Princeton Model United Nations
Conference 2017

France WW2
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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to la belle France! My name is Ben Press, and I have the great privilege of serving as chair of the French Cabinet committee at this year’s Princeton Model United Nations Conference. I’m excited to be able to welcome you all to what is sure to be a lively, engaging, and—most importantly—fun conference. Over the few sessions we will spend together, we will get to know each other and the ropes of Model UN as we face and overcome the challenges France faces as Europe sits on the brink of war.

But before we get into the background of the committee, I’d like to introduce myself. I’m a sophomore in Butler College here at Princeton, and I hail from Vienna, Virginia (famed for being home to the most spies per head of almost anywhere), just outside of Washington, DC. Outside of PMUNC, I serve as captain of Princeton’s Model UN Team, co-chair on the Butler College Council, and U-Councilor with the University Student Government. In my free time, I think about going to the gym but never do, play golf (very badly), and sleep way more than I should. And I make time for watching Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, because that’s pretty important too. On the academics front, although I have not yet declared a major, I plan to concentrate in History with certificates in French Language and Culture and perhaps Contemporary European Politics and Society.

As your Chair, my primary objective is to make sure you all have fun. We’ll face some crises—some designed by the crisis staff and some of your own making—and will use those developments to refine important MUN (and life) skills. Jivahn and I will do our best to make sure that the committee is moving along at a pace that works for everyone, and we and I will make sure that everyone is included in the committee’s work. I believe that the best committees are ones where the members drive the action, and as such we’ll be looking to you
all to bring about the changes that will move France’s (and perhaps your own) agenda forward. We are looking forward to sharing a great conference with you all, and we couldn’t be more excited to share the weekend with you. We hope you enjoy your time here in New Jersey, and I can’t wait to meet you all in a few short weeks! A bientôt!

All the best,

Ben Press
Committee Description

Introduction:

World War II was arguably the most devastating conflict in the history of mankind. With active combat taking place on four continents, it redefined the notion of global warfare and rebalanced the global order. With the use of devastating new technologies and weapons delivery systems changing the nature of warfare, casualties were immense. On both the civilian and combatant fronts, casualties exceeded those of the First World War-- known as “the war to end all wars”-- by a factor of four. With the mechanization of death, immortalized in the work camps and gas chambers of Nazi Germany, the war’s destruction exceeded anything the world had ever known.

The Second World War, much like the Great War of 1914-18, was prompted by political strife, extremist nationalism, and economic opportunism. With the humiliating conditions imposed on Germany at the Treaty of Versailles, German leaders immediately began seeking revenge. In the wake of the Great Depression, which had swept across the globe in the early 1930s, new types of leaders seized on economic nationalism and a sense of racial nativism to bring themselves to power. These patterns were most notable in Germany with the rise of Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini in Italy, but also contributed to the political climate in Japan, and, to a significant extent, in France and other Allied powers. In the faces of weakening liberal democracies, like that of Third Republic France and Neville Chamberlain’s United Kingdom, the scales of power towards the end of the 1930s appeared to be tipping towards the forces of fascism.

To counter this, a complex web of alliances began to emerge. By the end of the 1930s, most of Europe’s powers had begun to take sides in the brewing conflict. France and the United
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Kingdom, the primary victors of the Great War of the previous generation, remained committed to each other and to avoiding another global war. They allied themselves with Poland, on the other side of Germany, to promote a policy of deterrence for German invasion. Yet tensions have been rising continuously over the past few weeks; only a few weeks ago, on May 22, Germany, Italy, and Japan-- the three great powers opposed to overthrowing the post-WWI international order-- finalized a military alliance with the signing of the so-called Pact of Steel. Each has begun an aggressive armament campaign, including new tanks, airplanes, guns, and communications equipment in direct violation of the terms of the Treaty of Versailles.

On the French front, our military commanders have continued to put in place defensive structures for its defense. They have completed construction of the Maginot line, a series of forts extending from the Swiss border to the Ardennes forest. However, with the Great Depression straining the country’s budget, and the memory of the devastation of World War I still looming large in the public conscience, the people are wary of further investments in military expenditures and have expressed support for avoiding any long-term military commitment by the French armed forces. Additionally, with the political instability of the Third Republic-- which has seen governments rise and fall within a period of only a few days, like that of the first weeks of World War I-- many generals feel that the government simply cannot handle another conflict. As the cabinet, you will need to overcome these challenges to face the brewing political and military challenges that threaten France’s sovereignty.

