



HCC

PACMUN 2016

Director: Emma Pyron

Chair: Scott Musselwhite

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PACIFIC MODEL UNITED NATIONS

HISTORIC CRISIS COMMITTEE

Dear Delegates,

My name is Emma Pyron and I am very excited to be your Director of the Historic Crisis Committee for Pacific Model United Nations 2016! I am a Senior at the Center School but do full time Running Start at Bellevue College. I have been involved in Model UN for four years and PACMUN 2016 will be my sixth overall conference and second time staffing. Model UN has been a life changing experience for me and I hope it will be (or is) for you too.

Joining me as Chair is Scott Musselwhite. Scott is a senior at Bainbridge Island High School and this is his seventh Model United Nations conference overall. This is Scott's second PACMUN conference and some of you may even remember him as a Dais member of PACMUN's 2015 Joint Crisis Committee. Scott loves spending his time outdoors and is even a member of the Bainbridge Island Rowing Club. Scott cannot wait to see what lays in store for this year's HCC and is ready to bring the heat.

Joining me as Assistant Director is Alan Reyes. Alan is a senior at Inglemoor High School and is a co presidents in Inglemoor's MUN club. He has been attending PACMUN since its inauguration in 2014. He enjoys playing piano and participating in trivia tournaments. This is Alan's first time as a Dais member and is very excited to be this year's HCC Assistant Director.

This year in HCC we will be rewinding the clock back to the time of Spanish colonization. The year is 1819 and Spain has colonized almost all of Latin America. Extreme tension can be found between the citizens of Latin America and their Spanish Rulers. One group of revolutionaries has had enough tyranny and is ready to declare their independence.

HCC is a fantastic committee and veers away from other committees you may find in Model UN. With a freedom to work on almost anything, there is no telling what delegates will do. I can honestly tell you that I, and my fellow Dais members, are very excited to see what you, as delegates, have in store!

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at any time. I hope to make committee as smooth and stimulating for everyone involved so if you need help with research or position papers please let me know. I look forward to meeting you all at the 2016 Pacific Model United Nations Conference in November!

Best Regards,

Emma Pyron

Director | Historic Crisis Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Committee Intro	3
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TOPIC: THE BATTLE FOR GRAN COLOMBIA

Topic Introduction	4
History	5
Timeline	8
Current Situation	11
Bloc Positions	12
Guiding Questions	15
Further Research	15
Sources	15

COMMITTEE INTRO

Crisis Committees are a unique addition to the world of Model UN. Different from all other committees, crisis committees bring everyone together to fight against a main enemy. Delegates will have to come together as a single entity in order to solve an issue they are presented with. Instead of acting as individual nation-states, each with their own agenda, crisis members must cooperate with others in order to solve an issue with the least amount of negative side effects. Most Crisis Committees are given one main topic to debate and solve in whatever manner the delegates think best, with some occasional twists thrown in by the dais. Delegates will do their best to overcome obstacles and dramatic changes.

Crisis Committees are very different from any other committee you will find. Action is fast paced and if you don't move quickly there may be consequences. Crisis committees are also extremely powerful. Whether delegates decide to send ballistic missiles into foreign countries, negotiate with terrorists, or start the next World War there is always an exciting outcome. Events occur rapidly, and every move made will have an unforeseen outcome. Every crisis has a variety of obstacles which must be overcome if anyone is going to succeed.

While some Crisis committees focus on the present or future, this Crisis committee will be facing issues from the past. This means delegates will be finding solutions to a problem that has already been finished. Not all past crises have had a clear solution so the job of the delegates is to devise a plan different from the original. Crisis committees focus on events that have affected the world today and shaped our societies. They look at specific critical points throughout history and give delegates a chance to change their outcomes. "What if the Allies had lost World War 2?" or "What if the confederates had won the Civil War?". Every Crisis Committee has its own area of focus, so you will never find two committees that are the same.

Delegates will need to come well-researched and have thought of outcomes they would like to achieve. Without knowledge about your enemies, there is no way of defeating them. Delegates will have to muster up all of their strength, ingenuity and skill to reach their end goal. The likelihood of their success (or failure) is dependent on their skills.

Delegates have the power to rewrite the past and change history. Do you?

