



BORN FROM THE ASHES

**T H E S E C O N D P O L I S H
R E P U B L I C 1 9 1 8**



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COMMITTEE LETTER



Greetings Delegates!

I am excited to host you all for my SUNMUN I committee – "Born from the Ashes: The Second Polish Republic 1918." My name is Max Banach, and I am a sophomore at the University of Florida majoring in Electrical Engineering with two minors in Math and Engineering Innovation. I have been a part of the Model UN community for the past five years having attended 20+ conferences and maintaining an award streak for the past three; this will be my fifth time staffing so far. I am currently serving on UFMUN's Executive Board and was named our best crisis delegate for this past year as a freshman, as well as, being nominated by the collegiate circuit to be on the Best Delegate All-Star team. I chose this topic as one close to my heart, as my great grandfather served in the Polish foreign legion during WWI. Outside of Model UN, I spend my time at the gym, reading, and playing video games. I look forward to having y'all at SUNMUN !!

Risen from the ashes, Poland has regained its independence in the wake of the Great War after over two centuries of subjugation by its neighbors - yet troubles still linger for our newly freed country. In a new Europe with our shaky neighbors of a post-imperial Germany to the West and a newly converted Soviet Russia to the East, much is in store for the Second Polish Republic. "Born from the Ashes: The Second Polish Republic 1918" will explore how the governing officials of a newly independent Polish republic layout and execute plans to renew the governmental structure, infrastructure, and economy while preparing its people for other upcoming conflicts. How delegates appropriate, allocate, and utilize resources will strongly determine not just their own future, but the future of all Polish people in Europe!



Please ensure that you bring everything you might need to take part in this committee prior to our first committee session so we can hit the ground running. While position papers will not be required, they may act as a first crisis note that you can write in advance (1 page maximum). If you ever need help in any aspect of committee or have general questions about the conference, do not shy away from asking left-handed questions. At the end of the day, if you aren't having fun in committee, then why do it?

Do zobaczenia wkrótce,

Max Banach

Director, Born from the Ashes: The Second Polish Republic 1918

"An independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant."

–Woodrow Wilson





COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Delegates will represent real historical individuals critical to the formation of the new Polish Republic (and a few personal inclusions), with each person representing a unique background from which they can draw resources from to steer the new nation's establishment. While delegates are encouraged to work collaboratively (especially in war games and nation-building), you are free to explore a wide range of topics both in and outside of Europe (keeping in mind subject relevance and how realistic your goals are).

Each session of committee will span ~1 year, keeping in mind that time will slow down relative to the speed of conflict scenarios and other timed crises. However, the present time in committee will be updated each crisis update for delegates to plan their arcs accordingly. While we encourage delegates to be creative and go beyond the historical actions of their character, keep in mind the feasibility of your actions and the communication limitations that exist at the time committee is set. The committee will start November 14 upon the return of Józef Piłsudski and him naming Jędrzej Moraczewski as his Prime Minister – considered to be our chair – prior to the writing of the Second Republic's constitution. We assume legislative elections have already taken place for simplicity. The position of Prime Minister may transition should the committee deem it necessary or upon occurrence of the next elections when, or if, they are called.

We recognize that this committee takes place during a time when many radical ideologies are active throughout Europe. You are free to reference these ideas in the course of debate, but they may not be used as a guise to attack the character of another delegate. While “Born from the Ashes: the Second Polish Republic 1918” takes place during a very different time from today, we must keep in mind that we cannot use historical accuracy as a means to incorporate any form of anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, or general discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, or religion in their crisis arcs or in debate.



Through the conference weekend, delegates will encounter a wide range of issues from Russian aggression and German restructuring to internal turmoil and agricultural yields. During that time, you are encouraged to pick unique perspectives on issues as they arise in-room while furthering your own interests out-of-room. Directives, notes, communiqués and any other form of action will take place on notepads; computers will not be required to participate.

As a final note, while this background guide contains a span of information that will make you competitive in committee, you are encouraged to do your own research on your character and the time in and around that which this committee takes place in. Delegates who reference real events and characters in their communications will be rewarded for their accuracy when it comes to the response they receive from backroom.





COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

The Concert of Europe was established towards the beginning of the 19th century with the aims of creating a balance of power between the five main powers on the continent: Britain, Austria-Hungary, Germany/Prussia, Russia and France.[1] While the system was not perfect and subject to tumultuous events through its existence, it was able to prevent Europe from spiraling into a broader war until the status quo was overturned and the continent was plunged into an enormous conflict towards the beginning of the 20th century.

The Great War started in 1914 – marking the culmination of events with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, would-be successor to the Austro-Hungarian throne, by the Black Hand: a Serbian terrorist group.[2][3] At this point in history, Poland as we know it did not exist, having been partitioned between the German, Russian and Austro-Hungarian Empires for over two hundred years.[4] Yet, Polish people remained active in the social, political and military spheres in the countries they were divided across, as well as, in France and Britain. At the onset of the war, hundreds of thousands of poles were conscripted into the Russian, German, and Austro-Hungarian armies; within the central powers, they composed the Polish Legions and Auxiliary Corps which fought on the Western Front against the Allied Powers and Eastern Front (fighting the Russian Empire which was viewed as the primary enemy of Polish independence).[5] Meanwhile, towards the end of the war, Polish volunteer forces composed the “Blue Army” in France fighting for Polish freedom on the side of the Allies – these forces were later transferred to the newly independent Polish state at the end of the war.[6]

[1] <https://www.britannica.com/topic/diplomacy/The-Concert-of-Europe-to-the-outbreak-of-World-War-I>

[2] <https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/how-the-world-went-to-war-in-1914>

[3] <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Black-Hand-secret-Serbian-society>

[4] <https://www.britannica.com/event/Partitions-of-Poland>

[5] <https://books.google.com/books?id=HsvoAiBX7JwC&pg=PA9#v=onepage&q&f=false>

[6] https://web.archive.org/web/20110717075923/http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/judaica/ejud_0002_0008_0_08257.html

