

Florida International Model United Nations 37

**Spain but the S is Silent: Court
of Charles V, 1530**



Background Guide

Letter from the Secretary-General and Director General

Hello delegates, advisors, parents, and teachers,

On behalf of us, your Secretary-General Isabella Balbi Masso and Director-General Alexandria Cerini, and all of our Secretariat, we would like to welcome you all to the 37th iteration of the Florida International Model United Nations Conference! This upcoming FIMUN will continue to be held at Florida International University's beautiful Modesto A. Maidique Campus from March 14th to 16th, 2025.

This year we have selected the theme of "Diplomacy in a Divided World," where delegates will be prompted to show diplomacy during challenging and engaging scenarios in a wide variety of General Assembly, Specialized, and Crisis Committees. Both of us originate from opposite sides of the ocean and have seen the division of the world, especially in our modern day. We are strong believers that every person, even young students, have the ability to show diplomacy and change the world. Being able to act with diplomacy in cases of adversity, disadvantage, and injustice is a skill that every person should learn and harness to make the world a better place, not just for themselves but for everyone.

We are working hard to provide every delegate with a committee that they will love, and an unforgettable experience where they will make new friends, learn new skills, and discover the amazing world of Model UN! This year we will be hosting 15 committees each one focusing on a different current, historical, or fantasy issue, with an amazing staff who are prepared to make this FIMUN the best one yet!

We are incredibly honored and excited to welcome you all to our amazing campus and conference this March, and cannot wait to see each and every one of you succeed!

See you soon,

Isabella Balbi Masso and Alexandria Cerini
ibalb007@fiu.edu and aceri008@fiu.edu
Secretary-General and Director-General
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Under-Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

My name is Kathy Cuellar and I will be your Under-Secretary-General for Crisis for this iteration of FIMUN 37! I am a senior at Florida International University double Majoring in Politics and International Relations, while working toward certificates in Latin American and Caribbean Studies and National Security Studies. Last year I had the honor of serving as the Director of Delegate Affairs for last year's FIMUN 36 and I am incredibly excited to be serving as your "USG" of Crisis for FIMUN 37! I was born and raised in Miami, Florida, making FIU a natural choice for me to attend and I have not regretted it since! I have been on the FIU Model UN team since Fall of 2023 and as a delegate, I have been able to not only learn new skills but also make new friends. I hope that you can have as much fun participating as we have had in planning these committees!

The FIMUN 37 team has worked extensively to create these exciting and unique committees curated toward delegate learning and enjoyment. As you look through these committees, you might notice that we try to put a little part of the world (and the multiverse) into different committees. This year's selection of the crisis committees starts in 1300 with the Fall of the Golden Horde in Eastern Europe, jumping to the 1530s with the Spanish (but the S is Silent): Court of Charles V, fast forwarding to 1975 to Bet(ting) on Green or Black with the National Security Council on the Angolan Civil War, reconvening with modern times to find where X Marks the Spot with Twitter Board of Directors in 2022, and then jumping into hyperspace to reach the planet of Dune with It's Getting Spicy In Here: The War for Arrakis. As for the ad hoc... well we can't tell you guys yet! All the topics have been selected to take you guys through a journey of problems, cooperation, and solutions to solve the crisis at hand! As we move closer to FIMUN 37, our secretariat, directors, chairs, and staffers are working hard to make this experience unforgettable and enjoyable! We're all excited to see how you guys plan on making your part and impact in "history!" As we move forward with FIMUN, please remember the importance of these events, as they may deal with sensitive topics and hold much importance (although some may be on the niche side). I am looking forward to seeing the chaos, shenanigans, and brilliance delegates will create in our FIMUN 37 crisis committees! If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, your crisis directors and chairs, or the secretariat of FIMUN 37.

~ Best of luck,

Kathy Cuellar

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Under-Secretary-General of Crisis Committees

Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Director

Hi everyone, I'm Andrew Vazquez and I'll be directing "Spain but the S is silent" for this year's FIMUN. I earned my bachelor's at FIU in 2023 where I studied history focusing on Early Modern Spain. I am currently still an FIU student, now enrolled in the FIU College of Law as a 2L.

I do have a fair amount of Model UN experience competing across 5 collegiate conferences in my only year on the FIU Model UN team. Despite not being on the Model UN very long this will be my fourth time staffing FIMUN, I have staffed all levels of this event working as backroom staff, chair, director, and secretariat.

As I previously mentioned I studied Early Modern Spain as an undergraduate and this committee will hopefully allow for delegates to see why the period is unique and worth learning about. In addition to studying the topic in school, my family is from Spain and I have traveled there for the last 2 years and have seen how Charles' reign still impacts the country today. I debated on when exactly this committee should take place, the 1530 when Spain was at its territorial peak, or the 1550 when Charles was nearing the end of his reign and with the 30-year war approaching. I decided to start this committee in the 1530s as many of the same problems Spain would face in the 1550s still existed to a lesser extent and more famous/notorious figures were alive.

