

Hilton 2024 Chair Letter

Crisis 2 - (Japanese Perspective)

Committee Overview

Russo-Japanese War

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 Russian 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 Russo-Japanese War, 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 conference, though in-person submissions will also be accepted. Before delegates start their position papers, they **must** email the chairs with their top three choices for committee roles. Roles will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis, so try to email the chairs with your preferences as soon as possible. While this is a pressing matter, remember that Model UN is not necessarily a competition. It is a platform for students to work together and solve the world’s most pressing issues, so get to researching and have fun!

ABOUT US:

Ishaan Ramesh

Hey delegates! I’m Ishaan Ramesh. I’m a junior at Pittsford Mendon High School. This is my second time chairing and my first crisis. Outside of MUN, I spend my time doing things such as MasterMinds, Math League, and robotics. If you have any questions, please reach out to us with them!

Email: ishaan.ramesh@gmail.com

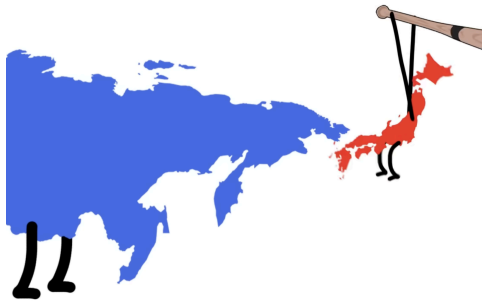
Demi Xu

Hello Delegates, my name is Demi Xu. I am a junior at Pittsford-Mendon High School. This is my first time chairing. Outside of Model-UN, I enjoy fencing, basement ping-pong, and feining over food. Please do not hesitate to reach out to either me or Ishaan with any questions. Happy researching!

Email: deminem28@gmail.com

Background

The Russo-Japanese War was a critical turning point for the political situations of both Russia and Japan. The latter, after the Meiji Restoration of 1868, was industrializing quickly and beginning to emerge on the world stage as an empire after decades of isolation. This began with the First Sino-Japanese War against China, after which Japan gained control over Korea and Taiwan. Japan initially also gained the Liaodong Peninsula, but Russia, Germany, and France forced them to withdraw.



However, Russia soon began to gain influence in the area where Japan had just begun to take control. The Japanese assassination of the Queen of Korea led to general anti-Japanese sentiment in Korea, the overthrow of the pro-Japanese government, and King Gojong of Korea fleeing to the Russian legation in Seoul, increasing Russia's influence in the area. Russia later occupied the Liaodong Peninsula and

built a base at Port Arthur. Later, when Russia sent troops to Manchuria to quell the Boxer Rebellion, it decided to keep its troops there after the war ended, and its increasing dominance in Manchuria worried Japan, which wanted Manchuria for itself. This led to increased tensions between the two empires.

Japan, believing that it was not strong enough to contend with war from Russia and its allies, began negotiations. These attempts, however, proved fruitless, as Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, egged on by Germany, saw itself as both morally and militarily superior to Japan, believing that in any conflict Japan would simply yield. Meanwhile, Japan secured an alliance with the United Kingdom, which meant that any war in which Russia supported itself with allies would mean the UK getting involved, an obviously undesirable situation given the political climate in Europe. With alliance and military secured, Japan now felt itself ready to take on Russia.

Japan sent a formal declaration of war to Russia on February 8, 1904. Three hours *before* Russia received this declaration, however, Japan attacked the Russian base at Port Arthur in a move that took Russia by surprise. This became the Battle of Port Arthur, which kickstarted the Russo-Japanese War.

Committee will commence shortly after the Battle of Port Arthur. As the delegates supporting Japan, we must devise and execute a plan to win the war against Russia in a manner furthering Japan's policies.

Questions to consider as you begin research: *How can we use our geographical location to our advantage? How should we capitalize on our victory at Port Arthur? Who are we willing to form alliances with, and what measures should we take to ensure continued popular support for the war?*

Helpful links:

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russo-Japanese-War>

<https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/the-russo-japanese-war-and-world-history/>

<https://commons.lib.jmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=jmurj>

Committee Roles

Meiji (Mutsuhito)—Emperor of Japan.

Katsura Tarō—Prime Minister of Japan during the majority of the war.

Komura Jutarō—Foreign Minister of Japan.

Prince Arisugawa Takehito—Military officer and member of the Imperial family.

Hayashi Tadasu—Diplomat who gathered Western support for the war.

Saionji Kinmochi—Member of the Genrō, an influential political council.

Count Matsukata Masayoshi—Provided financial support for the war.

Ōyama Iwao—Chief of the Imperial Japanese army; commanded the forces in Manchuria.

Tōgō Heihachirō—Fleet admiral in the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Nogi Maresuke—Commanded the Japanese Third Army.

Kamimura Hikonojō—Commanded the second fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

Kuroki Tamemoto—Commanded the Japanese First Army.

Kodama Gentarō—Major General and chief of staff to General Ōyama Iwao.

Nozu Michitsura—Led Japanese Fourth Army.

Sakuma Samata—Major General in the Imperial Japanese Army.

Shigetarō Yoshimatsu—Commanded the Japanese Third Fleet.