

# Clinton MUNC II 2025

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**Topic:** The French Revolution - The First and Second Estate

**Chair:** Anna Loof

**Director:** Bailey Witt

**Committee Type:** Joint Crisis Committee

**Date:** April 26th, 2024

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## Conference Policies:

The Clinton School Model United Nations Conference (ClintonMUN) is dedicated to fostering meaningful debate and providing students with the chance to explore a wide range of global topics while promoting collaboration and teamwork among delegates! While we encourage passionate discussion, we emphasize the importance of maintaining respectful and considerate language, especially during debates. We trust that all participants will contribute to a positive and inclusive environment. The following policies and expectations are in place to ensure every delegate has an enriching experience at ClintonMUN.

**Attire:** Delegates are required to adhere to formal Western business attire for the duration of ClintonMUN. Exceptions may be made in crisis committees for character-specific costumes, but prior approval from the committee chair is necessary.

**Expectations in Committee:** Delegates are expected to uphold decorum, respect, and professionalism during all committee sessions. While representing your assigned country's stance, please communicate your points respectfully. Please follow the expectation below in order to help us create an inclusive and engaging environment for all delegates:

- Only one delegate may speak at a time during moderated caucuses. To speak, raise your placard and wait for recognition by the chair.
- Outside of Model UN Personal attacks will not be tolerated. In cases where such behavior occurs you may be asked to leave the committee/conference.
- Please Maintain focus and respect when others are speaking
- Do not speak without proper recognition and limit talking over others
- Please limit any and all unauthorized use of cell phones
- Do not use technology or any forms of AI when not permitted
- there is no toleration of any form of harassment, whether verbal, physical and will result in removal from the committee/conference.

**Technology:** Crisis committees operate under a strict no-technology policy—laptops and cell phones are not permitted during sessions. General Assembly (GA) committees allow limited use

of technology strictly for resolution drafting during unmoderated caucuses and approved breaks. Laptops must remain closed during moderated caucuses and while fellow delegates are delivering speeches.

**Awards:** Delegates will be evaluated by committee chairs and directors and will consider:

- Quality and clarity of speeches
- Collaboration and leadership
- Contributions to drafting and presenting resolutions or directives
- Creativity!

## **Meet Your Chair + Director**

Bonjour les délégués!

My name is Anna Loof and I am so excited to be your head chair for the Bourgeois in the French Revolution crisis committee. I have been doing Model UN since freshman year, and today, I am currently the head secretary general for the Clinton Schools Model United Nations team! Outside of MUN, I am involved in several other extracurriculars including Student Council, Key Club, and cross country, where I aim to help my community to the best of my ability. Model UN has helped me with not only mental stamina but also finding my voice.

When I first joined the club, like many others, I was scared to talk in a room filled with strangers. Slowly and yet steadily, the more I began to use my voice the harder I found it to stay silent. Throughout the conference I hope to hear from each and everyone of you, and most importantly I wish for all of you to have fun with it. What my director and I are looking for in this conference is creativity. Aim to try to think outside of the box, and with every ludacris claim that you may support it with strong evidence!

If you have any other questions please feel free to reach out to me, I am looking forward to seeing you all soon! Best of luck to all of you!

Vive la France!

Sincerely

Anna Loof [annaloof@me.com](mailto:annaloof@me.com)

Bonjour mes compatriotes!

Je m'appelle Bailey Witt and I am a senior at The Clinton School. As your committee's director, I am so excited to meet you all at our second annual Clinton Model UN Conference! If you're new to Model UN, welcome, but I'm sure a lot of you are familiar with the flow of a MUN conference. As your committee's director, I can assure you that your chair and I will be working together to uphold basic parliamentary procedures and ensure that our committee runs smoothly. We're excited to see what you all bring to the table!

When I'm not preparing for a conference, I'm either with my dog or playing guitar. Because of my background in performance, I've always been interested in public speaking, but it was not until I joined MUN in the fall of my junior year that I really fell in love with it. Not only does MUN help you to grow as a public speaker, but also connects you with so many other bright minds that often become long-term friends. We hope to see passion and zeal in all of you during this MUNC!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me. I'm looking forward to seeing you all at Clinton MUNC 2025.

À bientôt,

Bailey Witt

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# Mastering Crisis Committees

**A *crisis note*** is a private communication used in Model United Nations crisis committees, where delegates write notes to the crisis committee backrooms outlining their desired actions, plans, or requests within the simulated crisis scenario, allowing them to influence the narrative without directly stating their intentions in the main committee room; essentially, it's a way to secretly strategize and take covert actions within the committee.

