

TECHMUNC 2025

VIVE LA FRANCE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Letters from the Dias

Co-Chair: Jayden Huang

Hello delegates!

My name is Jayden Huang and I will be one of your chair's for this committee! I am currently a junior of the Architecture major here at Brooklyn Technical HS, and this is my second year of chairing a committee. Over the years, Model UN has been an outlet for passion and cooperation, and I hope to share that same energy and enthusiasm with you here at TechMUNC. Since this is a crisis committee, I look forward to seeing various actions that could alter the very course of the revolution, while also making for a dynamic yet engaging committee for all delegates.

Outside of MUN, I am an event director for the school's AIAS chapter, a marketing designer for Outreach, an art director for the Performing Hearts Project, and a visual arts teacher for various youth organizations.

Throughout the committee, I hope to see thoughtful communication between delegates, a variety of speeches, engaging crisis notes, and dynamic responses to our various crisis updates. Each action and response from all delegates should have intent and purpose, aimed at tackling this committee's overarching topic regarding the Revolution. Whether it is your intent to carry the flame of the revolution or extinguish it, I have no doubt that this committee will be filled with passionate debate, strategic actions, and complex decisions that will determine the outcome of this committee. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this committee, do not hesitate to contact me! Good luck, and I look forward to seeing you at TechMUNC, vive la France!

- Jayden Huang

Email: jhuang7834@bths.edu

Co-Chair: Samiha Haque

Hi delegates!

My name is Samiha, and I will also be one of the chair's for this committee. I'm a junior in the Neuroscience major here at BTHS, and this is my third year participating in Model UN. Like many of you, I joined MUN, alongside Congressional debate, to overcome my fear of public speaking. I hope this committee will allow you all the same chance to grow, gain confidence, and feel comfortable with grabbing everyone's attention, no matter your experience level. My personal passion for history is what drew me to be a part of this committee, as I believe the most interesting debates arise from discussing the major turning points in society.

Outside of conferences, I love baking and writing. I've started the first "Cooking, Baking, and Culture" (CBC) club at BTHS last year, and am a writer for "The Survey", the school's newspaper.

I can't wait to hear all of your amazing thoughts and ideas for this crisis committee – my only advice is to be bold, speak your mind, and obviously have as much fun as you can! If you have any questions or need help with anything, please don't hesitate to reach out. Good luck!

- Samiha Haque

Email: shaque0935@bths.edu

Rapporteur:

Hello delegates!

My name is Fariha, and I'll be the rapporteur for this committee. I'm a senior in the Law and Society major, and this is my second year on the BTHS Model UN team. This is also my second year hosting and being a rapporteur for TechMUNC! Ever since my first committee, I've had so much fun both going to many different Model UN conferences and working at TechMUNC. Being in my last year of being in the BTHS Model UN team, I hope to make this last conference the best one.

Outside of Model UN, I love doing all sorts of art mediums. I'm in the BTHS art club and BTHS Horizons, and as the Model UN Technology Specialist, I run the BTHSMUN Instagram account.

I hope to see you all on January 24th, and I hope you'll all have a great time attending, like we had coming up with the idea!

- Fariha Hafsa

Email: fhafsa5721@bths.edu

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Introduction

This crisis committee will be simulating the conflict between the various factions of France that dominated the French Revolution in the immediate aftermath of the **Storming of the Bastille**. It is due to this reason that delegates are **not to mention any events after July 14th, 1789**.

The delegations within this committee can be divided into four main factions, these being **the Royal Court (Absolute Royalists), Feuillants (Constitutional Monarchists), Jacobins/Montagnards (Radical Republicans), and Girondins (Moderate Republicans)**.

The committee will be unfolding in real time, with all factions responding accordingly to crisis updates that will be derived from various crisis notes and directives. These actions will push the committee forward, and will be responsible for shaping the political, economic, and diplomatic strategy of each delegation. Delegates must carefully **balance short term and long term goals** during the duration of this crisis, and are encouraged to form alliances and disrupt opposing factions in the interests of their goals.

The committee's outcome is not predetermined. This committee is **not** to serve as a “re-enactment” of the French Revolution, but rather a unique interpretation of Revolution built on by the various perspectives and actions provided by each individual delegation. While delegates are to abide by their delegations beliefs, they aren't constrained to the historical events that occurred within the French Revolution. The fate of the French Republic and Crown is entirely dependent on the delegates.