While a Polish puppet state was established during the war by the Central Powers to rally support for their side of the war, the Regency Kingdom of Poland,[7] it was not until the back-half of 1917 that true Polish independence was a possibility post-war. After the overthrow of Tsar Nicholas II, the Provisional Government in Russia decreed the Polish right to self-determination – as internal turmoil made it near impossible for them to perpetually contest the territory against the Central powers.[8] Until that point, Polish independence was considered to be an internal issue in Russia, the country to which majority of pre-partition Poland belonged to. Given the support of the allied Entente and American's as exemplified by Woodrow Wilson's thirteenth out of his fourteenth points, Poland was once again given a chance at independence after the war. In the German armistice of November 1918, Germany was forced to withdraw from much of Poland allowing Piłsudski to declare Polish sovereignty and marking the start of our committee.[9]

[7] <https://kpk-mississauga.org/poland/faq-why-was-poland-created-after-ww1.html>

[8] <https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/how-poland-became-a-nation-again-after-wwi>

[9] <http://www.dcstamps.com/poland-german-occupation-in-ww1/>

11. LISTOPADA 1918.



POLISH-LITHUANIAN COMMONWEALTH: FIRST POLISH REPUBLIC



The Rise (1500s-early 1600s)

The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was founded in 1569 by the Union of Lublin, under which the personal union between the crowns of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania became one and formed a real union – a continued pursuit of closer relations between the two entities while not yet forming a full political union.[10] Lithuanian nobles were encouraged to seek continued union with Poland as a counter to aggressive Muscovite princes to the East.[11]

At the end of King Sigismund II Augustus' reign due to his death in 1572, he had yet to give birth to an heir for the united Polish-Lithuania for the few years it had existed as a hereditary monarchy. This left it up to the elected nobility – represented by the Sejm – to select a new King for the Commonwealth. They eventually selected Henryk Welzy, youngest brother of the French Monarch, to serve. This marks the beginning of a nearly two hundred years of parliamentary elective monarchy.[12]

The Commonwealth continued to expand up through the early 17th century, and the Union generally experienced social, political, and economic success. Polish arts expanded due the patronage of the Polish-Lithuanian crown starting under the Vasa dynasty while the rest of Europe was plunged into the Thirty Years' War. Under a series of different Monarchs, the Commonwealth expanded north along the Baltic Sea up through the city of Riga – modern-day capital of Estonia – east into Russia – capturing Moscow for two years –during the Time of Troubles and secured its front with the Ottomans to the South after the loss of Moldavia during the Polish-Ottoman War.

[10] https://archive.org/details/godsplaygroundhi00norm_0

[11] The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, 1733-1795 - Google Books

[12] <https://polskieradio24.pl/39/156/Artykul/1444613,Artykuly-henrykowskie-szlachecka-prekonstytucja>

The Turmoil (mid 1600s-late 1600s)

Increased repression of minority groups led to rebellions against the crown, and cracks in the multi-ethnic Commonwealth began to show. Ukrainian Cossacks rose up in a riot against Polish Catholic oppression in 1648, as the vast sum of Ukrainians were Orthodox, in what came to be called the Khmelnytsky Uprising. The conflict was marked by anti-Jewish violence and is glorified as “a defining moment in the shaping of the Ukrainian nation.”[13] Later on in 1651, under the terms of the Treaty of Pereyaslav and facing the threat of Polish reconquest of the area, Khelmytsky requested the Russian Tsar adopt Ukraine as a duchy – effectively heeding themselves to Russian oversight as opposed to Polish.

Later on that century, Polish-Lithuania faced coincident conflicts of the Swedish Deluge (1655-1660) and Russo-Polish War (1654-1667). Spurred by conflicts over Polish and Russian hegemony over Slavic lands between the two powers, the powers were pushed to war when the Russian Tsar declared war; Russia would successfully capture many lands considered to be Belarus today. Observing this weakness, the Swedes, coming largely victorious from the Thirty Years' War but unable to pay its military forces, saw Poland as a weak target – with much of Poland's forces killed in previous conflicts to the east. Many of the Polish forces were pushed to concentrate to the south of the Commonwealth around Kraków, and it was not until thousands of Austrian troops came through in support of the Polish King that they were able to push back against the Swedish advance. After pushing out Swedish forces to the north in Prussian lands, peace was reached in 1660, but not before Poland recognized the independence of the Duchy of Prussia in 1657 – later becoming Brandenburg-Prussia and the Empire of Germany. Now able to focus on the Russian conflict, the Polish King was able to reverse much of the Russian territorial gains before finally reaching peace in 1667, not before a brief civil war started in the Commonwealth contributing to some territorial losses incorporated in the peace treaty (see map on previous page).[14]

Overall, Polish-Lithuania would never be the same after the conflicts. Monetary losses due to the Swedish conflict amounted to ~4 billion zlotys, destroying 188 cities and 186 villages.[15] The population of Warsaw decreased from twenty thousand to just two thousand, with the city unprepared for the conflict – surrendering when the Swedish forces arrived at the hastily fortified walls.[16] Because of both conflicts, Polish-Lithuania lost about third of its population and much of its industry.[17]



[13] <https://www.jstor.org/stable/20101495>

[14] <https://archive.org/details/northernwarswars00fros>

[15] <https://dzieje.pl/aktualnosci/potop-szwedzki-przyniosl-polsce-straty-o-wartosci-4-mld-zlotych>

[16]

https://www.wilanowpalac.pl/pierwsze_zniszczenie_warszawy_i_jej_odbudowa_po_potopie_1655_1696.html

[17] https://web.archive.org/web/20070821060613/http://www.dur.ac.uk/polish.society/about_poland.htm

The Fall (late 1600s-late 1795)

The fall of the first Republic was a long one, marked by a wide variety of people and events. After the death of John III Sobieski, the consequent elections of Polish kings were muddled by other European states: each advocating for different nobles to be elected to the throne to advance their goals.[18] Yet, in defiance of this controversy, the first King elected after Sobieski – Augustus II – was known to spend large sums of money on arts. Moreover, much infrastructure was developed, including manufacturing factories.[19]

As part of the Great Northern War, Augustus II would be dethroned by the Warsaw Confederation, backed by Sweden and headed by Stanisław Leszczyński, who was then named king in 1704. Eventually, Augustus II was able to regain the throne, but not before his death in 1733 caused the War of Polish Succession.[20] During a period of a few years, other European countries like France and Spain continued to meddle in the election of a new king, marking the Succession War – a civil war in Poland.[21] Eventually though, a new king was named in 1736. With new kings often coming from outside Poland, they brought with them outside influences – this marked the start of the Polish Renaissance.