**A *press release*** is a short, official statement that a committee uses to share important information with the public or other committees during a conference. It's written in a formal but simple way and is meant to inform people about major decisions, events, or updates happening in the committee. Since they're public, delegates need to be careful about what they say. Writing a clear and strong press release is a great way to try and control the committee's actions.

**A *crisis directive*** is a quick and simple way for delegates in crisis committees to take action during fast-paced situations. Unlike regular resolutions that take a lot of time and debate, crisis directives let delegates respond to urgent events right away. These directives are usually short and to the point, focusing on specific actions like sending in troops, creating alliances, or handling emergencies. Delegates can work alone or with others to write them, and once the committee approves the directive, the effects are immediately added to the crisis. This makes the committee more intense and exciting, pushing delegates to think fast, be creative, and adapt to constant changes.

**A *round robin*** is a quick way for each delegate in a committee to speak one after another without interruptions. If this motion is passed, then every delegate will have the chance to speak and participate, usually going in a circle until everyone has done so. It's usually used to gather everyone's opinions, brainstorm ideas, or plan the next steps during a crisis. Round robins help keep the discussion organized and make sure every delegate gets a chance to share their thoughts.

## Overview of the Committee



It is the early 1790s, and growing tensions between the aristocracy and the proletariat and bourgeois are coming to a head. King Louis XVI's forced acceptance of the National Assembly closed the Ancien Régime and drove a wedge between the antagonized royal family and the greater public. The king originally agreed to rule a constitutional monarchy in order to placate the rebels, but after seeing the success of the new system, tries to flee Paris with his family. Meanwhile, revolution in Haiti adds another layer of complexity to the tumult overseas in France. So much chaos, and so little guidance—what will the National Assembly decide to do with the king and his family? What happens to the working people of France while their government decide how to go forward?

## Background

This history of how France spiraled into political unrest, immense amounts of debt, and the creation of a new government, is a long one, but it begins in the 5th century C.E. when Clovis I defeated the Roman general Syagrius and established the Catholic Frankish kingdom. In the following centuries,



France underwent a period of decentralization, all the while existing as a monarchy. By the 15th century, what is known as the Ancien Régime began, during which France's population flourished into a grand 13 million, making it one of the largest countries in all of Europe at the time. By the 1600s, France was colonizing territories in the New World and in the African continent, including modern countries like Algeria and states like Louisiana.



However, though France seemed to be conquering the world and lavishing in its riches, quite the opposite was happening from within the nation.

With the creation of Versailles in 1623 by Louis XIII and decades of violence like the War of the Spanish Succession and the Seven Years' War,

France was in ever growing debt. France's financial dilemma was only exacerbated by the inefficient taxation system that targeted mostly, and arguably only, the Third Estate while essentially exempting the First and Second estates, composed exclusively of French nobility and the clergy.

In the Palace of Versailles, August 23 of 1754 marked the birth of Louis XVI—the last king of France before the French Revolution. He was the grandson of Louis XV and became the heir to the throne at age 11 after his father, Louis, Dauphin of France, passed away in 1765. In 1770, Louis XVI would marry Marie Antoinette, the daughter of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I and Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, in order to strengthen the political alliance between France and Austria. Despite the promise of unity their

marriage was told to bring, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette's reign became infamous for their unruly spending. While 80% of the population suffered from famine, disease, and vast poverty, Louis XVI poured vast amounts of money into elaborate parties and the maintenance of Versailles. His disregard for the common folk in the third estate fueled widespread anger and resentment.



Unlike the First and Second Estates, the Third Estate was composed of peasants, urban workers, farmers, and the common people and bore the brunt of the kingdom's financial burdens. Furthermore, unlike the others, the Third estate was heavily taxed. However, it was only after being on the brink of bankruptcy after

funding the American Revolution when Louis XVI began to understand the dire consequences of his vices. Unable to find solutions to the country's financial challenges, Louis XVI called a meeting of the Estates General. The misinformation surrounding this pivotal moment became a heated point of contention during the French Revolution. Each estate was given one vote, which was inherently unfair, as the First and Second Estates, composed of around 2% of the population—nobles and clergy—held the same voting power as the Third Estate, which made up about 80% of the population. And thus, filled with rage, disappointment, and fear for the future of France, the Third Estate decided to break away in 1789, forming the National Assembly and demanding constitutional reforms under the rallying cry of “Liberty, Equality, Fraternity!”

