



# Research Report

## Historical Crisis Committee

### AGENDA ITEM

The Cabinet of Lloyd George: The question of Irish Independence

Chairing Panel

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# Welcome

Dear Delegates,

We would firstly like to extend our warmest welcome to you. We are both looking forward to the negotiation and debate that will arise from this committee, and are confident you will provide insightful discussion. A crisis committee is unlike any other Model UN committee, as you have powers outside the discretion of the committee allowing you to achieve a number of goals. This in essence creates a situation where you can affect not only what your committee discusses, but the very topic of discussion, all whilst at the negotiation table. A historical crisis committee takes this one step further, allowing you to literally change the course of history.

The Irish struggle for independence was a long and bloody one, and whilst for the sake of this committee we will be travelling back to 1919, that is not to say the effects are not still visible today. In light of the Brexit vote, we have seen discussions reopen around the validity of peace agreements in relation to the Ireland-Northern Ireland border, and questions raised about Northern Ireland's reunification with Ireland. With this in mind, and keeping in mind the effects on the future throughout the session, we now turn back to the past. Following this is a detailed study guide that gives some background information for the topic that we will be discussing. However, we strongly encourage you to research material outside of this study guide, particularly surrounding your given cabinet member as you will be required to make decisions for which you may need to infer their stance for the social context in which they existed. In the appendices, you will find more resources on the topic of this committee that you may find useful and on how the committee will operate. We wish you happy preparation, and we look forward to meeting you all!

*Sincerely,*

*Rohan O'Neill-Stevens and Souhaila Abourchid*

## A Note on Preparation

This committee shall operate unlike any others at the conference, as will be outlined below, and as such there is different emphasis on where preparation is needed and an even greater demand for preparation. Committee procedure is an important aspect and we encourage you to attempt to familiarise yourself with the system being engaged. This committee will not have traditional country positions nor as much preparation material, and so – for you, and this committee to be successful – we recommend you spend time reading up on the nature of politics at play in direct relation to your given ministry, your cabinet minister, and the context of their life. This should give you a greater idea of what actions you can personally take, what decisions your minister may make, and allow you to think on your feet. Do not be surprised if there is limited information on your minister's positions, and do not be discouraged – we will seek to provide as many resources as possible, and provided you have sufficiently researched their context, you should be able to make appropriate decisions. And of course, failing all of this, your friendly chairs will do their best to help!



## Introduction

Each delegate this year will be stepping into the position of a Cabinet Minister under Prime Minister David Lloyd George in 1919, as it deals with the immediate aftermath of an Irish Declaration of independence. The British Empire has long had a history of push and pull within its territories since its inception, and particularly with Ireland. This push and pull reached breaking point in 1916, with the Easter Rising, a violent revolution in an attempt to form a free Irish state. This attempt was quickly suppressed, but ill feelings toward British continued, peaking following the 1918 General Election which saw left-wing republican party Sinn Fein manage a landslide victory, consequently declaring independence.

## Committee History

Formally formed under the Rule of George I in 1714, the Cabinet of the United Kingdom has long governed the proceedings within and outside of England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The cabinet traditionally consists of the Prime Minister and 21 Cabinet Ministers, the most senior and trusted government ministers whose role is to advise the Prime Minister, as well as making decisions within their own ministries. The Cabinet shifted dramatically during the First World War, becoming more powerful as government was increasingly centralized to allow for fast and efficient decision making. This also raised the position of Prime Minister to the one we are now familiar with – an imposing and powerful role. Lloyd George was the first Prime Ministers to fill this greater role, and thus the proceedings of his 1919 Peace Time cabinet set precedent for all following cabinets. For the sake of this committee, the two chairs shall fill the role of Prime Minister, with the 9 delegates taking on the role of a key ministers, with less relevant ministers to the topic not being present.

## Committee Procedure

One of the more defining and challenging aspects of this committee will be its procedures, so we encourage you to read this section carefully, and the extra material, but we will also cover this in person.

### *Rules of Debate*

The committee will be held in a similar fashion to unmoderated caucus and there shall be no speakers list, to allow for the constant dialogue needed to deal with the crisis. Points and motions shall still operate in a similar fashion and delegates may motion for an unmoderated caucus or round robin/round table discussion. Round robins are common in this type of committee, and their use is encouraged.

### **Committee Action**

As in all committees, Historical Crisis also utilize written output, but the nature of this is at odds to the typical resolutions developed in General Assemblies etc. This committee has three



main types of written action: directives, communiqués and press releases, as well as crisis notes on an individual level. These may be carried out as a committee action, or by an individual, a key aspect of this committee.

