



# The 19<sup>th</sup> Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

## *Background Guide*



**EagleMUNC**  
Model United Nations  
Conference

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[www.EagleMUNC.org](http://www.EagleMUNC.org)  
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**EAGLEMUNC**

## Introduction

### Letter from the Chair:

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to EagleMUNC XIII! My name is Cat Levine and I will be your chair for the Central Committee. To give you a little background about myself, I am a sophomore at Boston College majoring in International Studies with a concentration in Conflict and Cooperation. I was born in New Canaan, Connecticut, raised on foot long hot dogs and philly cheese steaks at Yankee Stadium, but for safety reasons if you ask anyone I am all for the Red Sox and Patriots while in Boston. I spent the past summer working in New York City, but I am hoping to move abroad for a few years after graduation and eventually settle in Washington D.C.

I have been apart of Model UN for most of my adolescent life. I joined my freshman year of high school, pressured by my three older sisters who had become “MUN groupies” themselves. During high school, we attended various college conferences, including EagleMUNC V! This will be my second year as a part of EagleMUNC, as last year I served as a Sim Staffer for the UN Security Council, Allende’s Presidential Cabinet, and the NAACP. I am so excited to come out from behind the scenes in crisis and see all of you debate during committee as chair when March comes around.

As you prepare for EagleMUNC VIII please keep a few points in mind. If this is your first time attending a college level conference be sure to visit the EagleMUNC or EGLI websites to review parliamentary procedure. The Central Committee will be run as a General Assembly with the delegates representing members of the Committee, but we

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hope to incorporate crises and off-the-spot thinking as we proceed later in committee sessions. Be sure to carefully read the information and potential questions given in this background guide so that you can curve your research towards certain topics that may flow in debate. Learn as much as you can about your assigned position; these are real people and therefore there should be plenty of credible resources online for your use. As we are a historical committee, ensure that you are researching for the correct time period.

**We will be starting with Joseph Stalin's final speech to the Central Committee in**

**October of 1952.** In committee, we encourage you to go off path from what happened in real life, but nevertheless I strongly suggest that you still research the true events to help prepare you for potential issues or crises.

Good luck in your research and I look forward to meeting all of you in the spring! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out and I will try my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Cat Levine

## Historical Background

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 marked the end of centuries of Russian imperial rule, initiating a wave of Communism and the rise of the Soviet Union as a powerhouse in the international community and global governance.

In opposition to the monarchy and landed elites, three different groups emerged in the early 1900s. The Narodniks were Populists with Utopian foundations influenced by Karl Marx. They sought to replace the Tsar and were deeply rooted in the Mir, village councils that relied on collective decision making within peasant communities. The Mensheviks were a branch of Marxists that believed in ushering Russia into Communism gradually, first through a bourgeois revolution which would eventually lead to a rise of the working class. The Bolsheviks, on the other hand, did not want to wait. They believed in forcing the issue of Communism by creating conditions to spark the revolution, breaking from Marxist thought.<sup>1</sup>

After the humiliating defeat to Japan in the 1904 Russo-Japanese War, the initial phase of the revolution occurred rapidly within six months, starting with massive urban protests and rural peasant rebellions. Opposition groups demonstrated their discontent to the Tsar, culminating in the massacre of peaceful demonstrators in St. Petersburg on Bloody Sunday. In a strategy of appeasement, Tsar Nicholas initiated Constitutional reform with the creation of the Duma, the Russian parliament, and extension of voting rights. However, this did not meet the radicals' demands for a republic and widespread strikes and violence continued. The 1905 revolution ended in government crackdowns,

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<sup>1</sup> Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

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with the Tsar declaring martial law, coming into homes, and wiping out rebellions in peasant areas.<sup>2</sup>

Russia entered World War I in August of 1914 to support Serbia and their French and British allies. Russia was outmatched militarily and economically, in addition to food shortages and inflation that disrupted their economy. Russia sustained the greatest casualties in war than ever seen before with more than five million people dead.<sup>3</sup>

