

LIMUN XXXII

FALL OF U.S.S.R.



Background Guide
Chair: Hunter Atkins
Secretary: Andy Chae

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Introduction

Hey y'all, I am Hunter Atkins and I will be your chair for the LIMUN XXXII Fall of USSR committee. A little bit about myself: I've been participating in Model United Nations for 3 years at LAMP (a brief hiatus junior year) and have enjoyed participating in LIMUN and conferences across the Southeast, I really like to play soccer, and I'm a pretty chill guy who just wants to have a good time. I hope this committee will be your best experience you've had at LIMUN and it inspires you to attend LIMUN in the future.

I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and having a great committee. I hope everyone can participate and take part in the discussion because I am looking forward to an engaging and friendly committee with good debate about the topics. Keep in mind that during LIMUN debate other people may have different opinions than you about a topic, but you must respect their opinion and discuss the topics with order. I really hope the delegates in this committee can work well with each other while having a fun time doing it. **DON'T FORGET THAT THIS BACKGROUND GUIDE IS JUST TELLS THE HISTORICAL PRECEDENT FOR THIS COMMITTEE. IN COMMITTEE WE WILL BE COMING UP WITH ALTERNATE HISTORIES.**

I'll see all of y'all in committee... good luck preparing!

Hunter Atkins

Chair of Fall of USSR Committee

Hey guys and girls!

My name is Andy Chae, and I'm a senior at LAMP. I am thrilled to be the secretary for my boy Hunter for the Collapse of USSR. To briefly introduce myself, I have participated in committees such as FIFA and UNICEF in the past. In my downtime, I like to snowboard, play soccer, and ping pong as well as jam out with my friends on my guitar. I'm eager to see some exciting debates and potential solutions in the committee and to add on, all puns are allowed as long as I think it's funny so feel free to share some. I hope to see great amount of participation and talking in the committee and hope you guys have a sensational time at LIMUN. Good stuff.

Andy Chae

Secretary of Fall of USSR Committee

History of the USSR and its Fall

The Soviet Union first arose out of the October Revolutions of 1917 when the Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin overthrew the Russian Provisional Government, which replaced Tsar Nicholas II during World War I. It was officially formed by the Treaty on the Creation of the USSR in 1922, and in 1924 Lenin was killed and replaced by Joseph Stalin. Joseph Stalin led the Soviet Union as leader of the Communist Party through World War II, ruthlessly ruling over the citizens of the Soviet Union with total power. After Stalin's death in 1953, Nikita Khrushchev took over the USSR and helped establish the Soviet Union as a major world power with its military prowess, nuclear capabilities, technological advances in the space race with the United States, and large economy. Khrushchev was ousted in 1964, and Mikhail Gorbachev began to reform the USSR through the policy of perestroika.

However, under Gorbachev's rule the Communist Party lost most of its power in the Soviet Union government, and many Soviet Satellite states begin to overthrow the communist governments in 1989. George H.W. Bush's work with Gorbachev to democratize the Soviet Union ended up catalyzing its downfall because of the appearance of Boris Yeltsin, who supported the breaking up of the USSR. Because Gorbachev used Soviet Union's tanks to stifle democratic uprisings, America began to support Boris Yeltsin's rise to power. Also, a hardline communist group in the Soviet Union undermined the power of Gorbachev. Gorbachev resigned in 1991 after an unsuccessful coup, and Yeltsin took power in what was left of the USSR. On December 25, 1991, the USSR sickle flag was replaced by the Russian tricolor, and Yeltsin became president of the new Russian state.

The U.S. sent out a list of 5 basic guidelines that the new nations that arose out of the USSR must follow for U.S. cooperation: self-determination consistent with democratic principles, recognition of existing borders, support for democracy and rule of law, preservation of human rights and rights of national minorities, and respect for international law and obligations. In December of 1991, Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of Ukraine and Belarus met to form the Commonwealth of Independent States, which is a group that all the former Soviet republics are a part of to help facilitate trade and communication between borders. Joining the United Nations after the fall of the USSR was carried out by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Georgia; however, Belarus and Ukraine had already joined the UN as original member states in 1945, and Russia took the place of the Soviet Union in the UN.

