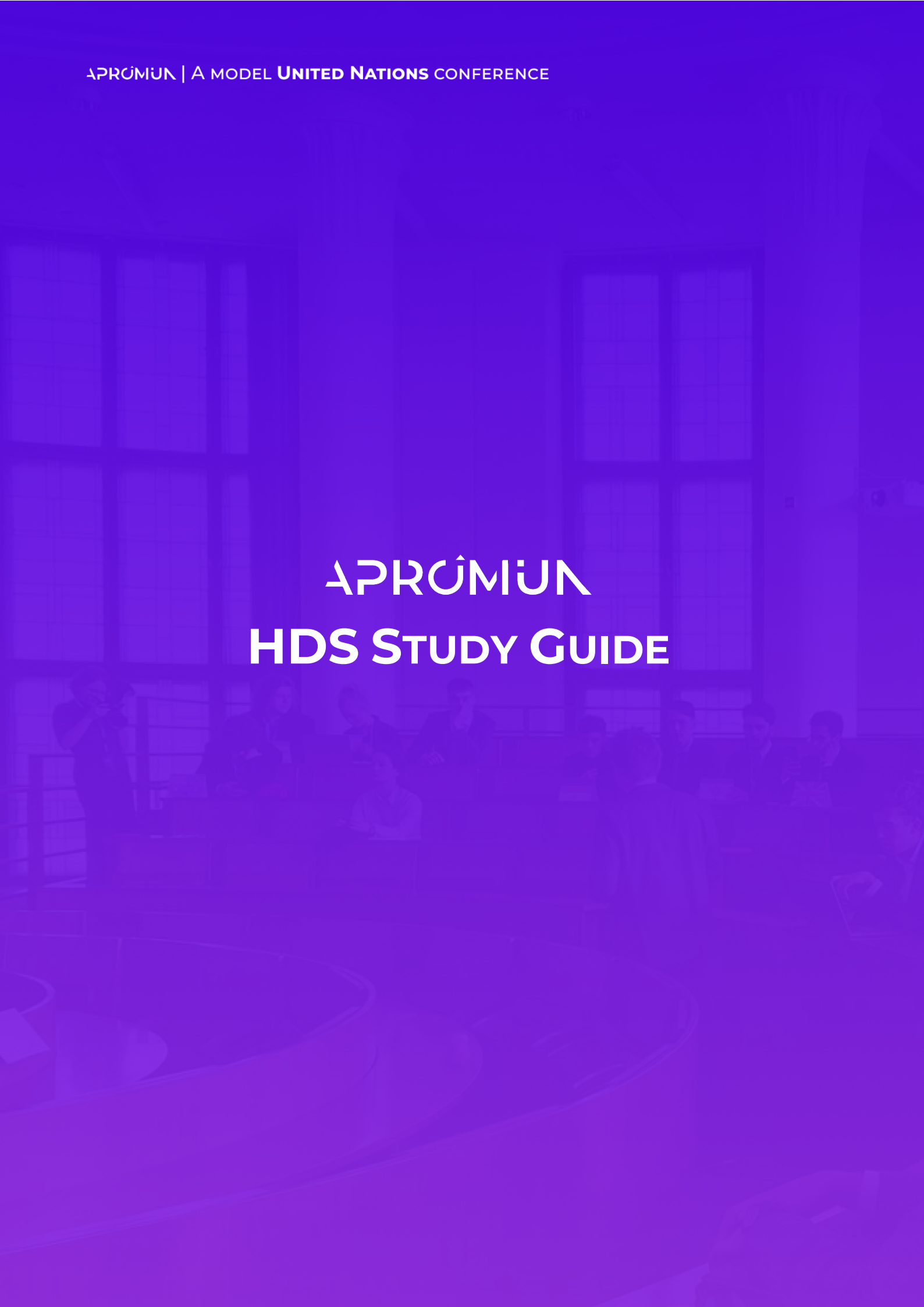


APRÓMÜN | A MODEL **UNITED NATIONS** CONFERENCE

# APRÓMÜN HDS STUDY GUIDE



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## II. Letters from the Chairs

**Dear delegates,**

Firstly we would like to sincerely thank you for taking part in this year's **AproMUN** conference, and our committee in particular. It is with tremendous pleasure that we present to you our study guide, which was meticulously crafted with great care and dedication, in order to give you the best experience possible. We hope that your debates will be both productive and entertaining and that at the end, you will reach common ground and a solution to this crisis. Both of us are more than excited to see all in action, and that our encounter in the last days of October will be a memorable and cherished moment of both yours and ours MUN careers.