I expect this committee to be fun. Delegates are of course expected to prepare, be respectful, tasteful, and try their best. I am of course free to answer any questions about this committee.

Good Luck,

Andrew Vazquez
avazq170@fiu.edu

Spain but the S is Silent: Court of Charles V, 1530 Crisis Director
Florida International Model United Nations 37

Letter from the Chair

Dearest Delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to the Crisis Committee on “Spain But The P Is Silent; The Court of Charles V,” set in 1530 in Spain, when King Charles was nearing the end of his reign and the 30-year war was approaching.

My name is Nicolás Navarro Lack. I was born and raised in Valencia, a city on the east side of Spain. I have chaired before, but this will be my first time chairing a FIMUN conference. I am currently a freshman at FIU, majoring in International Business with a minor in Film Studies. My Model UN journey began in middle school when I was just twelve years old, and I quickly fell in love with the program, traveling to many cities in Europe for conferences, and eventually joining the FIU Model UN team. I have personally grown tons over the years and have seen myself become better at public speaking, history, and geography, and I have made friends in many different places. I am extremely excited to be partaking in this FIMUN 37 as a chair, it marks a new and special milestone for me.

I adore this committee's topic - after all, I did have to know this stuff just like American students would have had to learn about American history. As you dive into this committee's topic to prepare for the conference, you will notice you need more than just knowledge of the names and history you will find in our committee. You must put yourself in the shoes of some of the most important political figures in Spain and Europe in the 16th century when both Spain and Europe were undergoing massive changes, as half of the world was being discovered. Spain was a leader in European exploration and colonial expansion, and one of the world's most powerful political and military forces.

Whether you are defending Spain's borders from France or Portugal, finding ways to send ships into the new world, or becoming the Holy Roman Emperor, you will be faced with the task of defending your argument strategically and using your power wisely.

I am eager to see all of your creative approaches to the issues at hand and your strategic thinking and negotiation skills under the beautiful time pressures we all know crisis committees put us under. This committee will give you all a fantastic background on the debate, quick thinking, public speaking, and a bit of history you may have not known of from a different perspective. I strongly encourage all delegates to truly become the characters you are assigned and fight for the same reasons they might have five hundred years ago, incorporating a sense of collaboration, community, and innovation throughout the conference sessions.

I can't wait to meet you all! Until then, ¡Nos vemos en la Corte de Carlos v!

Sincerely,

Nicolas Navarro Lack

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Spain but the S is Silent: Court of Charles V, 1530 Chair

Florida International Model United Nations 37

Sensitivity Statement

FIMUN 37 has a zero tolerance policy on racism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia, and transphobia. If delegates are found to be engaging in any such actions or rhetoric are open to disqualification from awards.

We ask all delegates to be conscious of the histories and context of their countries or characters for their committees. Many of our committees focus on the stories and topics relating to historically oppressed and marginalized communities and regions. While these committees are simulations, the histories behind them are real, and disrespect towards the histories and existences of people represented in our committees will not be tolerated.

On our website, we have an anonymous report form if delegates encounter such actions. While we hope to avoid the need for such, this form will be checked regularly by our Secretariat to ensure that all delegates at FIMUN 37 can enjoy their weekend comfortably.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our university is located on the ancestral homelands of sovereign Native nations, including the Tequesta, the Calusa, and today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, and the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida. We pay our respects to the traditional custodians, the Elders past and present, by fully recognizing Indigenous sovereignty as well as the historical and contemporary relationship between Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. It is within our responsibility as an academic institution to uphold knowledge about the history of our institution with the original stewards of this land that we live, learn, and work on. We encourage our delegates to read and learn about ways to support our local Indigenous communities in their efforts to preserve Seminole and Miccosukee land and water rights, cultural practices, and the conservation of the environment.

Consistent with our University's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, FIU is working towards creating an academic environment that is inclusive of Indigenous students, faculty, and staff who have often been rendered invisible due to structural discriminatory practices. At FIU, we hold ourselves accountable to serving local, regional and worldwide Indigenous communities through academic policy-oriented research, education, partnerships, community service, as well as enrollment initiatives to overcome the effects of Indigenous exclusion and erasure in our own academic institution. It is our hope that acknowledging the land helps us to better understand that harm has been done and address the legacies of violence in our communities in order to create a pathway to true healing

Rules of Procedure

Motions

Motion to Open/Resume Debate

Opens the floor for debate. Delegates may now begin to provide further motions.

Motion to Open Speakers List

Opens the Speakers List, wherein delegates can deliver speeches without a set topic.

