



# War of the Worlds 1929

A HUMUNC 2024 Crisis Committee

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## 1. Letters from the Chair and Director

Greetings,

It is my honor to welcome you all to the 2024 Hofstra Model United Nations Conference! I am very excited to get back to hosting our conference here at Hofstra and creating the most immersive experience possible. Your crisis director, Petar Gery, and I have worked extensively to bring you what we believe to be a truly unique crisis committee.

For now, all you need to know is that my name is Robert Cesareo, and I am currently a senior here at Hofstra and I am studying TV production at the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication. In addition to my major, I have recently completed a minor in political science, but that just stems from a passion for MUN. My Model UN career has spanned nearly eight years at this point, going back to my freshman year of high school. In that time, I have taken part in multiple local conferences, as well as national conferences spanning from New York to Vancouver, Canada. My time in college has allowed me to chair multiple committees and grow my experience at the front of a conference room. I even served as president of the Model United Nations club on campus, so you can say that I have taken part in almost every aspect of what is involved with MUN.

On a more personal level, I am a diehard baseball fan. I have no issues watching the best team in baseball, the New York Mets, play all 162 games each year. Regardless of how much the outcome of a single game can determine my mood, I live and breathe the orange and blue. When I am not watching baseball, you can usually find me in the engineering department of the communications school, where I work primarily with our school's TV network, H.E.A.T., to produce student-led shows and events. Hands down the best of these is *Thursday Night Live*, our very own student-run spoof of *Saturday Night Live*. Though the hours are long, I enjoy working behind the scenes of TV production and see this as the best path for my future.

In the end, my main focus is to ensure that all of you have an exciting time at HUMUNC 2024. The work put into this conference by my fellow chairs, staff, and secretariat is truly something special. As your chair, I am looking forward to meeting all of you and getting to work during this one weekend in March. Who can tell what will happen in those 72 hours, but we can try to at least save the world from alien invasion. That will be up to you all, so be ready and welcome for HUMUNC 2024's Crisis Committee: "The War of the Worlds: 1929".

Sincerely,

Robert Cesareo  
Chair, War of the Worlds 1929



Dear gathered delegates,

My name is Petar Gery. I grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana, spending my summers traveling and living in Europe. I can speak French and Serbo-Croatian. I'm a third-year double major in Global Studies and Filmmaking here at Hofstra University.

I've been involved in Model UN since I started here. In that time, I've discussed solutions to Climate Change in detail, negotiated an end to WWII, and died at the hands of a Sith Lord on the Fourth Moon of Yavin. I have also been on Crisis Staff for a few crisis committees, including the Committee on Battlefield Artificial Intelligence at HUMUNC 2021.

On a related note, I am a big Star Wars and sci-fi fan. I build and paint my own custom miniature starships and have even started putting them into some of my films. Miniatures and D&D are hobbies of mine, as are playing piano and keeping up with world events.

Inspired by the works of H. G. Wells, Orson Wells, and the *XCOM* franchise, I proposed the idea of *War of the Worlds: 1929* to present delegates with a fun science fiction scenario that rewards them for studying real history and actively using it. The aim of the committee is to challenge delegates to defeat or otherwise deal with an extraterrestrial threat using pre-WWII era technology: no cell phones, no jets, and no ballpoint pens (until your scientists develop them). Delegates will also need to overcome the geopolitical and economic circumstances of the time, which is no small task.

With any luck, this committee will be a fun and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. I encourage you, delegates, to develop creative solutions with the resources available to you. Work together, bring your best ideas, and who knows? Maybe we'll be landing on Mars by Christmas of 1935. I look forward to being your Crisis Director at HUMUNC this Spring.

Sincerely,

Petar Gery  
War of the Worlds 1929 Crisis Director  
HUMUNC 2024



## Etiquette Reminder

Gathered delegates,

Welcome to our not-so-humble simulation of humanity's darkest hours. A gauntlet of diplomatic maneuvers awaits you, so read closely and we can get to the fun stuff as quickly as possible.

To begin, please, be aware of the sensitivity of discussions within Model UN, as whenever real countries are involved or real issues are brought up, there is a possibility that some participants may become upset if delegates are not sensitive in their depiction of their role. Do not overplay characters or make biologically prejudiced commentary, even if it might seem within your given character to do that. Comments such as these and others can be hurtful, even if they are said “ironically.” For this reason, accents are discouraged. Remember, everything in the front room is at the Chair’s discretion, and they can have you removed from the committee if they feel you are breaking etiquette.

Likewise, do not speak over other delegates or speak after your time has expired. Respect the format.

With that out of the way, it is important to discuss character loyalty. Delegates may not radically stray from their given character and objectives. If, for example, you are given the character of “Lilly, president of the U.S., elected to a second term after passing civil rights legislation,” you cannot simply decide to start rolling back human rights protections (outside of extreme committee circumstances). If your relatively moderate Iraqi president suddenly decides he wants to unite the Arab states, that’s fine. However, if your Japanese president decides to unite the Gaelic states, that’s not. Admittedly, the line here can be blurry, so if you are unsure, feel free to ask questions through your crisis notes and the Crisis Director will assist you.

Last, but far from least, try to have fun. Model UN is about coming together to face seemingly insurmountable challenges and finding a way to make policy despite them. We wish you all luck and are excited to see how you choose to guide the world in these desperate times.

## 2. The War of the Worlds

### An Introduction to the Crisis

The year is 1929. In a moment that shocked humanity, alien creatures from another world invaded the eastern U.S. and southern Britain. For a few short hours, the Martian invaders caused widespread destruction and terror before succumbing to Earth’s diseases. However, alien ships still dot the skies, and there is no indication that the war is over. The Martians may yet return. The League of Nations has called an emergency meeting. Now the countries of Earth must decide their next course of action...

