

Guidelines for Diplomatic Conference
Paris Peace Conference, 1919-1923
History 348, Dr. Werth

Our conference on the Paris Peace Conference will proceed very much like the conference on the July Crisis, only here we will be concerned with the aftermath of the war. Here, again, you should write a "position paper" of four pages in which you present the aspirations of your state or group and the constraints upon it/them. Imagine that the conference is convening in January of 1919. What do you hope to attain for your state or group? What other states or groups stand in the way of your aspirations? Would you say that the fighting has ended in your country, or does it continue in different forms now? What ideology motivates your actions? How strong is your state or group relative to those around you? Once again, your goal is to lay out the position of your state or group as clearly as possible and to come to the conference ready to defend the position of your state or group firmly, effectively, intelligently, and realistically. The precise time frame you address in your paper may vary depending on circumstances. For those at Versailles it will probably be enough to view things from the standpoint of 1919. Hungary would probably have to view matters from 1920, Soviet Russia from 1921, Turkey probably from 1923. As soon as you read a little bit about these places you will understand why. You should definitely know your geography. As always, I am ready to help you think about how to do this.

In signing up for the July Crisis, you will have already selected a country or group to represent. Unless there is a compelling reason to deviate, you should stick with that choice. Any change requires my permission.

By the time we get to the conference, you will all have essentially completed Goldstein's book, so you will already have some material to work with. But you need to do some research on your specific country, so that you can represent it properly. For this assignment, at a minimum, *you must read at least one chapter or article beyond the required reading for the course*. Some good basic resources are these:

Robert Gerwarth and Erez Manela, eds., *Empires at War, 1911-1923* (Oxford, 2014)
Margaret MacMillan, *Paris, 1919: Six Months that Changed the World* (Random House, 2003)
Manfred F. Boemeke, Gerald D. Feldman and Elisabeth Glaser, eds., *The Treaty of Versailles: A Reassessment after 75 Years* (Cambridge, 1998).

For suggestions on your specific country, please see me. Given the quantities of rubbish out there, I would encourage you to avoid the internet, and I will be unsympathetic to anyone who ignores this advice and writes a crappy paper as a result. Remember that it can make a good deal of sense to read about other countries in researching your own. For example, if you represent Greece, you might also want to read about the Ottoman Empire. If you represent Italy, then read about both Italy & Yugoslavia. If you read about Hungary, you probably should read also about Romania and Yugoslavia. And so on. The point is that none of these states existed in a vacuum, and so you need to understand the most important states around them.