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Director's Letter

Dear delegates,

"Poland is at the center of European civilization. It has contributed mightily to that civilization. It is doing so today by being magnificently unreconciled to oppression. Poland's struggle to be Poland and to secure the basic rights we often take for granted demonstrates why we dare not take those rights for granted."

- Ronald Reagan

I disagree with Ronald Reagan on countless topics, but he is not wrong about this one. When Reagan addressed the British parliament in 1982, the so-called People's Republic of Poland was experiencing a period of turmoil. The Soviet Union was weakening and the USSR's satellites were trying to break free. In Poland, this resistance took the form of a movement known as Solidarity. Solidarity eventually prevailed against Poland's puppet government, removing Russian influence from the country. Over six decades earlier, the parents and grandparents of those in Solidarity fought and won against a similar threat. Their unwillingness to submit to foreign oppression helped reforge the Polish nation in the crucible of interwar Europe. As delegates, you will take on the role of some of Poland's most important political figures during this earlier struggle. What Reagan has described as "Poland's struggle to be Poland" is one of the most fascinating phenomena in history. Few countries have endured as much as Poland in the 20th century. However, despite a brutal fight for independence in the 1920s, to the horrors of Nazi occupation, all the way through to the Allies' abandonment of Poland to the Soviets following World War 2, the Poles somehow found a way to continue the struggle for freedom. Yet compared to other nations, the sacrifices of Poland have been largely forgotten by the general public. I hope that researching this committee will give you a new perspective on both Poland and interwar Europe. Delegates I wish you luck in my committee. Remember to be active in backrooms as this is a crisis. If you have any questions regarding the committee, or Model UN in general, do not hesitate to send me an email.

Sincerely,

Nikko Szablowski

Introduction

"The soul of Poland is indestructible... she will rise again as a rock, which may for a spell be submerged by a tidal wave, but which remains a rock."

- Winston Churchill following the 1939 invasion of Poland and the start of World War 2

It is January 26th, 1919 and Europe is in turmoil. The First World War ended three months ago, and along with it came the destruction of Eastern Europe's last major power, the German Empire. Before that, the two other Eastern European powers of Austria-Hungary and Russia

had collapsed in the same war. From the ashes of these three empires a new nation would emerge. After having been wiped off the map over a hundred years earlier, Poland would use the turmoil of postwar Europe to establish itself. Through war and diplomacy the Polish nation would rebuild itself piece by piece. In this committee, delegates will take on the roles of soldiers and politicians who made Poland's restoration possible.

Historical Overview

Early Poland

The idea of a Polish state dates back over a millenia to the mediaeval Kingdom of Poland. The Kingdom of Poland was a relatively small nation whose borders conform closely to modern Poland. In 1226, the Polish nobility called upon the Teutonic Knights, a German holy order, to aid them in defeating pagans in East Prussia. After defeating the pagans, the Teutonic Knights settled the area and assimilated much of the local population. It is here that the Germanisation of the area would begin, which would be very important further down the line. The Teutonic Knights fought a series of wars against Poland, culminating in their defeat and subjugation at the hands of the Poles. The compact, ethnically homogenous Polish nation lasted until 1386. In 1386, Grand Duke Władysław II Jagiello of Lithuania converted to Catholicism and married Queen Jadwiga of Poland. Their marriage led to the creation of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, bringing both nations much closer together. It must be understood that the borders of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania are very different from those of modern Lithuania. Władysław Jagiello's domains encompassed most of modern day Belarus, Ukraine, and Lithuania. With these new territories came large swathes of non Polish minorities. Jews, Ukrainians, Belarussians, and Lithuanians all were added to the new empire. The Polish-Lithuanian Union thus became a multiethnic empire ruled from the Polish capital. By 1569, it became clear that the Jagiellonian line was about to die out. The childless King/Grand Duke Sigismund II of Poland and Lithuania thus decided on a radical solution to both find a successor and maintain the Polish-Lithuanian Union. Sigismund convened the nobles of both Poland and Lithuania in Lublin, where he proclaimed the now famous Union of Lublin. The Union of Lublin essentially dissolved the Polish and Lithuanian states, merging them into the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. However, the functioning of this Commonwealth was even unique among European states. The Union of Lublin vested almost all of the new Commonwealth's authority not in the king, but in the nobility, known as the *szlachta*.

The Golden Liberty

The Act of Lublin turned Poland into a heavily regulated constitutional monarchy. The throne was not hereditary, instead each new king was elected by the male *szlachta*. These *szlachta* represented 15% of the nation's population and had equal political rights amongst themselves. The powerful and wealthy magnate was thus legally equal to the poorest *szlachcic*. Meanwhile, these *szlachta* benefited from the existence of a bicameral *sejm*,

essentially a parliament, lower house was elected by the szlachta. The szlachta were also afforded numerous other rights and privileges such as protection from arbitrary imprisonment, or the right to religious freedom. These rights became collectively known as the Golden Liberty. Due to its constitution, its elected monarchs, and its legislative system, many consider the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth to be the first wide spanning modern democracy. In fact, in Polish the Commonwealth is known as *rzeczpospolita*, which is a Polish version of the Latin *res publica*, which is where the English word republic is derived. It is true that only 15% of the country had rights, but this was more than in any other large European state. Some estimates show that even the United States only granted the franchise to 6% of their adult population upon the nation's founding.

Although the Golden Liberty turned the Commonwealth into one of the most egalitarian states in Europe, at least for the szlachta, it proved to fatally undermine the nation. Decisions in the Sejm had to be reached by a total consensus, which eventually led to near complete political deadlock. Meanwhile, the policy of electing each new monarch caused neighbouring states to try and meddle in the Polish elections. In the mid 17th century, a series of wars with Sweden, Russia, and Brandenburg further eroded Polish power. A 1648 uprising by Ukrainian cossacks ended with Russia annexing much of eastern and central Ukraine from Poland. Meanwhile, Polish influence in the Baltic declined at the hands of Sweden. In 1683, the Commonwealth won a famed victory at Vienna, driving the Ottomans from the city and saving Austria. Only one hundred years later, the Austrians would be dismantling the Commonwealth. By the 18th century, royal elections had simply become contests for the other European powers. Civil wars grew ever more common, while the nobles were used as pawns by rival states. With such disunity, the neighbouring states of Russia, Austria, and Prussia began to eye the Commonwealth's vast territory hungrily.