Having said all that, this study guide is aimed to give you a jump start in your research and preparation for the conference, but it should not serve as your single source of information. We strongly encourage you to proceed with your own research as well, in order to fully grasp the vast topic and to get yourself acquainted with your country's policy.

Of course if you need any additional information or have any more questions, feel free to contact us on discord, instagram or facebook. We will be more than happy to help you.

Looking forward to meeting you in person in **Bratislava**.

Sincerely,

**Lukas** and

**Oliver** (@olivermachaj)

### III. Introduction to the Committee

As many of you may have already noticed, our committee, the **Historical Diplomatic Summit**, is not a part of the **UN**. In fact it has nothing to do with the United Nations as a whole, since it is discussing topics that happened before the conception of the United Nations.

#### **So, why is this a committee on our MUN?**

While our other committees focus on today's pressing issues, this committee takes a rather different approach. Of course it is very important to discuss today's issues, we would argue that it is equally as important to understand the past as well. Because being familiar with history, unlocks us a completely nuanced perspective of today, which may give us understanding of things that were before inexplicable. We can witness how historical developments have influenced the policy, economy and culture of many nations into the modern day, hence we are of the opinion that history is the study of modern times through the lens of the past. And that is why we decided to once again include this committee in our conference.

Despite having a historical setting, we do not discourage you from taking some liberties in your countries policy, if you think it would make the committee more interesting/fun. Therefore we are also very curious to see the fruits of our labour and much they deviate from the actual historical events.

A little factual and explanatory detour for doing your own research. Please, take note of the date, Russia was one of the last countries, if not the last, in Europe to transfer to the Gregorian calendar. They continued the usage of the outdated Julian calendar for a very long period. This includes the Russian revolution. Beware, some dates are off by around 12 days precisely because of the usage of the 'wrong' calendar. For the purposes of clarity we will try to use the Gregorian (modern) calendar, and so should you. Also, Russian underwent an orthography reform (revised spelling) discontinuing the usage of some letters and simplifying it. This was done after the revolution, but due to very strict enforcement of the

rules by the Bolsheviks, many Russian words dating from the civil war may be spelled incorrectly (major differences include the abolishing of the ѣ [hard sign], abolishing ѣ [yat] and the letter і [letter i]) due to the usage by opposing sides. For the sake of clarity, we will use the revised spelling if necessary. If using any of these is a defining sign of your political position, you may, in-fact you should for the sake of historical accuracy, continue to use these.

Also since this is a historical committee, you are more than welcome to attend wearing a historical or country specific outfit.

Last but not least, the cutoff point will be late september-early october 1919, marked by the fall of Murmansk/Arkhangelsk

#### **IV. Prelude**

World War I, or the Great War, as it was known back then, changed the political map of Europe quite considerably. In 1910, before World War I, despite the social pressure, only France, Switzerland and San Marino were republics. The monarchies of Europe largely survived the Spring of Nations of 1848-49. Karl Marx, a German philosopher, published his ideas in a pamphlet called The Manifesto of the Communist Party. In it, he outlined his historical materialist philosophical opinions. The Manifesto itself was condemned to obscurity, until the 1870s. Mikhail Bakunin, a prominent Russian anarchist, published a translation into Russian in 1869. A translation with a preface from Marx and his financier Engels was published in Russian in 1882.

