



So You Want to Be an Independent Country:

South American Liberation Committee, 1819

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

On behalf of Miami University Model United Nations, I would like to formally welcome you to MUMUNC XVI! I am Megan Conley, and I have the great honor of chairing our only general assembly of MUMUNC this year, alongside my co-chair, Sydney Mason. We are both incredibly excited to see how this general assembly plays out and how you, the delegates, choose to resolve the issue at hand.

My model united nations journey began during the spring semester of my freshman year at Miami University. It has been two years since then, and I have grown exponentially in my model UN skill since then. My first year in MUMUN I served as crisis director for the Dolphin Rights crisis committee, and last year I served as crisis director again, for the Star Wars crisis committee as well as working as the Undersecretary of Communications throughout the school year. This year I am incredibly pleased to be chairing the South American Liberation committee while serving as the Deputy Secretary General for the organization.

A lot of time was spent researching the topic for this committee, and I hope that you enjoy it as much as I have. I am looking forward to seeing how you navigate this time of turmoil and political tensions between South America and the western world. I wish you the best in your endeavors during this general assembly and hope you have a wonderful time participating in MUMUNC XVI!

LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIR

Welcome to MUMUNC XVI! I am Sydney Mason and I could not be more excited to welcome this year's delegates to our general assembly, which I have the great honor of co-chairing alongside our chair, Megan Conley. This is my first year in Model UN, and therefore this is my first time chairing, however, I hope to do well by our delegates in our time together.

I was lucky enough to attend UNCMUNC last fall where I was placed in their general assembly, the United Nations' Office on Drugs and Crime. I hope to use what I learned in my time in the general assembly to assist all of you in making the best of your time at MUMUNC. Our general assembly is the South American Liberation committee and I hope all of you enjoy the subject as much as our chair and I have.

Our timeline starts in 1819, with the formation of Gran Colombia, so luckily for us, we have much political tension to endure. I am so excited to see what you all will accomplish throughout our committee, and I hope you all enjoy it as much I'm sure our chair and I will.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

The early 1800s were a period of great unrest in South America. Many countries would break away from their European overlords to strike out on their own. However, there were many who disagreed with separating from Europe either out of patriotism or self-interest. Many high ideals were sweeping the continent about how people ought to be governed and if South Americans should unite as a common culture or strike out on their own as individual nations.

Simón Bolívar was born 24 July 1783, is known as “The Liberator” or “El Libertador”. Bolívar was born in what is now Caracas, Venezuela, to wealthy Spaniard parents. After touring Europe throughout his upbringing and education, he returned to Venezuela and vowed to end Spanish rule across the land in the Americas. During this time, Spanish rule was heavily weakened in the Americas due to the emergence of Napoleon’s Peninsular War which also forced the government of the Portuguese empire to relocate to Brazil.

Napoleon's war in Iberia led to the Spanish crown loosening restrictions on the prohibition of trade between their colonies, even allowing them to trade with neutral countries like the US. However, after Spain regained control of their country, they attempted to return their colonies to the status quo which precipitated great unrest through the Spanish Empire. Following this time period, several Spanish American wars of independence broke out due to the people born in the new world not being able to hold executive office. Bolívar took advantage of the situation and became a prominent politician and combatant in the conflicts.

In 1810, Bolívar began his military career as a militia officer in the Venezuelan War of Independence. By 1819, Simón Bolívar had been elected as the Viceroy of the new Republic of Colombia, also known as Gran Colombia. Gran Colombia was formed through the merging of the countries of Venezuela, New Granada, Ecuador, and Panamá.

DELEGATIONS

Latin American Powers

Simón Bolívar, President of Gran Colombia - Known as “The Liberator”, or “El Libertador” of South America. Led a revolt against Spanish colonialism starting in 1810 and led the formation of Gran Colombia. Bolívar was elected president of Gran Colombia on 16 February 1819. He had hoped that Gran Colombia would be formed similar to the British government and would promote racial equality as a strong value of the republic.

José Antonio Páez, Governor of Venezuela - Born and raised in Venezuela, Páez worked as a ranch hand as a child, which gave him important skills in the military later on and led him to become a strong Venezuelan general. Páez joined Simón Bolívar in 1810 in the revolt against Spanish forces in South America and used his militia, *los llaros*, to fight against the Spanish. Over the years, Páez began to resent Bolívar for taking all the credit for the liberation of South America.

Juan José Flores, Governor of Ecuador - Born to a rich Spaniard merchant and a Venezuelan mother. At age 15, he joined the Spanish Royalist army, but he went on to join the patriot army of Simón Bolívar only two years later. Flores became well known for his strong, loyal character and caught the attention of Bolívar at a young age. The two men are known to respect and admire one another for their dedication to the cause and their country.

Joaquín de la Pezuela, Viceroy of Perú - Born to a Spanish noble family, Pezuela joined the royal military and was director of the Royal Artillery until he was named the Viceroy of Perú. He is a defender of the Spanish crown and has fought back against Bolívar’s armies, which he has been successful at thus far. Pezuela’s loyalty to the crown has caused tense relations between him and his second in command as well as others stationed in Perú.

