



G8

Study Guide

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to International Youth Conference, 2019. I speak on behalf of the entire Executive Board of the Group of 8, while saying that we are well and truly excited to have you on board with us for this committee.

As all of you might be aware that G8 is IYC's historic committee. The Group of Eight committee uses history to foster creative and engaging debate between students like you in order to help you develop as the leaders of tomorrow.

Many may ask what's the purpose of having a committee based on history, it's already done. I would disagree; we always learn from the past. History always repeats itself and without knowing what has happened in the past, we cannot make calculated decisions in the present to ensure a safer future.

It is important for you to note that the following study guide you would be reading, as the name suggests, is just a guide. Although it may provide a lot of vital information, we need the delegates to put their heart and soul into researching this topic. We hope to turn the committee into an entirely immersive experience with your collaboration. You as delegates need to be on the tip of your toes at all times. Anything that happens during committee can be used to a great effect and can turn the tables, only if you are willing to give it all you have got.

Speaking up in committee, taking part in all debates (from the GSL, to the Caucuses, through the SSL), interacting with other delegations, send directives/ resolutions, etc. all are a must to carry the committee forward.

Primarily, however, we are present here to provide solutions to the crisis presented to us by the end of the First World War, and to face the same challenges these men and women exactly a century before us had to overcome. Commitment, teamwork and perseverance are just a few of the essential qualities you need to get the best out of your experience here. We are here to help and guide you throughout. Do not shy away from asking any doubts no matter how illogical they might seem to you. Reach out to me via my email address (<mailto:sourodiptoroy@gmail.com>). I look forward to seeing each one of you.

Regards,

Sourodipto Roy - Chair

Prisha Jhaveri - Vice Chair

Tonushree Chowdhury - Moderator

Anoushka Desai – Rapporteur

Shikhar Talwar - R & D



Agenda 1

Paris Peace Conference

I. Introduction

It's the 12th of November, 1918. A day prior, Germany had signed the armistice with France and Britain as an agreement to stop the fighting, thereby putting an end to the war. Germany was the last of the four central power states to raise their hands up high and ask for an end to this war.

The committee is set in Paris, France.

The objective set for the delegations' present is to the best possible option for peace and the ways to prevent a war of such magnitude to ever take place.

The war was known as "the great war", and some even called it "the war to end all wars." The war is said to have killed up to 10 million troops along with more than 11.5 million injuries for the Allies. On the other hand, the Central Powers lost more than 7 million troops with 8.5 million injured.

It was the first war of its kind. A total of 32 countries had taken part in this war; it was no longer confined to one continent. The war even included colonies of empires, hence spreading the war from Europe into Asia and Africa, along with the involvement of the Americas and Oceania. This war was of a magnitude no one had ever witnessed or even envisioned in the history of humanity.

Young men from countries, states, and empires touching all four corners of this earth gave it their all to fight for the pride of their nations. The sense of nationalism and nationalistic pride had taken over everyone's mind and they were willing to lay down their lives for their nations. But the amount of damage done to each nation was something that had never been seen before.

Therefore, preventing such a war from taking place again is one of the topmost priorities of the nations present.

II. Causes of the war

Events that Caused the War

1860-1861 – Unification of Italy

Since the downfall of Napoleon, the Italian Peninsula had broken apart into independent states. Towards the north-east there was the great influence of the Austria-Hungary empire. Mid-1800s onwards there were many attempts to unify Italy.

In 1857 Italian nationalists founded the monarchist-unionist Italian National Society; it was fear of a democratic revolution, a desire to weaken Austria, and Britain's wish for a strong Italian state as a counterweight to French influence that induced the Western powers to assist Piedmont in obtaining this great success.

1868 – Meiji Restoration

It is a political revolution in Japan. It brought about the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate, thus ending the Edo period, along with returning control of the country directly to the emperor, who was Emperor Meiji at that time. It is said to have lasted till 1912 and brought forth the “westernisation” of Japan. The revolution included many reforms such as allowing the samurais to cut off their hair, abolishing the feudal system and all feudal class privileges, enacting of a constitution and formalization of a parliamentary system of government, the formation of a national army, adoption of universal education, and construction of transport and communication systems.

1870-1871 – Franco-Prussian War; Unification of Germany

Germany was divided for a long period of time. Prussia was the strongest German state, under Kaiser Wilhelm I. The French wanted to establish themselves as a formidable empire. In 1870, the Spanish revolution led to a letter sent to Prince Leopold of Germany to be made the King of Spain. Although the Kaiser was against this decision, Otto von Bismarck, a German statesman, believed that it was beneficial. This was not looked at favourably by the French. On 19th of July the war was declared. The battle in Sedan resulted in the Germans encircling the French army, which in turn led to Napoleon resigning and the French becoming a republic. The war had taken Alsace and Lorraine from France. Alsace and Lorraine had been an industrial hub for France - the country gained most of its wealth from this area. The palace of Versailles, which was historically of great significance to the French, was also taken away from France. To add insult to injury, this was the palace where Kaiser Wilhelm was crowned as Emperor of Germany. With the defeat of France, Wilhelm was able to achieve his goal and unify Germany. Post-war, the Kaiser changed the way Prussia was ruled, and as a result, Bismarck resigned.

1882 – Triple Alliance was formed

A secret agreement was signed between Germany, Italy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The agreement stressed on the alliance being “essentially defensive and conservative.” It could be interpreted as a warning to other nations that wished to challenge any one of these three powers.

1894 – Triple Entente was formed

This was an alliance between the British, French and Russians. It was built on from the Franco-Russian Alliance and used to counterbalance the Triple Alliance.

1894-1895 – Sino-Japanese war

The Chinese had begun to fall. The Russians and the Japanese were the first to slice the Chinese melon. The Japanese wanted what was an entry point for Japan into the western world i.e. Korea. Furthermore, the Japanese had been holistically developing since the Meiji restoration had been successful. The nation of Korea had been a Chinese tributary state for centuries now. Earlier in 1875 the Japanese had forced the Koreans to sign the treaty of Kangwa, hence removing the Koreans out of isolation. As a result, both the Japanese and the Chinese had sent their militaries into Korea to hold up their own sphere of influence. In 1894 the Chinese were called to put down the pro-Japanese revolutionaries in Korea. Hence, the Japanese sent their own military into Korea to battle the Chinese; they set up their own government in Korea and slowly pushed the Chinese

out of the country. The Chinese had failed naval battles against the Japanese. In response to this attack, the Japanese crossed over into Manchuria, a Chinese territory, and surprised the Chinese military. While one part of the Japanese army pushed northward, the other part tried to capture the Liaodong Peninsula, mainly Port Arthur, and then the Shandong Peninsula. The Chinese citizens who could not flee the scene were massacred. On the 12th of February, 1895 the Chinese surrendered.