With deputies in the Sejm given the power of liberum veto – unanimous consent was needed to approve measures – they were often bribed by foreign powers to block reform while European powers to the west continued to modernize. With the ascendancy of Stanisław Augustus II – late lover of Catherine the Great – to the throne, Poland was in dire straits. Many of his reforms were blocked by the Sejm, and Polish-Lithuania began to be seen as a protectorate of Russia even though it maintained its independence. The Republic's three neighbors – Russia, Austria, and Prussia – met to discuss partitioning of its lands. They decided upon what land to take and proceeded to take it, and while met with resistance from the Bar Confederation, they achieved their goals in the first partition of 1773. After the passage of a constitution – the first of its kind – Russia used it as justification to invade in 1792 leading to the second partition. With power split between factions, Tadeusz Kosciuszko started his unsuccessful uprising. While initially successful, the three powers saw it as a threat and decided to get rid of it entirely by annexing the remainder of Polish-Lithuania in the third partition.



[18] https://www.google.com.au/books/edition/Studia_staropolskie/z3niAAAAMAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0&bsq=o bce%20mocarstwa%20wyb%C3%B3r%20kr%C3%B3la%20elekcja%20kandydat

[19] https://www.google.com.au/books/edition/Dzieje_kultury_polskiej/f0ZFAAAAIAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=0&bsq=sas%C3%B3w%20fabryki

[20] https://books.google.com/books?id=cmOgBAAAQBAJ&pg=PR4&lpg=PR4&dq=ISBN+978-0-582-06429-4&source=bl&ots=TtGah9bX2U&sig=ACfU3U3pXMJ3u7B1_OKasLU--ZFutpCEJg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewi669fC2Kj5AhUYZjABHd6WCRUQ6AF6BAGWEAM#v=onepage&q=ISBN%20978-0-582-06429-4&f=false

[21] https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/1911_Encyclop%C3%A6dia_Britannica/Polish_Succession_War

POLES WITHOUT A POLAND: 123 YEARS OF FOREIGN RULE

Life under Subjugation

Life in partitioned Poland largely depended on which Empire you were carved into. For example, life under the Russians existed as Congress Poland – varying from an autonomous state, military dictatorship, and later incorporated province of Russia.[22]

Under the Kingdom of Prussia, the Germans sought to assimilate the Polish lands – seeing Poles themselves as “trash.”[23] Yet, these pursuits accomplished the opposite effect, with the Polish minority becoming more organized.[24] Life in German-controlled Poland was considered the best, receiving the most development, yet they generally received the least amount of representation compared to the Austrian and Russian Empires. Generally, under the Russian and German Empires, respective policies of Russification and Germanization pushed to decrease Polish culture and influence in former Polish lands. These included the settling of German speaking people in Polish provinces and a marginalization of the Polish language.[25] Under Russian-controlled Poland, similar efforts were in play, with the Russians pursuing the spread of Orthodox Christianity at the restriction of the Roman Catholic Church through land seizure.[26]

While the Austrian Empire repressed the Polish people just like the prior two partitioners, towards the outbreak of the great war the Austrians came to give Poles the most autonomy. This included the recognition of Poland as a language in the region, with Polish parties capable of being formed officially and participating in Empirical politics. [27]

[22] <https://www.britannica.com/place/Congress-Kingdom-of-Poland>

[23] <https://archive.org/details/conquestofnature00davi/>

[24] <http://archiwum.polityka.pl/wydanie/1,18565.html>

[25] <https://www.polityka.pl/archiwumpolityki>

[26] <http://www.irekw.internetdsl.pl/rusyfikacja.html>

[27] Andrzej Garlicki, Polsko-Gruziński sojusz wojskowy, Polityka: Wyдание Specjalne 2/2008, ISSN 1730-0525



Yet, the Austrian Empire pursued a policy of divide and rule, via which they promoted Ukrainian growth in eastern provinces of former Polish lands; the Empire sought to drive a wedge between Poles and Ukrainians to distract them from the common ruler. [28] Moreover, the economy in Austrian Poland was considered the worst of the three partitioners, continuing largely as an agricultural area with little industrial development by the Empire. Education was not considered a priority either.[29] Thankfully, Polish life and culture continued to live under external pressures, with Polish society effectively preserving the language and culture to be passed on to subsequent generations.[30]



The Great War

Due to the differing sides of the war Poles were divided across, Central vs. Entente powers, differing powers promised Polish people certain concessions in exchange for their cooperation and service in the military.

On the side of the Central Powers, Józef Piłsudski formed the Polish Legions to fight against the Russian Empire in support of the Austro-Hungarians. He correctly predicted in 1914 that the Central Powers were to first defeat the Russians, before in turn being defeated by the western Entente powers of France and Great Britain. He acknowledged in secret that those Poles under his command would never fight against the western Entente powers.

As the Germans pushed eastward through Russian-controlled Poland (Congress Poland), they were met with sadness – Russia had recently begun implementing liberalization policies as opposed to the continued Germanization tactics employed in the German partition. [31] From their gained territories, Germany formed the Kingdom of Poland as a way to garner increased Polish support. While a puppet to the Germans, Kingdom Poland paved the way for an independent Polish government through the creation of a Regency Council that gave some politicians experience in governance prior to the end of the war. Across the three partitioners, approximately two million Poles served in their respective armed forces – with 450k dying and approx. 1 million being wounded. Moreover, Poles living abroad and captured Polish POWs joined the “Blue Army” – created with support of the Polish National Committee, recognized to represent the interests of Poles – a legion fighting on the western front on behalf of the Entente numbering over 35k.

