



# **SMH-MUN III**

## **Saturday, March 21, 2015**

### **French Revolution Background Guide**

#### **Revolution: Demanding Progress or Endorsing Chaos?**

#### **I. Overview**

The year is 1791, and revolutionary change has swept the nation of France in the past two years. Feudalism has been abolished, the new republican government controls the military, and King Louis XVI has fled to the Austrian border for fear of the lives of himself and the rest of the royal family. The Estates-General has given way to the National Assembly, a legislative body made up of all sides of the revolution, from pure royalists to radicals like the Jacobin Club. In addition, there are rumors that the King is conspiring with enemies of the Revolution abroad, inciting anger throughout the left-wing revolutionary parties.

#### **II. Procedures/Scoring**

- a. This committee will NOT follow the traditional rules of parliamentary procedure. As a result, it is recommended that only experienced delegates participate.
  - i. There will be NO position papers, NO speakers list, and NO resolutions: debate will be much more fluid and centered on action orders.
  - ii. The room will be in a continuous moderated caucus, but delegates are encouraged to motion for unmoderated caucuses when needed.
- b. Delegate scoring will focus on accurate portrayal of the historical figure and general leadership in the room.
  - i. Delegates MUST research the key events and people that surround this crisis in order to score highly. Points are awarded for a realistic depiction of the mindset and behaviors of the historical figure, NOT for advocating one's own personal beliefs.
  - ii. Critical thinking and improvisational skills are critical to performing well and solving the crisis.

#### **III. Goals of the Room**

Delegates should observe the alliances already set up in the forms of various political parties and levels of liberal ideology. The debate of this room is predicated entirely on how well delegates study their roles, as well as the history of the Revolution, so that they can respond to crises as accurately as possible.

- Each delegate should be trying to push the Revolution in the direction their portrayed historical figure would want
- There will be very real consequences for foolish political moves, as all delegates have the power to enact action orders against other members of the committee (aka ridiculous dreams to assassinate all of your political allies are ill-advised)
- The lives of the people of France are at stake; delegates should keep in mind consequences of their actions on the citizens



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#### **IV. Helpful Research Links**

The Revolution as a whole:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French\\_Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution)

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/219315/French-Revolution>

Parties and Alliances:

<https://napoleonstark.wordpress.com/political-parties-of-the-french-revolution/>

<http://todayinsocialsciences.blogspot.com/2012/12/political-groups-during-french.html>