

Joint-Crisis Committee

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to this year's DUMUNC, and in particular the Joint Crisis Committee. We have been working very hard this year to create the most amazing crisis experience for you to date-- from last summer all the way up until now! There has been so much planning and work that has gone into this conference, and we are very excited to see it come out in the form of an extremely fun, fast-paced, moment-to-moment duel of diplomacy.

What really led us into working here in the JCC was the idea of worldbuilding, of creating a system of moving parts that work off each other and being able to dig our hands deep into the dirt and feel just how rich and layered the soil is. This has been our foundation for planning the JCC from the very beginning, back in the open-ended days of summer, and has continued all the way up until now. What started as a small but crazy idea led to a whole network of alliances, enemies, conflicts, and history within no time. There was something magical in the whole process, a sort of strange trust that everything would come together in the end. And it did! It really hit us when we wrote up this background guide, because this is the sum of all of our planning, all our pages and pages of thoughts and lines upon lines of brainstorming. This is an experience you don't often get outside of planning Model UN, or even in Model UN itself, because it's just so different from everything we are used to. And that's why we are so excited to bring this worldbuilding to you today: it is something we want to be unique and yet familiar, incorporating conventional delegating with completely innovative committee ideas that have been unexplored up until now.

And so we hope that our hours of brainstorming, our countless days fleshing out our ideas, bring you an experience you have never had before. Best of luck, delegates.

Yours,

Luis Rodriguez, *Crisis Director*

Cheenu Tiwari, *Deputy Crisis Director*

Introduction

The world of 2050 is a very different place from our world today. With the eruption of Yellowstone volcano in 2018, the United States has greatly reduced its military presence in the world, and is no longer a world superpower. In the void left behind, the European Union, Russia, and China remain the sole entities capable--militarily, politically, and economically--of achieving any measure of dominance over the globe. But no nation has been left unscathed by the eruption. The ensuing eruption led to volcanic winter, due to the amount of ash released by the volcano, and has led to massive famine and civil unrest across the world. Even in countries not as directly affected by the volcanic winter, the events following the eruption have affected them drastically enough to lead to significant changes in their geopolitical and social landscape.

Each of the three nations--the European Union, Russia, and China--has thus received its fair share of challenges. Over the decades after the eruption, the three have come into conflict with each other, sometimes directly, other times indirectly. All the while, they have faced their own domestic struggles, some political and some military in nature. These confrontations, both domestic and international, have shaped the course of each nation's history over time, with some being resolved while others continuing into the present day.

This year's Joint Crisis Committee features these three nations as our committees, pitted against each other in a struggle to dominate the world. Within committee, much of the focus will be on military and political action, both in order to address domestic concerns and to take on the other two committees. Those that can bring shrewd, creative ideas and tactics to the floor will be rewarded, while those that are unable to outpace their opponents will likely face greater and greater odds. The ability to react immediately to rapidly changing circumstances is just as important, if not more so, than preparedness, for the pace of committee will be very quick and the intensity of conflicts very high.

Timeline of Events

-Red = major unifying events

-Black = worldwide events, events in other countries

-Orange = China events

-Blue = Russia events

-Purple = European Union events

2018

- Yellowstone Volcano erupts, destroying the entire Midwest, raining ash on approximately 90% of the country, and causing food shortages and mass epidemics of respiratory illness. As a result of the eruption, the United States is forced to withdraw a significant majority of its overseas military forces to deal with the devastation at home.
- Over the following few years, the climate enters a period of rapid cooling, or “volcanic winter,” as massive clouds of ash reduce the amount of sunlight reaching Earth’s surface. Worldwide famine ensues due to resulting crop failures, throwing many nations into political and civil chaos. The global economy plummets. The US military remains mostly at home to help with the relief efforts, and the president begins negotiations to drastically and permanently reduce military involvement overseas.
 - Russia, though not left unscathed by the volcanic fallout, remains one of the few nations not as badly affected by the eruption--militarily, economically, and politically.
 - European nations begin facing a renewed influx of refugees from the Middle East and Northern Africa. Although nowhere near as badly affected as the United States, Europe as a whole suffers from the repercussions of volcanic winter, and the influx of refugees only worsens the situation.
 - China faces nationwide famine as volcanic winter leads to crop failures. The famine hits particularly hard in Southern China. Combined with the continuous pollution, this leads to long-term resentment against the government, particularly in Western and Southern China.