[28] <https://books.google.com/books?id=ktyM07I9HXwC&pg=PT234&dq=The+first+Ukrainian+language+newspaper+Lviv+in+1848.&hl=nl&sa=X&ei=f08KUre6NcSBtAaXj4DAAG&ved=0CDsQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=The%20first%20Ukrainian%20language%20newspaper%20Lviv%20in%201848.&f=false>

[29] Andrzej Garlicki, *Polsko-Gruziński sojusz wojskowy*, Polityka: Wydanie Specjalne 2/2008, ISSN 1730-0525

[30] <https://niepodlegla.gov.pl/en/about-niepodlegla/polish-roads-to-independence>

[31] Buttar, Prit (2016). *Collision of Empires, The War on the Eastern Front in 1914*. Oxford: Osprey Publishing. p. 421. ISBN 9781472813183.

Hundreds of thousands of Poles were sent to German labor camps or Siberia.[32] Much of Poland's infrastructure was destroyed in Russia's retreat eastward, including what production and transportation infrastructure that existed up to that point.

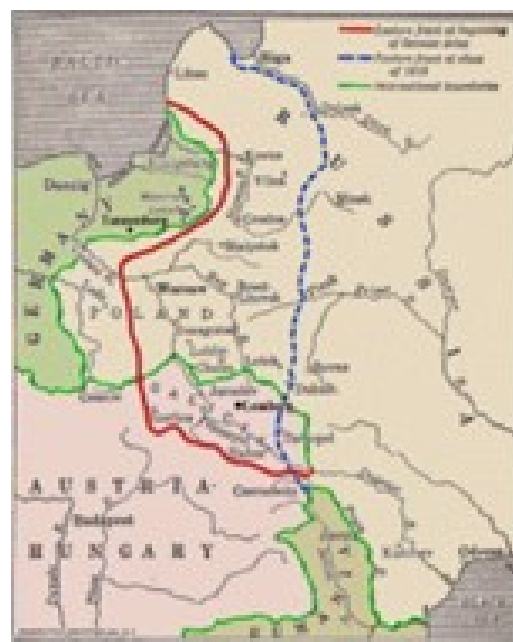
As a result of Russia's exit from the war, the United States was in a stronger position to make demands of what was to occur in Eastern Europe. As part of his Fourteen Points, Wilson advocated for the revival of Poland as an independent state. Towards the end of the war, Polish people had begun taking over control of Polish lands as the Austro-Hungarian and German governments collapsed. When Piłsudski returned to Poland from his imprisonment in Germany for poor cooperation, these new governmental elements pledged allegiance to his new government.[33]

[32] R. Bideleux, I. Jeffries. A History of Eastern Europe: Crisis and Change. Routledge. 1998. p. 186

[33] <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jozef-Pilsudski>



Divided Congress Poland between Austria-Hungary (green) and Germany (blue)



Extent of the Eastern Front



A NEW POLAND: THE SECOND POLISH REPUBLIC

Government and Military Transition

As mentioned previously, the Regency Council was established to rule the partitioned Polish lands from Germany and Austria-Hungary in combination with new Polish territories regained from the Eastern Front with Russia. While given limited power by the Central Powers, the Council remained integral to the transition to our current government, as command over the Polska Siła Zbrojna – Polish armed forces comprised of Piłsudski's Legions and Polish-dominant regiments – was first transitioned to them in October before being sworn to the new government. They currently number approximately 9,000.[34] To the west, the Blue Army – amounting to over 68 thousand fully armed and equipped soldiers – is in preparation to be sent to Poland.[35]

Apart from the Regency Council, Austrian Polish elements had begun establishing a government prior to Piłsudski's arrival from Germany – recall they had the most autonomy of partitioned Poland prior to its new independence. Indeed, Ignacy Daszyński was the true first Prime Minister of our new Republic, if not only provisionally; in correspondence with Piłsudski in Germany, he was forbidden from enacting legislation prior to the convening of a Sejm preventing him from implementing any socialist policy. While he was able to set up the starting elements of a government, he resigned from his post upon Piłsudski's arrival and was thanked for his service – leaving much of the governmental structure yet to be decided. When Piłsudski was received in Warsaw, both the Regency Council and Daszyński's government yielded authority to Piłsudski and he selected Jędrzej Moraczewski as his prime minister to lead a coalition government – current prime minister.

[34]<https://books.google.com/booksid=QTUTqE2difgC&q=Polnische+Wehrmacht#v=snippet&q=Polnische%20Wehrmacht&f=false>

[35] The Blue Division, Stanislaw I. Nastal, Polish Army Veteran's Association in America, Cleveland, Ohio 1922



Currently, there exists another organization in the still German-controlled Greater Poland region of Poznań (in German, Posen): the Central Citizen's Committee.[36] They represent Polish people in the region, but have yet to rise up in rebellion against the Germans. It may be of the committee's best interests to cooperate with these elements should they want the land under their jurisdiction. There are other Polish speaking people yet to be freed in the Danzig corridor and to the east (see map).



Current land under our authority (middle green)

[36] "Kronika Miasta Poznania" nr 4, 1998, Naczelna Rada Ludowa.

Our Immediate Neighbors

Czechoslovak Republic

Born from the remnants of the Austro-Hungarian Empire just as the Polish Republic had been in part, the Czechoslovak Republic declared independence days before the Poles. With the Czechoslovak Republic having yet to write a constitution, much is in store for this young Republic. In search of allies, many of the Czechoslovak Republic's leaders are advocates of Wilson's idea of a "League of Nations" included in his Fourteen Points – something that has yet to be implemented. Yet, there remains important populations of each other's people that remain undecided – they will be an important talking point should an alliance be pursued, as well as, anti-Czech sentiments in the new coalition government.

Revolutionary Germany

With the abdication of Emperor Kaiser Wilhelm II, Germany continues in a state of revolution as a new state of government has yet to be decided. Multiple new governments have been declared, but only time will tell which will come on top. Moderate forces from the Imperial administration remain across the country, while SPD/USPD forces are undecided on how exactly a new government ought to run. This gives a unified Poland more sway to take control of Polish-speaking areas still under German jurisdiction.

Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR)

A Ukrainian civil war is currently being waged among many elements within the land (such as the White Guard, Red Guard, and Anarchists), with the two main elements being the previous Hetmanate government, operating since the end of the Great War but left without the support of the Central Powers, and the revolutionary Directorate which is currently encircling Kyiv – where the Hetmanate operates out of – and expected to take over imminently. With the UNR facing a similar pressure from the Bolsheviks, Poland must decide between territorial expansion into the UNR and combating the common enemy they both face or potentially go for one then the other.

Western Ukrainian People's Republic

Declaring independence from Austria-Hungary, the Western Ukrainian People's Republic exists separate from the Ukrainian People's Republic (UNR). They declared independence pre-emptively upon hearing word that the Polish Liquidation Committee – a body established to transition control of Austrian Poland – was to relocate from Kraków to Lviv. While they declared Lviv their capital, the move was unpopular with majority of the city's population ethnic Poles. Skirmishes are currently going on between Polish forces in the east and Western Ukrainian elements, which remain disorganized.

Other important countries (not direct neighbors currently): Russia, Romania, Lithuania, Latvia



Economy and Demographics

Currency

Along with a new Polish Republic comes new challenges. Indeed, apart from the destruction brought upon by the looting of advancing and retreating forces during the Great War, Poland is now tasked with weaving these disparate systems into a single unified one. Moreover, the state must figure out a way to proceed in a land where five distinct currencies were in operation: the German mark, Polish marka, Ostrubel, Russian ruble, and Austrian crown.[37] The most clear system forward is the Polish marka, yet this was set against the German mark – which considering the state of the German government may not be the best way forward. With paper printing now falling into the Polish Republic's hands, they must be careful not to overprint and cause runaway inflation. Yet, if they are not to print, it may be difficult to fund costly military expenditures or public works. Some economic theorists are suggesting a return to the gold standard may be the best way forward.

Infrastructure and Transportation

The infrastructure situation in the new Republic is quite dire. Many important trade hubs remain unconnected by rail as they existed in separate empires, and a connection to the sea is necessary should international trade be considered a possibility – yet Danzig still falls under German control for now. Economic disparities are pervasive, with the more developed western Poland – formerly falling under German control – far surpassing the Austrian and Russian-controlled former partitions. A central economic plan might be necessary to develop infrastructural projects across the country. Some important projects to be considered are seaports, railways, and industrial centers.[38] Moreover, with potential German aggression to the north, the thought of “Intermarium” – connection between the Baltic and Black Seas through complex diplomatic, infrastructural, and trade relationships may be pursued to grant access to southern seaports.

Education

With compulsory education yet to be decided, many people in the new Polish Republic remain illiterate – many of them living in the eastern countryside.[39] Yet, the country has some of the oldest universities in Europe, numbering at four institutions: Lwów University, Jagiellonian University, Catholic University of Lublin, and the University of Warsaw. Poland's schools are well known for their mathematics, and Polish mathematicians are known as some of the best in the world. Efforts to expand these institutions and make them attractive to foreign students may prove a new source of income for the Polish Republic.

[37] Nikolaus Wolf, "Path dependent border effects: the case of Poland's reunification (1918–1939)", *Explorations in Economic History*, 42, 2005, pp. 414–438.

[38] <https://ehne.fr/en/encyclopedia/themes/material-civilization/major-technological-networks-and-sovereignty/connecting-poland-a-matter-survival-second-republic>

[39] <https://web.archive.org/web/20091117131412/http://www.liberte.pl/gospodarka/656-spata-dugu-po-ii-rp.html>



Trade and Agriculture

Poland is rich in natural resources, including coal, timber, and agriculture that are desirable by both neighboring and foreign countries.[40] Yet, much of these resources have difficulty being harnessed and/or brought to market due to our antiquated, divided rail system. As with other development, agricultural outputs in western Poland was more developed compared to Galicia – Austrian Poland – and Congress Poland – Russian Poland. Indeed, while farm yields rivaled western Europe in western Poland, such was not the case in the East with farms left less structured and oftentimes using antiquated methods. This is critical as a majority of the Second Republic's population lives in the countryside working as farmers.[41] Due to the variation in agricultural success, unemployment is an issue, especially in the East, one that might be ameliorated by bringing these farms up to western standards or the development of industrial centers to give these people higher paying jobs.

Population

Depending on how far the Second Polish Republic decides to expand, it could come to include a number of minority groups to the east: Belarussians, Lithuanians, Russians etc. While the predominant religion is Catholicism – including Roman and Eastern Rite – religious diversity is huge in the Polish Republic with the Jewish population the second largest in the world.[42] Along with this diversity comes linguistic diversity, with Ukrainian, Russian, and Belarusian spoken to the east and Yiddish and Hebrew spoken throughout by Jewish communities. The new government ought to ensure that all minority groups are represented in both the governmental structure and any programs it intends on implementing.



[40] <https://web.archive.org/web/20140729024023/http://biznes.pwn.pl/haslo/3883929/celna-wojna.html>

[41] <http://tygodnik.onet.pl/1,16768,druk.html>

[42] https://books.google.com/books?vid=ISBN9027932395&id=82ncGA4GuN4C&pg=PA15&lpg=PA19&vq=Pilsudski&dq=Pilsudski,+re-establishment&sig=N32sSixr_MPeFwZ-UQhHUA_0qB4#v=onepage&q=Pilsudski&f=false

New-World Technology

Military

With the Great War having come to a close, conflict still continues in much of Europe with a peace treaty having yet to conclude the War. Still, scientific and military advancements continue to be made at a rapid pace. While the rifle was considered standard weaponry at the onset of the Great war, this expanded to the use of other weaponry such as the machine gun (e.g. Lewis gun) and mortar.[43] Other tools such as mines and barbed wire were equipped to combat the introduction of tanks. Equipping standard infantrymen with these technologies could put them at an edge when compared to their opponents. Moreover, airplanes, ships, and artillery have begun to be implemented on the battlefield, yielding destructive results. Indeed, these distanced weaponry enable forces to kill from sometimes miles away with their targets none the wiser.[44] While aircrafts are still in their infancy, their use as reconnaissance vehicles and rudimentary fighting vehicles has been proven. The Germans pioneered the use of poison gas, a deadly weapon of torture on the battlefield that has yet to be banned internationally.