The February Revolution began on March 8 of 1917. Protestors took to the streets and clashed with police. Tsar Nicholas was forced to abdicate the throne and the provisional government established liberal rule, advocating against a violent revolution. The provisional government, pressured by their Western allies, stayed in the war despite mass discontent. The government was weakened by dual authority with the re-emergence of the Soviets. The Soviets grew in power and become an alternative form of government, taking on a watchdog role in support of workers, soldiers, and intellectuals. The provisional government failed after staying in the war and the military was almost entirely wiped out. Popular support was lost because of a lack of land redistribution and a radical period emerged where the Soviets gained rapid popularity.<sup>4</sup>

On November 6 and 7 of the same year, the Bolsheviks, led by Vladimir Lenin, overthrew the Duma's provisional government. The Bolsheviks took over major government buildings, railroads, and telegraph communication stations. As a result, the provisional government collapsed and the military dissolved.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> "Russian Revolution of 1905." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 15 Jan. 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Stalin." *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 15 July 2019.

<sup>4</sup> "Russian Revolution." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009.

<sup>5</sup> "Russian Revolution." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 9 Nov. 2009.

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The Bolsheviks allied with the Soviets, having no intention to share the political forum with the Populists and Mensheviks. Lenin created the Council of People's Commissar as an alternative government and hosted constituent assembly elections, initiating the Utopian phase of the post-revolution Soviet Union. Lenin encouraged initial anarchy to weaken class enemies. The landed elites and bourgeois were pushed down as the working class controlled factories and the peasants took over farms.<sup>6</sup>

The transformational phase from 1918-1921 brought about the formation of an army, as the Red Guard became the Red Army. The working class rebuilt the state bureaucracy but at the same time was repressed through the Cheka secret police. Lenin's new economic policy of nationalization brought a partial return of private ownership and markets. Lenin formed a new political party, incorporating traditional, modern, and charismatic elements. He reinforced a corporate nature, a total claim on ideology, and a hierarchical status imbued with ontological distinction, where cadres, leaders within the party, take on a heroic dimension. He promoted activation but not participation. The market, politics, and civil society were highly active but everything went through the party and the party dominated the state, with an emphasis on empirical analysis and planning. Lenin combined organizational impersonalism by having a narrow set of rules to follow with persona heroism, idolizing cadres.<sup>7</sup>

Joseph Stalin was born into poverty in Gorgi, Georgia and rose up the ranks in revolutionary politics. In 1902, he was arrested and sent to Siberia after conducting a labor strike. Escaping from Siberia, Stalin resorted to crime, robbing banks and extorting

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<sup>6</sup> "Russian Revolution of 1905." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 15 Jan. 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

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others for money. Stalin became General Secretary of the Communist Party in 1922, having control over the appointment of party positions. When Lenin died in 1924, Joseph Stalin overtook rivals and assumed power as dictator of the Soviet Union.<sup>8</sup>

Stalin set political and economic goals at the beginning of his leadership. He sought to wipe out any remnants of the old party and opposition through the Great Purge. Moreover, he promoted collectivization and heavy industrialization.

Shortly before the Second World War broke out in September of 1939, Stalin made a tactical move in negotiating a nonaggression pact with Adolf Hitler and his Germany Nazi party. Stalin believed in the integrity of their pact, and so the Soviets were completely blinded when the Germans took over Ukraine, Belarus, and surrounded Leningrad. After heavy losses, the Soviets were able to push back the Nazis at the Battle of Stalingrad in 1943 and by the next year were liberating countries in Eastern Europe.<sup>9</sup>

Following World War II, Stalin became paranoid of West intervention in Eastern Europe and the interception of capitalism. As such, Stalin established Communist regimes in many Eastern European nations to create a buffer zone. In response, the Western powers created the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to combat Soviet aggression. Several strategic military campaigns between the West and Soviet Union continued over the next few years, including an economic blockade in Berlin in 1948 and support of Kim Il Sung in North Korea in 1950, ushering the Cold War era.<sup>10</sup>

The Central Committee was originally founded in 1912 by Lenin after separating from the Russian Social Democratic Workers Party. In the beginning, it was responsible

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<sup>8</sup> “Joseph Stalin.” *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 15 July 2019.

<sup>9</sup> “Joseph Stalin.” *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 15 July 2019,

<sup>10</sup> *The Warsaw Pact and Eastern Europe*. JSIS Washington Edu.