In order to introduce a more dynamic committee, this committee will also be introducing **one traitor (a rat) to each major faction**. These being the royalists/monarchists and the republicans. On the surface, these rat delegates will appear to support the cause emulated by your bloc but will attempt to break it from the inside. This means that there will be a monarchist traitor inside the Revolution and a Revolutionary traitor inside the monarchists. It should not be the objective of the blocs within this committee to single out the rat, however, work with the scenario to ensure a more dynamic flow of committee.

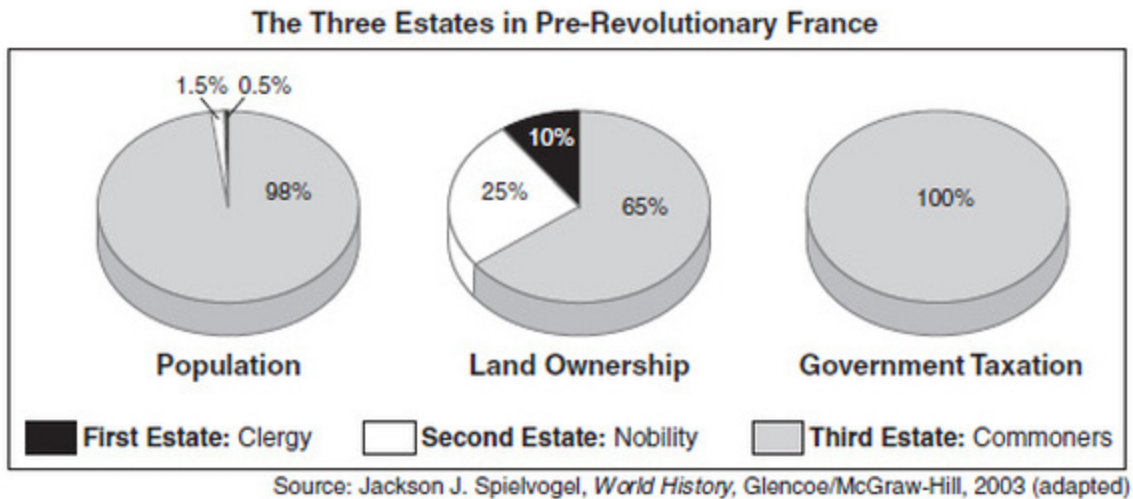
As mentioned earlier, **the overall goal of the committee is to shape the future of France** in the immediate aftermath of the Storming of the Bastille. Delegates are expected to discuss and decide on the future of French governance, as well as commit to actions that may stir tension and consequence in favor of pushing their agenda. Best of luck to all delegations, and the research that will be needed to fully grasp this committee!

Topic History

Leading up to the French Revolution, France was suffering from various issues that plagued not only French society, but the economy and political system of France as a whole. From 1756 to 1763, France engaged in the costly Seven Years' War, which saw France cede numerous lucrative colonies including French Canada, territories east of the Mississippi, and various Caribbean islands to the British through the Treaty of Paris (1763). The War not only drained French coffers, but also threw the French government in a state of disarray as various officials were fired or forced to resign.

In an attempt to save face from the humiliation brought by the Seven Years' War, France aided the American colonists during the American Revolution, providing weapons, military expertise, and money to the rebels. However, despite the successful bid for independence by the United States, France saw little gains. Rather, it slumped deeper in debt, with the economy fully tethering off the edge.

Aside from economic troubles, many of the root causes for widespread discontent for the monarchy rested within the Ancien Régime, which divided French society into three main estates. The First Estate composed of the clergy, the Second Estate composed of the nobility, and the Third Estate composed of commoners and bourgeoisie. Despite the Third Estate making up 97%-98% of the population, they owned only a third of the land within France, as well as made up nearly the entirety of the state's taxpayer revenue. The First and Second Estate were largely exempt from taxes, which caused great discontent among the population of the Third Estate.



Politically, the Third Estate was also vastly underrepresented within government. France operated under an absolute monarchy, with King Louis XVI having nearly absolute control over all aspects of French society. To address the growing financial crisis, King Louis XVI called the **Estates-General** in May 1789. A representative assembly composed of members from the three estates. The Estates-General had not been convened since 1614 and the King had hoped that the assembly would prove fruitful in providing ideas regarding the management of taxation and financial reform. However, voting was conducted via estate, giving the First and Second Estate vastly disproportionate representation in comparison to the Third Estate, despite the Third Estate dominating the French population.

