

SCC

THE BIRTH OF AMERICA:
The Second Continental Congress



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

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Letters From the Chairs:

Dear Delegates,

I am thrilled to transport you back in time and welcome you to the SCC: The Birth of America. I hope this committee provides each of you with a transformative experience about our nation, how it came to be, and how it shaped our nation's future. Additionally, I hope this committee provides all of you with an opportunity to engage in fruitful discourse and debate with delegates from across New England.

Now, for a little bit of background information about me. My name is Trevor Higgins, and I am this committee's chair. I am a senior here at Saint John's, and this is my fourth year of doing Model UN. Over the course of my time participating in Model UN, I have attended multiple national conferences, so please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

Outside the classroom, I enjoy participating in extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial and DECA. In my free time, you can find me playing pick-up ball with my friends, watching sports, playing video games, and listening to music. If you have any song recommendations for a playlist for the committee, feel free to email them to me.

I picked this topic to offer a unique perspective for Model UN: going back in time to explore our nation's pastime, while many other committees focus on current affairs. Since this is an advanced committee, we will run it as a crisis committee.

The most significant piece of advice I can give to older and newer delegates: Be respectful and kind. Model UN is all about interacting with others and cooperating to offer a solution to the problem. In the committee room, kindness can bring you a long way when it

comes to getting papers passed, but it can also lead you to meeting people and making friends. Additionally, it ensures that all delegates' voices are heard. This committee promises a valuable, fun learning experience and an enriching journey.

I hope this letter provides you with a high-level overview of our committee, our expectations, and our hopes to assist you all as you continue your Model UN journey. SJMUNC has been a life-changing experience for me, and I hope it can be the same for you. Once again, if you have any questions before the conference, please feel free to reach out to me. I look forward to meeting all of you.

Best regards,

Trevor Higgins,

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SCC, The Birth of America Committee! My name is Viraaj Vaddi, and I am overjoyed to be your Co-Chair. I am super excited to see what points are going to be brought up, great collaboration, debate, and most importantly, lots of fun! I enjoy Model UN because it brings people together and helps them work together to develop solutions. Participating in Model UN improved my public speaking, my ability to collaborate, and my overall outgoingness. I am currently a sophomore and have been doing Model UN for three years. I have attended many conferences, including MUNUC, BCHigh's Model UN Conference, SJMUNC, and more.

I participate in other extracurriculars like DECA, Mock Trial, HOSA, and Volleyball. Outside of school, I enjoy going to the gym, playing sports, going out, quality time with family and friends, and listening to music. My playlist does need song recommendations, so feel free to email them! I listen to a lot of Daniel Caesar, Brent Faiyaz, Laufey, Lana Del Rey, Frank Ocean, millkzy, Bruno Mars, and Drake, so put that into account.

As your Co-Chair, I am looking forward to meeting all of you and seeing you grow throughout the conference. My goal for this committee is for everyone to meet new people, learn something new, and leave the conference as a better person. Please do not hesitate to reach out and ask any questions you have. Good luck, and I can't wait to meet all of you!

Viraaj Vaddi

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History of the Problem:

The roots of the American Revolution can be traced to the end of the Seven Years' War (1763). Following the war, Great Britain sought to impose a series of taxes on the colonies to fund its massive war debt. Specific measures such as the Stamp Act and the Townshend Acts sparked widespread defiance and opposition to the British Parliament throughout the colonies, as many colonists believed these measures infringed upon their natural rights. The colonists argued they could not be taxed without having representation in Parliament. Tensions between Britain and the colonies further intensified following events like the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, and, as a result, Britain's passage of the Intolerable Acts. These events further united the colonies against British authority. In response to these events, colonial leaders held the First Continental Congress to coordinate a resistance while still holding out hope for a peaceful reconciliation with Great Britain. However, these hopes diminished after fighting broke out in Lexington and Concord in April of 1775, prompting the colonists to hold the Second Continental Congress. Now, delegates face the immense pressure and challenge of maintaining unity throughout the colonies, managing economic and diplomatic relations, and determining whether the colonies should continue seeking peace with Great Britain or pursue independence.