1902 – Anglo-Japanese alliance

It marked the first alliance between a European country and an Asian power. It bound Britain and Japan to assist one another in safeguarding their respective interests in China and Korea. Directed against Russian expansionism in the Far East.

1908 – Bulgaria liberated from the Ottomans

Bulgaria was liberated from the Ottoman Rule that lasted for five centuries. In 1878 the San Stefano peace treaty was signed, thus putting an end to the 1877-1878 Russo-Turkish war of liberation. The Ottoman Empire admitted defeat and the foundations of the Third Bulgarian State were laid. Bulgaria was constituted as an autonomous state, yet it remained a vassal state within the Ottoman Empire, until 1908. The Young Turk revolution laid the grounds for the Bulgarian proclamation of independence. Many powers had stopped supporting the Ottomans. In September 1908, at a meeting in Buchlov, envoys of Austria-Hungary and Russia supported each other's plans and agreed not to hinder Bulgaria's proclamation of independence which was likely to take place.

1912-1913 – The Balkan wars

It was a series of two wars against the Ottoman that led the empire to lose all of its territories in Europe. The first war was fought between the Balkan league (Montenegro, Serbia, Greece, and Bulgaria) and the Ottoman Empire. The league was said to have been formed by the Russians. Its purpose was to win back Macedonia. On 8th October, Montenegro declared war on the Turks, and then the rest followed. The league pushed the Turks to the outskirts of Constantinople. The Ottoman was in such a horrible state that all parties were willing to sign an armistice on December 3, 1912. The league was victorious: Ioánnina fell to the Greeks and Adrianople to the Bulgarians. The Ottoman Empire lost almost all of its remaining European territory.

June 28, 1914 – The Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, along with his wife had gone to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia. The two of them were assassinated there by a member of Serbian group called Black Hand or Unity of Death. This assassination is what triggered the start of the Great War

July 5, 1914 - Germany gives Austria-Hungary the “blank cheque”

Kaiser Wilhelm II was outraged by the assassination of the Archduke. In response, they gave Austria-Hungary the “carte blanche” or the “blank cheque.” This gave Austria-Hungary the assurance that they would have Germany’s support if they launched an attack on Serbia. The cheque also implied that Germany would protect Austria-Hungary against anything else that was caused due to a war on Serbia.

July 23, 1914 – Austro-Hungarian Empire send an 11-point ultimatum to Serbia

The Austrians sent an 11-point ultimatum to Serbia as a result of the assassination of the Archduke. Serbia accepted all points except for the last one which said that the Serbians had to give up their independence.

July 28, 1914 – Austria-Hungary declare war on Serbia

On the disapproval of the ultimatum by the Serbs, Austria declared war on Serbia. Serbia was allied with Russia, which was in turn allied with France. Hence, due to the declaration of war on Serbia both France and Russia began to mobilise their armies to prepare for war.

III. Key Factors that Caused War

Nationalism

It refers to the sense of unity felt among people who share a common history, language and culture. It became popular during the latter half of the 19th century. Many citizens felt a sense of pride while talking about their nationality, and there was a feeling of superiority amongst these citizens. To a certain extent, the feeling of love for one's own country led to hatred for other countries.

Imperialism

It is a product of extreme nationalism wherein a nation establishes control over a foreign power. The state that is being controlled would be called a colony. A colony could be established by political pressure, infiltration and annexation, or wars. The colonies were either governed directly by the imperial state or via a puppet ruler. These colonies were used mainly for economic benefits like providing raw material, cheap labour, food, etc.

Race for Armaments

Soon after the Franc-Prussian war and the unification of Germany, the world got into a race of arming itself. In the name of defence, multiple countries started to stockpile weapons. If one nation increased its armaments then it gave an incentive to another to do the same. Germany began saying that it had to protect its colonies in Africa and for that it needed a powerful navy. By the time the Great War started, the German navy had left that of the British and French far behind. This was obviously not looked at in a bright light by the British since they took great pride in calling Britain the best in the world in terms of its navy. France shared a land border with Germany and it too was fearful of Germany's expansion. This led to a fierce competition in Europe - the atmosphere was perpetually filled with fear, apprehension and hatred.

Militarism

Militarism is a philosophy or system that emphasises the importance of military power. Alfred Vagts, a German historian who served in World War I, defined it as the "domination of the military man over the civilian, an undue preponderance of military demands, an emphasis on military considerations". Several European governments were strongly influenced, if not dominated, by military leaders, their interests and priorities.

Generals and admirals in these nations acted as *de facto* government ministers, advising political leaders, influencing domestic policy and demanding increases in defence and spending on arms. This militarism fuelled an arms race which gave rise to new military technologies and increased defence spending. Militarism affected more than policy: it also shaped culture, the press and public opinion. Newspapers held up military leaders as heroes, painted rival nations as dangerous aggressors and regularly engaged in 'war talk'. Militarism alone did not start the Great War but it created an environment where war, rather than negotiation or diplomacy, was seen as the best way of resolving international disputes.

IV. Events during War

Timeline

July 28, 1914 – Austria-Hungary declare war on Serbia

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August 1, 1914 – Germany declares war on Russia

Germany was allied to the Austro-Hungarian Empire via the triple alliance; therefore they took the mobilising Russia as a threat and declared war on Russia.

August 3, 1914 – Germany declares war on France; German troops march into Belgium

Germany declared war on France. German troops went into Belgium to put pressure on France, as directed under the Schlieffen Plan, drawn up in 1905. The British sent an ultimatum to Germany demanding their withdrawal from Belgium.

August 4, 1914 – The British declare war on Germany

Since the Germans had not withdrawn from Belgium, the British declared war on Germany

August 13, 1914 – Japan declares war on Germany

Due to the Anglo-Japanese alliance signed in 1912, Japan too had to declare war on Germany.

August 23 – September 11, 1914 – THE BATTLE OF GALICIA

These were a series of battles fought over several weeks during Austria's attempt to advance into Russian territory. This battle ended with the Russians taking over 130,000 Austrians as prisoners and killing over 324,000 Austrians.

August 26 – 30, 1914 – THE BATTLE OF TANNENBERG

The Germans had invaded Belgium and North-western France; they were within 30 kms of Paris. They wanted to throw the Russians back into Russia and yet advance westward too. Battle of Tannenberg, in August 1914, was a battle between Russia and Germany, where the Russians had been almost completely demolished.

September 5-12, 1914 – FIRST BATTLE OF THE MARNE

The French had a newly-recruited and a newly formed army, while the German army had been advancing for over 33 days. The Germans had been following the British and French troops, which did not lead them to Paris but around it and south-west of the river Marne - this meant that the Germans were no longer going to follow the Schlieffen plan. The Battle of Marne had over 2 million troops engaged. The French constantly used the trains to move into strategic positions to defeat the Germans. In this area there were two German armies. One army decided to move closer within the army and to move towards Paris. This decision split the two armies wide and the British Expeditionary Force stood at the centre of the split. This meant that the two armies could not communicate with each other. From here the Germans started digging holes in the ground. Today we call them trenches, but at that moment it was something that at least the French had no idea about. The trenches proved to be a huge advantage for the Germans since now the French could not see the German army shooting at them. A million lives had been lost at this point. The German commander, Moltke, was removed from his post. Germany had lost hope in their original idea to knock out France in the beginning of the war and focus on only Russia. They would need to fight on both sides now.

