Background Guide: Lenin’s Cabinet On the Bolshevik Revolution.
In 1917, two revolutions swept through Russia, ending centuries of imperial rule and setting in motion political and social changes that would lead to the formation of the Soviet Union. In March, growing civil unrest, coupled with chronic food shortages, erupted into open revolt, forcing the abdication of Nicholas II (1868-1918), the last Russian czar. Just months later, the newly installed provisional government was itself overthrown by the more radical Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924).

By 1917, most Russians had lost faith in the leadership ability of Czar Nicholas II. Government corruption was rampant, the Russian economy remained backward, and Nicholas repeatedly dissolved the Duma, the Russian parliament established after the 1905 revolution, when it opposed his will. However, the immediate cause of the February Revolution—the first phase of the Russian Revolution of 1917—was Russia’s disastrous involvement in World War I (1914-18). Militarily, imperial Russia was no match for industrialized Germany, and Russian casualties were greater than those sustained by any nation in any previous war. Meanwhile, the economy was hopelessly disrupted by the costly war effort, and moderates joined Russian radical elements in calling for the overthrow of the czar.

The February Revolution (known as such because of Russia’s use of the Julian calendar until February 1918) began on March 8, 1917 (or February 23 on the Julian calendar), when demonstrators clamoring for bread took to the streets in the Russian capital of Petrograd (now called St. Petersburg). Supported by huge crowds of striking industrial workers, the protesters clashed with police but refused to leave the streets. On March 10, the strike spread among all of Petrograd’s workers, and irate mobs destroyed police stations. Several factories elected deputies to the Petrograd Soviet, or council, of workers’ committees, following the model devised during the 1905 revolution.

On March 11, the troops of the Petrograd army garrison were called out to quell the uprising. In some encounters, regiments opened fire, killing demonstrators, but the protesters kept to the streets and the troops began to waver. That day, Nicholas again dissolved the Duma. On March 12, the revolution triumphed when regiment after regiment of the Petrograd garrison defected to the cause of the demonstrators. The soldiers subsequently formed committees that elected deputies to the Petrograd Soviet.

The imperial government was forced to resign, and the Duma formed a provisional
government that peacefully vied with the Petrograd Soviet for control of the revolution. On March 14, the Petrograd Soviet issued Order No. 1, which instructed Russian soldiers and sailors to obey only those orders that did not conflict with the directives of the Soviet. The next day, March 15, Czar Nicholas II abdicated the throne in favor of his brother Michael (1878-1918), whose refusal of the crown brought an end to the czarist autocracy.

**BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION: 1917**

In the aftermath of the February Revolution, power was shared between the weak provisional government and the Petrograd Soviet. Then, on November 6 and 7, 1917 (or October 24 and 25 on the Julian calendar, which is why this event is also referred to as the October Revolution), leftist revolutionaries led by Bolshevik Party leader Vladimir Lenin launched a nearly bloodless coup d’état against the provisional government. The Bolsheviks and their allies occupied government buildings and other strategic locations in Petrograd, and soon formed a new government with Lenin as its head.