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for broad policy goals for the Bolsheviks and in October of 1917 chose the five members of the Politburo to lead the Communist Revolution. In the 1920s, Stalin expanded the committee with his own supporters, functioning as a quasi-parliamentary body with free debate and party formation. Members were chosen by the party congress and convened for a few days twice a year. Starting with 25 members in 1921, the committee continually grew in size and typically seats went to the most important people within the Soviet government and economy. The Central Committee's power decreased dramatically once Stalin began executing opposition in the mid 1930s, but still remained present as a tool used by the party.<sup>11</sup>

### **Topic 1: Economic Productivity**

War Communism, introduced by the Bolsheviks preceding the civil war in 1918, had almost brought the USSR to collapse by 1921. The policy focused on taking private business through nationalization of the economy, targeting surplus grain and other products in the food industry produced by the peasants. War Communism brought the Soviet economy into decline through its impact on the agriculture and industry sectors. The peasants' production of grain and other crops dropped as there was no incentive to grow in surplus. Moreover, the bureaucracy did not properly supervise the newly created state owned economy, and with this industrial output dropped. By 1921, industrial production plummeted by 80% and real wages of workers in cities declined by  $\frac{2}{3}$  in three years.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> "Central Committee." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Inc.

<sup>12</sup> "War Communism." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 18 June 2015.



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Mass discontent by 1921 led to strikes and protests, more commonly remembered by the Kronstadt Rebellion in March. As a result, Vladimir Lenin introduced the New Economic Policy (NEP), an escape from socialist policies to bring economic stability. NEP returned most of the agriculture, retail trade, and small scale industry into the private sector. Although, the state still maintained control of large scale industry, banking, and international trade. Currency was printed into circulation in the economy after being banned under War Communism due to rampant inflation. Peasants were able to use and own land with the compromise of paying taxes to the state. However, NEP was considered by the state as a temporary solution to restart the economy after years of war.<sup>13</sup>

Joseph Stalin's economic policy focused on two main components: collectivization and industrialization. Stalin wanted to show the international community that the Soviet Union was a strong militarily and independent as a world power. He also wanted to prove to Western powers that communism superseded capitalism.<sup>14</sup>

By 1928, the Soviet Union had a shortage of 20 million tons of grain. Stalin's first proposal was to revolutionize agricultural techniques. Traditional farming methods were poor and ineffective. Innovations like fertilizer and tractors meant higher output. Next, Stalin needed to gain control of grain prices. Since the introduction of NEP, kulaks kept their surplus to increase demand and thus prices. Stalin wanted to see the price low so that workers could afford to buy grain without increasing wages. Thus the state found its solution in collectivization: combining small farms into kolkhoz, or collectives. Peasants

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<sup>13</sup> "New Economic Policy." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 16 Jan. 2018.

<sup>14</sup> "Collectivization and Industrialization." *Revelations from the Russian Archives*, 31 Aug. 2016.

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would farm on state owned land using loaned machinery. 90% of the output would be sold to the state for low prices and the 10% surplus was used to feed the collectives, not to be sold for private profit. As a result, millions of peasants were forced into industry in cities, an approximated 10 million died from famine, and production fell. Despite food shortages, Stalin continued with collectivization, leading to a rise in grain between 1928 to 1931 from 10.8 million tons to 22.8 million tons.<sup>15</sup>

Stalin implemented the first Five Year Plan to feed the industrial workforce. He concentrated on large scale industry in products such as coal, steel, oil, and gas. He organized the construction of dams and hydroelectric plants to increase the energy needed for industry. An example of such a project is the Belomor Canal, where 100,000 workers died. However, his focus on rapid industrialization came at the expense of consumer products. GOSPLAN, a state planning commission, set specific target numbers that every industry needed to meet. If these numbers were not met, the commission would increase the target or cut wages, resulting in an emphasis on quantity over quality. Workers were heavily regulated and propaganda campaigns were introduced to urge workers to complete targets in four rather than the proposed five years. Between 1928 and 1933, coal rose from 35.4 million tons and steel increased from 4 to 18 million tons. By 1938, the Soviet Union beat Britain and Germany in industrial production.<sup>16</sup>

The second Five Year Plan lasted from 1933-1938. A shortage of workers in factories led to Stalin encouraging women to enter the workforce. In 1927, 28% of workers in industry were women, rising to 40% by 1937. Although state propaganda

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<sup>15</sup> "Stalin's Economic Policy and Impact." *History Exploration*.