## Current Situation



The year is 1791, and the winds of revolution have been sweeping across France for two years. What began with calls for reform during the Estates General in 1789 has come to a head as revolutionary factions grow bolder and the monarchy's authority wanes. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen, adopted in 1789, has challenged the Ancien Régime's very foundations, including the privileges and protections of the aristocracy. Now, with King Louis XVI under house arrest following his failed escape to Varennes, the nobility finds itself in a precarious position.

Amid the turmoil, members of the aristocracy secretly convene to strategize their survival. Factions have emerged within the first and second estates: some advocate for counter-revolutionary action, others propose negotiating with the revolutionaries to preserve some semblance of privilege, while others consider fleeing France Entirely.

## **The First Estate**

The First Estate consisted of the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church and was divided into the higher clergy and lower clergy. The higher clergy consisted of bishops, abbots, and other leaders who often came from noble families. The lower clergy, on the other hand, included all other priests and nuns who came from less privileged backgrounds. As a whole, the First Estate wielded a great amount of power. One example of this is the *taille*, a direct tax on land that the clergy were exempt from. The Catholic Church played an integral part in education, art, and daily life in France during the late 18th century.



## **The Second Estate**

The Second Estate consisted of the French nobility. The nobility was also divided into two groups: the nobility of the sword or *noblesse d'épée*, which were aristocrats by pedigree; and the nobility of the robe, or *noblesse de robe*, individuals who had gained power by more conventional means, such as office-holding. The nobility also enjoyed exemption from the *taille* and often collected dues from working-class peasants. The immense structural and social privileges enjoyed by the Second Estate added to the burden placed on the Third Estate to serve and financially support a wealthy elite.



## Delegate Positions:



**Louis XVI** was the last king of France before the monarchy fell in 1792. He was well-meaning but indecisive, struggling to fix France's financial crisis caused by past rulers. His attempts to tax the wealthy angered many, and while he first supported reforms, he later resisted. In 1791, he tried to escape but was caught, losing public trust. Though he accepted a constitutional monarchy, he secretly plotted to restore absolute rule. Arrested in 1792 and executed in 1793 for treason, he failed to adapt to the revolution, making him one of history's most famous failed monarchs.

- Authority over executive decisions, including appointing ministers and enforcing laws.
- Command over the French military as the supreme leader of the army and navy.



**Marie Antoinette** was the queen of France and came from Austria. Many people hated her because they thought she spent too much money on clothes, jewelry, and parties while the country was struggling. She was blamed for a lot of France's problems, even though she didn't actually have much power. When the revolution started, she tried to get help from Austria, but it didn't work. She was arrested, put on trial, and historically executed in 1793.

- Master within court politics and alliances.
- Strong-willed under pressure.
- Exceptional manipulation ability



**Marie Joséphine of Savoy** was married to Louis XVI's younger brother, the future King Louis XVIII. She was part of the royal family and a supporter of absolute monarchy. Unlike Marie Antoinette, she was not known for being glamorous or fashionable. She spent most of the revolution in exile, escaping before the monarchy collapsed. Though she avoided execution, she lived a lonely life outside of France.

- Strong supporter of monarchy.
- Skilled in aristocratic diplomacy.
- A master of Survival, even if it means forever exile.



**Madame du Barry** was the mistress of King Louis XV before he died. She wasn't born into nobility but climbed the social ladder because of her beauty and charm. In this sense, she often was able to manipulate a social setting into attaining whatever she wanted, and let's just say she enjoyed the riches of the nobility. The French people never really liked her, and when the revolution started, she was in danger. She tried to escape but was caught and sentenced to death. Unlike some others, she begged for her life before being executed in 1793.

- Strong ability to charm and persuade.
- Powerful Connections with powerful figures like Louis XV but watch out for his son's wife! That is your enemy.



**Princesse de Lamballe** was one of Marie Antoinette's closest friends. She was a noblewoman and was very loyal to the queen. When the revolution started, she refused to leave France, even though it was dangerous. In 1792, she was arrested and brutally murdered during the September Massacres. Her death was one of the most horrifying moments of the revolution.

- Fiercely loyal and would do anything for the royal family.
- Symbol of noble martyrdom.



**Count Axel von Fersen** was a Swedish nobleman, military officer, and diplomat who played a crucial role in the French court. He is best known for his close relationship with Marie Antoinette, and many believe they were lovers, though there is no definitive proof. As a strong supporter of the Bourbon monarchy, Fersen became deeply involved in efforts to save Louis XVI and his family during the French Revolution. He helped plan and execute the Flight to Varennes in 1791, where the royal family attempted to escape France. Disguised as a coachman, Fersen personally drove their carriage for part of the journey.