Communications

New frontiers in cryptography and communications are being expanded, and radio has become a critical tool on the battle front. The telegraph and morse code are used across the world to transmit messages. As well, the telephone has begun to be used to transmit messages from military command to their troops on the front line. Still, non-electric communication systems continue to be used such as the carrier pigeon and mounted couriers.[45] An effective communication system, combined with a structured military high command, is an amazing way to get the upper hand on an enemy and come out on top. By harnessing advanced military technologies and communication systems, smaller but equipped forces can destroy larger encampments when left unprepared.



[43] <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/1918/technology#:~:text=Although%20communication%20systems%20remained%20quite,on%20earlier%20systems%20of%20communication.>

[44] <https://www.loc.gov/collections/world-war-i-rotogravures/articles-and-essays/military-technology-in-world-war-i/>

[45] https://www.usmcmuseum.com/uploads/6/0/3/6/60364049/nmmc_wwi_military_communication_resource_packet.pdf

Polish Ideological Spectrum

Socialism

The Polish Socialist Party (PPS) makes up a large portion of representatives in the current coalition government. The current dominant portion of the party, the Revolutionary Faction, is in support of Poland's independence and other party's nationalist ideas. Moreover, they are advocates of equal wages, free education, the eight-hour workday, freedom of speech and assembly, and equal right for all living in Poland regardless of race or nationality. PPS is currently in support of Piłsudski despite him no longer being an active member in the party. If the coalition government opts for reform counter to the PPS's agenda, they have the opportunity to make a sizable opposition.

Communism

Communist parties, while active, have yet to garner much representation within the new government – not helped by their boycotting of the election. Moreover, they currently remain separated between the Social Democracy of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania (SDKPiL) and the Polish Socialist Party – Left (PPS – Left): both offshoots of PPS. As many communists support unification with Russia, current sentiments trending towards independence make it unlikely that they will gain much support in the future. As well, while the parties are permitted to exist, should conflict arise with foreign Communist forces the legal status of Poland's communist parties may be in jeopardy.

National Democracy

Representing the biggest share in the newly elected Sejm, the largest advocate for independence in post-war Poland is the Popular National Union (PNU) – made up of a broad collection of nationalist and conservative politicians. In fact, the PNU is itself a coalition of smaller parties, and the PNU in turn is part of the coalition government. As such, it is difficult to stake down the policy positions of the party as a whole, and views largely depend on the individual candidate's own views and the other organizations they may associate with. The broad share of PNU's advocates hail from Greater Poland to the west of the country.

Note: The Polish People's Party "Wyzwolenie" is coalesced with the PPS to form what is to be considered the "Left" for simplicities sake. Moreover, the PNU is to be considered the "Right" alongside the Polish People's Party "Piast." Delegates are able to switch parties should they choose, but keep in mind such action's ramifications when it comes to party line votes in the government coalition.





QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How might we reverse the policies of Germanization and Russification that have been in effect for decades? What is to come of the German settlers in now Polish lands?
- How might Poland facilitate the transportation of the Blue Army (68k troops) from France to Poland?
- What is to happen of the Polish people of Greater Poland (Poznań) still under German administration?
- What is to come of the three different transportation, educational, and monetary systems remaining in Poland? How do we consolidate them into a new, unified system when writing the new constitution?
- What monetary equivalencies should be given if you introduce a new currency? Should out-of-print currencies (e.g. Ostrubel) still be valid for exchange? Should a new currency be based on the gold standard?
- What are our priorities in writing a new constitution? What is more important, the ratifying of a constitution or pursuing eastward expansion?
- Should Poland make education compulsory? If so, what ages should be required to attend school? What ought the new Republic due to facilitate university education?
- How might Poland modernize its military in a post-war Europe? How does it strike a balance between a large standing army and a smaller, specialized force?
- What is Poland to do with the land it now possesses? How should it be redistributed? How much should be nationalized?



CHARACTERS

Disclaimer: Due to the flux status of historical figures' beliefs and positions in the months immediately after the Great War across separate cabinets and in the interest of simplifying portfolio powers, characters are assigned positions and party affiliations that may not have necessarily had at the start of the second cabinet. We also assume that the 1919 Sejm has already been established but has yet to adopt a constitution.

Independents

Provisional Chief of State, Józef Piłsudski: "Mr. Piłsudski"

Józef Piłsudski, born in 1867, was raised by his noble family's estate in the Lithuanian portion of the Russian Empire. Studying medicine in Russia, Józef despised the Tsar and worked as part of the Russian revolutionary movement before being arrested and exiled in Siberia. Upon his return from exile, he joined the Polish Socialist Party before later leaving it as part of his Polish nationalist views. He and his wife Maria worked to publish the underground socialist newspaper Robotnik, leading to his imprisonment again by the Russians. After escaping captivity, he organized resistance movements against the Russians for Polish independence, ordering labor strikes in Congress Poland. Leading up to and during the Great War, Józef trained and led paramilitary units against Russian authorities, recognizing that the Empire must collapse with the aid of the Central Powers before they too must fall to the West for Poland to be independent. He led the Polish Legions against the Russian Empire, with these elements forming the new nation's military. The country has great trust in his ability to lead, but they recognize that his power must be checked as part of the new coalition government – he is expected to relinquish his powers once a constitution is written.

Navy Commander Bogumił Nowotny: “Commander Bogumił”

Bogumił Nowotny, born in 1872 to well to-do parents, went to University in Kraków before going to Naval School and serving in the Austro-Hungarian Navy. Assisting in the shipping and trade procedures of the Kingdom of Poland prior to gaining independence, Piłsudski named him head of the navy. Considering Poland's need to rebuild its infrastructure, Bogumił recognizes the need for the new Polish Navy to protect shipping convoys and Baltic trade routes. He is considered level-headed and a strong voice of reason in the diverse coalition government.