Statement of the Problem:

The Second Continental Congress is one of the most important events in American history. The 13 colonies and Great Britain have been fighting for years over taxes and colonial rights. Recently, there has been fighting in Lexington and Concord. The fight began with protests against British policy, but the protests have become more dangerous and could have serious repercussions for the colonies. The people in charge have to decide whether peace with Great Britain is the right course or whether they need to declare independence. The decisions they make will not only affect the war but also the future of the colonies.

For instance, one of Congress's tasks is to keep all thirteen colonies working together. Most people in the colonies are upset about the rules; however, their next steps are in question. Some delegates consider talking to King George III to hopefully secure their rights without a war. Others think that Britain has gone too far and that declaring independence is the only way to protect their freedom. These disagreements make it extremely hard to develop a well-written plan for the nation's future. If the colonies do not agree, Britain won't have any issues winning the war.

Another major decision is whether to declare independence from Great Britain. Declaring independence will mean ending their relationship with Great Britain and, consequently, making the war longer and more dangerous. The colonies will have to take care of themselves without British aid, which will be a drastic shift for the emerging nation. On the contrary, if the colonies try to make peace, Britain may get stronger and take over the colonies again. Delegates are responsible for deciding whether or not independence is the solution.

Additionally, the colonial military system needs to change. The colonial soldiers have been brave in battle, but they are not well-trained enough to fight a long war against a big army like Britain's. Congress must figure out how to make a Continental Army. For example, they must choose leaders, recruit enough soldiers, and provide them with nourishment, weapons, and medicine. Delegates' inability to plan well will result in an easy victory for the British.

Another problem for the colonies is their financial situation. Britain's rules have cut into their trade, which has put farmers and merchants in deep trouble. Congress needs money to pay soldiers and buy supplies. However, they do not have the ability to borrow a lot of money. Congress has to decide whether it should borrow money from another nation, ask each colony for help, or make its own money. Each option has its own problems. Delegates must find a solution to their financial problems. If they fail to do so, Congress will not have enough materials to fight the British and win the war.

Other countries, such as France, are watching from afar and may support the colonies, as they have long been rivals of Britain. If the colonies can convince other countries they can win, they may receive help, such as weapons, money, and/or soldiers. On the contrary, if an alliance with other countries is formed, the colonies may have to make decisions that might not be in their best interests. Through intense deliberation, delegates will have to determine how to seek help without sacrificing their independence.

The colonies must also consider what kind of government they would have if they were independent, if that is the route the delegates opt to take. It may not be solely about ending British rule, but also about creating a new government from scratch, deciding how to share

power, choosing leaders, and protecting people's rights. Since each colony is different, it will not be easy to agree on these things. Delegates are expected to establish a system of government and ensure that the majority agrees with the resulting power structure.

Finally, Congress has to show the American people that it still believes in them. Many colonists are making sacrifices by fighting in the war, paying more for goods, or suffering from shortages. If Americans lose faith in Congress, they may stop supporting the war. Delegates must speak to the public, make good decisions, and consistently encourage colonists that victory is within reach. In doing so, Americans will continue to believe in them.

The Second Continental Congress will be a time for leaders to discuss and cooperate in order to save the colonies. The leaders of the colonies will face disagreements, military and money problems, and leadership issues. Every decision that they make could change history. Delegates will have to work together and plan carefully to figure out what happens to the thirteen colonies. Whether they stay under the rule or become independent, whatever they decide will change the country and dramatically impact history. The Second Continental Congress is an important event in American history. The Americans and Great Britain have been arguing for years. Now Congress has to step up and make some difficult decisions. Their choices will impact the colonies and the Second Continental Congress.

