**Committee Description:**

The Hungarian Revolution began on October 23, 1956, after a student march on the Parliament in Budapest went awry. The killing of a student demonstrator by the State Security Police (the ÁVH) caused the eruption of a massive revolt, and led to the collapse of Hungary’s government. The conflict pitted revolutionaries against both the ÁHV and pro-USSR Communists. Though the Revolution looked to be successful at first, as it initially secured a new government determined to pull out of the Warsaw Pact, the Soviet Politburo reversed its stance on negotiating a withdrawal of its military presence from Hungary, and chose to quash the revolutionary movement. Resistance continued for a couple of weeks but ultimately gave way to the USSR’s forces, which moved quickly to install a regime sympathetic to Soviet interests, and subsequently muted all opposition. By late January of 1957, tensions had largely subsided, and the Revolution seemed entirely defeated.

The Hungarian Revolution Committee is a fictionalized summit of all relevant factions and characters within the Revolutionary movement of 1956. While the actual Revolution may have failed, delegates will have the opportunity to rewrite history by working to form a stronger, more united Revolutionary force that could prevail against ÁHV and Communist resistance. In order to achieve this end, delegates will have to quell disagreements and tensions internal to the movement, in order to form consensus around three essential topics. The first will address “The Future of Hungary’s Government,” including questions about the structure of government delegates wish to create, and the fundamental constitutional principles such a new state would have to abide by. Secondly, delegates will explore the international dynamics of the time and debate “East/West Alignment”—or how much (and how) to distance the next government from the influence of the USSR and Western capitalist states. Lastly, the committee will have to decide what factions and individuals should be chosen to lead the Revolution and interim government. Here, the goal will be for delegates to form a winning coalition among the differing factions represented in the committee to present a united and strong counterforce to the ÁHV and the USSR. As occasional updates and crises arise throughout the conference, delegates will navigate the various conflicts—both internal and external to the revolutionary movement—in an effort to change history.