The Partitions of Poland

Poland's instability would cause its Prussian, Russian, and Austrian neighbours to exert increasing influence over the Commonwealth. This would culminate in three Partitions of Poland which would progressively weaken the *rzeczpospolita*, eventually wiping it from the map. In 1730, the three great powers bordering the Commonwealth made a pact to prevent any changes to Poland's constitution. This was not out of any love of the liberty it provided, but instead because they wanted to continue to exert influence over the country. By the mid 18th century, this pact, alongside general instability caused Poland to essentially become a Russian puppet. In 1764, the Commonwealth's final king, Stanisław II was elected. The fact that he was a former lover of Russian Empress Catherine the Great goes to show how far the *rzeczpospolita* had fallen. Foreign meddling was exemplified by the Repnin Sejm which was presided over by the Russian ambassador Nikolai Repnin. From 1767-1768 Repnin would use threats and bribery to coerce the szlachta into reaffirming all of the principles of Poland's constitution, while simultaneously limiting the power of Poland's independent minded regional szlachta. Repnin went so far as to use the Russian army to imprison his opposition in the sejm. The Repnin Sejm symbolizes how foreign influence had significantly reduced the Commonwealth's autonomy. Following the Repnin Sejm, many outraged szlachta took up arms against the Russians. In response to this revolt, Russian, Austrian, and Prussian troops

marched into Poland to crush the rebels. The Commonwealth's three neighbours then used this insurrection as a justification to annex large portions of Polish territory. The first of three partitions of Poland began with that annexation in 1772.

The loss of territory, along with the country's inability to retaliate, proved to be an unmitigated humiliation for Poland, prompting them to once again seek ways to reform the nation. A little under 20 years after the First Partition of Poland, the Commonwealth inaugurated its revolutionary May Constitution of 1791. Taking inspiration from the French Revolution to the west, this landmark document ended the liberum veto, instituted protections for the peasantry, and gave the franchise to the urban middle class. Although this drastic reform proved to be quite popular among Poland's wider population, it was vehemently opposed by the wealthiest szlachta, the magnates. The magnates stood to lose the most from the protections afforded to the serfs as well as the loss of countless privileges. Deadset on reversing the May Constitution, these magnates banded together to launch a counterrevolution against the reformers. They proceeded to invite the Russian Empire into Poland to crush those in favour of the new constitution. The Russians were all too happy to oblige them, wanting to eliminate any attempts to reform the Commonwealth. Despite some initial victories against the rebels and their benefactors, the reformers saw their hopes dashed when King Stanisław II, who had previously supported the constitution, turned his back on the rebels. With the king on their side, the Russian armies destroyed any remaining reformers. Unfortunately for the magnates who welcomed the Russians into the country, Russia's aim was not solely to restore the Golden Liberty. Instead, Russia joined together with Prussia in annexing further swathes of Polish territory. This second partition was yet another humiliation for both Poland and for the magnates who fought against the reformers. In the wake of the Second Partition of Poland, anger began to build among the Polish population. A sense of betrayal among the population gave fuel to the movement that aimed to reform the Commonwealth. In 1794, Polish reformers led by the republican officer Tadeusz Kościuszko rose up against Russian influence. Kościuszko's forces won several victories against the Russians. However, the numerically superior Russians eventually overwhelmed the rising. Seeking to avoid future revolts, Austria, Prussia, and Russia signed the third and final partition of Poland. The Third Partition of Poland divided up the country's remaining territory between the three powers. Some rights and privileges of the Golden Liberty were maintained, however, these would be slowly eroded. Thousands of szlachta families who supported the uprising were stripped of their lands, while the newly freed peasants were returned to serfdom. For all intents and purposes, the Polish state ceased to

exist on October 24th, 1795.



Above is a map of Poland's three partitions. While there have been several demographic changes, many of these regions still maintain Polish populations. When reforming the Polish state, delegates should aim to secure territory that was once in the Commonwealth.

Partitioned Poland

With their kingdom divided between three great powers, the Poles would spend the next century fighting to establish their nation. Their first failed opportunity came during Napoleon's campaigns in Eastern Europe. The French Emperor set up a much smaller Polish state called the Grand Duchy of Warsaw. Polish soldiers were instrumental to Napoleon's campaign in Russia. However, Napoleon was defeated and the duchy was dissolved. There would be notable revolts in 1831, 1848, and 1863. These were all in vain, as the Poles were unable to contend with the combined forces of the three great powers occupying their country. Germany and Russia spent this time banning Polish-language schools and attempting to assimilate the Polish population. This would all change on June 28th 1914, when Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria Hungary was assassinated. The ensuing war pitted Poland's occupiers against each other, giving Poland the chance to achieve the freedom it had long desired.

World War I

Poland's independence would have been impossible if not for the First World War. The Central Powers of Germany and Austria Hungary faced the Entente powers of Russia, Britain, and France. Much of the fighting on the Eastern Front occurred in the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In order to gain recruits each side of the war offered concessions of Polish autonomy. Both these concessions, alongside the recruitment of Polish soldiers, would prove to be invaluable for future independence efforts.

Initially, Polish politicians were torn on which side to support. Roman Dmowski, a Polish politician living in Russia, argued that the Poles should side with the Russians against the Central Powers in order to gain autonomy in the future. At the same time, military officer Józef Piłsudski believed that Poland should side with the Central Powers in the short term. Piłsudski thought that the Poles should help the Central Powers defeat the Russians, predicting that Britain and France would eventually beat the Central Powers. This would allow Poland to establish itself in the ensuing vacuum. In order to help fight the Russians, Piłsudski formed the Polish Legions out of Poles from Austria-Hungary. The Polish Legions would one day form the backbone of the independent Polish Army. In short, Dmowski believed that Poland should align with Russia to ensure future autonomy, while Piłsudski favoured independence through an opportunistic alliance with the Central Powers. Piłsudski's predictions proved to be accurate, as Russia completely mismanaged their war effort and found themselves pushed out of Poland by 1916. However, the local Polish population suffered greatly during the fighting, facing persecution from both sides. Poland was devastated.