Position Papers

Each delegate seeking consideration for awards at LIMUN must submit a position paper on each of the topics on Wednesday night. These papers should consist of brief background information on the topic, a summary of the nation's stance on the topic, and an overview of the delegate's ideas for alternate history on the topic. The position paper should not be a resolution, but rather a general statement of the nation's stance regarding the topic at hand. Position papers should be single spaced and approximately one-half page long per topic, and include a header with the country name, committee name, and topic. **DELEGATES MUST SUBMIT A POSITION PAPER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR AWARDS.** Good luck! An outline of a paper may be as follows:

- A. Background to the topic
 - a. History of a conflict
- B. Nation's stance on the topic
 - a. Prior action by the nation
 - b. Country's stance in post-fall years
- C. Ideas for alternate history

Tips for Participation and Winning Awards

MUN can seem intimidating especially having to go up and speak in front of quite a few people you do not know; however, once you go up there once and say something, it instantly becomes easier to go up again and make motions for stuff. Because this is a special historical committee, most of the ideas and resolutions we will make will be created on the fly, so thinking quickly will help you do well in the committee. Working with other delegates from other nations is also important because that cooperation can bring about original and outstanding solutions for the history. I hope the atmosphere in the committee is welcoming and open because I want all delegates to participate and have a great time. Also, all delegates must adhere to proper parliamentary procedure.

To be considered for awards delegates must write a position paper and participate frequently in the committee. I will also be looking at delegates that can approach a topic from a unique standpoint and work well with other delegates. Overall, I hope every delegate does their best and has a good experience at LIMUN!

Example Parliamentary Procedure: <https://outreach.un.org/mun/content/rules-procedure>

Topic A: How the former Soviet republics will address their sovereignty after the Soviet Union collapsed and if the de facto independent states will try to procure their independence from the former Soviet republics

Alright here is some context to this topic because I imagine some people are confused by it. So, there are the 15 former Soviet republics, and there are a numerous amount of de facto independent states, which are states that have called themselves independent by name from the overarching state, like Chechnya is with Russia. However, the de facto independent states still have to abide by the laws of the overarching states. Some examples of de facto independent states within the former Soviet republics include: Chechnya in Russia, Republic of South Ossetia in Georgia, Republic of Abkhazia in Georgia, Republic of Artsakh in Azerbaijan, and Transnistria in Moldova. As I already mentioned in the History of the USSR and its Fall, all of the 15 former Soviet republics are members in the United Nations and 12 states except Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia have joined the Commonwealth of Independent states, which acts as an EU-like body for those states, easing trade between those states. Therefore, in committee we will be discussing whether those de facto independent states should be recognized by the international community and by law as completely independent states, as well as if any of the former Soviet republics should join other international bodies. Also, the de facto independent states can decide what advantages they would gain from obtaining total independence from their de jure state, yet they must also consider the economic and political disadvantages of becoming totally independent.

Helpful Links:

<https://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/infopage/cis.htm>

https://web.archive.org/web/20080422030914/http://www.tiraspoltimes.com/news/south_ossetia_opens_embassy_in_abkhazia.html

Topic B: How the former Soviet republics and de facto independent states will deal with the many ethnic conflicts

