

Committee: Crisis

Issue: Conference of Palermo: Negotiation on the Allied invasion of Sicily

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Committee Introduction

Esteemed delegates, welcome to the Crisis Committee of CSIAMUN. Considering the given situation (i.e., Conference of Palermo), the overall objective of the committee requires discussion on the next phase of the Sicilian campaign and dynamic deliberation from a realpolitik standpoint aligned with the hegemonic hierarchy of vested authority as a delegate. Each delegate shall embody a distinct historical figure, thereby not only representing a nation per se, but also personifying the unique influence and strategic imperatives. Unlike traditional committees, this committee operates under constant unpredictability, where sudden developments may emerge at any moment. Throughout the conference, crisis updates will be introduced, and delegates are expected to respond with strategic ability and versatility. Delegates may, at their discretion, undertake military and diplomatic measures in a manner consistent with private directives. Each delegate will be given a corresponding portfolio of characters, which will include background details, prior objectives and confidential goals. These portfolios must guide delegates' strategies, and success will be measured by their ability to accomplish these objectives.

Agenda Introduction

Owing to Nazi Germany's failure in Operation Barbarossa, it has engendered the invasion of Sicily by the Allied forces; Nazi Germany's predominance diminished, balancing the scales. As accomplished as the Allied forces were in securing their landing, scarcely had the invasion broken the Axis, thus bringing about long-term warfare for 3 months. Amid colossal casualties of 300 thousand militia and civilians combined, particularly within the Kingdom of Italy, the necessity of a diplomatic compromise has become apparent.

This agenda propels delegates to rectify the conditions, and it may further serve to establish the foundation for a more comprehensive impediment to hostilities, reorganizing Europe's continental equipoise. Also, National sentiment and governmental survival could be prioritized, thus fighting until the last man standing. The decisions finalized within the conference will alter the lives of millions, reshaping the geopolitical landscape of the future.

Definition of Key Terms

Allies

A coalition of nations united during WW2, composed of the United Kingdom, the United States, the Soviet Union, and Free France, committed to the restoration of international equilibrium.

Axis

An alliance formed by Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, and Imperial Japan, advancing doctrines of expansionism.

Operation

A planned military undertaking formulated to attain precise strategic goals, frequently under a confidential title.

Campaign

A sequence of military actions fought in a specific theatre of conflict, intended to achieve dominant tactical or political objectives.

Bushido

The codified ethos of the Japanese samurai, praising martial courage, unwavering loyalty, and an embrace of honorable death; tenets that uphold the martial eagerness of Imperial Japan

Fascism

A governmental system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism, emphasizing aggressive nationalism and often racism.

Armistice

An agreement for the cessation of active hostilities between two or more belligerents. Generally, the terms, scope, and duration of an armistice are determined by the contracting belligerents.

Blitzkrieg

Blitzkrieg, or ‘lightning war,’ is a military strategy devised by the German high command between the two world wars and applied during World War II. It was inspired by lessons drawn from the trench warfare of World War I and became legendary during the early German invasions of 1939–1942.

Realpolitik

A system of politics based on a country's situation and its needs rather than on ideas about what is morally right and wrong.

Historical Background and Key Issues

As the countdown to the Conference of Palermo begins, it is necessary to admire and place into perspective the strategic thought that has gone into the formulation of the campaign of Sicily. The ensuing timeline outlines the key geopolitical and military developments that have led to this conference, serving as a reference point for history and a starting point for future decision-making.

1936 - Formation of the Rome-Berlin Axis

Mussolini and Hitler formalized their alliance in 1936 with the Rome–Berlin Axis, committing Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany to political and military cooperation, thus setting the groundwork for joint expansion in Europe, the Mediterranean, and North Africa.

March 1939 - Expansion to the Balkans

Nazi Germany occupies the remainder of Czechoslovakia, and Italy invades Albania, marking a clear demonstration of Mussolini's strategic ambitions in the Balkans and the wider Mediterranean basin.

August 23 1939 - Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact

Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany to a non-aggression pact assuring each other of mutual neutrality, with secret annexes partitioning Eastern Europe into spheres of influence. It allowed Hitler to assault Poland without the fear of Soviet action and Stalin to acquire territorial concessions, opening the way straight away to the coordinated invasions of Poland in September 1939.

September 1939 - Invasion of Poland

Nazi Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939, with Blitzkrieg, overpowering its defenses. The Soviet Union invaded from the east on September 17 under the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact, leading to the division of Poland and the commencement of the Second World War. Nazi Germany and the USSR took full possession of Polish territory by the latter half of September and into October, while Mussolini refrained from directly engaging Italy but aligned it further with Nazi Germany.