Lenin became the virtual dictator of the first Marxist state in the world. His government made peace with Germany, nationalized industry and distributed land, but beginning in 1918 had to fight a devastating civil war against anti-Bolshevik White Army forces. In 1920, the anti-Bolsheviks were defeated, and in 1922 the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was established.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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| 1894 | **Czar Nicholas is crowned**  
After his father, Czar Alexander III, died, Nicholas II became Czar over all of Russia. |
| 1895 | **Vladimir Lenin is exiled**  
Lenin's brother had been killed a few years before for trying to kill Czar Nicholas' father. Lenin wanted to take over power from Nicholas, and he was arrested and exiled from Russia. |
| 1903 | **The Russian Social-Democrat Labor Party meets**  
At the meeting the people were split into two groups. Some supported Lenin, and others supported a different leader. |
| 1905 | **A revolution breaks out** |
A revolution broke out in St. Petersburg, but Czar Nicholas quickly put an end to it. The day was called Bloody Sunday.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>Rasputin is introduced into the aristocracy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rasputin called himself a holy man and a healer, and he helped heal Czar Nicholas' sick son. Still, Rasputin wasn't a good man, and many in Russia hated him, putting the people at odds with the Czar.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1914</td>
<td>WWI begins</td>
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<td>World War I began and the following year, Czar Nicholas took command of the Russian Army.</td>
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<td>1916</td>
<td>Rasputin is killed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The plan to kill Rasputin seemed simple, but it took a lot of work to finally kill him.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1917</td>
<td>Another revolution begins</td>
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<td>The people were unhappy with Czar Nicholas' rule of the country. They began protests and strikes, refusing to do their work.</td>
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<td>March 1917</td>
<td>Czar Nicholas tries to step down</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nicholas tried to give up his throne and let his brother take over, but his brother refused. Other Russian aristocrats tried to make a temporary government.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 1917</td>
<td>Vladmir Lenin tries to take over</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lenin came out of exile and tried to take over the temporary government, but he was chased back into hiding.</td>
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<td>October 1917</td>
<td>Lenin succeeds in taking over</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lenin still led the split political party of the Russian Social-Democrat Labor Party, and his party soon moved in and took control of Russia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Russia backs out of WWI</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lenin signed a treaty, taking Russia out of WWI. Later that year he had Czar Nicholas and his family killed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 1918</td>
<td><strong>The Communist Party is developed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lenin changed the name of his political party to the Communist Party.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td><strong>The USSR is established</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lenin helped establish the United Soviet Socialists Republic, a</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communist country. He worked with Joseph Stalin.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td><strong>Vladmir Lenin dies</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>After Lenin died, Joseph Stalin took over his rule. He would rule</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for many years to come. The Russian revolution changed Russia and all</td>
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<td>of history, introducing communism into the modern world. However,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>communism didn't catch on as Lenin and Stalin had hoped. Instead,</td>
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**Committee Premise**

This committee is going to take place in August 1917, Vladimir Lenin returned from exile in attempts to overthrow the tsarist rule in Russia. After this failed attempt Lenin has returned to the shadows and formed this cabinet in order to organize a coalition/coup against the Nicholas II.

This cabinet is operating out of an undisclosed location in Russia and your goal as a committee is to ultimately topple the Russian government as we know it and establish your own regime.

Although this is a crisis and are two faced by nature, delegates are expected to collaborate in the culmination of this plan. Further crisis updates will be given too give a clear direction to this body.

As a side note each week of debate will cover one month of time.
**Rules and Procedures**

Crisis Committees are very different compared to your traditional GA or specialized bodies. Below are a few key differences and tools that you will need to use throughout the committee.

The committee resolves various issues that come in the form of crisis updates rather than just one topic. Crisis updates are given a couple of times in each committee session to keep debate energetic and fast paced.

**Committee Directives:** Instead of writing resolutions delegates as a committee write and pass directives. Directives only have operative clauses and are typically shorter than resolutions.

**Personal Directives:** We will be using the double notepad system for personal directives. These are essentially directives like committee directives that a delegate accomplishes on their own through the crisis staff.

**Position Powers:** The moment committee starts you will receive your position powers which can be used in personal directives to accomplish your goals within committee.

**Joint-Personal Directive:** Same thing as personal directives just with two or more delegates.

**Press Release:** Formal statements that are announced publicly to outline a certain position of an individual or the body as a whole. They may also be used to inform the public of an event that has taken place or of a change in policy.

**Communiqué:** Messages that are sent from the entire crisis body to another body, country, organization, individual, or political group. They are often underused in committee but they can set up meetings or negotiations.
Positions

1. Lev Kamenev
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lev-Kamenev

2. Grigory Zinovyev
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Grigory-Yevseyevich-Zinovyev

3. Leon Trotsky
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leon-Trotsky

4. Mikhail Frunze
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikhail_Frunze

5. Joseph Stalin
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Joseph-Stalin

6. Semyon Budyonny
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Semyon-Mikhaylovich-Budenny

7. Nikita Khrushchev
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nikita-Sergeyevich-Khrushchev

8. Julius Martov
https://www.britannica.com/biography/L-Martov

9. Georgi Plekhanov
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georgy-Valentinovich-Plekhanov

10. Vera Zasulich
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vera-Ivanovna-Zasulich

11. Feliks Dzerzhinsky
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Feliks-Edmundovich-Dzerzhinsky

12. Aleksandr Kerensky
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aleksandr-Kerensky
13. Rosa Luxembourg
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rosa-Luxemburg