In 1916, the Germans were desperately in need of recruits. In order to inspire Poles to join their army, Germany formed a Polish puppet state out of some of its conquered Russian territory. This kingdom was governed by a Regency Council and existed at the whim of Germany. However, it was a nominally independent Polish state which governed Polish territory. Despite Germany's efforts, the Kingdom of Poland failed to attract recruits, since it was seen as merely an extension of Germany.



On the left is a map of the puppet Kingdom of Poland set up by the Germans, this map is the work of user Pogo91 of Wikipedia. On the right is a map of the Eastern Front of WWI.

In 1917, Piłsudski's prediction for the Great War started to become reality. Germany started to weaken on the Western Front, while the United States joined the war on the Entente side. Seeing Germany's defeat as imminent, Piłsudski began to align himself with the Entente. This prompted the Oath Crisis, where Germany tried forcing the Polish Legions to swear oaths of fealty to the German Kaiser and to be folded into the German army. Under orders from Piłsudski, many legionnaires refused to take the oath and were interned. Piłsudski himself was arrested and imprisoned by the Germans for his role in the crisis.

By the Fall of 1918 Germany was firmly beaten on the Western Front. Shortly before their capitulation, they released Piłsudski from prison and sent him on a train to Warsaw. The Kingdom of Poland quickly gave up power to Piłsudski due to his fame. Piłsudski was named Chief of State, a temporary dictator, with the task of restoring Poland. On November 11, 1918, the same day that Germany surrendered, Józef Piłsudski declared independence and the creation of the Second Polish Republic, the first republic being the Commonwealth. For the first time in over a century, Poland was truly back.

Recent Events and the Current Situation

Following Germany's capitulation to the western Entente on November 11, 1918, many different regions of Poland rose up and began to govern themselves. Over the next few months, these regions were absorbed into the new republic and administration was handed back to Warsaw. A socialist cabinet run by Jędrzej Moraczewski failed to achieve support from the country. Moraczewski planned to institute several left wing reforms such as the nationalization of key industry, which angered conservatives, prompting a failed coup from the extreme right. Despite its failure, the attempt caused Moraczewski's cabinet to resign, leading to the creation of the current, more centrist, government of Ignacy Paderewski. Paderewski swiftly called elections to a Polish parliament, called a Sejm, but pronounced saym. These elections would be essential to adding democratic representation to the new Polish government, giving the Polish population a say in their future. The parliamentary elections of 1919 were not all held at once and included deputies from across the Polish speaking world. This included representatives from areas not yet controlled by the Polish government such as Eastern Galicia. While this parliament lacks formal power, it serves as a representative of the Polish population and their goals, giving them popular support. Our committee will begin with this parliamentary election on January 26th, 1919. Any events that occurred afterwards are irrelevant to your research and should **not** be referenced under any circumstance. As it stands, the committee controls substantial territory and has a relatively

strong army, more details can be found below.

| All 394 seats in Legislative Sejm 198 seats needed for a majority | | | |
|--|------------------------|--------|-------|
| Party | Leader | Vote % | Seats |
| ZLN | Wojciech Korfanty | 28.96 | 140 |
| PSL "Wyzwolenie" | Błażej Stolarski [pl] | 15.05 | 59 |
| ŻRN | Izaak Grünbaum | 10.80 | 11 |
| PPS | Ignacy Daszyński | 9.23 | 35 |
| PSL "Piast" | Wincenty Witos | 4.17 | 46 |
| PZL | Józef Ostachowski [pl] | 3.80 | 35 |
| PSL "Lewica" | Jan Stapiński [pl] | 3.54 | 12 |
| SKL | Leon Wałęga [pl] | 1.83 | 18 |
| German lists | – | 1.73 | 2 |
| NZR | Stanisław Nowicki [pl] | 1.21 | 32 |
| Independents | – | 15.47 | 4 |

Election results for the legislative Sejm

Topic A: Internal Divisions

Political Divides

By the beginning of 1919 there are two main divisions among Poles. First of all, there is the age-old split between the right and left. The Polish right wing represents the interests of the country's landowners, capitalists, and nationalists. Meanwhile the Polish left, some but not all of which is sympathetic to the Russian communists, represents many of the country's workers and peasants. It should be noted that in 1919 Poland was dominated by the nationalist anti-communists. The second, and most relevant, point of tension lies between the Polish nationalists. One faction, led by Chief of State Józef Piłsudski, wishes for Poland to be a large multiethnic empire like the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth of old. Piłsudski's dream is to create a state spanning from the Baltic to the Black Sea, with citizenship extended to all. Meanwhile, the other faction of Polish nationalists, led by the politician and diplomat Roman Dmowski, are proponents of a more exclusive movement known as Endecja. Dmowski wishes for Poland to be a smaller, ethnically homogenous state similar to the earlier Kingdom of Poland. Dmowski's vision would also involve the suppression of Poland's minorities.