Possible Solutions:

The Second Continental Congress has many challenging problems to solve. However, several possible solutions could help the colonists emerge victorious against Great Britain. Congress must prioritize keeping the colonies unified, building a strong standing army, establishing a stable, functional financial system, securing support from foreign countries such as France, and determining the colonies' future government structure. Most importantly, Congress must pursue solutions that protect the colonists' rights while ensuring that the colonies are unified in the process.

One possible solution to the disagreements and tensions among the colonies is for Congress to create a stronger system of communication, cooperation, and the transportation of ideas among them. Delegates should meet regularly to ensure every colony is represented and to allow them to express their concerns before major decisions are made. Congress could also create committees or task forces to focus on and prioritize pressing issues, such as the procurement and funding of military supplies, finances, and relations with Great Britain. This would allow the colonies to work together rather than make separate decisions. Congress should also highlight that the colonies share many goals, especially protecting their rights and resisting Britain's attempts to restrict their freedom. Even if the colonies disagree on independence, they can still cooperate to defend themselves against British forces.

Another possible solution is to continue negotiating with Great Britain while preparing for a prolonged conflict. Some delegates strongly believe that reconciliation with Britain may be possible, and that Congress should reach out to King George III to express the colonies' concerns

and demand equal rights. At the same time, Congress should not rely entirely on Britain's acceptance of these demands. The fighting at Lexington and Concord has already demonstrated that the tension and conflict could result in a full-fledged war. Congress should therefore prepare for war while leaving the possibility of peace open and up for discussion. This would allow the colonies to demonstrate their willingness to negotiate without leaving themselves defenseless if Britain refuses.

If fighting continues, Congress must prioritize creating a functioning, standing army. One possible solution is to establish a Continental Army that represents all thirteen colonies rather than relying solely on individual colonial militias. This would further ensure unification among the thirteen colonies. Congress should appoint experienced military leaders, recruit soldiers from every colony, and establish a system to supply troops with food, weapons, clothing, and medical tools. Congress should further establish rules for training and discipline to ensure that soldiers are prepared to fight and have chemistry fighting among their comrades. A unified army would provide the colonies with a better defense against the British military. However, Congress should ensure that each colony contributes men to the war effort so the standing army does not become overly dependent on any single colony.

Money is another topic that Congress needs to address: the colonies need funds to pay soldiers, purchase weapons, and provide supplies, yet Congress lacks a strong national financial system. One potential solution would be for Congress to request financial contributions from each colony based on its population and its economic status. Additionally, Congress could borrow money from wealthy individuals and foreign governments. Another potential solution

would be to create paper currency to pay for resources. However, Congress must be careful not to circulate too much paper currency, thereby causing the value of money to decrease or the public's faith in its value to completely disintegrate. Congress must evaluate its funding options rather than relying solely on a single method to pay expenses and serve as currency.

Foreign support is also vital for the colonists' independence movement. France, in particular, has a long-standing rivalry with Great Britain and could be interested in crippling their empire. Congress should send diplomats to France with the goal of seeking assistance and supplies from the French Crown. However, Congress must avoid becoming overly dependent on France or foreign powers. Congress must consider establishing relationships with other nations to encourage trade and gain additional support. Foreign assistance could be a difference maker in the independence movement.

Another topic Congress must discuss is the type of government the colonies will operate under. Congress does not immediately have to focus on creating a new national government, but delegates should begin discussing how power would be divided among the colonies. Congress should also consider how to protect and ensure the individual rights of its citizens, along with ensuring the new government does not become tyrannical. By discussing these issues sooner rather than later, the colonies could avoid creating another system that gives too much power to one figure.

Finally, Congress must maintain the support of the colonists throughout the conflict. One possible solution is for Congress to openly communicate with the colonists about the conflict and pressing issues. Congress could publish reports about military exploits, financial issues, and

negotiations with foreign powers. Congress must recognize the hardships that ordinary colonists face in their day-to-day lives. If possible, Congress should improve the distribution of food and supplies. Showing that Congress understands the sacrifices made by the colonists could significantly improve the morale of the colonists.