Motion for a Moderated Caucus

Opens a set speakers list for debate on a specified topic. Total time and speaking time must be specified within the motion.

Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus

Opens time for unregulated working time for delegates to work within their blocs on working papers/draft resolutions/directives.

Motion for a Round Robin

Opens a Round Robin, where every delegate in the room delivers a speech for a set time without a designated topic. Will start from the delegate that motioned and will either go clockwise or counterclockwise at delegate's discretion.

Motion for a Gentlemen's Unmoderated/Consultation of the Whole

Similar rules as to a normal Unmoderated Caucus, however all delegates must remain in their seats.

Motion to Introduce Working Papers/Draft Resolutions/Directives

Opens the floor to begin formal procedure on papers. Order of address if not specified will default to order in which each paper was introduced.

Authors Panel

Generally motioned for alongside the introduction of Working Papers/Draft Resolutions. Involves a Reading Period for Delegates to read papers, an Introduction where a panel of Delegates present the paper, and a Question and Answer portion, where sponsors of the paper are asked questions by fellow delegates about the paper.

Motions for For and Against Speeches

Opens a short speakers list where (generally speaking) 2 delegates are called to speak for and against a given working paper/draft resolution/directive.

Motions to Enter Voting Procedure and Voting Methods

Goes alongside a motion to end debate when in General Assembly and certain Specialized Agencies. Delegates will vote on papers on the floor. If no voting method is specified, committee will default to placard vote.

Placard vote operates the same way as votes for procedural matters. Delegates raise their placards to vote For, Against, or to Abstain if they stated they were Present.

Roll Call vote will have the chair call Roll Call once more, and when delegates are called they will state whether they vote For, Against, or if they Abstain.

Votes by Acclimation involves calling for general consensus, where the paper will pass unless anyone votes Against. Then placard vote is in order.

Points

Point of Inquiry

General question regarding committee or the conference

Point of Order

Question or correction regarding parliamentary procedures

Point of Personal Privilege

Personal request unrelated to committee. (e.g temperature in the room or seating issue)

What is a Crisis Committee?

Crisis committees are dynamic committees that differ substantially from your typical General Assembly. You might be asking yourself, what exactly is this difference? The difference is that, unlike in General Assemblies, where everything is taking place in one setting (your committee room), there are “two rooms” in a crisis committee. One room, which is your committee room, is where you will be debating on recurring issues plaguing the committee and its “setting.” The other room consists of your crisis director and their staffers, where they are responding to the committee’s crisis notes and engendering crisis updates, which can either be delegate or staff driven. Delegates are welcome to prepare not only a public policy but also a composition of their own private interests to pursue through personal notes to the crisis staffers.

How do I begin to prepare for a crisis committee?

There are many ways you, the delegate, can prepare for a crisis committee. However, for the purpose of this guide, a standard that is generally widely used by delegates will be written here for your convenience. To start, reading your committee’s background guide written by your crisis directors will help you get a kickstart on your preparation efforts. The background guide, while it gives plenty of context to your topic, should not be the only research you bring to the conference. Rather, it should be giving you an idea as to how you would want to research for your committee. Not just for historical context, but also for your crisis arcs, speeches, and directives.

What is a Crisis Arc?

A crisis arc is the story that you are going to be writing to your crisis staff through crisis notes. Crisis arcs are the most integral aspect of your research and preparation for a crisis committee. They consist of every single idea that you plan on showcasing to your crisis staff through your crisis notes in order to influence your committee. When crafting a crisis arc, you should keep it secret from every other delegate in your committee, even if they ask! The best crisis arcs are typically the most creative and most detailed. As a result, these arcs will be the most likely to be brought to the committee’s attention by your crisis staff. Think of making a crisis arc like you’re writing a story or a movie script. This plan is top secret and will allow you to pursue personal interests and ulterior motives to impact your committee room.

What is a Crisis Note?

A crisis note is what you write to your crisis staff in order to influence action in your committee. Crisis notes should be written with some form of action. The better prepared your crisis arc is, the better your crisis notes will be in regards to the action(s) you want to take behind the scenes. Your crisis notes should be kept “secret” from other 2 delegates in your committee, unless you are collaborating with another delegate to influence action in the committee. The more detailed your crisis notes are, the more likely you are to get a crisis update from your crisis staff. Like the aforementioned crisis arc-story analogy, think of your crisis notes as the chapters to your story (crisis arc).

What is expected of the committee?

A crisis committee is very atypical in conflation with a General Assembly, but it is still a very fun experience that you will soon come to embrace! When you walk into committee, you are expected to be ready to debate on pressing issues and write crisis notes! Prior to the start of committee, the chair and crisis director will give you their specific expectations. The crisis director and their staff will walk into the committee to give the first crisis update. Afterwards, the crisis staff will return to the crisis room, and the chair will take a roll call, then will look for motions to, usually, discuss the crisis update in a moderated caucus, or your own unique motion! Once committee officially starts, you are expected to either be debating about finding a solution via a directive, or composing your top secret crisis note, which will be collected by your crisis staff.

