

Hilton 2022 Chair Letter

Crisis 2 — Bourbon Perspective

Committee Overview

Spanish War of Succession

Committee Description:

This committee will be run Crisis-style, meaning that the chosen topic will develop as the conference proceeds. These “crisis updates” will be dependent on the progress made by Crisis #1, consisting of the opposing committee. Please note that Crisis procedure is different from that of a standard Model-UN committee; do not hesitate to email the chairs if you need assistance in understanding the altered formatting.

For best preparation, delegates should arrive with a working knowledge of the War of the Spanish Succession, its context, and any beliefs held by their assigned role. A helpful guide for success in Crisis committees can be found [here](#).

To be eligible for an individual award, delegates must email a complete position paper to the chairs by the start of the second day of the conference, though in-person submissions will also be accepted. While this is a pressing matter, remember that Model UN is not necessarily a competition, so get to researching and try to have a little fun!

To be a crisis delegate, you **MUST** email the chairs with your top 3 choices for roles. For roles and position papers please email both chairs so everyone is in the loop.

ABOUT US:

Hi everyone! My name is Brendan Dehn, and I'm a senior at Sutherland High School. This is my fourth year in Model UN, and will be my second time chairing Crisis. Outside of Model UN, I run Cross-Country and Track year round, and am the Secretary for Sutherland's pre law club.

Hi everyone! My name is Javier Benzan, I am a junior at Brockport High School and this is my first time chairing, but my third year of Model UN. Outside of Model UN I play Lacrosse, Ski, and love to read.

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Background

Due to colonial mismanagement, unfortunate trends in the gold and silver trade, and aggressive religious and foreign policies, the Spanish Habsburg dynasty led the Spanish empire into a gradual decline, making way for France to be the dominant power in Europe. The last Hapsburg monarch of Spain, Charles II, was a sickly man, due to results from historical inbreeding in the Habsburg line.

In the wake of his death in 1700, he bequeathed the Spanish inheritance to Phillip of Anjou,

grandson of the French King Louis XIV and brother to the Dauphin of France.

This angered other European powers such as The Holy Roman Empire (Austria), England (Later Great Britain), the Netherlands, Portugal, and Prussia, who all feared an emerging Franco-Spanish superpower.

Due to the strengthening of ties between France and Spain and the failure to partition the Spanish Habsburg lands with Austria, Austria formed the Grand Alliance, consisting of Western Europe's major powers to prevent a Franco-Spanish Superpower, which quickly went to war with the Bourbons and their allies in Bavaria and elsewhere, opening fronts in the Low Countries, Italy, the Americas and India.

As the conflict drags out, the nobles of

our nation's loyalty will continue to become more and more questionable. Appeasements may have to be made to preserve Bourbon supremacy in Europe and to fight our aggressive and disrespectful neighbors who seek to tear our nations apart by force.

To what extent should the French support Phillip's claim to the throne? Is France willing to go to war with England, Scotland, the Dutch, and the Habsburgs? To what extent will France's allies support her in this conflict? Should Louis XIV seek a diplomatic agreement with the Grand Alliance to keep Phillip on the throne?

Sources:

[War of the Spanish Succession | Causes, Definition, Combatants, Battles, & Outcome | Britannica](#)

[Louis XIV - Wikipedia](#)

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/house-of-Bourbon>



Roles

Louis XIV de Bourbon: King of France, Grandfather of Phillip V

Phillip V de Bourbon: King of Spain, Grandson of Louis XIV

Maximillian II Wittlesbach: King of Bavaria

Joseph Clemens: Archbishop-elect of Cologne/brother of Maximillian II

Francis II Rakoczi: Prince of Transylvania, Hungarian Nationalist figurehead

Victor Amadeus II: Duke of Savoy

Claude de Villars: Marshal General of the French Army

Louis Joseph de Bourbon: Duke of Vendome, Marshal of the French Army

James Fitzjames: Duke of Berwick, military leader, illegitimate son of James II, the monarch of England who was deposed by Mary Stuart and William of Orange during the Glorious Revolution

Louis de Bourbon: Duke of Burgundy, Marshal of the French army and direct superior (and rival) to the Duke of Vendome and Dauphin (Foremost successor) of/to France