



Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference IX

Saturday, January 30th to Sunday, January 31st, 2021

Boston University Academy

Boston, MA

***French Revolution of 1812 and the  
French Invasion of Russia***

***Historical Joint Crisis Committee:  
Russia***

***Background Guide***

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## Committee Staff

Ben Isakoff, chair

Sally Jamrog, vice-chair

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Sudarshan Ramanan, Secretary-General

John Lee, Secretary-General

Jonas Rajagopal, Secretary-General



# Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ben Isakoff and I'm a senior here at Boston University Academy. My vice-chair Sally is a sophomore also at BUA. I have decent experience in Model UN but this will be my first Zoom committee. Nonetheless, I'm excited to participate in this committee and see where it takes us.

The committee will be a joint crisis. This means two things. First, being a crisis there's a different set of rules from the general committees you're probably used to. While there are differences in parliamentary procedure, which I encourage you to refer to other documents for, the main difference is the addition of personal powers. Personal powers are your ability to affect the committee without passing directives by communicating directly with your crisis staff or even the other committee. If any of this is difficult or new, don't be worried as we'll go over it on the first day.

As expected, the second part of a joint crisis is that you are working in tandem with another group of students. Whether you want to cooperate, war, or negotiate with the other students is up to you and we will do our best to facilitate that. In the "Historical Background" section below, I tried to include as much information leading up to the war as possible while ignoring the events after the beginning of the war. This was to incentivize you to think creatively. I still recommend reading through a timeline in order to see what works and what doesn't.

# Welcome Letter

Even though this is a crisis, you still write position papers. There's more detail on them below, but for a general gist, they're papers telling us what you think your character's position is and to give yourself a goal during the committee. You'll need to turn one in in order to be considered for any awards.

I know everything is a little weird this year, so if you have any questions please email me. Whether it's about parliamentary procedure, the committee itself, or your position we're here to answer any questions.

Good Luck Everyone!

Benjamin Isakoff

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[admin@buamun.org](mailto:admin@buamun.org)

# Position Paper Information

Every delegate is expected to submit one position paper focusing on their delegation's stance in the committee. Especially well-written and well-researched position papers will influence the award determination process. See the "Suggested Resources" section below for good places to start researching.

Position papers should be 1-2 pages in length, double spaced, and should generally follow a 3-paragraph format: 1) an introduction on the topic, 2) the delegation's position and outlook on the topic, and 3) the delegation's proposed action on the topic. All position papers must also include a header formatted like the example below.

Note: Delegates should remember that the opinions and stances expressed in position papers should represent those of whom they are representing and should not necessarily reflect their own.

(Example header)

Delegate: Sally Jamrog

School: Boston University Academy (*Your school here instead, not our own*)

Committee: French Invasion of Russia

Position: Tsar Alexander I

Topic: Russia

Good Luck!



# Committee Structure

Crisis committees tend to follow a less formal flow of debate compared to General Assembly (GA) Committees. Delegates will not be required to adhere to most parliamentary procedure formalities, however, a delegate must raise their placard in order to speak. Think of a crisis committee as a committee-session-length moderated caucus.

**Directives:** similar to the working papers or draft resolutions produced from GA committees, crisis committees produce directives, which are formal documents stating the actions the committee or an individual is going to undertake. These documents may be drafted by anyone on the committee during the committee session. Once a draft is finished, it can be passed on to the chair, who will read it aloud, allowing the committee to change or vote on the document to eventually produce a formal directive.

Directives contain **operative clauses**, however, unlike the working papers of GA committees, they **do not contain preambulatory clauses**. Directives must contain **sponsors**, delegations that were actively involved in compiling and writing the document, and **signatories**, delegations that want to see the directive voted on but are not necessarily in support of the overall claim.

Note: Operative clauses **must be written during the committee session**. Any pre-written clauses or documents composed outside of the committee session time will not be allowed to be implemented or used in any way during the directive writing process.

# Committee Structure

**Press Releases:** these are formal communications utilized by committees to inform “the public” with information about the current state of the crisis. They can be used to spread actual facts about the situation, or can be used kind of like propaganda to spread information that could sway the public opinion” in a certain way.

**Communiqués:** informal correspondence between committees or other delegates in order to involve them in this crisis in a certain way. They can be written together as a committee or by an individual delegate.



# Topic Background

## French Revolution of 1812

On June 24th, 1812, seeking to liberate modern-day Poland from the opposing threat of Russia, French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte led his Grande Armée across the Nieman River and into Russian territory. Unofficially, he also hoped to convince Tsar Alexander I, the emperor of Russia at the time, to relinquish his trading position with Britain in order to get the British to petition for peace.

In 1809 Napoleon successfully finished the war with Austria. This gave him a secure hold of all continental Europe, save Russia and England. Therefore he set his sights on Russia. To do this, he set trading restrictions on Russia, as Russia was part of Napoleon's trading system. Following this, Tsar Alexander exited the agreement and Napoleon, seeking to force the Tsar's hand, decided to invade Russia. This is shown by Napoleon's speech to his men before attempting to pass the Niemen where he tells his men that "At Tilsit, Russia swore eternal alliance with France, and war with England. She now violates her oaths." Interestingly, despite the official reason for the war being the control of Poland, neither commander mentioned it in their speeches.



