Background Guide
The United States of America

Bryn Woollacott
United States Committee Chair
Maryland Model United Nations
Letter from the Chair:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to UMICS 2012! My name is Bryn Woollacott and I will be your chair for the United States Committee, working with our Vice Chair Rahul Srinivas. I am from Los Angeles, California and I am currently a sophomore at the University of Maryland pursuing a major in Government and Politics with a focus on International Affairs. After four years of MUN in high school, I eagerly joined the club in college and currently serve as the treasurer. Aside from MUN I am currently a part of the Federal Semester Program, the Honors Program, and I am actively involved in my sorority, Sigma Kappa.

At UMICS you will be able to delve into the very interesting topic of the Cold War, a topic that will also be discussed in the U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia, and Greece committees. This committee should be particularly compelling since the U.S. was the main proponent of containment, so I am looking forward to hearing some interesting debates on all of the controversial issues we will be discussing! Please be sure to come prepared with concrete knowledge of the policies of your assigned character and the solutions that they would propose, as well as a general understanding of their role in the government and this conflict.

If you have any concerns, questions, or comments please feel free to email marylandmun@gmail.com, the email will be passed along to me or someone else who can help you out. I hope that you all have a great experience at UMICS 2012, get excited!

See you soon!

Bryn Woollacott
U.S. Committee Chair
Message from the Crisis Director:

The Cold War is usually visualized as a silent stand-off between the United States and the Soviet Union, with both sides praying for a chance to strike. It manifested itself quite overtly, in concepts like brinkmanship and the Space Race. However, what is usually forgotten was that the Cold War truly engulfed the entire world- it was impossible to make a political, military, or economic decision without either of the superpowers raising an eyebrow. In the Cold War simulation at UMICS, we take a step back and consider the full world situation in 1953. Greece and Yugoslavia were immensely important players in the 1950s, and their actions helped change the entire political landscape of the world.

The power dynamic in this committee is simple- there are two superpowers that dominate global politics, and two countries that are trying to come onto their own after WWII. Greece is suffering from a crippled economy and a highly polarized and scarred populous following their Civil War. The country needs a miracle to overcome its steep political and social divisions, and maybe a bigger miracle to right its economic problems and get the nation moving in the right direction. Of course, both the United States and the Soviet Union would be able to provide these miracles, at the price of accepting their political systems and influence. The United States has already helped, backing the army that defeated the communists in the civil war- The USSR did not directly back the communist side. Recovery and growth, in that order, are the main priorities of the Greek government.

Yugoslavia is extremely unique in that it is the only communist nation that does not follow Stalin- Or at least that is what Tito claims. The Soviet Union is sure to put a lot of pressure on this new government to expand their influence - and, perhaps more importantly, take out anything that looks like a faction in their Iron Curtain. Despite their relative stability (especially compared to Greece), they will face strong external pressure from their communist brethren, and democratic governments that despise communism.

The Soviet Union is still strongly in Stalin’s hands, and the United States is led by Eisenhower, with the Red Scare finally gaining steam. We begin our simulation on January 14th, 1953- the first days of the Tito regime. The history to this point is well documented, but what will happen next? Will the arms race be quelled with skilled negotiations, or will the world erupt into a nuclear-powered WWIII? Can the less powerful countries cut themselves a share of influence in global (or at least local) politics, or will they succumb to international pressures and become puppet states? In a replay of probably the most politically nuanced times in history, who can actually come out ahead in the Cold War?
Committee Purpose/Objectives:

The purpose of this pan-governmental Cold War committee, begun in January 1953, is to pursue the United States' interests in the conflict with the Soviet sphere. You are to bring the full powers of the CIA, military, chief executive, Congress, and the courts to bear in the comprehensive effort to suppress the spread of Communism.