Prince Pedro IV, Heir Apparent of Portugal - Colloquially known as Pedro I, the heir apparent to the Portuguese throne which was ruled by King Dom John VI. Pedro’s father, John VI, attempted to rid Brazil (which was then and still is during the start of the committee a Portuguese colony) of its political and economic autonomous statuses in 1808. However, Pedro was a strong supporter of Brazilian autonomy and independence, which directly contrasted against his fathers’ position as king.

José de Fábrega, Panamá - Fábrega was a military official and political governor of Panamá. During this time, Panamá was a part of Gran Colombia, but Spain did not

recognize this. Panamá was therefore considered a colony of the Spanish kingdom by the Spanish. Fábrega was an advocate for Panamanian and South American independences. Additionally, he was potentially interested in either forming an alliance with Perú or joining the Federated States of Central America.

José Rondeau, Argentina and Uruguay - After fighting for Spain in the Napoleonic Wars, he returned to Argentina and joined the independentist armies. He was elected Governor of Argentina after his many successes against the Spanish army in Perú and continued on to fight off royal armies in Brazil. Much of his career was spent dedicated to being in battle rather than being a typical politician.

Bernardo O'Higgins, Supreme Dictator of Chile - O'Higgins was the illegitimate son of Ambrosio O'Higgins, a Spanish officer and marquis who was once the governor of Chile and the Viceroy of Perú. Due to his father's influence and status, Bernardo O'Higgins was a wealthy landowner of Basque-Spanish and Irish ancestry, O'Higgins is considered to be one of Chile's founding fathers as he helped free Chile from Spanish rule during the Chilean War of Independence. Despite being the second supreme dictator of Chile, he was the first holder of his position to lead a fully independent Chilean state. O'Higgins was an advocate for Spanish liberation throughout the Americas and specifically Perú.

Western Powers

Dom John VI, King of Portugal - Nicknamed "the Clement", Dom John VI was one of the last remaining absolute monarchs within Europe. Due to invasions in Portugal, he had to flee to Brazil, where he then learned of the liberal revolts that were an attempt to gain Brazil's independence. Dom John VI's family, including his son, Prince Pedro IV, were sympathetic towards the Brazilian natives and were not supportive in his attempts to withhold Portugal's rule over Brazil.

James Monroe, 5th president of the United States of America - Monroe's term was known as the "Era of Good Feelings" where a sense of unity and purpose was felt by Americans. He passed the *Monroe Doctrine* which limited European colonialism in the Americas and orchestrated the Louisiana Purchase from the French Republic. He worked against expansion of the Spanish Empire, and in 1819, ratified the Florida Treaty, which gave the U.S. Florida and established borders. He vocalized his opposition to European intervention within newly independent countries and his support for racial equality. Despite this, he did not wish for the United States to enter any open conflicts in order to maintain their neutral trading status with Europe.

King Ferdinand, King of Spain - After regaining his throne from Napoleon in 1813, he reestablished the absolute monarchy and terminated the liberal constitution. In an attempt to calm revolts in South America, he jailed much of the liberal press. His government was known as unstable, often switching out his advisors every few months, and bad management left Spain almost bankrupt. He was supported by the British government in his attempts to stop liberal revolts in South America.

Juan de la Cruz Mourgéon, Viceroy of New Granada - De la Cruz was a Spanish military commander and colonial administrator. At the same time as serving as Viceroy of New Granada, he also served as the president of the Royal Court of Quito, Ecuador. De la Cruz wished to reconquer the former Spanish territories that Simón Bolívar had helped lead to independence during this time. Overall, de la Cruz was a strong, outspoken loyalist to the Spanish government and kingdom.

Robert Banks Jenkinson, Prime Minister of England - Jenkinson was a well respected prime minister as he managed to guide England through the Napoleonic Wars. Supported other European countries against Napoleon, including Spain. Rebuilt England's economy and was capable of financing assistance against liberal revolts.

Pius VII, Pope of the Catholic Church - Was very well respected after his return to Rome after he had been kept as a prisoner of war in France during the Napoleonic Wars. He was an advocate for racial equality and even wrote to the King of Portugal asking him to end his part in the slave trade. He created a strong relationship with the United States and spoke highly of their contribution to Christianity in the Barbary conflicts.

Louis XVIII, King of France - Ruled under a constitutional monarchy after the French Revolution, thus leading the way for liberal constitutions within Europe. He maintained a strong relationship with England and was able to expand the French army. Louis was known for not resorting to violence and bloodshed and often negotiated with those leading liberal revolts as he was an advocate for a more central government over a royalist government.

William I, King of the Netherlands and Grand Duke of Luxembourg - Rebuilt the Netherlands' monarchy after the Napoleonic Wars, creating a constitution with almost absolute powers. He unified the lower countries into one kingdom and maintained his ownership of Nassau lands. His relations with France remained tense after he sided with Prussia and Austria throughout the Napoleonic Wars. He was a strong supporter of the reformed church, leading many to believe that he wanted to abolish Catholicism.