The action of the committee need not-- and indeed hopefully will not-- play out as it did in the history books. This committee will start in June 1939, before the Nazi invasion of Poland that triggered the series of events that would bring the entire continent to war. As members of the French cabinet and military leadership, we expect you to face the political, economic, and
military challenges that will invariably face the Third Republic. Paris is abuzz with gossip and news about the oncoming war, and they expect you to take responsibility for whatever happens. Your crisis staff will be looking to hold a realistic simulation, and we encourage you to experiment-- within reason, of course-- with alternate ways the conflict could have played out. Depending on the actions of the committee, the French Resistance could play a far more substantial role in the war than it did in real life. Or, should your military strategy prove sound, perhaps France may not even fall. You may even choose to forsake your British allies and align yourselves with Germany. It’s entirely up to you all to decide!
History of the Topic (France, 1939):

a) World War 1 and the Rise of Germany

World War 1 ended in 1919 with the Treaty of Versailles\(^1\), which blamed Germany for the war and forced them to make reparations to the victorious powers. Notably:

- **Political losses**: Germany lost all of its overseas colonies, had to give up the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to France, and lost other land to Poland, Denmark and Belgium.

- **Economic losses**: Germany was forced to pay billions of dollars in war reparations to the victorious powers, which crippled its economy and virtually bankrupted its government.

- **Military losses**: To prevent the resurgence of a militarized Germany, the Allied powers limited the army’s size to 100,000 men, and caps were placed on the number of ships in the Kriegsmarine (the German navy) and Luftwaffe (the German Air Force). The Rhineland, an important German economic zone close to France, was made a demilitarized area. The manufacturing and importation of weapons and military equipment was severely limited, if not completely restricted.

Unsurprisingly, the Treaty of Versailles was severely criticized by most Germans, who had no say in its terms, and who resented such harsh conditions laid out. The severe economic hardship that followed, particularly during the Great Depression, allowed Adolf Hitler to rise to power.

power\textsuperscript{2}. By proposing a two-pronged ideology of aggressive national expansion and targeting ethnic and political groups that Hitler deemed unfriendly to the regime, including Communists, homosexuals, and Jews, Hitler rose to prominence, thriving in the deeply resentful political climate of Depression-era Germany. As founder of the National Socialist Workers (Nazi) party, Hitler used his charisma to expand the party’s membership and make it the dominant party in German politics. By 1933, President Hindenburg had appointed Hitler as chancellor, functionally handing him the reins of power in Germany. Within two months, Hitler had stripped the German people of civil liberties and granted himself and his close advisers dictatorial powers. Today, Hitler rules Germany with an iron fist and has made threatening gestures towards its neighbors. In particular, there is reason to believe that Hitler is singling out Poland for his campaign for “Liebensraum”, meaning “living space”-- Hitler’s program of national expansion for the German people.

Recently\textsuperscript{3}, Germany has made significant strides in power in Europe. Germany’s economy is prosperous, with low unemployment and low poverty. In particular, their industrial sector is strong, particularly in the manufacturing and energy sectors. However, international observers note that Germany has violated several clauses of the Treaty of Versailles without actually declaring war on France or the United Kingdom.

- In November 1936, Hitler and Mussolini signed a cooperation treaty aligning their two countries. In addition, Germany and Japan also finalized the Anti-Comintern pact (directed against the Soviet Union).
- In March 1938, Germany took control of Austria.

\textsuperscript{2} https://www.britannica.com/biography/Adolf-Hitler/Rise-to-power

\textsuperscript{3} https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10007306
In September 1938, France and the UK signed the Munich Treaty with Germany and Italy, which forced Czechoslovakia to give up the Sudetenland to Germany. In March 1939, Germany violates this agreement by invading the rest of Czechoslovakia.

The German army has engaged in a campaign of production that well exceeds the limits placed in 1919, with new aircraft, tanks, and weapons entering the Wehrmacht’s arsenal.

Also concerning to the Cabinet is the recent Italian invasion of Albania in April 1939. Japan is pursuing its invasion of China and its expansion in the Pacific, which could potentially threaten your presence in French Indo-China (France’s colony of Vietnam).

b) France’s current situation

France’s economy suffered severely during the Great Depression, and it is still recovering. However, France appears to have permanently lost its place as the economic powerhouse of Europe. After the devastation of World War I, it has proven challenging for some areas to rebuild and attain levels of pre-war production. The national debt, however, has skyrocketed; since 1931, the French government borrowed 126 billion francs, much of which came from the Bank of France. The huge deficit has eroded trust with many banks and other financial institutions, who are reluctant to lend you money even at a high interest rate.

