

JCC: Seventh Coalition

ONE LAST STAND:

Napoleon's Hundred Days



39th Annual Model United Nations Conference at St. John's High School

By Aarav Jain and Zhan Barseghyan

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Letters From the Chairs:

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Aarav Jain, I am a senior at St. John's High School, and alongside co-chair Zhan Barseghyan, I am excited to be chairing the Coalition side of our Joint-Crisis Committee. My interests beyond Model UN range between playing tennis and golf, reading, writing, making artwork, and I plan to study mathematics in college. I have been doing Model UN all four high school years, and I initially joined to build confidence with my public speaking. But through my experiences, I've learned that the value of Model UN runs far deeper than the resolutions or learned skills. It's about interacting with informed, interesting people that you never would have met otherwise. Meeting one sincere friend more than justifies four years of Model UN.

In our committee, I hope you all know there are many paths to success, and success itself may manifest in many different ways. Besides stopping Napoleon before he takes over Europe, success can be pushing yourself to speak first, speak last, speak without a notecard—or even to speak at all. Success can be starting an initiative, and persuading allies to join, and treating them in a way that makes them want to stay. It can be thinking on the fly, or proposing something our Coalition committee hasn't yet considered, or conceiving an idea that the French side hasn't prepared for.

I hope you are given the chance in this committee, not only to challenge yourself, but to meet people who challenge and inspire you. With any questions, please contact me at jaina27@stjohnshigh.org.

Sincerely,

Aarav Jain '27

Distinguished Delegates,

My name is Zhan Barseghyan. I will be your co-chair for the duration of this committee, and I'm honored to work alongside Aarav Jain. Although I love Model UN, I have many interests that shape who I am. I'm an avid watcher of soccer and enjoy being the manager of the Saint John's Varsity Soccer team. I also enjoy engaging with journalism at Saint John's. I'm the head anchor of the school's sports updates and am a member of the Pioneer, a Saint John's newspaper club.

I joined Model UN because I thought my public speaking ability and charisma would carry me through. I quickly learned that isn't the case. In this committee, you will face high-stakes situations with limited time to develop solutions. That's ok. Some of you might make mistakes, whether they be significant or negligible. Because you're in a crisis situation, the adrenaline might catch up to you and cause you to lose your temper and be undiplomatic. I learned that the hard way. Model UN is all about being a diplomatic person, not necessarily a diplomat. A word of advice I would like to offer to you that I feel would have helped me in my time as a MUN'er is to meet people where they are. You might have the best idea, but there is a time and a place for everything. Reading the room is the greatest form of literacy and will get you farther than any book.

I hope you come to this committee hoping to learn more about the way others think, and a bit about how you can adapt. It will be challenging, especially in a JCC, but I believe that you are fully capable of challenging yourself and growing. If you have questions, contact me at

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Thanks,

Zhan Barseghyan '27

History of the Problem:

The origins of our reality are firmly rooted in the 1789 French Revolution. After a long reign of European dominance, characterized by the Ancien Régime's absolutist monarchy, many problems began to plague France. Economically, the nation was recovering from the Seven Years' War and intervention in the American Revolution. Politically, the Estates General granted the minorities of the clergy and nobility veto power over the majority, and a new class of wealthy bourgeoisie was effectively shut out of the higher ranks of society. Ideologically, Enlightenment principles of rational governance, equality, and freedom began to circulate. Two consecutive years of poor harvests left the people hungry, bitter, and resenting the monarchical figures who once were a symbol of France's glory.

The revolution of the following decade presented a change in the status quo of France, Europe, and, in many respects, all of human history. Initially, the French Revolution began as an attempt to rewrite the constitution. On July 14, 1789, the Bastille prison was stormed and, symbolic of Louis XVI's tyranny, taken down brick by brick. The following month, on the Night of August 4th, reforms by the National Constituent Assembly had torn down the old order—the Ancien Régime—and with it, the overreaching power of the nobility had ceased. In October of the same year, women led a march on Versailles in protest of both the high cost of food and the even higher apathy exhibited by their monarchs. By the year 1791, two years after the revolution began, a new constitution was passed, and the revolution had achieved its principal end.

And yet, the revolution was only just beginning. Revolutionary zeal spilled over into more spirited, but less controlled activism. Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette were uprooted from their Versailles residence, and a surging republic took control. This surging republic, newly led

by the radical Jacobins and the “Incorruptible” Maximilian Robespierre, quickly became fanatical, hysterical, and violent. Characteristic of a revolution that had gone too far, severed heads filled the streets by the year 1794. This left France, a nation once unflappable on the world’s stage, in a state of sheer disarray.

Within France, a new structure of government emerged to fill the power vacuum and to return the nation to a semblance of normalcy. This structure, known as the Directory, implemented many checks on individual leaders’ powers, thrusting it instead into the hands of the military. While this strategy was effective in suppressing threats to the republic and helped France walk the thin line between monarchical tyranny and revolutionary hysteria, it also gave military generals great power. One of those generals being... Napoleon.