This committee will explore the world’s reaction to an Orson Wells-inspired alien invasion. Delegates will need not only to prepare for the Martians’ return, but also rebuild damaged regions of Earth, attempt to secure alien technologies for themselves, and discuss



different potential ways of ending the War of the Worlds. Delegates will also need to take into account the real-world conditions of their countries in the interwar period.

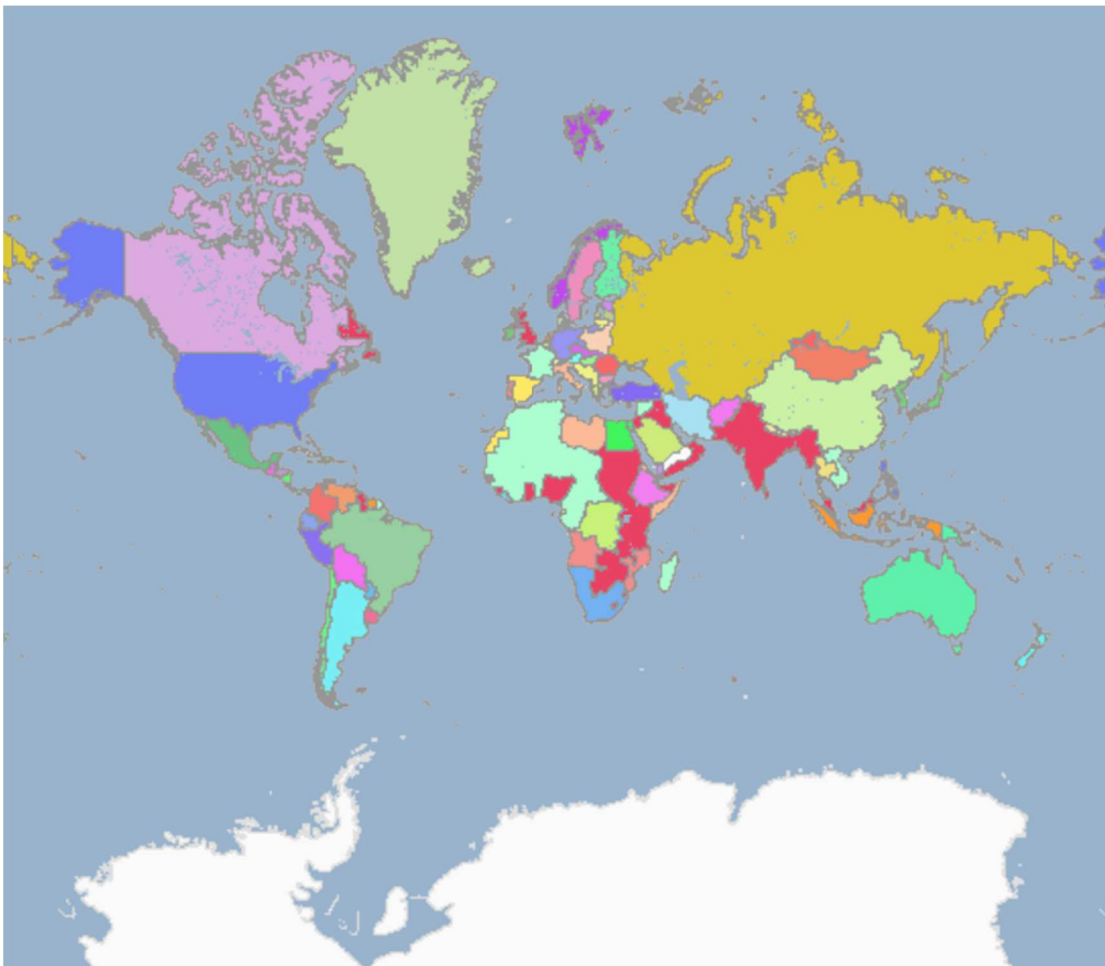
This scenario is inspired by H. G. Wells' book, *The War of the Worlds*, the Orson Wells radio broadcast of the same name, and the *XCOM* video game series.

### 3. Current Situation

#### The World in 1929

The map below shows the political boundaries of the planet Earth as of October 23, 1929. For a more detailed look at the map, visit <http://geacron.com/home-en/>.

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#### The First Wave



On October 23, 1929, five cylindrical Martian drop pods landed around the town of Woking, England. Three-legged walking vehicles, ranging from thirty to fifty feet tall, emerged from the pods, and cut a path of destruction that stretched from London in the east, to South Hampton and the Isle of Wight in the southwest. The following day, multiple additional landings occurred across the United Kingdom, near Leeds, Liverpool, and Cardiff. Widespread destruction followed, as the aliens utilized their “heat-rays” and “black smoke” (laser and chemical weapons) to decimate responding military forces, industrial centers, and escaping civilians alike. British artillery and naval guns proved effective at damaging the tripods, but lacked the speed, range, and accuracy to do so consistently.

At the same time as the Woking landing, five more Martian craft landed in Grovers Mill, New Jersey. These tripods proceeded to spread out, with some attacking New York and others heading towards Philadelphia. Again, widespread destruction was wrought in both cities, followed by additional landings on October 24<sup>th</sup>, at major military installations and industrial centers across the east coast. U.S. bombers were able to take down a few tripods, but the majority continued to wreak havoc through the night.

