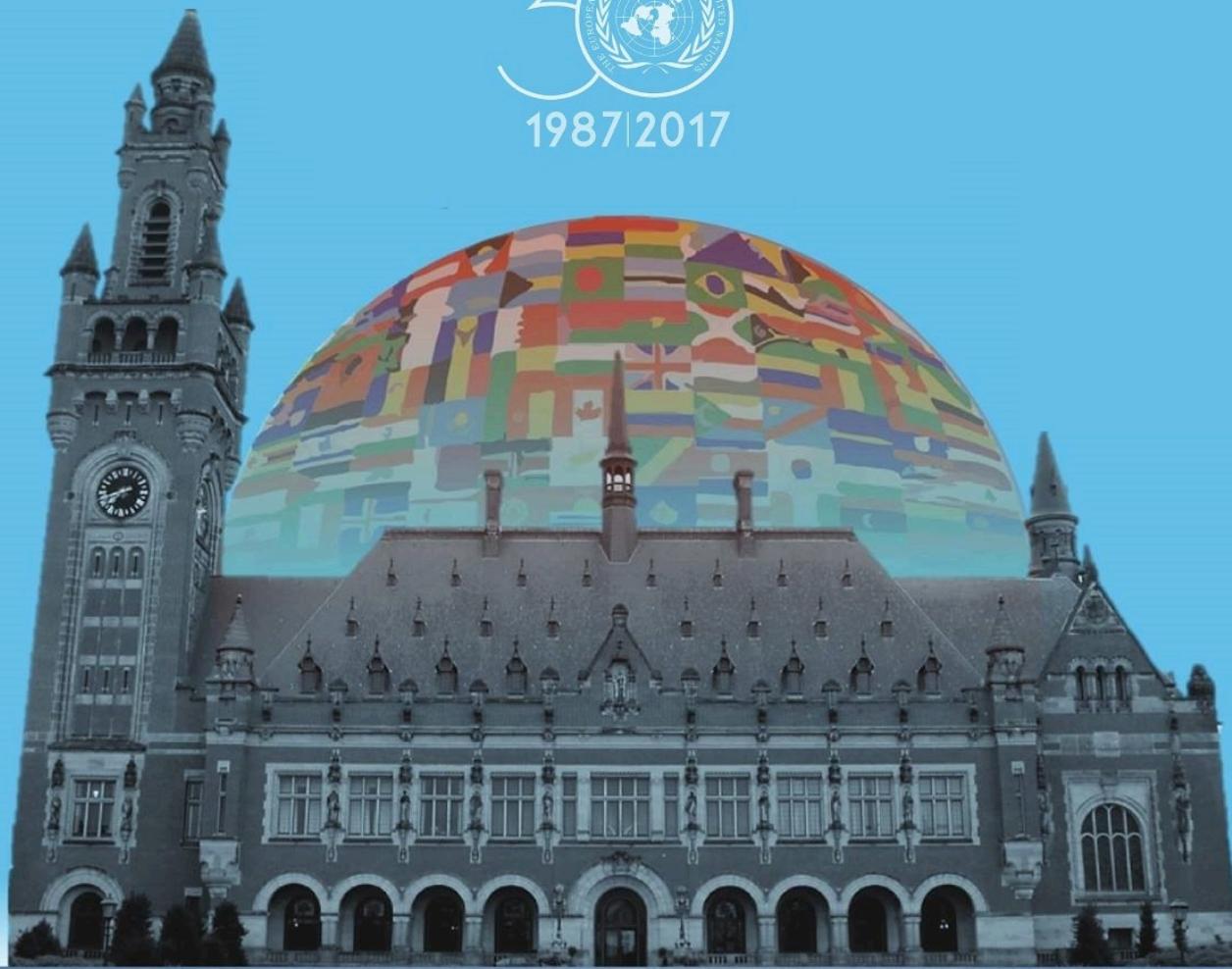


TEIMUN

THE EUROPEAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

HISTORICAL CRISIS COUNCIL

Peace of Westphalia



Welcome Letter

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of The European International Model United Nations (TEIMUN), welcome to the Historical Crisis Council of 2017! Before you begin your dive into the exciting world of MUN, we would like to provide you with an overview of the council, some historical background and some words of encouragement you might find helpful as you proceed.