Unemployment remains high, and although production is once again beginning to increase, it remains at roughly 80% of pre-Depression levels. Industrial production, however, is still weak, and the agricultural sector is seeing production cut significantly.

The political scene in France is not much better. Under the Third Republic, the governments have been incredibly unstable, and the turnover rates ministers is incredibly high.


5 https://www.britannica.com/place/France/The-Great-Depression-and-political-crises
Because no political body possesses the authority to take executive action, decisions take a very long time to make, often resulting in the government not being able to respond to crises in time. Additionally, because the turnover in governments is so high, very few have been able to push through and implement their legislative agendas. Radical parties on both the left—like the Popular Front, a socialist party, which ruled from 1936-37—and the Croix-de-Feu, or Cross of Fire, an organization of extremely conservative reactionaries, have come to be a major presence on the political scene. As a result, after the debacle of the early months of World War I, where the government nearly collapsed because of radicalism, political instability, and the lack of governmental leadership, the French public is extremely concerned at the political implications of another war.

On the bright side, France is still the second largest colonial world power after the United Kingdom. Some notable areas you control are North/West Africa, including Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia), Madagascar, French Indochina (Vietnam) and some parts of the Middle East, including Lebanon and Syria. The colonies have proven to be a positive economic force for the French Republic, giving our producers a captive market and access to an incredible wealth of resources. They will surely be prized by any foe who seeks to challenge us. However, the populations of these colonies have sent many soldiers to staff regiments of colonial troops and will be willing to fight to defend themselves against foreign invaders. Since the First World War, we have invested significantly in building up military infrastructure in these areas, including naval bases, air stations, and inland army bases.
c) European politics

The current political situation in Europe is extremely complex. Germany, desiring to reclaim the territories that it had lost from the Treaty of Versailles and to increase its area to give its citizens enough Lebensraum (or “living space”), has adopted a policy of slow expansionism, at the detriment of its neighboring countries. Italy, like Germany, is under a fascist government headed by Benito Mussolini, and also appears to have expansionist aims, given its invasion of Ethiopia and Albania and Mussolini’s professed goal of “creating a new Rome”. These two countries have formed a strong alliance, and have also reached out to Japan, whose aggressive actions in the Pacific and in China and Manchuria pose a potential threat to your colonies in the Far East.

You currently have extremely close ties with the UK, your close ally from the Great War. You both have so far adopted a policy of appeasement, and have decided to allow limited German and Italian expansionism in exchange for peace. However, many other countries such as
Poland— our ally— are feeling more and more threatened by Nazi Germany, and are likely to continue exerting pressure on you to take a firmer approach to these nations’ expansionism. They also will want mutual defense accords set up, and guarantees that you will not forsake them should Germany invade. The strength of the heavily armed Maginot Line you erected to fortify the Franco-German border and the quality of the French military make it unlikely that Germany poses a threat to France itself; however, should you choose to take preemptive action on Germany, there is a strong chance that open long-term hostilities would break out between your two countries, which would pose significant economic hardship on your people.

A key player to consider is the Soviet Union. After they pulled out of World War I at the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in 1917, relations between France and the newly-Communist country have been cool. Now led by the authoritarian Joseph Stalin, Russia has seen significant changes to build up Russia and consolidate power; he has strived to spur his nation’s industrial capacities, and has recently completed a purge of his armed forces. The USSR is a major industrial and military power that should definitely not be overlooked when making your plans. Stalin has been open to negotiating with both sides, and, although he currently is reaching out more to Germany, your countries have had cordial relations in the past.

Another major player is the USA. The world’s leading industrial power since World War I, with a small but well-equipped military and a large economy, the United States would be a good ally to have should war break out. The USA has enjoyed very strong ties with France and the UK following your cooperation during the Great War, and is currently one of your major trade partners. Currently, US popular sentiment is against any direct involvement in European affairs; however President Roosevelt is committed to maintaining his country’s relationship with yours. The US maintains strong cultural ties with France and Great Britain, particularly after the
Great War. The US, like France, has a colony in the Pacific (the Philippines) that could be threatened should Japan pursue its expansionist policy, though they are less threatened on the European front.