Tensions between the estates continued to escalate, especially as bread prices began to rise and the food of the common people became unaffordable to the masses. With the Third Estate frustrated over the imbalance of power, many broke away, forming the **National Assembly**, which claimed to represent the people of France. On **June 20, 1789**, the members of the National Assembly took the **Tennis Court Oath**,

each one vowing that the assembly would not disband until the formation of a new constitution.

With heightened fear among the nobility, the King began to mobilize troops around Paris, with various other factions such as the National Guard led by the Marquis de Lafayette, in anticipation of a conflict. On **July 14, 1789**, the tension would finally break, culminating in the **Storming of the Bastille**. A royal fortress and prison, representing the symbol of royal tyranny. The fall of the fortress marks the beginning of the turning point in the French Revolution.

Current Situation

The Storming of the Bastille:

On the morning of July 14, 1789, Parisians primarily from the working class had stormed the Bastille, a medieval fortress and prison that served to showcase the absolute power of the monarchy. The Parisian mob was confronted by the soldiers guarding the Bastille, which led to hours of battle, but eventual overtake of the fortress by the mob after surrender by the guards. The governor of the fortress, Bernard-René de Launay, was killed afterwards, and the prisoners were freed. In total, only seven prisoners were released, but the success of the storming fueled hope and determination throughout the Third Estate. With the storming also being a direct response to the King's mobilization of his troops, the event was a firm assertion of the people's power against royal tyranny.



Immediate Aftermath

Upon hearing the success of the crowd, Louis XVI had realized the severity of the people's discontent. To mellow down the revolutionaries, he recalled 23 regiments of troops that were stationed in Paris on June 15. In addition to this, he reappointed the popular reform-minded Jacques Necker as the Director-General of Finances, hoping to mend his relation with the Third Estate after Necker's dismissal from office on July 11 of 1789 had directly led to the storming of Bastille. Louis XIV also made Jean Sylvain Bailly, the leader of the Third Estate and creator of the Tennis Court of Oath, the city's new mayor. Despite his efforts, the revolutionary fervor continues to intensify, and unrest within the people of France is not subsiding.

In terms of reactions from the French public, nobles have begun to flee the country in fear of more violence from the Third Estate. This includes King Louis XVI's brother, Charles Philippe, his sons, former finance ministers like Charles Alexandre de Calonne, and the Polignac family, who were close allies of the Queen. Fleeing of such important figures pushes the perception of royal instability and further fuels the need for revolution.

For the Third Estate, their success was viewed as evidence of their collective power, and revolutionary committees continue to form across the nation. These groups are held by mostly the common people – peasants, urban workers, and bourgeoisies. Such unions continue to spread the mission of the natural rights of men, the social contract, and equality. However, while spirits amongst this estate has strengthened, their living conditions had not improved, and the revolution's promises has yet to be achieved and granted.

The immediate aftermath of the Bastille's fall did nothing to fix the growing financial crisis that provoked the revolution in the first place. Famine continues to starve French citizens, as the price of necessities such as bread, continues to rise. Food riots have become common, and often violent, as the working class continues to become increasingly desperate. With the royal treasury being run dry and the aristocracy's refusal to address financial reforms, France's living conditions continue to worsen.

This ongoing economic distress remains a crucial element behind the revolution's radicalization. Many revolutionaries are now beginning to demand more than just political reforms, like direct action to alleviate the suffering of the public and put an end to food insecurity.

Questions to Consider

- What are the political, economic, and social interests of my delegation/faction?
- What reforms should be made to the French government, while supporting my faction's interests?
- How does my delegation and faction intend to prevent France from dissolving into further turmoil in the aftermath of the fall of the Bastille?
- What are the possible consequences faced by France in the wake of the Revolution, both domestically and internationally?
- How does your faction intend to maintain stability and usher prosperity into France amid the revolutionary chaos?
- What methods can your delegation and faction employ to coerce other parties into supporting your agenda for France?

Bloc Positions

Royal Court (Absolute Royalists)

King Louis XVI

King Louis XVI of France believed that he had absolute power. When he had inherited the throne, he inherited the economic problems of the previous ruler, King Louis XV. He was called upon to convene the Estates-General to address the budget crisis, which was a key cause of the French Revolution.

