

## Head Chair/Crisis Director's Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Death of Lenin Committee at the University of California, Berkeley Model United Nations Conference XXI!

So who is our head chair, you might ask. I'm Zubin Koticha. For the most part, I grew up in Scarsdale, New York, a town in Westchester County not far from the City. I'm currently a Junior studying Computer Science.. Though I am extremely interested in software engineering, perhaps my life's passion is macroeconomics, an interest which prompted me to get involved in Model United Nations here at Berkeley. As an economics nerd, I spend much of my free time reading the Economist, the Financial Times, or even just reading the IMF's World Economic Outlook.

My other academic interests include fintech, virtual reality, scientific research, value investing, philosophy of ethics, behavioral economics, entrepreneurship and startups, global geopolitics and world trade, and learning languages. In terms of leisure, I am crazy about Aston Martins, Arsenal FC, fashion, classical music, deep house music, and meditation.

In coming up with this committee topic, Megan and I thought long and hard about the most competitive, controversial, and monumental transfers of power in world History. Stalin's cementing of power during Lenin's demise fit the bill perfectly - it was nothing short of mastery at the art of Machiavellian politics. It is that level of tact and finesse that will bring home the gavel in our version of events.

Megan and I hope that you have a fun time in our committee - we certainly will. If you have any questions about the committee, or even just want to introduce yourselves and make friends, feel free to shoot us an email.

Best of luck,

**Zubin Singh Koticha**

Head Chair, Death of Lenin

UCBMUN XXI

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Russia, and oh hey, there's Sarah Palin in her backyard, she's looking right at us! Just kidding, the year is 1924 (Palin isn't around yet) and Lenin's heart just gave out at UCBMUN XXI. My name is Megan Conner and I'm truly honored to serve as this committee's Crisis Director.

A brief introduction: I'm a second year Environmental Economics and English double major here at UC Berkeley. Outside of MUN, I dabble in creative writing, cat stalking, and power napping. Inside of MUN, I've previously served as an Assistant Crisis Director in UCBMUN XX's Colombian Peace Accords committee. It was a tremendously rewarding experience that I hope to emulate with this thrilling committee on post-Lenin USSR. While not Russian myself, I've lived the Russian life vicariously through literary characters in Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*, and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* to name a few. Suffice to say, I love Russian culture and all its antics.

Our committee will run in standard crisis fashion as it simulates the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Within the framework of a freshly radicalized national identity, delegates should aim to legitimize the revolution's Marxist ideals while also securing themselves positions of high power and security. Accept change as a constant. Arm yourselves with propaganda, intergovernmental diplomacy, economic strategies, hammers and sickles. This is indeed a unique opportunity for delegates to rewrite history.

Please contact me with any inquiries. I'm looking forward to reading some witty crisis notes and unraveling your conniving plots behind the scenes. Remember, Mother Russia is watching you.

Warm Regards,  
Megan Conner  
Crisis Director