October 17 – November 7, 1914 – SIEGE OF TSINGTAO

Germany had control over the port of Tsingtao. The port was a huge area of operations in the Pacific for the Kaiser. Hence, the city was a target for the British. The Anglo-Japanese alliance had forced Japan into war against the Germans, and therefore Japan had taken the lead role in the siege of Tsingtao. On September 2nd, a Japanese force landed on the shores of the port city. The Germans had a strong defence system, but they lacked the option of quick reinforcement. On October 31st, the allied forces had begun to close in. The battle took place on both land and sea. The Japanese government had told the Chinese that they would return the port back to China, but till date (i.e. November 12, 1918) this had not happened.

October 29, 1914 – Ottoman Empire enters war on the side of Germany and Austria-Hungary

The Ottomans entered war on the side of the Central Powers and helped the German navy bombard Russia. Russia retaliated because the Turks helped Germany fight against Russia.

April 25-August 5, 1915 – BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI

The Russians appealed for help from Britain and France to beat off an attack by the Turkish. The British navy responded by attacking Turkish forts in the Dardanelles. Despite the loss of several ships to mines, the British successfully landed a number of marines in the Gallipoli, Turkey region of the Dardanelles. The success was not followed up and the mission was a failure.

May 7, 1915 – German U-boat sinks the Lusitania

The Lusitania was a British passenger ship that had 1,201 passengers, including 128 Americans. Seeing it as an enemy ship, the German U-boat sank the ship. This led to protests in USA against the Central Powers.

May 23, 1915 – Italy declares war on Germany and Austria-Hungary

Italy always had eyes on regaining the prestige of the Roman Empire. Hence, it broke the Triple Alliance and allied itself with the Allies.

April, 1916 – Romania enters the war

Romania joined the war on the side of the Allies, but within a few months was concurred by the Central Powers.

May 31 – June 1, 1916 – BATTLE OF JUTLAND

This was a naval battle fought between the Germans and the British. The two had the strongest navy forces at this point, and they were growing more and more aggressive day by day.. The battle broke out when both forces went to check on a merchant ship that was sailing in between the two rivals. Germany's U-boats were much stronger, physically, than the British ships. As a result, the German shells were able to easily destroy the British battleships. But a few poorly planned decisions led the Germans into a trap. As night fell, the British were not able to make out the difference between German ships and their own, since the Germans had no lighting features and most British ships had their lighting damaged. This way the Germans were able to make it back to Germany safely. While Germany lost a total of 11 ships along with 2,551 lives, the British lost 14 ships and 6,094 lives. The German navy told the Kaiser that they had to send in more U-boats to sink British merchant ships. In a way, this battle led to the German U-boat campaign.

February 21 – December 18, 1916 – BATTLE OF VERDUN

It is said to be the longest and costliest battle in world history. Germany had decided that its main rival in the war was not France, but Britain. Therefore, the battle's main intention was to topple the French completely so that the Germans could pay more attention towards the British. The battle took place in the hills of north-eastern France. Germany's goal was to cause as many French casualties as possible, which they succeeded in doing. Due to this, the British started the battle of the Somme (more on this later). As a result, the French army had time to recoup and prepare to attack the Germans again. By the end of the battle both sides were said to have almost the same number of casualties.

June 4 – September 20, 1916 – BRUSILOV OFFENSIVE

The British and the French wanted the German army to be diverted towards the eastern front so that some of the pressure on them could be reduced. General Brusilov suggested that the armies under him would attack 480 km from the front, attacking both Germany and the Austria-Hungary Empire. The attacks were meant to be brief and accurate, unlike most battles where it was prolonged, so that Germany and Austria-Hungary would not be able to bring in reserves or evacuate. Although the plan was not followed initially, Italy was able to force a diversion of the Austro-Hungarian forces. The "quick and accurate" Russian attack caught them off-guard and the Russian forces soon came in to arrest the Austrians. By June 15, Austria-Hungary began to retreat and the Austrian commander was forced to ask the

Germans for help - in turn, Germany was forced to divert 4 divisions from Verdun. The offensive ended since the Russian resources ran out, but it was a high point in the Russian attack. The offensive proved to be the worst crisis for the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

June 10 – July 4, 1916 – BATTLE OF MECCA

Grand Sharif Hussein bin Ali, the guardian of Mecca, ordered his troops to attack the Turks. Even after initial gains, the Sharif's army was losing the battle. British supported the revolt mainly to keep the Ottomans diverted. The Revolt was a massive success. However, the British and the French left Hussein in the dust by dividing the land form amongst them - only a part of the Arabic peninsula went to Hussein.

July 1 – November 18, 1916 – BATTLE OF THE SOMME

This was one of the bloodiest wars in human history. The battle was an offensive by the British to help support the French in the war of Verdun. 2,500 shells were fired on the Germans in the first hour of the battle, and the attack is said to be so violent that it could be heard in the north of London. The attack was a disaster. The artillery was struggling to cut the barbed wire. The German defence, sitting in the trenches, was still intact. As the British came out of their defences, they were met with German machine guns ready to hunt them down. Most British soldiers were also made to carry over 60 pounds of equipment, which made it difficult for them to move at a great pace. Even after this the Germans were forced to direct 2 armies from Verdun to Somme. The French attack, south of the British, won more. But the French realised that the Germans were lagging behind and hence stopped for them. This gave the Germans more time and they were able to stop the French the next time they attacked. By the end of the battle the British intentions were successful. It was one of their first great offensives and got the British to think much more critically. The British and French both had improved on their tactics.

December 7, 1916 – David Lloyd George becomes Prime Minister of the UK

Lloyd George became Prime Minister of the war time coalition. His war cabinet, unlike that of his predecessor, met every day. However, there was considerable disagreement among the members of the Cabinet, especially between Lloyd George and his war secretary, Sir Douglas Haig.

1917 – German U-boat campaign

German U-boats were given orders to destroy any allied or neutral ships on site. As a result, a million ships were sunk. Hence, the neutral countries got an incentive to stop shipping/trading with the Allies.

March 8 - 16, 1917 – February Revolution

By 1917, most Russians had lost faith in the leadership ability of the Czarist regime. Government corruption was rampant, the Russian economy was failing and Czar Nicholas I had repeatedly dissolved the Dumas each time they opposed his will. But the immediate cause of the February Revolution was Russia's disastrous involvement in the Great War. Militarily, imperial Russia was no match for industrialized Germany. Russian casualties were greater than those sustained by any nation in any previous war. The result of the February revolution was that the streets were crowded with the people raising slogans about bread, wages, better hours and democracy. They abdicated the Czar's power on 2nd March, and the

Soviet and Duma leaders formed a Provisional Government for Russia. Restrictions on public meetings and association were removed after the February Revolution.