Beyond France, the revolution had already been having a ripple effect throughout Europe. Most European nations, given their firmly rooted monarchical identity, saw revolutionary ideology as a threat. In 1791, Austria and Prussia issued the Declaration of Pillnitz, which threatened to restore Louis XVI to power and undo the work of the revolution. When, in 1792, the revolutionaries declared war against Austria, a chain of dominoes began to fall. Prussia, in allegiance to Austria, followed with a declaration of war against France. An even greater catalyst to the diffusion of anti-French sentiment was Louis XVI’s execution in 1793, formally proving to the world that monarchy was not only ousted from power, but also unsafe with the revolutionaries. Several nations—Britain, Spain, Sardinia, Naples, and others—swiftly joined the Austro-Prussian effort and created the First Coalition.

Despite early shortcomings in the French war effort, victories such as the Battle of Valmy in 1792 and later measures like the *levée en masse* (national conscription) became sources of hope. These advancements gave France the confidence it needed not only to defend its revolutionary ideals against its hostile neighbors but simultaneously to carry it further into new territory. By 1795, the formation of *sister republics* became common throughout Europe. These territories, including the Austrian Netherlands, Batavian Republic, Helvetic Republic, and Roman Republic, were enticed by the French ideals of equality, freedom, and meritocracy, while other European monarchs, nobility, and clergy felt threatened by the proliferation of such purportedly dangerous ideology.

In particular, these trends carried into Napoleon's Italian campaign beginning in 1796. Hoping to claim northern Italian territory as part of France's growing empire of liberty, the young general Napoleon fended off Austria en route to his success. In return, he was showered with glory by France and became a symbol of French stability, excellence, and the triumph of the nation's values. By 1799, Napoleon's return from Egypt and Syria coincided with growing weakness in the Directory's politics. Riding the waves of his military success and popular desire for stronger government, he became the First Consul: an effective dictator of France, abolishing France's old 5-person Directory.

To secure his leadership amid the changing tides of French popular support, Napoleon began to invent a new model under which France could effectively preside over its many territories and satellite states. Politically, Napoleon ensured that local leaders were selected through a centralized system, often placing trusted family members in charge of managing distant territory. Infrastructurally, the new Lycée system of education introduced a new standard

of discipline, competition, and meritocracy that pushed France's capabilities in all aspects. Napoleon even managed to reconcile religious differences with the Catholic Church through the Concordat of 1801. Legally, all French territory was held accountable by the Napoleonic Code, which moved to champion equality applied to property rights and taxation requirements. Through the first few years of the new century, Napoleon won the internal battle of popularity within his country, strengthening his presence as the embodiment of the best parts of the revolution.

Riding this wave of popularity and internal development, Napoleon's leadership took a large stride forward in the year 1804, when the French electorate approved his promotion to Emperor of the French. After his self-coronation, it became clear that he and France were turning a new page together: one of higher ambitions to expand throughout Europe.

Hence began the Napoleonic Wars. In 1805, Napoleon faced the formidable Third Coalition of Britain, Austria, and Russia. In the Battle of Austerlitz, he guided French forces to a masterful victory. In the process, the Holy Roman Empire that had survived nearly a millennium collapsed at the behest of Napoleon. When the Fourth Coalition of Britain, Prussia, and Russia returned the following year seeking revenge, they were quickly crushed at the Battle of Jena-Auerstedt. The Treaty of Tilsit in 1807 formally declared the aftermath: Prussia and Austria were soundly defeated by Napoleon, and Russia was forced to ally with him.

As spoils for these numerous victories, Napoleon proceeded to reorganize Europe, replacing the outgoing Holy Roman Empire with territories fully under his thumb: the Confederation of the Rhine, Kingdom of Italy, the Duchy of Warsaw, Spain, and Naples. With all of these new territories, he leaned into the system that had been proven to work for the time

being: legal equality, meritocracy, a Napoleonic code, improved education, and infrastructure. And despite this being the fulfillment of the nightmare of many European nations, it is undeniable that many reforms improved the conditions of Napoleon's territories.

Where Napoleon was unable to enjoy the same success of militarily quashing Britain as he had in similar treatment of other European countries, he tried instead to exploit their isolated geography. In his Continental System, introduced in 1806, he suspended all trade with Britain and forced all of the territories within his control to do the same. This technique proved highly unpopular, though, and most European states grew frustrated with Napoleon's means, symbolizing early tensions that would only fracture further.

An unintended consequence of the Continental System was Spain's falling out with Napoleon, which was more directly caused by his attempt to force his brother onto its throne. Spanish guerrilla warfare proved successful against Napoleon's otherwise unbeatable army, providing perfect momentum for Britain to rejoin the war. This prolonged conflict, which lasted from 1808 to 1814, became a steady drain of Napoleon's resources, or as he referred to it, his "Spanish Ulcer".