<sup>16</sup> "Five-Year Plans." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 26 Apr. 2018, [www.britannica.com/topic/Five-Year-Plans](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Five-Year-Plans).

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depicted men and women as equal partners, Stalin still continued to encourage marriage and traditional motherhood roles. In order to incentivize increased production, managers were given higher standards of living, leading to increased inequality and a larger wealth gap.<sup>17</sup>

The third Five Year Plan was organized to increase consumer goods, but ended up being directed towards weapons productions. It did result in an improvement in the economy; free education and food supplies were offered to the masses. This growth was paused in June of 1941, when Germany invaded and the Soviet Union was brought into the Second World War.<sup>18</sup>

### **Topic 2: Stalin's Purges**

Stalin's purges, commonly referred to as Stalin's Terror, emerged from his determination to establish absolute autocracy. He approximated that the USSR was 10 years away from catching up with the West. In order to meet this feat, Stalin believed the Soviet Union needed to act on a united front under a strong leader like himself. With war looming on the horizon, Stalin exploited thousands of gulag prisoners to reamp industry that was weak and on the decline.<sup>19</sup>

Moreover, Stalin was increasingly paranoid and suspicious of opposition. He used the NKVD (Communist Secret Police) to put on public show trials, creating a "cult of Stalin-worship" bred from terror. Most of the early trials were aimed at those who were

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<sup>17</sup> "Five-Year Plans." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 26 Apr. 2018.

<sup>18</sup> "Five-Year Plans." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 26 Apr. 2018.

<sup>19</sup> "Of Russian Origin: Stalin's Purges." *Stalin's Purges – Russiapedia Of Russian Origin*.

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pushing back on industrialization and the kulaks, prosperous farmers and entrepreneurs who spoke out against collectivization.<sup>20</sup>

The Great Purges were a tactic used by Stalin to eliminate opposition. Stalin used the death of Sergey Kirov, a political rival whose murder many believed Stalin orchestrated, to arrest thousands of his contenders. The first trial began in August of 1936. Grigory Yevseyevich Zinovyev, Lev Kamenev, and Ivan Smirnov, high up Bolsheviks at the time of the October Revolution, were accused of conspiring with Leon Trotsky to found a terrorist organization keen on removing Stalin from power. They were blamed for the assassination of Sergey Kirov and other Stalin associates. The second trial in January of 1937 accused G.L. Pyatakov, G.Y. Sokolnikov, L.P. Serebryakov, and Karl Radek and 17 other defendants of forming an “anti-Soviet Trotskyite centre” through sabotage to devastate the Soviet economy and working with Germany and Japan to restore capitalism. The third trial in March of 1938 found Nikolay Bukharian and Aleksey Ivanovich Rykov, prominent leaders of Stalin’s right-wing opposition in the late 1920s, guilty of being apart of the Zinovyev–Trotsky conspiracy.<sup>21</sup>

The main evidence used in all trials were confessions obtained from the defendants in preliminary examinations. It was believed that the defendants in these trials were innocent and coerced into confessions by the secret police’s use of torture and intimidation. The purges, although directly targeting Stalin’s political rivals, also impacted the lives of commoners. Over 20 million people were sent to labor camps during Stalin’s rule, where nearly half died.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> “Of Russian Origin: Stalin's Purges.” *Stalin's Purges – Russiapedia Of Russian Origin*.

<sup>21</sup> “Great Purge.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2 Apr. 2019.

<sup>22</sup> “Great Purge.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2 Apr. 2019.