Queen Marie Antoinette

Most famously known for the line, “Let them eat cake”, Queen Marie Antoinette was the Queen of France. Because she was born as the archduchess of Austria, many of her political enemies pointed out her foreign origins to sow distrust. The peasantry of France hated Marie Antoinette for her lavish lifestyle and ignorance of the ongoing economic problems affecting the poor.

Armand Marc de Montmorin-Saint-Herem

Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Navy under Louis XVI, Montmorin was a good friend of King Louis XVI. He was a devoted follower of Genevan Banker Jacques Necker. During the French Revolution, his papers were seized and he hid in a house of a washerwoman, but was captured and imprisoned in the Prison de l'Abbaye, where he later died.

Baron de Breuteuil

Louis Auguste Le Tonnelier de Breteuil was the chief minister of the Bourbon Monarchy. He fought in the Seven Years' War for the French Army, but he left in 1758, where he ended up joining the French Foreign Ministry as a French ambassador. He made prison reforms to the French prisons and believed in a monarchy that encouraged intellectuals.

Comte d' Artois

Comte d'Artois, future King of France, Charles X, was the younger brother of King Louis XVI. He opposed reform and believed in royalism. He was one of the key figures of extravagance and royalty who led the public to oppose the aristocracy due to his lavish lifestyle. He was the first of his family to go into exile, leaving France to go to the Austrian Netherlands.

Marquis de Bouille

Bouille was a French general and colonial administrator. He fought in both the Seven Years' War and the American War of Independence. Bouille was a devoted loyalist to the royal family. He was also involved in the First Coalition, a group opposing Revolutionary France.

Étienne Charles de Loménie de Brienne

Brienne was the finance minister of King Louis XVI and a former French cardinal. Brienne pushed for fiscal reform through a direct land tax, but was met with pushback from Parlement. Brienne used coercive political tactics, which were one of the reasons for an aristocratic revolt, and later a step to revolution.

Feuillants (Constitutional Monarchists)

Marquis de Lafayette

Lafayette was a key figure in leading the American Revolution, where he came back and spread the ideas of religious toleration and the abolition of the slave trade. Lafayette also believed in a constitutional monarchy and drafted the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen” alongside Thomas Jefferson.

Adrien Duport

Duport was a French magistrate. He was also a constitutional monarchist. Duport was one of the 47 representatives of nobility who joined the Third Estate and created the legal system called the Ancien Régime. He formed the group “triumvirate” along with Barnave and Lameth.

Jean-Sylvian Bailly

Bailly was a French statesman and astronomer. He led the Tennis Court Oath after being chosen as president of the Third Estate. He was also elected the inaugural president of the National Assembly soon after, known for leading the proceedings in the Tennis Court and being the first to take the Oath. Bailly was known as the first mayor of Paris until he was guillotined during the Reign of Terror.

Charles-Maurice de Talleyrand

Talleyrand was a French clergyman, statesman, and leading diplomat. Before the French Revolution, he was known as the Bishop of Autun. Talleyrand worked a lot of

French diplomatic jobs, but was thought of as distrustful by all the leaders he served. He later became Napoleon's chief diplomat.

Alexandre de Lameth

Alexandre was a French soldier and politician. He served in the American Revolution as a colonel and, like Lafayette, shared the same ideals and was friends with Thomas Jefferson. He believed in moderating constitutional and social reforms and spoke at the National Assembly. He formed the group "the triumvirate" with Barnave and Duport. Brother of Charles Malo François Lameth.

Antoine Barnave

Barnave was a French politician and was seen as one of the key figures of the French Revolution. As a Constitutional Monarchist, he had corresponded with Queen Marie Antoinette to try and set up a constitutional monarchy. Barnave was an elected deputy for the Third Estate and formed a group called "the triumvirate" with Lameth and Duport.

Charles Malo François Lameth

Charles was a French politician and soldier. Charles served in the American Revolution, where he was titled a hero in the Battle of Yorktown. Charles was also a founding member of the "Society of the Friends of the Blacks." Brother of Alexandre de Lameth.