April 6, 1917 – USA declares war on Germany

In response to the U-boat campaign, the United States entered the war on the side of the Allies.

July 31 – November 10, 1917 – THIRD YPRES CAMPAIGN

The British launched this attack on the Germans, hoping to divert the attention of Germany towards land battle and hence stop the German U-boat campaign. Initial attacks failed due to over-ambitious plans and unseasonal rain.. Although the Allies finally captured Passchendaele ridge on 10 November, the vital railway still lay five miles away. The offensive was called off. Many soldiers felt utterly demoralised. Both sides had suffered heavy casualties, but the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) had made no strategic gain.

November 7-8, 1917 – October Revolution

After the Germans allowed Vladimir Lenin to return to Russia, he initiated the October Revolution. The October Revolution was the second and last of the Russian Revolutions. It brought to the Bolshevik party, under the leadership of Lenin, complete control of Russia. Lenin promised his citizens “land, peace and bread

March 3, 1918 – Treaty of Brest-Litovsk

The treaty finally pulled Russia out of the war. The terms of the treaty were harsh: Russia had to surrender Poland, Ukraine and other regions. They had to stop all socialist propaganda directed at Germany and pay 300 million roubles for the repatriation of Russian prisoners.

March 21 – July 18, 1918 – OPERATION MICHAEL

Operation 'Michael', the first of the spring offensives, began on the damp and misty morning. British and Allied troops were met with a huge concentration of German artillery, gas, smoke and infantry. Germany had concentrated all of its resources on the Western Front after the armistice of Russia. Facing them were weary Allied forces that for three years had largely been on the offensive, had not fully organised their defences in depth, and were beginning to suffer manpower shortages. The Allied line bent but did not break. The fighting became uncharacteristically open as isolated pockets of defenders attempted to slow the German advance. But whilst the German offensives were tactical successes, they were strategic failures. German casualties were high, particularly amongst the best units.

August 8 – 11, 1918 – BATTLE OF AMIENS

The Battle of Amiens heralded the start of the Hundred Days campaign, a four-month period of Allied success. After surviving the German Spring Offensives, Allied forces launched a counter-punch of their own and from the summer of 1918 onwards, they were constantly on the advance. The British Expeditionary Force (BEF) was at the forefront, combining scientific artillery methods and flexible infantry firepower with the use of tanks and aircraft. Secretive preparations ensured surprise and the BEF made gains of seven miles on that one day. After four days of fighting at Amiens, the battle was halted as its effects diminished, with a fresh offensive launched elsewhere. A series of coordinated hammer blows forced increasingly exhausted German forces back. By November, the German Army could fight no

longer. It had been pushed back to the battlefields of 1914 and was moving in only one direction.

September 19 – October 31, 1918 – BATTLE OF MEGIDDO

The Battle of Megiddo marked the beginning of the final British-led offensive in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign. It was the start of a series of important Allied victories that ultimately led to the collapse of Ottoman Turkish forces and their eventual withdrawal from the war. The offensive opened with an intense but brief artillery bombardment; British and Commonwealth forces quickly broke through the battered Ottoman lines with an advance of over 30 km on the first day. Victory at Megiddo opened the way to Damascus, which Australian troops entered on 1 October. In the weeks that followed, the Allies captured other strategically important cities. On 30 October, the Ottoman Empire sought a peace settlement with the Allies and an armistice was signed at Mudros, with hostilities ceasing at 12 noon the following day.

October 30, 1918 – Ottoman sign armistice

The Allies had successfully pushed the Turkish army back and the Turks were forced to ask for an armistice.

November, 1918 – Hindenburg line collapses

The Hindenburg Line was the last and strongest of the German army's defence that consisted of three well-defended trench systems. The Allies had now broken through this line.

November 3, 1918 – Austria-Hungary make peace

Austria-Hungary signs an armistice with the Italians. This leaves Germany as the only member of the Central Powers in the war.

November 9, 1918 – Kaiser Wilhelm II abdicates and the Weimar Republic is declared

Popular unrest in Germany (which had suffered greatly during the war) combined with a naval mutiny convinced civilian political leaders that the Kaiser had to abdicate to preserve order. This led to Germany becoming a republic.

November 11, 1918 – Germany signs armistice

An armistice signed between Germany, Britain, and France, which ended all fighting on land, sea and air. After 4 long and dreary years the Great war had finally finished

Key terms

Zeppelins

It was a rigid German airship consisting of a “cigar-shaped”, trussed, and covered frame supported by internal gas cells. During the Great War, the Germans achieved moderate success in long-range bombing operations with the zeppelin-type rigid airship, which could attain higher altitudes than the airplanes then available. On two occasions during 1917, German zeppelins made flights of almost 100 hours’ duration. The concept of “strategic bombing”—targeted airstrikes on a particular location—didn't exist before the conflict. The advent of aerial warfare changed that, and also robbed the British of the protection afforded by the English Channel. The zeppelin allowed Germany to bring the war to the English homeland.

U-boats

U-boats stood for Unterseeboot, (“undersea boat”). They were German submarines used in the Great war to a huge extent by Germany to attack and occasionally defeat the mighty British Navy. These were also one of the first submarines. Although there were only 38 of them, they had been very successful in delivering blows. The German U-boat campaign is what is said to have finally driven the United States into war. In April 1917, 430 Allied and neutral ships totalling 852,000 tons were sunk, and it seemed very likely that the German campaign would succeed. By the end of the war, Germany had built 334 U-boats and had 226 under construction.. In 1914–18 the destruction—more than 10,000,000 tons—caused by the U-boats was especially remarkable in view of the small size (less than 1,000 tons), frailty, and vulnerability of the craft.

Trench Warfare

As mentioned earlier, trench warfare started during the Battle of Marne At the start of the war the trenches were nothing but foxholes - they were used to just accommodate the troops only for a short period. But as it grew more and more obvious that the battles would go on for a long period of time, the trenches were dug further and provided the soldiers with a temporary living space. Each day soldiers would be woken up before dawn, they put their bayonets on and although they knew that the enemy was prepared, they would carry out major attacks at this point. As it became brighter, the troops began a series of machine gun fire or heavy shelling. Life in the trenches was no joke for the troops out in battle.

Poison Warfare

Although most countries signed a treaty in 1899 to ban the use of poisonous gases in war (since it was “uncivilised”), all countries used it in the Great War at some point. The stalemate caused by trench warfare was unbearable. The nations needed a break through. The French were the first to use these weapons, in August 1914. The Germans, on the other hand, were the first to study the weapons on a massive scale and develop them. Throughout the war, the gas mask was a basic requirement of all troops on either side of the battle.