# Topic Background

## French Revolution of 1812

This finally set off the growing animosity of the two countries as Russians either ignored France's wishes for the continental blockade decided by the treaty at Tilsit or went directly against them. In one case, Russia taxed only land-based goods, which were more likely to come from France, while allowing sea-based goods to have lower taxes. Furthermore, Russia continually avoided securing their treaty by marriage as Napoleon was disliked by many members of the Tsar's court.

Once they entered Russia, Napoleon continued to use the strategies that won him his other wars in Europe. The most notable of this is how the army was quickly marched without bothering to collect all the supplies. This allowed for quicker attacks, but made the invasion of Russia, with its thin populations and vast landscapes difficult. To solve this, France had 17 battalions to move food to the remaining army. Russians, however, started using scorched earth and retreat tactics which quickly forced the French to over-extend their army and food supplies. This would come to be the deciding factor in the invasion.

The Russians were greatly outnumbered as the French's "Grande Armee" had nearly 690,000 men, while the Russian army, between the front line, second line, and militia number 488,000. Although there's the famous saying to "never attack Russia in the winter," most of the battles and most of the losses were in the spring and summer.

# ***Topic Background***

## **French Revolution of 1812**

The Russian army only had one official ally, Sweden, who did not send any troops. It often got help from Prussians, however, who despite their official stance subservient to France, showed strong animosity towards its conqueror and many Prussians either actively supported Russia or attempted to undermine Napoleon's hold of the state. Despite its alliance with France, Russia still entertained the Prussian monarchs against Napoleon's wishes.

For the Russians, this war was clearly about protecting their homeland from the tyrant Napoleon. This is obvious as it's called The Patriotic War for Russians. For the French, who were constantly in war starting following Napoleon's takeover, this was the beginning of the end.



# Prominent Figures

**Tsar Alexander I:** The emperor (Tsar) of Russia during the Napoleonic Wars. He believed that by defeating Bonaparte and his army, he would be fulfilling an important deed for all of Europe.

**Mikhail Kutuzov:** Field marshal of the Russian Empire.

**Mikhail Andres Barclay de Tolly:** Russian minister of war until 1812, commander of the 1st army afterward.

**Karl Ludwig August Friedrich Von Phull:** German general in the Russian army, advocate for scorched earth strategy.

**Mikhail Miloradorvich:** In charge of raising and gathering the militia.

**Fyodor Rostopchin:** Governor-General of Moscow, General of the Infantry.

**Alexander von Benckendorff:** Adjutant General and commander of partisan units.

**Pyotr Bagration:** Russian general and Georgian prince.

**Peter Khristianovich Wittgenstein:** Commander of the Right Wing.

**Nikolay Nikolayevich Raevsky:** Major commander.

**Dmitry Sergeyeovich Dokhturov:** Major commander.

**Alexander Ivanovich Ostermann-Tolstoy:** Major commander.

**Aleksey Petrovich Yermolov:** General.

**Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov:** General.

**Yakov Petrovich Kulnev:** General.

**Matvey Ivanovich Platov:** Ataman of the Don Cossacks.

# Prominent Figures

**Pavel Vasilievich Chichagov:** Admiral.

**Louis Alexandre Andrault De Langeron:** Frenchmen who served as general in Russian Army.

**Aleksey Arakcheev:** Oversees Recruitment and Military Supplies.

**Levin August Von Bennigson:** German General for Russia who often clashed with Kutuzov.

**Woldemar Hermann Von Lowenstern:** Lieutenant Colonel under Kutuzov.

**Dmitry Neverovsky:** General.

**Charles XIII:** King of Sweden (while he had little impact on the actual war, he could have)



## Questions to Consider

1. What are your character's feelings towards Russia?
2. What are some of the motivations and/or beliefs that drive your character? How might they influence the committee session debate?
3. With whom in our committee might your character have the best political relationship? With whom might you have the worst? What strategies do you have for strengthening partnerships or breaking them?
4. How do you want the committee session debate to be solved? Is a peaceful solution worth considering?



## Further Research

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_invasion\\_of\\_Russia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_invasion_of_Russia)

(A good place to start! Detailed summation and overview of the French Invasion of Russia. Check the right-hand sidebar at the top for links to other “summation” articles about individual figures).

[https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/French\\_invasion\\_of\\_Russia](https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/French_invasion_of_Russia)

[http://www.gutenberg.org/files/18113/18113-h/18113-h.htm#CHAP\\_II](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/18113/18113-h/18113-h.htm#CHAP_II)

(A book with many pieces of information, although it might be hard to search through).

<https://www.battleofwaterloo.org/french-invasion-of-russia-1812/>

(Good information, especially on the causes of the war).

