

Background Guide

**League of Nations**

AlexMUN 2023

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Crisis Officer:Diego Verduzco

## -PRESENTATION

Chair:

Rodrigo Cano. President (in charge of the whole committee). Hello delegates! I hope you have a good time participating here in the League Of Nations! In order to ensure that everything goes smoothly, don't be afraid to contact me or any of my fellow members of the chair by email, [rodrigo.cano@bab.edu.mx](mailto:rodrigo.cano@bab.edu.mx) Good luck and have fun!

Diego Verduzco. Conference Officer (calls the role, takes the time of each session). Delegates, I am here in case you have any sort of doubt or question about anything. My email is [diego.verduzco@bab.edu.mx](mailto:diego.verduzco@bab.edu.mx)

Daniel Ramírez. Moderator (makes sure the sessions happen in an orderly fashion). Hello there delegates! The chair is all here to help you out. If there is any problem or situation, please contact any of our emails. My email is [daniel.ramirez@bab.edu.mx](mailto:daniel.ramirez@bab.edu.mx) don't be afraid to write to us!

In this committee, we will be discussing two topics; the Sudeten Crisis and the Second Sino-Japanese War. The Sudeten Crisis is important because it seems like the Allies are currently trying to give away a very big part of an independent, sovereign state to Nazi Germany, while the Second Sino-Japanese War has been causing many casualties, estimated already to be in the tens of thousands, if not more.

## -INTRODUCTION

The League of Nations is an international organ which was created in 1920 after The Great War. It was created with the purpose of ensuring international safety and peace, mentioned initially in the Treaty of Versailles. It has three main organs; an Assembly made of all the members, where they discussed admitting new members and the budget, a Conference with four permanent members (United Kingdom, France, Italy and Japan) and rotating, temporary

members, which oversaw the reduction of armaments and the control of certain territories, such as mandates or other territories specified in treaties, a Secretariat, which made sure the Assembly

and Conference went smoothly, as well as publishing the treaties made during meetings, and the International Labour Organization and Permanent Court of International Justice, as well as some auxiliary organizations related to the League.

**While the League of Nations was attempting to protect Europe and the rest of the world from another war, they were unsuccessful, mainly because of the fact that, by trying to avoid any sort of conflict, they were not able to implement a strict enough control over Nazi Germany and the Empire of Japan on time, which caused it to obtain power and start a new war.**

In this committee, it is important for all members to maintain political correctness and to avoid any sort of hate speech against any other country.

**\*\*While the United States did have an active role in establishing the League of Nations, it is not an actual member. This is thanks to political and social tension caused by Americans in fear of being somewhat controlled by Europe. As such, the United States will only be acting as an observant during this committee.**

*The members include:*

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Republic of Albania

Argentine Republic

Commonwealth of Australia

Federal State of Austria (until this year, when it was annexed by Germany)

Kingdom of Belgium

Republic of Bolivia

Republic of Bulgaria/ Tsardom of Bulgaria

Canada

Republic of Chile

Republic of China

Republic of Colombia

Republic of Costa Rica

Republic of Cuba

First Czechoslovak Republic

Kingdom of Denmark

Third Dominican Republic

Republic of Ecuador

Kingdom of Egypt

Republic of El Salvador (notice of withdrawal made last year, in 1937)

Republic of Estonia

Ethiopian Empire

Republic of Finland

French Third Republic

Second Hellenic Republic (Greece)

Republic of Haiti

Kingdom of Hungary

The British Empire

The British Raj (India)

Kingdom of Iraq

Irish Free State

Republic of Latvia

Republic of Liberia

Republic of Lithuania

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

United Mexican States

Netherlands

Dominion of New Zealand

Kingdom of Norway

Republic of Panama

Pahlavi Dynasty (Imperial State of Persia/Iran)

Republic of Peru

Republic of Poland

Estado Novo (Portuguese Republic)

Kingdom of Romania

Siam (Kingdom of Thailand)

Second Empire of Spain

Kingdom of Sweden

Swiss Confederation

Republic of Türkiye

Union of South Africa

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Oriental Republic of Uruguay

Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

Kingdom of Yugoslavia

Past members:

First Brazil Republic

Nazi Germany

Republic of Guatemala

Republic of Honduras

Empire of Japan

Republic of Nicaragua

Republic of Paraguay

Kingdom of Italy

Other relevant Countries

Manchukuo

Nationalist Spain

Chinese Communist Party

## -TOPIC A: Addressing the Sudeten Crisis

- Introduction

The Sudeten Crisis refers to the event in which Nazi Germany took control of a part of the country of Czechoslovakia he calls the “Sudetenland” after signing the Munich Treaty with France, Italy and the United Kingdom’s leaders without the consent of Czechoslovakia. This was done after France and the United Kingdom feared Nazi Germany initiating another war.