### *Voting*

To pass a committee action (directive, communiqué or press release), a simple majority must be obtained of those voting (excluding abstentions), and need a quarter of the committee included as sponsors or signatories. All amendments will be treated as unfriendly and will be voted on during voting procedure. A motion and 2/3 majority is required to enter voting procedure, however no speaking requirements are needed.

### *Directives*

Directives will be your most used and most useful committee wide action. Directives are similar to resolutions, but are made up only of operative clauses and involve concrete action, as opposed to recommendations. Directives are typically given creative or witty title so that they may be remembered. Directives can be voted on immediately after introduction.

### *Communiqués*

Communiqués are messages from the committee to another person or organization, generally in the form of letters. At a committee wide level these are mostly used to send requests to other bodies, open negotiations or other similar activities. Communiqués are drafted to fit the situation in which they are being used, and thus can be as formal or informal as desired. A good communiqué has some background, specific purpose and appropriate tone

### *Press Releases*

Press releases are statements made to the media in order to provide information, influence the thinking of or halt unrest in the public. A good press release is concise and with a clear purpose.

### ***Individual Action***

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of a HCC, individual action allows delegates to act beyond the approved committee action through their portfolio powers. As in this committee each delegate is assigned a particular person, with a particular ministry at their disposal. We therefore encourage delegates to be creative and find ways to maximize their potential capabilities, whilst remaining realistic – i.e using their ministry powers to impact variables outside of that sector. There is a lot of leeway in this regard, and the dais will be happy to help with any questions.

### *Procedure*



Crisis notes are the method for taking individual action although they are very similar to directives and communiqués, and are sent to the chairs. Crisis notes should build on one another, often containing an overarching goal

### *Writing a Crisis Note*

**Direct** – a direct style crisis note is written in the same format as directives, thus have a witty title, specific operative clauses and a clearly stated goal. This is to allow the dais to better understand what the delegate is hoping to achieve. Communiqués may also be sent in this style. The benefit of direct style their concise, clear and focused manner.

**Letter** – a letter style crisis note is written similar to the communiqués used by the committee. The difference however is that a letter style intends to create a longstanding dialogue with the delegate and dais through the format. Letter notes begin with the delegate establishing a point of contact (spouse, sibling, secretary, etc.) who will enable the delegate to carry out actions by receiving orders. Generally, after establishing a point of contact all future crisis notes shall be written to this person, including communiqués to others.

## Definition of Key Terms

**Dáil Éireann/The First Dáil** – the revolutionary parliament of the self-determined Irish Republic

**The Easter Rising** – an armed revolution in 1916 for Irish Independence

**Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB)** – a secretive group dedicated to independence who staged the Easter Rising

**Sinn Féin** – the political party who proclaimed themselves the First Dáil

**Irish Republican Army (IRA)** – the official army of the Irish Republic as recognised by the First Dáil

**Militia** – a military force that engages in rebel activities in opposition to a regular army

**Republic** – a state in which supreme power is held by the people and their elected representatives

**Irish, Gaelic or Irish Gaelic** – a Celtic language that was the predominant language of Ireland into the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Irish Home Rule** – The movement for Ireland to have political independence whilst remaining a part of the United Kingdom

## Topic Overview

Irish independence has been a political battle since the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when Norman invaders conquered the island, with the continuation of monarchy rule of the Kingdom of Ireland



continuing. Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century dissent began growing against the British rule, ultimately culminating in the failed 1798 Irish Rebellion. This rebellion led the British and Irish Governments vote to merge the Kingdom of Ireland with the United Kingdom of Great Britain, forming in 1801, the Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. This resulted in the end of an Irish Parliament, with the counties instead being represented at Westminster.

Following from the dissolution of the Irish Parliament, Irish nationalism began to spread, building of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, and developing two clear strands – those who wanted Irish Home Rule and those who wanted an Irish State (a completely independent nation), along with a number of in between options. From the 1880s until World War I, Irish Home Rule was the dominant form of nationalism. Stemming from this pressure three separate bills were introduced: one in 1886, which was defeated in the House of Commons, one in 1893, which was vetoed by the House of Lords and one in 1912 which succeeded. All bills attempted to give Irish Home Rule, with the third starting the Home Rule Crisis, where Irish Unionists formed a paramilitary to prevent it from being enacted. At the start of World War I the third bill was enacted but postponed until the end of the war.

However, in 1916, the group the Irish Republican Brotherhood organised a violent uprising, the Easter Rising, in which hundreds of armed Irishmen seized parts of Dublin, declaring an independent Irish Republic. The British response was swift, bring in 16,000 troops and a gunboat to smother the uprising of little over 1000. Despite the large number of British troops, the rebels held out for 5 days. The aftermath of the uprising, during which hundreds of Irishmen, many of whom played no part in the uprising, were placed into internment camps, and 15 were executed by firing squad, as well as the imposition of martial law all lead to a new support of an independent Irish Republic.

