



RUSSIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

The Russian Civil War of 1918



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TUMUN IX

Table of Contents

<i>Letter From the Crisis Director</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Technology Policy.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Historical Context.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>The Current Situation</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Questions to Consider.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Roles.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Bibliography</i>	<i>14</i>

Letter From the Crisis Director

Hello Delegates,

Thank you for signing up to attend TUMUN this year. My name is John Murphy, and I will be your Crisis Director for this committee. I am currently a freshman at Tufts looking to pursue a double major in International Relations and Russian and Eastern European Studies. I participated in Model UN all four years of high school, acting at different times as delegate, dias, and secretariat. Outside of MUN I am a photographer for the Tufts Daily, but I also do photography as a hobby as well. If you are interested in doing any of those things at Tufts some day and you have questions, send me an email and I will be happy to answer them.

I selected this committee topic because I think that the Russian Civil War is a fascinating part of history, and because I think that the disunified and conflicting nature of the White Movement

poses a unique opportunity for so many excellent crisis arcs. As members of the White Movement, you will be acting as representatives of a broad range of disparate groups, united in their desire to end the Bolsheviks, but who disagree on almost everything else. Leading your respective factions, you will have significant opportunities to change the course of history for better or worse. In this committee, the only thing for certain is that none of you can survive on your own. Your two priorities will be first to defeat the advance of the Bolsheviks and their armies, and second to establish a stable governing system in the territory of the former Russian Empire. Your position descriptions will give you a good place to start when deciding on which course you will take, but more research is essential to identifying what is best for you and your faction, whether you are a Russian politician, Polish general, or member of the Kazakh intelligentsia.

In terms of awards, I am looking for delegates who are both well prepared and able to quickly adapt their plans as events unfold. Furthermore, I want to see delegates who are both leaders in front room and highly influential in backroom, with strong speeches, effective directives, and crisis arcs that are not only detailed but creative. You should all come to the first committee session with a strong foundation of research to back up your actions in committee, as well as a crisis arc that is well thought out and able to promote your interests behind the scenes.

I hope that this will be a productive and serious committee in which you are able to accomplish both the committee's goals as well as your own. I look forward to hearing your speeches and reading your notes this March. If you have any questions at all about the topic, your position, or committee mechanics, please feel free to reach out to me at jmurph24@tufts.edu or at 224-470-0971. If you do have a question, please identify your position in your message so I can help you most effectively.

Best of luck,
John Murphy

Technology Policy

Out of the spirit of being historically accurate, there will be limitations on the use of technology in the committee. During moderate caucuses and debate, computers are not allowed. Your attention should be on the person speaking and the happenings of committee. However, you can use technology during unmoderated caucuses.

Historical Context

The Russian Empire

The Russian Empire as we think of it began to take shape in 1547 when Ivan the Terrible was crowned Tsar of All Russia and began the Eastern expansion that transformed Russia into a multiethnic state. Russia officially became an empire when Peter the Great declared himself Emperor in 1721, and he and his successors continued to expand their territory in the years that followed. At its maximum extent, the Russian Empire stretched from Poland to the Pacific, and from the Arctic Circle to Northern Iran, making it the third largest empire to ever exist. Although Orthodox Russians dominated politically, the empire included many different ethnic and religious groups.



In 1898, the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party was founded as a coalition of several preexisting Marxist political groups. Almost from the start, the group became divided between two factions, who would become known as the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. The Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, favored a form of socialism in which an elite vanguard of dedicated party members guided the people.



The Mensheviks, on the other hand, favored a less centralized approach in which party membership was widely accessible. For almost ten years, this split remained internal, but in 1912, the Bolshevik Party was officially established, and they quickly surpassed the Mensheviks in popular support, except for in some regions of the Caucasus.

Revolution of 1905

By the turn of the century, the Russian Empire was facing many difficulties. In 1861, the Tsar freed the serfs, making Russia one of the last European states to do so. However, the system that replaced serfdom in Russia was almost as bad, if not worse. Most of the newly emancipated rural peasants could not afford to feed themselves, much less pay their high taxes, which led to widespread anger amongst the peasantry.



Over the following half century, the Empire's stability began to collapse. Various ethnic groups across the Empire were becoming dissatisfied with the government's Russification policies. Slowing markets in Europe caused the Russian economy to contract. The last straw came with Russia's humiliating defeat at the hands of the Japanese in 1905.

In January of that year, government soldiers fired upon a crowd of peaceful protesters on their way to deliver a petition to the emperor. This event, known as Bloody Sunday, was the catalyst for a wave of strikes, peasant revolts, and

mutinies so severe that they eventually forced Tsar Nicholas II to adopt a constitutional monarchy. While this move restored order at the time, it did little to address the underlying problems.