Overall, the Second Continental Congress has several possible solutions to the problems facing the colonies. Congress can strengthen relationships between the colonies, continue negotiations with Great Britain, create a stronger standing army, enhance funds, seek foreign alliances, begin planning a new government structure, and maintain the support of the colonists. Not all of these solutions will completely resolve the problems facing the colonists, and each one comes with risks. However, if Congress works together and evaluates the needs of each colony, it can improve the colonies' chances of winning the conflict. The decisions made by Congress during this committee will determine whether the colonies gain their independence or stay a part of the British Empire.

Bloc Positions

Bloc I → Immediate Independence

- **John Adams** → John Adams was one of the strongest supporters of independence. He believed Britain had violated the colonies' rights too many times and that reconciliation was no longer realistic. He was outspoken and argumentative, and he would likely push other delegates to support creating a completely independent country.
- **John Hancock** → John Hancock was a wealthy Massachusetts merchant and a well-known Patriot who strongly opposed British policies. Because of his popularity and influence, he could help rally other delegates behind independence while also using his wealth to support the revolutionary cause.
- **George Washington** → George Washington was a respected Virginia planter and experienced military leader. He believed the colonies needed to prepare for the possibility of a serious war with Britain. Although he was not as outspoken as someone like Adams, his military experience and reputation could make him the obvious choice to lead a united Continental Army.
- **Richard Henry Lee** → Richard Henry Lee was one of the strongest supporters of independence in Congress. He believed the colonies needed to completely separate from Britain and was willing to take action to make that happen. He would eventually introduce the resolution calling for independence.
- **Stephen Hopkins** → Stephen Hopkins was an experienced Rhode Island politician who strongly supported colonial rights and resistance to British rule. He could argue that Britain had pushed the colonies too far and that the colonies needed to work together instead of continuing to act separately.
- **William Hooper** → William Hooper was a North Carolina lawyer and Patriot who gradually became more supportive of independence. He could argue that staying under British control would continue to threaten the colonies' political and economic freedoms.

- **Button Gwinnett** → Button Gwinnett was a Georgia planter and politician who supported independence. He could argue that Georgia needed to stand with the other colonies instead of remaining dependent on Britain, especially if the other colonies were willing to fight for their freedom.
- **Caesar Rodney** → Caesar Rodney was a strong Patriot who supported independence and was willing to take major risks for the revolutionary cause. He was especially important because Delaware had a small delegation, meaning his position could help determine whether the colony supported independence or reconciliation.
- **Samuel Chase** → Samuel Chase was a passionate Maryland Patriot who strongly opposed British policies. He could push Congress toward independence while emphasizing that the colonies needed to act together if they were going to successfully resist Britain.
- **Thomas Jefferson** → Thomas Jefferson was a young Virginia delegate who strongly advocated for immediate independence and strongly believed that the colonists had the right to govern themselves. Jefferson argued that Great Britain violated the colonists' rights so severely that separation was inevitable.

Bloc II → Reconciliation

- **John Dickinson** → John Dickinson was one of the strongest voices for reconciliation with Britain while still defending the rights of the colonies. He believed the colonies should stand up against unfair British policies, but he worried that declaring independence would lead to a destructive and unnecessary war.
- **Benjamin Franklin** → Benjamin Franklin was an internationally respected scientist, writer, and politician who had spent years dealing with British officials. At first, he supported reconciliation, but over time he became more convinced that Britain was unwilling to respect the rights of the colonies.
- **John Jay** → John Jay was a New York lawyer and politician who initially favored reconciliation with Britain. He wanted the colonies to protect their rights without completely separating from the British Empire. He could argue that Congress should try peaceful solutions before committing to independence.
- **Philip Livingston** → Philip Livingston was a wealthy New York merchant and politician who opposed many British policies but remained cautious about independence. As a merchant, he would be especially concerned about how a long war could hurt trade, businesses, and the colonial economy.
- **George Read** → George Read was a Delaware politician who initially opposed declaring independence because he believed reconciliation was still possible. He could act as a cautious voice in Congress, warning the other delegates against rushing into a war that could have serious consequences for the colonies.
- **Thomas Stone** → Thomas Stone was a Maryland lawyer who was cautious about immediately declaring independence. He could argue that Congress needed to carefully think about the consequences of war before making a decision that could not easily be reversed.
- **Edward Rutledge** → Edward Rutledge was a young but influential delegate from South Carolina who initially opposed rushing toward independence. He could focus on South Carolina's economic interests and argue that provoking Britain could put the colony in an even more dangerous position.