2021

- Russia annexes Eastern Ukraine and parts of Georgia under de facto Russian control, disturbing leaders worldwide, particularly those in Europe, but facing little tangible opposition.
- Italy suffers one of the worst terrorist attacks in history, as terrorists of Libyan and Middle Eastern origin conduct a brutal, concentrated massacre in Sicily that kills thousands. In the aftermath, many nations elect highly nationalistic leaders and harden their borders, stemming the flow of refugees coming in from the Middle East and Northern Africa. Many Southern European nations, particularly Italy, begin to build up their military forces to prevent further such incidences.

2023

- The United States, severely weakened by the Yellowstone eruption, withdraws military support for NATO (as does Canada). After considerable negotiations, the European Union assumes full control of NATO forces, but do little to expand or reform the military forces due to the mounting pressure caused by volcanic winter.

- Extremist moments face mixed outcomes following the eruption.
 - ISIL and Al Qaeda become significantly reduced in size and power by 2023.
 - Hezbollah influence in Lebanon solidifies and expands significantly.
- Many nations, such as Iran, grow increasingly militarized and authoritarian in the face of growing unrest, famine, and suffering from the eruption's fallout. This militarization is not just confined to the Middle East, but also Central Asia, much of Africa, and multiple nations in South America.
 - **Turkey** gives greater representation to religious groups, and reforms its constitution to be less democratic. [Begins growing closer to Russia and many Central Turkic states.](#)
 - **India's** government is overtaken by right-wing Hindu nationalists, who mandate forced vegetarianism throughout the nation in response to growing famine. Many Muslims migrate to Pakistan and Bangladesh as a result of these measures. India's military also begins coalescing into a more and more formidable fighting force, as tensions begin building between India and Pakistan. India's economy also begins to grow rapidly, and India grows closer to ASEAN.
 - **Iran** resumes its nuclear tests, and solidifies influence over Iraq and Syria. Hezbollah becomes its loyal proxy in Lebanon. By 2030 Iran develops fully operational nuclear weaponry.
 - **Arab League nations** form a pact to collectively oppose Iran economically and militarily. Many of its member states, such as Saudi Arabia, are now highly militarized in order to maintain control over their respective populations.
 - **Brazil's** economy grows tremendously, and by 2030 becomes the dominant economic force in South America. Nations such as **Argentina, Venezuela, and Columbia** which grow increasingly autocratic in their rule unite together to compete with Brazil for economic dominance.
 - **Nigeria, Sudan/Ethiopia, and South Africa** begin gaining more and more de facto dominance over their respective regions, forming informal military and economic blocs with their neighboring nations which they assume control of.
 - **Cuba** begins to dominate most of the Caribbean, as the US lifts many of its sanctions upon the nation.
- [Generalissimo, head of the military in Belarus, assumes control of the country. Following Putin's death in a hunting accident, he begins calling for unity with Russia and the formation of a Slavic empire.](#)

2025

- [The United States and Canada sell many of their Arctic drilling and fishing rights to China in an effort to gain more capital to tend to their populace. China, though now theoretically in control of vast amounts of petroleum, is unable to capitalize on the gains due to the economic backlash of such a massive purchase, as well as growing unrest in the Southern and Western China. Russia and Europe protest the sales, but do little to resist.](#)
- [In a stunning turn of events, Generalissimo unites Belarus with Russia, taking advantage of the weak leadership left behind after Putin's death and forming the New Slavic Empire. He immediately launches a blitzkrieg attack into the Baltic region, culminating in](#)

the Battle of Vilnius, which results in him crushing European opposition and gaining control of the Baltics. Ukraine proper, observing the European Union's weakness, joins Russia, while Finland faces mounting pressure to leave the European Union. The EU, devastated by the Slavic Empire's surprise assault, begins to reform its NATO forces to prevent such a disaster from occurring again in the future.

2027-2028

- With mounting tensions in Western and Southern China, manifesting themselves in the form of organized protest, China begins preparing for an assault on Taiwan to solidify its presence in the South China Sea, in order to distract the populace from domestic struggles.

2030

- The European Union reforms its NATO forces into a modernized army under the control of the EU proper. Member states maintain national guards, some stronger than others, but the main bulk of European forces lie under control of the EU. The European Union is reformed into a fully structured governing body overseeing all of its member states, with the European Commission holding the greatest amount of power.
- China signs an agreement with Pakistan for a ten-year long project to strengthen infrastructure (railways, roads) between the two nations, in order to further relations between the two nations and increase economic prosperity.
- The Slavic Empire begins negotiations with many central Asian nations bordering China to form a mutual alliance pact.