Two nations are of particular concern to the committee at this time. One is Yugoslavia: the Stalinist dictator of the Balkans has split from the U.S.S.R. in Moscow. This division is the only one of its kind to be found in Eastern Europe, and should be exploited. The other is Greece. Greece is still a Capitalist nation, but is wracked by Civil War and strife as the Communist-backed radical left seeks to take control of the country. It is in the best interest of the United States to prevent that from happening.

Simultaneously, parallel objectives should be pursued. How should the U.S. balance its interests in Eastern Europe with those in East Asia, where Communism is also rapidly gaining influence? Should the U.S. invest in the science-fiction-fantasy-turned-near-future reality of orbiting satellites? What degree of investment should we put into our transportation infrastructure? What role should the atomic bomb play in U.S. foreign and military policy?

Through all of this, be mindful of the political situation at home. Elections are coming up quickly. You must justify your actions to the public, or discredit your rivals, or you may find yourself replaced. Fear of domestic Communist infiltration grows. The century-long rivalry between Democratic and Republican leadership continues.

Gentlemen, you have a lot on your plate. The Red Menace of Stalin's Soviet Union looms like a great dark cloud. The victory of this nation over the evils of totalitarianism depends on your ability to balance your priorities, and move swiftly and decisively to deal with your crises.
U.S. Historical Background:

PRE-WORLD WAR II:

World War I occurred from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918 as multiple previously formed alliances went to war set off by the ‘powder keg’ that was the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary by a Serbian. The United States entered the war late, in January 1917, when Germany pursued a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare and conspired to attack the United States using Mexico as revealed in the Zimmerman Telegram. American entry into the war gave a great advantage to the worn-out Allies, who were finally able to triumph over the Central Powers.

The Paris Peace Conference occurred after the surrender of the Central Powers, and during this conference the Allies imposed a series of peace treaties on the defeated countries. The most important of these treaties was the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, which required that Germany accept full responsibility for the war, pay enormous war reparations, and award territory to the victors. The United States played a large part in negotiating this treaty since it was the only country that had emerged relatively unscathed from the Great War. The conditions of this treaty, however, proved to be too much for Germany to handle, and as a result the country slid into a severe economic crisis that ultimately resulted in the rise of the Nazis.

WORLD WAR II:

The Second World War emerged out of tensions over the Treaty of Versailles, the Great Depression, Japanese expansion in Asia, and conflicting ideologies. The result was a ‘total war’ that involved the major participants placing their entire economic, industrial, and scientific capabilities at the service of the war effort. The war began on September 1, 1939 when Germany invaded Poland, leading to France and Great Britain declaring war on Germany for violating Poland’s neutrality.

In December 1941, Japan joined the Axis and attacked the United States and European territories in the Pacific in an attempt to secure regional dominance. Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in order to prevent American intervention while it established itself in the rest of the Pacific. These attacks led the Allies to declare war on Japan, this time with the United States as a part of the conflict. Germany and the other members of the Axis responded by declaring war on the United States, thus making the war global again.

The Axis advance was stopped in 1943 and the Allies began to gain momentum. Finally, on June 6, 1944 (D-Day) the Western Allies invaded northern France. In September 1944, the Soviet Red Army advanced and removed German troops from Eastern Europe. On December 16, 1944 the Germans attempted one last
desperate attack, which failed and ultimately led to the unconditional surrender of German forces on April 29, 1945.

In the Pacific theatre, American forces advanced through a policy of island-hopping, eventually taking Iwo Jima in March 1945 and Okinawa in June. On July 11, the Allied leaders met in Potsdam, Germany and reiterated the demand for unconditional surrender of Japanese forces. When Japan ignored the Potsdam terms, the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki while the Soviets invaded Japanese-held Manchuria and quickly won. On August 15, 1945, Japan surrendered.