German Spring Offensives

The term “breakthrough” - meaning walking into enemy land during battle - did not even exist before war. The idea of the Spring Offensives was a quick attack on the weak point of the enemies’ defence, followed by a rapid movement into their territory which would leave the enemy surrounded and isolated. The whole attack was divided into 3 phases

Phase 1: ½ an hour long. It was aimed for troop concertation and communications hubs. It was mostly gas shells being thrown at the enemy.

Phase 2: 2 and ½ hour long. An aerial photograph was taken to find enemy guns and fire directly at them. This phase also included destroying what wasn’t in phase 1. It had both gas and highly explosive shells.

Phase 3: 2 hours long. It had mostly highly explosive shells which were aimed at both infantry and high artillery.

Post Phase 3, the German soldiers would get a breakthrough and quickly advance.

V. Country perspectives

Germany

Note: Germany does not have voting rights in this committee, it is just an observer nation.

It was one of the most proactive countries during the war, fighting on the side of the Central Powers. The total number of casualties during the war for it was above 2,200,000 (both military and civilian combined) which roughly accounts for 3.39% of its population.. Militarily, it was very strong; it had been leading the arms race with inventions on the likes of U-boats, Zeppelins, and was known for starting the wars in the trenches. But it was the one to have declared war on both Russia and France. It was the one to have walked into Belgium to put pressure on France. It was the one who did not pay attention to Britain's ultimatum to stop the war before it started. It was the one that was responsible for sinking the Lusitania, which is what the Americans claim brought them to war. It was the one to have occupied a significant portion of China. But even after all this, Germany had shown its worth. It captured Belgium within 12 days at the start of the war and denied a French attack on Alsace-Lorraine. The Military were very proud of what they had Since a war of such magnitude could not have been predicted, Germany's economy could not meet the demands of its military. The economy simply was not ready for this, and getting blocked by the British Navy along with the U-boat campaign destroying even neutral ships did not help Germany's state.. The sizes that went to the military were not enough to keep pressure on the Allies, let alone defeat them. Slowly and steadily, Germany began to lose land. It began retreating. The Kaiser had failed; he abdicated on 9th November, 1918 the Weimar republic was soon established. 3 days later the armistice was signed. It is important to note that the Allies were never able to set foot in German land. The military kept them out. The military was hence disappointed when they received knowledge of the armistice. They believed that given a few more months they would have won the war. They coined the term of being stabbed in the back. Also note that the Weimar Republic is representing Germany in this committee, and that the military has declared itself as a separate entity to the Republic and hence has the right to decline the commands of the Weimar.

Austria

Note: Austria does not have voting rights in this committee, it is just an observer nation.

Austria took part in the war under the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The assassination of the heir to the Austria-Hungary throne, arch-duke Franz Ferdinand, is what started the war.

Before the war, the empire wanted to expand further into the Balkans, and control places such as Serbia. They had gained control of Bosnia and had strong influence over Serbia. They also had a rivalry against Russia and Italy. Russia also wanted to gain influence over the Balkans, while Italy wanted a certain part of Austria in order to expand its territory. Apart from this, the alliance between Germany and Austria was deadly. The two nations would often work together and supplied each other with ammunition and troops. Although on 3rd November, 1918, the empire signed an armistice with the Italians.

Hungary

Note: Hungary does not have voting rights in this committee, it is just an observer nation.

Austria-Hungary functioned as one empire during the war, therefore Hungary and Austria went through the same battle. Things only regarding Hungary were that when it joined the Austrian empire, the decision was made between the Austrian empire and the leader of Hungary at that time. The common man was not asked about what they felt at all. Hungary had its own section within the empire and was allowed to rule itself inside its borders, while the Austrians had no such definition of what Austria was. Hungary was the one majorly attacked by the Russians troops and it was not bothered much about ruling the Balkans. The entire empire is said to have lost close to 2 million men during war which amounts to 4% of its population.

Turkey

Note: Turkey does not have voting rights in this committee, it is just an observer nation.

The Ottoman empire was amongst the largest empires in human history. It was an Islamic state, that existed since 1299. Its centre was Turkey, with the empire's capital being Constantinople (or Istanbul). The Empire was declining. The empire tried its last hand at success by joining the great war on the side of the Central powers. Its biggest enemy was Russia and the states in the Balkans that had recently gained independence from it. It joined war by attacking the Russian Naval fleet in the battle of Odessa, in October 1914. In 1916 it won an important battle, the battle of Gallipoli. But the great war led to internal strife and revolts that plagued the empire. In 1915 itself the allies had begun deciding how the empire would be divided. On October 30th, 1918, the Ottomans signed the armistice of Mudros. Italy, Britain, and France controlled parts of the empire, temporarily.

Bulgaria

Note: Bulgaria does not have voting rights in this committee, it is just an observer nation.

Bulgaria was unstable after the second Balkan war. Being in an economic crisis and an incapacitated military, the country followed a strict policy of neutrality when the war broke out. During the war Bulgaria was able to rebuild itself. Both sides started to ask Bulgaria to join the war from their side. Bulgaria wanted land that was promised to it by Serbia and Greece in the first Balkan war, and the land that Romania took from it in the second Balkan war. Serbia, Greece, and Romania were all on the side of the Allies, and when asked what part of the country they were willing to cede to Bulgaria, they unanimously replied, saying nothing. The Central powers on the other hand said that if they won the war, the land would be theirs; hence on October 1st, 1915, Bulgaria joined war on the side of the Central Powers, and declared war on Serbia. By the autumn of 1918, the army suffered 300,000 casualties, including 100,000 killed, the most severe per capita losses of any country involved in the war. "Women's riots" for food began early in 1917 and continued up until the end of the war. There were now major rebellions to overthrow the Czar and issue a parliamentary government. Soon after, on 29th September, 1918, an armistice was signed. 4 days later the Czar was abdicated.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom joined the war on 4th August, 1914, when Germany ignored its ultimatum vis-a-vis Germany removing its troops from Belgium and to not wage war on France. UK had been a part of the Triple Entente, and hence, was allied with France and Russia. It had a mighty navy, but the German U-boats had proven to be much stronger than its battleships. Even its airforce was nothing compared to the Zeppelins. It fought against Germany on land (in Asia, Africa and France), on sea (in the English Channel and Western Pacific), and in the air. England had lost up to a million people. UK however, did not consist of only England - it included troops from its colonies from around the world. Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada, Newfoundland, and South Africa were few of its major colonies that took part in this war. 1.2 million lives were lost throughout the British Empire. As with all nations, the British economy was not ready for a war of such magnitude. But unlike most, it still had enough in reserves to push through to victory. UK believed that more than any other nation, Germany was responsible for the war. They wanted to make Germany pay, but as the prime minister David Lloyd George said - if Germany were treated harshly then there would be another war in 20 years.