TOPIC:

THE BATTLE FOR GRAN COLOMBIA

TOPIC INTRO

The Spanish were once one of the largest powers in the world. By occupying most of North and South America, Africa and parts of Asia, the Spanish had created an empire that seemed impossible to destroy.

By the 1500's, the Spanish Empire had settled along the South American coastline, allowing for the expansion of inland colonial control.

The Spanish integrated ethnic Spaniards into the established South American colonies creating integrated communities which were then difficult to break apart.

In the hopes of maintaining control of the region, the Spanish imperialists forced their language, religion, and culture onto the colonized natives. However, when doing so, the Spanish forgot to take into account the unified forces of South American pride and mutual hate of the Spanish across the continent.



The Spanish thought they were in complete control until the colonists decided it was time to oust their abusers. For hundreds of years members of the Viceroyalty of New Granada rebelled against the Spanish authority with no success. It was not until the 1700's when South Americans became truly serious about ousting the hated Spanish. With the help of men like Simon Bolívar, Juan Francisco Berbeo, Francisco Antonio Zea, independence from the Spanish became plausible. Following a series of victories for the rebels, Simon Bolívar, the leader of the Colombian revolutionaries, decided now was the perfect time to make their final stand against the Spanish in the

lightly protected town of Bogotá. The only thing that stood between the rebels and their independence is a small army of Spanish soldiers, and the Andes....

HISTORY

The Spaniards were once one of the largest colonial rulers in the world. With control of almost all North and South America, it seemed like the Spaniards could take over the whole world. Starting in the early 1500's, the Spaniards settled permanently on the coasts of South America, making it possible for complete colonial takeover. The Spaniards forgot to account for one very important factor which ultimately led to their downfall: the people. South America had its own unique traditions and cultures for thousands of years, so when the Spanish took over, they were less than pleased. Many Latin Americans thought it was a disgrace that the Spanish felt they had the right to their own people and land. Peoples that used to be completely autonomous were now being used as slaves on their own land.

While many South Americans believed the Spanish were cruel and ruthless rulers, some viewed the Spanish as miracles from God. Along with them they brought money, medicine, and other innovations that improved the standard living conditions. With the creation of New Granada came the possibility to achieve greatness, and people found themselves with jobs they never could have had before.



Map of La Gran Colombia. Source: co.kalipedia.com via <http://www.culturaltravelguide.com/simon-Bolívar-liberator-statues>

SOCIAL HIERARCHY IN NEW GRANADA

The descriptions below are a simplification of the social hierarchy system used in Spanish colonies. There are more categories, but these are the basic ones.

Peninsulares- People born in Spain or the Iberian peninsula, which is where the name comes from. They had the most rights and privileges out of anyone in the system, and were able to take the highest ranking political offices such as viceroys.

Creoles- Spanish people born in the Americas, meaning that both their parents were either peninsulares or creoles. Although these people could not take powerful political offices like peninsulares, they were the majority of the landowners in Spanish colonies.

Mulattoes/Mestizos- Mixed-race people. Mulattoes came from black and white parents, and mestizos came from Amerindian and white parents. Many of them tried to integrate into Spanish society, but faced difficulties due to race and illegitimacy since the Spanish were strict Catholics. Instead, several focused on being artisans, servants, or business owners.

Indio- The indigenous people or amerindians. They were given some rights, but remained subordinate to the above classes.

Negro- (Pronounced neh-gro) The free descendants of slaves. They had even less rights than indios.

Slaves- People enslaved by the above classes. They had no rights, and were forced into labor.

ECONOMY AND ADMINISTRATION IN VICEROYALTY OF NEW GRANADA

When Spain gained enough land in the Americas, it needed to develop a new administrative and economic system in order to effectively and efficiently control and extract resources from its colonies. Thus, the Council of Indies (Consejo Supremo de las Indias) and the House of Trade (Casa de Contractación) were created to manage colonial administration and economy, respectively. The Council of Indies handled the colonies' legislative, executive, and judicial concerns, and became the central body for the Spanish viceroyalties while the House of Trade controlled overseas trade. Educated lawyers, nobles, and former colonial authorities, who were appointed by the Crown, operated the Council of Indies, and although having large amounts power, were often restricted often having to solve every issue through a special order. Another issue with the body was that it never went to the Americas, yet created laws, solved civil cases, and nominated people for offices in the American colonies.