The Cry For a Constitution

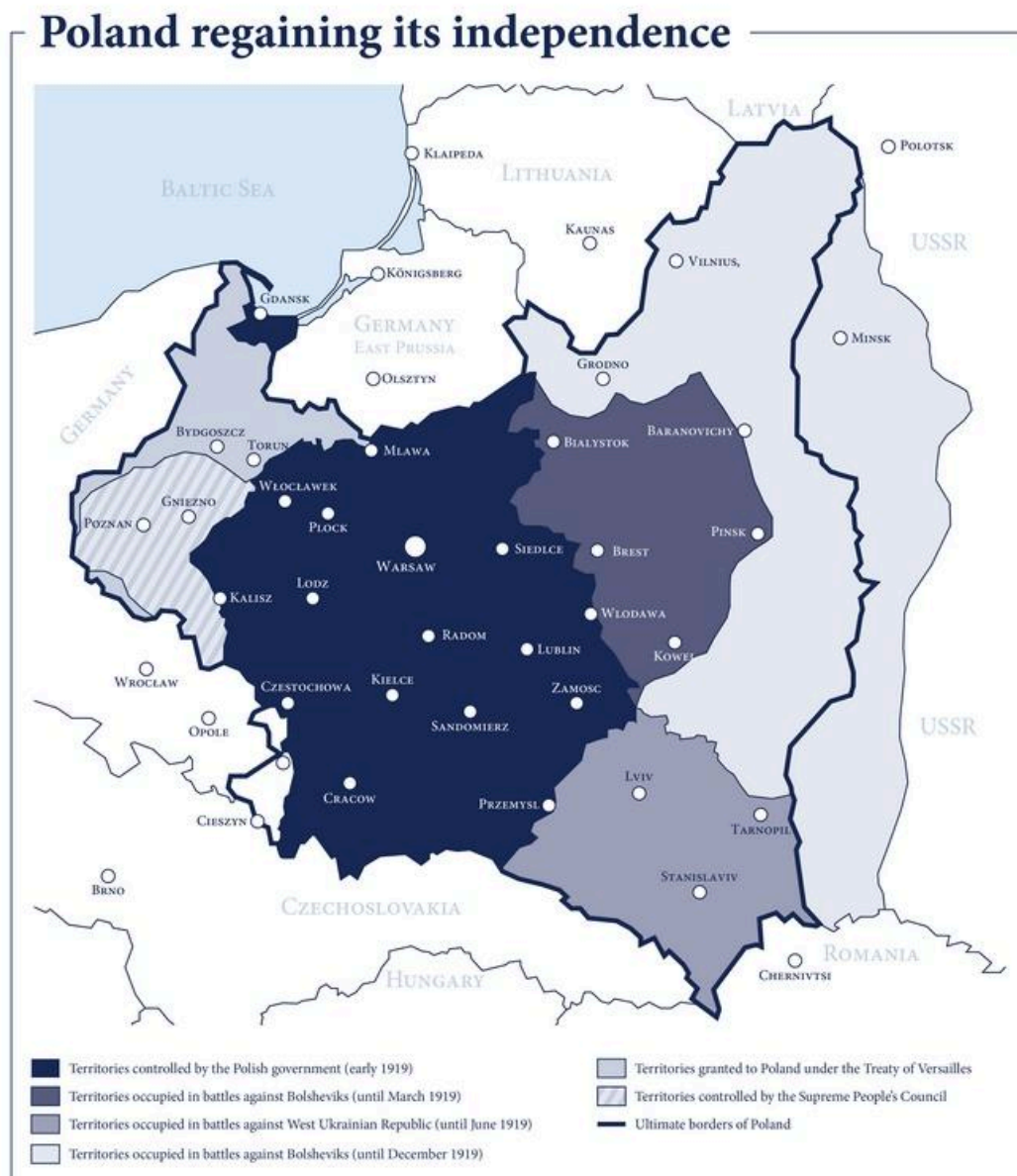
Both the Polish population, as well as the world, expect the Second Polish Republic to be rooted in democracy. For this to be the case, Poland requires a constitution, which it has lacked since the republic's creation. With the recent election of a parliament, the government

is facing pressure to write one. The people, and the Entente, do not demand anything elaborate, they are looking for a public directive which ensures basic social and political freedoms. Furthermore, the people demand that the constitution give some amount of power to the legislative Sejm, the parliament, which lacks formal authority but has been elected. Failure to create some sort of constitution in a timely manner could lead to anger from both the population and the allies against the entire committee.

The National Minorities

Is the Second Polish Republic an exclusively Polish state like the Kingdom of Poland, or a multiethnic federation like the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth? This is a question that has bitterly divided Polish politicians. During these years, much of Eastern Europe lacks a clear majority of any one ethnicity. While, topic B covers conflicts with the various other nationalist groups, topic A focuses on their integration into Poland. Although Poland's borders are not yet decided, they are more than likely to take on large Ukrainian, Jewish, German, and Belorussian ethnic minorities whatever the result of the committee will be. To put things in perspective, the final real life borders of the Second Polish Republic contained over 32% non-Poles. Delegates must address what rights and protections will be given to any minorities that end up in Poland. Poland's political divides play a significant role in how the committee handles the minorities. The supporters of Dmowski and Endecja would favour limited rights and most likely a lack of citizenship. Meanwhile, the supporters of Pilsudski's dream of a multiethnic federation would support the opposite. Either way, delegates must come to agreement regarding this issue, lest it tear apart the committee.

Topic B: Territorial Claims



Above is a Warsaw institute map of the new Polish state. As it stands, only the darkest blue territories, along with a narrow corridor leading into Lwów are controlled by the committee.

The Western Frontier

The recent defeat of Germany and subsequent collapse of their army has given Poland a chance to absorb Germany's Polish territory. Delegates will generally be unable to take direct military action against the Germans for fear of Allied reprisals. In order to secure their western border the government must both lobby the Allies in Versailles, and clandestinely support the Polish population of the region.

The Greater Poland Uprising

Independent Poland was built from the ashes of the puppet Kingdom of Poland. This German satellite state was chiefly composed of former Russian territory. Although the Germans had substantial Polish minorities in their own territory, they were unwilling to let them join the kingdom. With the defeat of Germany in the Great War, the status of this territory is now up for debate. On December 27th 1918, after a speech from Ignacy Paderewski, Polish patriots rose up in Poznan. Currently, Polish insurgents are led by the Supreme People's Council, the NRL, whose territory is shown on the above map. NRL fighters are mainly World War 1 veterans, supported by the Polish government in Warsaw. They are fighting the German regular army, which has been severely weakened by the loss of World War 1 in addition to widespread mutinies. The Polish government cannot directly intervene to support the insurgents without risking international condemnation. So if delegates wish to pry Poznan away from the Germans they will need to do it clandestinely.