France

France was the second nation on whom war was declared by the Germans. The Western Front was inside France. It was also fighting with its territories in Africa and Asia. With 1.7 million casualties, which accounts for 4.3% of its population, France lost the highest number of people on the Allies' side of the war. Along with this, the French and the Germans hadn't ever gotten along ever since the Franco-Prussian war. The war ended with France being humiliated. They had lost their control over all parts of Germany. In the Great War, France was out for German blood. They wanted revenge. They wanted Germany humiliated to the same level as they were. Alsace-Lorraine was on the top of their list. They also wanted mines from Germany. At the end of the day, they wanted to make Germany pay, either by land or by war reparations. Like most of the Allied nations it too feared the strength of the German military.

Italy

Italy had signed the Triple Alliance with Austria-Hungary and Germany, but both knew that they could not fully rely on Italy. When war broke out, Italy remained silent. It did not defend Austria-Hungary and Germany. Italy was not sure if the Germans and Austrians could win the war. France, UK and Russia noticed this and began to persuade Italy to join them. On 26th April, 1915, Italy signed the treaty of London that brought it to war against the Central Powers. The Allies promised it Trieste, Southern Tyrol, Northern Dalmatia, and more. Italian forces were constantly at war with Austria-Hungary. It lost more than a million troops that accounts for 3% of its total population.

United States of America

When World War I erupted in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson pledged neutrality for the United States, a position that the vast majority of Americans favoured. Britain, however, was one of America's closest trading partners, and tension soon arose between the United States and Germany over the latter's attempted quarantine of the British Isles. On May 7, 1915, the Lusitania was torpedoed and 1,198 were killed, including 128 Americans. In 1917, Germany announced the U-boat campaign. Three days later, the United States broke diplomatic relations with Germany, and just hours after that the American liner Housatonic was sunk by

a German U-boat. Woodrow Wilson soon announced war against Germany. On June 26, the first 14,000 U.S. infantry troops landed in France to begin training for combat. Another reason for USA to have joined the war was that they had loaned millions of dollars to the Allies to buy arms and other goods; hence they were afraid that the defeat of the Allies would mean that the Central Powers, especially Germany, would grow strong and become a serious rival to the USA. Woodrow Wilson also had to be sure to implement his 14 points in the peace negotiations:

1. No secret alliances and treaties would be formed
2. Freedom of navigation would exist on the High Seas during times of peace and war, except when in enforcement of international covenants.
3. Free trade between all peaceful nations who have proven themselves as non-aggressive.
4. Armaments and arms would be possessed at the lowest necessary quantity
5. Self-determination is a right, and all colonized nations should get a say in how their colonies are run
6. Russia must be treated fairly and justly and must be allowed to join the international order peacefully and with its sovereign dignity.
7. Belgian territories must be restored to Belgium
8. All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.
9. Italian borders must be determined on the basis of nationality.
10. Autonomy should be accorded to the constituent nations of Austria-Hungary
11. Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be freed and their independence guaranteed
12. Turkey should be remain free, but all its subjects must be allowed the chance for self-determination. The Dardanelles straits should be open to free navigation.
13. An independent polish state must be established with guaranteed independence
14. A League of peaceful nations to enforce international agreements must be formed

China

Germany was one of the nations to capitalise on the growing weakness of China in the late 19th century. They had controlled much of the land in China that included its important ports. Austria-Hungary was looking to control some part of China. Hence, China joined the war on the side of the Allies. They were focused on removing Germany from China. To do this, China sought help from the British colonies in Asia (like British India), French colonies in Asia, Japan, Russia, Siam and later USA.

Japan

Japan had gone through the Meiji restoration. It believed itself to be racially superior to many countries in Asia, and took it as its own duty to develop Asia. Japan had played a significant role for the Allies in the war. It joined the war because the British asked it to by using the

Anglo-Japanese Alliance, but at the same time Japan had its own reasons to join them, i.e. it wanted to control parts of Asia and the Pacific that were under German control. Therefore, they made the British promise them that whatever they gained in China and in the Pacific during war would remain a part of Japan. Even after this, Japan contributed by sending troops to Serbia and Macedonia and ships in the Mediterranean. In the siege of Tsingtao, in 1914, it proved to the world that it was technologically advanced. Japan wants to be seen as a country at the same level as the Europeans and it demands to be given a chair on the big table.

Belgium

Belgium fought the war on the side of the Allies. On 3rd August, 1914, Germany had declared war on France and to put pressure on France, Germany had invaded Belgium. An un-prepared Belgium fought bravely but eventually the Belgian army was pushed behind the Yser River in the west of Flanders and held this position until 1918. During the war, the Belgian government sat at Le Havre, France, while King Albert I, as commander in chief of the army, remained with his troops in unoccupied Belgium. The country ended up losing close to 150,000 lives.

Romania

Romania also fought for the Allies in the war. They remained neutral till 1916. The main cause of Romania's entry into war was because they sought a realignment of boundaries of the national state, since Austria-Hungary had captured provinces that included Romanian populations. The country ended the war with 600,000 casualties.

Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic

Note: Russia does not have voting rights in this committee and is a observer nation

Russia was the first country on whom Germany declared war. When Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia, Russia began to mobilise to defend its ally. Germany wanted to defend its ally too and hence declared war on Russia. Soon after, Germany got the Ottomans to declare war on Russia. The Czar was not able to use his army to its full potential. At one point, he compared his General to "idiots", saying that the General wasn't able to learn from his mistakes while battling on the Eastern Front. The Brusilov offensive was one of the few successful offensives carried out, but it too lost millions of lives with months. The offensive was not even capitalised on sufficiently by the army in Germany. Russia end up losing 3 million troops, more than any other country in the entire war. The February revolution was carried out to bring peace among the commoners who had lost hope in the Czar. But they did not pull the Russians out of war. Lenin promised "land, peace, and bread." In November the Bolshevik party, of Lenin, had gained complete control over Russia. On 5th December, 1917, he signed an armistice with Germany which led to the treaty of Brest-Litovsk being signed on 3rd March, 1918. The treaty humiliated Russia; as per the treaty, Bolshevik Russia ceded the Baltic States to Germany, ceded its province of Kars Oblast to the Ottoman Empire and recognized the independence of Ukraine. Furthermore, Russia agreed to pay six billion German gold marks in reparations. The treaty also meant that Russia would no longer be part of the Triple Entente, this made France and UK angry because they needed the Russians in war with Germany so that Germany wouldn't focus only on the war in the West.

Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes

It was an entity made for the southern part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. It was made up at this point but was directly involved in starting the war. The entity was represented by Serbia during the Great War. Serbia had an ambition to be a country including all Balkan cultures. The occupation of Austria-Hungary in land occupied by such cultures was not looked upon favourably by the Serbs, hence they did not agree to the last point in the ultimatum sent on 23rd July, 1914, i.e. Serbia gives up its sovereignty and becomes a part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Serbia lost more than 3/4th of a million people during war which could easily account for 20% of its population.