- Skilled in espionage and escape planning.
- Strong loyalty to monarchy.
- Close relationship with Marie Antoinette.
- Daring but failed rescue attempts.



**Cardinal de Brienne** was an important clergyman and politician during the late 18th century. He served as finance minister and attempted to fix France's economic crisis by reforming taxation. However, the nobility resisted his changes, and he was forced to resign. After the monarchy fell, he was arrested during the Reign of Terror and died in prison in 1794.

- High-ranking church official.
- Experienced in financial policy.
- Failed economic reforms.




**Cardinal de Rohan** was a powerful French clergyman, but he is best known for his role in the Affair of the Diamond Necklace. He was tricked into believing that Marie Antoinette wanted to buy an expensive necklace, leading to a scandal that damaged the queen's reputation. Though he was innocent, he was exiled from court.

- Influential member of the clergy.
- Skilled in court politics.
- Involvement in royal scandals.



**Prince Louis Joseph of Condé**, was a prominent figure in the French nobility and a key military leader during the French Revolution. He was a descendant of the powerful Condé family, a branch of the House of Bourbon. Condé was an outspoken opponent of the revolution and, after the fall of the monarchy, fled France, aligning himself with other royalists who had been forced into exile. He played a significant role in organizing the Army of the Émigrés, a group of royalist troops that, with foreign support, attempted to restore the monarchy to power. Despite his dedication to the royal cause, the

	<p>army's efforts were unsuccessful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experienced military leader with a strong command of royalist armies.</li> <li>• Expert in international diplomacy, securing foreign alliances.</li> <li>• Strong belief in the restoration of the monarchy, leading key royalist uprisings.</li> </ul>
 <p>A full-length portrait of Duke Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand of Brunswick. He is depicted in a dark blue military coat with red cuffs and lapels, and a white waistcoat. He wears a large, ornate military medal on his left chest. He is holding a sword in his right hand and pointing with his left hand. The background is a dark, landscape-like setting.</p>	<p><b>Duke Karl Wilhelm Ferdinand of Brunswick</b> was a key military leader and diplomat in the early years of the French Revolution. As a field marshal in the Prussian army, he played a prominent role in the coalition of European monarchies that opposed revolutionary France. In 1792, Brunswick issued the Brunswick Manifesto, a declaration that warned the French revolutionaries that any harm done to the royal family would result in severe retaliation, including the destruction of Paris. The manifesto aimed to intimidate the revolutionaries and rally the French royalists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skilled military tactician and strategist.</li> <li>• Master of diplomacy and political maneuvering in international affairs.</li> <li>• (loves to start drama and try to intimidate)</li> </ul>



**Charles-Alexandre de Calonne** was a French nobleman who served as Controller-General of Finance under Louis XVI. He played a crucial role during the early stages of the French Revolution by attempting to address France's financial crisis. The country was deeply in debt from wars, including its involvement in the American Revolution, and the king's government was facing severe financial difficulties. Calonne proposed several ambitious reforms, including tax increases and restructuring of the government's finances. However, his attempts to introduce these reforms were met with strong opposition from the nobility, particularly the Parlement of Paris, who resisted any measures that would diminish their privileges.

- Expertise in economic policy and financial management.
- Progressive reforms aimed at tax equality.



**Frederick William II** was the King of Prussia from 1786 until his death in 1797. He was a key figure during the French Revolution, as he, along with other monarchs, became alarmed by the revolution's radical changes. In 1791, he joined Leopold II in issuing the Declaration of Pillnitz, which aimed to put pressure on France and restore the monarchy. Frederick William II was a skilled military strategist and his military interventions against France were very strategic and well thought out. His support for French royalists was all the way until his death, strong.

- Strong military leadership.
- Has control over the Prussia (compared to France relatively stable) nation.
- Alliances with European monarchies.



**Comte de Mercy-Argenteau** was an Austrian diplomat and close confidant of Marie Antoinette's family, particularly her mother, Empress Maria Theresa. He served as Austria's ambassador to France during the critical years leading up to the revolution. His primary role was to maintain a diplomatic channel between the French monarchy and the Habsburg court, advocating for the interests of the royal family. He also served as a trusted advisor to Marie Antoinette and often helped mediate between her and the Austrian government. Though he was deeply loyal to the monarchy, his influence began to wane as the revolution escalated

- Diplomatic expertise, especially in Habsburg-French relations.
- Trusted advisor to Marie Antoinette.