October ~ December 1939 - Phoney war

October to December 1939 was the "Phoney War" with minor activity on the Western Front, with both parties avoiding any grand operations. War was mostly limited to sea warfare and economic sea warfare. During these months, Italy was still not involved in the war but paid close attention, laying the groundwork for impending goals in the Mediterranean.

July ~ October 1940 - Battle of Britain

Nazi Germany's attempt to gain air superiority over the United Kingdom was repelled by the Royal Air Force, forcing Hitler to postpone plans for an invasion.

September ~ October 1940 - Italian Offensives Falter

Italian troops crossed from Libya to Egypt, and subsequently from Albania to Greece. Both campaigns soon faltered, resulting in German intervention and widening the war in the Mediterranean.

April ~ June 1941 - Balkans Campaign and Barbarossa

Nazi Germany invaded Denmark, Norway, the Low Countries, and France, isolating Britain against Nazi Germany in Western Europe. On 10 June, Italy declared war on Britain and France, hoping for territorial expansion in the Mediterranean and North Africa. On 22 June 1941, Operation Barbarossa began, a German invasion of the Soviet Union that opened the Eastern Front and put additional pressure on Axis resources.

December 7, 1941 – Pearl Harbor

Japan's attack on the United States drew America into the war, after which Nazi Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, driving the conflict into a fully global war.

February 1942 - Coup of Çakmak and Declaration of the Ottoman Imperial State

Çakmak overthrew the İnönü administration and proclaimed the establishment of the Ottoman Imperial State. After appointing Ahmed Nihad, grandson of Sultan Murad V, as Sultan, he proceeded to form alliances with Germany and other Axis powers, formally entering the war.

March 1942 - Declaration of the Fourth International Republic

Stimulated by Çakmak's declaration of the Ottoman Imperial State, Trotsky announced the Fourth International Republic. While Stalin's forces were engaged on the Western Front, Trotsky consolidated his power in the East, increasing pressure on the USSR.

June ~ November 1942 – Mediterranean Conflict

General Erwin Rommel's German-Italian army forces in North Africa advanced deep into Egypt, advancing toward the Suez Canal. Control of the canal was crucial to Allied supply lines between Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, and its fall would have provided Axis dominance of the Mediterranean. By fall, however, British forces halted Rommel's advance at El Alamein and drove the Axis back, opening the way for the end of the North African campaign and enabling Allied strategy to move forward with an advance on Sicily.

January 1943 – Casablanca Conference

The Allied high command convened in Morocco to determine the course of the war, following the anticipated Axis defeat in North Africa. The Allies finalized their decision to launch an invasion of Sicily.

July 9, 1943 ~ October 1943 – War of Sicily (Operation Husky)

The Allies invaded Sicily through airborne and seaborne landings. Despite initial success in securing beachheads, the operation did not result in an immediate collapse of Axis defenses, devolving into a prolonged engagement and inflicting severe casualties on both sides.

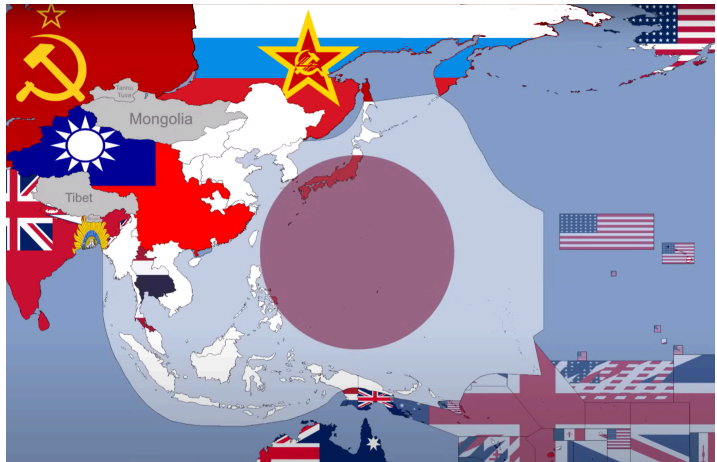
October 12, 1943 – Conference of Palermo

Allied commanders met in Palermo to coordinate the final push across Sicily, cut off Axis forces retreating toward Messina, and prepare for the invasion of mainland Italy. The meeting took place as Mussolini's regime was collapsing, as he would be removed from power on 25 July, adding urgency to Allied planning.