In terms of administration within the colonies, the highest ranking official was known as viceroys or assistant kings, who ruled in the name of the king. They were chosen by and under the discretion of the ruler and the Council of Indies, and were all peninsulares or Spanish-born people. In addition to executing royal decrees and policies and maintaining Spanish control, they also focused on spreading Catholicism and defending the colony's people. Below the viceroy were the audiencias, who had judicial jurisdiction on their area and had viceregal authority when the viceroy was absent. Next is the governor, who controlled cities, and then the city councils. Creoles had an issue with this administration system because, despite being entirely of Spanish descent, they could not hold high positions such as the viceroy or a member of the Council of Indies, and therefore could not be represented accurately. Certainly, those below creoles in the social hierarchy, such as mestizos, indios, negros, and slaves, were only able to take very few, if any, political positions. However, creoles could easily become landowners or encomenderos within the encomienda system.

The encomienda system was the basis of New Granada's economy. The encomienda was a grant of right, allowing the encomendero to maintain control within a certain plot of land and receive tribute from the natives that lived in it. Originally, the Crown's view for this system was to manage policies to improve and protect the well-beings of the natives. However, because of the little control the government had on the encomenderos, they were able to do what they wanted, forcing the natives to work on their land and abusing them. Because of important figures such as Bartolomé de las Casas, who sympathized with the natives, the Spanish government issued the New Laws to improve the treatment of the natives, calling for liberation of the natives, enforcement of regulatory laws already in place, etc. The encomenderos despised these laws since they could not put the natives through extremely poor working conditions, fearing they would lose their status, so they requested changes to the laws, which Spain eventually granted. This created increased tension between creoles and Spain, and became a major reason why the creoles desired independence.

Not only were the creoles frustrated about the restrictions placed on them in the encomienda, but also the mercantilist system put in place for trade. Mercantilism was an economic system where the government maintained control over the nation's economy, and believed that maximizing exports and minimizing imports were the most beneficial for the nation. Although this economic relationship could be between nations in Europe, it was most effective between a colony and its colonial overlord. Colonies automatically became new markets for their mother country to extract resources from (i.e. various metals and foodstuffs) and export manufactured goods to. This created some issues with the colonists. Firstly, merchants, who were in charge of the intercontinental trade, could only be peninsulares, and not creoles, frustrating the creoles. Secondly, the colonial overlord had exclusive trade rights with their colonies, meaning that colonies could only trade with them and not with other countries or colonies. Colonial goods could only be sent to other colonies by shipping them to Spain, and Spain exporting those goods back to the colonies, which desired that good.

Lastly, Spain controlled what could be traded. Colonies would be forced to export their precious metals and agricultural goods to Spain and import manufactured and agricultural goods from Spain that were necessary to survive. This created two problems for the colonists: manufacturing was banned in some areas, so they were forced to import those needed manufactured goods from Spain, and mining slowly came to a halt due to mine depletion, leaving the colonists with very little after they gained independence. Because of the inefficient and unfair administration and trade systems, the creoles became more restless, and began to desire independence.

TIMELINE

PENINSULAR WAR: 1808

After Charles IV failed to flee from Spain during the Napoleonic wars, he abdicated from the Spanish throne, and was replaced by his son Ferdinand VII. Napoleon took this opportunity and invaded Spain, forcing both Charles and Ferdinand to negotiate with him. The terms ended up making Napoleon's brother Joseph Bonaparte king of Spain, promising that Spain would remain independent and Catholic. Thus, rebellions began to sprung up in France against the new king. Colonists saw this as an opportune moment and began declaring independence, including Simón Bolívar and the much of New Granada.

SUPREME JUNTA OF CARACAS: APRIL 19TH 1810

The Supreme Junta of Caracas was an institution that governed the Captaincy General of Venezuela, an administrative district of colonial Spain that provided more autonomy for the provinces of Venezuela. Venezuelans now had more control of their government and had more say in its general proceedings. Because of this newly found autonomy, Venezuelans believed they could become their own nation. This marked the beginning of the Venezuelan War of Independence.