The Treaty of Versailles

On January 18th, 1919 representatives of the victorious Allies began to meet in Paris to discuss the fate of the world following the Great War. Most importantly to this committee, the victorious Entente powers are in the midst of deciding the fate of Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. The top priority of delegates is to get the Entente to force Germany into giving up as much of its Polish territory as possible. This includes both the lands contested in the aforementioned Greater Poland Uprising, as well as the German region of Silesia. Silesia, identifiable through its two main cities Wrocław and Opole, boasts both a substantial German population as well as very valuable coal deposits. Poland's third and final goal at the Treaty of Versailles is to ensure access to the Baltic Sea. Without access to the sea, Poland runs the risk of being cut off from the world in future conflicts. Securing said access is thus vital to the country's long term survival. The main Baltic port which delegates could reliably use is Gdansk, known as Danzig by the Germans. While Gdansk has a narrow German majority, the countryside around it is mainly Polish. Due to both this, as well as the need for a port, it is in the committee's best interests to push for the Entente to cede this territory to Poland. These three desired acquisitions would heavily affect Germany, and the "Big Three" Entente powers each have their own opinions regarding them. The French are by far the most in favour of Poland's dreams. Their aim to weaken Germany fits perfectly with the committee's aim to annex some of their territories. Lobbying the French would be a very easy task. However, the British and Americans, wanting to avoid a communist revolution, are less sure about punishing Germany harshly. The British could potentially be plied if Poland can prove itself to be a bulwark against communism. Meanwhile, the more resistant Americans are focused on having each ethnic group living in their respective country. American support thus requires arguments based on national self determination, the idea that every people should live in a country that represents them. Allied opinions and the treaty of Versailles will play a significant role in the international conference crisis mechanic.

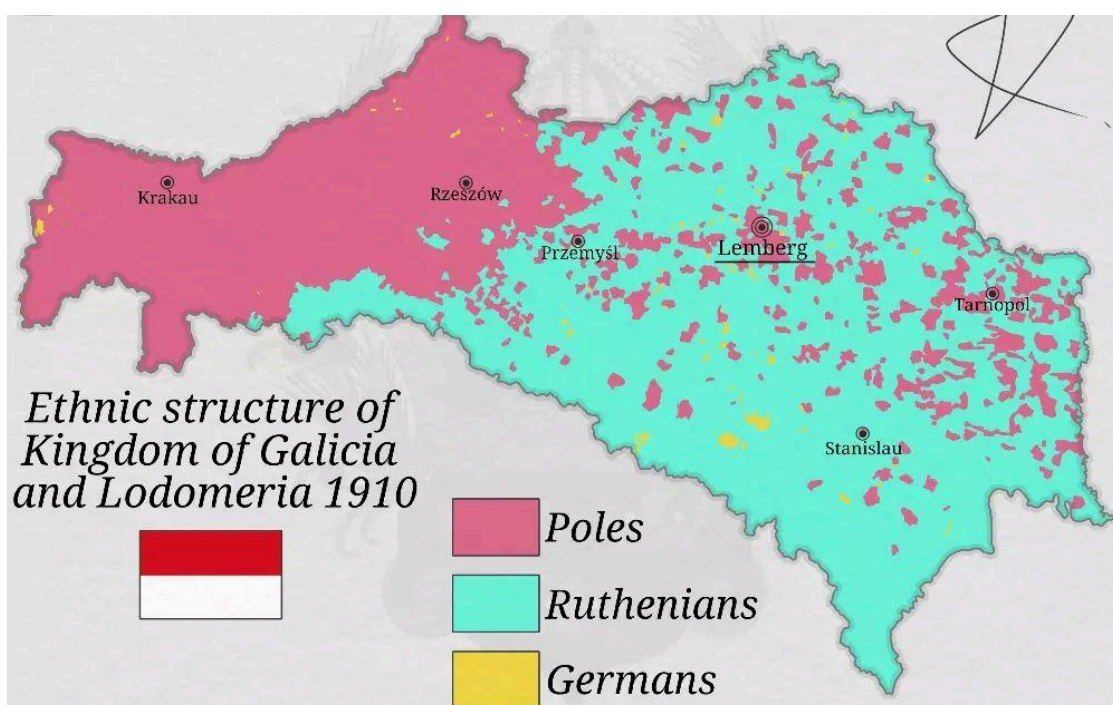
The Eastern Frontier

The nature of Germany's surrender and the fact that it is still intact means that Poland's western borders will be decided through diplomacy and clandestine activity. At the same time, the disintegration of the Russian and Austro-Hungarian empires means that Poland's eastern frontiers will be decided through open war. At this time, Eastern Europe is a cultural melting pot where one nationality rarely has an overwhelming majority. In many regions the lingering influence of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth means that many regions have a Polish majority among the ruling class, with their cities being majority Polish and Jewish, while the peasantry remains another culture. A lack of central authority from any one power has caused these peoples to take up arms in order to create their own states, bringing them into conflict with the Poles who wish to unify with Poland. This is most prevalent in Eastern Galicia and Lithuania. Further east, Russia is in the midst of devouring itself in a brutal civil war between the Reds and the Whites, the winner of which will no doubt plan to reclaim the lands they once ruled.

The Russian Civil War

The catalyst for the all out war currently raging in Eastern Europe is Russia's revolution and subsequent civil war. Severe losses at the hands of the Germans in World War 1 in addition to horrible mismanagement prompted the February Revolution in 1917. Led by a broad base of those opposed to Russia's rulers, this revolution initially tried to keep Russia at war with Germany. However, further defeats prompted the communist 1917 October Revolution from Vladimir Lenin's Bolshevik party. The Bolshevik takeover was not absolute and the anti-communists White Movement rose up against Lenin, causing the Russian Civil War. This incredibly brutal and self destructive war has eroded Russian power. During this time, Lenin was forced to hand over almost a third of Russia's western territory to German puppet states in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk. The fact that Germany has also since pulled out of this territory is why there is so much instability in the region. The events of the Russian Civil War will be occurring in the backdrop of the committee. Delegates may be forced to fight the Bolsheviks in the Lithuanian theatre of war. However, generally the Russians are occupied fighting themselves. Later on, once one side prevails in the Civil War, Russia will attempt to reclaim their Polish territories. The committee will one day need to meet this threat, or be destroyed.