What is a Crisis Room?

The crisis room is where your crisis staff will be for the majority of the conference. Unless it’s under a circumstance where someone from the crisis staff and or the crisis director wants/needs some clarification on a crisis note, delegates are not allowed to be in this room. In this room, the crisis staff will be responding to crisis notes. As these crisis notes are responded to, the crisis director will choose the best of the actions in the round of notes to incorporate into a crisis update

What is a Directive?

A directive is the resolution that you are deriving in response to the crisis update. Directives are basically General Assembly resolutions, except that they are much more 3 concise and to the point. In a moderated caucus, you are discussing the ideas that you have in your directive that you feel would be best to solve the problems given in the crisis update. When comprising the directive, feel free to give it a creative name! In an unmoderated caucus, you are meeting with the other delegates in your committee to merge these directives, especially if your fellow delegates had a similar idea to yours. Once these directives are merged, you would read through each and vote for them just as you would a General Assembly resolution. It is also worth noting that the best directives are usually incorporated in crisis updates by the crisis director.

Rules of Procedure for Bilingual Committees

In addition to the standard rules of a crisis committee, this will be a Spanish bilingual committee. Therefore, part of the committee will be in Spanish and part will be in English. All notes must be written in English, while at least 50% of speeches must be given in Spanish. Directives can be written in either language.

Historical Context

The Spanish empire can be said to originate in 1492 with the conquest of Granada uniting the final part of modern-day Spain under the Catholic kings, Ferdinand and Isabella. While Ferdinand and Isabella united their crowns in 1469 the first 30 years of their joint reign was plagued by civil war. Despite a tumultuous start to their reign the Catholic Kings consolidated power and paved the way for Spain to become a global power.

1492 was not only important due to the conquest of Granada but also due to the Castilian sponsorship of Cristobal Colon's (Christopher Columbus) voyage in which the Americas were discovered. This new discovery quickly became a power base for the Crown of Castile and the Spanish in general.

However, the discovery of the new world alone was not enough to make Spain a significant power; instead, that power came from strategic marriages. Isabella by the end of her life held numerous titles; Queen regnant of Castile, Leon, Toledo, Galicia, Sevilla, Cordoba, Murcia, Jaen, Algeciras, Gibraltar, and Granada. Ferdinand likewise held many titles; King of Aragon, Valencia, Sardinia, Majorca, Naples, and Navarre, as well as, Count of Barcelona, Roussillon, and Cerdagne. These 20 titles were then passed on to their daughter Joanna "La Loca" Charles V's mother. The paternal grandparents of Charles also held various titles. Mary of Burgundy Charles' paternal grandmother held the titles of; Duchess of Burgundy, Lothier, Brabant, Limburg, Luxemburg, Guelders, Countess of Flanders, Artois, Palatine of Burgundy, Hainault, Holland, Zeeland, Namur, Zutphen, and Margravine of Antwerp. His grandfather Maximilian I, Holy Roman Emperor held the titles of; Holy Roman Emperor, King of the Romans, Archduke of Austria, and Further Austria.

Charles inherited his paternal grandmother's holdings in 1506 following the death of his father Philip "the handsome", his maternal grandparents' holdings in 1516 following the death of Ferdinand, and his paternal grandfather's holdings in 1519 following the death of Maximilian.

With these titles, it was no surprise Charles V was deemed the universal monarch and it was claimed the sun never set on the Spanish empire. However, an empire that vast was bound to bring numerous enemies and challenges.



The Coat of Arms of Charles V

In the early days of his reign in the 1520s, Charles faced many challenges when learning how to effectively balance his empire being seen as too Burgundian by many of his subjects. The 1520s saw many revolts in Charles' lands; The Revolt of the Comuneros in Spain saw groups of Castilians both nobles and peasants attempt to overthrow Charles and place his Mother Joanna on the throne. Additionally the Revolt of the Germanies, an anti-monarchist revolt spread in the Kingdom of Valencia.

Aside from his Spanish holdings, the German lands were also in a time of crisis with Martin Luther's 95 Theses and the spread of Protestantism. Charles attempted to address this crisis by calling the Diet of Worms of 1521. The Diet called upon Luther to renounce or reaffirm his beliefs in front of a council. The Edict of Worms was soon issued declaring Luther a heretic and forbade the practice of his beliefs. Luther was not arrested for heresy in Worms as Charles had given him a promise of safe passage.