CADIZ CORTES: SEPTEMBER 24TH 1810

With the beginning of the Venezuelan War of Independence the Spanish felt they were loosing grip of their colonists. In order to keep ahold of their people they created the Cadiz Cortes. Cadiz Cortes was the first national assembly to claim sovereignty in Spain. This was considered a large stepping stone for Spain as many viewed them as corrupt and malevolent rulers. The committee agreed on equality before law, a centralized government, a tax system reform, and property rights

recognition, but failed to include the South Americans. The Cadiz Cortez was seen as a major leap towards liberalism in Spain

FIRST REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: JULY 5TH 1811

The First Republic of Venezuela was the first or many attempts to create an independent Venezuela. The Republic began with overthrowing the Spanish authorities and creating the Supreme Junta of Caracas which initiated the Venezuelan War of Independence. After the surrender of the Spanish forces led by Domingo de Monteverde, the congress of Venezuela created a constitution, making Venezuela the first Spanish American colony to declare independence. Due to many Venezuelan provinces staying true to the Spanish and the creation of Cadiz Cortes, the First Republic of Venezuela collapsed on July 25th, 1812.

DECREE OF WAR TO THE DEATH JUNE 15TH 1813

After the fail of the Republic of Venezuela, Bolívar proclaimed the “Decree of War to the Death”, allowing any rebels to enact atrocities onto those in support of the Spanish government. This decree also exonerated Latin Americans who had already enacted the atrocities and murders. Extreme brutalities followed this declaration and both sides lost many people.

THE ADMIRABLE CAMPAIGN AND SANTIAGO MARINO: JUNE 24TH 1813

The Admirable Campaign was a military campaign led by Simón Bolívar in multiple provinces in the west controlled by the Spanish. The objective of this campaign was to free Venezuela from the Spanish forces and, along with Santiago Mariño's independently run campaign in the east, the campaign was successful and Spanish forces in Venezuela shrank to one-third their original size.

SECOND REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA: AUGUST 7TH 1813

The Second Republic of Venezuela was the second attempt to reestablish the Venezuelan Republic, which had previously collapsed. Included with the Second Republic of Venezuela was the Cartagena Manifesto, which described the reasons the first republic fell, the current situation of Hispanic America, and Bolívar's perspective of

the future. The Republic collapsed in 1814 after attacks from Spanish General José Tomas Boves.

RETURN OF FERDINAND VII: MARCH 1814

After Napoleon was defeated in the Napoleonic Wars and exiled, Ferdinand returns to Spain and reclaims the throne.

THE BATTLE OF URICA: DECEMBER 5TH 1814

Near the village of Urica the José Tomas Boves led Spanish army attacked the New Granadan army led by José Felix Ribas. Ribas and his men prepared for battle by loading against the Spanish forces who in return answered with heavy artillery power. Boves along with 400 spanish riders advanced on the patriot army but ultimately met their deaths. Without a general to guide them, the Spanish were left weaponless and were overtaken by Ribas and his men collecting another victory for Colombians.

SIMÓN BOLÍVAR IN EXILE 1815-1816

After a number of political dispute with rulers in Cartagena, Bolívar was denied support against the Spanish and fled to Jamaica where he was unwelcomed. He then traveled to Haiti where he met President Alexandre Pétion and the two became close friends. In exchange for support, Pétion asked Bolívar to help free slaves used by the Spanish. On June 2nd, 1816 Bolívar fulfilled his promise to Pétion creating a lasting friendship and a mutual ally against the Spanish.

JUAN JOSÉ DE SÁMANO'S TRIAD OF TRIBUNALS 1816

After hearing of Simón Bolívar's return to New Granada, Juan José de Sámano, a prevalent Spanish Brigadier arrived in Bogotá and created three tribunals against the rebels. First was the Permanent Council of War, which had the authority to issue death sentences. Second was the Council of Purification, which had the authority to judge any accused rebels not facing a death sentence. The final tribunal was the Junta of Confiscation, which allowed the Spanish government to take any possessions belonging to rebels. Due to these tribunals Sámano was officially named the Viceroy of the Viceroyalty of New Granada.