In 1812, a few years into Napoleon's first waning period, he launched an ambitious invasion of Russia. His reason for attacking an ally came from Russia's defiance of the Continental System and continued trade with Britain. Expecting a swift victory, Napoleon assembled his enormous *Grand Armée* of around 600,000 soldiers. The swift victory never came, though, and as the Russians began retreating, they employed a Scorched-Earth tactic, opting to burn land rather than concede it. Without the land's resources, Napoleon's massive army became

unsustainable. Perhaps a fault of ego, Napoleon pressed on for too long and accepted failure too late. Once he decided to retreat, it became one of the most catastrophic decisions in history.

This encounter proved to Europe that Napoleon was far from invincible, and a renewed opposition commenced. The Sixth Coalition—of Russia, Prussia, Austria, Britain, and others—thoroughly defeated Napoleon at the Battle of Leipzig in 1813, and territories once loyal to him began defecting. Within the next year, Paris was captured, and Napoleon's own marshals refused to keep fighting for him. All this culminated in Napoleon's abdication in 1814 and his exile to the small island of Elba, where he reigned for a short time. In his place, the Bourbons were returned to the French throne by the Sixth Coalition with Louis XVIII as the new king of France while the Congress of Vienna began to put the pieces of Europe back together.

However, if we zoom out and compare the before and after pictures within France, we find that the revolutionary gains have been effectively undone. France, by 1815, returned to the same Bourbon monarchy with sprawling nobles as had plagued them in the year 1789. For revolutionaries, it seemed that their decades-long fight had gone in vain. And if they were given another chance to rewrite the story of their nation, they would be fools not to seize it.

Statement of the Problem:

That chance arrived on March 1st, 1815. On this day, Napoleon, supported by 1,500 men, lands at Cannes, France, with the vision of restoring his empire and reclaiming the throne. His escape has been in the works since February 26th, but the news only reaches the Congress of Vienna on March 7th. While they are grappling with the design of the post-Napoleonic future of Europe, Napoleon has already broken ground in France.

To avoid the royalist sentiments in the region he landed in, which would have denounced him as a threat to the Bourbon monarchy, Napoleon decides to take a longer, but less resistant route. He and his men cross the Alps en route to Grenoble, with a final destination in mind of Paris. On March 5th, Napoleon reaches the southern city of Gap, and after initial attempts to win back the favor of his people and the French army, Paris feels how real the threat is. The following day, King Louis XVIII calls a cabinet meeting, in which he declares Napoleon a traitor and a rebel. In an official proclamation, he asks all commanders and their armies to bring him before a court-martial and shoot him at the first chance.

Today, on March 7th, 1815, you have been notified of this great threat to your power, the balance of power, and the future of conservatism in Europe. And if this is not pressing enough, the newest development might prove how formidable the return of Napoleon could be.

Today, Napoleon encountered the 5th regiment of the Line near Grenoble. Napoleon approached the soldiers alone and faced the line of loaded muskets to remind them of the great victories and glory they shared during his reign. Instead of capturing the traitor that stood before them, the 5th regiment decided to break out into a spirited rallying cry: “Vive l’Empereur!”

(“Long Live the Emperor!”) The regiment's commanders did little to interject and quell mutiny against their king. Instead, they defected too.

More important than this newest surge in Napoleon's numbers, the Grenoble incident illustrates the deep divide in the hearts of the French: timid observers of the restored Bourbon monarchy with secret longing and nostalgia for the national hero that was Napoleon. Today, more than ever before, the question reverberates across the nation of France: Who is the legitimate ruler?

Arguments abound for both sides, and each makes fair points. For those loyal to the Bourbon order and Louis XVIII, Napoleon had been thoroughly defeated and voluntarily abdicated his post. The order that replaced him, as instilled by foreign powers, restored Louis as the legitimate monarch. Anyone who threatens this order is a rebel. On the other hand, voices loyal to Napoleon contend that the Bourbon restoration was only an artificial implantation by foreign powers, and not an authentic choice of the French people. These French people, Bonapartists would argue, should have the freedom to choose their own ruler. And in the case of the 5th regiment, choosing Napoleon is perfectly justified.

Besides, in the short span since the Bourbon monarchy took over in France, shortcomings on many fronts were lamented within the country. Politically, it seems as if Louis XVIII more closely resembled a puppet of foreign states than a strong national leader. His decision to return to the white Bourbon flag and disregard the tricolor flag comes under heavy scrutiny, since the tricolor flag is a symbol of national pride. Socially, the émigrés (clergy, nobility, and allies of the monarch who formerly obscured popular opinion) are brought back to France. They return to France with a loud voice, claiming back the former privileges they had been entitled to before

the revolution. The middle class, as a result, which flourished during Napoleon's reign (note his policy of meritocracy), finds itself pushed back into a repressive system. More specifically, veterans find themselves demobilized with many officers on half pay and treated with diminishing respect. Economically, the nation was slipping downhill following costly wars and poor harvests. And even if some of these factors were beyond the monarch's control, they are all beginning to blend together to tarnish his image. In his time in power, Napoleon often threaded the needle between expanding the influence of France and appeasing its core revolutionary interests. While Louis XVIII's reputation is being questioned and tarnished, the prospective image of Napoleon's return is being varnished.

