Napoleonic Wars
Chair: Sarah Dinovelli
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Chair’s Letter

Highly Esteemed Allies,

It is my honor and privilege to welcome you to Vienna for the Fourth Coalition Strategy Meetings. Indeed this location is the most central, and therefore the most accessible place for us to convene. But I think that the memory of Austerlitz, which is especially fresh in this city, will serve as a constant reminder of the severity of our cause. Not only are we fighting for the political stability of Europe, but also for the millions of people who are currently suffering under the French’s radical regime.

Of course, our main goal is to crush the French army and reassert the dominance of autocracy in Europe. To allow the delusion that democracy will improve Europe to continue will only lead to more Napoleons and more chaos.

However, we must also remain vigilant in our own nations. Unfortunately, not all Europeans can see the doom democracy would bring, and have begun stirring unrest. We must maintain order at home for us to be successful abroad.

And finally, my friends, we must plan how we shall deal with France once we win this war. To allow the French state to completely collapse would be catastrophic to the balance of power in Europe. But allowing the French to rebuild themselves may also just lead to another Napoleon’s rise.

We have a long road of struggle ahead, my friends, but I have confidence that this Coalition will achieve victory!

Best,
Sarah Dinovelli
INTRODUCTION

Napoleon has vanquished every enemy, bested every alliance and coalition, and has brought France to a dominant position within Europe. Popular among the common people and brilliant at war, Napoleon has risen to prominence in France, and quickly has captured the attention of Europe. Every monarch and statesman is acutely aware of the unstoppable Grande Armee, and the grave threat it poses. Gathered are the leaders from Europe’s most important empires, kingdoms and principalities. From the frosty northern courts of Sweden, to the vast Russian Empire, to the slew of states born from the death of the Holy Roman Empire, all brilliant minds are called here today to one task. Many things divide them, but today they share one common goal: to defeat Napoleon.

Historical Overview:

The full history of the Napoleonic Wars is long and complicated. In order to help delegates easily understand the general context of the simulation, a broad overview of events is provided. This history is meant to give you a starting point in your research. It is highly encouraged that you research your country’s role in the previous coalitions in more detail. The Third Coalition is especially relevant since it directly precedes this simulation.

Origins of the Napoleonic Wars

On July 14, 1789 the French people stormed the Bastille and the French Revolution officially began. As the Revolution advanced and democracy started to gain a foothold in France, the other European powers became concerned. The introduction of democracy to Europe put all of their monarchs at risk. In 1791, the Holy Roman Empire and Prussia jointly issued the Declaration of Pillnitz, where they announced that they would use military force to reinstate the French king. In the same document the two leaders encouraged all European monarchs to do the same. This re-escalated tensions between France and Austria, leading to France declaring war on Austria in 1792. Both sides believed it would be a short war, but it ultimately enveloped all of Europe.

War of the First Coalition (1792 - 1797)
Coalition Members: Austria, England, Holland, Prussia, Sardinia and Spain

Initially the French did horrible in the war and the Prussian-Austrian alliance thought that victory over the fledgling republic was imminent. However, the victory at the Battle of Valmy helped legitimize the French and increased national morale. Perhaps patriotism was a bit too high though, because in the next few months the French executed their king and declared war on Britain, Spain, Russia, the Holy Roman Empire, most of Italy and The United Provinces. Lack of coordination between coalition members repeatedly prevented a decisive victory. Then fights over Poland distracted Russia and Prussia, resulting in Prussia leaving the war. After Napoleon marched through Italy and into Austria, Austria left the war with the Treaty of Campo Formio.

War of the Second Coalition (1799-1801)

Coalition Members: Austria, Britain, Russia, Turkey

Britain continued to combat the French using its naval dominance. After licking its wounds Austria also rejoined the fray. Early on in the war, the Coalition was able to push back the French through a three-pronged attack by Britain, Russia and Holland. A lot of this was due to the help of Russia, who helped Austria dominate the land while Britain and Turkey covered the sea. However, suspicions divided the coalition while Napoleon only continued to build up his army. So once again the coalition signed a peace treaty - the Treaty of Amiens.

War of the Third Coalition (~1803 - early 1806)

Coalition Members: Austria, Britain, Naples, Russia, Sweden

Once again the Coalition controlled the seas, but could not win a major land-victory. Napoleon attempted to end European resistance by invading England, but was stopped at the Battle of Trafalgar. But devastating losses at Austerlitz and Ulm sealed Napoleon’s victory. By the end, Napoleon controlled all of Italy, Germany(which became the Confederation of the Rhine), Switzerland, and Holland.

The Rise of Napoleon

Throughout the first three Coalition Wars, Napoleon won the loyalty and respect
of the French people through numerous victories. He was promoted to Brigadier-General at the age of 24, and became the Savior of France when he crushed an uprising by French loyalists. In 1799, Napoleon and his allies saw an opportunity to instate a more militaristic state. So in July they successfully launched a coup d'etat and replaced the republican government with a dictatorship. By 1804, Napoleon crowned himself emperor.