"Once you go crisis, you never go back" is a common idiom among MUNners who have fallen in love with the frantic, spontaneous dynamic that crisis councils are so iconic for. While we cannot comment on the truthfulness of the claim, it's clear that there is something uniquely exciting about crisis simulations. This council, we hope, will be no exception to this rule. Alliances, negotiations, conspiracy, betrayal, war, the Historical Crisis Council of 2017 will offer you a full range of opportunities to give vent to the creative spark you feel. The Thirty Years War of the 17th century was a period of much destruction, but also of incredible significance for the European continent, and arguably the entirety of the modern world. The choices you make and the actions you take will generate an entirely different course of history, one no one can predict until we see it unfold. It would be an incredible responsibility... if it weren't all just a glorified game of cosplay. While we hope to see some intensive role-playing, remember to have fun and be a little silly. Making crisis an enjoyable experience for everyone is a collective effort, so we encourage you to give it your all.

Whether you're new or old, we promise to do our best to create a council experience that will challenge you, inspire you, and give you the freedom to pursue your own ambitions. That being said, please take this background guide as a starting point in your preparation for the conference. The more in-depth you delve into the world of 17th century Europe, the more authentic and effective your participation will be.

Finally, take heart, let yourself go a little (only a little, please), and be ready to immerse yourself fully in the Historical Crisis Council of 2017. As you are preparing for the conference, please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

We look forward meeting you in The Hague.

Your chairs,
Erica, Arkan, Dwayne & Jonas

Historical Context

The first half of the seventeenth century was a time of great transition and reform in Europe. Old values and presuppositions were uprooted. Systems, traditions and customs were turned upside down and a grand redefining of Europe commenced. This epoch of figurative adolescence manifested itself in all spheres of society, leaving far-reaching implications for politics, economics, faith and society as a whole.

Politics

Politically, seventeenth century Europe was composed of a myriad of kingdoms and empires sewn together by a variety of loose alliances based around faith, blood or simple convenience. Conflicts flourished as kings and nobles vied for power and land.¹ In the east, Poland's golden era was coming to a close as a result of a series of wars with Russia, Sweden and the Turks.² In the south, the Ottoman Empire had begun its decline with a series of military defeats and growing internal discontent.³ In the west, the passing of Queen Elizabeth had resulted in the unification of Scotland, Ireland and England under James I. In the north and center of Europe, the actions of King Ferdinand of Habsburg triggered the Thirty-Year War which pitted many of the central and northern European principalities against one another.⁴



Photo source:

<http://www.ssqq.com/travel/rhine2015germanhistory.htm>

Economics

Europe had undergone significant economic reform and expansion by the beginning of the 17th century. Population growth, urbanization, the increased role and transaction of capital, and the import of goods from newly discovered lands all contributed to a paradigm shift towards a more complex market-oriented society.

¹ http://history-world.org/an_overview_of_european_history.htm

² http://www.ducksters.com/geography/country/poland_history_timeline.php

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Ottoman_Empire

⁴ <http://www.fsmitha.com/time/ce17.htm>

Western capitalism was emerging as a prominent force in Europe.⁵ This played a significant role in triggering and sustaining the changes that the continent was undergoing, as it enabled the European powers to fund wars, instigate technological development and compete economically with one another. With the onset of colonialist practices, European powers quickly began squabbling over foreign investments, with the two most powerful players being the Dutch and British East India Trading Companies. These powerful commercial monopolies served as both economic powers and as political tools to give their respective kingdoms an edge.⁶

Religion

In 1517, the imposing Catholic establishment was challenged by a lowly monk by the name of Luther, who dared challenge its established doctrines. What started out as a series of short theological essays quickly transformed into one of the most devastating religious conflict of all time, culminating in the Thirty Year's War of 1618-1648.⁷ The clash between Protestants (including the German princedoms, Sweden and Britain) and Catholics (Habsburg Spain, Italy and Poland) was by no means a purely religious conflict, however, with many powers using faith as a justification of their own political involvement. This is clearly seen in France's decision to support the Protestant side despite consisting of a largely Catholic population. The many 'religious' wars tore the Holy Roman Empire apart and left much devastation in its wake, ending only in light of the iconic Peace of Westphalia.⁸

