

Pan-American School Model

United Nations

Russian Terror of 1917



Sebastián Sayagués
Secretary General
sebastian.sayagues@panam.ed.cr

Gabriela Guevara
Under-Secretary General
gabriela.guevara@panam.ed.cr

Kristine Waugh
Under-Secretary General
kristine.waugh@panam.ed.cr

Claudia Chaverri
Under-Secretary General
claudia.chaverri@panam.ed.cr

Andy Simmons
Faculty Advisor
andy.simmons@panam.ed.cr

Heredia, Costa Rica
+506 2298 5700



Dear delegates and faculty advisors,

We are honoured to welcome you to our sixteenth Model United Nations. For the past 16 years, Pan-American School in Costa Rica has hosted an annual Model United Nations conference, the past two of which have seen schools from all over Central America attend. This year we hope to achieve attendance from schools from even more parts of the globe in order to continue our tradition of inspiring and educating the next generations towards a path of diplomacy and interconnectivity.

This year's conference will be held on Saturday, October 27th and Sunday, October 28th at our school's campus. Our goal will be to provide an enriching and overall entertaining and satisfactory debate experience. With a current repertoire of 13 committees, which includes a Press Corps committee and out of which 3 are Middle School exclusive, and one is solely for 8th and 9th grade. We are prepared to have one of if not the biggest Model United Nations conference our school, and our country, have seen so far.

Please do not hesitate to contact us, if you have any questions, doubts or if you are interested in attending and or receiving more information on the conference.

Sincerely,
The Secretariat

Gabriel Oliva
Committee Director
gabriel.oliva@panam.ed.cr

Camila Sancho
Committee Moderator
camila.sancho@panam.ed.cr

Andy Simmons
Faculty Advisor
andy.simmons@panam.ed.cr

Heredia, Costa Rica
+506 2298 5700



Dear delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the PASMUN 2018 and to the Creation of the USSR, a special committee that will allow you to engage and think out of the box about the most defining moment that paved way to the creation of the Soviet Union, one of the world powers that single-handedly shaped history after its formation. Great things are always born from small events, and the Soviet Union is no exception. Tsarist Russia had to endure discontent, bloodshed, and dissent, before becoming one of the most powerful states that the world has ever seen. As students who have intensively studied about political ideals and importance of choices, we are exceptionally excited to invite you to a discussion that continues to see constant scholarship and study even after a century of its occurrence. Given the importance of each single position we will eagerly look forward to meeting each one of our delegates, so allow us to present ourselves:

My name is Gabriel Oliva and it will be my absolute pleasure to be the chair of the Special Committee addressing the creation of the USSR. I am a senior at Pan-American School. This will be my second time taking a position to coordinate an MUN committee, experiences from which I have grown fond of and would not change for anything. I have attended every MUN I could possibly go to ever since I moved away from Honduras and came to Costa Rica. I had no knowledge that conferences like these took place anywhere, and finding out about them allowed me to grow a further passion for History, a class I have always liked. This topic is something I have always found an immense interest in, and hope that all of you find it as interesting, since after all MUN is an excellent way of learning about topics that are not usually dug deeper than surface level. In this committee, you will shape what will be the USSR, a particularly decisive moment that is sure to be an ideal setting for engaging discussion.

My name is Camila Sancho and I am pleased to be the moderator of this Special Committee. I am a 12th grader at the Pan-American School. I have had a considerable amount of contact with the Pan American MUN that will help me throughout the moderation of this committee. This includes organizing the fundraising and attending a variety of MUNs. I hope that this study guide helps all of you find a suitable understanding of this great topic and represents a starting point for all of the position papers. I look forward to having an enjoyable time together during the debate.

Excited to meet you all representing your positions! If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Oliva & Camila Sancho

Summary

The USSR was one of the biggest world powers that has risen throughout history, but first a catalyst event to form it was required. The Russian Civil War was a time period that took place in divided Russia of 1917 to 1922 where the Bolsheviks and the Mensheviks caused political repression and mass genocide against each other with the objective of achieving power, causing the Red and White Terrors. The Mensheviks and Bolsheviks left it clear that the Russian population sought for an advancement from the tsarist system that was currently in order, for a new proletariat based system.