**Current Situation:**

The committee will start in June 1939. Although war has not been declared between you and Germany, tensions are high following Germany’s violation of last year’s Munich Agreement by invading Czechoslovakia.

a) **France’s Military Forces (1939)**: France’s military is one of the world’s finest. You have significant manpower and good military technology supported by access to deep reserves of manpower from both the mainland and the colonies.

- **Troops:** Standing army of 900,000 trained men, with 5 million in reserves.
- **Land:** 4,200 tanks
- **Air:** 1,100 fighters; 1,000 bombers and 800 reconnaissance planes
- **Naval:** 1 aircraft carrier (the *Commandant Teste*), 75 submarines, 19 cruisers, 17 destroyers

You also have the advantage of the Maginot Line, a massive project that was implemented to fortify the Franco-German border in the event of a German invasion. The fortifications cover the entirety of the border between France and Germany. Although protections are in place on the Franco-Italian, Franco-Belgium, and Franco-Luxembourg borders,

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6 [https://ww2-weapons.com/french-armed-forces-1939/](https://ww2-weapons.com/french-armed-forces-1939/)
these defenses are significantly less impressive…

Current fortifications along the Franco-German border

b) Foreign Relations: Allies and Antagonists:\n
One of the most important factors this committee must take into consideration is alliances with other nations. Although France is a major world power with a vast colonial empire, we are unlikely to be a match for the combined forces of the Axis Powers without help from our allies. In addition, we must recognize how volatile Europe’s political landscape is: alliances can change, and countries that once were your enemies may well be willing to cooperate with you should you seek their help. Although France is currently a strong ally of the United Kingdom and a fierce opponent of the Axis Powers, this balance of power can always be changed…

Current Allies:

7 [http://www.worldwar2history.info/war/Allies.html](http://www.worldwar2history.info/war/Allies.html)
- **Great Britain**: Despite the occasional grumble your countries may have had over the last thousand years, the UK is now one of France’s closest, and most powerful, allies. Its current Prime Minister is Neville Chamberlain, whose politics of appeasing Germany while mobilizing the British forces reflect the views of his country. In addition to being a formidable naval power, the UK has formidable influence across the globe due to its mighty colonial empire with the resources and manpower that come with it.

- **Belgium**: This nation stands between you and Germany and, although it is not a major military power, is part of your line of defense.

- **Poland**: Fearful of German and Soviet expansionary interest, you and the UK have already promised to support this nation should Germany invade them.

- In addition, many other European nations that are fearful of a German invasion are likely to side with you (consider Norway, Greece, Denmark…).

- Finally, do not forget France's vast colonial empire. Although the territories you control aren’t currently hostile, and are providing your nation with a significant amount of wealth and worldwide influence, this could always change should these people choose to revolt. On the other hand, should they remain appeased and benevolent towards you, they can be an impressive source of raw materials, manpower and global influence.

**Current Adversaries:**

- **Germany**: Having recuperated the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine which rightfully belonged to you, the French people are deeply proud of their victory over Germany in the Great War and see them as a humiliated power. However,
the German people are resentful of your treatment of them and your terms in the Treaty of Versailles, and Hitler is bent on revenge. His rhetoric towards France has been aggressive, and the climate in Berlin towards the French is cold.

- **Italy**: France is, quite justifiably, worried about the rise of fascism in Italy under Mussolini, who has aligned himself with Germany and seems to share Hitler’s desire to occupy neighboring countries.

- **Japan**: Although it is geographically distant enough to not pose a threat to France’s mainland, Japan’s Pacific expansionism and its alliance with Germany pose a threat to your (and the UK’s) Far Eastern colonies.

**Unclear:**

- **USA**: Although the USA supported you and the UK against Germany in the Great War, and although President Roosevelt is strongly committed to your countries’ ties, public opinion in the United States is strongly opposed to any military involvement in Europe. The prevailing political climate in both parties is one of isolationism, although economic ties are likely to remain strong even in the event of war.

- **Soviet Union**: The USSR is a bit of an enigma at the current moment. Naziism is fundamentally opposed to the USSR’s communism, and Hitler’s racist views towards Slavic people make it unlikely that he would reach out to Stalin. However, both want to expand their control over Eastern Europe. You signed a nonaggression pact with the USSR in 1935, however Stalin has reached out to

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Germany in the past as well. Their shared interest in Poland may pose an opportunity for cooperation, or for conflict.