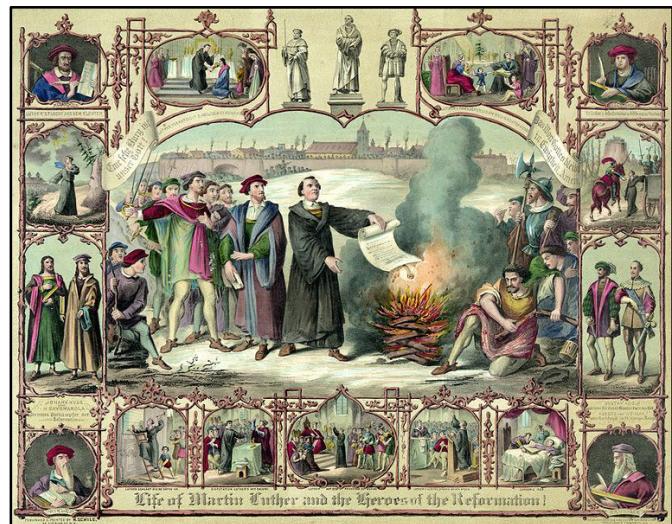


Photo source:

<http://totallyhistory.com/protestant-reformation/>

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Europe/The-emergence-of-modern-Europe-1500-1648>

⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/East-India-Company>

⁷ [http://www.prolades.com/documents/The%20Protestant%20Reformation%20\(Early%201500s%20to%20Mid%201600s\).htm](http://www.prolades.com/documents/The%20Protestant%20Reformation%20(Early%201500s%20to%20Mid%201600s).htm)

⁸ <http://history-world.org/The%20Thirty%20Years'%20War.htm>

Technology and Society

Despite all the emphasis on wars, politics and religion; society in 17th century Europe was impacted by many other factors, some of which had critical implications on the more visible political sphere. With the population growth, urbanization and economic development of the 16th century, technological advancements were not far behind.⁹ Galileo's dramatic scientific discoveries and resultant clashes with the established church reflected the shift in mentality towards the more intellectual.¹⁰ This corresponded with the rise of the middle class and the impact of the enlightenment thought. Descartes' break from traditional modes of thinking served as part of a continent-wide movement away from hierarchical traditions and towards more individualistic, critical mindsets.¹¹ Pursuits in science and technology brought much change to medicine, industry and of course war.¹² An example of this was the flintlock musket design, first invented under King Louis VIII in 1610 and still not in common use, which improved on earlier firing mechanisms by being more resource efficient, more reliable and powerful enough to pierce plate armor even at range.¹³ It was an era of new discovery and challenging the cultural and military status quo.



Photo source:

<http://www.ssgq.com/travel/rhine2015germanhistory03.htm>

Lead-up to the Thirty Years' War

The Eighty Years' War

The Eighty Years' War, beginning in 1568, also known as the Dutch War of Independence was an insurgency against Spanish rule under King Philip II, son of King Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor of House Habsburg. At that time, the seventeen Dutch provinces, modern day Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium, were known as the Burgundian Netherlands. The revolt followed a general feeling of discontent over heavy taxation and the presence of Spanish troops in the region.¹⁴ This political tension was heightened by increased religious policies. The Habsburgs

⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Europe/The-emergence-of-modern-Europe-1500-1648>

¹⁰ <http://www.history.com/topics/galileo-galilei>

¹¹ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Rene-Descartes>

¹² <http://ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/alliances-and-wars/warfare-1450-1789#TacticsandTechnology>

¹³ <http://www.thefirearms.guide/guns/early-firearm-history>

¹⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Eighty-Years-War>

were a Catholic dynasty in a time following the reformation, while Protestant movements were occurring across Europe, including in the Burgundian Netherlands. Phillip II aimed to strengthen and support attempts at a Counter-Reformation by launching an organisational reform of the Netherlands in 1559, which resulted in an extra eleven diocese in the area where there were formerly only three.

The first phase of the war began with two unsuccessful invasions of the provinces by mercenary armies under Prince William I of Orange in both 1568 and 1572. Also known as William the Silent, Prince William was a powerful landowner in the region, owning more land there than anyone else after Phillip II.¹⁵ It wasn't until the Geuzen (the irregular Dutch land and sea forces) raids that control from the Spanish was finally seized in 1573. Calvinist theology was firmly established after the reformation in Holland and Zeeland. In 1576 other provinces joined the revolt and a political union was forged. In 1581 William of Orange and the States General invited Duke of Anjou, the brother of the King of France Henry III to serve as the head of state for the Union in an effort to ensure French support against Spain. In doing so, and adopting the Bill of Abandonment, Philip II's rule was declared no longer valid.¹⁶ Fighting continued for 28 years, not ending until the Twelve Year Truce of 1609. Fighting resumed again in 1618 as a general part of the Thirty Years War.