Main Commandant Adam Koc: “Commandant Koc”

Adam Koc, born 1891 in Congress Poland, was raised in a noble family. Early in life he exhibited revolutionary behavior, getting him expelled from school before continuing his studies later in Kraków. Active in pro-independence organizations, Adam Koc is a leading figure in revolutionary youth associations in Poland's metropolitan areas. He served in the Polish Legion during the War, getting wounded in 1916; he helped lead Piłsudski's pro-independence movement within the Legions. He organized POW activity within Germany towards the end of the War, and is in charge of re-incorporating captured pro-independence Poles in the Central Powers into the armed forces. Adam is interested in bolstering Poland's military quickly to counter potential aggressors to the East.

Composer and Pianist, Ignacy Jan Paderewski: “Jan the Piano Man”

Ignacy Jan Paderewski, born in 1860 in a wealthy polish-speaking family in the Russian Empire, was raised by his relatives after the passing of his mother. Drawn to music at a young age, Jan started studying piano under a private tutor at later became a tutor himself. His piano career exploded after several successful public concert appearances across Europe. He is a well-known advocate of the Polish people, with many of his compositions evoking themes from traditional Polish works. He went on to settle in the west coast of the United States, later becoming an active supporter of the Triple Entente in favor of an independent Poland. He became a leader in the Polish National Committee, encouraging Polish immigrants to enlist in the Polish armed forces under the Entente. Jan has the ear of US President Wilson, as Wilson looked to Jan for details regarding the “Polish Issue” during the War before giving his infamous fourteen points. Most recently, he returned to Poland – now in Poznań – where he is expected to give a grand address regarding the status of Poles living in still German-controlled areas. He is a strong advocate of minority groups' rights, and has great potential to be given a strong position within the government should he seek it.



Popular National Union (PNU) – Right Wing Ruling Party

Minister of Agriculture, Władysław Grabski: “Minister Grabski”

Władysław Grabski, born in 1874, was raised alongside his older brother, Stanisław, and sister, Zofia, in Congress Poland as part of the Russian Empire. While originally a socialist, his education in Paris drew him to the right. Upon his return, Władysław created the Agricultural Society in Łowicz and National Labor Union – leading to his arrest by the Russians before being released later that year. Władysław went on to serve in the Russian Duma and work in the former Empire’s Agriculture Ministry before the Great War, when he created the Central Citizens’ Committee. Władysław has big aspirations for agricultural reform in newly independent Poland, and some say his goals for Poland may be much loftier than just agriculture.

Deputy of the Sejm, Stanisław Grabski: “Deputy Grabski”

Stanisław Grabski, born in 1871, was raised alongside his younger brother, Władysław, and sister, Zofia, in Congress Poland as part of the Russian Empire. Considered an expert negotiator, Stanisław used to work as an editor and retains many connections in the industry. He is proud of his Polish nationality and advocated for working with the Russians during the Great War, but recognizes that conflict may be looming. Stanisław is proud of his role in the Polish parliament and hopes to steer the Polish Republic’s foreign policy given the chance.

Deputy of the Sejm and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stanisław Głąbiński: “Głąb”

Stanisław Głąbiński, born in 1862, was raised in the Northeastern part of the Austrian Empire. Going to university in Lwów and receiving his legal doctorate, Stanisław went on to study economic theory. He went on to become a professor in Lwów and later serve in the Sejm of Galicia (Austrian Poland), where he advocated for economic, infrastructural, and educational policy. Seeing that an independent Poland was near, he distanced himself from the Austro-Hungarian Empire before serving under the 4th and last Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Poland. Integral to the founding of the new country, Stanisław is good friends with Józef Piłsudski and his words have great sway on those others in positions of power within the nation.

Minister of Public Works, Gabriel Narutowicz: “Minister Gabriel”

Gabriel Narutowicz, born in 1865 in the Lithuanian portion of the Russian Empire, was raised to a noble family. Studying in St. Petersburg and later Zurich, Switzerland, Gabriel worked as part of the Polish émigré socialist party aiding Poles escape from Russian authorities (leading to him being banned from the Empire). After finishing his learning, Gabriel worked as an engineer on rail and hydroelectric projects in Germany, later becoming a professor in Switzerland teaching about hydroelectric power systems and head regulator of the Rhine River. Acknowledging his great infrastructural prowess and considering him a moderate, Piłsudski invited him to join the new Polish nation to help bring up the unified Poland’s infrastructure.



Painter and Ministry of Culture Clerk, Eligiusz Niewiadomski: "Eligiusz"

Eligiusz Niewiadomski, born 1869 in Poland's capital of Warsaw, is of noble descent. Studying in St. Petersburg, he came back to Poland to become a student of art and became involved in Polish nationalist politics (leading to his arrest and imprisonment by Russian authorities). After being released, Eligiusz went on to teach art and spread pro-art materials during the War. In independent Poland, Eligiusz is interested in expanding the role of art in Polish culture with his art loved by many.

***Polish People's Party "Piast" - Center-right Agrarian Party in PNU coalition
Party President, Wincenty Witos: "Wincenty"***

Wincenty Witos, born in 1874, was raised in a farm in Austrian-controlled Poland. From humble farm beginnings, Wincenty was educated at his village's school before aiding his dad working in lumber. A veteran of the Austrian army in the 19th century, he went on to publish in Austrian papers and later become an influential member in his party – rising to become president of the party. Needless to say, Wincenty's voice carries great weight in the agrarian center-right faction of the country. He is strongly focused on the agricultural policy of the new nation.

Polish Socialist Party (PPS) – Left-wing Socialist Party

Deputy of the Sejm and Former Prime Minister, Ignacy Daszyński: "Deputy Ignacy"

Ignacy Daszyński, born in 1866 in Austrian Galicia, was raised in humble beginnings – speaking multiple languages from a young age. Growing up a Polish patriot, he was expelled from school for his outspokenness – forcing his family to move. Later educated in Kraków and Zurich, Ignacy was influenced by his brother in developing his socialist views. A journalist for a socialist newspaper in Galicia, Ignacy worked to coalesce the Galician working-class movements; he became active in several political positions in Austrian Galicia. Ignacy became the first Prime Minister of an independent Poland, but was unable to form a government before Piłsudski returned from imprisonment in Germany earlier in November and elections were held. While his party lost in the elections, he still has great sway in the nation's left wing.