Country / People Policy:

Each member of this committee has different objectives, however there are several groups that can be broadly defined for various ideologies. All members of the committee want what is best for the people of France and for the French Republic. Some such as Charles De Gaulle or Andre Malraux are staunchly opposed to Hitler’s expansionism and will likely prefer that France take a harsher line on Germany’s recent actions. Others like Henri-Philippe Petain or Maurice Papon might prefer cooperation with the Nazis should such a path be more beneficial for France. Some like Moulin, De Gaulle or Petain are already established and well known figures; others like Mitterrand are young and not yet established figures. Delegates representing more experienced and established characters will need to use their resources to their best advantage from the start, whereas those representing ‘newcomer’ characters, despite having fewer starting resources, will have the opportunity to construct and develop their assets from scratch. The dais will, in both cases, favor creative uses of crisis notes, strong character development, and participation in caucuses, resolution writing, and committee discussions.

Concerning the different political alignments, the crisis staff will keep you updated on how the world’s alliances are shifting. These will start out by following the historical patterns, however, depending on the actions taken by this committee, the balance of power may alter significantly from the real history. (The more it does so, the more interesting and less predictable things will be). This committee will, at the start of the conference, represent an assembly of influential and promising French leaders of very diverse backgrounds dedicated to serving
France. As time goes on, you may change your headquarters, be forced underground, or even be split up geographically.

**Keywords:**

- **Lebensraum**: Literally ‘living space’. One of the main factors behind Hitler and the Nazi Party’s European expansionism was the idea of Lebensraum, that is the need to give the German people increased living space to live prosperous lives.

- **Third Republic**: The governing structure of France from 1870 onwards. The governmental structure was meant to avoid having an all-powerful executive, and placed power in the hands of a weak president and a parliamentary cabinet which was plagued by indecision and scandal.

- **Wehrmacht**: The name of the German land army. Composed of highly trained, well-equipped soldiers, the Wehrmacht works with the Luftwaffe (the Air Force) and the Kriegsmarine (the Navy) to provide for Germany’s defense.

- **Munich Agreement**: Settlement between the powers of Europe to allow for the Nazi annexation of the German-speaking Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia.

**Key questions:**

The people you will be representing in this committee represent a wide spectrum of views. Some of you will be representing military generals; others philosophers and writers. Some of you view Germany’s situation with sympathy and are willing to cooperate with Hitler; others are vehemently opposed to Germany’s expansionism. Some of you will be starting out with a
plethora of resources at your disposal; others will need to acquire these on your own. All of you share a strong love for your country and a desire to improve France’s situation; however the ways you will seek to accomplish this will differ significantly. You will need to find the balance between cooperating with your fellow councilmembers to pass resolutions and unite France behind you, and standing firmly for your own personal ideas. Some key questions to keep in mind are:

1) **What issues would my character support, and which would he/her oppose?** Although you must keep your character’s particular interests in mind, you do have a lot of flexibility when deciding how they should act provided that you remain consistent with your stances. Remember that history need not play out as it has, and people who in the past became ardent Resistance fighters or staunch collaborators with the Vichy Regime may not do so in this committee. Also don’t forget that it you are allowed to publicly support an issue in committee but privately act differently via crisis notes.

2) **How will our committee’s decisions benefit the French Republic?** Your priority first and foremost is the welfare of the citizens of France. You want to provide the French Republic with the wealth, high living standard and international prestige it deserves; however it may prove impossible to satisfy all these goals simultaneously…

3) **Which alliances are most likely to benefit France?** Will maintaining your friendship with the United Kingdom be most beneficial for your nation, or would it be better to tolerate the rise of Germany? Questions such as this have no right or wrong answer, and will instead be up to your character to determine for themselves.

4) **What options do I have to accomplish my objectives?** Remember, any problem can have many solutions: economic, military, political… For both committee resolutions and your
personal crisis notes, try to combine different options to accomplish your objectives. Don’t hesitate the be creative (albeit realistic) - we will try to facilitate your crisis plans as much as possible!