The Thirty Years' War

Background

The Thirty Years' war embodies multiple conflicts across Europe during the 17th century, sparked by the various religious affiliations which were emerging at the time. There were many simultaneous crises taking place across the Holy Roman Empire. The entire empire consisted of over 1000 political units. Religious upheaval during the 16th century meant that princes which once stood together, were now divided by religion. The Peace of Augsburg in 1555 brought to an end thirty years of fighting in Germany between Catholics and Lutherans.¹⁷ With it a new legal structure was adopted. The treaty emboldened each secular ruler to dictate the religion of their subjects, under the *curiou regio, eius religio* principle. The two exceptions to this doctrine were the imperial free cities where Catholics and Lutherans lived amongst each other and enjoyed freedom of worship, and the ecclesiastic states, where abbots and bishops were forced to resign before converting to Protestantism.¹⁸

¹⁵ <http://www.spanishwars.net/17th-century-80-years-war-summary.html>

¹⁶ http://historyreconsidered.net/eighty_Years_War_1568_1648.html

¹⁷ <http://www.preservearticles.com/2011091413398/what-are-the-main-causes-of-thirty-years-war.html>

¹⁸ <http://www.encyclopedia.com/history/modern-europe/wars-and-battles/thirty-years-war>

Religious division created a complex pattern in Germany, with a number of events resulting in increased tensions between different creeds. In 1608, Elector Frederick IV of the Palatine established the Protestant Union for self-defence. In response, the Catholic League was formed between the Duke of Bavaria and his neighbours in 1609. Eventually they gained support from Spain and the Papacy. In 1612, the Protestant Union signed a defensive treaty with England; the Union director's (Elector Frederick IV) son was married to the King of England's daughter. Furthermore, another defensive treaty was signed with the Dutch Republic in 1613.¹⁹

In 1617, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Bohemia, Matthias Habsburg was on the brink of death with no heir. It became clear that his cousin, Archduke Ferdinand II of Austria would succeed him. Ferdinand was a staunch Catholic and wanted to impose religious unity across his empire, making him hugely unpopular with his Protestant Bohemian subjects.

The Bohemian Revolt

In 1618 heir apparent to the throne of Bohemia, Ferdinand II, began to curtail religious privileges enjoyed by his subjects. In retaliation, his representatives were thrown out of a window and seriously injured in what was known as the defenestration of Prague, which sparked the Bohemian Revolt. They appealed for aid to the Protestants in the rest of the empire, and also to leading foreign Protestant powers, including Great Britain, the Dutch Republic and Denmark. In response, Ferdinand called upon the German Catholics, Spain and the Papacy for support. This event is widely considered to be the catalyst for the 30 Years War.²⁰

The Historical Crisis Council

Overview

In light of all the historical background, one question has remained unanswered: "Where do I come in?" The Historical Crisis Council serves as a miniature simulation of the conflict at hand. Starting in 1614, delegates will take on the role of a variety of historical characters, each with their own ambitions, resources, allegiances and persona. These characters will take both individual and collective action to gain the upper hand throughout the historic period, both militarily and diplomatically. But beware, just like in real life, these characters are mere humans, and are thus both fallible and mortal. The Council thus transforms into a game of wit, intellect and creativity as delegates navigate the complex landscape of 17th century Europe.

¹⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Europe/The-Thirty-Years-War#toc58351>

²⁰ http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Defenestrations_of_Prague

Note: please refer to the **Rules of Procedure** for a more in-depth, practical elaboration of how the council will function.

Geography

The historical crisis will take place exclusively in Europe, disregarding colonial empires and their respective conflicts. For the simulation, the following map will be used. As the scenario progresses, it will adapt accordingly, with territories switching hands throughout.