As news of the widespread destruction in the U.S. and U.K. reverberated around the world, it was compounded by news of a catastrophic economic disaster, as the stock market crashed on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

On the morning of October 25<sup>th</sup>, the Martian invaders were discovered to have mostly died from contracting the common cold, as they lacked humanity’s resistance to Earth diseases. Despite the signs that the worst of the crisis is over, a few surviving aliens have escaped into the ruins of the countryside and mysterious shapes continue to be spotted in skies around the world. Humanity wonders if this ordeal is really over.

The League of Nations has hastily assembled a special committee to discuss Earth's response to the Martian attack.

(For further information on the global situation and the damage to the U.S. and U.K., please examine the Delegate Profiles.)

#### **4. Committee Mission Statement**

##### Topics for Debate

The goal of this Committee is to neutralize the threat that the Martian military poses to Earth. This can be achieved through military, technological, or diplomatic means.

The Committee’s first priority is to address the humanitarian and economic crises which have resulted from the Martian invasion. Estimates suggest that as many as 20,000 people may have died (around 15,000 in the U.S., and 5,000 in the U.K.) and many more have been injured, although exact numbers are hard to determine as some of the Martian weapons do not leave



much in the form of remains. The industrial facilities of both countries have been mostly destroyed, and even the factories which have survived cannot currently function due to damage, supply-chain disruptions, or a lack of available labor. Furthermore, military facilities such as airfields and army barracks have been thoroughly wrecked.

After that, the Committee will be able to choose from the following topics or elect to create their own as the situation evolves.

- Discussing the creation of a Global Extraterrestrial Command (or GExCom):
  - Should such an organization exist and what should it do?
  - Which delegate(s) would be best to lead such an organization?
  - What authority will this organization have?
  - Where will the funding come from?
  - What weapons or military assets will such an organization have access to?
  - How would such an organization's troops get to the site of an invasion quickly?
- Discussing the potential applications of Martian technology:
  - If the Martian technologies can be reverse engineered, should they be openly shared across all countries, considering how beneficial the peacetime applications could be?
  - Should developing space travel be a priority, given the clear and present Martian threat?
  - The Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare was passed only a few years earlier in 1925.<sup>2</sup> Will the military use of these new technologies against the aliens, on Earth or in space, need to be restricted in a similar manner?

## **5. Available Resources**

### Subsection I: Military Technologies

- Ships, planes, tanks, guns, and everything in between. You don't need to be super specific regarding physical forces but do try to specify the size of a force and its mission parameters. Are you sending in a small team of armed spies to capture vital intel, or are you sending an entire division to storm a city? The same goes for naval and air deployments; say what you want and if you don't know how to get it, ask for a recommendation from the Crisis Director (CD) in crisis notes. If you don't know what your military assets your country has, feel free to make it up (pending the CD's discretion). Note that tanks are not quite common across the world in 1929, although most countries in this committee have at least a handful.



- Scale Reference:
  - A **Division** is approximately 10,000-15,000 soldiers.
  - A **Battalion** is approximately 1,000 soldiers.
  - A **Company** has approximately 100 soldiers.

### Subsection II: Alternatives to Fighting

- As any delegate to the League of Nations likely knows, the pen is often mightier than the sword. Here are a few resources you may find useful in preventing further conflict.
  - Government Banks (if your country has one)
  - Subsidies
  - Lower-level Diplomats
  - Lawyers and Legislative Experts
  - Universities and Technological Research Programs
- Remember, fighting is never your only option. Consider how you might prepare to negotiate with the Martians (provided you can figure out how to translate their language)?

### Subsection III: Non-State Options

- Listed here are just a few of the many, many, options you have when it comes to third party non-state actors who may be willing to do your bidding, for coin, favors, or the goodness of their hearts. They may or may not be of any use, but it's good to remember that they exist. Options include, but are not limited to:
  - Aid Associations
  - Assassins/Hitmen
  - Educators
  - Guerrillas and Paramilitaries
  - Mercenaries
  - Private Businesses
  - Political Parties and Social Organizations
  - Thieves, pirates, and other less-than-reputable folk
  - Anything else you can think of that might somehow help you.



## 6. Delegate Profiles





Note: Given the nature of the committee, some historical events and details have been altered or fictionalized to better fit the scenario. These alterations are mentioned in the relevant profiles.

Profiles which feature heavy alterations are labeled as such.

- United Kingdom: **Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin**

- NOTE: The representation of this country within this committee is the result of heavily altered history. Please read carefully.

- The past few days have been fraught with tragedy for the United Kingdom. In one fell swoop, its mainland industry has been decimated, thousands are dead, and Britain's position as a world power has been threatened like never before.
  - The British people have rallied in response to the Martian invasion, and there is very little opposition to the ruling government in Britain. If further dangers come, the leaders of Britain can count on her people's support. The UK's imperial subjects around the world are not so resolute, however, so this could be an unstable time for the empire.
  - Although Baldwin dislikes the idea of military conflict, it may only be a matter of time before the people of Britain demand justice for what the Martians have done, so military action against the aliens may be in Britain's future.
  - The world-famous British navy is still partially intact, so bringing in supplies from its colonies to accelerate rebuilding their destroyed industry is a prominent option, though it would be unpopular with colonial subjects. If Stanley Baldwin were to offer the colonies greater autonomy in return for humanitarian aid or help with reconstruction, the UK may be able to ease tensions between the colonies and the crown and facilitate the re-supply, though it would take longer to organize and may give the colonies dangerous ideas about independence.
  - In addition to humanitarian and economic issues, there is also the rumor that some Martians may have survived the bacteria that wiped out the rest of the invaders, and may still be wandering the countryside, though now without their tripods.<sup>3</sup>

- United States: **President Herbert Hoover**

- NOTE: The representation of this country within this committee is the result of heavily altered history. Please read carefully.