With all of this unfolding within France, other major European powers convene in Vienna to take a stab at the continent's many unsettled questions. In the aftermath of Napoleon's disruptive empire, they are attempting to redraw border lines, fairly assess the sovereignty of each territory, and duly distribute power. Unfortunately, disputes are emerging regarding borders as each country pursues its own agenda in the Congress. Russia vies for control of Prussia, Saxony, and Austria. Britain advocates for continental balance. The ideology of Napoleon, and in particular his role as the champion of the French Revolution, also has the potential to spark movements from other territories like Italian nationalism, German unification, Polish revolt, and Spanish defiance of the Bourbon monarchy.

The news that reaches Congress chambers on March 7th, at any rate, is the worst nightmare for the Congress of Vienna. And without much deliberation, Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Britain temporarily set aside their territorial disputes, declare Napoleon an outlaw, and begin to coordinate armies.



Map of Europe, 1815

This situation reaches a critical juncture on March 7th, where many things are left up in the air. Napoleon's next moves, Louis XVIII's response, the choice of French citizens, and the measures taken by the Congress will ultimately determine whether Europe clings to its conservative order of peace or enters an entirely new order.

Possible Solutions:

In some form or another, swift decision-making, strategizing, and action are necessary. Napoleon could arrive at the gates of Paris any day now, and your vision of Europe's future comes under risk of being shattered. But the manifestation of your ideals, the way you choose to assess the impending threat of Napoleon, the countermeasures you plan to adopt—these things all fall under your discretion. Here are some components any thoughtful plan will consider, and some common strategies already swirling about:

Military Responses - The first, and most natural reaction to Napoleon's stir, is to respond with military force. In a situation like this, two schools of thought typically emerge. Either strike immediately, while Napoleon is weakest and farthest from the capital, and deftly crush the insurrection before it even gets going. But the question is: are you capable of winning immediately, or at least striking in any productive way? Remember, your forces need time to prepare, too. Countries farther from France, such as Russia and Austria, need to mobilize their troops for a proper ground assault across all corners of France. So maybe you call Napoleon's bluff, wager that he won't win over the entire countryside, and in the meantime, you will have prepared a menacing coalition of forces. In addition to the timing of your response, consider the geography, too. Will you consolidate forces near the capital and protect it at all costs, or disperse troops into the countryside to anticipate Napoleon's approach? If worst comes to worst, are you prepared to let Paris fall and broaden the container? Additionally, military strategy is not simply confined to ground assaults and land battles throughout French territory. Britain, for example, can gladly contribute its overwhelming naval capabilities to the fight, blockading ports and cutting off supply lines. Such a strategy may be even more useful considering that Napoleon's

control of the French navy is improbable at best. Napoleon has already been able to persuade multiple divisions to defect to his side, but reorganizing the French navy is a different story. Military resources can be used immediately or gradually, conventionally or creatively, directly or indirectly.

Political Responses - When popularity for the ex-emperor threatens to spark and surge like wildfire across the nation, your Coalition's political decisions carry consequences. Perhaps Louis XVIII, backed by his advisors and Coalition forces, will choose to withstand the challenging forces of Napoleon and maintain the legitimacy of the Bourbon monarchy. They can deploy propaganda, publicity stunts, and symbolic measures to force loyalty and make examples out of dissidents.

In this pursuit of control, it will seem appealing for Louis XVIII to lean on the support of Russia, Prussia, Austria, Britain, and other Coalition forces in their mutual hatred of Napoleon. But while this security may bolster his legitimacy, it may tarnish Louis' reputation within France as a weak national ruler puppeteered by foreign powers.

Some advisors may start to urge Louis XVIII to wear his own oxygen mask first, get out of harm's way, and live temporarily in a buffer state. The only forces currently in Paris are the king's guards and a few other regiments. These divisions also run the risk of defecting, which is why France could call on its nearest allies, Britain and Prussia, to send forces to guard Paris and the rest of northern France. This region has been historically loyal to the monarchy since the Middle Ages, and could prove to be a great haven for the monarch and French nobility. This may make it easier for Napoleon to win Paris, but allow Coalition forces a more organized, patient approach in the long-term. Remember, it's possible to lose the battle, yet still win the war.

