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# JCC: Russian Cabinet Background Guide

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Seton Hall University, South Orange, NY

# **Background Guide: Joint Crisis Committee (JCC) Cabinet of Vladimir Putin**

**Chair:** Victoria Padilla

**Director:** Chris McNeil

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Welcome to SHUMUN's Joint Crisis Committee (JCC), the Cabinet of Russian President Vladimir. Some positions have been added to the cabinet to ensure the President can hear from more voices. In this committee you will be tasked to ensure the interests of your respective government are fulfilled both at home and abroad. The Dais members look forward to welcome you all to our beautiful campus for a special meeting of the Presidential Cabinet. Please note that since this is a Joint Crisis Committee, delegates are expected to communicate with the Crisis team and the other committee: Cabinet of President Barack Obama.

## **3 types of documents will be used by the committees:**

A **Directive** is a document, which orders that an official action be taken. It is like a Resolution in a typical MUN committee, except it is more direct, less formal, shorter and more to the point. The dais expects directives to be specific and expects them to be used throughout committee, not just at the end of debate. While directives will often be written and voted upon much more quickly than in a General Assembly committee, the Dais still expects lively debate on their contents.

A **Press Release** is a public statement of a message the committee wishes to express. It can be addressed to a specific news agency or just be a general press release.

A **Communiqué** is an official communication to another organization or individual. Within our Joint Crisis Committees, this can be sent to the other committee as a whole or to a

specific delegate within that committee. It can also be sent to another individual or organization, which will be played by the Crisis Room.

## Topic 1: Russian Annexation of Crimea

### Historic Timeline:



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**Mid-1400s:** Called the Crimean Khanate, the region was a protectorate of the Ottoman Empire, and a center of slave trade.

**1783:** Russia annexed Crimea.

**1853:** The Crimean War started, between an alliance of the Ottoman Empire, France, Britain, and Sardinia, against Russia - Russia lost the war, but Crimea remained annexed to the state.

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<sup>1</sup> "Ukraine Crisis in Maps." *BBC News*. BBC, 18 Feb. 2015. Web. 23 Jan. 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-27308526>

**1917:** For a brief period - after the end of the Russian Empire with the October Revolution- Crimea becomes a sovereign state.

**1921:** Crimea joins the Soviet Union, as the Crimean Soviet Socialist Republic.

**1939-1945:** During World War II, Crimea was occupied by Nazi Germany. In 1944, the Red Army (the army of the Soviet Union) eventually reclaimed the region, and ordered the deportation of the Crimean Tatars (Turkic ethnic group formed in the Crimean Peninsula).

**1945:** Crimea then becomes an administrative region of Russia, the Crimean Oblast.

**1954:** Russia gives the Crimean Oblast to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.

**1991:** Collapse of the Soviet Union. Ukraine holds a referendum to be independent from Russia; 54% of Crimeans vote in favor of independence - Crimea remains part of Ukraine, although with a high degree of autonomy. Ukraine is torn between East (predominant language: Russian) and West (predominant language: Ukrainian).

**1997:** Ukraine and Russia sign the bilateral Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership - Russia keeps the Black Sea Fleet in Sevastopol (located in Crimea). <sup>2</sup>

## **Current crisis:**

It is March of 2014. Following the removal of Ukrainian president Victor Yanukovych by rebels in Kiev, it appears that our great nation may have a chance to assert its power in central Asia. Given that Mr. Yanukovych has fled Kiev and it is unclear who is running the Ukrainian government. Since 2013, Mr. Yanukovych has been attempting to ally Ukraine more closely with our nation and other allies in the region. He took a major step towards this alliance by agreeing

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<sup>2</sup> Taylor, Adam. "To Understand Crimea, Take a Look Back at Its Complicated History." The Washington Post. WP Company, 27 Feb. 2014. Web. 05 Feb. 2017. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/02/27/to-understand-crimea-take-a-look-back-at-its-complicated-history/?utm\\_term=.e14ea3663ce7](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/02/27/to-understand-crimea-take-a-look-back-at-its-complicated-history/?utm_term=.e14ea3663ce7)

to a 15 billion dollar loan from our nation while at the same time turning down a trade deal with the European Union. Despite this being a smart move for his nation, many Ukrainians who supported allying more closely with the European Union were instrumental in removing him from power.<sup>3</sup>

In the wake of Yanukovych's removal our nation has annexed Crimea, a territory of Ukraine. Many of the inhabitants of this region speak Russian and identify as ethnic Russians. While the region was ceded to Ukraine in 1947, many of its inhabitants have aligned themselves more with Moscow than Kiev. Since its handover to Ukraine in 1947, the region has also been granted a high degree of autonomy from Kiev. Since 1991, Crimea has elected its own Prime Minister and parliament. Given that Mr. Yanukovych had strong support in Crimea, many Crimeans were very upset by his ouster and there is strong public sentiment for Crimean secession from Ukraine.<sup>4</sup> Since the outbreak of protests in Kiev, our nation has been building up a military presence near Crimea and on the border of Russia and Ukraine. While a preliminary government has been formed in Kiev, we believe that Crimea should be free to decide whether it wants to remain part of the Ukraine. On March 27<sup>th</sup> 2014, pro-Russian forces took over the Crimean capital, Simferopol. These forces captured airports and government buildings. However, they are not officially considered Russian troops. The official position of our nation is that these soldiers are Crimeans defending their territory and they have no affiliation with the Russian military. The nation stands to gain a lot from Crimea becoming a part of Russia. One of our nation's largest naval bases on the Black Sea, Sevastopol, is located in Crimea and currently use of it