- 1929 had been a comfortable year for the United States of America. Now, in two short days, the Martian invasion has brought that comfort to a swift and decisive end. The once booming economy is in shambles. The U.S. Army, once a formidable force on the world stage, has been gutted. Worst of all, the Martian tripods cut a path of destruction across the East Coast, leaving thousands dead, Philadelphia and New York heavily damaged, and the might of American industry



all but destroyed. The job of responding to this unprecedented crisis falls to President Herbert Hoover.

- A humanitarian advocate in the aftermath of the Great War, President Hoover now finds his own country needing aid from those he once helped. With U.S. domestic industries decimated, the country needs foreign aid, including funds and industrial equipment, to repair the damage the aliens caused. Acquiring this aid must be the President's first priority.
- Though most of the American political elite have rallied together in the wake of this disaster, the general public is on the verge of panic. Rabble-rousing populists, such as Louisiana Governor Huey P. Long, were already rapidly gaining support before the country was thrown into crisis and if stability is not restored soon, populist voices like his may create serious political turmoil for the United States.
- The U.S. occupies the Philippines and the Panama Canal, control of which could potentially be threatened by the current instability.
- If the U.S. is able to regain its stability, Congress has already agreed that the next step must be to re-establish its security and explore ways to take the fight to the aliens, if that's even possible.
- There is also the issue of what to do with the remains of the Martian tripods and cylinders, which litter the devastated regions of the U.S. now that their operators have died of the common cold.<sup>4</sup>

- **France: Prime Minister Raymond Poincaré**

- As the dust settles over London and New York, the government in Paris is nervous. Raymond Poincaré has been called out of his recent retirement to take up the position of Prime Minister, and bring confidence and stability to France, much as he has done twice before, first during the Great War as president and again as prime minister in 1926.
- The sizable communist opposition movement to the current government is a significant concern to Poincaré's advisors. They are a serious political force that could attempt to undermine the current administration if given the right conditions.
- Germany is another source of anxiety: If they were allowed to rearm, even if it was to fight the Martians, how long would it be before they would turn their guns to their old terrestrial enemies? Due to the destruction caused by the aliens, the UK may no longer be in a position to help, as it did during the Great War. France may need to look for additional allies, or else find a way to prevent future conflicts with Germany.
- The French government has yet to take a public position on the issue of the use of chemical and biological weapons against the Martians but is inclined to oppose it due the experiences of France in the Great War.



- If an international command to combat future alien attacks is formed, France wants to play some role in it. That can be outright leadership, contributing troops and equipment, or training and strategic planning. The exact role doesn't matter, but, with its Great War allies significantly weakened, France does not want to be left out and risk losing its place as a world power.
  - Though Poincaré has said he is open to a diplomatic solution to the conflict with the Martians, rumors suggest the French military is planning rapid technological innovations to counter the alien weapons, and perhaps strengthen the Maginot Line defenses on the border with Germany. However, France has a manpower shortage and would struggle to replace battlefield losses if a war breaks out. As such, France's military strategy is defensive. If the aliens want Earth, let them come; they will find French troops entrenched and waiting for them.
  - The French military is one of the most modern in the world, and rests on the cutting edge of tank and aircraft development and production. The French navy is also sizable.<sup>5</sup>
- **Canada: Prime Minister Mackenzie King**
    - Prime Minister Mackenzie King was elected to office on the promise of limiting British interference in the affairs of the Dominion of Canada, and to continue his push for greater Canadian autonomy within the Imperial Commonwealth, which represents the more autonomous elements of the British Empire. Even before alien barrages rained down on London and New York, the Prime Minister was working towards this very goal. In the aftermath of the attacks, however, the situation facing Canada is one of vast opportunities and dangerous temptations.
    - Canada had pursued greater autonomy within the British Empire for the past thirty years, but with the United Kingdom suddenly in need of industrial reconstruction, now might be Canada's time to take a leadership role in the Commonwealth. The other British colonies, such as India, Australia, and New Zealand, have been indecisive in response to the alien attack on the British, except for South Africa's Prime Minister J.B.M. Hertzog's desire to use the situation to push for independence (see profile below). Though Prime Minister King is not entirely opposed to this idea, he is also considering how the existential threat of the Martian invaders could be more easily faced by a united Commonwealth rather than one divided by national interests.
    - Furthermore, with the United States dealing with the aftermath of alien devastation on its soil, the power of the western democracies has been weakened, and autocrats and militarists across the world may soon become emboldened. The torch is passed, and now Canada has the chance to become the world's beacon of liberty. Prime Minister King has vowed to do everything he can to hold back anti-



democratic forces and intends to keep the League of Nations accountable for any unethical acts or abuses of power.

- Though the Royal Canadian Military is well equipped with all the latest tools of war, including tanks and modern planes, it is small. The Royal Canadian Navy consists of only two ships.
- Canada is strongly opposed to the usage of biological or chemical weapons in warfare, despite their apparent effectiveness against the Martians.
- Canada will oppose any League of Nations anti-alien global military organization with an un-democratic leader.<sup>6</sup>