Eastern Galicia



Credit to @SGP.cartography on Instagram. Please note that the above map utilises the German names for the labelled cities. Since delegates are Polish government officials, the Polish city names are more appropriate. Krakau is Kraków, Rzeszów, Tarnopol, and Przemyśl remain unchanged, Lemberg is Lwów, and Stanislaw is Stanisławów.

While the Germans contest Polish claims to the west, the Ukrainians do the same in the east. In order to understand the current eastern conflict, one must understand Galicia. During the three Partitions of Poland, the Austrians occupied a region known as Galicia (map above). Western Galicia is as Polish as an area can be. It was the home of Poland's second city, Kraków, and a clear Polish majority. However, Eastern Galicia is one of the many European regions without uniform ethnic lines. Although the majority of Western Galicia, 58%, is Ukrainian, 34% of the region is Polish. At the same time, 8% of Eastern Galicia was Jewish. What state will they join? To further complicate the matter, Eastern Galicia's countryside is almost completely Ukrainian while its cities have large Polish majorities. The city of Lwów (modern day Lviv) is considered to be one of Poland's cultural capitals and most Polish nationalists are unwilling to give it up. Alongside these ethnic divides was an economic one as well. The region's nobility are predominantly Polish and thus want to join Poland. Meanwhile, most of the region's peasants are Ukrainians. This provides both peoples, along with the Entente, with no easy answer as to who Eastern Galicia should belong to. What makes matters even more complex is the fact that eastern Galicia is home to vast oil deposits. Whichever prospective state controls this oil will gain huge power in the region.

On October 18 of 1918, as the German and Austro-Hungarian empires were disintegrating, the East Galician question came to a boiling point. A group of Ukrainian politicians formed the Ukrainian National Council, intending to establish a Ukrainian state. Shortly afterwards, on October 31st, 1918, Ukrainian soldiers captured Lwów. On November 13th, 1918, only two days after Germany's capitulation and Poland's declaration of independence, the Western

Ukrainian People's Republic was declared. The Poles, both in and out of Eastern Galicia would not stand for this. Only a few days after the Ukrainian capture of Lwów, the Poles of the city rose up. Despite a numerical disadvantage, Polish insurgents benefited from superior training and equipment. This allowed for them to quickly open a path to the Polish regular army. Although these events are occurring only a month before very similar events in Germany, with the Greater Poland Uprising, there is one key difference. The Western Ukrainian People's Republic has not been recognized by any country. The Poles directly sending troops to German Poland would be out of the question due to the backlash. However, there would be none of said backlash in Western Ukraine due to its unrecognised status. By the start of the committee, fighting in Eastern Galicia is at a stalemate. Poland has control of Lwów and the railways leading into it. The Ukrainians threaten the city from three sides and are attempting to besiege it. However, the Poles will remain able to resupply Lwów for as long as they control the railway into the city.

Central Lithuania



Map of the Lithuanian theatre of war, the disputed region of Central Lithuania is in orange. Please disregard the arrows. Image modified from Lietuvos istorijos atlasas by user Renata3 of Wikipedia.

Poland's last great eastern dispute is in Lithuania. For centuries Lithuania has been ruled by the Polish state or nobility. The orange region on the above map, Central Lithuania, still

retains a large Polish population and is claimed by the new republic. Like with Eastern Galicia, the region's main city Wilno, modern day Vilnius, is almost completely Polish and Jewish. Meanwhile, the region's landowners are predominantly Polish. Chief of State Joseph Pilsudski was even born in Lithuania. However, the rural population, and thus the majority of the region, are ethnic Lithuanians who desire their own state. At the moment, three groups claim sovereignty over Central Lithuania. The Polish government, with the support of Wilno's population, aims to annex all of Central Lithuania into the Second Polish Republic. Meanwhile, the Lithuanians, represented by the Council of Lithuania and supported by the countryside, plan for the region to join a fledgling Lithuanian state. Finally, the Russian Bolsheviks wish for Russia to reincorporate the region into Russia. Although the Poles and Lithuanians oppose each other, both are even more wary of Russian reconquest. Due to its importance, control over Wilno essentially dictates control over the region.. Up until recently, the city was occupied by the Germans. Their defeat prompted a brief takeover of Wilno by Polish militias. The takeover was interrupted by a Bolshevik attack which pushed both the Poles and Lithuanians out of the city. As it stands, Wilno is under Russian occupation. Polish and Lithuanian forces may be forced to put aside their differences in order to face an even greater threat.

Crisis Mechanics

Military Briefing

Overview

Poland, especially in the east, can only be established through military force. As it stands, Poland's army is small and divided, with three sources of readily trained and equipped Polish troops. The Polnische Wehrmacht, Germany's Polish army and an evolution of the Polish legions, stands as the largest and best trained force loyal to the committee with **30,000** men answerable directly to the committee and Piłsudski. Meanwhile Poland has another **25,000** guerrillas under the Polish Military organization (POW), a secret society also set up by Piłsudski. Finally, there are **68,500** members of the Polish Blue Army, which is led by Józef Haller. The Blue Army is a well equipped force of Poles that have been fighting on the Western Front for the Entente. They are the Entente equivalent of the Polish Legions. The Blue Army is currently in France and although the Entente has given them permission to return to Poland, the committee must still find a way to get them there.

Equipment and Recruitment

While Poland's formal army is small, Polish militias across Eastern Europe have risen up in support of independence. These militias must be merged with the army to give the committee control. However, the committee's best chance of growing the army is to recruit new soldiers

to their banner. A general patriotic fervour is spreading to Poles across Europe and the committee should not have trouble finding more troops if they try to recruit them. The real issue facing the Polish army is equipment. In conventional 20th century warfare, maintaining a well armed and supplied army is key to victory. There are three ways for the committee to secure weapons and equipment for their troops.

- Domestic production
- Captured caches
- International support

In the very short term, the best way to equip the troops is through captured German, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian caches. The supplies inherited from these powers are enough to keep the current armies in the field. However, if the committee inevitably needs to recruit more troops they must find other ways to equip them.