### Topic 3: Korean War

In 1945, the Japanese empire collapsed following the end of World War II. As a former Western colony seized by Japan, Korea did not have experience in local governance to return to after gaining independence. There were two groups that grabbed power following annexation from Japan. The first led by guerilla leader Kim Il-Sung found its inspiration in Marxism. The second drew its foundations from the Western ideals of industrialization and education.<sup>23</sup>

The United States and USSR agreed to divide Korea at the 38th Parallel, something that the U.S thought would be a short term solution, leading to thousands of refugees fleeing South. In 1947, after heavy debate and little result on how to create a unified Korea, President Truman went to the U.N. to take responsibility of South Korea, which the U.S remained in militarily. At the same time, Kim Il-Sung strengthened his control in the Communist party.<sup>24</sup>

On June 25, 1950 the North Korean People's Army, backed by Soviet military resources, crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded South Korea. The United States intervened on behalf of South Korea, recognizing the actions of North Korea as an aggressive military campaign to promote Communism in Asia. Truman's initial response was to go to the U.N. and call for sanctions. He sent MacArthur to help evacuate American citizens. They worked to negotiate an armistice in fear of instigating a war with China and the USSR. For eight weeks, the U.S fought near Osan, but were outmatched in weapons, numbers, and leadership. Once the North Korean troops were pushed back

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<sup>23</sup> "The Korean War - CCEA - Revision 1 - GCSE History - BBC Bitesize." *BBC News*, BBC.

<sup>24</sup> Millett, Allan R. "Korean War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 4 July 2019.

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towards the border, Chinese troops intervened, leading to a stalemate by 1951. In response, Stalin provided limited military weapons and air support in the Chinese airspace.<sup>25</sup>

Peace talks heightened in July of 1951. Fighting continued at the 38th parallel while negotiations dragged on. Both sides were willing to cease fire, but they disagreed on whether prisoners of war would be kept in incarceration or sent back to their native countries. By October of 1952, the UN proclaimed an indefinite recess in the negotiations.<sup>26</sup>

Overall, the Korean War was one of many proxy-wars that overextended the Soviet Union and added to the already increasingly tense relations with the United States. Although officially labeling themselves as neutral, the Soviets were often vilified by both sides. Truman saw Stalin as militarily aggressive and pulling the strings for the Communist party, while China became frustrated by their unreliable and inadequate support. Stalin encouraged Chinese efforts to keep troops from the Soviet border, but at the same time acted carefully to prevent American backlash. In the end, Stalin's half-in-half-out mentality could be attributed to his desire to help aspiring Communist nations while pragmatic instincts to defend the territorial sovereignty of the Soviet Union.

### **Topic 4: Maintaining Power in Eastern Europe**

In the final weeks of World War II, the Soviet armies pushed Nazi German troops back to Berlin. Following the war's conclusion, the Soviet military maintained control in most of Central and Eastern Europe, including the Eastern portion of divided Germany.

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<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> "Historical Calendar - 1952." *1952 - Historical Calendar - Land of the Morning Calm - The Korean War - History - Remembrance - Veterans Affairs Canada*, Veterans Affairs Canada, 14 Feb. 2019.

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During the war, the USSR took control of the three independent Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and part of Romania as the Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic. In the rest of the nations it controlled, the USSR modeled Communist governments after the Soviet system. Stalin's objective was to create a buffer between Russia and the West. The West established the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as a way to combat Stalin's aggressive military and ideological endeavors in Eastern Europe.<sup>27</sup>

Stalin announced at the Yalta Conference that it was of paramount importance for him to maintain control in these areas, to prevent another invasion. The Red Army occupied Central and Eastern Europe through fear, intimidation, and the rigging of elections. Stalin controlled the media and eliminated any opposition. In 1947, he created the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) to work with each of the Communist regimes. In reality, Stalin used the Cominform as a watchdog over the governments to ensure absolute loyalty.<sup>28</sup>

The initial creation of the "People's Democracies" divided the countries into three categories. The first consisted of Poland, Romania, Hungary, and the Soviet Occupied Zone of Germany (SBZ). In the aforementioned, Soviet influence was essential in founding their governments. In the SBZ, building a permanent system was delayed by Soviet insistence to have a fully unified and occupied Berlin. The second included Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, where Soviet involvement was coupled with internal political interest groups. The Communist party was able to collaborate with certain

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<sup>27</sup> *The Warsaw Pact and Eastern Europe*. JSIS Washington Edu.