- **China: Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek**

- After the turmoil of the past few decades, China is largely united once again, just in time to learn of an alien invasion. As ever, the Kuomintang (KMT) government in Nanjing is looking for ways to rid itself of the influence of foreign power, including the British (who control Weihai and Hong Kong), Portuguese (Macau), and French (Zhangjiang). There is also an international settlement of westerners in Shanghai. Lushun is occupied by the Japanese, and their control of Korea and influence over Manchuria could prove dangerous to China in the future.
- The Soviet Union has been the KMT's benefactor in the past, but recent crackdowns against the Communist Party and the ongoing guerilla resistance of the left-KMT opponents in Wuhan may sour relations. Additionally, there have been skirmishes with Soviet troops along the northern border, though this conflict is currently winding down.
- The National Revolutionary Army (NRA) is one of the largest armies in the world, but only its most elite divisions can hope to compare with modern western militaries. Most of the army is poorly trained and equipped with out-of-date imported weapons. Machine guns and artillery are few and far-between. No tanks or aircraft are available, and the KMT navy is small.
- The idea of an international command to deal with the Martian threat has captured the imagination of the KMT's leadership and may prove to be a golden opportunity for the new China to gain the respect abroad and achieve prestige at home. Though Nanjing is always wary of working with the western imperialists, if China could gain the leadership of such an international organization and lead the world's defense against the aliens, the West would have no choice but to accept Chiang Kai-shek's legitimacy.<sup>7</sup>

- **Japan: Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi**

- With Japan preparing to enter the 1930s in a strong position internationally, Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi's Democratic Party must contend with the



widespread influence of militarists and expansionists who seek to enlarge Japan's burgeoning Pacific empire.

- The Japanese military is the most well-trained and equipped in East Asia, putting it on-par with the western imperial powers. The army is large and includes tanks. Japan produces its own aircraft and ships, the latter of which form its powerful navy. Prime Minister Hamaguchi aims to bring traditionalist military leaders under proper government control, aiming to lessen the inter-branch rivalries that has plagued Japanese military operations for years. Care must be taken when doing this though, as the military may react poorly to having its power diminished.
- Japan's economy was already unstable before the recent economic crash, so the government's existing measures may provide some protection in the short-term.
- Despite the economic crisis, the Martian invasion has provided great opportunities for Japan on the world stage. As the U.S. and UK are attempting to recover from the attacks, offering humanitarian aid to them in return for stewardship over some of their Pacific colonies and territories might provide a way to pacify the expansionists in the government without going to war.
- Acquiring alien technologies is a priority to fuel further industrialization. Japan is not particularly interested in making peace with the aliens. However, Japan might be willing to consider diplomacy in return for the opportunity to acquire alien technology without having to fight for it.
- China's interest in leading the proposed international anti-alien military task force could lead to that force being used against Japanese holdings in Manchuria and coastal China. Japan will support anyone other than China for the leadership role, if such an organization comes into existence.<sup>8</sup>

- South Africa: **Prime Minister J.B.M. Hertzog**

- NOTE: The delegate taking on this role must handle it with extreme discretion. Refer to the Etiquette Reminder on page 4.
- Prime Minister J.B.M. Hertzog of the Union of South Africa believes that, whatever form the coming conflict takes, South Africa will not be able to contribute its full strength to humanity's defense until it achieves independence from the British Empire, or at least recognition as an equal state within the Imperial Commonwealth. If South Africa supplies Britain with the aid it needs to begin rebuilding, Hertzog may be able to demand recognition in return.
- Ultimately, South Africa considers the Martian invasion to be a declaration of war. Ending the war means eliminating the aliens' ability to conduct further invasions.
- An effective guerilla fighter in his youth, Hertzog knows a thing or two about fighting a superior military opponent. As such, he is a potential candidate to lead



an international military command to fight the aliens. Though he is not a true general, he is a democratically elected official, which could make him a more tolerable alternative to more militarist options.

- Hertzog will strongly advocate repealing elements of the Geneva Conventions to allow for the use of biological and chemical weapons against the aliens. Nothing less than total war will be enough to achieve victory in this war between worlds.
- Both the South African army and navy are of moderate size but are almost exclusively equipped with out-of-date British equipment. The South African air force, though similarly equipped, is sizable and well-trained.<sup>9</sup>

- **India: President of the Indian National Congress Jawaharlal Nehru**

- NOTE: The representation of this country within this committee is the result of heavily altered history. Please read carefully.
- As the Indian National Congress (INC), which represents Hindu and Muslim communities across British India, continues to gain public support, the possibilities of greater autonomy under British rule or perhaps even total independence draw ever closer to reality. The current Viceroy of the Raj, Baron Irwin, is a moderate supporter of greater autonomy, and so has dispatched Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the INC, to represent India's interests at the League of Nations.
- The Indian public's sentiment towards the Martian invasion has been mixed. Given the years of British rule, there are whispers in Punjab that perhaps the British have gotten what they deserve, though few are willing to say this publicly. If a peaceful solution to further conflict with the aliens can be found, India will support it over a military option.
- Mahatma Gandhi, a close ally to Nehru and major influence over the political philosophy of the INC, is committed to non-violence. The INC is also anti-imperialist, meaning that India will be strongly opposed to an international alien-fighting agency, especially if it is led or backed by imperial powers.
- Though the INC hopes it will not be used, India does have a military, though it is loyal to the United Kingdom. It is sizeable and decently equipped. The navy is of moderate size, although equipped with outdated ships.<sup>10</sup>

- **Poland: Minister of Defense General Józef Piłsudski**

- Though Ignacy Mościcki holds the office of President, it is Józef Piłsudski, Polish hero of the Great War and former Head of State, who is truly the dominant figure in the politics of the Republic of Poland. Once beloved by all, his coup in 1926 and subsequent repression of political opposition, including some of his former friends, has united Poland's quarreling political parties against him. Though General Piłsudski's candidates continue to be voted into office, further



crackdowns on the political opposition and constitutional reforms may be necessary to secure long-term control over the government.