VARGAS SWAMP BATTLE: JULY 25TH 1819

The Venezuelan and New Granadan armies under Simón Bolívar tried to prevent the Spanish forces from taking the town of Santafé de Bogotá, where Bolívar and his men were stationed for a short break. Bolívar and his army were successful in fighting off the Spanish forces, but after having to climb the Paramo de Pisba, a cold plateau, and crossing the swamp of Vargas, Bolívar and his men were left exhausted and unready for their next fight...

CURRENT SITUATION

JULY 27TH 1819

Tensions are rising between the citizens of New Granada and their Spanish rulers, especially with the Spanish King Ferdinand VII dethroned by Napoleon Bonaparte in Europe (though he would reclaim the throne in 1814). Spanish and Patriot Generals continue to battle of the region of New Granada with no end in sight. Under the iron rule of Spanish Viceroy Juan José de Sámano the populace has continued to grow uneasy.

Simón Bolívar, a rebel general, has recently defeated the Spanish General Pablo Morillo and has declared war against anyone willing to accept the Spanish rulers as their own. With Bolívar's latest victory in the town of Angostura (located in current day Venezuela) against the Spanish General Miguel de la Torre, victory for the rebels has become a true possibility. In February Bolívar was able to open the Second National Congress (SNC) in Angostura in which he and Francisco Antonio Zea, a Colombian journalist and statesman, were elected President and Vice President respectively. However, Angostura and the rest of Venezuela are still under the control of the Spanish Monarchy.

Under Simón Bolívar's right-hand men, Francisco de Paula Santander and José Antonio Anzoátegui, patriot troops consisting of nearly 3000 creoles, mulattos, half-castes, and indigenous combatants have defeated and captured the Royal Army led by Colonel José María Barreiro in the small town of Gameza. As soon as the news broke out of the Spanish defeat in Gameza Royal Viceroy Juan Sámano fled and the town was left under creole control.

After hearing word about the recent attack Spanish forces head towards Santafé de Bogotá, where Simón Bolívar and his men are stationed. The two forces meet at the Vargas Swamp near the town of Paipa and the battle begins. The joint Venezuelan and New Granadan army are successful in besting the royal army but Bolívar and his men are left exhausted after climbing the Paramo de Pisba and crossing the swamp of Vargas located near the town.

With the latest victories in Angostura, Cúcuta and Santafé de Bogotá and the creation of the SNC, Bolívar has set his eyes on the complete destruction of the Viceroyalty of New Granada and the independence of the South American colonies. He knows if he can just get to the practically undefended town of Bogotá, he can topple the Viceroyalty from the inside. Bolívar has begun the long and dangerous trek Venezuela to Colombia, which will lead him and his army of 3,000 rebels through the treacherous Andes.

Anticipating Simón Bolívar's move, Spanish General José María Barreiro has intercepted the New Granadan army near the town of Tunja in the Andes and battles have ensued...

BLOC POSITIONS

THE SPANISH CROWN (DELEGATE BLOC 1)



Source: <http://www.shmoop.com/spanish-colonization/photo-columbus-landing.html>

Spain was one of the most powerful colonial rulers in all of history. They were known for taking over almost all of North and South America and incorporating their own ideas and cultures into every society they overtook. After Christopher Columbus' accidental discovery of America in 1492, Spanish explorers went in searching for riches and glory in the New World. After conquering the New World a new system needed to be designed in order to maintain control of the new societies they began building. At the top, of course, were the Spanish conquerors or, *Peninsulares*, followed by Creoles, Mestizos and Mulattos, and then the natives who were often used in the work force. The Americas, being too far away from Spain, were then turned into a matter of Spanish districts or, *Viceroyalties*. These Viceroyalties were in charge of maintaining peace and order within their specific regions.

The Spanish knew these new colonies would not be faithful to their new rulers unless they had something in common, so the Spanish forced Catholicism among the American population in an attempt to find common ground. While many did not agree with the attempts to colonize, the Spanish were successful in maintaining their religion, and Catholicism is now a large part of the lives of South Americans.

Although silver and gold were running short in New Granada, Spain wanted to maintain their holds because of the sugar and slave trade, which they were beginning to profit out of. They also still needed to tax the colonists to fund their expansive conquests, costly wars, and reconstruction of Spain after the disastrous Napoleonic wars.

The Spanish were seen as cruel and merciless rulers but they were also excellent businessmen and knew how to control a crowd; for a while that is...