The Russian Civil War was set loose because of the rising tension against tsarism. Once tsar Nicholas II rose to power in 1894, numerous anti-right-wing movements surged because of the discontent that the peasant and worker sector of the population had suffered throughout the Russian monarchy. This in turn gave a massive following for the abdication of Tsar Nicholas, incentivized by the creation of left-wing parties that sympathized with the proletariat. The build up for the dissolution of tsarist Russia was imminent and concern for what would happen after the current monarch government was overthrown began raising alarm. The RSFSR (left-wing party) originated from this discontent, and later branching into

the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. Both these movements sought to place these proletariat oriented revolutions, but they had different views on who should be the main prioritized group of people that would take political charges, a large portion of people with broader representation or a small set of professional revolutionaries. All this took place simultaneously, as Russia endured the effects of The Great War which caused political and social disarray which ultimately closed Russia's international interaction briefly, leading to political Russian terrors of 1917 to 1922.

In the midsts of this skirmish, there were numerous discussions formally carried by the leaders of these movements in an attempt to come to a diplomatic agreement for power. This caused sudden surges of outgroups that sympathized with either of the movements, like the Red Army and White Army, who were formed of voluntary soldiers that supported either groups to join an army. It is important to mention that were no definite bloc positions since none of the positions fully supported any of the movements, they sympathized with who seemed best, but still had their differences. It is recommended to previously check your position and their ideal to fully understand their political stance.

Before the revolution took place in 1914, Russia was forced into The Great War that unleashed west of their lands. Russia spent an

insurmountable amount of money to wage war, but halfway through The Great War, in 1917 the Russian Revolution took place, forcing Russia to consider its stance in the war. Retreating from the war meant that all infrastructural damages and all debts wrought upon Russian grounds would not be subsided. This meant an enormous financial loss of \$22,293,950,000 that could potentially bring the Russian economy to a stagnated state, further expanding the nationwide discontent against the tsarist system, causing the rise of new revolutionary out-groups.

In the midsts of the revolution, Russia was crumbling socioeconomically because of this colossal debt, raging civil war for power, and political instability, eventually leading to a seize of power carried out by the Bolsheviks. Regardless of this new illegitimate government taking power, there was still a tempestuous disagreement among political movements. By 1917 the Russian Civil War had unleashed completely, but among the bloodshed and voluntary militant groups, diplomatic conferences still took place to reach a middle ground.

Current Situation

This committee will begin in January 1918; therefore, your research should only focus on the background information before this

time. If there are any doubts about your position, use the information given in the bloc positions section to inquire about your position.

Political Instability

During a long period of time, Imperialist Russia implanted a progressive discontent amongst its population, further worsened by the strict nature of the tsarist regimes. During the revolution led by the Bolsheviks, this tension was unraveled in the shape of volatility and tremendous ideological differences between civilians, which caused political disarray and dissent. The main enmity is seen on the division of the RSFSR, which later became the Bolsheviks and Menshevik. People blame the current violence on this division, and popular opinion has condemned Vladimir Lenin for his radical actions, and Julius Martov for his equally destructive choices against the Bolshevik movement. It is up to popular choice what should be done with the perpetrators and if their example should be followed. As of 1918, relations between parties have faded and made it difficult for a general consensus to take place, further worsened by ideological division.

Economic Woes

As of now, the newly formed Soviet Union has suffered the abdication of its last tsar and the effects of the still raging Great War.

Tsar Nicholas II was the last tsar in power, in which he attempted to prevent urbanization that could potentially be a threat against peasants. Urbanization would enrage this sector and lead to a wave of attacks against the autocracy. When urbanization became imminent and the proletariat was enraged, countless attacks against the tsar took place. This dramatic change caused further differences between social classes and improved the life of some and impoverish others.