- Historical Context

After the Great War ended with Germany’s loss, the Allies created the Treaty of Versailles, a document in which they agreed to take away Germany’s power over its colonies, to give away parts of its territory, demilitarization of Germany and, on top of that, to pay back all the damages caused by the war. It was in this state of economy, political and social nonconformity by the Germans that Adolf Hitler first started to rise to power, promising the people of Germany to give them back the power they used to have. After rising to the position of Chancellor and starting his reign of power over Germany, Hitler started to put his plans in motion with the Anschluss, which was the event in which Germany took over the territory of the recently established country of Austria. In order to do this, he tried to gain political power in Austria, only for the Nazi Austria party to fail, even after an attempted coup. After this did not work, Hitler then decided to meet with the leader of Austria, Chancellor Schuschnigg and presented him with his accords, which can be reduced to Germany taking power of Austria’s politics and military. Schuschnigg signed this Agreement, but upon returning to Austria organized a plebiscite, where he urged Austrian to favor an independent Austria. Upon hearing this, Hitler stated that if the plebiscite were to happen, the German army would invade Austria with force. In order to avoid this from happening, Schuschnigg gave in and let Nazi Germany enter and take control of Austria, thus making the territory a part of German land.

After achieving this, Hitler set his eyes on another territory which was formed by the fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which was Czechoslovakia specifically the territory of Sudetenland. If he were to gain this piece of land, then invading the rest of the country would be easier, given the fact that this territory had military power. Taking advantage that there were people that still saw themselves as German in the territory of Sudeten, Hitler began to give speeches in which he urged those living in Czechoslovakia to help the Nazis gain power over this territory.

While this was happening with Germany, the rest of the world and Europe were not that well off either. Given the fact that many of the European colonies were starting their own revolutions and they had to deal with an economic depression, most of Europe decided that the best way to take care of Germany was via appeasement. During this time, Czechoslovakia also had formed a solid relationship with Italy formed by Mario Lago around the 20's. It is for this reason that the growing relationship between Italy and Germany also came to concern Czechoslovakia. This concern came to be a real problem when the Pact of Steel was signed, in which Germany and Italy decided to cooperate with each other in and support war and war production of both countries, as well as stating that neither nation could attempt peace without the consent and knowledge of the other.

It is also important to note that Nazi Germany followed the ideas of Lebensraum, which is applying the ideas of natural selection stated by Darwin for species evolution, but for nations. Nations had to have enough territory and resources in order to not depend on other nations. Germans then considered that they needed to conquer more territories with their 'superior race', getting rid of the 'inferior races', such as Slavs and Jews. This sort of thought process is also what led to events such as the Holocaust and racism towards Jews.

- Relevant International Action

There was a treaty, the Munich Treaty, which was signed by Italy, Germany, France and the United Kingdom, in which they gave Germany the authority to take over the territory. Other than this, there was no other international action.

Events leading up to the Sudetenland can be seen as follows;

1933, Germany withdrew from the League of Nations, which can be seen as an act of defiance against the members and other countries of the League of Nations.

1934, Germany signed the German-Polish Non Aggression Pact, which then made Poland not create an alliance with France and made Germany and Poland cooperate between each other.

1935, Germany begins to increase the size of the Germany Army, as well as signing the Anglo-German Naval Agreement, letting Germany create a Navy. This was signed by the United Kingdom without any of the consent of other countries.

1936, Germany begins to remilitarize their territory.

1938, the Anschluss occurred. On the same year, Hitler began to insist on incorporating Sudeten into Germany, threatening to begin war if their demands were not met. Chamberlain decided to appeal to the demands of Hitler, saying that if Germany had no other demands, then they should allow them to obtain the territory in order to stop a war from breaking out. The Munich Pact was then signed by Mussolini, Hitler, Chamberlain and Daladier. While, at the time, most people agreed that the decision was made to avoid war, not everyone thought the same. To quote Winston Churchill; “You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor and you will have war”.