Poland

Poland was occupied in the early 19th century by Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary. Many poles fought on the side of the Allies, being promised a free Poland at the end of war. Poland was not mentioned in the treaty Brest-Litovsk, as Germans refused to recognize the existence of any Polish representatives, which in turn led to Polish protests. With Russia bowing out and “betraying” the Allies and the defeat of the Central Powers, it meant that Poland could get back to the borders they had before the 19th century. This included the warm water port of Gdansk (or Danzig).

Czechoslovakia

Another state that was under Austria-Hungary’s rule was Czechoslovakia. It was made up of two different cultures, i.e. the Czechs and the Slovaks. They tried to ask for a system within the empire that allowed the Czechs and Slovaks to have more freedom, but this was declined. When war broke out in 1914, Russia took in a lot of Czech soldiers to be a part of the 3rd army. By 1918 there were up to 40,000 troops fighting on the side of the Allies. The Czechoslovakians wanted Bohemia and Moravia from Germany and Austria-Hungary at the end of war.

Greece

In September 1918, it played a crucial part in the successful Macedonian campaign, which led to the collapse of Bulgaria, a fact that accelerated German surrender two months later. A period of prolonged neutrality meant that, in terms of manpower, Greece avoided the total calamity that befell other participants. But, nevertheless, the war led to political breakdown and to a bitterness and resentment which has never been totally eradicated. The Greeks were in complete support of the Allies. It gave the Allies the north of Greece to set up a military base. Greece came for this conference for expanding its territory, which included parts of the broken Ottoman empire. The country lost more than 150,000 troops during war.

Lithuania

It was a state ruled harshly by the Russian Empire. Only in 1904 were the people in this territory allowed to speak their language again. In 1915, the area of Lithuania was captured by the Germans, and the withdrawal from the war by Russia meant that the territory would not go back in Russian hands. The defeat of Germany allowed the Lithuanians to be given a platform to speak and ask for a free state.

Portugal

Portugal originally wanted to join the war to bolster national unity and reinforce the republican regime whose hold on power was faltering under pressure from monarchist movements and grave economic difficulties. Britain was initially hesitant about including the young country in war, but the growing logistical problems affecting the Allies led the British to ask the Portuguese government in December 1915 for permission to requisition all the German ships moored in their ports, and this was done on 24 February 1916. In reaction, Germany declared war on Portugal on 9 March. France was able to convince Britain to let them use Portuguese expeditionary forces against Germany and included the Portuguese in wars fought against Germany in 1917 and 1918. Of the 56,500 Portuguese soldiers sent to the Western Front, approximately 2,100 were killed, 5,200 wounded and 7,000 taken prisoner.

Brazil

Brazil had declared neutrality when war broke out. Its economy was dependent on coffee exports. In 1917 when the U-boat campaign was declared, there were 3 Brazilian ships that were torpedoed. Due to this, anti-German protest broke out, which led to Brazil's German descendent foreign minister to resign. Brazil captured 42 German ships, which made up 25% of its navy. In 1918, it sent medics to France which helped battle the Spanish flu pandemic. Along with this, part of the Brazilian navy was to patrol the southern Atlantic sea while one fleet was sent to Sierra-Leon, which was later deployed in the Mediterranean.

Canada

Canada was a British territory at this point and the British government had forced the country into war. They lost up to 60,000 troops during the war.

Cuba

Cuba had been neutral when the war broke out. But because of the U-boat campaign declared by Germany and the continued sinking of ships of different neutral nationalities on the American shores, Brazil and Cuba had sent angry protests to the Germans. Cuba was encouraged by the United States' entry into the war. The Cuban senate unanimously passed a resolution that a state of war existed against Germany and the Cuban congress approved the declaration of war on April 7, 1917.

Guatemala

Over the previous twenty years, Germany had gained control of the rich coffee lands and introduced scientific methods so that they controlled about 50% of the Guatemalan economy. These investments had meant improvements in utilities, transportation and communications. Cabrera, a ruthless dictator, admired the Germans but wanted to free his country from this German stranglehold. Cabrera broke relations with Germany and offered Guatemalan ports and railroads for the use of the United States.

Honduras

Honduran President Francisco Bertrand followed the United States' lead and broke its neutrality agreement with the rest of the Caribbean and Central American countries at the same time Nicaragua did. In July 1918, it became the last nation in the world to declare war. This sympathy for the United States antagonized the large number of Germans living in Honduras.

Liberia

In the 19th century, Liberia had broken out of American rule, but there was a dispute for land between the indigenous tribes and the Europeans who did not recognize Liberia as an independent country. USA persuaded the British and the French to see Liberia as independent and marked its boundaries. The country received financial support from USA and UK to get it out of its economic crisis. This led to the country declaring war on Germany in 1917 and providing the Allies with a base in West-Africa.

Montenegro

In 1914, it was a small independent kingdom with close ties with Serbia. When Austria declared war on Serbia on 28th July 1914, Montenegro joined her neighbour shortly afterwards. Montenegro declared war on Austria on 7th August and Germany on the 9th. On the morning of 8th January, 1916, Austria-Hungary attacked Montenegro. With no allies left in the Balkans, Montenegro surrendered six days later. The army went to Corfu, Greece and joined the Serbs who were all waiting as reserves. In September 1918, Montenegrin soldiers formed part of a "Yugoslav Division" fighting with the Allies on the Salonika Front. This predated the creation of a Yugoslav state, composed of Serbs, Croats, Slovenes, Montenegrins, Bosnians, Macedonians and others waiting to defeat Austria. Altogether, about 3,000 Montenegrins

VI. Rules of Procedure

Note: The rule book defines the guidelines of the committee. It is the charter of the committee. The delegates are advised to take a print out of the rule book and keep it handy during the entire committee.

THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS CONFERENCE PLEDGE TO

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as members of the committee;

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security;

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest;

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples.

All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace.
3. To achieve international cooperation in solving problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.
4. To act as common ground for the production of a conclusion suitable for all members.

Moreover, the members of this conference also agree on the following undertakings:

1. The Members recognize that the maintenance of peace requires the reduction of national armaments to the lowest point consistent with national safety and the enforcement by common action of international obligations. In this regard they entrust the members of the conference with the power to formulate plans for such reduction. Such plans would be subject
2. The Members understand the need to act and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all Members of the committee.
3. The Members agree that any war or threat of war, whether immediately affecting any of the Members of the League or not, should be declared a matter of concern to the whole Committee, and the Committee should take any action that might be deemed wise and effectual to safeguard the peace of nations.
4. A Member of the Committee which has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present rule book may be expelled from the committee by unanimous vote of the committee's members.

