



Hello delegates!

My name is Chris Copeland, and I'll be chairing the British War Cabinet committee! I'm an MIT sophomore from central Massachusetts studying biology, planning on attending medical school! I participated in Model UN through all four years of high school, and I served on MITMUNC's Secretariat last year. Participation in crisis committees has contributed significantly to the highlights of my MUN career, and is been the source of my fondest MUN-mories (I love making really bad puns, too!). I'm super excited to chair this committee; I can't wait to hear the creative ideas that you come up with to come out victorious by the end of the weekend. I'll be practicing my British accent to make the crisis experience as authentic as possible! I've always loved MUN, and I hope I can make committee as fun as possible for you guys!

My name is Katie O'Neill, and I'll be chairing the French War Cabinet committee! If this is your first conference with MIT, or your first conference ever, an extra special welcome! Model UN is an incredibly rewarding experience, and I think you'll find the combination of wide scope and nuance particularly interesting. I'm a junior studying Brain and Cognitive Sciences with a minor in Computer Science and a concentration in Secondary Education, so if you're interested in any of those things or just MIT in general, feel free to ask me about them at lunch or after the conference.

In terms of how your committee will run, we will be in permanent moderated caucus, and we will operate with directives over the course of committee. We will also receive various crisis updates, which will be a result of the directives that have been passed, the portfolio powers you use, or they will have been planned by your lovely chairs!

Of course, if you have any questions or would like guidance in your research to prepare for MITMUNC, feel free to reach out to either of us!

Happy preparations!
See you all in February,

Chris Copeland (George II) and Katie O'Neill (Louis XV)

Statement of the Problem

The Summer of 1754. Tensions between superpowers on the European continent are reaching an all-time high, especially between France and Britain, who have been seeking dominance in a race for colonial expansion. Still in shock after the War of Austrian Succession, Europe sits dormant, waiting for another inevitable conflict to erupt. The balance of power between Great Britain, France, Prussia and Austria teeters gingerly, awaiting disruption to throw the continent into havoc and another war.

Meanwhile, across the Atlantic, this tension has translated to colonial relations between France and Great Britain. Both nations hope to claim as much from these Imperial claims as possible. The Ohio River Valley, largely unsettled, sits nestled between these two superpowers, and has incredible importance. In addition to being resource-rich undeveloped land in America, its location serves as a tactical advantage that could be used by its occupier to prevent easy expansion into the country by the other power. France is solidifying and expanding its colonial hold over North America by constructing a series of forts close to their border with the British colonies, namely Fort Duquesne within the Ohio River Valley. Britain had been playing a more passive role in their colonies, allowing the American colonists to develop their society, but had already expanded and began settling in the Valley with the Ohio Company of Virginia. However, they cannot rest well knowing the French are aggressively settling land which they themselves have claimed. Conflict is on the horizon. Prepare for war.

History of the Problem

The British and French rivalry has been brewing since the two nations formed, spanning back to William the Conqueror's invasion of the British Isles and the Hundred Years War, which

occurred centuries after that. Having to fight for the favor of other European states, resources and dominance over each other, these nations have struggled to see eye-to eye, and have often been found on opposite sides of larger European conflicts. One of the most recent, the War of Austrian Succession, set the stage for the French and Indian War to erupt. The conflict, which ended in 1748, was fought as a result of the Prussian invasion of Silesia in 1741, which was done to prevent the succession of Maria Theresa to the throne of the Holy Roman Empire. As they often did, Britain and France took opposite sides in the war, the Brits supporting Maria Theresa and the French backing Frederick II of Prussia. As with most wars, troops were dispatched, and battles raged across the continent. Among France's territorial gains was the Austrian Netherlands. Given the volatility between France and Britain, skirmishes sprang up in the colonies of North America, mainly resulting in the British gaining control of Louisburg, a French stronghold in Nova Scotia, after a six-week siege. The war ended in the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, which affirmed Maria Theresa as Holy Roman Emperor, respected the Prussian conquest of Silesia, and largely reversed all other territorial conquests. Both Britain and France, who fought hard for their respective victories in North America and Europe, lost their gains as a result of this peace agreement, which only further fueled the mutual disdain between nations.

At the end of the War of Austrian Succession, while some of these territorial issues were directly resolved in the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the treaty did not address the disputed claims between France and Britain in the Americas, which spanned from Canada down to the Ohio River Valley. As both began to settle these areas, the British colonies sent settlers, who sought to build towns and outposts to claim territory, and French colonies sent soldiers, who built forts to lay claim to the new land.