The primary way that the committee should supply its army is through international support. Many in the Entente, especially France, champion the Polish cause. Poland is seen as both a way to limit Germany's power and as a bulwark against Russian Bolshevism. If Poland can manoeuvre itself properly at the Paris Peace Conference, while convincing the Entente that it can fight Russia, it will profit from countless shipments of surplus equipment.

Domestic production of equipment is the most reliable way of supplying the Polish army. Unfortunately Poland has very little domestic production of war materials due to recent devastation. Securing equipment through this method is thus a long term goal. If delegates wish to be able to supply their troops from Poland they will have to set up domestic production during the committee.

Mechanics

During the conference the locations of Polish units will be displayed on a large map of the region. Not just any delegate can order the official Polish military. The entire army can be commanded by Chief of State Józef Piłsudski. Meanwhile, certain individual delegates have personal command over other formations. In order for a military unit to be moved, backrooms must either have a private directive from a delegate with authority over them, or a public directive. Public directives can move soldiers regardless of the approval of those who command them.

Popularity

Even if Poland is far from having another round of elections, it is in a very political mood and delegates will have to manage public opinion. Failure to do so will result in uproar and popular action. Generals who fail to manage popularity may face mutinies and desertion among their troops. Meanwhile government officials may face violent demands for their removal. The vast majority of the committee exists in unelected positions and thus does not have confidence from the population, so they will have to prove themselves worthy of their positions in order to keep them. While low popularity can weaken delegates, high popularity gives delegates the ability to mobilise the Polish people for their own ends. This is most

important for delegates who lead parties in the Sejm, as they were democratically elected and have popular support. Popularity will not be publicly quantified using specific scores, as there are no opinion polls. However, the director will provide periodic updates regarding the general opinion of the population. This can in turn affect both public and private directives.

Character Guide¹

Ignacy Paderewski

Ignacy Paderewski is a world famous pianist and the current Prime Minister of Poland, as well as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. As head of government, Paderewski is responsible for directing the ministers and running the country. Currently, Paderewski is in France representing Poland at the Paris Peace Conference. He is thus responsible for advocating for Poland on the international stage as well as governing the country. As Prime Minister his main source of power comes from his influence over the functions of government. Paderewski has the loyalty of much of Poland's fledgling bureaucracy and is recognized as one of the country's leaders. While Paderewski opposes the right wing exclusionist tendencies of Roman Dmowski and his followers, he is willing to cooperate with them to avoid internal divisions.

Józef Piłsudski

Once a military commander from the Austrian partition of Poland, Marshal Józef Piłsudski is the Chief of State, the provisional executive of Poland, until its crisis is over. He has overall command of the army, and can direct all Polish military formations save for the Blue Army. This includes the **30,000** men of the regular army and the **25,000** men of the POW. At the same time, Piłsudski has the authority to command the country's civil affairs, mainly through his ability to appoint the Prime Minister. It is expected that his powers will be properly formalized once the committee is able to come up with a constitution for the country. The extensive powers granted by his position as Chief of State is Piłsudski's main source of strength. However, Piłsudski is also immensely popular among the armed forces and would command their loyalty with or without his position. Despite this, his prominent role in the government means that he will also bear the blame for failures of the committee. Piłsudski is a strong opponent of Roman Dmowski's National Democracy movement. Piłsudski desires for Poland to be a large and multiethnic state, incorporating the many people's of Eastern Europe, similar to the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

Roman Dmowski

Roman Dmowski is a very prominent Polish politician among the Polish right wing. He is the overall leader of the Endecja movement, also known as the National Democrats and is a fierce Polish and Catholic nationalist. Prior to the First World War, Dmowski was a member of the Russian parliament when they ruled Poland. During the conflict he advocated for

¹ All characters are with the government in Warsaw unless specified otherwise

Polish collaboration with Russia in order to gain autonomy. His proximity to the Entente has given him many contacts among the French and British. Currently, Dmowski is in France with Ignacy Paderewski, trying to ensure that the Paris Peace Conference goes Poland's way. While Dmowski has no formal power in Poland, his ideas are popular among many segments of the Polish Catholic population. In the recent legislative elections, the ZLN, a party aligned with Dmowski's ideology, gained a plurality of the votes. Furthermore, Dmowski's work with the Russians has given him a great deal of credit in the eyes of the French and the British, who view Piłsudski with suspicion. This support will be vital to obtaining arms and supplies for the Polish army, making Dmowski a valuable asset to the government in Warsaw. Ideologically, Dmowski believes that Poland should be a monoethnic state with Polish supremacy. He does not believe that there is a place for non Poles in Poland, a difficult proposition considering how multiethnic Eastern Europe is.

Józef Haller

Lieutenant General Józef Halley is among the most powerful Polish military personnel. Haller has sole command of the **68,500** soldiers of the Polish Blue Army, a Polish volunteer force serving the Entente on the Western Front. With the end of the Great War, this force is still located in France, along with Haller, and remains the best trained and equipped Polish army in the world. Despite this, the Blue Army has little power to influence events in Poland until they are able to return to the country. The Entente has given the Blue Army permission to go to Poland, but the logistical implications of moving such a vast force must still be decided. Ideologically, Józef Haller is aligned with Piłsudski's National Democrats.

Stanisław Wojciechowski

Stanisław Wojciechowski is a centre-left politician and the Minister of Interior. As a leading member of the Polish Peasant's Party, or PSL, "Piast," Wojciechowski is a strong believer in democracy and parliamentary rule. His ministry seat puts him in charge of managing local governments and the police force, giving him power on the streets of most major cities. Ideologically, Wojciechowski's main priority is to ensure that Poland becomes a democratic country following the crisis. He further aims to reach a compromise between Piłsudski's followers and the National Democrats.

Wojciech Korfanty

Wojciech Korfanty is a National Democrat deputy in the new Sejm and the president of the Popular National Union, the ZLN party. The ZLN, a party of far right National Democrats, represents the largest political party in Poland, with 140 seats and almost 29% of the country's vote. Despite being one of the leading figures in the Sejm, Korfanty lacks any power over the state apparatus. The Sejm has been elected, but the lack of a constitution means that it does not have real power yet. Instead, Korfanty's influence is derived from his immense popularity among Catholic right wing Poles.