However, if Napoleon gains momentum on his way to Paris, removing Louis XVIII from his stronghold might not be the best option. It seems cowardly to flee, and may result in Napoleon becoming even more popular at his expense. Also, Napoleon's return not only ignites mutiny from the French military but can sway the hearts of the people back to the republic. A few decades earlier, when Louis XVI fled France, it only led to a strengthening of the revolutionary spirit and soon thereafter, the execution of both monarchs.

Political figures within and beyond France will realize the importance of public relations, perception, and the art of manipulating policy to help a narrative. They will seek to win the hearts of French citizens in the face of Napoleon's charm and convince them in the process that Napoleon is a traitor. The question that will keep French policymakers on edge in the coming days: who do the French hearts support?

Diplomatic Responses - The question is not so simple for other Coalition leaders. They must tiptoe between preserving Bourbon rule and not completely invading French politics. Diplomatic questions remain internal to the Coalition itself. Are its members willing to unite against this common enemy and set aside unsolved territorial conflicts from the Congress of Vienna? Will this confusion create the perfect distraction for an opportunistic nation to benefit at an ally's expense? Coalition members may simultaneously attempt to bring new powers into the fold to strengthen their fight, trying to prevent them at all costs from defecting to Napoleon's aid. And the most uncertain of all diplomatic forms: can Napoleon himself be reasoned with? Are his intentions, once uncovered, compatible at all with the Congress's vision of a European future?

Economic Responses - Economics is the engine behind all other solutions. Can governments, on the heels of decade-long, exhausting, resource-depleting wars against the same

man, find the funds to assemble a threatening war effort? What sorts of stress may this place on other resources when something has to give? Can strategic blockades and interventions in Napoleon's resources be used to weaken the enemy?

Intelligence and International Security - The biggest question right now is: what is Napoleon going to do next? Military strategists, political advisors, and even common citizens are eager to make their best guess. The only way to truly know, though, is to hear from the horse's mouth: through covert operations of disguise and espionage designed to learn the enemy's strategy. The truth is tinted by many flavors and colors in times of crisis. Learning Napoleon's next steps can end this conflict before it ever begins. But for Napoleon to learn the Coalition's plans, that may be equally decisive.

There are many angles from which this situation requires consideration, and only a thorough plan balancing the push and pull effects of different actions will prove successful. Whether to try nipping Napoleon in the bud, depriving him of his resources, winning the popularity contest in France, overpowering him in a multinational effort, negotiating with his goals to avoid the price of war, or something entirely different, the near future is a blank page: ready to be written by you.

Bloc Positions:

Heads of State

- **Francis I: Emperor of Austria** — Francis, in addition to being the Habsburg emperor, is positioned as the host of the Vienna Congress. And although he is not the primary visionary of Europe's optimistic Balance of Power (that would be Metternich), he is expected to be a champion of the Congress's ideals. In order to ensure that his Congress does not go in vain, Francis will have to navigate military strategy to effectively utilize one of Europe's largest armies and stop Napoleon in his tracks. Additionally, Francis fears that Russia and Prussia might seize this distraction as an opportunity to tip the scales of power in their favor.
- **Alexander I: Emperor of Russia** — Alexander is no stranger to Napoleon, nor is Napoleon to Alexander. In the past, Alexander has developed Russia into Napoleon's kryptonite (recall Napoleon's attempted invasion in 1812). And even if Alexander's efforts have yielded massive victories against Napoleon, the toll of the battles on Russian lives makes this revived conflict deeply personal. In relation to the Congress and re-establishing a continental order, Alexander has been aggressively seeking control of Poland as a strategic buffer zone from the rest of central Europe. Eyebrows have already been raised by Britain and Prussia, and may create difficulties for Alexander as he tries to coordinate an effort against Napoleon. Another large question regards the nature of

Russia's military capabilities: immense in the long-term, but distant and impossible to fully mobilize in the short-term as the crisis begins to unfold.

- **Frederick William III: King of Prussia** — One of Frederick William's main goals in defeating Napoleon was to regain control of much of the Prussian territory lost to him, as well as influence in Germany, even gaining control of the region of Saxony. This caused Prussia to become among the most aggressive allied powers when it came to expansion. Prussia's military might has also proven to be fierce after significant involvement in Napoleon's later defeats at Leipzig. Given that Napoleon dismantled the fragile Holy Roman Empire and sought to export revolutionary ideas throughout the newly formed Confederation of the Rhine, suppressing him and returning him to exile is crucial to Prussia accomplishing its goals.
- **Louis XVIII: King of France** — Louis is the recent replacement of Napoleon on the French throne. Coming from the Bourbon dynasty, he needed to preserve his family's power, which was interrupted by the French Revolution and the execution of his predecessor, Louis XVI. With the Congress centered around the future of Europe, France is likely to be the biggest question of the meeting, with Napoleon's resurgence. Much of France's fate, and Europe's, falls in his hands as dealing with Napoleon is most directly his responsibility.
- **Ferdinand VII: King of Spain** — As a Bourbon Monarch, Ferdinand has experienced his fair share of tumult since Napoleon's ascendancy 15 years ago. During Napoleonic control of Spain, Ferdinand was displaced from his throne (and replaced by Napoleon's brother) and only restored recently, following the Peninsular War. Currently, Ferdinand

faces the pressure of a country divided between absolutist fervor and conservative sentiment, and hopes to steer his nation towards the latter. Contributing to the war effort becomes more difficult for Ferdinand as his country is reeling economically from long years at war. In close proximity to all the action, Ferdinand will be one of the earliest informed about the developments of this crisis, and may use this period of unrest to return Spain to an honorable nation on the European map.