- The Polish military is sizable and well-trained, but their equipment is rapidly becoming dated. Poland has some tanks and a respectable air force. The Polish navy consists exclusively of old confiscated German ships from the Great War.
- Poland fought hard for its independence from Russia and Germany, and later for territory from the Soviet Union. If past experiences are anything to judge by, Piłsudski must be wary of these governments, as they doubtless intend to carve Poland up again as they have done before.
- Piłsudski believes that a strategic plan called the Intermarium, which could prevent either Russia or Germany from devouring the nations of Eastern and Central Europe, is possible through an alliance led by Poland and including territory that stretches from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea and/or the Mediterranean. This could take the form of mutual-defense pact, a military alliance, an economic or political union, or even outright Polish conquest of Soviet territories.
- Because of Piłsudski's commitment to his Intermarium plan, he is hesitant to support the idea of an international military command to fight the aliens. If Germany were to play a major role in such an organization, Poland would oppose the organization's existence altogether.
- Poland is strongly opposed to allowing the Soviet Union to become a member of the League of Nations.<sup>11</sup>

● **Spain: President Miguel Primo de Rivera**

- The Kingdom of Spain is a country in peril. The Bourbon Restoration seems to be on the decline, and opposition elements are gathering. Even the military has doubts about the King's power. A military officer, President Miguel Primo de Rivera took power in 1923, and is struggling to run the country. Without a new constitution and significant reforms, the regime will likely collapse, spelling the end for King Alfonso XIII's reign. However, serious reforms will also upset the old aristocracy, which is the backbone of Primo's support. Primo has proven capable of keeping the revolutionary labor elements in the country in check with small reforms, but if he does this too often, the aristocrats will get angry.
- The President only intended his dictatorial rule to last 90 days and doesn't have a firm grasp of politics. Any attempts to rally popular support for his "Patriotic Union" party will need to be extra well planned.
- A prolonged fight against the Martians could be the solution to Spain's problems. An amoral enemy who attacked humanity without provocation is the perfect scapegoat, even more so if their technology allows Spain to further modernize its





infrastructure. For Spain, there can be no peaceful solution. Only military victory can end the alien threat.

- The Spanish army is a substantial fighting force and includes tanks. Though the navy and air force are only mid-sized, they are effective at supporting the army.
- Primo personally fought in the Rif War from 1921 to 1926<sup>12</sup> as part of the Spanish colonization of Morocco, during which Spanish forces utilized poison gas. Based on this experience, he supports the use of chemical and biological weapons against the aliens.<sup>13</sup>

- Italy: **Prime Minister Francesco Saverio Nitti**

- NOTE: The representation of this country within this committee is the result of heavily altered history. Please read carefully.

- Italy finds itself in a precarious position. The narrow defeat of Mussolini's fascists in 1922 has kept the country away from dictatorial rule, but unrest and intimidation by the Blackshirts is still widespread. The news of the Martian invasion has only worsened conditions, as rumors of the end of the world have taken root.
- The Liberal Union Party backed the Italian left over the right, preventing Mussolini's fascists from taking power in 1922. The new Liberal-Democratic Union Party now rules the Kingdom of Italy, but its leader, Giovanni Giolitti, has recently passed away. Returning Prime Minister Francesco Saverio Nitti is not as popular or as unifying as his predecessor. The country is unstable and right-wing agitators continue to hold rallies.
- The news of the alien invasions in the U.S. and UK has been viewed by many Italians as a signal of Biblical end times.
- No Lateran Treaty has been ratified, so the Pope continues to resent the Italian government. If the issue of Papal independence were to be resolved, the Pope might help restore the public's faith in Italy.
- There are rumors being propagated by the Mafia that the Italian government has been infiltrated by alien agents.
- The Italian military is a modern and decently-equipped force, which includes tanks and aircraft. The navy is of moderate size and strength.<sup>14</sup>

- Germany: **Chancellor Hermann Müller**

- The young German Republic is unstable. The coalition of moderate parties that have kept Chancellor Hermann Müller in power is at risk of collapse in the wake of the disastrous economic effects of the Martian attacks.
- Germany might be able to cut a deal with the French or British to reduce reparations and allow the country to rebuild its once-substantial industrial and military strength on the promise of aide against the alien invaders. Alternatively,





communist-leaning parties are quite popular, particularly in Bavaria, so making nice with the Soviet Union might be another route to ensure stability for the German Republic.

- Germany has been subject to the Treaty of Versailles that ended the Great War, and, as such, cannot officially possess tanks or military aircraft and has limits on the size of its army and navy. Unless these restrictions are lifted, Chancellor Müller cannot involve his country in any proposed military solutions to the Martian threat. If the restrictions are lifted, Müller's government might support German participation in a global anti-alien military initiative as a way of gaining legitimacy for his government.
- The precariousness of the German situation cannot be understated. Chancellor Müller must stabilize the nation if Germany is to continue to exist under his leadership. If any foreign powers offer support, he will have to consider it, even if the price is high. If he refuses, the government may simply remove him from office rather than allow the government to collapse. (NOTE: The Crisis Staff will consider any attempt to recreate the Nazis or a functionally identical surrogate group as a breach of committee etiquette.)<sup>15</sup>

- **Czechoslovakia: Prime Minister Frantisek Udzal**

- Having gained its independence with the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1918, the young Czechoslovak Republic is a newcomer to the international stage and suffered from political turmoil in its first decade, with power frequently changing hands. The job now falls to Prime Minister Frantisek Udzal, whose ruling coalition is stable for now, but not guaranteed to last, especially in the wake of the economic shockwave created by the invasion.
- Prime Minister Udzal believes that his country needs to maintain its stability to build faith in the system of government and ensure the nation's longevity.
- While the Czechoslovak army is sizable and well-equipped with tanks and aircraft, military action is not Udzal's preferred solution to the Martian threat. He believes that if the aliens are intelligent enough to travel between worlds, they may also be rational enough to understand the value of peaceful diplomacy. Translating the Martian language is a major priority of the Czechoslovak government.
- To this end, France may prove to be an ally, as they have been to Czechoslovakia in the past. Poincaré's administration is both open to a diplomatic solution and has the resources to develop new technologies quickly, if only it can be convinced to actively support peace.<sup>16</sup>