World War I

Russia's material involvement in WWI began on July 25th, 1914, when Tsar Nicholas ordered a partial mobilization of Russia's army. Germany and Austria-Hungary felt threatened by this move, and subsequently declared war when Russia refused to de-escalate. Russia's main advantage in the war was its population. But while Russia could afford to raise massive armies, and replace them once destroyed, it could never afford to equip them effectively. Russia's industrial sector had always lagged that of Western/Central Europe, and its distance from its allies in Britain and France made receiving aid difficult at best. Over time, the war became deeply unpopular at home, both due to the massive casualties incurred by the Russian Army and by the severe economic toll the war took on the empire. Furthermore, Russia's war effort cut it off from international markets, and its insufficient railway network, which was further overburdened with soldiers

headed to the front lines, made it difficult for food to reach Russia's starving people.

February Revolution/Provisional Government

By 1917, popular support for Tsar Nicholas' government had evaporated. In February of 1917, St. Petersburg, then known as Petrograd, experienced a series of crippling strikes. When the Tsar sent in the local garrison to break up the strikes, they instead mutinied and joined the revolt. The revolution continued to spread, and on March 2nd, under significant pressure from his top advisors, Nicholas abdicated the throne, ending centuries of Tsarist rule in Russia. The subsequent government, simply named The Provisional Government, was a caretaker government led by Alexander Kerensky, whose main goal was to organize elections for a Constituent Assembly. Kerensky and his supporters sought to establish a liberal democracy in Russia that would better represent its massive population. However, it proved to be mostly impotent. The many factions within the government could rarely agree on anything, and when they did, they were undermined by the other emerging power in Russia: the Petrograd Soviet, a worker's city council dominated by the Mensheviks, which tried to exert power nationwide. One of the main disagreements between the

two bodies was about the state of World War I, which was still ongoing. The Petrograd Soviet wanted to end the war immediately and at any cost. The Provisional Government, on the other hand, wanted to remain in the war in the hopes that military success could bolster confidence in their rule. Their new military campaign, the Kerensky Offensive, was a disaster. Instead of bolstering the new government, this military failure led to a rapid decline in public confidence in the Provisional Government, closely mirroring the cratering of the Tsar's public support less than a year before.

October Revolution

In September of 1917, the Provisional Government declared the founding of the Russian Republic and established the Directory to run the transition. At the same time, the Bolsheviks had gained control of the Petrograd Soviet and were planning a coup. On October 24th, Bolshevik forces began occupying key strategic locations in the city. They faced minimal resistance, and in the early hours of October 25th, they occupied the Winter Palace. The Provisional Government was abolished, and Kerensky fled Russia. The Constituent Assembly would briefly survive, but

at this point the government was clearly under Bolshevik control.



The Current Situation

As the committee starts, the day is March 3rd, 1918, and the Bolsheviks have just signed the Treaty of BrestLitovsk, formally ending Russia's participation in WWI. At the same time, the Bolsheviks are attempting to consolidate control across the former Russian Empire, but popular opinion is divided. Some welcome the socialists as liberators whilst others fear their wrath. Former imperial officers have successfully raised several armies to oppose the Bolsheviks in the South and Far East. In Europe, Finland has declared independence from Russia, as have the Baltic States, Ukraine, and Poland. Meanwhile, in Central Asia, states both new and old seek to establish their autonomy in the coming new

order, and the Basmachi Movement continues to resist any sort of Russian rule. Furthermore, the situation in Russia is of keen interest to many foreign powers including the British, Germans, Chinese, Japanese, and Americans, who all have their own interests to promote in this war, most of whom having a demonstrated interest in the fall of the new socialist state. As delegates you have significant leeway in how and with whom you want to fight this war, and how much you are willing to sacrifice for the sake of unity.



Questions to Consider

- What unique qualities does your position bring to the committee that might prove valuable?

- How much are you willing to compromise with others within the movement to defeat the Bolsheviks? • Do you want to see the Russian Empire reconstituted as a monarchy, democracy, something else, or not at all?
- How can the White Movement improve its popularity amongst those it seeks to rule?
- What strategies should the committee use to promote internal stability whilst fighting this incredibly destabilizing war?

Roles

Alexander Kolchak



Alexander Kolchak is a Russian military officer. Born into a noble family, he was the son of an engineer and attended the Russian Naval College. After serving on several different ships in the Russian Navy, he became an arctic explorer for a few years and joined the Imperial Geographic Society. He participated in the Russo-Japanese War, was wounded, and then captured. After being released by the Japanese he worked to enact modernizing reforms in the Russian

Navy. During WWI he became the head of the Black Sea Fleet. As of the start of the committee he has just returned from a diplomatic/military mission to the West, having met with senior officials of the United States and the British Empire.