The Russian Empire was, compared to the rest of Europe, decades, if not centuries behind. Serfdom in the Empire was abolished as late as 1861 by the Edict of Emancipation by Emperor (colloquially known as the Tsar) Alexander II. After a failed war against the Japanese in 1904, the Russian Revolution of 1905 broke out. It resulted in the abolition of the absolutist power of the Emperor, and the creation of a constitutional framework. Among others, the State Duma (Parliament) was created. All of this contributed to the spread of socialist ideas among the students of St. Petersburg's universities, the capital of the Russian Empire.

In the final decade of the 19th century Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (aka Lenin, named after the Siberian river Lena), from the city of Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk) on the river Volga, became one of the most influential figures of the Russian marxist opposition.

The Great War took a great toll on the ill-prepared and backwardly Russian Empire. Frustration with the regime grew. Despite what many believe, the Russian Revolution of 1917 was not one revolution, but two. The first one, in March 1917, resulted in the deposition of the Emperor (Tsar) and the initiation of a popular government based on socialist principles. The new government, however, was not yet prepared to abandon the war completely. It (correctly in

hindsight) believed that it is possible to win the war against the Central Powers and abandoning the war effort would harm Russia. The summer offensive would be labelled as the Kerensky Offensive. After the failure of the government of Prince Lvov, Alexander Kerensky, a Russian politician, coincidentally from Simbirsk too, gained prominence. In a cruel twist of fate, Kerensky's father, a teacher, vouched for the young Ulyanov's studies at the Kazan University. The Kerensky Offensive was a failure, mostly due to the state of the Russian Army. It was simply unwilling to fight, immersed in the revolutionary happenings of the time more than in the war effort. The only victorious battle of the Offensive was the Battle of Zboriv, fought not by the Russians, but by Czechoslovak legionnaires.

Lenin was in exile in Switzerland when the revolution broke out. In a desperate bid to travel to Petrograd, as the capital had been renamed, he negotiated a deal with the Germans to allow his passage. For the Germans it was what could be labelled as a 'Godsend', a man-revolutionary perfectly willing to stop the Russian war effort, therefore enabling a redistribution of pressure from two fronts, to one. More importantly, to the crucial one - the Western front. They travelled via Germany and Scandinavia arriving in April. Lenin was desperate to destabilise the relatively democratic government. Despite his rather low popularity in the initial stages of the Russian Revolution, he gained prominence with populist ideas catering to the two major popular wishes - peace and bread. He audaciously labelled his faction the 'Bolsheviks', from Russian *bolshoy*, meaning big/great. This stood against the so-called 'Mensheviks', from Russian *menshyy*, meaning small. The Mensheviks were the more popular politicians, at-least initially. Another major point of disagreement was the position of the Bolsheviks regarding 'professional revolutionaries', whom they regarded as the primary source of revolutionary upheaval. This went contrary to the belief of the Mensheviks, who viewed the revolution as necessitating popular support. Soon, the Bolsheviks overran the Mensheviks, truly becoming the bigger faction. This however wasn't mirrored in the so-called Petrograd Soviet (soviet means council in Russian), where the Mensheviks continued to have the majority. The Bolsheviks with Lenin

were ousted into exile into what was then Russian Finland. They actively began to prepare an undermining of the Provisional Government of Alexander Kerensky.

Kornilov, a Russian general, prepared what was viewed as a coup-d'état attempt against the Provisional Government. This government in turn then allowed the return of the Bolsheviks, viewing them as more radical and therefore more capable to put a halt to right-wing counter-revolutionary forces of the old elite. The Bolsheviks started organising Red Guards - an armed popular paramilitary. Lenin was getting stronger and stronger. And in essence more capable in taking the power in his sole hands, which was his only intention ever since the start of the revolution.