5) *Know your topic*: this committee is unlikely to strictly follow the course of history, so don’t worry too much about knowing obscure details of World War 2. More important, however, is having a thorough understanding of each country and individuals’ motivations, and what means they are likely to use to attain them. Although a flawless understanding of history is not required by any means, knowing how things played out will be a good indication of each actor’s motivations, and a likely source of inspiration.
Positions

- **Charles de Gaulle**: upon his graduation from the respectable military school of Saint-Cyr, De Gaulle began a military career right out of graduation. He served under Henri-Philippe Petain during the Great War, and has currently risen to the rank of Brigadier-General. He is an outspoken critic of trench warfare, and has proven himself to be outspoken and willing to criticize his superior officers.

- **Henri-Philippe Petain**: Nicknamed the “Hero of Verdun” for his exploits during the infamous Battle of Verdun during the Great War, Petain has become a popular war hero and was made a Marshal after the armistice. During the Great War, he was able to earn the trust of his troops by communicating directly with his soldiers and by ensuring they had a decent living standard.

- **Maurice Papon**: A very promising government bureaucrat, Papon has served as a police leader in many of the prefectures of France. He has an interest in suppressing dissident groups, and has a talent for organizing secret police efforts to prevent disruption to society.

- **Jean Moulin**: a young man with a strong background in law, Jean Moulin recently became the youngest Prefect of France (of the Eure-et-Loire department).

- **André Malraux**: born to a wealthy French family, Andre Malraux spent much of his young adulthood in the Middle and Far East. His travels have given him a strong

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10 [https://www.britannica.com/biography/Philippe-Petain](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Philippe-Petain)


12 [https://www.britannica.com/biography/Andre-Malraux](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Andre-Malraux)
understanding of these regions of the world, and connections in each of these places. An outspoken critic of Naziism and fascism, Malraux actively supported the Republican forces in the Spanish Civil War, and has recently enlisted in the French army.

- **Sir Ronald Hugh Campbell** (UK ambassador): The current ambassador of perhaps France’s closest ally, Campbell is the committee’s strongest link with your foreign allies.

- **Georges Mandel** (French Minister of Colonies): Mandel, born to a Jewish family in Alsace, is a fiercely patriotic political figure who has enjoyed a bright career in the Chamber of Deputies, the lower house of the French legislature. He has served as Minister of Posts and currently serves as Minister of Colonies, in charge of colonial administration.

- **Edouard Daladier** (French Prime Minister): An experienced politician, Daladier has risen through the ranks of politics to become the current Prime Minister of France. Although reluctant, he sided with Neville Chamberlain by signing the Munich agreement with Germany last year.

- **Jean de Lattre de Tassigny** (French Army Commander): De Lattre served in France’s army both during World War One and in Morocco from 1921 to 1926. An experienced soldier, he recently was promoted to be the commander of an infantry regiment of the French army.

- **Francois Darlan** (Admiral of the French Fleet): Born in 1881, Darlan enjoyed a meteoric rise in the French navy; in 1939, the government created the post of Admiral of the Fleet.

13 [https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edouard-Daladier](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Edouard-Daladier)

14 [https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-de-Lattre-de-Tassigny](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jean-de-Lattre-de-Tassigny)
just for him to allow him to control the entire naval apparatus. He is a fierce patriot, and is deeply proud of the modern navy that he has worked to build.

- **Lucie Aubrac**: Aubrac, a history teacher, has organized a group of citizens concerned about Germany’s rise into what she calls “La Resistance” (the Resistance).

- **Francois Mitterrand**\(^{15}\): Born in 1916 to a middle class French family, Francois Mitterrand is a recent graduate of the University of Paris. He is a bright and charismatic intellectual who has just joined the French army, and who appears to have a very promising future ahead of him. He currently commands a regiment of infantry on the Maginot line.

- **Paul Reynaud** (French Minister of Finance)\(^{16}\): Having a background in both the military and in finance, Reynaud is an outspoken critic of Nazi Germany, and has consistently attempted to rally France’s government to take action against Hitler’s expansionism.

- **Joseph Darnand** (Influential right-wing politician)\(^{17}\): Darnand was a distinguished veteran of World War One. Following Germany’s surrender, he became an active member of several right-wing political groups (among which are L’Action Francaise and Croix-de-Feu).

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\(^{15}\) [https://www.biography.com/people/fran%C3%A7ois-mitterrand-9410764](https://www.biography.com/people/fran%C3%A7ois-mitterrand-9410764)

\(^{16}\) [https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paul-Reynaud](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Paul-Reynaud)

\(^{17}\) [http://worldatwar.net/biography/d/darnand/](http://worldatwar.net/biography/d/darnand/)