In addition to internal strife, Charles' empire faced external threats in the form of France and the Ottoman Empire. During the 1520s Spain and France fought a series of wars in the Italian peninsula, such as the Four Years' War from 1521-1526 and the War of the League of Cognac 1526-1530 these wars while costly resulted in Spanish control of the peninsula and the marriage between Francis I and Eleanor of Austria.

The Ottoman Empire, now under the leadership of Sulyeman the Magnificent, was a growing threat to the Empire's eastern holdings. Periodic wars between the Ottoman Empire and the Hapsburgs persisted from 1526-1568 with the Ottoman Empire advancing all the way to Vienna in 1529 before being repelled by the defending forces.

With religious threats within the Empire and powerful enemies on either side, the universal monarchy faced serious challenges to its continued prosperity.

Current Situation



Lands held by Charles V

External Threats

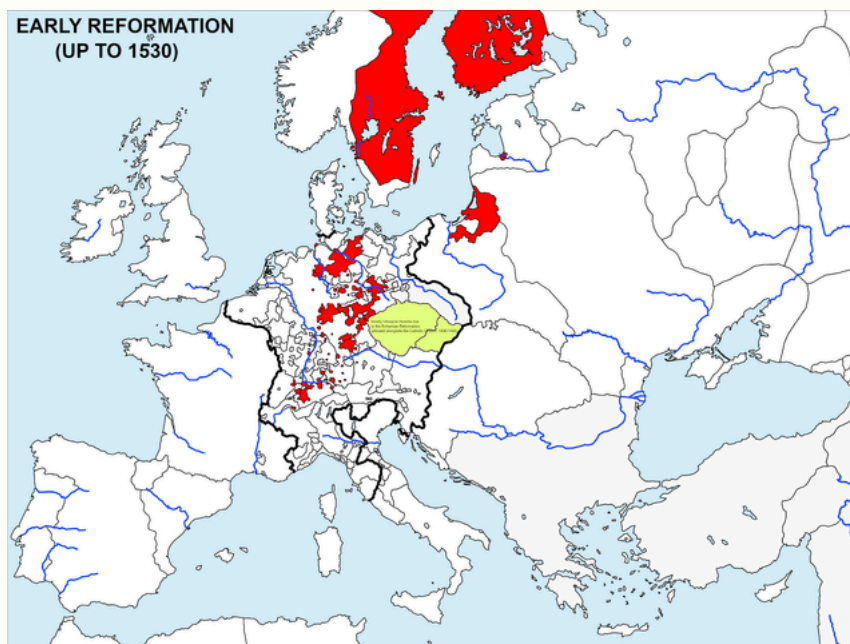
This committee finds Charles' empire in both a powerful and precarious situation. The empire is at its territorial peak and is not yet in the disastrous financial state that historically followed Charles' reign. This vast empire did come with some problems as Charles spent roughly a fourth of his life traveling between his kingdoms. In the periods when Charles was not in a particular kingdom, a regent would need to be assigned granting significant power to affect these lands.

This committee sees Charles' empire emerging from two costly wars in Italy. First, the Italian War of 1521-1526. Second, the War of the League of Cognac. In both these wars, the French and the Spanish vied for influence in the Italian peninsula. Spain, following a decisive victory in the Battle of Pavia in which an early morning attack led by Alfonso d'Avalos captured Francis I. In order to secure his release Francis I signed the Treaty of Madrid 1526 in which the French renounced all Italian claims. Almost immediately upon his release, Francis formed the League of Cognac to force Spain out of Italy. This war drew to a close as Andrea Doria broke the blockade of Genoa forcing the French to surrender. Following their defeat the French signed the Treaty of Cambrai, in which the French relinquished all claims to Italy, and King Francis I married Charles' sister Eleanor. With this treaty in place, it was hoped that peace and perhaps a future partnership could be fostered between the two predominant European powers.

On the other side of the empire, the Ottoman Empire saw its advance into Europe reach its historical peak at the gates of Vienna. Against all odds, the defenders of Vienna led by Nicholas, Count of Salm were able to repel the Ottomans for the time being. This was a small victory however as the new Ottoman Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent continued to make gains in Hungary and appeared to seek further conquest in Europe.

Although the Spanish Empire found recent success against its rivals both the French and the Ottoman Empire are likely to continue their hostilities against the Spanish Empire. While their goals aligned Charles found it inconceivable that France, the eldest daughter of the church, could join forces with the Muslim Ottoman Empire. Could mutual disdain towards the Spanish lead the French and Turks to a potential alliance?