THE REBELS OF NEW GRANADA (DELEGATE BLOC 2)

The Rebels of New Granada full-heartedly believed the Spanish rulers were cruel and horrible rulers. They would like to see their world put back in place to the time before Spanish colonialism so they can be in charge of their own decisions. The rebels believe the Spanish government has done nothing but ruin their society and has every desire to see them ousted from their region. Along with the Spanish came a wave of new traditions and religions that were forced upon them and they wish nothing more than to be able to worship their own gods and celebrate their own culture.

In 1781 the Rebels finally had enough of their Spanish rulers and, after another increase in taxes, raised up. Around 15,000 rebels raised up to march on the town of Bogotá. Once in Bogotá the Spanish government agreed to listen to the rebels terms, but once the rebels dispersed, the Spanish disregarded all treaties created and sent Spanish troops to destroy the rebel force and increase taxes. This battle set the ground for many more to come and showed the rebels the Spanish were not to be trusted.

From the very beginning the rebels of South America have fought against Spain's rule and many of them have ended up dead. The Spanish required them to mine their own lands, pay taxes, and even give fields and farms to Peninsulares as welcome gifts. They despised the unfair trade system and lack of representation they had in Spain over their own affairs. Frustrated over their mine depletion, the rebels became more aggravated when the Spanish were taking their food stuffs and materials at an increasing rate. (Read more on trade and administration system injustices in the section: Economy and Administration in Viceroyalty of New Granada)

The rebels want to create their own nation no matter what it takes...

OUTLYING CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

The Caribbean countries around South America have mixed feelings about the Spanish control of North and South. Some see the Spanish rule as a means to make a profit while others view the Spanish as cruel and destructive force.

Haiti, ones of the rebels' biggest allies, feel the Spanish have brought nothing but death and destruction to its people. Much of Haiti's population has been taken as slave labor for the new Spanish rulers and would like to see the Spanish thrown out of South America.

Jamaica on the other hand sees the Spanish as a reliable business partner. Spain's control of South American land has yielded large amounts of gold and copper as well as other natural resources. With large plantations on Jamaican soil, the Spanish offer a means to an end, and therefore make excellent business partners.

THE INDIGENOUS AMERICANS

The indigenous population of America would love to see their Spanish rulers exiled from South America. With the arrival of the Spanish came loss of freedom for the indigenous population. Many were forced into slavery, killed, or forced to give over the land they worked so hard to procure.

An indigenous group known as the Wayuu people have fought the Spanish government since their very arrival. Although they were never subjugated by the Spanish, they took it upon themselves to destroy the Spanish whenever they could. The first major incident was in 1701 when the Wayuus destroy a Capuchin Mission created by the Spanish government. 19 years later the Wayuus attacked the Spanish with a force of over 2000 people. After a long series of battles the Wayuus eventually faded out of sight, but not before they could take much of the Spanish land, and many of the Spanish people along with them.

However, some natives saw the Spanish favorably. With the creation of the New Laws by the Spanish government, encomenderos were forced to give the natives some rights, treat them with more respect, and ultimately liberate them. Despite their continued enslavement, some natives knew that with the independence of Gran Colombia, they would lose any rights they won during Spanish rule.

THE BRITISH LEGION

The British Legion consisting of Arthur Sandes, James Rooke and James Towers English was a foreign volunteer group fighting under Simón Bolívar during the many wars for Venezuelan independence. Composed of nearly 7,000 soldiers the British Legion's main motivation was to prevent the Spanish from gaining momentum and posing a larger threat to the British Empire. The British Legion's played a large part in the many Battles for independence. Many believed without the British Legion's the rebels would have no chance in winning their fight against the Spanish.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- Would you benefit from the destruction of the Viceroyalty of New Granada? If so, how? If not, why?
- How does your socioeconomic status impact your position? Think of other groups such as indios and slaves, who will also impact and be impacted by the decisions you make.
- What side of the war are you on? Why?
- What would be your most preferred outcome? Least preferred?
- Do the current Spanish laws benefit you? If not, how would you change it to your benefit?

FURTHER RESEARCH

- <http://www.revolutionspodcast.com/> (Podcast but very indepth)
- <http://countrystudies.us/colombia/>

SOURCES

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