The Situation:

The simulation will begin in August, 1806. Napoleon has refused Prussia’s ultimatum to move his forces back to the Rhone and Prussia has declared war. It joins a coalition made up of Austria, Britain, Saxony, Russia and Sweden. Joined by key allies Portugal and Sicily, the Coalition shall hold regular war strategy meetings to plan its moves against France.

Dispute Over Territory East of the Rhone

The most pressing issue at the moment is Napoleon’s refusal to vacate territory east of the Rhone River, which runs through Switzerland and into southern France. Not only does this allow Napoleon to continue strengthening his hold on the Mediterranean, but also poses a security risk to Prussia. While Prussia does have a sizeable army, its jaded war strategies raise doubts about whether Prussia could repulse the French on its own. The committee will first have to decide if it shall aid Prussia, and if so, how?

Republican Movements in Europe

Meanwhile, despite Napoleon’s unpopularity in European nations the ideals he embodies continue to spread. After seeing the Americans and the French successfully overturn a monarchy, Europeans have began to seriously contemplate the benefits of republicanism. After the Age of Enlightenment, Europeans generally prefer to use logic to solve problems and to guide their lives. Religion and faith are of course still important, but the movement towards reason makes the masses wonder if a state supposedly ruled by a proxy of God is a good thing. Faith in the monarchies has only further deteriorated as again and again the Enlightened Napoleon defeated the Kings of Europe.

Small, underground groups have already formed in various European nations
to support radical government reform. Dozens of people have already been arrested for circulating underground newspapers, preaching the philosophies of Locke and Jefferson in the streets, and criticizing the monarchy. For now harsh punishments of would-be rebels have deterred escalation of the situation is under control. But the French Revolution has already shown Europe that the common people are willing to spill blood for the sake of freedom.

The Reconstruction of Europe

If and when Napoleon is defeated, it will fall to members of the winning coalition to decide the fate of France and its territories. As of 1805, Napoleon controlled a number of former kingdoms and states. Restoring such territories’ sovereignty would not only be noble, but also would help to regain the balance of power that existed before the Napoleonic Wars. However, some regions, especially the Confederation of the Rhine, may be too risky to regain independence. The collective threat the kingdoms would pose, should they unite, would be significant to say the least. Furthermore, splitting territories among the Coalition could not only aid their recovery, but also provide an opportunity to balance power between a few superpowers. This could promote unprecedented long-term peace in Europe. Yet, absorbing territories may have unforeseen economic, political and social consequences that should also be considered.

Then there is the matter of what to do with France. The reinstatement of the monarchy is of course the ideal goal. It would reaffirm the legitimacy of autocracy and would send a clear message to the French people - revolution will fail. However, there are several logistical issues this solution generates. Where is Louis XVI’s heir? How will the Royal Court be rebuilt from the ground up? Who shall oversee the government’s reconstruction? Another thing the Coalition should also consider when deciding France’s fate is public opinion in their own countries. As aforementioned, republicanism is gaining popularity, and a wrong move by the establishment could lead to even more revolts.
Guiding Questions:

- Is conscription ever justified? If so, under what conditions?
- What should be the status of recaptured Napoleonic territories?
- What long-term strategic objects does your country wish to achieve, other than defeating Napoleon?
- How does your country envision a post-Napoleon France?
Positions:

1. Frederick Augustus I, Elector of Saxony
   Elector Augustus has been a supporter of the French monarchy since the French Revolution. He did not want to oppose Napoleon’s campaign, but an early agreement has forced him to join the 4th Coalition. He will likely fight Napoleon for now, but will search for any excuse to leave the coalition and ally with France.

2. King Ferdinand III of Sicily
   After the Italian Campaign of the War of the 3rd Coalition, Sicily is occupied by French forces. However, Ferdinand continues to rule the kingdom from British-protected Palermo. From Palermo, he continues to resist the French occupation, but requires aid to take back his kingdom.

3. Major General Sir John Stuart, Leader of the Royal Sicilian Regiment
   Since the annihilation of the Sicilian army in the War of the 3rd Coalition, Sicily is defenseless save a number of British troops. For the past few months, Sir Stuart has recruited a few hundred men to serve as a foreign unit of the British Army. The Regiment has been successful so far, but Stuart worries for the safety of his men and will not endanger them without good cause. Ideally, he would like to increase his numbers before taking any major military action.

4. Gustav IV Adolf of Sweden
   After a failed campaign in the War of the 3rd Coalition, Sweden is more concerned about protecting its own territory than anything else. Specifically, the Swedish leadership is concerned about the protection of Swedish Pomerania. However, the King must also decide how to deal with an additional slight - the ejection of his troops from Hanover by French forces. Not to mention that the Swedish budget is quite tight.