Religious Unrest



Protestantism in 1530

Religiously Spain finds itself in an interesting position. The Catholic church is in turmoil with Protestantism spreading throughout the German lands and even its most devout followers questioning some of its practices. Heresy was taken very seriously by Charles V and Spain with the infamous Spanish Inquisition led by Pope Adrian before his ascendancy to Papacy. Reform was not only found outside the church, Even Pope Adrian admitted the reformation was the fault of the Church itself. Catholic reformers gained prominence in this period in particular more liberal humanists such as Erasmus were popular in the Netherlands and preached pastoral tolerance. More conservative theologians emphasizing religious works did find vast followings most notably Ignatius of Loyola (a future saint) who would go on to create the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

While reform within the Catholic church led to uneasiness, the radical reforms of Protestantism led to violence. Both the Knights' Revolt of 1522-23 and the German Peasants' Revolt of 1524-25 were religious in nature. Protestantism continues to spread amongst the German princes and rumors of a Protestant alliance to oppose the Emperor are gaining legitimacy.

Economic Issues

While the Spanish Empire was not in the financial collapse it would historically find itself in, Charles did owe vast sums to large banking families across the Empire. Charles had borrowed money from the Fugger and Wesler families to secure his election as Holy Roman Emperor. Together these Augsburg-based families controlled much of the European economy owing to their monopolies on copper, sugar, trade with the East, and helping with the sale of indulgences. Charles throughout the rest of his reign attempted to repay both the Fuggers and the Welsers by granting them favorable mining rights and the territory of Venezuela respectively.

Charles' difficulty in repaying these loans was expected as the empire's taxation systems were underdeveloped leading to conquest being necessary to make loan payments. While both the Fuggers and Welsers were heavily associated with the Hapsburgs, repayment with interest was demanded under the threat of shifting their financial support to France.

Despite his debts, the Spanish Empire was earning money following its conquest of the New World. Hernan Cortes and Francisco Pizarro had recently conquered the Aztec Empire and the Inca Empire respectively and their illustrious gold and silver mines. In addition to these vast conquests other Conquistadors such as Ines de Suarez found success warring in other regions.

Recap

The Spanish Empire found itself facing three major external enemies, the French, the Ottoman Empire, and the Protestants. Internally the empire was far from stable, religious reformers had successfully taken root in the Netherlands sparking unrest. Bankruptcy is looming as Charles' debts to the premier banking families reach unprecedented numbers. Will this vast Empire spanning from Peru to Austria be able to manage external threats and internal unrest simultaneously?

Questions

1. What reforms will the cabinet implement to resolve the religious conflicts in the Empire?
2. How will the Empire choose to deal with France, a fellow catholic state with a longstanding rivalry?
3. What will the cabinet do to halt the Ottoman advance into Europe?

Committee Expectations

First to get the easy stuff out of the way; I expect that all delegates treat each other with respect. I along with all other FIMUN staff will not tolerate any disrespect amongst delegates. Additionally, the time period in which this committee takes place is no excuse to be insensitive regarding social issues. Any allusions to or direct forms of discrimination (racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc.) are strictly prohibited during FIMUN.

Second, I expect the crisis arcs created by the delegates to be possible within the world (no mystical creatures) and time period (no modern technology, however speeding up technological development is possible).

Third, I want delegates to focus on creative arcs and powerful speeches and not concern themselves with valueless aspects of MUN such as order of directives or name placement.

Finally, I will work hard to ensure this committee is fun for everyone participating and I hope delegates will not hesitate to tell me ways to improve the committee.

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Character Dossier

Ferdinand I, King of the Romans

Born 1503 Ferdinand is the younger brother of Charles. Ferdinand was tasked with governing the traditional Hapsburg lands of modern day Austria and Slovenia in his brother's stead. Ferdinand successfully expanded the Hapsburg realm to include Bohemia, Croatia, and Hungary. While much of Charles' rule was spent traveling Ferdinand would act as a deputy Holy Roman Emperor formally being elected Charles' heir and handling much of the administration in Charles German holdings.

Due to his proximity with the Ottoman Empire Ferdinand is staunchly opposed to the muslim advance into Europe and has frequently called on his brother to assist him militarily and the Fugger family to support him economically.

Ferdinand's land is also in the midst of religious upheaval with the Austrian and Hungarian lands firmly Catholic but Bohemia had many Hussite residents who were sympathetic to the Lutheran cause.

Francisco de los Cobos y Molina

Born in 1477 Francisco was a government man and through his relationship with Charles' mentor Wiliam de Croy became the secretary to the king. In his role Francisco advised Charles in matters relating to Spain. He had vast understanding and expertise in economics and was often incharge of attempting to pay off Charles' debts.

Due to Charles' frequent travels Francisco often acted as the head of government in Spain while Charles was away. With Francisco's focus on Spain he often fought with Mercurino di Gattinara, another minister who emphasized Italy.

Mercurino Arborio, marchese di Gattinara

Born 1465 Mercurino was the head chancellor in Charles' government. As a follower of Erasmus Mercurino would attempt to instill a christian humanist view of governance across the empire.

