



Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference VI
Saturday, January 27 to Sunday, January 28, 2018
Boston University Academy
Boston, MA



HJCC: Russia
Background Guide

Greetings, Delegates!

My name is Daniel Plotkin, and I am a junior at Boston University Academy. This year, I will be your chair for HJCC Russia at BUAMUN. Duncan Peckham, also a junior, will be vice chairing the committee. While this is my first time chairing at BUAMUN, I participated in Model UN in middle school and attended BUAMUN twice as a delegate. I am excited to be chairing this year, and I hope to have a lot of fun with you guys!

Outside of BUAMUN, I am part of the BUA soccer, basketball, and ultimate frisbee teams. I am also the vice-leader of chess club, one of the greatest BUA clubs of all time.

This committee may run differently than many of you are used to. We will review all procedural quirks at the beginning of the day, so don't worry, you'll learn quickly. The most important part of this committee will be to come prepared, as well as being ready to think on your feet. Crisis committees can go awry very quickly, and those who can think quickly will thrive. Other than this, I hope you are all ready to have fun at the conference in January!

Sincerely,

Daniel Plotkin

The logo for BUAMUN features the acronym "BUAMUN" in a large, serif, all-caps font. It is flanked on both sides by a stylized laurel wreath, which consists of two branches of leaves curving upwards and outwards to meet at the top. The entire logo is rendered in a light gray color.

BUAMUN

Introduction to Committee

This committee is part of the Historical Joint Crisis: Post-French Revolution. Two other countries, France and the UK will be running committees parallel to the Russian committee. Each delegate will act either as a member of the Russian Army or as a high ranking member in Russian society at the time. This committee will not directly follow historical events, but will be influenced by your decisions as a committee, so don't worry about following directly what happened historically.

Country Background



Map of Europe and Russia in 1800

In this Crisis Situation, Russia is very important. After the French Revolution ended in 1799, led by Napoleon, the French became warmongers.¹ Catherine the Great, one of Russia's greatest rulers, died in 1796. Her position was taken over by Czar Paul, who was thrust into a hostile situation with France. Paul sought to reduce the powers of the aristocracy, but was never a great negotiator himself. As France wished to expand, Paul got into the War of the Second Coalition, and had bad relations with both Great Britain and Austria.² Paul was greatly disliked for his policies against the aristocracy. Once he was killed, he was followed by Czar Alexander, who was extremely popular.³ On top of his policies against torture and censorship, Alexander led Russia in a great defense against the French. He continued to be a great leader after the war, and is said to have faked his own death in 1825, after being troubled by the death he saw in the war against France.⁴

Relations with other HJCC Countries

¹Encyclopedia Britannica

² Encyclopedia Brittanica

³ Russiapedia

⁴ Alexanderpalace

Great Britain

Russia and Great Britain, before the War of the Second Coalition, were not very involved with each other. After the French Revolution, Czar Paul made anti-Britain reforms, and for the rest of his rule, was not on the best terms with Britain. However, this was not incredibly important, as there was not much contact between the Empires with France between them.⁵

France

While Napoleon was in power, Russia and France did not have good relations. The two countries, between 1801 and 1812 were at war twice, and with the 1812 invasion, France wished to take over much of Russia. Napoleon looked to expand his empire into the largest country in the world, but could not lead his troops against the tactical leadership of Alexander and the Russian generals.

Before the War of the Second Coalition, Paul desired a good relationship with Napoleon. However, France's acts toward Russian allies, such as Austria and Turkey, and at the time Great Britain, Russia got into trouble with France.⁶

Topic 1: War of the Second Coalition: Campaigns of 1799 and 1800

The War of the Second Coalition began in 1799 and continued until 1802, when France and the UK agreed on a peace treaty, called the treaty of Amiens. The war was campaigned by Napoleon against the second coalition, which comprised Turkey, England, Austria, and Russia.⁷ The second coalition also included Portugal and Naples. After the French Revolution, Napoleon and France had a desire for eastward expansion of the empire. In 1799, France made campaigns in both Italy and Switzerland. General Aleksandr Suvorov was able to hold off the French Military in 1799 in Italy. They had great military victories and the war looked good for the Coalition.