- **Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte: Crown Prince/Regent of Sweden** — Crucially for Jean-Baptiste, he served as a Marshal of France under Napoleon before joining the Coalition and turning against him. This firsthand experience gives Jean-Baptiste indispensable knowledge of Napoleonic military strategy, and may be well-suited to predict his next moves. After his country preserved its sovereignty from tensions with Norway, Bernadotte is content with Sweden's territorial status as is. The threat of Napoleon, and the attached threat of an eruption of chaos across Europe, is a road Bernadotte does not want to go down. Within the Coalition, he must navigate between sharing his intelligence for the benefit of the anti-Napoleon war effort, but safeguard its unique value as leverage to maintain Sweden's sovereignty: which, at such a young stage, can be easily overshadowed by European giants.
- **William I: King of Netherlands** — After years as the Dutch Republic, the Kingdom of Netherlands has been newly constructed as a centralized power tasked with containing Napoleon from the North. In addition to guiding this new model of a nation, William is the first line of defense if Napoleon sets his sights beyond French borders. In order to mount a successful defense, William must coordinate with his allies (specifically Britain

and Prussia), strategically install Dutch-Belgian forces, and rule decisively to prepare as the most instantly threatened country.

- **Victor Emmanuel I: King of Sardinia-Piedmont** — After his predecessors lost much of their mainland control of Savoy, Nice, and most importantly Piedmont, the Congress of Vienna provided a golden opportunity for Victor to reclaim lost lands. Napoleon's return, however, and the inconvenience of sharing France's southeastern border, puts Victor's gains at complete risk. Throughout the coming weeks, he will make it his chief concern to protect the stability of his newly acquired territory, enlisting the help of Austria and other allies as necessary. Beyond merely protective measures, Victor's territories may prove useful for a Coalition counter-attack, and may be something to leverage as he tries to carve out a permanent place for Piedmont-Sardinia on the European map.
- **Pope Pius VII: Head of the Catholic Church** — Because Napoleon annexed his lands, the Papal States, in 1809, gaining back all the territory of Rome could be a priority for the Pope above all else. Pius's anti-slavery attitude also contributes to his opposition to Napoleon, who reinstated slavery in France and its colonies in 1802. Given his religious authority, the Pope will be understood, above all, for his views on morals and the revolutionary ideals that Napoleon exported throughout Europe. But in a committee of powerful military figures and diplomats who thrive in rapidly evolving conditions, receptivity to the Pope's ideas may be harder to garner.

Diplomats

- **Klemens von Metternich: Foreign Minister of Austria** — Unlike others who plan to defeat Napoleon for purposes of expansion, Metternich defines his goal as maintaining the Status Quo in Europe, and doesn't define it as punishing France and rewarding Austria. For this reason, he also fears Prussia and Russia becoming too powerful and opposes Prussia's efforts over Saxony and Russia's efforts over Poland. Because he prioritizes peace and a conservative Europe, punishing France and crushing it will only make the plan even harder to maintain. After all, the conservative monarchies need to be strong enough to keep the Status Quo.
- **Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord: French Minister of Foreign Affairs** — After Napoleon's abdication, Talleyrand became the leading French diplomat to the Congress. He seeks to restore France's legitimacy, hoping it can be treated as a major conservative power instead of a defeated enemy. Like Metternich, he fears excessive Russian and Prussian expansion and influence over Europe. His positive attitude toward maintaining the Status Quo and conservative rule, and prominence in the French government, make him an invaluable member of this caucus.
- **Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh: Foreign Secretary of Britain** — As the main representative of Britain at the Congress, protecting British interests falls most greatly on his shoulders. Castlereagh's main goal is to maintain the European balance of power. This implies containing France and reducing its influence and expansion. It also means that France should not be crushed after such a significant loss, but should be helped and brought back to equilibrium with the rest of Europe. Another part of Castlereagh's campaign of European stability is the reduced expansion of Prussia and Russia into

Saxony and Poland. Castlereagh seeks a strong European balance of power without weakening France and overly empowering those who defeated it.

