

Berlin Conference

Max Fink

Hi everyone! I will be one of your chairs for The Berlin Conference committee. I'm a senior at Ithaca High School. Aside from Model UN I enjoy debate, Mock Trial, and the occasional stroll in the forest. Please email me with any concerns or questions, I look forward to seeing you in committee.

Evan Allen

Hello delegates! My name is Evan Allen and I'm really looking forward to being one of your chairs for Berlin Conference at Hilton 2016! I'm a senior at Pittsford-Sutherland, and this is my fourth year in Model UN, and my third time chairing. Outside Model UN, I spend most of my time swimming, but I also pole vault in the spring. I also enjoy learning languages, and I currently speak English and French fairly well, but I also have varying skill levels in Spanish and Portuguese. In my free time, I watch a lot of Netflix.

If you have any questions about MUN, our committee, or anything, feel free to email me or Max and we'll answer as well as we can.

Participating Delegates and their respective Nations

1. Austria-Hungary: **Count Gustav Kálnoky** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- A devout Catholic, Kálnoky is often tasked with balancing the competing interests of the two parliaments of Austria-Hungary.
2. Belgium: **Joseph de Riquet de Caraman-Chimay** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- An aristocrat and a Catholic, Riquet preferred a policy of neutrality in Belgium's foreign interactions.
3. **Théophile Wahis**, Belgian statesman and general, Wahis is in charge of Belgian exploration and military exercises in Africa under King Leopold.
4. Denmark: **Otto Rosenørn-Lehn** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Coming from an aristocratic background, Rosenørn-Lehn is Foreign Minister under Jacob Estrup's conservative parliament, which under the Danish Constitution has more governing power than the monarchy.
5. France: **Jules Ferry** (President of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs)- A known anti-monarchist with secular views, Ferry sought to rebuild the French Empire to its former glory.
6. **Jean-Baptiste Campenon** (Minister of defence for the Third French republic) Campenon is responsible for the military wing of colonizing and securing new French lands. He took part in both the Crimean war the the French conquest of Algeria

7. Germany: **Paul von Hatzfeldt** (Secretary of Foreign Affairs)- A favorite of Bismarck, von Hatzfeldt enjoys a high status in the German government, and is integral to German foreign affairs due to his knowledge of French.
8. **Adolf Lüderitz**, Former governor of German South African Colonies, Lüderitz now serves as a military commandant for the German colonization efforts across Africa, reporting to the Kaiser directly.
9. Great Britain: **Lord Granville** (Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs)- A liberal in the conservative House of Lords, Granville enjoys the privileges of being the Prime Minister's best friend in an environment where the PM is slowly gaining power as the Queen retreats from the public scene.
10. **Frederick John Dealtry Lugard**, Former Governor general of Nigeria and military advisor for colonization in Africa. Lugard has an excellent track record of service for Her Majesty
11. Italy: **Pasquale Stanislao Mancini** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- A member of the liberal government, Mancini finds himself in the midst of a sea of instability and corruption as the newly formed nation of Italy struggles to establish itself among the old powers of Europe.
12. Netherlands: **Joseph van der Does de Willebois** (Minister of Foreign Affairs) Good friends with King William the Third of the Netherlands, he served as its attorney general and as the Commissioner of the King. He is a strong Catholic Conservative.
13. Ottoman Empire: **Mehmed Said Paşa** (Grand Vizier) First Secretary of Sultan Abdul Hamid the II, Mehmed was promoted in 1879 to hold the position of Grand Vizier (Prime Minister.) He has aided the Ottoman Monarchy in modernizing the country.
14. Portugal: **José Vicente Barbosa du Bocage** (Minister of Foreign Affairs) Bocage was a Zoologist turned statesman, supported by the Regenerator party, whose conservative brand of liberalism is the dominant governing voice in this constitutional monarchy.
15. **Agostinho Coelho** Military governor of Portuguese colonial holdings in Africa he controls shipments of arms and military exercises.
16. Russia: **Nikolay Girs** (Minister of Foreign Affairs) A former minister abroad to both Sweden and Switzerland under Tsar Alexander the II; Girs was appointed to his current ministership under Tsar Alexander the III. Tsar Alexander is a conservative traditionalist who rules the Russian Empire with a stern grip.
17. Spain: **José de Elduayen** (Minister of State) Rising to prominence as a Union liberal in the 1860s, Elduayen was promoted from Minister of the Colonies to Minister of state under King Alphonso XII in 1883. He is a sturdy supporter of the Monarchy and conservative liberalism.
18. Sweden-Norway: **Carl Hochschild** (Minister of Foreign Affairs)- Holding this position since 1880, Carl Hochschild holds a constant and wavering government with his home