Despite their heavily adverse effects on Soviet Russia's monetary sustainability, as of 1918 said events are still taking place and no actions have been chosen upon the topic. The committee is to make a decision on this point.

International Relations

After the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917, foreign countries regarded the USSR as a communist pariah government, which greatly reduced any international credibility or aid towards the new government. Getting support from foreign powers without a long term diplomatic connection was not an option. Regardless of this seclusion, Vladimir Lenin has promulgated the Decree on Peace which states that the Soviet Union is open to foreign relations. Many have regarded this as idealistic, even becoming a topic of discussion between Vladimir Lenin and Leon Trotsky; as of 1918 this topic is yet

to be discussed, the committee is to present a solution to this affair.

Bloc Positions

By 1918 national instability has become a fully fledged civil war between combatants who sought political power. These combatants range from remnants of the previous tsarist reign, to left-wing movement variations who are supported by the proletariat. The Russian Civil War is not plainly consisting of a binary conflict between two sides, there are several movements with their own political agenda, but some of these movements have created alliances in order to be able to seize power. It is important to acknowledge that there is no real duality of positions, there are multiple movements with different ideologies and objectives; therefore it is recommended that delegates inquire about their position by thinking beyond stances and roles, and consider possible personal conveniences for the position they represent.

Vladimir Lenin: The immensely determined Lenin was born to a wealthy family, and later impassioned into revolutionary socialism after his brother's execution during Alexander the Third's rule. Lenin swore retaliation and adopted revolutionary ideals. Later, Lenin formed the Bolshevik movement to which he became leader during and after the

revolution of 1917 which led to the formation of the Soviet Union. Vladimir Lenin became fondly loved by his followers and deeply hated by the opposition because of his decision to seize power.

Leon Trotsky: Trotsky was born into a wealthy farmer family in Ukraine. He was originally opposed to Marxism and its ideals, but was later convinced by his wife. This sudden interest for Marxism made him want to organize the South Russian Union Workers movement instead of pursuing his dream of a mathematical degree. He actively wrote and distributed revolutionary pamphlets and popularized socialist ideals among workers. Regardless of his interest for socialist ideals, Trotsky described himself as a “non-factional social democrat”, which led to many clashes with Lenin and his ideals. Lenin on many occasions referred to Trotsky as a “Judas.” Trotsky did not agree with the main principles of Stalinism and solidly stood against them. Regardless of these differences, they still remained strong allies. (BBC, 2014)

Grigory Yevseyevich: Yevseyevich was born to lower middle class and never had an education, but on his travels abroad he was able to attend lectures of law at Bern University. He became Lenin’s principal collaborator throughout the entire uprising of the Bolsheviks, He was active directing

Bolshevik organizations in Russia and the activities of the Bolshevik deputies in Duma. Once the October Revolution arrived and Yevseyevich realized that Lenin wished to seize power, he and his ally Lev B. Kamenev greatly dissented and opposed him and even leaked information about the October coup. (Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 2015)

Nikolay Bukharin: Bukharin became a revolutionary while studying economics. He joined the Russian Social-Democratic Workers Party and later became a member of the Moscow committee for the Bolsheviks. He was later exiled to Onega, but he escaped towards western Europe, where he encountered Lenin. After the revolution, Bukharin was invited to the Central Committee, and became the editor of the Pravda, which was a Communist newspaper considered extremely influential.

Julius Martov: He was the first Menshevik leader. He was also the editor of the Iskra, which published attacks towards the Bolsheviks and especially Lenin. During the First World War he worked in a conjoined group trying to open an international newspaper called Our World. When he returned to Russia after the February Revolution, he was unable to stop Mensheviks from joining the Provisional Government. After the October Revolution, he led a small

Menshevik group which was banned in 1918. Later, he supported the Red Army during Russian Civil War, at the same time pursuing his liberal newspaper. (Simkin, J., 2016)