- **Richard Stockton** → Richard Stockton was a respected New Jersey lawyer and politician who was initially hesitant about independence. He could argue that Congress should try every possible peaceful solution before completely breaking away from Britain.
- **Josiah Bartlett** → Josiah Bartlett was a New Hampshire physician and politician who eventually became an important supporter of independence. In the simulation, he can represent a delegate who is sympathetic to independence but still wants Congress to carefully consider the risks of going to war before making a final decision.
- **James Wilson** → James Wilson was a lawyer from Pennsylvania and a delegate who initially opposed an immediate declaration of independence. He strongly believed that Congress should evaluate the consequences of separation and consider the interests of the individual colonies. Wilson argued that independence should not be pursued until the colonies were in full agreement.

Bloc III → Between Reconciliation and Independence

- **Matthew Thornton** → Matthew Thornton was a New Hampshire physician and politician who supported the revolutionary cause but was not initially one of the most radical voices. He could be persuaded by either side depending on how the situation develops, especially if the war, economy, or negotiations with Britain begin to change.
- **Roger Sherman** → Roger Sherman was a practical Connecticut politician who supported colonial rights and eventually supported independence. He could serve as a negotiator between the more radical delegates and those who were still afraid of breaking away from Britain.
- **Samuel Huntington** → Samuel Huntington was a Connecticut politician who gradually became more supportive of independence. He could focus on keeping the colonies united and making sure Congress does not move faster than the colonies are ready to handle.
- **Samuel Ward** → Samuel Ward was a Rhode Island politician and Patriot who supported resistance to British authority. He could represent a more moderate revolutionary who supported preparing for war but was still willing to consider whether reconciliation with Britain was possible.
- **John Witherspoon** → John Witherspoon was a Scottish-born educator and president of the College of New Jersey who became an important supporter of the revolutionary cause. He could bring a more philosophical perspective to the debate, focusing on natural rights, political freedom, and the responsibility of government to protect its people.
- **Joseph Hewes** → Joseph Hewes was a wealthy North Carolina merchant who became a supporter of the Patriot cause. Because of his background in commerce, he would likely be especially concerned about trade, finances, and how independence could affect the colonial economy.
- **Thomas Heyward Jr.** → Thomas Heyward Jr. was a young South Carolina planter and politician who supported the Patriot cause and eventually independence. He could focus on protecting South Carolina's interests while deciding how much risk the colonies should take in confronting Britain.

- **Lyman Hall** → Lyman Hall was a Georgia physician and politician who strongly supported the Patriot cause. Since Georgia faced some different economic and security concerns than the northern colonies, he could push Congress to make decisions that also protect the interests of the southern colonies.
- **Benjamin Harrison** → Benjamin Harrison was a wealthy Virginia planter and a very influential delegate who supported resistance to British policies, but was cautious of a complete separation from British rule. Harrison would likely serve as a moderate voice, supporting the colonists' rights while debating whether independence was necessary.
- **George Clinton** → George Clinton was a New York politician who opposed British authority but represented a colony where opinions regarding independence were greatly divided. Clinton would likely argue that Congress needed to consider the risks of war while still defending the colonists' rights.

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