- **Yugoslavia: King Alexander I Karadjordjević**
  - Until January 6, 1929, Alexander I ruled the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes—a dysfunctional democracy plagued by regional nationalism and separatism. Now, Alexander rules the newly-renamed Kingdom of Yugoslavia and is determined to make it unified, either through a return to democratic government via a new constitution or through royal dictates and martial law.
  - Croatian separatists oppose Serbian dominance in any new government, while most Yugoslav Pan-Nationalists favor constitutional democracy. Either of these groups may attempt to interdict the King's actions if they are not either suppressed or appeased.
  - The Royal army is quite competent, with numerous experienced officers and even a few tanks to its name. A small navy and air force also exist, although they might not be enough to match those of major powers.
  - If an international military command is formed to counter the alien threat, Yugoslavia will support it and even contribute troops, so long as Germany does not play a major role. Much of the Yugoslav General Staff distrust the Germans because of their experience in the Great War.
  - In the past, the French have often supported the Karadjordjević dynasty in times of crisis, so it may be prudent to share information and cooperate with France, and even formalize a military alliance. With any luck, they will also be willing to offer new technologies in return for Yugoslav support in committee votes.<sup>17</sup>
  
- **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Soviet Special Representative Leon Trotsky**
  - NOTE: The representation of this country within this committee is the result of heavily altered history. Please read carefully.
  - NOTE: It is recommended that only experienced delegates be given this role, due to the unusual nature of its powers and limitations.
  - Earlier this year, Leon Trotsky was expelled from the Soviet Union by Joseph Stalin for his opposition to the new dictatorial regime. While exiled on Turkey, Trotsky was shocked to hear about the invasion, and even more so when he received an invitation to represent the Soviet Union at the emergency session of the League of Nations. The invitation turned out to be part of an elaborate plot to lure Trotsky into the hands of assassins, which Trotsky discovered in time to avoid the trap. Despite this, Trotsky plans to use the order from Stalin to proceed to the League of Nations to represent the Soviet Union, recognizing the opportunity to represent the country he helped build, and perhaps even regain some influence over it in the process.
  - Though Stalin may choose to ignore Trotsky's requests, Trotsky basically built the Soviet Commissariat of War, trained many of its members, and led them through the Civil War, so the bulk of the Soviet military will listen to him. This is



no small advantage, as the Red Army is one of the largest and most well-equipped and well-trained fighting forces in the world. Soviet tanks are of notably good quality. Stalin's NKVD troops are becoming increasingly suspicious of army officers, however, so Trotsky's supporters in the army may not be safe forever.

- While Trotsky may not have direct access to most non-military Soviet assets, he is still enormously popular with local communist groups around the world through his founding of the Fourth International. Communist and socialist groups in France, Spain, U.S., Germany, Italy, and elsewhere are willing to assist him in the name of the revolution.
- The U.S.S.R. is not yet a member of the League of Nations, and so is not eligible to lead any organizations the League of Nations creates. Getting full membership would be a boon to Trotsky's popularity in Moscow and could open up the Soviet political leadership to cooperation with his requests.
- The very fact that Trotsky was chosen to attend the League of Nations meeting shows how little Stalin and his administration care about the Martian threat, given that it has so far only attacked major centers of capitalism. If the U.S. and UK want any support from the U.S.S.R., they will have to offer something substantial in return, such as Martian technology or full recognition and League of Nations membership. The acquisition of alien technologies in particular is a major priority, as they could greatly accelerate Soviet industrialization plans.
- The Soviets have a mixed opinion of the KMT government in China, though the two have worked well together in the past. This relationship may yet be salvaged if Chiang Kai-shek can be convinced to share power with the communist left-KMT.<sup>18</sup>

- **Iran: Reza Shah Pahlavi**

- Reza Khan was crowned Shah of the Imperial State of Persia in 1925 after Shia religious authorities dissuaded the ambitious military officer and statesman from declaring a republic. Now known as Reza Shah, first of the Pahlavi Dynasty, he has already freed Iran from the British and Russian influences which dominated it just a few years ago, and now has set out to pull Iran into the modern age through political and cultural reform including industrialization, modernization of the economy, separating church and state, and the emancipation of women.
- The Shia ulama, the Islamic religious authorities of Iran and the greatest roadblock to Reza Shah's planned reforms, are claiming that the Martian invasion was an act of divine retribution on the British for their past attempts to conquer Iran. While the Shah dislikes the British too, if he can determine the real goal of the alien invasion and prove the Shia ulama wrong, it would undermine their credibility and make his reforms easier to implement.