There have been numerous ethnic conflicts between the former Soviet republics and the de facto independent states, as well as minority ethnic groups that are underrepresented in the governments of the Soviet republics. Many of the ethnic conflicts have been taken notice by the Human Rights Watch because of the human rights atrocities that were committed in these conflicts. Overall, the myriad of ethnic conflicts have accounted for at least 196,000 deaths. In Central Asia, the Tajikistani Civil War was one of the deadliest ethnic conflicts, and it started as a result of opposition against the democratically elected president in 1991. Factions formed with the old government idealists going against the democratic liberals and Islamists. The war lasted from 1992-1997, with many casualties occurring on both sides and a million people being displaced from Tajikistan. To end the war, a UN-sponsored armistice was issued; however, there were still disagreements about the proposed peace accords. After the war, Tajikistan was devastated, with the government and economy in disarray, and most of the citizens living on subsistence handouts, so the UN and other intergovernmental organizations provided aid to the Tajikistan government. In the North Caucasus region, many ethnic conflicts occurred with the most notable being the First and Second Chechen Wars. The First Chechen War began when Chechnya declared itself independent from Russia, so Russian troops invaded Chechnya and fought Chechen insurgencies from 1994 to 1996 until Russian troops

evacuated and Chechnya was declared de facto independent; however, by law Chechnya was still a part of the Russian Federation. During the Second Chechen War from 1999-2009, Russian troops regained control of most of the Chechen government and reasserted dominance over most of the Chechen territory in the Russian Federation. In the Southern Caucasus region, many ethnic groups fought for independence against Armenia and Georgia, including the region of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. Most of the ethnic conflicts in those regions are still ongoing as nations try to gain recognition of their independence from countries around the world. In the Eastern European region, the ethnic disagreements in Crimea and increasing number of Russian occupants in that area caused Russia to hold a referendum over Crimea, which led to Crimea being annexed by Russia. There are many more ethnic conflicts that have taken place in the former Soviet republics and de facto independent states that we will talk about, yet these are the major conflicts in these states.

Helpful Links:

<https://www.rferl.org/a/qishloq-ovozi-tajikistan-civil-war/28575338.htm>

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<http://countrystudies.us/tajikistan/37.htm>

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/tajikistan.htm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/482323.stm>

<https://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/russia2/Russia-03.htm>

<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/chechnya1.htm>

https://www.historyguy.com/chechen_war_two.html

<https://archive.is/20070821154629/http://www.hrvc.net/htmls/references.htm>

<https://idee.org/lreport2.html>

<https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/1992%20Bloodshed%20in%20Cauc%20-%20Escalation%20in%20NK.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_United_Nations_Security_Council_resolutions_on_the_Nagorno-Karabakh_conflict

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/nov/19/georgia-russia-eu-media-inquiry>

https://rm.coe.int/16806db884#P186_27442

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-29017736>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/11/russia-struggling-ukraine-military-operations-report>

Topic C: What the former Soviet republics and the de facto independent states should do with the nuclear power left in their states

After the Fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, around 39,000 nuclear weapons remained spread out across the 15 former Soviet Republics, which stretched across 11 time zones. With the United States and Russia realizing the raw, unlimited, destructive power of those nuclear weapons left in the former Soviet republics, both of those nations were forced to cooperate to maintain world stability, which included many of both nation's scientists working together in the same labs. The government of the Soviet Union, which was the Russian government after the fall, cooperated with the United States' government by issuing a unilateral withdraw of tactical nuclear weapons from Russian forces around the world as well as domestically. Almost all of the remaining nuclear weapons were left in the former Soviet republics of Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Russia. Belarus and Kazakhstan were relatively cooperative when giving up the nuclear weapons left in their state, with denuclearization ending in Ukraine in April 1995. The denuclearization was somewhat challenging in Ukraine because of Ukraine's recent independence with sparked a nationalism amongst its leading scientists and government workers, who wanted to

hold onto the nuclear power as a deterrent against the world powers and did not want to give back the nuclear power to its “annoying older brother” Russia. However, U.S. and Russian negotiations with Ukraine eventually convinced Ukraine to send its nuclear power back to secret Russian sites.

Helpful Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/mar/11/russia-struggling-ukraine-military-operations-report>

<https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/3%2014%2012%20Final%20What%20Happened%20to%20Soviet%20Arsenals.pdf>

<https://engineering.stanford.edu/magazine/article/why-soviet-nuclear-arsenal-stayed-secure-nation-collapsed>