Mercurino was a deeply religious man and encouraged Charles to war against both the Muslims and the Protestants arguing that Charles must form a kingdom of Christendom against these threats.

Additionally Mercurino shifted Charles' policy from his native low countries to Italy. Mercurino was heavily influential, originally being the only minister that supported an Italian campaign he would convince Charles to invest heavily into Italian campaigns and defense from both the French and the Ottomans. This influence and preoccupation with Italy led to distrust and dislike of Francisco de los Cobos y Molina.

Simon Renard de Bermont

Born 1513 Simon Renard was Charles' chief ambassador to both England and France. Renard is said to have had a vast influence on Mary I of England (currently princess). Praised for patience and subtle diplomatic skill Renard uncovered many military secrets in both France and England. Both Charles and his son Felipe trusted Renard and deeply relied on him in negotiations with the French and English.

Saint Ignatius of Loyola

While not yet a Saint during the time of Charles, Ignatius still held religious importance. Even before founding the Jesuit order in 1539 Ignatius was gaining followers with his preaching. Ignatius and his followers acted as a stark contrast to the protestants around Europe instead preaching strict adherence to the Pope's words.

With the society's emphasis on education Ignatius has influence in the intellectual world of 16th century Europe and even the new world.

Ignatius' teachings seemed to be well liked by Charles and his ministers, some of whom traveled with Ignatius and helped to found universities.

Erasmus

Erasmus was an important religious figure with the Catholic church during the reformation. While many in the church took a hard line stance against the protestants Erasmus agreed with many of their points and attempted to reform the church from within. This ideology led to Erasmus having just as many enemies as supporters. Erasmus' "middleway" was very popular in Spain and is credited for the relatively low protestant execution count in Spain. Charles was a particular fan of Erasmus, granting him the title of councilor and hiring him to tutor his brother Ferdinand.

While Erasmus rejected any involvement in the reformation many viewed his beliefs as the precursor to the reformation and some of his disciples were executed as heretics for following his teachings. As the reformation became more dangerous to the old order Erasmus' followers fell out of favor with Rome and Orders such as the Jesuits rose to prominence, but Erasmus himself remained popular with the religious elites.

Andrea Doria

The Grand Admiral of Charles' navy leading the joint navies of Spain, Italy, and the Holy Roman Empire. Originally an ally of the French, Doria, who was heavily sought by Charles, switched to the Emperor's side in 1528. With Doria now on his side the Spanish navy led by Doria defeated the French winning the Italian war. With the help of Doria Charles was able to consolidate control over Italy and had an answer to the Ottoman admiral Barbarossa. Doria engaged in many naval campaigns in Italy, North Africa, and the Aegean Sea and is widely considered among the best admirals of all time.

In addition to leading the Spanish armada Doria was the head of Genoa, a prominent trading city in the north of Italy.

Hernan Cortes

The conquistador who caused the fall of the Aztec Empire bringing large portions of Mexico into the Spanish crown. After the conquest Cortes was appointed Governor of New Spain along with other royal advisors to assist with civil affairs. Despite this Cortes retained sole control of the armies of New Spain and led the conquest of Honduras and Northern territories.

Despite his influence in the region Cortes was not well liked by his contemporaries and had many enemies in the new world, Charles consistently pardoned Cortes for any crimes and granted him further noble titles.

Francisco Pizarro

The conquistador who led the conquest of the Inca Empire. Pizarro was named governor of New Castile and given support to conquer the Incan land. Pizarro was able to conquer the territory with roughly 200 men after assassinating the Incan Emperor. Peru was an incredibly rich region with numerous gold and silver mines which Pizarro exploited.

Pizarro along with his brothers exercised control over the region under the name of Charles but did little in terms of administering the new territory.

Nicolas Perrenot de Granvelle

A trusted advisor of Charles, originating from Burgundy. He especially advised the Emperor in matters relating to the Holy Roman Empire serving as Charles' chief imperial minister. Nicolas urged for alliances with the protestants against the Ottoman Empire. Tasked with ensuring the implementation of Charles imperial orders, Nicolas needed to work with all members of the Holy Roman Empire and heavily influenced the Emperor's imperial politics.

Fernando Alvarez de Toledo, Grand Duke of Alba

Considered one of the greatest generals of his age, the "Iron Duke" was known for his military mind and cruelty. The Duke was utilized by Charles in nearly all theaters of war, commanding troops against the Ottomans, the French, the Dutch, and the Italians throughout his career.

The Duke argued for a strategic alliance with the English and emphasized the need to fight against the French and the Protestants. In his Military career The Duke commanded the Tercios, an elite infantry regiment often considered the finest in Europe.