Maps of October, 1943







(Map of Europe)



(Map of Asia)

List of directors

Name	Nationality	Term of Office
Adolf Hitler 	Nazi Germany 	<p>Adolf Hitler is the <i>Führer</i> of Nazi Germany and commander-in-chief of the German army. The empire and the throne of the <i>Führer</i> are at stake. Failure with Operation Barbarossa led to an absolute massacre for the German forces. National sentiment is sour for the Nazi party, and the urge for peace is increasing. One must secure both the authority and the nation from this crisis.</p>
Tojo Hideki 	Empire of Japan 	<p>Tojo Hideki is the general of the Imperial Army and the prime minister of the Empire of Japan. The campaign has started, and the mainland of the empire is being firebombed. However, as the national ideology is driven by bushido, thus fighting to the last man standing. Surrender is not an option. One must preserve honor in defeat while preparing for the uncertain dawn of a post-war Japan.</p>

<p>Dwight David Eisenhower</p> 	<p>United States of America</p> 	<p>Dwight David Eisenhower is the Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. The German defenses remain fierce in Sicily, and the cost in lives is staggering. The Allies looked to Eisenhower to hold the coalition together, balancing the demands of the nation's isolationism and the hopes of millions under Nazi rule.</p>
<p>F.D.R. (Franklin Delano Roosevelt)</p> 	<p>United States of America</p> 	<p>Franklin Delano Roosevelt is the president of the United States of America. The memories of neutrality and the nation's deep-rooted isolationism linger beneath the surface, challenging Roosevelt's resolve to keep the country committed to the global struggle. Abroad, victory at Stalingrad and campaigns in North Africa signal a turning tide, but the cost remains immense in Sicily. With the 1944 election approaching, the nation must decide whether the need for stability under a wartime president is against the tradition of change.</p>
<p>Winston Churchill</p> 	<p>United Kingdom</p> 	<p>Winston Churchill is the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. By 1943, Britain had endured the Blitz, stood alone in 1940, and now fought alongside America and the Soviet Union. Churchill must balance the demands of Roosevelt and Stalin, preserving Britain's voice among giants while ensuring the survival of a fading empire. Yet it is sure, the sole purpose is to ensure the death of the evil empires from revival.</p>
<p>Benito Mussolini</p> 	<p>Kingdom of Italy</p> 	<p>Benito Mussolini is the Duce of Fascist Italy. By 1943, the Italian empire crumbled as defeats in North Africa and the Allied troops' in Sicily shook the foundations of his rule. German troops flood Italy to keep him in power, but his grip weakens as King Victor Emmanuel and his own council plot his removal. At this state, one must acclaim authority against collapsing armies and turning people.</p>

<p>Philippe Pétain</p> 	<p>Vichy France</p> 	<p>Philippe Pétain is the Chief of State of Vichy France. By 1943, France lay under German occupation, its authoritarian Vichy regime only functioning as a nominal government. Pétain's reputation constantly deteriorates as he is commonly seen as a figurehead under Nazi control. His objective is to regain power while avoiding full annexation and maintaining maximum autonomy.</p>
<p>Charles de Gaulle</p> 	<p>Free France</p> 	<p>Charles de Gaulle is the leader of Free France. By 1943, France lay under German control, its Vichy government collaborating with the enemy, while de Gaulle commanded from exile in London and Algiers. Though dismissed by Roosevelt as not important and distrusted by Churchill, he stands as the only voice claiming to speak for a conquered nation. His task is to unite fractured resistance movements, restoring France to honor.</p>
<p>Joseph Stalin</p> 	<p>Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</p> 	<p>Joseph Stalin is the General Secretary of the Communist Party and the supreme leader of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. By 1943, the Red Army had endured the siege of Leningrad and the horrors of Stalingrad, barely achieving victory from devastation. His country is threatened sideways, with Hitler on the Western front and Trotsky on the East. Stalin holds absolute power, balancing terror and inspiration to keep the nation united. Yet he must also manage fragile alliances with the Allied forces.</p>
<p>Chiang Kai-shek</p> 	<p>Republic of China</p> 	<p>Chiang Kai-shek is the Generalissimo of the Republic of China and the leader of the Nationalist government. By 1943, China experienced six full years of pure suffering in the form of the war against Japan; its cities were bombed, its people starved, and its armies bled. Though an ally of Roosevelt and Churchill, Chiang must balance both fighting the Japanese invader and the growing threat of Mao's communists within.</p>

<p>Francisco Franco</p> 	<p>Kingdom of Spain</p> 	<p>Francisco Franco is the Caudillo of Spain. By 1943, his nation stood weary and divided, marked by the scars of brother against brother. Spain is currently and officially neutral in the global conflict, yet its sympathies tilt toward the Axis that once secured Franco's rise. Now, as the war shifts, Mussolini's Italy begins to crumble, and Allied strength grows by the month. Franco faces a perilous choice: continue courting Hitler and risk Spain's destruction, or pivot toward the Allies to preserve his dictatorship.</p>
<p>Miklós Horthy</p> 	<p>Kingdom of Hungary</p> 	<p>Miklós Horthy is the regent of the Kingdom of Hungary. By 1943, he suffered devastating losses against the USSR, notably losing 70 percent of his army during the Battle of Stalingrad—one of the worst military disasters in Hungarian history. The nation is desperate to find a way out of the war, the public sentiment turning against the alliance with Germany. One must reconsider diplomacy while preserving the country's independence and contemplate ways to meet the demands of the country.</p>
<p>Henri Guisan</p> 	<p>Switzerland</p> 	<p>Henri Guisan is the General of the Swiss Army and defender of Switzerland's neutrality. By 1943, the Axis controlled nearly all of Europe, and Switzerland stood as a small island of independence surrounded by Hitler's Reich and Mussolini's Italy. Guisan's Réduit National plan prepares the army to retreat into the Alps, turning mountains into fortresses should an invasion come. The Swiss people endure rationing, constant mobilization, and the shadow of occupation, yet morale depends on their leadership. He must balance fragile neutrality—trading with both Allies and Axis—while preparing to fight to the last valley if sovereignty is threatened.</p>