Pyotr Wrangel



Pyotr Wrangel was born in 1878 in Novalexandrovsk, Russia, to a Baltic German family. After graduating from the St. Petersburg Institute of Mining, he briefly became a cavalry officer before transferring to the reserves. He returned to active duty to participate in the Russo-Japanese War. He remained in the army throughout WWI,

where he served with distinction. By the end of the war, he had become a highly decorated cavalry officer and a major general in the Russian army. After the revolution, he retired to Crimea, where he was arrested by the Bolsheviks for a brief time. After being released, he is currently living in Ukraine, where he is preparing to join the White Army.

Anton Denikin



Anton Denikin was born in Russian Poland in 1872. Unlike many of his colleagues, Denikin was not born into a noble family. In fact, his father had been a serf. Originally serving in an artillery unit, Denikin later attended the General Staff Academy, but struggled initially. He served in the Russo-Japanese War with an infantry unit and became a major general just before the outbreak of WWI. During the war, he was attached to General Brusilov's army before being transferred to serve under

General Kornilov, whom he supported during the eponymous Kornilov Affair. For his participation in the Kornilov Affair, he was arrested by the Bolsheviks. Following his release, he fled to the Caucasus to help for the Volunteer Army.

Roman Von Ungern-Sternberg



Born into a Baltic German noble family within the Russian Empire, UngernSternberg exhibited violent tendencies from a young age. Expelled from two different military schools by the age of nineteen, he enlisted in the army in 1905 to participate in the Russo Japanese War, but did not see action before the war ended. He then enrolled in a third military academy, where he did significantly better, developing an interest in Eastern philosophy and the occult. After being commissioned, he was assigned to Siberia where he developed a

significant drinking problem. In WWI he gained a reputation as being brave to the point of recklessness, but he managed to survive the war. He has recently been promoted to Major General despite frequent insubordination. Roman Von Ungern-Sternberg is a hardline conservative and ardent monarchist who is loyal to the Tsar above all else.

Milan Rastislav Štefánik



Milan Rastislav Štefánik is a Slovak who was born in Austria-Hungary in 1880. In 1900, he began studying to be an astronomer. While at university, he also became active in various Slovak student groups and attended lectures about a future Czech and Slovak state. Inspired, he became dedicated to the Czechoslovak cause. His reputation as a renowned scientist allowed him to develop contacts across Europe, particularly in France. In 1915, he helped organize the Czechoslovak Council and went on to play a key role in the foundation

of the Czechoslovak legions. In his role as a diplomat, it is Štefánik's job to represent and advocate for the Czechoslovak legions as they seek to escape Russia and avoid being hunted down by their Bolshevik enemies. He is interested in defeating the Bolsheviks insofar as it will help the Legion return home.

David R. Francis



Born in Kentucky in 1850, Francis graduated from Washington University Saint Louis in 1870. He became rich through his investments in grain and railroad companies. In 1884, he became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, and the mayor of Saint Louis the year after. Following his term as mayor, he served as Governor of Missouri and as the Secretary of the Interior under Grover Cleveland. In 1916, he was appointed ambassador to Russia, the position he currently holds. As a result of his previous ventures into business and politics, Francis has at his disposal a

wide network of politically connected allies, as well as significant funds to back up his plans. As the United States Ambassador, Francis' goal is to advance US interests in the former Russian Empire.

Robert Hodgson



Born in 1874 in West Bromwich, England, Hodgson was the son of a reverend. He attended Oxford before joining the British diplomatic service. Originally stationed in Algiers, he was later assigned to Marseilles, where he became a Vice Consul. After a few years in France, he was once again reassigned, this time to Vladivostok in 1906. At the start of the Civil War, he became the acting high commissioner to the White government and therefore will be acting as the highest-ranking diplomatic representative from the UK to the committee. As the committee starts, he is tasked with organizing British efforts to aid

the White Movement in defeating the Bolsheviks.

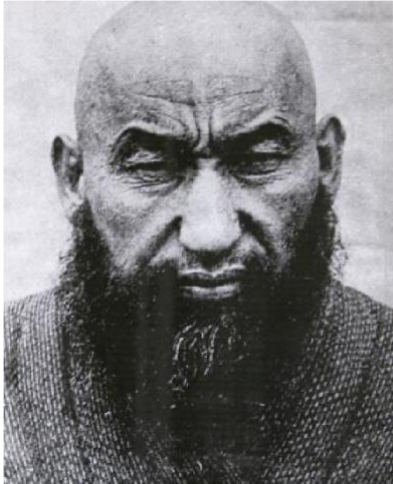
Josef Pilsutski



Pilsutski is a Pole born in 1867 in modern day Lithuania, then a part of the Russian Empire. An officer in the Russian army, he was exiled to Siberia after being accused in a plot to kill the Tsar. Upon his return, he began promoting socialism as a member of the Polish Socialist party, causing him to be arrested again. However, he escaped and began organizing paramilitary groups to resist Russian rule. During WWI, he sought aid from the Central Powers, namely Austria and Germany. When he refused to swear allegiance to them, he was once again arrested. Pilsutski is currently returning to Poland to raise an

army and reestablish Polish sovereignty once and for all.