**Marie Thérèse Charlotte of France**, born on December 19, 1778, was the first child of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. Growing up in the Palace of Versailles, she enjoyed the privileges of being a royal, but her childhood was also filled with the pressures of being the heir to the throne of France. As the eldest daughter, she was closely observed and often had the responsibility of setting an example for her younger siblings. Her early life was characterized by lavish balls, education in arts and culture, and a secluded royal upbringing. Marie Thérèse was very close to her mother, Marie Antoinette, who deeply loved her children, and her father, Louis XVI, who was often distant due to the political challenges he faced.

- A member of the royal family and thus has access to "all" of the royal French wealth
- Expert in strategy in court
- People tend to underestimate because of her age
- Strong loyalty to Marie Antoinette.



**Louis XVII** was born on October 27, 1785, as the second son of King Louis XVI and Queen Marie Antoinette. His early years were filled with the privileges of royal life, living in the Palace of Versailles alongside his older sister, Marie Thérèse, and his younger sibling, Sophie, who tragically died in infancy. Louis Charles' time in prison was marked by neglect and mistreatment. He was separated from his family, isolated, and subjected to harsh conditions. His health rapidly deteriorated, and his once-innocent childhood was stolen by the revolution's cruelty.

- A member of the royal family and thus has access to "all" of the royal French wealth
- Expert in strategy in court
- People tend to underestimate because of her age
- Strong loyalty to Marie Antoinette.




**Princess Elisabeth** was the youngest sister of King Louis XVI and a loyal supporter of the royal family. Known for her deep devotion to her family and her faith, she became an important figure during the revolution. Despite the fall of the monarchy, she remained by her brother's side, even during his imprisonment. Elisabeth's strength and commitment to the royal cause led her to act as a counselor for her sister-in-law, Marie Antoinette. She was arrested and ultimately executed by guillotine.

- Extreme Loyal Royalist Support
- Tremendous Political Influence as a royal member



**Louis Stanislas Xavier**, who later became Louis XVIII, played a key role in the royalist efforts during the Revolution. When the monarchy was abolished, he fled to Varennes in 1791, attempting to escape to safety. After the execution of Louis XVI, he declared himself King Louis XVIII in exile. He played a major role in maintaining the French royalist cause during the Revolution, working to secure the return of the Bourbon family to the throne. His royalist efforts led to the eventual Bourbon Restoration in 1814, when he was finally crowned king of France.

- Authority over executive decisions, including appointing ministers and enforcing laws.
- Skilled military tactician and

	<p>strategist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master of diplomacy and political maneuvering in international affairs.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Leopold II</b> was the brother of Marie Antoinette and the Holy Roman Emperor from 1790 until his death in 1792. Unlike his more conservative predecessors, Leopold was pragmatic and politically shrewd, known for his ability to balance reform with stability. He inherited the Habsburg monarchy during a turbulent time and sought to modernize its administration and economy. When the French Revolution began, he was initially cautious but later grew alarmed at the treatment of his sister and the weakening of monarchy in France. In 1791, he co-authored the Declaration of Pillnitz with King Frederick William II of Prussia, warning revolutionaries not to harm the French royal family</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master of statecraft and diplomacy, skilled in political maneuvering.</li> <li>• Was able to be a mediator of reform and tradition</li> </ul>



**Marquise de La Roche-Aymon** was a high-ranking courtier who served at Versailles during the final years of the monarchy. She belonged to an influential noble family, which allowed her to rise within the rigid social hierarchy of the court. Though she was not as politically involved as some of the queen's other confidantes, she was a witness to many key events leading up to the revolution. Her primary role was to maintain the traditions and etiquette of the court and had a great ear in overhearing gossip that she was not supposed to know.

- Secretary is great at espionage
- Strong noble connections, offering protection and influence within the aristocracy.



**François-Claude-Amour, Marquis de Bouillé** was a French nobleman and military general known for his unwavering loyalty to King Louis XVI. A skilled commander, he gained a strong reputation for suppressing early revolutionary uprisings and maintaining order in the French colonies. As a staunch royalist, he played a crucial role in planning the Flight to Varennes in 1791, helping the royal family attempt their escape from revolutionary France. However, the plan failed, leading to a major loss of trust in the monarchy.

- Skilled military strategist and counter-revolutionary leader
- Strong royalist connections and influence in foreign courts
- Experienced in suppressing uprisings and organizing escape plans

## Questions to Consider

1. How will you deal with the encroaching threat of other European nations? How will you deal with their counterrevolutionary sentiments?
2. What do we do with the opposing political party and their support base?
3. Who is truly loyal to France? Who is not? Are there individuals in the government wishing to overthrow your republic?

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