Past Actions

Following the death of the Governor-General of New France, a new leader called Longueuil takes over. Longueuil dispatched an expedition to punish the Miami people of Pickawillany for disobeying orders to cease trade with the British. In spring of 1753, the French continued fort construction to protect the land in the Ohio Valley from the British. However, this development triggered the British to meet with Native American representatives on obligations to block the French expansion.

The governor of Virginia at the time, Governor Robert Dinwiddie, was an investor in the Ohio Company. He felt financially unstable as a result of the French expansion, as he could potentially a huge sum of money if the French could hold their territory. Therefore, Governor Dinwiddie ordered a regimen to demand immediate withdrawal of the French from the Ohio County. This was under claims that the British explorer, Rene-Robert Cavelier, had already step foot onto those lands almost a century earlier. This regimen was led by George Washington, an up-and-coming British soldier from Virginia. Despite this, the French proceeded to build what would become Fort Duquesne. In response, George Washington led another party, along with William Trent, to overtake the fort and reclaim this Ohioan land for Great Britain. Once near the fort, Washington and Trent learned of a French scout party nearby, which they ambushed. The British were able to kill most of the members of the party, including Joseph Coulon de Jumonville, after who this battle is named. The Battle of Jumonville Glen is seen as the beginning of the French and Indian War. Following their victory, Washington and his troops fell back, and formed Fort Necessity. Approximately a month after, however, the French attacked Fort Necessity, forcing a

surrender from George Washington and subsequent retreat of British troops from the Ohio River Valley.

Possible Solutions: French War Cabinet

Similarly to many other European countries at the time, the French was a rising global presence that sought to assert its dominance through expanding through land acquisitions. Your primary task is to maximize French gains and neuter the British expansion into America. One major problem with the expansion is that the French lay claim to far more territory than the English did, yet the French territory was sparsely populated. Therefore, French territory was often not marked by the existence of outposts or towns but simple forts manned by only a few men, so it was hard for the French to control the land acquired. When historians look into the French and Indian War, it is common to think that this war is a guerilla war through many surprise attacks. In addition, there were many Native American tribes involved that played a significant role in pitting the two European powers against each other. Developing and maintaining these relationships with Native Americans will be crucial to your victory. In addition, keep in mind the importance of strong military tactics as we fight the Brits. Of course, you are also able to utilize your portfolio powers to their fullest extents in order to gain an advantage over the British. Creativity and ingenuity will be instrumental in our victory!

Bloc Positions: French War Cabinet

Louis-Joseph de Montcalm: The commander of forces in New France, Montcalm served through the entirety of the French and Indian War for the French. A traditionalist, Montcalm believed that the war should be fought as European wars are fought: with defined campaigns and

battles. **Portfolio Powers:** Has control over the French military in North America, and can plan campaigns for the war.

Nicolas Sarrebource de Pontleroy: A captain and chief engineer to Montcalm, Pontleroy was a weathered soldier, having served in the War of Austrian Succession and awarded the French Cross for his valour. **Portfolio Powers:** As an engineer, Pontleroy has the power to make changes to the forts and infrastructure around New France to best prepare for attacks or sieges. He can also seek out different technological options for the French Army to utilize over the course of the war.

François-Gaston de Lévis: The second-in-command to Montcalm, Lévis fought in several wars for France prior to his military stint in the Americas. A confident and determined officer, Lévis often found himself between Montcalm and Rigaud, the two of which often argued. **Portfolio Powers:** Lévis is capable of controlling military operations for New France.

Jacques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre: A French military officer and explorer, Saint-Pierre spent his younger years exploring unsettled American land to the west. In addition to his military expertise and familiarity to the frontier, Saint-Pierre also has experience interpreting for Native Americans, and often found himself handling differences between warring tribes. **Portfolio Powers:** As a military officer, Saint-Pierre can command troops around North America for the French. Additionally, he can commission for explorers to venture through uncharted territory in search of resources or trade.

Pierre de Rigaud, Marquis de Vaudreuil: Governor-General of New France during the French and Indian War, Marquis de Vaudreuil led the colonies in their war against the British. During the early years of the war, he utilized many Native American warriors, in addition to French troops, to fight the British to great effect. **Portfolio Powers:** As the Governor-General of New France, Marquis de Vaudreuil can use and allocate the resources of the colonies as he sees fit to fight the British. As a colonial leader, he can also boost troop and colonist morale with the proper actions.