state's parliament and monarch. Having just implemented a prime minister position in 1876, Sweden is in a period of great political infighting and turmoil.

19. United States of America: **Frederick Frelinghuysen** (Secretary of State) Primarily concerned with maintaining fragile European trading relations, Frelinghuysen is a former senator who serves in Chester Arthur's Republican cabinet.

Committee Procedure and Background

The Berlin Conference was an 1884 meeting of fourteen European nations, hosted by Germany (A recent Imperial power). The goal of this conference is to regulate imperialist hungers and agree to a set of boundaries and trade agreements relating to newly founded colonies. This is a historical Crisis Committee, and as such will function with modified procedure. There will be no rolling speakers or general speakers list. The committee will operate as a perpetual moderated caucus, interspersed by unmoderated caucuses whenever deemed necessary by the Chairs. Delegates will act as the listed representatives of their respective Nations. Delegates will be expected to pass directives, communiqués, and press releases in cooperation with other representatives to address the goals of the committee. There will be no crisis staff, but the chairs will provide rapid real time crisis notifications the delegates will have to overcome. Though this committee takes place in a time when racism and prejudice was pervasive and is Eurocentric in its colonialist efforts; no racist jokes, remarks, portraits or references to the indigenous peoples of Africa will be tolerated in this committee. Position Papers will be accepted by the chairs on the first day of committee at the latest. Delegates are welcome to share them by email prior to the first day however. The Chairs will have a guiding role in the Committee and help to form the timeline. They will act in a dual role as Kaiser Wilhelm and Otto von Bismarck.

Goals of Committee

While the overarching goal of the Berlin Conference is to delineate the boundaries of European colonization in Africa, there are specific aspects of that goal that we will be debating in depth. They are as follows:

- **Division of Ports/Maritime Trading Rights-** In this day and age, where the sea is the main medium of international trade, it is of the utmost importance that the colonizing powers have access to Africa's ports. However, large countries like France or Great Britain have in the past monopolized trade in Africa's harbors. The committee must somehow divide the hubs of Africa's maritime trade, whether they give some to all or all to some.
- **Rebellions-** We, of course, cannot assume that the inhabitants of the African continent will accept subjugation quietly. Large-scale rebellions are a very real possibility, and thus the committee would be wise to discuss a plan to deal with these uprisings as they occur. These responses could be coordinated across international borders, or empires may go it alone. It is up to the committee to decide.

- **Ethnic Groups-** The African continent has an incredibly heterogeneous population. As has always been the way of humanity, some groups live in harmony with each other, while others fight never ending wars of dominance. These ethnic divides will be important to consider when drawing the lines to divide the continent. The committee will need to decide whether they favor peace or natural resources.
- **Disease-** Perhaps the most pressing and universal obstacle to African colonization in this time is the ever-present threat of disease. Epidemics such as malaria, typhoid, and dengue fever rage across the continent, and European settlers have little immunity to these exotic illnesses. In order for colonization to continue smoothly and safely, these plagues will need to be eradicated, or at the least contained. Europe has some of the brightest scientific minds of the era, and they are at the committee's disposal.

The Berlin Conference is not just about the division of Africa, however. The delicate web of alliances that connects Europe is very much present here in Berlin. Delegates will need to keep in mind who is a friend and who is a foe. In the end, delegates would do well to remember that diplomacy is a double-edged sword; tread with care.