<sup>28</sup> "Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe - Revision 2 - Higher History - BBC Bitesize." *BBC News*, BBC.

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resistant groups during the collapse of Nazi rule. The Communist coup in Bulgaria on September 9, 1944 was successful because of the Soviet's assistance. The Soviets encouraged Edvard Benes and the left forces he led to form Czechoslovakia's new Communist regime. The third consisted of Yugoslavia and Albania, which primarily took place because of internal political interest groups. The Communist parties within Yugoslavia and Albania resisted Axis involvement and led large and powerful movements for left ideology. To ensure its success, the Soviets had the Red Army provide necessary military support.<sup>29</sup>

Yet, Soviet occupation of Eastern Europe was not always easy. In March of 1948, the Allied power united their sections into West Berlin. In response, the Soviets withdrew from the Allied Control Council and the occupying forces began a blockade of all rail, road, and water communications between the two sides. On June 24, the Soviets announced that the Allied powers no longer had any jurisdiction in East Berlin. Beginning on June 26, the United States and Britain airlifted supplies to East Berlin for 11 months. The blockade eventually ended once the Allies heavily sanctioned primary Soviet exports.<sup>30</sup>

The Yugoslav-Soviet Split, commonly referred to as the Tito-Stalin Split, resulted in Yugoslavia leaving the Cominform in 1948. During World War II, Yugoslavia was occupied by Axis powers opposed by Communist resistance led by Josip Broz Tito. Tito took control of Yugoslavia by 1945. Although recognized to be the closest allies, tension developed between Stalin and Tito as Tito refused to recognize Moscow as the supreme

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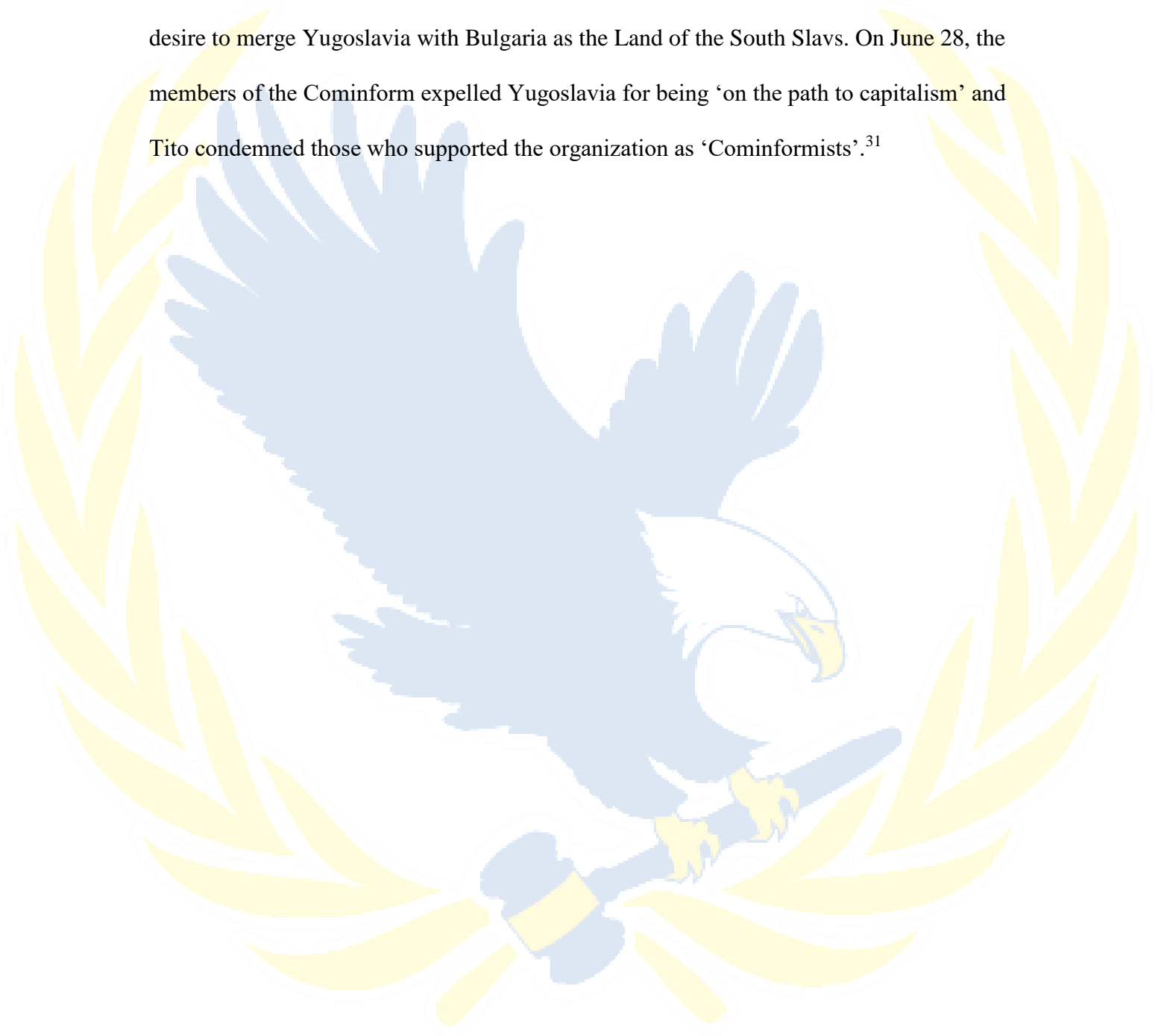
<sup>29</sup> Naimark, Norman M. "THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNIST REGIMES IN EASTERN EUROPE, 1944-1954." *The National Council for Eurasian and East European Research*, 7 July 2004.