- **Karl August von Hardenberg: Chancellor of Prussia** — As the leading Prussian diplomat to the Congress, he is likely to be among the most influential people representing not only Prussian interests but also German interests. The main goal of Prussia is to expand after suffering significant losses to Napoleon, especially in Germany. Among territories that Prussia has its eyes on, Saxony remains a priority. The reasoning behind these interests is protecting Prussia from future French aggression. Like most, he desires a strong balance of power but sees achieving it differently: by expanding Prussia to contain France. He will most likely be quick to oppose Napoleon and his resurgence.
- **Karl Nesselrode: Foreign Minister of Russia** — Karl Nesselrode is one of Alexander's most trusted diplomats and as such, leads the negotiation process on behalf of Russia at the all-important Congress of Vienna. For Nesselrode, the necessary balance to strike is between furthering Russia's ambition to grow on the world stage, but maintain enough of his allies' trust to put forth a cohesive effort against Napoleon. Starting out of the blocks too eager to claim Poland or enhance Russia's status may deter nations like Austria, Prussia, and Britain from joining forces against Napoleon, which may create greater havoc across the continent. Remain too passive and only "go with the flow" of the Coalition, and Russia loses a rare opportunity to lead a continental effort and reap the benefits.
- **Wilhelm von Humboldt: Prussian Ambassador to Austria** — As Prussia's chief ambassador to Vienna, his closeness with the great hosts of this caucus will be pivotal in

securing Prussian interests. Von Humboldt been an important member of the coalition throughout these wars, convincing Austria to abandon its neutrality in 1813 as ambassador to Vienna. His skills were also paramount in defeating Napoleon at Leipzig due to the unification efforts between Austria, Prussia, and Russia. As the main Prussian negotiator at the Congress, staying close to his Prussian colleagues and collaborating with them will be greatly helpful in advancing Prussian interests.

- **Andrey Razumovsky: Russian Ambassador to Austria** — Similarly to Nesselrode, Razumovsky must walk the tightrope between his nation's ambitions and the success of the continental effort. Uniquely, Razumovsky has personal familiarity with Austrian politics, which makes him an influential voice on the overall Russian strategy. Depending on how the crisis progresses, Razumovsky may feel inclined to put the brakes on the ambitions of Russia, even if that means butting heads with Emperor Alexander or fellow diplomat Nesselrode. If he senses too much selfishness, furtiveness, or irrationality rising within his fellow Russians, Razumovsky can even consider defecting to a more stable side for the sake of the attempt against Napoleon and the European Balance of Power.

Advisors

- **Friedrich von Gentz: Austrian Diplomatic Secretary** — Not only is he among the most anti-Napoleon members of this caucus, but he is also a staunch philosopher. Before joining the Austrian Foreign Ministry, Friedrich von Gentz was a student of Immanuel Kant. He was crucial to the defeat of Napoleon in Germany and published several papers and manifestos against him to rally the people toward a common goal. As Metternich's

close advisor, it is his responsibility to help preserve Austria's interests: a strong balance of power that limits expansion by any entity, whether defeated or victorious. This will prove to be difficult because limiting French expansion is good for the whole of Europe, but not crushing it is likely to disgruntle Prussian and Russian negotiators who look to expand their power.

- **Sir Charles Stewart: British Ambassador to Vienna** — During your time as the ambassador to Vienna, Sir Charles Stewart served as an important bridge between military power and European statecraft. He is especially close to Viscount Castlereagh; they are half-brothers. His intellect, experience, and closeness to diplomacy make him among the most important British figures of this coalition. Like Castlereagh, he supports containing France by enclosing it with strong buffer states supported by the coalition. While Castlereagh is the principal British minister at Vienna, Sir Stewart will work mostly on implementing Britain's allied position.
- **Emmerich Joseph von Dalberg: French Diplomatic Advisor** — Emmerich's connection with Talleyrand, experience as a French diplomat, and years spent behind the scenes of many European nations make him an influential advocate for France itself. Since it is very easy to conflate Napoleon's uprising as a grievance committed by France itself, von Dalberg must remind the Coalition that France is not the enemy: Napoleon is. His goals are simply to add support to the attempts of the Coalition, and preserving the dignity of the nation of France, which is easy to degrade considering its past few decades. Von Dalberg's position also grants him a sense of immediacy, as (at least) the opening stages of Napoleon's campaign will transpire in his nation.