Aleksandr Kolchak: He was one of the leaders of the White Army during the 1917 Civil War. He admired and followed Alexander Kerensky. Kolchak worked on creating a provisional government before the Bolsheviks took power. He had a high ranking admiral position with the Russian navy. He could have launched different attacks but he hesitated, hence giving time to the Red Army to move. (C N Trueman, 2015)

Nestor Makhno: Nestor was an anarcho-communist revolutionary who commandeers an anarchist independent army in Ukraine. Makhno actively fought all factions who impose any external authority over southern Ukraine like imperialists and the White Army. Makhno considered the Bolsheviks to be a threat to the development of an anarchist Free Territory within Ukraine. Makhno has already done two military alliances in order to be able to defeat the White Army. It could be said that Makhno had a separate agenda from all the other political movements.

Irakli Tsereteli: As Lenin refused to accept Julius's ideas on the socialist party, Tsereteli joined the Mensheviks and from Germany continued his

editing. He was elected as one of the leaders of the group in 1907. In 1917 became Minister of Posts and Telegraphs and then of the Interior. (Simkin, J., 2014)

Pavel Axelrod: He was a founder of the Russian Emancipation of Labour group. He was also part of the Iskra. He joined the Mensheviks and also took an important role producing the Our World newspaper. When some of the Mensheviks joined Kerensky's provisional government, Axelrod criticized them for their support of the war. In 1917, he tried to gain support for peace negotiation among Central Powers, but failed to do so. (Axelrod, Pavel (1850-1928), n.d)

George Plekhanov: Plekhanov started off siding with Lenin and then joined the Mensheviks. He demanded that Russia took part of World War I until it finished. He did everything in his power to try to stop the Bolsheviks from gaining power and this made him known as the "enemy of the people," constantly attacked by the Red Guards. (Baron, S., 2018)

Fyodor Dan: Fyodor Dan was one of the founding fathers of the Menshevik movement. He supported Julius Martov and the Mensheviks. He was an editor of the Iskra as well. He was exiled and when he returned became a surgeon in the Russian Army in 1915. He believed the Mensheviks should join the Provisional

Government, as well. He also advocated continuing the war against Germany and Austria. (Simkin, J., 2014).

Mikhail Rodzianko: Rodzianko was an Ukranian statesman, subsequently he would become a state councilor and chamberlain of the imperial family, making him a direct contact of the imperialistic government. He was a key figure for the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II, to which he was later Chairman of the Duma Provisional Government and one of the leaders of the February revolution.

Actions Taken

By 1918, most of the Russian political movements who sought after power had already been executed (and most of these movements were done with martial force).

The Red Army and the Bolsheviks had already taken their move into power, and imposed a strict socialist government after the revolution of 1917 led by Vladimir Lenin. Among these killings and oppression attributed to the Red Army, The Red Terror stood out as the major period where this army caused the most attacks. The Red Terror continued into 1918 where the Red Army caused political oppression and mass killings, targeting any opposition, particularly affecting members of the Menshevik movement and tsarist remnants. The Red Terror

began once the Bolsheviks gained political control, with the intent of securing their reign and preventing any attacks from the opposition. The Red Terror was justified with the objective it carried, which consisted of proving a wartime campaign against counter-revolutionaries that hardened their rise to power.

The White Army carried out a similar role of mass killings and oppression, where anti-revolutionary voluntary members assembled to overthrow this “illegitimate” revolutionary reign of Vladimir Lenin. This army eventually caused the White Terror, the time in which the White Army reached its peak for homicides and attacks. The White Terror was created shortly after the Revolution of 1917 where the Reds seized power. It was widely believed that the Red Terror began before the White Terror did, which is why it is commonly thought that the Bolsheviks were the violent spectrum of the parties, but evidence and events point to the justification that both of these movements caused mass killings and repression.

It is yet unknown whether the attacks of the Red Army or the White Army happened first; thus it is a potential topic of discussion between these two factions.

Many protests took place to abolish the Russian monarchy, specifically around the dates of 1917, when the Tsar was forced to abdicate his position and remove his son from

the heirline. Nicholas's brother refused when offered the resignation of the throne. Due to this, the Duma Committee or the Duma Provisional government was emplaced and later overthrown by the Bolsheviks.