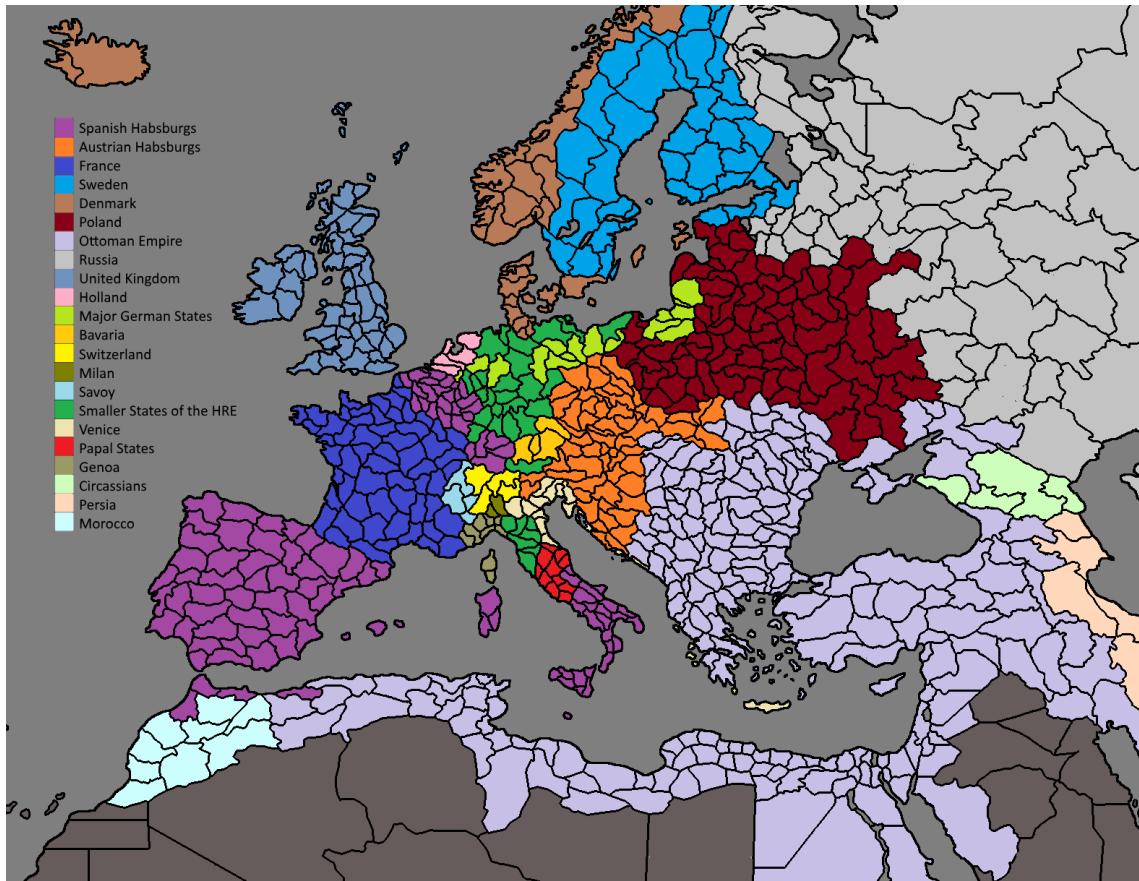


Figure 1: Starting Map of the Scenario: Europe in 1614

Individual Actions

As an individual, a delegate will have at his or her disposal a certain set of connections, resources and powers according to his or her rank, reputation and so forth. These include economic resources (see below), military power (see below), private and positional networks (spies, bodyguards, assassins, messengers, 'friends in high places', etc.) and control over territorial holdings (military strongholds, economic production & taxes, infrastructure, etc.). While some of these are kept track of quantitatively, others have more of a qualitative nature and thus are employed more broadly, at the discretion of the backroom.

There are two main ways in which an individual can take action. Firstly, much like in standard Model UN, a delegate can interact with his or her fellow delegates through speeches, notes or informal talks. The council will for the most part be kept in 'unmoderated caucus', meaning there is limited protocol in regards to interaction. Secondly, and far more importantly, a delegate can make use of 'directives'. These are decisions and proposed actions taken by the character that have a tangible impact on the situation at hand.

Group Dynamics

Depending on the character, certain allegiances and power-dynamics exist. For example, a king has certain de facto powers over his subjects (inasmuch as those subjects remain loyal). Thus, delegates will find themselves in natural cooperation with some and natural competition with others. This can manifest itself in the form of collective directives (sent on behalf of a kingdom, for example), submission to commands and military orders, and a great deal of snide pandering and subtle vying for influence. As in reality, however, individuals retain their radical free will, and are thus free to submit to or defy their masters as they see fit (and suffer the inevitable consequences).