Later in 1799, the Russians fought with the French in Switzerland, in a battle called the Battle of Zurich. While Russia began with victories, their large army, which was also fighting with the Austrian Army at the time, was defeated.⁸

The Russians also had great disputes with the British. While supposed allies, the British insisted on searching Russian Ships going through the Baltic Sea. The Russians did not wish to cooperate

⁵ Encyclopedia Britannica

⁶ Sputniknews

⁷ History Home

⁸ Thoughtco

with this.⁹ In 1800, the French continued campaigns into Austria and were able to rout the Austrian army.

Topic 2: Czar Paul

Czar Paul I succeeded Catherine the Great as Emperor of Russia in 1796. Growing up, Paul was very distant from his mother, and often felt neglected. This led to the two having very different views for what Russia should be. Therefore, when Paul ascended the throne, he changed many of Catherine's policies. A very militaristic ruler, he was against a strong aristocracy, and implemented rules to weaken Russia's ruling class. He started a reform program, which included compulsory military service. Czar Paul also sought to help out the serfs. He did this by issuing an edict that serfs could only work three days a week. Czar Paul was also a firm opponent of the French revolution, and banned travel outside of Russia, and limited the amount of foreign cultural items allowed into Russia¹⁰.

Czar Paul's attempts at weakening the nobility earned him many powerful enemies. Along with imposing a code of chivalry for the nobility to follow, he uncovered the corruption in the Russian treasury. His edicts that tried to protect the serfs also angered many, including the serfs. A conspiracy was created by Count Peter Ludwig von der Pahlen, Count Nikita Petrovich Panin, and the Neapolitan-Spanish Jose de Ribas with the goal of assassinating Czar Paul.

Topic 3: Increasing Tensions with Persia

As time goes on, Persia becomes an increasing threat to Russia territorially. Persia and Russia have been fighting over territory since the mid-1600s, and tensions began to heat up again at the early 1800s. The Shah Fath Ali seeks to move into the southern border of Russia.¹¹ As Russia also continues to put pressure on Georgia and move into that region, the shah of Persia becomes increasingly disagreeable to the Russian government. Territorial disputes have always been present between Russia and Persia, and as tensions grow, must be revisited. Russia's imperial desires should not be hindered by the leader of Persia.

Russia assisted attacks dividing Persia as recently as 1786.¹² One sect of Persians originally asked for assistance, but after skirting the Russians and not giving them what they wanted, Russia had no choice but to assist the other side.

⁹ Onwar

¹⁰ Encyclopedia Britannica

¹¹ Encyclopedia.com

¹² Iranica

Further Questions and Research

1. What can the generals, or those with influence, do to help influence the War of the Second Coalition? What moves can you make to keep the French down after a big loss in Zurich?
2. Is the threat of Napoleon great enough to stay in the coalition after the seeming betrayal by the British?
3. How is Czar Paul as a ruler? Are his policies solid, or should he be taken down? Are the conspirators justified in their thinking?
4. What do increasing tensions between Russia and Persia mean for negotiation elsewhere, especially with the French?

Positions:

General: Levin August Von Bennigsen

Field Marshal: Mikhail Kutuzov

General: Pyotr Bagration

Field Marshal: Michael Andreas Barclay de Tolly

Field Marshal: Peter Wittgenstein

Nobleman: Grigori Potemkin

Military Leader: Alexander Suvorov

Field Marshal: Alexander Prozorovsky

General: Nikolay Kamensky

Admiral: Dmitry Senyavin

General: Mikhail Balk

Agriculturalist: Andrey Bolotov

Scientist: Pavel Grigoryevich Demidov

Portfolio Powers:

Each delegate will have special actions they can act on based on his position in society. The chair will rule what is within each delegate's powers.

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