2031

- China launches a massive assault on Taiwan, but only is able to take approximately half of the island at heavy loss. The military begins struggling with desertion and many commanders begin growing discontent. Finally, Chinese forces withdraw from the island, instead focusing on building naval and air bases across the South China Sea. Long term, this leads to China having de facto control over the waters, while contending with Japan for control over the East China Sea.
 - The European Union works with Japan to send reinforcements and supplies to the Taiwanese.

2035

- Burdened by economic hardship and weakening military command, China falls into civil war as vast sections of the military in both Western and Southern China split from the Red Army, joining organized protest movements in both regions.
- The volcanic winter caused by Yellowstone's eruption begins showing signs of slowing its expansion throughout the world.
- The Slavic Empire forms a vast military pact with Central Asian states spanning from Kazakhstan to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. China, though alarmed, is too preoccupied with its civil war to respond, besides its pact with Pakistan.
- The European Union, alarmed by Russia's treaties, begins trying to convince the Scandinavian states and Britain to join the EU. These nations remain tepid and uncertain in deciding whether to join or not.

2045

- The Slavic Empire annexes Mongolia, stoking border tensions with China. Tensions are even further stoked by the fact that India is now part of Russia's military pact with the Central Asian states. Russian drilling vessels begin probing the Arctic waters for oil.
- China's civil war culminates in the formation of the nations of Uyghurstan (Western China) and Southern China. Though China proper has declared a ceasefire, the Party does not formally recognize the two nations. Japan, having inherited most of the US Pacific naval fleet, is starting to encroach upon Chinese-controlled seawaters.
- Eastern European nations begin to grow disgruntled with the EU proper, as their economies are not doing as well as those of the rest of the European states. Alarmed by the Slavic Empire sending vessels to the Arctic, the EU begins scouting regions such as Greenland for oil, while putting mounting pressure on Scandinavian nations to join the EU. Britain grows increasingly open to the possibility of (re)joining.

2049

- China begins sending vessels to the Arctic in the lands granted to it by the United States and Canada, even as the EU and the Slavic Empire continue to dispute China's right to those regions. Naval tensions with Japan begin reaching a confrontational stage, as China builds a base on the highly disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku islands and Japan's navy positions itself on the edges of China's area of control. Red Army commanders begin requesting permission to mount an assault on Southern and Western China, claiming that the military is now capable of taking both by surprise in one fell swoop.
- Recent election in the Scandinavian nations and Britain have led to the establishment of leaders promising potential unification with the EU. A leaked communication between the Slavic Empire and Eastern European nations emerges, with the former trying to get the latter to join its empire.
- The Slavic Empire is actively attempting to get disgruntled Eastern European nations to join them, while at the same time building up more and more forces along China's northern border.
- Growing tensions between the three factions as drilling/fishing vessels from each begin encountering each other in the Arctic. Disputes emerge with each faction laying claim to the same regions of land.

Overview

As the timeline shows, each committee has its own share of domestic matters to attend to, all the while dealing with the other two committees it is in tension with. Committees will be expected to deal with each conflict, whether domestic or international, as it emerges, in a timely manner, all the while moving to gain superiority over the globe. Increasingly the world is now seeing that domination of the planet rests in the hands of whichever country is able to control the vast stores of oil in the Arctic, for in the backlash from the eruption and volcanic winter, oil has become the most valuable commodity on the planet. Each committee has already begun inspecting the Arctic lands and initiating drilling, but as of date those expeditions are in their infancy. And yet already these expeditions are coming into confrontation with each other, as competing claims on the waters lead to more and more tension between the various factions sending vessels into the Arctic.

Breakdown by Committee

China

Among the three committees, China was struck particularly hard by the ensuing volcanic winter, leading to famine and mass protest. These tensions eventually led to the secession of Southern and Western China in 2045 after a costly ten-year civil war. The Red Army is no longer seen worldwide as the formidable fighting force it once was, especially after China's failed assault on Taiwan in 2031 and the secession of two of its provinces. The one success China has seen is its alliance with Pakistan, which has led to close military ties between the two nations as well as the building of greater infrastructure across their borders. Though China gained many rights to Arctic regions from the United States and Canada early on, the nation was so embroiled in domestic troubles that it is only recently that Chinese fishing and drilling vessels have been sent to those waters to investigate them. Worse still is the fact that the European Union and Russia (now known as the Slavic Empire) persist in disputing those claims,

despite China conducting the transactions with the mutual consent of the United States and Canada.