<p>Fevzi Çakmak</p> 	<p>Ottoman Imperial State</p> 	<p>Fevzi Çakmak is the Grand Vizier and Supreme Commander of the Ottoman Empire. Çakmak was originally the highest-ranking general of the Turkish Republic during İnönü's presidency. However, with the commencement of the Second World War, an ideological difference between Çakmak and İnönü started to become apparent. While Çakmak's militarily assertive and religiously conservative views saw an opportunity to bring back the nation's faded glory, İnönü pursued strict neutrality. In the initial years of the war, Çakmak had no choice but to yield to İnönü's politics.</p> <p>However, after Operation Barbarossa's failure, Çakmak's inherent anti-communism lost patience. Eventually, in February of 1942, Çakmak overthrew the İnönü administration and declared his new nation as the Ottoman Imperial State. After appointing Ahmed Nihad, grandson of Sultan Murad V, as Sultan, he proceeded to form alliances with Germany and other Axis powers, officially participating in the war. Çakmak must legitimize his authority, demonstrate his strength to other nations, engage in strategic diplomacy, and ultimately restore the nation to the greatness of its imperial past.</p>
<p>Leon Trotsky</p> 	<p>Fourth International Republic</p> 	<p>Leon Trotsky is the General Secretary of the Fourth International Republic. Trotsky, known to be assassinated by Stalin in 1940, had in fact staged his death. While Stalin suffered on the Western front during Operation Barbarossa, Trotsky covertly gained power in the East. With increasingly more people getting tired of war, Anti-Stalinism gained popularity. Eventually in March of 1942, he declared the establishment of the Fourth International Republic. The objective of Trotsky is to succeed in his revolution against Stalin's regime. While his republic is not necessarily definable as an Axis power, his threat towards the USSR, a major Allied power, is perspicuous. However, it is up to Trotsky to decide whether he should unite powers with the Axis, who undoubtedly have a common enemy, to accomplish his goals.</p>

Significant Parties Involved and Their Views

Allied Forces

After securing North Africa by early 1943, the Allied forces shifted to a Mediterranean strategy that opened with the invasion of Sicily and preparation for landings on the Italian mainland. Although leaders debated the timing of a cross-Channel invasion and how best to coordinate with the Soviet Union's push in the East, they maintained coalition cohesion through combined planning, Lend-Lease, and an expanding strategic bombing campaign. The Allies have committed to the principle of unconditional surrender and are using naval, air, and ground pressure to degrade Axis capacity while supporting resistance movements across occupied Europe. Their approach balances immediate military gains in the Mediterranean with the buildup required to return to France. The Allied view emphasizes decisive, coordinated offensives to shorten the war and shape a stable post-war order.

Axis

By 1943, the Axis coalition had entered a period of mounting strain as Nazi Germany reeled from defeats at Stalingrad and in Tunisia, Italy faced military collapse and political crisis, and Japan shifted to a defensive posture against U.S. island-hopping in the Pacific. The Ottoman Imperial State sought to expand influence across the Caucasus and reclaim former imperial territories, but faced mounting resistance in the Levant and internal instability. In Hungary, growing dissatisfaction with the war and territorial insecurities led to friction with Berlin. Although Berlin seeks to stabilize fronts through fortified defences, intensified submarine warfare, and exploitation of occupied economies, fuel shortages, manpower attrition, and strategic bombing undermine its efforts. Rome confronts collapsing morale, aerial bombardment, and Allied advances that embolden factions seeking an armistice, even as German forces tighten control. Tokyo aims to hold an inner defensive perimeter and impose high costs to force more favorable terms, but shipping losses and growing air inferiority erode its position. Constantinople, the symbolic and administrative center of the Ottoman Imperial State, contends with strained supply lines, factional rivalries within the military elite, and uprisings in newly seized borderlands. Budapest, increasingly in danger of German occupation, navigates political unrest, economic exhaustion, and secret overtures to the Allies. The Axis view is increasingly fragmented, oscillating between fighting on to avoid collapse and exploring exits that could preserve remnants of power.

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