5. John VI of Portugal, Regent and Acting Leader of Portugal
   As an absolutist and ally of England, Regent John refuses to work with the French. However, he faces increasing political and military pressure from France and Spain. Meanwhile, the growing instability in Portugal since 1803 splits the
Regent’s attention between domestic and foreign affairs. Portuguese liberals are especially violent, having already revolted in Campo de Ourique.

6. Gomes Freire de Andrade, Lieutenant General of the Portuguese Army

De Andrade rose to prominence in the Portuguese army as a brilliant officer. But despite being an officer in the Portuguese Army, de Andrade has many issues with the Portuguese government. He is against the idea of a monarchy, and so often sympathizes with Napoleon’s cause. At times, such sympathies have turned violent, like when he led the Campo de Ourique in 1803. But so far he has stayed cautiously loyal to the Portuguese monarch.

7. Archduke Charles, Duke of Teschen

The younger brother of Emperor Francis, Charles was a field-marshal for the Austrians and has made a reputation for himself as a great tactician, as well as an individual who is open to reform and innovation within the armed forces. Though he has just led a disastrous defeat against Napoleon in Italy, but he is undeterred, and more committed than ever to warcraft. He has the full support of the armed forces and is trusted by his elder brother to lead Austrian forces into battle.

8. Johann Philipp, Count von Warthausen and Foreign Minister

An eminent Austrian statesman, he was trusted by the Habsburgs to conduct much of Austria’s most important foreign policy. Since the beginning of his career in 1790, he has been sent to Sweden, the United Kingdom, Prussia and Russia, and is ever preparing to renew Austria’s fight against the dominant French. Though he has had varied success in his endeavors, failing to bring Prussia into the third coalition for instance, he is well traveled across Europe and a familiar face in front of some of the most important Dukes, Princes and Kings in Europe.

9. Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich, Ambassador to France

Metternich rubbed shoulders with princes, studied law, and mastered the
French language as he grew up, maturing into a trusted member of the Austrian court. Having held many positions, from advising financial affairs to practicing statesmanship at the court of Dresden, Metternich has now been tapped to go to France and serve in the French court during this tumultuous time. Self described as being more French than in German, Metternich is the Hapsburg’s direct line to the French ministers and even, on rare occasion, has the opportunity to meet Napoleon himself.

10. Duchess Louise of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Queen of Prussia

Queen Louise was an influential figure within Prussia. Not only was she the wife of King Frederick William III, she also used her winning personality to garner ties to many senior figures in the government, as well as the love of her subjects. She is known to be a close adviser of her husband’s and is interested in bringing Prussia to war. She is intensely proud of Prussia and though she opposed entering the first or second coalitions formed against Prussia, she is now advocating her pacifistic husband Frederick Wilhelm.

11. Duke of Brunswick-Wolfenbuttel, Charles William Ferdinand

The sovereign ruler of Brunswick, he has brought his principality into alignment with Prussia and leads Prussian troops into battle with his position as a Field Marshal in the Prussian forces. He is widely acclaimed as a brilliant commander of military forces, and has had extensive experience leading men in combat during the 7 Years War and the French Revolutionary Wars, during which time he served with Prussian troops.


One of the foremost soldiers and statesmen in the United Kingdom of his era, he was a major-general of the British Army at the start of the War of the Fourth Coalition. His foremost military success up to this point was his defeat of the Maratha Confederacy at the Battle of Assaye in 1803, during the War of the Third Coalition. He appears on his way up the ranks of the British military due to his consistent successes on the ground.

13. George III
He has been the King of the United Kingdom throughout the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars. Though extremely prone to illness, the King has maintained a strong political presence throughout the Wars, even offering to take the field and lead his soldiers to battle on the ground despite his ill health. Though facing domestic challenges regarding his political authority in the UK, his word still carries significant weight in the public eye regarding the military actions of the Kingdom.

14. Prince Adam Jerzy Czartoryski
A Pole in the position of Russia’s council of ministers, Czartoryski was the unofficial chairperson of Russia’s Council of Ministers, the centralized gathering of all of Russia’s most important ministers. More importantly had the ear and trust of Tsar Alexander as a member of the Tsar’s privy council. He has had many roles serving his Tsar, including a role in presiding over the Vilna Academy, the oldest Baltic University and a prestigious source of intellectual thought in the Russian empire, and a term as the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He views a Russian-British axis as the natural counterbalance to Napoleonic strength and was perpetually wary of the Germanic states.

15. Levin August Gottlieb Theophil aka Count von Bennigsen
So far Count von Bennigsen has done a commendable job leading the Russian armies against Napoleon. However, the lack of modern military strategies and technology has taken its toll in the last year. Now the Count has retreated to a safe area and supports a ceasefire until Russia can recover. He will probably recommend that Russia avoid military conflict unless Russia’s sphere of influence is directly threatened.
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