



*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference XI*

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*Boston University Academy*

*Boston, MA*

# **Carnation Revolution**

JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE

## **Rise of Democracy Subcommittee Background Guide**

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## *A Welcome from the Chair*

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to BUAMUN XI and to this joint-crisis committee! My name is Isaac Rajagopal and I am a senior at Boston University Academy, and I am delighted to be your Crisis Chair of this committee. My vice chair is Abby Araia, a junior. This joint crisis committee will study the historical events of the Carnation Revolution. There are two subcommittees, the Rise of Democracy and the Fall of Salazaar. This joint crisis will be directed by Matthew Volfson, a senior.

I began volunteering for BUAMUN as a freshman. I have been a photographer, a staffer, and a vice chair, and have worked on two joint crisis committees in the past. One of these committees was a historical committee about the Civil War, where I was a staffer for the Confederacy subcommittee. The other was a committee about *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, where I was a vice chair for the Water Tribe. I have enjoyed working with students in past BUAMUNs and I know that this conference will be an exciting and engaging experience like those were. I hope that all of you will enjoy this experience, and I think that the best way to do that is to work diligently on your position paper and to focus on getting into the mind of your historical figure. I believe that the more effort and care you put into this, the more you will get out of this. But the most important thing is having fun, and while we will be learning a lot I hope and expect that we will also be smiling and laughing and enjoying ourselves. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Isaac Rajagopal *Chair*

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## *Committee Information*

Our committee will be focused on the Carnation Revolution and the events following it. Potential topics may include discussing strategies for staging a successful coup, and discussing how Portugal's government should be organized. Hopefully, by the end of the conference, our revolution will be successful and Portugal will have a stable new government. However, there is another subcommittee that will be trying to oppose us in many ways, and we will have to learn not only to compromise among ourselves but to compromise with them.

This is a Crisis committee. New information will be given to the delegates as the committee progresses, and delegates should be ready to pivot quickly from one crisis to another. It is important to stay on your toes and always be ready to have your situation flipped on its head, as this background guide will only be able to prepare you for the beginning of the conference. Here are some differences to keep in mind between a crisis committee and a general assembly:

- The joint committee is run behind the scenes by a crisis director, and contains two subcommittees about different sides of the crisis.
- Delegates can and should write communiques (notes) to delegates in the other subcommittee or to the crisis director.
- Well-written notes to the crisis director will cause action, and allow characters to act behind other delegates' backs, at the discretion of the crisis director.
  - Characters have portfolio powers which explain what they can and cannot do.
- The subcommittee aims to write directives, rather than resolutions. These directives are shorter and less formal than resolutions and allow for quick action to be taken.

- As the crisis progresses, each subcommittee will receive press releases which explain how the situation is quickly changing. This means it is impossible to predict what will happen next.

For more information on how crisis committees function:

<https://www.ccwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CWRUMUN-Introduction-to-Crisis.pdf>

## ***Topics For Committee to Address***

- How to stage a successful coup
  - Will violence be necessary in this coup? If so, is it justified?
  - If not, how will it be possible to avoid violence?
- Why a coup is necessary
  - Problems with the Estado Novo Regime
  - Colonization
  - Other problems within Portugal
- What to do about Portuguese colonies
  - Is there a way to decolonize while minimizing the harm done in the process?
- How to replace the current government?
  - How the new government should be structured
  - Will it be Democratic? Socialist? Communist? Some combination of these, or something else?
  - Will it have a Constitution?

- How will this ideal society be enforced so that more coups are not necessary in the future?

## ***Position Paper Guidelines***

This crisis will require a formal position paper, which should be sent to both the chair and vice-chair before the conference begins. Possible topics may include any of the topics for the committee. Make sure to focus on your delegate's position and to research their opinions on the topic you are writing about.