- Countries directly involved

Czechoslovakia, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy

- Analysis

Now that we have taken a look at the situation, we can assess that Germany taking over a part of Czechoslovakia will have dire consequences over the people of Czechoslovakia. Considering that Germany will now be the ruler of this piece of land, then all the people living there must follow all of the laws and regulations created by Germany. All of the factories and farming lands will now also belong to Germany, which could also affect Czechoslovakia's economy. This decision, in retrospect, may not have been the best solution, seeing how appeasement to Germany only led to it getting back the power it had lost over the Treaty of Versailles, as well as giving it territorial advantage and the possibility of being able to attack again. By trying to avoid the war, the Allies have only made the tensions in Europe grow even more.



- Possible solutions

Organize another plebiscite for the people of Sudeten and Czechoslovakia as a whole as to whether they are in favor or against the German government over their land. Taking this into account, it should also be noted that Germany should also not attempt to use threats or force in order to change the votes. In other words, retracting the Munich Pact made before.

-Creating a conditional for the Munich Treaty in which it is directly stated that Germany shall decrease the amount of armament it currently has after obtaining the Sudetenland territory, thus making it so that Germany cannot use this territory as an advantage during any sort of hypothetical conflict. This can be enforced by creating a system of registration that the countries that signed the Munich Pact and Czechoslovakia have access to, ensuring that the amount of people that are part of the Army do not go over a certain number. Declining this would show signs of aggression from Germany, and as such should be considered a hostile nation.

-Allow Czechoslovakia to have a say in the conflict, letting them state their own terms for the loss of Sudetenland, whether it is economic or political aid from Germany or any of the other countries which signed the Treaty of Munich, thus giving Czechoslovakia compensation over the loss of their territory.

- Conclusion

In conclusion, we can observe that this problem must be tackled in a tactful and diplomatic manner in order to ensure the well being of not only those living in Sudeten, but of the entirety of the world as well. The last thing we would want is another Great War in our hands. It is important to reach a compromise in which all sides of the situation are to a certain extent satisfied.

## -TOPIC B: Discussing the Second Sino-Japanese War

- Introduction

The Second Sino-Japanese War refers to an armed conflict between the nations of China and Japan, which has become very gruesome and violent.

- Historical Context

China and Japan have never been on the greatest of terms. Since the First Sino-Japanese War, in which the two countries fought for the Korean Peninsula, the two countries have been waiting for the chance to attack each other. During this time, Japan has become more and more industrialized, while China has not yet reached the levels of industrialization Japan has achieved. The ideals of Japanese facism, also known as Shōwa Statism, began during the 1860s, in the Meiji Restoration. The ideals truly began to flourish during the Shōwa period, in which Emperor Hirohito ruled. In 1919, with the Treaty of Versailles, the Allies did not recognize any of Japan's territories and began limiting their naval power. These decisions led to Japanese nationalism, as well as territorial expansion and military dictatorship being considered as the best options for Japan. It was with this ideals that Ikki Kita proposed a coup in order to replace the current politics and change them for a military dictatorship, stating that the military was free of corruption. Kita also had ideals to modify the land reforms. It was during this time that they withdrew from the League of Nations, as well as plotting as pulling through with the assassination of the Prime Minister in 1932, which officially ended the existence of political parties in Japan. Thanks to this military ideas, Japan was set on conquering new territory.

In 1931, there was an accident in Mukden, Manchuria. Japan had made a treaty with China in which they agreed to protect the railroad in Manchuria. Japan then planted an explosive in the tracks owned by Japan, giving them an excuse to invade, establishing the state of Manchukuo, which functioned as a puppet state for Japan.

It was in July 1937 when war between the two countries truly broke out after an 'incident' in the Marco Polo Bridge in Wanping. The incident involved Japanese soldiers opening fire to soldiers in Wanping, and although there was a ceasefire, this did not stop the tensions. After this incident, Japan decided to launch an invasion over China, using all of its new technology and more modernized army, leading to the deaths of several thousand Chinese people, as well as the occupation of Nanjing, which resulted in the death of 300,000 people. It is also important to note that, by this time, China was still a member of the League of Nations, while Japan withdrew in 1933.