General Kazimierz Sosnkowski: "General Kaz"

Kazimierz Sosnkowski, born 1885 in Warsaw as part of Congress Poland, was raised in the family of wealthy nobles. Educated in St. Petersburg and Warsaw, Kazimierz went on to rise through the ranks of the Polish Socialist Party and was a main combatant in the party's combat organization against the Russians before the War. Very close to Piłsudski, he joined the Polish Legion during the War and led troops on multiple occasions. Returning from imprisonment by the Germans alongside Piłsudski this month of November, Sosnkowski is considered the second-strongest military official in the new nation. His words have greater sway among the younger officers of the military.



Minister of Industry and Trade, Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski: “Minister Eugene”

Eugeniusz Kwiatkowski, born in 1888 in Austrian Galicia, was educated in chemistry in Lwów and Munich. After serving in the Polish Legion during the Great War, Eugeniusz returned to his studies – now in economic theory. Known for his lofty ambitions for the nation, Eugeniusz is strongly in favor of grand projects aimed at developing Poland’s naval infrastructure to aid in international trade. He will do anything to achieve his goals.

Aide to the Provisional Head of State, Janusz Jędrzejewicz: “Jan the Aide”

Janusz Jędrzejewicz, born 1885, was raised in the western Ukrainian-speaking governorate of the Russian Empire. Joining the Polish Socialist Party at a young age, he went on to serve in the Polish Legion under Piłsudski and rise through the ranks to become his aide. Known for his sharp wit, Janusz has great intelligence connections in and out of Poland – particularly in the Eastern regions. While not interested in politics, his public figure at the right hand of Piłsudski would make it easy for him to pursue a political career should he choose in the next elections.

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Leon Wasilewski: “Minister Leon”

Leon Wasilewski, born 1870 in St. Petersburg, was raised by poor parents coming from outside the Russian Empire. Studying in Lwów, he became involved in politics before dropping out to pursue a political career. He became editor for multiple publications including Robotnik. During the War, Leon was largely active in multiple Polish organizations – giving him the public visibility to be selected to serve as Minister of Foreign Affairs by Piłsudski. An opponent of polonization, Leon is in favor of Ukrainian, Belorussian and other minority group representation in Poland should these peoples fall under the government’s jurisdiction.

Lawyer and Diplomat, Stanisław Patek: “Mr. Patek”

Stanisław Patek, born in 1866, was raised in a village ~50 miles south of Warsaw. Starting his professional career as an attorney, he took to activism within the Socialist party, where he sought to aid political prisoners for their accused dissent against the Russian Empire. As one of the most legally experienced Poles in the new state, he is heavily involved in the creation of a new legal system – therefore giving him much power. An expert diplomat, he is seen as the next person for the post should Leon Wasilewski fail in his current job.

Educator and Activist, Stefania Sempołowska: “Mrs. Stefanie”

Stefania Sempołowska, born 1869, was raised in a village near Poznań. At a young age she came to teach in Warsaw. Stefania is a leader of the prisoners’ rights movement alongside her husband, Stanisław Patek, and with their combined forces they present a strong voice that could determine the future of prisoners from the three empires that have now become Poland. As well. She has come to write many school books, becoming an editor for a teen magazine “From Near and Far.” One of the biggest forces to be reckoned with, Stefania’s powers are not to be taken for granted.



Activist, Zofia Kirkor-Kiedroniowa: “Sofia”

Zofia Kirkor-Kiedroniowa, born 1872, was raised alongside her brothers Władysław and Stanisław. After attending university, Zofia went on to become a Mathematics teacher. Unlike her brothers, Zofia became involved in the Polish Socialist Party. After the death of her first husband (from which she had one child), Zofia married a renowned engineer and politician. She remains in contact with her siblings, and could offer a bridge between the PNU and Socialist Party.

Jewish National Council – Largest Party representing a Minority Group

Poet Jan Brzechwa: “Jan the Poet”

Jan Brzechwa, born 1898, was raised in a modest family – he later studied copyright law in Warsaw. One of the youngest people invited to our committee, his works are starting to gain traction in the world of children’s literature. While not active in the military, he is willing to hear the call of duty should the need arise. Given his susceptible audience, Jan’s work is critical to the future of the nation and could shape its youth.

Singer Jan Kiepura: “Jan the Singer”

Jan Kiepura, born in 1902 in Austrian Galicia, was raised by a singer mother and baker father. The youngest individual invited to our committee at age 17, his voice may fall on deaf ears to those around him in committee. Yet, his beautiful tenor voice may yet influence his peers more and more as he finishes his studies before attending University. Who knows what the future has in store for Jan.





OTHER INFORMATION

Delegate Expectations

Please refer to the Delegate Handbook for more details. The Delegate Handbook remains the first and final guide for all delegate expectations at SunMUN I.

- All other delegates, staff, and non-participants are to be treated with respect and courtesy, including properly interacting with facilities of the University of Florida. Discrimination on all bases, including race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability, is never acceptable. If you believe you have seen any instances of discrimination or sexual harassment, do not hesitate to bring it to the attention of your chair or the SunMUN secretariat.
- Maintaining professionalism is expected of all delegates, including: keeping academic integrity, using polite and professional language, as well as wearing Western Business Attire.
- The safety and security of both attendees of this conference and its hosts remains our primary concern which is why we ask all participants to observe all appropriate public health measures, not leave any important personal items unattended, refrain from any substance abuse, as well as follow any and all local ordinances.

Academic Integrity

We maintain a zero-tolerance policy in regards to plagiarism. Delegates found to have used the ideas of others without properly citing those individuals, organizations, or documents will have their credentials revoked for the duration of the conference. This is a very serious offense. Additionally, pre-writing is strictly prohibited as well. Any work which is pre-written will not be recognized. *All* committee work will be completed on GoogleDocs shared with the dais.



Technology Policy

The usage of technology during committee remains first and foremost within the discretion of the dais and the SunMUN secretariat.

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Florida resides on land of the Timucua people and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. It is important to understand the long-standing history that has brought us to reside on the land, and to seek to understand our place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation. It is also worth noting that acknowledging the land is Indigenous protocol. For more information, visit <http://www.lspirg.org/knowtheland>.