Jacques-Pierre de Taffanel de la Jonquière: A French admiral and previous Governor of New France, de la Jonquière had decades of naval experience, serving in the military from his pre-teen years on. **Portfolio Powers:** de la Jonquière has the ability to control the French navy. As such, he can coordinate movements and naval battle strategy, as well as order the building of new ships.

Pontiac: An Odawa war chief, Pontiac helped defend the Ohio River Valley against the British, and fought vigorously for the French. **Portfolio Powers:** Pontiac, as a Native American leader, serves as an ambassador for the Ottawa people and other allied tribes. He has the ability to make decisions for his tribe, and also to call upon Native American warriors to help fight against the British or opposing tribes.

Charles Michel de Langlade: Born the son of a French fur trader and an Ottawa Native American, Langlade took after his father and traded furs, while also a war chief for the First Nations. Langlade led the French and Native American forces that Longueuil dispatched to

punish the Miamis of Pickawillany. **Portfolio Powers:** Langlade, with his knowledge of both the Ottawa and French languages, can act as an ambassador between the French and Native American tribes, and can negotiate between decisions of alliances, war, and the formation of trade partnerships.

Pierre Maillard: A French-born Catholic priest and missionary, Maillard was stationed on modern-day Prince Phillip Island, then known as Ile Royale, where he interacted with the Mi'kmaq tribe of the area. A man of God, Maillard sought to promote peace and often negotiated treaties, but was willing to stand up for his country when the situation called for war. **Portfolio Powers:** As a Catholic priest, Maillard can publish encyclicals to be spread through the New French Catholic community, along with Native American tribes that have been converted by missionaries. Additionally, Maillard can reach out to the Mi'kmaq people for general aid, whether that be military or otherwise.

Francois-Joachim de Pierre de Bernis: A Catholic cardinal and friend of the crown, de Bernis was the French Secretary of Foreign Affairs. During his time at the post, he helped negotiate the Austro-French alliance of the Seven Years War. **Portfolio Powers:** de Bernis will serve as foreign diplomat for the French War Cabinet. He will be able to, and encouraged to, exchange correspondence with both the British War Cabinet and other European powers, including Prussia and the Holy Roman Empire.

Possible Solutions: British War Cabinet

The overarching goal of the British empire in its overseas colonies is to expand. This war was started because of French opposition to our long-term Imperial objective. Your goal is to handle this disruption accordingly so we can claim complete and rightful possession over the Ohio River Valley and continue our conquest and settlement of the American continent.

To accomplish such a task, you have a variety of tools at your dispense. War has been declared, and strong military campaigns to the West and North will be necessary to maintain our colonies and protect our citizens. Whether these campaigns act offensively to take territory and assert dominance, or act defensively to conserve resources, is up to our British generals and the committee as a whole to decide. You have the full might of the British army at your disposal. However, beware: While you are able to request for more troops from the British Isles, be aware of travel time and the impact that a reduction of troop numbers may have on the strength of the rest of the empire. You are also able to use colonial militias and any local resources if you deem to use them to avoid calling more natively British soldiers. In addition to ground troops, we can make use of Great Britain's superior navy to apply pressure to economically valuable French ports around the world. Again, always be aware of potential repercussions that these blockades may have.

While Great Britain is indubitably the greatest empire the world has ever seen, don't be discouraged from reaching out to allies or forging new relationships that you can take advantage of. While we have been allied with Maria Theresa's Holy Roman Empire for decades, relations have been tense since the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle. Be open to anything that may give us a strategic advantage in the war. European alliances aren't the only available options. The Native Americans indigenous to the war fronts have a distinct advantage at navigation and knowledge of

guerilla warfare tactics that may prove useful, if deemed necessary by the cabinet. Our operations on the American continent can be made or broken by these Native Americans, so it is important to ensure our reputation remains strong with them to ensure we can minimize our number of enemies.

Of course, you are also able to utilize your portfolio powers to their fullest extents in order to gain an advantage over the French. Also, don't be afraid to pursue a different option! Creativity and ingenuity will be instrumental in our victory!

Bloc Positions: British War Cabinet

John Campbell, Earl of Loudoun: The commander-in-chief of the British colonies at the beginning of the French and Indian War following the death of Edward Braddock. While a weak tactician, Campbell made many improvements in military infrastructure throughout his time as commander-in-chief. **Portfolio Powers:** Able to command the British troops of North America and coordinate on all fronts of the war, and can make any changes to military standards or equipment. Also capable of enlisting colonists, if deemed necessary for success.