<sup>30</sup> "Berlin Blockade." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 17 June 2019.



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Communist authority. Stalin was also angered when Tito deployed troops to Albania to prevent the spreading of civil conflict in Greece without consulting him first and his desire to merge Yugoslavia with Bulgaria as the Land of the South Slavs. On June 28, the members of the Cominform expelled Yugoslavia for being ‘on the path to capitalism’ and Tito condemned those who supported the organization as ‘Cominformists’.<sup>31</sup>



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<sup>31</sup> Perovic, Jeronim. “The Tito-Stalin Split.” *Zurich Open Repository and Archive*, University of Zurich, 2007.

## Questions to Consider

### Topic 1: Economic Productivity

1. Is the Soviet Union on a path towards economic destruction?
2. Does a strong economy require nationalization or privatization? A focus on industry or consumer goods? Increase or decreased state control in the market?
3. What is the role of the peasantry? What balance is there between agriculture and heavy industry?
4. Are there any economic programs, industries, or international endeavors necessary to boost the economy?

### Topic 2: Stalin's Purges

1. What is the role of the NKVD?
2. What balance will the NKVD have with local police and the military?
3. Are gulags and a cult of terror necessary for the Soviet Union to have a strong state? Is opposition helpful in politics or something that needs to be repressed?
4. Does there need to be a third party to act as a watchdog for the state's misuse of power? What measures need to be implemented to protect the people of the Soviet Union?
5. Is reform needed to balance power within the state? What other abuses of power does the state engage in beyond purges?

### Topic 3: Korean War

1. How does the state wish to proceed with the Korean War?
2. Will the Soviet Union continue to have limited involvement on behalf of North Korea and China in aerial support and weapons?

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3. Will the Soviet Union choose to move in a more aggressive approach?
4. Will the Soviet Union help in negotiations on an armistice and what will be the conditions? What will be the status of prisoners of war? Will there be reparations?
5. Will the Soviet Union expand its sphere of influence into other parts of Asia?

### Topic 4: Maintaining Power in Eastern Europe

1. How will the Soviet Union maintain control of its 'mini Stalin' Eastern European countries?
2. How will the Soviet respond to the threat NATO faces to the Soviet Union and its satellite states? Is there a need to establish a communist military alliance?
3. Should the Soviet Union continue to hold control over these countries or is it a drain on scarce resources? Is the Soviet Union overstretched militarily and economically?
4. How will the state prevent uprisings and calls for capitalism? Demonstrate its power and authority without its Stalin cult of terror?
5. What are the problem areas vulnerable to uprisings? What can the Soviets do to preemptively stop uprisings from occurring?

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