The chair will review position papers, and well-written/well-researched papers will influence award determinations for this committee. Be sure to use evidence and reasoning to back up opinions stated within the position paper. Position papers should be 1-3 pages in length, font size 12, Times New Roman, and double-spaced. They should include citations which are preferably in the format of footnotes. To insert a footnote, simply click *Insert > Footnote*. A suggested organization is a 3-paragraph paper: (i) Introduction to the topic and your delegate; (ii) your delegate's stance on the topic; (iii) your delegate's proposed action on this topic. Please remember that what you write in your papers should not reflect that you as a student believe in, but what your character/role in the committee thinks. Position papers should include the following in headers: delegate, school, committee, position, and topic.

## ***Historical Background***

On Thursday, April 25, 1974, Portugal underwent its largest and most peaceful coup. Shortly after midnight, the catholic Rádio Renascença played the song Grandola Vila Morena, a signal for the young military officers of the Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA) to commence. With only minor resistance by the local police force, and bolstered by surrounding

cheering crowds, the new military leaders successfully turned over the seat of government, ending over 40 years of dictatorship.

In 1910, the First Republic of Portugal was announced. However, it was far from a stable government. Rocked by turmoil, General Óscar Caromona finally overtook power and named António de Oliveira Salazaar to be the Prime Minister in 1932. From 1933 onwards, Portugal was ruled by the Estado Novo (new state) dictatorship. This came from the Ditadura Nacional, or national dictatorship, which was set up after a coup in 1926.

Portugal controlled many colonies in Africa, including the areas that are now the independent countries of Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau. These colonies, all combined, had a greater population than Portugal, and this caused Portugal to spend a whopping 40% of its budget on its military to fight wars to maintain control. Portuguese people protested the colonization, and many men moved to the US or to France to avoid conscription into its army.

The period of the authoritarian Estado Novo regime was characterized by censorship and oppression. A secret police force called the “Polícia Internacional e de Defesa do Estado” (International Police of Defense of the State) acted behind the scenes, infiltrating the Portuguese Communist Party and independence movements in the Portuguese colonies of Angola and Mozambique. In 1968, Salazaar was replaced by Marcelo Caetano as Prime Minister following a stroke. This concluded a 36 year period of Salazaar’s leadership, and marked the beginning of the downfall of the Estado Novo regime.

In the 1970s, the Movimento das Forças Armadas (MFA) was established. This was a movement of military officers trying to liberate Portugal from the dictatorship of Estado Novo who wanted a lower military budget. In 1974, Caetano removed Antonio Sebastiao Ribeiro de

Spinola from the position of Vice Chief of the Defense Council of Armed Forces. Spinola was against increasing military and colonialism, and he wrote a book titled "Portugal and The Future" about his opinions of colonial war before this. The MFA decided to overthrow the government, which all came to a head on April 24, 1974.

At 10:55 PM, the song "E Depois de Adeus" was played, signaling to captains and soldiers to begin the coup. At 12:20 AM, the song "Grandola Vila Morena" was played and rebels started to take over strategic points in the country. Commanders loyal to the Estado Novo were arrested the following morning as their troops deserted them to support the rebellion. Thousands of Portuguese citizens demonstrated in the streets to support the insurgency. Citizens in the Lisbon flower market put carnations in gun barrels to symbolize the desire for a smaller military. This image, the namesake of the revolution, was etched in the minds of viewers around the world and remains a lasting symbol of the revolution.

By the end of April 25, Caetano had surrendered. He was soon exiled to Brazil. Many demands of the revolution were successful, as Portugal withdrew from its African colonies. This created over 1 million Portuguese refugees in these colonies, known as "retornados." As the revolution process continued, Portugal entered a period of turbulence that lasted for two years. Spinola became prime minister at this point, but this lasted for less than 6 months before he was ousted by a right-wing coup. This was followed by multiple other coups, including both a communist and pro-democracy coup. This period ended with the signing of a new constitution on April 25, 1976. Thus Portugal became a democracy, and elected Mario Soares, a socialist, to be their first democratically elected Prime Minister of the Third Portuguese Republic.