- **Gustaf Ernst von Stackelberg: Russian Diplomat** — As another voice of Russian diplomacy in the mix, von Stackelberg is entrusted to deal with the same tension (of national ambition vs. international cooperation) in the way he best sees fit. In such a position, von Stackelberg will be in frequent communication with foreign representatives to strike agreements that enable both short-term alignment of the Coalition and long-term influence for Russia. Specifically, his greatest bargaining chip is none other than the Russian military, and by strategically offering support to allies at times of need, he may be able to gain the trust needed to move on to Russia's more underlying goals, such as taking Poland.
- **Klemens von Stadion: Austrian Statesman and Diplomat** — Klemens von Stadion is a former foreign minister with invaluable experience during direct combat against Napoleon. Scarred by some of Austria's past defeats at Napoleon's hands, von Stadion is likely to bring the urgency and vengeance required to effectively dispose of such a threat. Complementary to Metternich's position as Austria's leading statesman, Klemens von Stadion might feel like his experience and past service qualify him to share his own voice. Even at the cost of undermining Metternich's efforts, Klemens von Stadion wants to see Napoleon gone and his nation properly rewarded—not necessarily in a "Balance" of Power that leaves the bigger militaries with the spoils.
- **Martin-Michel-Charles Gaudin: French Minister of Finance** — As Napoleon's Minister of Finance for effectively the entire duration of the empire, Gaudin is extremely well-qualified in knowledge and experience to oversee the economic situation of France. After constant fighting over the past decade (and more), Gaudin takes the reins of a

nation looming with new expenses, and old debts. His creativity will be the backbone of any successful military campaign, though his actions are not limited to military implications. Gaudin can be expected to think through taxation, economic pressures, asset seizures, and other economic instruments to deliver France to a stable future.

Military Leaders

- **Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington: Allied Commander in Belgium** — The Duke of Wellington is a prominent military commander for Great Britain. Before defeating Napoleon in the Spanish and Portuguese wars, he enjoyed a successful career fighting in India. His military expertise will be vital in assessing Napoleon's capabilities, given that he has defeated him repeatedly. Given Britain's interests in containing France, and especially Napoleon, it would be imperative for him to move quickly to the aid of the French monarchy with his military forces stationed in Western Europe.
- **Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher: Prussian Field Marshal** — General Blucher has proven to be among the most aggressive generals throughout these great wars. In fact, this aggressiveness earned him the nickname *Marschall Vorwärts*, Marshall Forwards. He is also among the most anti-Napoleon members of this caucus and was vital in pushing Napoleon out of Germany in the past few years. Given Prussia's expansionist interests, he is likely to be crucial in implementing them on the battlefield. With Napoleon's return, the chance to project Prussia's military might returns and could serve to help their interests.

- **August Neidhardt von Gneisenau: Prussian Chief of Staff** — Closely related to Blucher, von Gneisenau is also a hard-line opponent of France and a champion of Prussian interests. He could serve Prussian interests to the fullest extent by working closely with General von Blucher. This method has worked before, as von Gneisenau worked as von Blucher's chief of staff during the War of German Liberation in 1813, which ended with Prussian victory. Gneisenau was also among the masterminds behind the 1814 invasion of France and the March to Paris, which forced Napoleon's abdication. Utilizing this talent to work with Prussian and allied commanders to mount a strong military response to Napoleon will be nothing but helpful.
- **Karl Philipp, Prince of Schwarzenberg: Austrian Field Marshal** — One of the most influential figures in Napoleon's initial demise a year earlier, Karl Philipp has organized a multinational war effort before. From his earlier experience, Philipp is expected to proceed cautiously and thoroughly through the best military preparations, strategic campaigns, and political disagreements that will inevitably arise. In the question of active vs. passive, Philipp is expected to adopt a more thoughtful and planned approach rather than hastily throwing disorganized troops onto the battlefield.
- **Mikhail Barclay de Tolly: Russian Field Marshal** — When Napoleon tried to invade Russia in his infamous 1812 campaign, it was Mikhail Barclay de Tolly's idea to retreat further and further, burning the earth as the Russian army went along. At the time of its proposal, Barclay's idea was hugely unpopular but in the end, delivered Russia to a symbolic victory that first exposed that Napoleon could be stopped. Still with the command of several Russian forces, Barclay is expected again to play the long game.

And even if fellow commanders or strategists of the Coalition urge a rapid offensive approach, he will be hardly deterred from his vision of how to defeat Napoleon.

- **Pyotr Wittgenstein: Russian Field Marshal** — Another powerful voice within the Russian army, Wittgenstein gained great popularity and influence following his successful defense of St. Petersburg. The strategy that he develops, whether similar to Barclay's waiting game or vastly more aggressive, will carry great weight in Russia's ultimate strategy. Wittgenstein is hardly confined to Barclay's strategy, and their tension may become central in the decisiveness of Russia's activity.
- **Friedrich Wilhelm von Bülow: Prussian General** — Like Blücher and Gneisenau, Friedrich Wilhelm von Bülow was a significant figure in Prussia's victory during the wars of liberation in Germany and was among the main commanders of Prussia's forces. He supports a direct military approach to defeating Napoleon, rather than relying on diplomacy.
- **Friedrich von Kleist: Prussian Field Marshal** — During the wars of liberation, von Kleist's responsibility was to eliminate the French military threat to Prussia. He commanded forces in the allied battles against Napoleon at Dresden and Kulm in 1813. After Napoleon's abdication, he continued his service in preparing for Napoleon's return. Although he is not one of the main commanders, his input will certainly influence Prussian military decision-making.



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