- Iran does not necessarily support a diplomatic solution to the alien conflict, but it does support establishing a dialogue, if possible, to determine the Martians' true reasons for invading Earth.
  - Iran's new modern military was built by Reza Shah, and so is totally loyal to him. The army is of good quality and includes a number of tanks and aircraft. The navy is respectable, though small.
  - The Soviet Union renounced the Russian Tzar's imperial claims on Iranian territory, and so in return, Reza Shah would support the Soviets being recognized by the League of Nations.<sup>19</sup>
- **Greece: Prime Minister Eleuthérios Venizélos**
    - The second Hellenic Republic was only established in 1924, but the Greek people finally seem to be enjoying some level of peace in the wake of the Balkan Wars and World War I.
    - The young republic is not universally popular, however. Monarchists continue to advocate for a return of the recently deposed King George II and are an ever-present threat to the Republic. While Prime Minister Venizélos is not opposed to the monarchy himself, many members of the government are. In the past, the military leadership has proven to be the deciding factor when the republicans and monarchists vie for power.
    - There is still simmering resentment between Greece and Turkey, as Turkey controls Constantinople and the European side of the Bosphorus Strait. The Greek government still wants to reclaim this territory which it considers to be its own.
    - Britain is Greece's traditional ally. If they remain weakened, Prime Minister Venizélos may need to consider looking elsewhere for allies.
    - Prime Minister Venizélos has made it clear that something must be done to stabilize the world economy and is absolutely in favor of some kind of a world agency dedicated to defense against extraterrestrial threats. However, he would be hesitant to support a general or other military figure to lead such an agency. An elected civilian politician would be preferable to ensure proper ethical conduct.
    - The Greek army is well-equipped but lacks tanks. The Hellenic air force and navy are of moderate quality.<sup>20</sup>
  - **Turkey: President Ghazi Mustafa Kemal**
    - Mustafa Kemal has already made his place in the history books as the founder of the young Republic of Turkey, whose current government consists of a group of loyal and well-educated secular reformers who share the President's vision of a modern and industrialized Turkey.



- Kurdish peasants in the southeast of the country oppose the rule of the new government and have already taken up arms against it once. It may only be a matter of time before they try again.
  - The western Entente powers eagerly attempted to carve up the Ottoman Empire in the aftermath of the Great War. Mustafa Kemal led the troops which would ultimately push the Entente out. The new Turkey is, therefore, always skeptical of Britain, France, and Italy. Greece, too, is an enemy, as they want to take Istanbul and the Bosphorus Strait.
  - President Mustafa Kemal has yet to take a position on the issue of finding a peaceful solution to the conflict with the Martians, or the topic of using biological weapons against them. However, the Turkish government is steadfastly nationalist, and thus strongly opposed to the idea of an international anti-alien taskforce, as it would undermine national sovereignty.
  - Turkey is not a full League of Nations member, although it seeks to become one. As such, Turkey cannot lead any League of Nations organizations until it achieves full membership.<sup>21</sup>
- **Brazil: President Washington Luís**
    - Washington Luís is the President of the Republic of the United States of Brazil and is the latest member of the Brazilian political elite to hold the office. Democracy is strong, at least for the landowners. São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro are growing quickly. So long as the coffee flows, everything in Brazil will be fine. Probably.
    - The political opposition in Brazil primarily consists of the dissatisfied members of the growing urban middle class and a group of nationalist military officers known as the Tenentes (tr. “Lieutenants”). These two groups have united with the aim of toppling Brazil’s entrenched political class and replacing it with a more centralized reform-minded administration which would be less focused on producing coffee and more focused on economic modernization and diversification. However, President Luís’ main conundrum is that his country has started to produce so much coffee that the price is going down, which will shrink Brazil’s income, thereby creating public dissatisfaction and further fueling support for the Tenentes movement. The recent economic crisis caused by the Martian invasion has not helped the situation, and the economy could be in free fall any minute. Something will have to be done.
    - Brazil has maintained close ties to the United States, and President Luís is eager to support the Americans in their time of need, not least because rebuilding U.S. industry might restore some balance to the world economy. The U.S. also happens to be one of the largest purchasers of Brazilian coffee, so it is in Brazil’s interest that they remain stable.



- Brazil's military is split between the respectable but not particularly well-equipped Brazilian Army, which the President commands, and a myriad of local irregular garrison forces whose loyalty and usefulness vary wildly. The Army has access to a handful of tanks, and a respectable air force and navy also exist.
  - Brazil is a proponent of a non-violent solution to the Martian threat. More specifically, President Luís believes that the international community might be able to bribe the aliens with resources or territory to prevent a prolonged conflict.<sup>22</sup>
- **Venezuela: President Juan Vicente Gómez**
    - To some, President Juan Vicente Gómez is the richest man in South America, and a decisive leader who has freed Venezuela from the influence of foreign powers like the United States. To others, he is a dictator, whose brutal suppression of dissent and corrupt means of amassing wealth is an injustice.
    - Only the United States of America exports more oil than Venezuela, and, as they are still reeling from the Martian attack, President Gómez has identified a tempting opportunity: If the League of Nations or any of its members should, for whatever reason, become a roadblock for the President's goals in the committee or else threaten Venezuela, he can always raise the price of oil, or cut off the flow altogether. After all, tanks, ships, and planes cannot run without oil.
    - Most of the Venezuelan people still live in poverty, despite the nation's significant oil wealth and ongoing urbanization. President Gómez is not particularly sympathetic. Inevitably, this leads to some upstarts who oppose the President's rule. President Gómez has developed a trusted solution to this, however, in the form of his highly effective network of spies, which penetrate every level of Venezuelan society. The Venezuelan military is also of comparable effectiveness to modern European armies, though it lacks tanks or a sizable air force.
    - The President is not very worried about the aliens. So far, they have only attacked his economic competitors. Their technology, on the other hand, is very enticing. Venezuela would be interested in acquiring tripods and begin producing its own as soon as possible. It doesn't matter if that means fighting the Martians or negotiating with them, so long as tripods with the Venezuelan flag can be paraded down the streets of Caracas.
    - President Gómez supports repealing the restrictions on biological and chemical weapons irrespective of whom they are to be used against.<sup>23</sup>





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