## ***Bloc Positions: The Rise of Democracy***

### ***Leaders of The MFA***

- I. ***Vitor Manuel Rodrigues Alves (committee co- leader) - he was a former soldier. He then became disgruntled with the Salazar government and was central to the revolution. He was a leader of the MFA.***
  
- II. ***Vasco Gonçalves - He was a marxist general who turned to democracy in order to take power. He had a central role in the revolution. He was the prime minister of the post revolution government from 1974-1975. He was a leader of the MFA.***
  
- III. ***Otelo Nuno Romão Saraiva de Carvalho (committee co-leader) - He was a Portuguese military officer and a chief strategist in the Carnation Revolution. Otelo ran in the first Portugal presidential election, where he placed second. During the Carnation Revolution he was placed in command of COPCON. He was a leader of the MFA.***
  
- IV. ***Vasco Lourenço - He served in Guinea-Bissau before participating in the Carnation Revolution as a leader of the MFA. He was a member of the Group of Nine, a group of moderate military officers opposed by far left figures such as Carvalho and Goncalves.***

### ***Other Portuguese Revolutionary Figures***

- V. ***Antonio Sebastiao Ribeira di Spinoia - He was Vice-Chief of the Defence Council of the Armed Forces before being removed in March 1974. He published *Portugal and the Future*, a book about his opinions. Following the revolution, he became President of Portugal after Marcello Caetano refused to surrender power to anybody else.***
  
- VI. ***Francisco da Costa Gomes - He was Chief of the Armed Forces before being replaced in March 1973 after refusing to swear loyalty to the Estado Novo regime. He became President after Spinoia's resignation from the post in September 1974. He stayed in that position until the signing of the Portuguese Constitution.***
  
- VII. ***Salgueiro Maia - A captain of the Portuguese army who was in charge of taking control of the government portion of the center of Lisbon. He gave a famous speech***

*after successfully taking control of the base and holding supporters of the regime at gunpoint.*

- VIII. *Mario Soares - He was elected as secretary-general of the Socialist Party in 1973. After the Carnation Revolution, he was in charge of organizing how Portuguese colonies should become independent. He was elected Prime Minister following the passing of the Constitution in 1976.***
  
- IX. *Ernesto Melo Antunes - He wrote the political program of the Movement of the Armed Forces, which focused on three Ds: decolonization, democratization, and development. After the revolution, he helped to manage relations with Portuguese colonies as they became independent. He was a leader of the Group of Nine, a group of moderate military officers opposed by far left figures such as Carvalho and Goncalves.***
  
- X. *António Ramalho Eanes - He was stationed in Angola during the Carnation Revolution. After a pro-communist coup in November 1975, he orchestrated a counter-coup in favor of democracy. He became President of Portugal in 1976.***

#### ***Mozambican and Angolan Resistance Leaders***

- XI. *Joaquim Chissano - He was a founder of the Mozambique Liberation Front, which campaigned for independence from Portugal. He was Minister of Foreign Affairs for Mozambique from 1975-1986 before becoming President for 19 years.***
  
- XII. *Filipe Samuel Magaia - He was a politician, Guerrilla leader and Secretary of Defense for the FRELIMO organization which was trying to gain Mozambican independence from Portuguese rule.***
  
- XIII. *Samora Machel - He was a leader in the Mozambique Liberation Front. He was a socialist, and became President of Mozambique from 1975 to 1986.***
  
- XIV. *Lúcio Lara - He was a founder, president, and general secretary of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angolia (MPLA) and was part of a discussion center for anti-colonial discussions in Portugal.***

**XV. Jonas Savimbi - He was a founder and leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which was at war seeking independence from Portugal from 1966 to 1974.**

***Possible Sources:***

<https://adst.org/2015/04/the-carnation-revolution-a-peaceful-coup-in-portugal/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OI84O8m1s3w>

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/carnation-revolution-guide-facts-coup-portugal-estado-novo-regime/>

<https://www.portugal.com/history-and-culture/25-things-to-know-about-portugals-carnation-revolution/>

<https://www.telesurenglish.net/news/The-Portuguese-Recall-The-1974-Carnation-Revolution-20220425-0013.html>

<https://moad-web.s3.amazonaws.com/heracles-production/8fb/0d1/7bc/8fb0d17bcd488bfae79ae70ae68aead89589a764f44825c65dbe7cda729e/tang-sarah-the-1975-portuguese-carnation-revolution.pdf>