## **V. The Revolution**

The October Revolution started on the 7th of November 1917. The cruiser Aurora with its fake salvo symbolically started the storming of the Winter Palace. Occupied Finland and the Baltic nations were amongst the first to strive towards independence. Internal opposition against the Bolsheviks was high. Soon, mutinies began to be staged. The Kerensky-Krasnov uprising took place directly after the October Revolution in an attempt by the leader of the Provisional Government Kerensky to quash the revolution. After 6 days however, Kerensky was defeated by the Bolsheviks. This was just the start of upheaval from the Russian society, much of which was very conservative and old-fashioned and therefore unlikely to embrace the radical ideas of the revolution. The aristocracy and the bourgeoisie opposed the revolution because of the threat on their property, in the worst case on their lives. Especially the emerging bourgeoisie had much to lose, with their hard-earned business being at stake.

The Germans got what they needed in the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk from March 1918. In the end, they were very much responsible for Lenin being able to return to Russia and seize the power for himself and his posse. Unfortunately for the Germans, March 1918 was too late to change anything on the Western Front. The points of heat became the Ukraine and Turkestan in Central Asia. Ukraine was hoping for its own independence and Turkestan was hoping for a Sharia-governed Islamic state. In May 1918, the Czechoslovak legion started its revolt.

In September 1918, the Russian State was proclaimed, as an anti-communist government aiming to stop Bolshevism. This happened in the Russian city of Ufa in an area traditionally inhabited by the Muslim Bashkirs.

A major development was the Northern Intervention by the Allied Powers in a bid to stop the Bolshevik revolution with the looming threat of spillage into other, more westerly, European countries. The biggest foreign contributors were Britain and the US. This intervention aimed to help anti-Bolshevik groups to regain power and restore legitimacy in Russia.

This intervention started in March 1918 and ended in October 1919. With the exit of Western forces, Russian Whites, as the movement opposing the Bolshevik dictatorship became to be known, were left with a hard task of securing the continuation of their ideas based primarily on Imperial Russia. The Bolsheviks were enthusiastic about a world socialist revolution that would revamp the world order completely, abolishing nation-states with it. Especially the radicals, such as Trotsky, were prepared to further expand communism into the entire World.

The Allied Powers were very exhausted from World War I, with the exception of the US, which took part in the fighting only from the spring of 1917. This contributed to the failure of the intervention. However, the Russian State was not yet lost, and finding a diplomatic solution should be your aim in this committee. You should aim to prevent any unnecessary further spilling of blood in this conflict. Russia has already bled a lot.

As a closing reminder perhaps, please do not forget about the other nations living in what was the Russian Empire. Russia, at its heart, since its inception and in all its renditions (including the USSR) is an imperialist state colonising and oppressing nations. During those turbulent years, many nations had sought to establish their independent states. Some had succeeded (the Finns and the Balts), however, some had not (the Ukrainians, Belarusians, the inhabitants of the Caucasus and the inhabitants of Central Asia). Please think about those too.

## **VI. Closing Points**

- Russia was a very impoverished and backward nation, serfdom for example was abolished only in 1861, decades, even centuries after comparable European countries.
- Russia was exhausted after the Russo-Japanese War of 1904, resulting in the Revolution of 1905.
- The Russian populace was unhappy with World War I and preferred the solving of their dire economic and social situation.
- The Emperor was ousted in March 1917 at the beginning of the 1917 Revolution.
- The new provisional government of Prince Lvov was set to continue the war, as the Germans were under considerable strain from fighting a war on multiple fronts.
- Russian revolutionary and marxist thinker Ulyanov (Lenin) returned from exile from Switzerland with the help of the enemy - Germany.
- The Germans helped Lenin because they appreciated his more isolationist and radical stance on the war - with a pledge to pull out of it.
- Lenin and his faction of the RSDLP - the Bolsheviks - opposed the Mensheviks and soon outgrew them in support due to their populist policies.
- Russian Minister of War Kerensky leads a failed offensive in summer 1917 - despite this he becomes Prime Minister.
- After the Kornilov affair, the Provisional Government allowed the Bolshevik-affiliated Red Guards to arms.
- On the 7th of November 1917 the Red Guards charged the seat of the Provisional Government, the Winter Palace and overtook it.
- Immediately, opposition to the Bolsheviks created uprisings in Petrograd - these were quashed by the Red Guards.
- Soon, occupied nations of the Empire began to revolt, with Finland and the three Baltic States seeing through to their independence from Russia. Many other parts of the crumbling Empire started their own independence initiatives, such as in the Caucasus, in the Ukraine and in Turkestan.