Jacobins/Montagnards (Radical Republicans)

Maximilien Robespierre

Robespierre was one of the key figures in the French Revolution. As the leader of the Jacobins, Robespierre believed in the voting rights for all men, the right to petition, the right to bear arms, and the abolition of the slave trade. Robespierre was also a deputy for the National Convention. Robespierre's reputation took a downfall as his radical measures led to the Reign of Terror.

Georges Danton

As one of the main revolutionaries of the French Revolution, Danton was credited as one of the main overthrowers of the monarchy and helped establish the First French Republic in 1792. During the Revolutionary Tribunal, Danton took credit for the August 10 insurrection.

Napoleon Bonaparte

Known for being one of France's greatest emperors, Napoleon Bonaparte was a lieutenant colonel in the national guard during the French Revolution. Napoleon believed in uniting all the republicans, including the Jacobins and the republicans in the National Convention.

Bertrand Barere

Barere was one of the leaders of the Committee of Public Safety during the Jacobin dictatorship. He believed in strict policies against royalists. Barere was a big supporter of nationalism. Barere himself formulated a lot of the propaganda on "aristocratic conspiracy."

Camille Desmoulins

Desmoulins was a French journalist and politician. Desmoulins was a crowd orator who encouraged crowds to take up arms and caused the insurrection that led to the storming of the Bastille. He also published “La France Libre”, which emphasized the charges against the crumbling ancien regime.

Jean-Paul Marat

Marat was a French politician, physician, and journalist. He was one of the leaders of the Montagnard faction during the French Revolution. Marat wrote “Plan de legislation criminelle”, where he illustrated his ideas of Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Benjamin Franklin. During the French Revolution, he wrote “Offrande a la patrie”, where he stated that he believed a monarchy could solve France’s problems, but criticized the King when he wrote that the King was neglecting the needs of the people.

Jacques-Nicolas Billaud-Varenne

Varenne was a lawyer and pamphleteer during the French Revolution. During the Jacobin dictatorship, he was one of the members of the Committee of Public Safety. Varenne was one of the revolutionaries who planned the insurrection to overthrow the monarchy.

Louis Antoine de Saint-Just

Nicknamed the “Archangel of Terror”, Antoine was a French revolutionary and former President of the French National Convention who was a close friend and big

supporter of Robespierre. Antoine was a political theorist who inspired the creation of the “Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen.” Antoine was a firm believer in sentencing King Louis XVI to death without any trials.

Girondins (Moderate Republicans).

Olympe de Gouges

Olympe was one of France's social reformers, playwright, and feminist. Olympe published the “Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the Citizen”, where she wrote that women should have the same rights as men.

Madame Roland

Roland was the wife of Jean-Marie Roland and influenced many aspects of his political career. Madame Roland believed in the ideas of Rousseau and other democratic ideas. Madame Roland's salon became a meeting place for the Girondins led by Brissot. Madame Roland hated Georges Danton and alienated Danton by making her husband, Roland, attack both Robespierre and Danton during the National Convention.

Pierre Vergniaud

Spokesperson for the Girondin faction. Vergniaud exposed King Louis XVI's counterrevolutionary motives and spread the idea that King Louis XVI should be deposed. Vergniaud had abolished France's feudal institutions and restricted the powers and influence of King Louis XVI in Paris. Vergniaud also had a seat in the Legislative Assembly, along with other members of the Girondin faction.

Jean Marie Roland

Husband of Madame Roland, much of his political life was directed by Madame Roland. Roland was a French scientist who became the leader of the Girondin faction due to his wife's ambition. Most of Roland's actions were prompted or pushed forward by his wife, Madame Roland, including the hatred of Georges Danton and Maximilien de Robespierre.

Francois Buzot

Buzot was a politician and leader during the French Revolution. Buzot voted in favour of capital punishment for King Louis XVI and other royalists who escaped France. Buzot also opposed Georges Danton and the Committee of Public Safety.

Jacques Pierre Brissot

Brissot was a French journalist, abolitionist, and revolutionary. Brissot was one of the founders of the anti-slavery society called "Society of the Friends of the Blacks", and was a very outspoken abolitionist. Brissot voted against the immediate execution of Louis XVI.

Marquis de Condorcet

Condorcet was an elected representative of Paris in the Legislative Assembly, where he was an active advocate for reform of the educational system. Condorcet supported the declaration for a republic and drafted a new constitution that held the views of the moderate Girondins against Robespierre.

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