POST-WORLD WAR:

The Second World War had many important effects on international affairs and world order as a whole. First, the United States had opened the door to the use of atomic weaponry. By bombing Japanese cities to force Japan to surrender, the United States demonstrated that it would stop at nothing to succeed and established itself as a leading power. The stakes became even higher with development of the hydrogen bomb after the war. As other countries began to acquire these weapons, most notably the Soviet Union, the entire tone of international relations changed. During the course of the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States amassed enough nuclear weapons during their arms race to destroy the entire planet multiple times over.

Second, in an effort to maintain peace given the introduction of nuclear weapons and a desire to avoid another massive world war, the Allies formed the United Nations on October 24, 1948. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights was adopted in 1948 as the standard to which all member nations would be held regarding their treatment of their citizens. The great powers that were the victors of the Second World War, the United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, and China formed the five permanent members of the Security Council, thus establishing themselves at the top of the global hierarchy.

From these two effects, world order itself has changed dramatically. The United States, once an offshore balancer and a regional power, emerged from the wars as a leading global hegemon representing Western ideals. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, reinvented itself during the two world wars and now stands as the hegemon for communist values. Thus, we have entered into a bipolar world order, in which states must either choose a side or risk being left behind and ignored as the rest of the world pulls ahead, led by the two superpowers.

Competition has emerged in all different realms: the economy, the military, advancement in technology and research, a struggle to have a large number of allies, and an interest in the world not to unite it, but to ensure that more countries follow one ideology as opposed to another. The new question is: what is a victory in a war of ideology?
International Relations:

U.S.S.R.

After the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917 that overthrew the Russian tsar and installed the Soviet communist government, the United States was hostile to the Soviet Union. During the Second World War, however, the United States and the Soviet Union were able to cooperate for the war effort, but their alliance was short-lived and collapsed along with Germany. The end of World War II has seen the expansion of Soviet influence into Eastern Europe, which has worried the United States which has already established influence in Western Europe. Tensions have risen even higher since the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb, ending the United State’ monopoly on nuclear weapons. Escalation continues as the two superpowers engage in a massive nuclear arms race while simultaneously choosing sides in the ongoing Korean War.

GREECE

The United States and Greece have been allies for a long time based on a common heritage, shared democratic values, and participation as Allies during World War II. Greece has just emerged from a brutal civil war between the Greek government army, backed by the United Kingdom and the United States, and the Democratic Army of Greece, the military branch of the Greek Communist Party (KKE) backed by Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania. Ultimately, the failure of the KKE to attract sufficient recruits and the Tito-Stalin split led to victory for the government troops. Greece has become a symbol for Western values in the Aegean Sea due to its recent introduction into NATO. However, the civil war has left Greece with a violent anti-Communist security establishment that is creating incredible political polarization.

YUGOSLAVIA

Yugoslavia has proven to be an interesting case in the beginning of the Cold War. Yugoslavia was created in 1919 and led by its communist leader Tito, who has brought unity and stability to the country. This strength has allowed the country to join the European Free Trade Association, the GATT, and receive loans from the IMF. Yugoslavia has established itself as a maverick, anti-Soviet communist country, thus making its relations with the United States a gray area. On one hand, the United States wants Yugoslavia to succumb to its ideology for fear that it will become a Soviet satellite, but American businesses have begun to export to Yugoslavia, thus creating a tie between the two countries.
NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization was formed by the North Atlantic Treaty and signed on April 4, 1949. The idea originated in Europe, but given their weakness in the wake of World War II it was thought that American assistance was necessary for the cause. This organization is one of collective security among member nations, forming a series of alliances much like the ones that existed before each World War. Each member nation must agree that in the event of an armed attack against one of more members, each of them will assist the member being attacked. Up until now, NATO has been little more than a political association, but the Korean War has riled up the member states and two US supreme commanders have formed a military structure. Current member nations are Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Recently, Greece and Turkey have also been added.