- Soviet Russia pulls out of war with the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, the Germans have accomplished their goal.
- Russia was in full civil war, with the Russian State proclaimed in September 1918, which aimed to restore the Provisional Government.
- Meanwhile the Czechoslovak Legionaries revolted and fought their way to their new homeland the long way round - via the Trans Siberian Magistral and the Pacific Ocean.
- The Allies intervened in the North Russian Intervention.
- They were exhausted from World War I, thus leading to the evacuation of Allied troops from Murmansk and Arkhangelsk in September-October 1919.

## **VII. Special Rules**

### **a. Right of Veto**

Veto is a right possessed by the Russian State (Republic) and the Russian SFSR. It enables them to stop any Amendment or a Resolution from passing by a single vote against. If voting against, the Delegate of one of the countries must always say whether they are voting against with rights or without rights (with or without a Veto).

### **b. Veto Threat**

Before using a veto in a voting procedure, the Delegate who wishes to use their Veto right is obliged to send a note with the Veto Threat to the Chair who may recommend further debate upon the issue. If the Delegate does not send a veto threat note, he cannot use a Veto in the voting procedure.

### **c. Motion for an Allied Meeting**

An Allied country may raise a Motion for an Allied Meeting of up to 5 minutes. Upon passing, the Allied countries (Russian State, British Empire, France, USA) move behind closed doors. The rest of the Committee moves into an Unmoderated Caucus for the duration of the meeting.

### **d. Observers**

The Don Cossack Host, Makhnovshchina, the Green Army and the Freikorps are referred to as Observers and do not possess the right to a vote.

### **a. General Assembly**

Delegates from the Historical Diplomatic Summit will represent the present-day form of their state. If there is no contemporary alternative, they will be representing their historical formation in the present General Assembly, but with no voting rights.

## **VIII. Research**

Please keep in mind that this document is only a guide to your research of the topic, which should direct you to what is being discussed. The majority of the research, however, should be done by you. When researching, make sure you keep in mind these recommendations:

- ☐ Make sure you know basic information about your assigned country/group – leader, population, political system, foreign relations (especially with other members of the committee), etc.
- ☐ Check your country's policies and approach to drug trafficking, how it tries to stop it, or does not try to stop it. Find out how effective these measures have proven.
- ☐ Find out how the topic specifically affects your country. Does it provide supply or demand? Is your country on the trafficking path?
- ☐ It is recommended to familiarize yourself with the policies of other countries in the committee.

## **IX. Position Paper**

The position paper should be at least a half-page document, but one page is the standard, outlining your country's involvement and stance on the topic. It should cover these points:

- ☐ Present your country's approach to the agenda topic.
- ☐ Describe your country's past and present actions undertaken regarding the agenda topic, highlighting their effectiveness or lack of it.
- ☐ Introduce ideas for the resolution.
- ☐ Make sure your position paper, as well as your statements during the debates, correspond with the country's policy.
- ☐ Including factual knowledge, such as charts and statistics is highly recommended.

## **X. Further Reading and Useful Resources**

To be honest with you, we recommend using the Encyclopaedia Britannica for encyclopedic knowledge. It's a great source to use if you're looking for information in a format similar to Wikipedia, yet written by actual historians and fact-checked. A couple of universities have institutes dedicated to the research of Russia, specifically in the 20th century, which are also reliable and credible sources. Below are some links that you may find useful.

### **Encyclopedia Britannica**

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Russian-Civil-War>

### **An article about the civil war**

[https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/russian\\_civil\\_war](https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/russian_civil_war)

### **A Boston university article outlining further sources**

<https://sites.bu.edu/revolutionaryrussia/student-research/katherine-ruiz-diaz/>