Ibrahim Bek



Born in 1889 in the Emirate of Bukhara, Ibrahim Bek is an Uzbek warlord and current leader of the Basmachi Movement, an insurgent revolt against Russian authority in Central Asia. Accounts of his early life are scarce, with some saying that he was an officer in the Bukharan army, and others that he was a bandit or horse thief. Either way, he quickly proved his martial prowess. An ardent conservative, Bek seeks to preserve the old way of life from the onslaught of modernity. In addition to his guerillas, he also possesses significant contacts within Afghanistan, allowing him to slip across the border as needed.

Alikhan Bukeikhanov



Alikhan Bukeikhanov is a Kazakh politician and scientist. Born in Semipalatinsk in 1866, Bukeikhanov studied at the Omsk Technical institute and the Saint Petersburg Imperial Forestry Institute. Starting in 1893, he became prominent in Kazakh political and literary circles, where he earned a reputation as a man dedicated to Kazakh autonomy. For this he was blacklisted by the Tsar's secret police. He was also active in the scientific community, having been a member of the Imperial Geographic Society and the Semipalatinsk Statistical Committee. During the two AllKazakh Congresses of 1917, Bukeikhanov orchestrated the creation of the Alash Orda, and was elected chairman, making him the first head of state of a Kazakh nation. He is currently in charge of

leading the Alash Orda against the oncoming Bolshevik invasion.

Pavlo Skoropadskyi



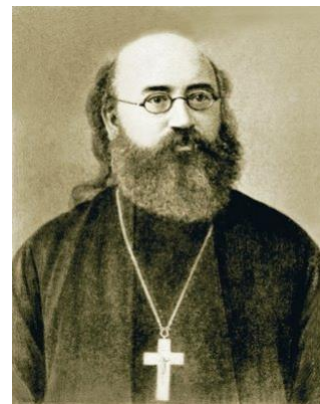
Born into an influential noble family, Skoropadskyi was a career soldier. He became a cavalry officer and participated in both the Russo-Japanese War and WWI. After the Revolution, he began working to orchestrate a coup to overthrow the socialist Ukrainian government. He is currently on the verge of launching his bid to conquer Ukraine and return it to the Russian Empire.

Carl Gustaf Mannerheim



Carl Gustaf Mannerheim is a general of Swedish origin. He originally entered the Russian Army, serving with distinction in the Russo Japanese War and WWI. When Finland declared its independence, he left Russia to offer his services to the White Finnish Government. While the Bolsheviks did not resist Finland's succession initially, they have since sponsored a separate communist revolution in Finland. Mannerheim's current job is to lead the White Movement in Finland as Bolsheviks try to regain lost ground.

Ivan Vostorgov



Vostorgov was born in 1864 in the region of Kuban. He was the son of a local priest, and his grandfather was a master of theology who taught at a seminary. After he himself graduated from seminary, he taught Russian and Old Church Slavonic before

becoming a deacon. Vostorgov was an effective priest, and he soon developed a large following. In 1901, he became an Archpriest of the Russian Orthodox Church, and his influence only grew from there. He also became involved in political affairs, quickly becoming a leading voice in the monarchist movement. Vostorgov was criticized by both liberals and some right-wingers, but his popularity did not wane despite accusations of criminal activity. As of the start of committee, he is living in Bolshevik controlled Russia, and is one of their most vocal critics, using his influence in an attempt to unite the Orthodox community against communism.

Mikhail Sablin



Born in Sevastopol in 1869, Sablin's family had a long tradition of Naval service: Both his father and brother served, as did he.

Sablin graduated from Naval Officer's school in 1890, and was subsequently assigned to the Black Sea Fleet. After several years, he was reassigned to the East, where he first helped to put down the Boxer Rebellion, and later took part in the Russo-Japanese War. During the Battle of Tsushima, his ship was sunk, but Sablin was rescued by another Russian vessel, and he survived. During the First World War, he returned to the Black Sea, where he served with distinction. As of the start of committee, he is in command of the Black Sea Fleet. The Bolsheviks have officially revoked his rank with the end of the War, but he has refused to step down, and his men are fully behind him.

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