Economy & War

For the sake of simplicity (and the sanity of the backroom), certain aspects of the simulation will be kept below realistic levels of complexity. For one, this means a conformity to a single European currency. Characters will have access to their personal treasuries and receive a regular income in accordance with their position. Trading, sanctioning and other monetary transactions are of course encouraged. Colonial interests are of course taken into account, although they play only a minor role in the scenario. Military conflicts are also subject to a number of simplifying mechanisms. There are three kinds of units: Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery, a good balance of which will be needed for successful skirmishes. Battles will largely be resolved by the backroom, with the exception of larger events that will take a more interactive nature. Naval warfare, much like colonial matters, will play only a limited role, as the conflict is focused



"The Battle of White Mountain", (1620) painting by Pieter Snayers

geographically on the European mainland and substantively on the ground war. Thus, characters will not have access to a mobile navy, although mention to general naval activity can be made in directives pertaining to more relevant actions.

Religion

At the very heart of the European divide, religion plays a fundamental role in the Thirty Year's war. This means that religious influences cannot be ignored by any party. For the sake of the simulation, religion is a geographic variable that affects all character activity, directly affecting battle outcomes and the stability of a region. Religion in Europe was a mutable thing though, and thus actions can be taken to shift the religious affiliation of a region one way or another. Important in these actions is the chair, who will simultaneously represent the highest religious authority of all sides. It is up to the delegates to find ways to sway this formidable determining power in their favour.

Major Parties Involved

Habsburgs & Catholic League

Austria (The Holy Roman Emperor)

With Emperor Matthias on his deathbed, Ferdinand I was ready to succeed the throne. A staunch Catholic, he was ready to stand for religious unity within his land. This was a political statement, as Austria was also the titleholder of the Holy Roman Emperor, traditionally coronated and endorsed by the Pope. Rome itself directed the policy of Counter-Reformation²¹ or reverting the convinced Protestant "heretics" back into the fold of the Catholic church. Holding domains of diverse culture and geography, Austria must be careful to balance its European ambitions as well as its internal dynamics. Curbing the disgruntled Bohemians might just be the early opening of their Pandora box.

Spain

Before the war started, Habsburg Spain had been embroiled in an effort to curb the Dutch revolt since 1568. It was, however, in a truce with the United Provinces since 1609, as the military campaigns had exhausted the Spanish treasury.²² During this time, as a Catholic power, Spain focused on consolidating its power, including securing a new road to the Spanish Netherlands through the Valtellina Valley in modern-day Switzerland.²³ With tensions high in the land of their dynastic ally, the

²¹ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Counter-Reformation>

²² https://www.revolvy.com/topic/Twelve%20Years%27%20Truce&item_type=topic

²³ Schaff, Philipp. *The Christian Church from the 1st to the 20th Century*. Delmarva, 2013

court in Madrid watched the development of things carefully, as their massive military and economic resources might be deployed one more time.

Electorate of Bavaria

As the second biggest catholic state of the HRE, it was then normal to see Bavaria allied with Austria in its Imperial policies. This fellow Southern/Upper German connection was consolidated with marriages like Maria Anna, daughter of the late Duke William V with the Archduke Ferdinand himself.²⁴ The Bavarians then were also in preparation for conflict, as just to their north lies the *Pfalz* / The Palatinate, a neighbouring rival state with important ties to the discontented Bohemian protestant nobles.

Anti-Habsburg Alliance, Protestant Union

Nordic Kingdoms (Denmark & Sweden)

Without meddling in continental affairs, Denmark and Sweden came out of the 16th century as stable Protestant nations - very much uncharacteristic of the era as the English and the Dutch fought the Spanish during the years. In this time of Imperial distress, this made them a reliable force for the protestant central and northern/lower German states to turn upon. Moreover, the Danish King Christian IV held domains inside the HRE, namely in the northern lands of Schleswig & Holstein.²⁵ From the Swedish side, the young King Gustavus Adolphus was searching for a Protestant wife, with names from secondary Imperial states like Maria Eleonora of Brandenburg on the radar.²⁶ Further consolidation of their power and alliances, paired with the boiling situation to the south, might just lead the two Kingdoms to show their presence inland. And yet, Denmark & Sweden are at the same time concerned of each other's power, as seen from the Kalmar War over the Baltic Sea between them (1611-1613).²⁷

France

In the 17th century, the French Crown was under the control of the Bourbon dynasty, a rival of the Habsburgs. Even though both were Catholic dynasties implementing Counter-Reformation, their similarities ended there. The Bourbons were wary of the influence of the two Habsburg Kingdoms potentially overpowering everyone else in Europe. More specifically, the Spaniards were bordering them to the south and northeast, whereas Austria could reach French lands by crossing the smaller Middle German states. The French at the time, however, were on the brink of another religious rebellion by their own Protestant movement - the Huguenots.

