisis and have a desire to send aid to the innocent civilians at risk of starvation. Without a quick and fast response, there will be thousands of lives at stake.

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