It is also important to note that China also had internal turmoil, since it was in the process of a Civil War, starting from 1927, between the Kuomintang, the Nationalists and the Chinese Communist Party. Beforehand, China had been in political instability. A United Front had been created in 1924, which stated a bloc alliance between both groups, but ended with the death of Sun Yat-sen, who was the leader of the Kuomintang that had agreed to the alliance. After the first United Front, a second United Front in 1937 was created between communists and the Kuomintang. The Kuomintang had originally searched for aid from the Allies, but had to use aid from the Soviet Union. The civil war has been very violent and also included many casualties.

It is also important to note that Japan during this period also followed Pan-Asianist ideals, which states that Asia should be united as a front against the Western powers, considering that they shared similar cultures and identities. This could be seen as their justification for taking territory, seeing how they all shared a lot of traits, and as such they were only trying to unite everyone.

- Relevant International Action

While the League of Nations did consider Japan's actions to be "illegal", it did not do anything about the conflict.

- Countries directly involved

People's Republic of China (commanded by Mao Zedong), Republic of China (commanded by Chiang Kai-shek), Japan, Manchukuo

- Analysis

After looking at the fact, we can see that the Second Sino-Japanese war will have very dire consequences. First, we can see that, if the war continues as is, the death toll of Chinese people could go over the millions, leaving the country in a very bad state, one which it may not be able to recover from, creating problems for China's economy and society as a whole. This can be seen once we take into account the atrocity known as the Battle of Nanjing, in which several hundreds of thousands Chinese people were massacred by the Japanese forces. On the other hand, if Japan continues to invade China, at this rate, it may be able to achieve very positive results, obtaining a very big piece of land in which it could continue to expand its economy and society, as well as sending a message of power to other countries in the vicinity, which could lead to more alliances or treaties for Japan. As of currently, 1938, Japan has made attempts to invade Wuhan in order to attempt to negotiate for peace. It is with this in mind that Chiang Kai-Shek caused flooding with the Yellow River, leading to the deaths of several hundred thousand people. Nevertheless, as of October 27, 1938, Japan has already captured Wuhan, a city that the Kuomintang has been using as their base, leading them to retreat.

- Possible solutions

-Allowing members of the League of Nations to interfere by sending troops and aid (I.e. rations, medical supplies and other things they might need) to China in order to ensure that a sovereign country is not decimated. If this were the case, then, seeing how Japan is the aggressor of the conflict, the League of Nations should provide direct aid towards China in order to protect its people and sovereignty. It would also be important to ensure no Japanese citizens come to harm either.

-Creating a treaty in which China agrees to give a piece of its territory to Japan under the condition that Japan should completely end its violent attacks against China. The territory should be one that China can lose without being a crucial deterrent to their economy and society.

- Repressing Japan's army in China and then creating a treaty in order to make them reduce their army in exchange of negotiation power to create import and export treaties to aid their economy.

- Conclusion

In conclusion, it is of utmost importance to treat this topic as soon as possible in order to avoid China's demise under Japan's brutality. The effects of this war, if not treated correctly, could be disastrous for the nation of China, seeing how it would be losing a very big chunk of territory, causing severe effects to its economy and even its political power. If Japan were to continue on with this invasion, China could lose millions of citizens, falling under the rule of another nation looking only to profit from China. The problem should be resolved without jeopardizing either nation involved, with a best case scenario being a compromise where no nation loses anything crucial.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, we can observe that the League of Nations is a very important organization tasked with a very important job, and as such it is of utmost importance that the members and representatives of each country that is a part of such an important organization takes part in serious discussions and debates in order to achieve reasonable and ethical resolutions to the problems at hand, especially considering how these problems are currently affecting millions of people and, if not taken care of properly, could lead to disastrous consequences for millions more. It is for this reason that we implore you, as the chair of this League of Nations discussion to treat each other with respect, to try and reach a compromise and, above all, protect your sovereignty as well as the sovereignty of all the other nations, without taking into account if they are currently present or not.

Thank you delegates for your attention and, if any question were to surface, do not hesitate to inquire with any of the members of the chair.

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