George Washington: A young, up-and-coming soldier in the British army, Washington was sent up to Ohio by Robert Dinwiddie in response to French forts being built on British-claimed soil.

Portfolio Powers: Possesses the capability to command British troops and coordinate troop movement and attacks within the Ohio River Valley. As a young charismatic soldier, Washington has more sway with colonists than some of the other generals.

Jeffrey Amherst: A general in the British army, Amherst was originally stationed in Europe at the beginning of the Seven Years War, then was transferred to North America. A brilliant and ingenious strategist, Amherst was a pioneer in siege techniques, and was named Commander-in-Chief later in the war. **Portfolio Powers:** Jeffrey Amherst can command British army forces across North America, change military standards and equipment, or enlist colonists to fight.

Robert Rogers: Robert Rogers was a ranger in New Hampshire, and was the commander of Rogers' Rangers, a group of guerilla fighters who would raid French towns at the edge between French and British territorial claims. While a British sympathizer through and through, the military never fully recognized him for his role in the war. **Portfolio Powers:** Robert Rogers is capable of conducting small-scale guerilla warfare missions to fight the French. Rogers, being a native colonist, can also reach out to colonists more readily and will have an easier time enlisting them to fight for the British cause.

Edward Boscawen: The vice-admiral and eventual admiral of the British Royal Navy, Boscawen, a massively respected figure, had immense experience in commanding his naval troops in battle, having already served in the War of Jenkin's Ear and the War of Austrian Succession. In addition to his military involvement, Boscawen was also a member of Parliament. **Portfolio Powers:** As an admiral of the Royal Navy, Boscawen has the ability to command the British navy to suit his and his country's needs. However, Boscawen will need to coordinate his plans with Holmes in order for them to be more likely to be put into action.

Charles Holmes: A rear-admiral of the Royal Navy, Charles Holmes was involved in command of the navy over the course of the war. He was the commander of the HMS Grafton during the outbreak of the war. **Portfolio Powers:** Holmes can command naval vessels of the Royal Navy. He will need to work closely with Edward Boscawen, another high-ranking officer, to make his orders more favorable to put into effect.

William Shirley: The governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Shirley served an important role in the northern campaign of the war. As a local government leader, colonists have great respect for the man, and Shirley can be used to bolster colonial support for the war. **Portfolio Power:** Shirley has control over the Massachusetts Bay Colony, and can use the resources of the colony as he sees fit to facilitate an easy British victory. He can call town hall meetings to gauge public opinions of various policies that the committee may decide to put in place. He can also attempt to change colony laws.

Robert Dinwiddie: The lieutenant-governor of the colony of Virginia, Dinwiddie sent George Washington on his initial journey to Ohio to protect the lieutenant-governor's investment in the Ohio Company of Virginia. While only lieutenant-governor, Dinwiddie was regarded the leader of the colony due to the absence of the governor. **Portfolio Powers:** Dinwiddie can control Virginia Colony's assets and resources to contribute to the British fight against the French. He can also gauge public opinion within his colony, and can also attempt to change colony laws.

William Johnson: William Johnson was a British official residing in New York, on land in the middle of Mohawk territory. Learning the Mohawk language and Iroquois customs, Johnson

began negotiating with the Iroquois League and served as an influential part of fostering and maintaining the British alliance with the Iroquois League. **Portfolio Power:** Johnson can communicate with the Iroquois League and can arrange for various agreements to strengthen Britain's relationship with its Native American allies.

Tanaghrisson, The Half-King: A member of the Iroquois League, Tanaghrisson was an Iroquois living in the Ohio River Valley. He was elected Half King by the League, and served as an ambassador to the British. Tanaghrisson believed his father was eaten by the French, thusly was strongly against their settlement of his homeland. **Portfolio Powers:** As a league of the Iroquois League, Tanaghrisson has the ability to recruit Native American fighters to help the British, and use the resources and knowledge of his tribe to benefit the British. He may also negotiate with William Johnson acting as an ambassador of the Iroquois people.

William Pitt: An important political figure of Great Britain, and eventual Prime Minister of Great Britain, Pitt was one of the strongest influences of British policy during the war. His dedication to defeating the French is nearly unmatched, and his passion for Britain is nearly unmatched. **Portfolio Power:** William Pitt will be serving as an ambassador to various European powers over the course of the committee. He will be able to talk to the French ambassador, as well as contact other nations that may be of strategic importance to the war, including Austria and Prussia.

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