This, and a number of other policies like conscription and the broad arrests of members of Sinn Féin, was then later reflected in the 1918 elections in which, of the 105 seats, Sinn Féin won 73. This huge shift from previous elections gave Sinn Féin the mandate to form their own government, where they have just declared independence as the newly formed First Dáil.

During this time there were two attempts to implement Home Rule, however the nationalists and unionist failed to come to any agreement.

We therefore find ourselves in our current position. The First Dáil is meeting in Dublin, with many of its member imprisoned or on the run, including the leader of Sinn Féin, Éamon de Valera.

A position update shall be provided, giving exact details, on the conference day.

## Cabinet Ministers

**Note:** *The Chairs shall act as Prime Minister Lloyd George*

**Bonar Law** – Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Commons



Longtime leader of the Conservative Party, Law has fought against Irish Home Rule, and kept the Third Irish Home Rule Bill from passing.

Whilst Lord Privy Seal is primarily redundant due to no use of the Privy Seal, the Leader of the House of Commons is in charge of arranging the business of the House of Commons, and those who holding these positions usually carry a large amount of influence over other cabinet members.

**Austen Chamberlain** – Chancellor of the Exchequer

A well-known and influential face in the Conservative Party, and a strong opponent to Irish Home Rule, Chamberlain held it to be a top issue before the outbreak of the first world war.

Chancellor of the Exchequer is in charge of all economic and financial matter, and at this time, was in charge of rebuilding an economy after years of war time losses.

**Edward Shortt** – Secretary of State for the Home Department

Shortt, a Liberal MP, had aligned with Lloyd George during the party split between George and H.H. Asquith, gaining favour with him. This helped him become Chief Secretary for Ireland, where he realized the challenges of the conflict, and then becoming Home Secretary.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department known as the Home Secretary is in charge of the internal affairs of England and Wales, as well as policing and imprisonment, and MI5 reports directly to them.

**Arthur Balfour** – Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs

A Conservative MP, former Prime Minister and Former Chief Secretary of Ireland, Balfour holds great influence, and is firmly against Irish Home Rule, believing it to not be a possibility.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, or Foreign Secretary is in charge of foreign relations, the Greater Commonwealth and Overseas territories. MI6 reports directly to the secretary.

**Winston Churchill** – Secretary of State for War and Air

A Liberal MP, previously holding a number of Cabinet Position, Churchill is a strong proponent for military intervention in many foreign affairs, although he has no strong opposition to an Irish Free State.

The Secretary of State for War is in charge of the ground forces of the British Military, and as Minister of Air, also in charge of the air force.

**Walter Hume Long** – First Lord of the Admiralty

Recognized as the senior voice on Ireland in the cabinet, Long is a staunch Unionist and pushed for policy that can be seen as escalating pressures in Ireland, including conscription and larger number of arrest for Sinn Féiners.

The First Lord of the Admiralty is in charge of the Royal Navy and its actions.

**Lord French** – Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland

An Irishman, Senior Army Officer and Unionist, French reclaimed the role of Lord-Lieutenant from that of a figurehead, where the power was controlled by Chief Secretary (who will no be present for this simulation), to a role with executive power.

The role of Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland under French is to maintain control in Ireland and in charge of administration of Irish Affairs.



**Sir Robert Horne** – Minister of Labour

Horne, a former businessman and lawyer, who has worked for several large companies, is strongly loyal to Lloyd George.

The Minister of Labour is in charge of maintaining jobs and employment in the United Kingdom, and is being looked towards as strikes appear to approach.

**Herbert Fisher** – President of the Board of Education

A Liberal MP, historian and educator, Fisher has a strong interest in humans as social animals. He believes in local powers as being effective in maintaining social structure, although is supportive of martial law to maintain control.

The President of the Board of Education is in charge of education and schooling in the United Kingdom.

## Committee Goals

This committee must now come together to successfully advise Prime Minister Lloyd George on what action to take. The United Kingdom is in a fragile position, straight out of a war, and viewing a shifting political landscape. Within its on parliament, the cabinet now sits on a tender footing, as a coalition formed from the ashes of a previous government, and it therefore of upmost importance a unified and strong face is shown to the public.

Each committee member will have their own goals and strategies, which must fall harmoniously under these committee wide aims of finding a, preferably peaceful, solution to this conflict, which reinforces the cabinet's ability whilst not angering a shaken world community.

## Further Procedure Reading

We strongly encourage the delegates to read this PDF if they find themselves lost or confused as what steps to take for preparation.



Crisis handbook.pdf