²⁴ <http://www.habsburger.net/en/chapter/ferdinand-ii-marriage-and-offspring?language=de>

²⁵ kongeligeslotte.dk/en/explore-history/christian-IV.html

²⁶ Matthis, Moa. *Maria Eleonora - the Queen who said no.* Bonniers 2010

²⁷ Brand, H & Müller. *The dynamics of economic culture in the North Sea and Baltic Region: in the late Middle Ages and early modern period.* Uitgeverij Verloren 2007

This was due to the 1617 restitution of Catholic rights in the southern Viscounty of Bearn which didn't sit well with fellow Huguenot areas.²⁸ And yet their Chief Minister Cardinal Richelieu also kept an eye on the development in the German lands – especially if any bad news came from Vienna or Prague.

The United Provinces of the Netherlands

The truce the Dutch and the Spanish meant a token of *de facto* recognition of independence in Europe.²⁹ The Dutch also reinforced their economy by expanding their naval and colonial activities. It was during this period that their East India Companies (VOC) operations expanded significantly,³⁰ founding trade hubs like Batavia (Indonesia). This could later prove vital if the Dutch were going to be remobilized against future external interventions if the truce elapsed. As the old Roman military maxim goes – sinews of war is infinite money.

Electorate of Brandenburg / Duchy of Prussia

A secondary power within the Holy Roman Empire, Brandenburg, had remarkable opportunities with the death of Albert Friedrich, the Duke of Prussia in 1618, as the two powers formed a personal union under John Sigismund, the Elector of Brandenburg. This newly formed union embedded unique characteristics; firstly, John Sigismund made Brandenburg-Prussia a bi-confessional state, allowing his subjects to locally choose whether they would follow Lutheranism or Calvinism.³¹ Secondly and more importantly, while Brandenburg was part of the Holy Roman Empire, Prussia was not - it was under the allegiance of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Knowing that Bohemia was not far from their borders, the union was aware that any physical conflicts might easily spill-over to their lands, but at the same time might create new opportunities.

The Palatinate

Another of the secondary powers in the Holy Roman Empire, the Palatinate might not have such big territory or manpower as its Bavarian or Saxon neighbours, yet it had significant influence. It was the biggest protestant state in Southern/Upper German Area and possessed a seat in the Imperial Electoral College, as well as connections to protestant Bohemian nobles. Some talks even emerged stating that these nobles would nominate the Palatinate Elector Friedrich V to the Bohemian

²⁸ Golden, R.M. *The Huguenot Connection: The Edict of Nantes, Its Revocation, and Early French Migration to South Carolina*. Kluwer 1988

²⁹ Israel, Jonathan. *The Dutch-Spanish War and the Holy Roman Empire* in 1648: War and Peace in Europe vol. 1 : Politics, Religion, Law and Society. Westfälisches Landesmuseum 1998.

³⁰ Borschberg, Peter. *Hugo Grotius, the Portuguese, and Free Trade in East Indies*. University of Chicago Press 2011.

³¹ Clark, Christopher. *The Iron Kingdom: The Rise and Downfall of Prussia 1600-1947*. Penguin, 2007

throne.³² Only time would tell if the Palatinate would come to blow with the Emperor himself.