Błażej Stolarski

Błażej Stolarski runs PSL "Liberation," another breakoff party of the Polish Peasant's Party. Both Stolarski and PSL "Liberation" are a further left party than PSL "Piast". They advocate for land reform and the breaking up of some of Poland's remaining large Szlachta estates. Despite this, they are still very opposed to the Russian Bolsheviks. PSL "Liberation" is the second most popular party after the ZLN, with 15% of the vote and 59 seats. Like with Korfanty's party, Stolarski lacks any formal position in the government. However, he is immensely popular among Poland's rural population and expects that some power will be delegated to the Sejm with the new constitution. Stolarski is also a firm supporter of Piłsudski's multiethnic vision, in addition to Piłsudski's personal rule.

Wincenty Witos

Wincenty Witos is the leader of the "Piast" break off party of the Polish Peasant Party, the PSL. PSL "Piast" is a center-left rural party with a very concentrated base of support. While they only received 4% of the vote, they hold 46 seats in the Sejm. Witos does not have formal powers, however, he is one of the most loved figures among the Polish peasantry. This, combined with his concentrated base of support and the many seats that he commands gives him immense popularity.

Izaak Grunbaum

Izaak Grunbaum is by far one of the most unique figures in the committee. He is the leader of the Jewish National Council, the ZRN, an amalgamation of the country's Jewish parties. The ZRN received 11% of the vote, however, due to the sparse nature of many Jewish communities they only won 11 seats. As representative of the Jewish population, Grunbaum's main priority is to safeguard the minority. The mere existence of the ZRN angers many politicians, especially those in the far-right National Democrat camp where antisemitism is prevalent. This puts the ZRN into a stark opposition with the supporters of Endecja and its exclusionism.

Ignacy Daszyński

Ignacy Daszyński is a former Prime Minister of Poland, a left wing Sejm deputy, and the current leader of the Polish Socialist Party, the PPS. Daszyński was briefly the Prime Minister for about a week when the republic was first established. However, his inability to form a government led to his resignation. Currently, he is the main left wing leader in the Sejm. The PPS in its current form represents Poland's non-communist left wing movement. While the various Polish Peasant Parties represent the interest of the country's rural peasants, the PPS advocates for the country's entire working class. Piłsudski was once a member of the PPS, which is still closely associated with him. This, alongside the party's general program, is why the PPS supports Piłsudski's multiethnic aims. As with other Sejm members, Daszyński does not have any power over the government. However, he is very popular among the country's non-communist leftists and the urban working class.

Janusz Franciszek Radziwiłł

As a scion of one of the most wealthy szlachta families in Poland, the Radziwiłłs, Janusz Franciszek Radziwiłł represents what remains of the old aristocratic order in Poland. Radziwiłł is immensely wealthy and owns tens of thousands of hectares of land. His main interest involves maintaining the country's declining szlachta. Because of this, he is vehemently opposed to land reform proposals from either the different PSLs or the National Democrats. Radziwiłł instead supports Piłsudski, seeing his conservative aims as in line with his own. His power is derived from his wealth and the support that he has among the country's nobility and landowners.

Jan Wroczyński

Jan Wroczyński is a military officer and the Minister of Defence. Due to Piłsudski's involvement in military affairs, Wroczyński lacks the ability to command soldiers himself. Instead he is responsible for the training and supplying of the military. He supports Piłsudski's multiethnic vision of Poland.

Leon Supinski

Leon Supinski is a jurist and the Minister of Justice in Paderewski's cabinet. He has the power to run the ministry, managing the country's courts and legal affairs. Supinski has the power to use the ministry of justice to prosecute those in Poland's borders.

Władysław Grabski

Władysław Grabski is a popular right wing politician, economist, and supporter of National Democracy. Grabski lacks any position in government, but he is very popular among the National Democrats. Furthermore, his background in economics makes him an expert in any attempts to rebuild Poland's economy.

Wacław Iwaszkiewicz

Major-General Wacław Iwaszkiewicz is a high ranking commander in the Polish army located on the Central Lithuanian Front. As a leader of Russia's Polish army, Iwaszkiewicz commands the 1st Lithuanian–Belarusian Division, a force made up of Poles from Lithuania and Belarus. This division has **4,000** men and is answerable personally to Iwaszkiewicz rather than Piłsudski. Iwaszkiewicz is also a field commander and an experienced commander of troops at the ground level. His focus is on securing Polish territory in the east, aligning him with Piłsudski.

Stanisław Szeptycki

Stanisław Szeptycki an aristocrat, experienced commander, and the Chief of the General's Staff for Paderewski's government. As Chief of the General's Staff, Szeptycki is responsible for the day to day functioning of the army. He has the ability to make limited commands to the army, which can be overridden by Piłsudski. His power comes from his skill formulating battle plans for the Polish army. Szeptycki's political aims involve maintaining the aristocracy and avoiding land reform.

Kazimierz Hącia

Kazmierz Hącia is an economic expert, member of PSL “Piast”, and Minister of Industry and Trade. Through his position he manages labour relations and attempts to revitalize Poland’s devastated economy. Hącia is also an economic liberal who believes in minimal state interference.

Antoni Minkiewicz

Antoni Minkiewicz is a Polish landowner from modern day Eastern Galicia and Minister of Provisioning. Minkiewicz’s ministry post puts him in charge of helping the population of war torn Poland. The significant lands that Minkiewicz owns in Eastern Galicia make him both opposed to land reform and in favour of Polish annexation of the region.

Julian Eberhardt

Julian Eberhardt is an engineer and the Minister of Communication. His ministry focuses on restoring Poland’s communication infrastructure, notably its railways. This will be vital to the movement of troops.

Józef English

Józef English is the Minister of the Treasury and expert in finance. His main power involves the management of the state budget and foreign loans. English is responsible for securing foreign capital to rebuild Poland’s ruined economy.

Guide to Polish Pronunciation

<https://culture.pl/en/article/a-foreigners-guide-to-the-polish-alphabet>