To date, China's current concerns include:

- **Southern and Western China.** Now known as Southern China and Uyghurstan, respectively, the two nations are not recognized by China despite having total autonomy and independent governance for the past five years. While China suffered bitter losses in the ten-year long civil war leading to their independence, Red Army leaders are now pushing for China to mount a surprise assault on the two at once, arguing that China's military is now fully capable of subduing both with the element of surprise. The committee must quickly decide whether to mount such an assault or not, as the ramifications of these decisions will continue to play out far after the initial concern is addressed.
- **Tensions with Japan.** Following the withdrawal of US military abroad, Japan inherited the vast majority of the United States's Pacific naval fleet, thus becoming a formidable naval force to contend with. Japan has also been receiving some support from the European Union, in return allowing the EU to use Japanese ports as a staging base for European drilling/fishing vessels and naval ships. In the past Japan was in large part responsible for China's inability to completely seize Taiwan in 2031, and now that China has built a military base in the highly disputed Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, Japan's navy is now positioned at the rim of China's de facto zone of control in both the East and South China Sea. While China does have significant military presence in both seas due to naval and air bases built throughout the area, Japan's naval forces can quickly change that if the committee does not quickly address the issue of what to do about Japan's navy.
- **Border tensions with the Slavic Empire.** Having annexed Mongolia and formed a military pact with both India and the Central Asian states (from Kazakhstan to Tajikistan

and Turkmenistan), the Slavic Empire has continued to remain a big elephant in the room that China has to date been unable to address. China's close ally, Pakistan, has pledged full support to China in the event that the Slavic Empire or India encroaches upon Chinese soil, but recent renewed tensions in Kashmir between Pakistan and India threaten to if anything detract from China's strength, as China has pledged to support Pakistan in the event that it goes to war with India. India, in particular, is now a formidable force to contend with, as its economy and military are both very strong, especially now that India is allied with the Slavic Empire. This is an ongoing issue that must be addressed in committee, to prevent the worst from happening.

- **Arctic oil.** Though China has rights to a significant portion of the Arctic, it has been unable to capitalize on those for a very long time, and thus is still nowhere near ahead of the game in gaining control of and harnessing the vast reserves of oil buried underneath. Recently China has begun sending fishing and drilling vessels to the places it has rights over, only to find that Russian and even a few European ships are also laying claim to the same waters. The Arctic waters are absolutely crucial if China wishes to turn around its misfortunes thus far, and take the world by storm. By the end of committee, China must have dominance over the Arctic to begin its path to world domination.

Russia (i.e. the Slavic Empire)

If there is any nation that has thus far profited from the eruption of Yellowstone volcano, it is Russia, whose lands and resources were so vast that the Yellowstone eruption and ensuing volcanic winter made little dent in Russia's economy and populace. Following the death of Putin and the formation of the Slavic Empire by Belarusian leader Generalissimo, who joined his nation with that of Russia, Russia's military and political leadership has grown very powerful. An early victory against the European Union in 2025 led to the Slavic Empire controlling the Baltic states. Ukraine soon merged with the Slavic Union, and over the following decades, negotiations began with Central Asian nations that led to the formation of a vast military pact

between the Slavic Empire, India, and nations ranging from Kazakhstan to Tajikistan/Turkmenistan. The Slavic Empire also enjoys friendly ties with Turkey. In 2045, almost in commemoration of its victory in Europe two decades earlier, the Slavic Empire annexed Mongolia, leading to China growing more cognizant of how the Slavic Empire's steadily growing chokehold on its borders. With solid victories in both Europe and Asia, the Slavic Empire now stands poised to begin probing the Arctic waters for oil that it can use to complete its destruction of all those who stand in its way.