Economy:

There is currently a challenge posed by the economy that the government must be mindful of; it must be able to manage a period of prosperity after more than two decades of depression, war, and postwar inflation. The essential issue is how the United States will pay for the expanding Cold War and the extent to which other commitments will affect the United States economy and its institutions. The President is eager to work with new instruments of government policy making, such as the Council of Economic Advisers and strengthening the Federal Reserve Board. Instead of focusing on international political affairs at the expense of economic issues, the President is interested in policies aimed to preserve and enhance the performance of the American free market system, which should invariably be linked to a successful effort in the Cold War.

Government:

IDEOLOGY

The United States, as one of the bipolar powers in the Cold War, is the main proponent of democracy and capitalism today. Fundamentally, this means that the government values rights to life, liberty, and personal freedom for every citizen as paramount to its purpose. These fundamental values lead to political freedom, equality, popular sovereignty, representative government, rule of law, and many equivalent notions. Cold War tensions have lead the United States to wanting to spread this ideology globally while containing communism where it exists and
waiting for it to implode. This spread of democracy is evident in the creation of international institutions such as the United Nations.

**STRUCTURE**

The structure of the United States government is democratic, and has begun to define the makeup of international institutions such as NATO. The federal government is composed of three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. Each branch has its own powers and limitations, as established by a series of checks and balances. The legislature is divided into two houses: the Senate, which establishes territorial representation and the House of Representatives, which establishes equal representation. The entire system is governed by the Constitution.

**POWER**

The legislative branch has the power to levy and collect taxes, to coin money, to issue patents, to create inferior federal courts, raise and support armies and navies, to declare war, and to make laws necessary to properly execute powers. The approval of both chambers is required to pass any legislation, but the Senate has the unique power to approve presidential appointments and the House is in charge of bills intended to raise revenue.

The President of the United States, who is the head of the state and government as well as the military commander-in-chief and chief diplomat, heads the executive branch. The President's signature is required to pass legislation created by Congress, and he alone is able to sign treaties with foreign nations on ratification by the Senate. The President also has the power to appoint Supreme Court judges, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The judicial branch is headed by the Supreme Court, which solves controversies surrounding issues regarding interpreting the Constitution. The judicial branch, in this capacity, may declare any legislation or executive action as unconstitutional through the process of judicial review.

**Military:**

**STRUCTURE**

The structure of the United States military is based on a very strict chain of command. This chain leads from the Commander-in-Chief, the President, to the Secretary of Defense, and all the way down to each individual member. American armed forces are organized through the brand new Department of Defense (founded 1949), which oversees joint command and control functions with the assistance of
various reporting and commanding officers. As war efforts have expanded during the Cold War, so has the military that now includes a large branch simply for the creation and protection of nuclear weapons.

FUNDING

Funding for the military comes directly from the part of the United States budget devoted to the Department of Defense. This budget is created by the executive branch and amended by Congress, and eventually is brought to a vote in the House of Representatives.

WEAPONRY

The military has expanded its power significantly in the Cold War with the advent of new types of weapons technology. The military now funds research and development of conventional weapons, chemical and biological weapons, and most importantly nuclear bombs. Furthermore, the military is finding new ways to deploy these weapons through the creation of bombers, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles that are allowing for faster speeds and longer ranges than seen before. The beginnings of a space race are also emerging as the United States explores satellite and other space technology in an attempt to advance scientifically beyond the Soviet Union.

Delegates:

President Dwight D. Eisenhower (Chair)
Vice President Richard M. Nixon (Vice Chair)
Speaker of the House Joseph William Martin, Jr.
President pro tempore of the Senate Styles Bridges
Senate Majority Leader Robert A. Taft
Senate Minority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson
Secretary of State John Foster Dulles
Secretary of Defense Charles Erwin Wilson
Secretary of the Treasury George M. Humphrey
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Earl Warren
Director of the FBI J. Edgar Hoover
CIA Director Allen Welsh Dulles
Senator Joseph McCarthy
Senator Margaret Chase Smith
Secretary of the Army Robert Ten Broeck Stevens
Chairman of the Federal Reserve William McChesney Martin, Jr.
Works Cited