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<sup>3</sup> Yuhas, Alan. "Ukraine Crisis: An Essential Guide to Everything That's Happened so Far." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, 13 Apr. 2014. Web. 05 Feb. 2017. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/11/ukraine-russia-crimea-sanctions-us-eu-guide-explainer>

<sup>4</sup> "Why Crimea Is so Dangerous." BBC News. BBC, 11 Mar. 2014. Web. 05 Feb. 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26367786>

requires cooperation with the Ukrainian government. This move would also remind the United States and its NATO allies that Russia is still the dominant nation in central Asia and also a major world power. The United States and its allies currently do not recognize Crimea as being legitimate territory of the Russian Federation. Ukraine also still considers Crimea to be a part of Ukraine. Thus, our nation is facing a showdown with the other world powers of the world.

### **Questions to Consider**

- How can Russia assert its right to annex Crimea in the face of enormous opposition from the global community?
- What should Russia do with Crimea following its annexation? Should it continue to be granted autonomy or should it be placed under tighter control?
- The new preliminary government of Ukraine does not plan to have elections until May 2014. In the time between now and then, how can Russia ensure that this election will produce a president who will be accommodating to Russian policy aims in the region?
- Given that the United States and its allies have already discussed sanctions on Russia, how can Russia prepare to ensure that these sanctions do not significantly affect the Russian economy?
- Should Russia begin using its military more aggressively in the region or should it wait to see more of a reaction from the west?
- How can Russia assert itself on the global stage outside of the region of Crimea?

## Topic 2: Cybersecurity

Since our nation's annexation of Crimea in 2014, cyber security and cyber warfare have also been a point of contention with the United States.<sup>5</sup> In 2013, the United States and Russia, along with the rest of the G8 nations, signed a landmark agreement to reduce the threat of cyber warfare and to maintain open channels of communication to ensure that cyber activities undertaken by each nation are transparent. This was intended to prevent nations from retaliating to perceived threats from other nations. Our nation also agreed to share information about cyber security with cyber security and national security experts in the United States. However, the United States has not shown an interest in cooperation on cybersecurity since our annexation of Crimea. Since the United States has backed away from cooperation on this issue, we must consider new ways to ensure that we are a force to be reckoned with in this area. <sup>6</sup>

Our nation has a history of using cyber warfare to achieve our ends all over the world. In 2007, we used a DDoS style attack to attack Estonia after it announced plans to move a World War II memorial. A DDoS attack essentially



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<sup>5</sup> Perez, Evan. "First on CNN: U.S. and Russia Meet on Cybersecurity." CNN. Cable News Network, 17 Apr. 2016. Web. 05 Feb. 2017. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/04/17/politics/us-russia-meet-on-cybersecurity/>

<sup>6</sup> Nakashima, Ellen. "U.S. and Russia Sign Pact to Create Communication Link on Cyber Security." The Washington Post. WP Company, 17 June 2017. Web. 05 Feb. 2017. [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-and-russia-sign-pact-to-create-communication-link-on-cyber-security/2013/06/17/ca57ea04-d788-11e2-9df4-895344c13c30\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.535d8f4ecd2e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/us-and-russia-sign-pact-to-create-communication-link-on-cyber-security/2013/06/17/ca57ea04-d788-11e2-9df4-895344c13c30_story.html?utm_term=.535d8f4ecd2e)



inundates a website with too many users at once, causing the websites of major banks and government websites to become unavailable.<sup>7</sup> We also used similar attacks against Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, and Kazakhstan, among others. In the attack on Kyrgyzstan, we forced Kyrgyzstan to evict the United States from a military base there. During the annexation of Crimea, we also used DDoS attacks to disrupt communications with the Ukrainian government. While our nation obviously cannot admit to these attacks, we must recognize the power of such attacks to achieve our goals worldwide.<sup>8</sup>

### **Questions to Consider**

- How can Russia use cyber-attacks to further its goals in Crimea and Ukraine?
- Which nations can Russia ally with in order to protect itself from cyber-attacks and possibly create even more powerful cyber-attacks?
- How can Russia use cyber-warfare to keep the United States from undertaking aggressive actions against Russia?
- What can Russia do to prevent cyber-attacks against its infrastructure?
- The international community considers Russia to be an aggressive in its use of cyber warfare. While it is good for the world to fear Russia's might, it may be better for Russia's goals if there was less focus on its hacking activities. What can Russia do to deflect blame from such attacks in the future while still reaping the benefits of such attacks?

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<sup>7</sup> "Digital Attack Map." Digital Attack Map. Arbor Networks, 2013. Web. 05 Feb. 2017.

<http://www.digitalattackmap.com/understanding-ddos/>

<sup>8</sup> Windrem, Robert. "Timeline: Ten Years of Russian Cyber Attacks on Other Countries." NBCNews.com. NBCUniversal News Group, 18 Dec. 2016. Web. 05 Feb. 2017. <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/timeline-ten-years-russian-cyber-attacks-other-nations-n697111>