The following matters stand at hand:

- **Eastern Europe.** Recently, many Eastern European nations have begun grumbling of their inferior economic and political status relative to that of the rest of the European Union. The Slavic Empire has taken advantage of this to try and bring some of those nations in its fold. So far the only progress that has been made is an establishment of communication between those nations and the Slavic Empire. No progress has been made to annexation, and worse still, the European Union, battle hardened after its previous loss of the Baltic states, is now well aware of the Slavic Empire's attempts to expand further into Europe. The committee must act fast to decide whether to capitalize on this tension, and gain more ground, before the European Union is able to pacify the concerns of its Eastern European members.
- **The Asian front.** Against a divided and sorely weakened China that is but a shadow of its former self, Russia has been steadily gaining more and more clout in the entire continent, forming a military pact that stretches across Central Asia and including India. The Slavic Empire must now decide how to proceed, as a crushing blow against China would mean easy access to the Arctic waters China was granted by the United States and Canada. But China is far from out, and with its tight alliance with Pakistan is still capable of putting up a good fight. The committee must quickly decide its next course of

action in the continent, as complacency or incompetent maneuvering could lead to the Chinese standing back on their feet.

- **The Arctics.** The Slavic Empire has begun setting up drilling bases and sending expeditions to the northern waters, but these are quickly coming into conflict with European and Chinese vessels that lay claim to the entire region. It is time to finally lay the matter to rest, and answer the question of who shall gain control of this game-changing resource. By the end of committee, the Slavic Empire absolutely must have control over the Arctic oil to finish off its enemies.

The European Union

While not absolutely broken by the Yellowstone eruption itself, the European Union has had to collectively deal with the resulting chaos, all of which has propelled it towards greater and greater unity. The first and foremost disaster was the loss of US military support of NATO, which came under EU control but remained relatively unchanged for a long while. The initial influx of refugees of the Middle East led to the most disastrous terrorist incident of all time in 2021, causing many nations within Europe, particularly the Southern European ones, to grow more militarized. The devastating and humiliating loss of the Baltics to the Russia (now known as the Slavic Empire after its union with Belarus) in 2025 and the subsequent exit of Ukraine to join the Slavic Empire were lessons Europe learned from, so that by 2030 the European Union was highly centralized and its NATO forces were now a modernized army. Thus the European Union now has its own military force, with each nation having its own militia. In 2031, the EU successfully aided Japan in opposing China's invasion of Taiwan, leading to the EU gaining access to Japanese naval ports in return for continued support. Alarmed by the Slavic Union's subsequent expansion into Asia, the European Union began to try and convince the Scandinavian nations and Britain in 2035 to join its fold, in order to consolidate all of Europe under its command, but has taken until 2049 for these nations to appear receptive to the EU's diplomatic overtures. In the meantime, Eastern European nations grow more and more

disgruntled at the inequality between their situation and that of the rest of Europe, and this has manifested itself in an alarming leaked communique from the Slavic Empire to Eastern European nations about the prospects of merging together. As the Slavic Empire and China begin sending vessels into the Arctic, the EU has begun exploring Greenland and the Arctic itself in order to find oil, coming into close contact with Russian and Chinese vessels that lay claim to the Arctic.

Current conflicts include:

- **Britain and the Scandinavian nations.** While recent elections in these countries have led to the establishment of leaders seeking to join the EU, there will certainly be hurdles to jump in completing negotiations with these countries. But it is absolutely essential that these nations join the EU, particularly the Scandinavian nations, as they will be very beneficial in gaining access to Arctic waters, as well as providing a buffer against Russian expansion. These negotiations must be concluded rapidly, as their fate will determine the EU's ability to access the Arctic.
- **Eastern Europe.** Recent complaints from multiple Eastern European nations--such as Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Bulgaria--have emerged, in which the nations are demanding greater support from the EU for their economic woes as well as greater representation in the European Commission, now the EU's most powerful political body. More troubling still is the fact that the Slavic Empire is now attempting to capitalize on these complaints by inviting these nations into its fold. It is of utmost urgency to resolve this matter, as any delay or incompetency may lead to the Slavic Empire humiliating and weakening the European Union once more, twenty five years after the EU's first defeat.
- **Arctic oil.** Largely in response to the Slavic Empire's probing of the northern waters, the EU has been sending vessels to explore Greenland and other parts of the Arctic. Thus far, all exploration is in its early stages, but already European vessels are running into Russian and even occasionally Chinese drilling/fishing ships laying claim to the same

waters the EU holds claim on. If the European Union is to make due for its past failures, and gain a stronger footing in the world, it must gain control over the Arctic oil reserves. One particular asset that has yet to be used is the access to Japanese naval ports, which may allow the EU entryway to the waters China was “granted” by the US and Canada long ago but whose legality the EU continues to dispute.