Purpose of the conference is:

1. To secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labour for men, women, and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend, and for that purpose would establish and maintain the necessary international organizations.
2. To secure just treatment of the native inhabitants of territories under a member's control.
3. To entrust the Committee with the general supervision over the execution of agreements with regard to the traffic in women and children, and the traffic in opium and other dangerous drugs.
4. To entrust the Committee with the general supervision of the trade in arms and ammunition with the countries in which the control of this traffic is necessary in the common interest.
5. To make provision to secure and maintain freedom of communications and of transit and equitable treatment for the commerce of all members of the committee, bearing in mind the regions affected by war.
6. To take steps in matters of international concern for the prevention and control of disease.
7. Open Diplomacy: no private international understandings of any kind should be discussed but diplomacy shall proceed always frankly and in the public view Freedom of the seas: absolute freedom of navigations except as the seas may be closed in whole or in part by international action for the enforcement of international covenants.

8. Removal of economic barriers: The removal, so far as possible, of all economic barriers and the establishment of an equality of trade conditions among all the nations consenting to the peace and associating themselves for its maintenance.
9. Reduction of the armaments: Adequate guarantees given and taken that national armaments will be reduced to the lowest point consistent with domestic safety.
10. Adjustment of colonial claims: based upon a strict observance of the principle that in determining all such questions of sovereignty the interests of the populations
11. All concerned must have equal weight with the equitable claims of the government whose title is to be determined.
12. Conquered territories in Russia: The evacuation of all Russian territory and such a settlement of all questions affecting Russia as will secure the best and freest cooperation of the other nations of the world in obtaining for her an unhampered and unembarrassed opportunity for the independent determination of her own political development and national policy and assure her of a sincere welcome into the society of free nations under institutions of her own choosing; and, more than a welcome, assistance also of every kind that she may need and may herself desire.
13. Preservations of Belgian sovereignty: Belgium, the whole world will agree, must be evacuated and restored, without any attempt to limit the sovereignty which she enjoys in common with all other free nations. (No other single act will serve as this will serve to restore confidence among the nations in the laws which they have themselves set and determined for the government of their relations with one another. Without this healing act the whole structure and validity of international law is forever impaired.).
14. Restoration of the French territories: All French territory should be freed and the invaded portions restored, and the wrong done to France by Prussia in 1871 in the matter of Alsace-Lorraine, which has unsettled the peace of the world for nearly fifty years, should be righted, in order that peace may once more be made secure in the interest of all.
15. Redrawing of Italian frontiers: A readjustment of the frontiers of Italy should be effected along clearly recognizable lines of nationality.
16. Division of Austria and Hungary: The peoples of Austria-Hungary, whose place among the nations wish to see safeguarded and assured, should be accorded the freest opportunity of autonomous development. German Austria. This territory should of right be permitted to join Germany, but there is strong objection in [France] because of the increase of [population] involved, and Hungary. Now independent and very democratic in form, but governed by Magyars whose aim is to prevent the detachment of territory of nationalities on the fringe. We need to split up Austria and Hungarian empire.
17. Redrawing of the Balkan boundaries: Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro should be evacuated; occupied territories restored; Serbia accorded free and secure access to the sea; and the relations of the several Balkan states to one another determined by friendly counsel along historically established lines of allegiance and nationality.
18. Limitations on Turkey: The Turkish portions of the present Ottoman Empire should be assured a secure sovereignty, but the other nationalities which are now under Turkish rule should be assured an undoubted security of life and an absolutely unmolested opportunity of autonomous development, and the Dardanelles should be permanently opened as a free passage to the ships and commerce of all nations under international guarantees.
19. Independent Poland: An independent Polish state should be erected which would include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.

VII. Guide to further research

Delegates, you must note that the Study Guide is just a Guide. It is not the end of your research, only the beginning. You need to go out further and discover what exactly your country was doing throughout world war, go to new paper archives and search, visit encyclopaedias, look at what historians say (and not only revisionist historians but also orthodox historians since that will give you a clear idea as to what your country wants), etc.

Talking about this agenda, it's not a simple one that can be easily solved. Tensions are high and lives have been lost at a scale not known to man. There is a reason why when talking about battles it has never explicitly been mentioned who won the battle only an account for the number of lives lost in the battle and why it took place. That is because it cannot be easily justified as to who won the battle. When the Brusilov offensive took place, the Russians lost a million lives with a month, and they were said to have "won" the battle. Can a million casualties within a month be called winning? During the next month there were 4 major battles taking place, i.e. the Brusilov Offensive, the Battle of Somme, the Battle of Mecca and the Battle of Verdun, all losing more than a million on each side that month, the Battle of Somme lost a million lives on the first day itself.

The war is not about who won what land, it was about who lost more men. You as delegates need to see how badly your country was hurt, to what extent were they desperate for a win here, what they wanted out of the war and what they ended up getting.

As delegates, you also need to be aware what had actually happened during the Paris peace conference. To a large extent, the Paris peace conference is to be blamed for the Second World War. The promises made by the British, French and Russians to the rest of the Allies were not kept. While Japan and Italy were both pushed out of the place, they were sure to get, i.e. Trieste, southern Tyrol, Northern Dalmatia for Italy and the land that Japan had gained in China and the Pacific. Italy went on with a dictatorial regime while Japan's army was unwilling to move out of their territory in China. Germany was blamed to be the sole aggressor in this war, the Diktat humiliated Germany to a huge extent. It created unrest in Germany that originally gave rise to Hitler and un-doing the wrongs done in this conference were at the top of his list.

Each country has a personal stake in this war. Each country wants something more. It was a state of crisis then and only the Allies' voices were heard at that time. You have the opportunity to re-visit that time and re-do whatever happened then.

There are a few questions that as delegates you need to know about your country:

- Why did your country join the war?
- Whose side was it on during the war?
- What was your country going to ask for in the Paris peace conference?

- What was your country's foreign policy at that time?
- What promises were made to the country during war by its allies?
- Were there any civil wars during the World War in your country? If yes, then how would you be able to calm them down?
- What was your country's strong point?
- Was your country jealous/afraid of what another country possessed?
- How many people did your country lose during war?

Make sure what you research on is credible and take a printout of your research, since during the committee you would not be allowed to use your laptop, phone or any electronic device. You will although be asked to use your laptop and show us a source if your claim is controversial and the Dias has not heard it. Therefore, DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA! Instead try other encyclopaedias like Britannica. Here are also some links that could help you:

- <https://www.vox.com/a/world-war-i-maps>
- <http://www.historyplace.com/worldhistory/firstworldwar/index-1914.html>
- <https://www.firstworldwar.com>
- <https://www.historytoday.com>
- <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net>
- <https://www.britannica.com>
- <https://www.history.com>
- <https://courses.lumenlearning.com>
- <https://www.wired.com>
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheGreatWar>
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC510QY1OIKNyhy_zdQxnGYw
- <https://www.vox.com>