Many clandestine groups that found themselves unfit with neither of the proposed popular parties, took to arms and protested against the provisional and the Bolshevik's rule. Groups like the Green Army and the Black Army caused intermittent protests and disturbances since 1916 when the provisional government was set.

Possible Solutions

All possible solution are completely entitled to every delegation's choice. The vast amount of factions, ideologies, and movements, make the solution completely up to the agreements that the delegations would wish to achieve; it is suggested to ponder on the choices that each delegation would ideally reach, considering their status as a person.

The Russian Civil War created enough diversification of ideologies and division to allow the creation of numerous movements, armies, and revolts, all with their own distinct objectives. There is little room for a one-sided resolution where only one of the factions finds itself benefited; the committee in its totality has a vast array of ideologies and a enough

perspectives to give an equal amount of representation for each side. It is expected for delegates to adhere to their respective positions in order to give a fair amount of representation to the movement they belong to.

Suggestions for Further Research

For further research, those who wish to investigate their positions in a more specific way, delegates may use Google scholar and search for information on the actions carried out for the revolution and what each delegation has done to support or counteract it. This will give your delegation an advantage of higher understanding about each delegation's motives.

Closing Remarks

Delegates are encouraged to inquire from numerous sources as they research both topics at hand and bloc position. While all information that will be necessary is accessible via Google search, the chairs suggest that any determined delegates consult both works of primary and secondary bibliographies in order to properly prepare for the committee.

Reference List

Aleksandr Martynov (Russian politician) (n.d) Recollected from [https://www.revolvy.com/page/Aleksandr-Martynov-\(Russian-politician\)](https://www.revolvy.com/page/Aleksandr-Martynov-(Russian-politician))

Axelrod, Pavel (1850-1928) (n.d) Recollected from <https://www.marxists.org/glossary/people/a/x.htm>

Baron, S. (2018) Georgy Valentinovich Plekhanov. Recollected from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Georgy-Valentinovich-Plekhanov>

Carey, M. (n.d) Violence and terror in the Russian Revolution. Recollected from <https://www.bl.uk/russian-revolution/articles/violence-and-terror-in-the-russian-revolution>

Keep, J. H (2018) Nicholas II. Recollected from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nicholas-II-tsar-of-Russia>

Kemp, T. (n.d) Foreword. Recollected from <https://www.marxists.org/history/international/social-democracy/rsdlp/1903/foreword.htm>

Leon Trotsky (1879 - 1940) (2014) Recollected from http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/trotsky_leon.shtml

Resis, A. (2018) Vladimir Lenin. Recollected from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Vladimir-Lenin#ref60986>

Rosenberg, J. (2017) Bloody Sunday: Prelude to the Russian

Revolution of 1917. Recollected from <https://www.thoughtco.com/prelude-to-the-russian-revolution-1779472>

Simkin, J. (2016) Julius Martov. Recollected from <http://spartacus-educational.com/RUSmartov.htm>

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018) Bolshevik. Recollected from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Bolshevik>

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018) Grigory Yevseyevich Zinovyev. Recollected from

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018) Menshevik. Recollected from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Menshevik>

The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica (2018) Nikolay Bukharin. Recollected from <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Nikolay-Ivanovich-Bukharin>

THE WHITE ARMIES (n.d) Recollected from <https://alphahistory.com/russianrevolution/white-armies/>

Trueman C N (2018) Alexander Kolchak. Recollected from <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/russia-1900-to-1939/alexander-kolchak/>

Trueman C N (2018) The Red Terror. Recollected from <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/russia-1900-to-1939/the-red-terror/>

Trueman C N (2018)The Russian Civil War. Recolected from <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/russia-1900-to-1939/the-russian-civil-war/>

Trueman C N (2018)The 1905 Russian Revolution. Recolected from <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/modern-world-history-1918-to-1980/russia-1900-to-1939/the-1905-russian-revolution/>