14. Nikolay Bukharin
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nikolay-Ivanovich-Bukharin

15. Yakov Sverdlov
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Yakov-Mikhaylovich-Sverdlov

16. Pavel Akselrod
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pavel-Borisovich-Akselrod

17. Nadezhda Krupskaya
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nadezhda-Konstantinovna-Krupskaya

18. Andrey Bubnov
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Andrey-Sergeyevich-Bubnov

19. Alexander Helphand
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alexander-Israel-Lazarevitsch-Helphand

20. Karl Radek
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Karl-Radek

21. Mikhail Tomsky
https://www.marxists.org/glossary/people/t/o.htm

22. Vyacheslav Molotov
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vyacheslav-Mikhaylovich-Molotov

23. Anatoly Lunacharsky
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Anatoly-Vasilyevich-Lunacharsky

24. Alexey Rykov
https://www.britannica.com/biography/Aleksey-Ivanovich-Rykov
Research Sheet

Crisis Research Guide

COMMITTEE OUTLINE:

Committee Name:
Position Title:
Character:
Delegate Name:

1. What does your committee represent? In other words, explain the entity you are simulating at the conference.
   ● What is it tasked with doing?
   ● What issues are you foresee running into?
   ● What resources does it have at its disposal for purposes of directives?

2a. If your committee represents a government:
   ● What is your committee’s general political leaning?
   ● Is it a democracy or an autocracy? Is it a single party state or a monarchy?
   ● Does it lean to the right or the left or is it split in between?

2b. If your committee represents a corporation or other organization:
   ● What are some practices and behaviors that your committee frequently engages in to achieve its objectives?
   ● In other words, what’s your group’s M.O.?

3. What is the political landscape of your committee?
   ● What are some political events occurring during your committee?
   ● What Is The Dominant Party?
   ● What Are The Dominant Ideologies?
   ● What are some important cultural factors (i.e.- religion, demographics, popular beliefs)?
   ● What are some popular cultural, religious, social, or public events?

4a. If your committee is set in the past:
   ● What are some events from the geographic region during the year(s) your committee is set (i.e.- change in governments, wars, rebellions, major publications, major laws passed, etc.)?
- What are some significant events from around the world during the year(s) your committee is set that could be helpful to know (i.e.- change in governments, wars, scientific discoveries, major publications, major laws passed, etc.)?
- What are some events that historically happened following your committee?

4b. If your committee is set in the present or near future:
- Based on events that have already occurred, what are some significant events that could occur in your committee?
- What are some significant events from around the world during the year(s) your committee is set that could be helpful to know (i.e.- change in governments, wars, scientific discoveries, major publications, major laws passed, etc.)?

5. What major issues does the background guide outline? Provide a short explanation of each

6. What are important documents for your committee (i.e.- constitution, manifesto, propaganda)?

7. If your background guide asks questions, what are they?

CHARACTER OUTLINE:

1. What is your character’s job/position and title?

2. What resources and connections might someone with this position have? List as many as you can!

3a. Does your character have any unique political or religious affiliations that might influence their decisions in the committee?

3b. Does your character have any previous life experiences, jobs or affiliations that might influence their decisions in committee or grant them additional resources and connections?

4. What are some of your character/position’s political affinities? (What does your character want to talk about?)

CRISIS ARC OUTLINE:

1. What are a few reasonable end goals given your character’s affiliations and views?

2. What are a few reasonable arcs your character can use to achieve their goals?
3. What resources does your character have at their disposal to begin with?
   ● **Who do you know in power?**
   ● **What Are Some Key Portfolio Powers?**
   ● **What can Do That No one else can (looking the background guide)?**

4. What resources will you need to acquire?
   ● **What do you need to progress your arc (i.e.- building a factory, forging a document, etc.)?**
   ● **Who Can You Meet?**
   ● **Who would reasonably be In Your Family’ (these people can and most likely will be made up. use them to acquire resources and connections)?**

5. What ideologies/events/cultural aspects/group/nations can you use to acquire resources and further your goal?

6. What will your main crisis arc look like? How will your arcs ideally play out? How will your arcs fit together to achieve your goal?