Supporting Powers and Outside Events

The heated political situation in 1614 was not simply restricted to the Holy Roman Empire. The wars in the former century had taught a lesson on how intertwined European affairs could be - where the saying "the enemy of my enemy is a friend of mine" was truly defined. History saw how the English and the Dutch teamed up together to defeat the Spanish Armada, even though there were minimal political relations between the two beforehand.³³ Even in firmly Catholic lands like Italy, tensions were raised when the Spanish by extension of the Duchy of Milan tried to dominate its "Spanish Road" to the Netherlands, as such moves agitated regional powers like Venice.³⁴ Sometimes, the 16th century also saw unexpected changes through the guise of a single man's acts; the Polish crown election of 1587 saw the contention between two heirs of neighbouring kingdoms, Austria (Maximilian III) and Sweden (Sigismund III)³⁵, the latter of which was ultimately elected. Sigismund was later enthroned as king of Protestant Sweden in 1592 as well, pitting the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth against the Habsburg. However, by the turn of the century he had been deposed from the Swedish crown and realigned himself with the Austrians. On top of this, the Muslim presence of the Ottoman Empire just a few days march from Vienna always remained a threat. The alliance of Suleyman the Magnificent and the French King Francis I built in 1536 might have been rendered inactive, but in the Mediterranean, they joined forces with the Dutch in disrupting the Habsburg fleet.³⁶

These powers and events are crucial to the Historical Crisis. They create the dynamic world with which the delegates will interact and influence the outcome of the delegates' work. Delegates will want to keep this in mind when making decisions, as the backroom staff will be sure to place every directive within its context. Actions can have historical consequences and if the delegates are diligent enough, they can also use the presence of these contextual forces as a tool to assert their power over the continent.

³² Purcell, Brennan. *The Winter King: Frederick V of the Palatinate and the Coming of the Thirty Years' War*, London 2003

³³ <https://repository.royalholloway.ac.uk/file/34c208d4-e029-7a27-6d8d-dbdb674e0aa/6/2013pootaphd.pdf>

³⁴ Black, Jeremy. *European Warfare , 1494-1660*. Routledge 2002

³⁵ <https://wydawnictwo.us.edu.pl/sites/wydawnictwo.us.edu.pl/files/the%20house%20of%20vasa%20czw%20st%20e.pdf>

³⁶ Bradford, Albert S. *Flying the Black Flag: A brief history of Piracy*. Praeger 2007

Guiding Issues

There is more than the frantic unravelling or build-up of schemes in historical crisis. Each timeline presented humanity with crossroads decisions to take, which shaped the way the world is today. Hence, the chairs are not just looking for bloodbath conquest and cunning manoeuvres behind the directive scrolls, but also how critical historical issues can be tackled will be a vital part of the discussion. Just like QARMAs / Question a Resolution Must Answer in other committees, delegates should try to answer these guiding issues, as the ongoing crisis progresses with each day.

1. **Guarantee of Sovereignty** – The rise of Protestantism coincided with the end of feudal Europe, where power was decentralized. Disputes between small duchies that pledged allegiance even to the same king was frequent, borders of a country only really mattered when whole states were at war with each other, like the Hundred Years War between England and France. The renaissance meant that power was taken away from these lords into the hands of either urban independent cities or the central royal authority. As the question of which church a state would follow arose, history has seen that this newly centralized power translates into intervention - the Anglo-Spanish War (1585-1604) being a renowned example. The English plight raised a lot of concerns - If a sovereign nation, such as England, could be intervened, what about the hundreds of smaller German states within the Holy Roman Empire? Knowing that at all times the sovereignty of their nations could be challenged, delegates need to traverse the intricate European politics bearing this in mind, while trying to find a solution to guarantee the sovereignties within one's own state.
2. **Religious Toleration** – In the 16th century, the Holy Roman Empire saw the Augsburg Peace of 1555 instituted the principle of "*Cuius Regio, Eius Religio*" where the ruler of a state is the final decision-maker on which Church his population must follow, while granting possibilities for emigration to states of the same faith. However, oppression towards unfavored religious groups continued to exist within the continent. Calvinism was still not recognized, and tensions over the reigning Catholic Habsburg family in Bohemia, as well as the raging Protestant Huguenot rebellion in France were all cases demonstrating that the "religious toleration" envisioned in the 16th century was still far from achieved. It is up to the delegates to perpetuate the cycle or collaborate towards a more inclusive solution.
3. **European Interconnectivity** – The renaissance highlighted the importance of trade to European society at large. At the political level, it brought to life

new alliances drawn by blood ties like the Austrians and the Spanish Habsburg, or on the base of faith as seen by the alliance between the English and the Dutch against the looming Spanish threats. A century after Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses, the continental situation had become so much entangled in all these aspects of interconnectivity that an act of aggression to a smaller state might result in a war that involves everyone in Europe. Delegates will need to carefully manage their manoeuvres and alliance as no state can be successful on its own.