Alfonso d'Avalos d'Aquino

Alfonso was an Italian condottiero originally serving the French in the Italian War of 1521-1526. After joining with Charles Alfonso was left in charge of the imperial army in Italy, was made governor of Milan, and ambassador to Venice. Alfonso found success in the siege of Rome and Naples being a major factor in Doria's defection to the Spanish. Because of his origins as a condottiero Alfonso was typically left in charge of mercenary companies assembled by the Emperor.

Eleanor of Austria

Eleanor is the older sister of Charles and is the Queen-Consort of France. As part of the Treaty of Cambrai between Spain and France Eleanor married Francis. While she was queen in name Francis did not particularly care for Eleanor but she performed all official duties and was well liked by the French nobles and peasants.

Due to her proximity to the French nobility Eleanor often acted as a covert agent for Charles. Additionally she used her position to secure more dynastic marriages between the Spanish and French nobility.

Anton Fugger

The successor to Jakob the Rich, Anton Fugger was the wealthiest man alive. A successful businessman, Anton gave numerous loans to the Hapsburg crown securing lucrative interest payments from Charles. Between the Fugger and Welser families all of Charles' wars were funded, however as Charles was often unable to pay Anton back in cash, he granted Anton with both noble titles and mining rights throughout the empire. The Fugger family held nearly all copper, silver, and mercury mines in the empire.

A strict Catholic Anton supported Charles against the protestants but was a businessman above all and operated trade networks throughout Scandinavia and Africa.

Pope Adrian VI (dead at committee start but we're going to pretend he's not)

Elected Pope in 1522 Pope Adrian was incredibly close with Charles, being Charles' tutor since he was 7. Prior to his election Pope Adrian was the Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition and served as Regent of Spain when Charles was still a child.

Pope Adrian was not the obvious choice for Pope, not even attending the papal conclave, being chosen as a compromise between French and Spanish cardinals. Upon his ascension there were fears he would become a mere tool of Charles with Francis, King of France, threatening schism. This was not the case as Pope Adrian attempted to remain impartial, with Charles' ambassadors to Rome worrying that Charles no longer had any influence on Pope Adrian .

Pope Adrian attempted to reform the Catholic church from the inside believing that the church had become corrupt and was at fault for the reformation, despite this Pope Adrian had no sympathy for heretics.

Joanna “La Loca” of Castile

Mother of Charles was officially named Queen of Castile after her mother's death in 1504 and reigned until 1555 however Juana was never allowed to govern. Juana as known as Juana La Loca was deemed insane and imprisoned by her father Ferdinand of Aragon, Husband Philip the Fair, and her son Charles who ruled in her stead.

It is questioned if Juana was ever crazy as evidence of her insanity related to her reactions to her husband's numerous affairs. It was also stated by multiple ambassadors (when she was not under house arrest) that she seemed very wise and queenly.

At the start of the committee Juana is technically Queen of Castile, Aragon, and Austria.

Isabella of Portugal

Wife of Charles, Isabella was a Portuguese princess whose marriage solidified Spanish Portuguese relations. Despite being a political marriage Charles loved Isabella deeply and respected her opinions on governance giving her incredible control over Spain. Isabella often served as Regent of Spain when Charles was away proving herself incredibly economically competent. Isabella ensured that even when Charles was struggling for finances Iberia remained wealthy and prosperous.

Because of her Iberian origins Isabella was often more liked than Charles by his Spanish ministers and is considered by historians to have been “the perfect Empress.”

Bartholomeus Welser the Elder

Patriarch of one of the largest banking families in Europe Bartholomeus helped to finance Charles' empire, funding both conquest and administration. Similarly to the Fugger family Charles owed significant debt to the Welsers and paid them back with titles and rights as opposed to solely cash.

The Welser family was granted rights predominantly in sugar being granted swaths of land in sugar producing regions. The rights to modern day Venezuela were sold to the Welsers. Focusing on new world trade to bankroll the Habsburgs the Welsers were able to compete with entire countries economically.

Germaine de Foix

Charles' step-grandmother who was appointed Vicereine of Valencia in 1523 following the Revolt of the Brotherhoods. Germaine harshly dealt with participants of this anti-monarchist revolt, signing over 100 execution warrants. Eventually signing a pardon to end prosecution against participants of the revolts Germaine remained an enemy of the guilds. Germaine worked towards integrating the Valencians into Spain.

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Pedro de Toledo y Zuniga

Viceroy of Naples Pedro was responsible for vast urbanization of southern Italy. While Naples was conquered by Spain 30 years earlier it was not until the appointment of Pedro where it can be said Naples had a competent viceroy. Pedro implemented unique building techniques making the entire Gulf of Naples nearly invulnerable to invasion. Pedro effectively rebuilt the second most popular city in Europe centralizing administration.

Pedro was known to be harsh, implementing severe punishment for petty crime and brutal in his forced relocation of rural nobles to the city of Naples, due to this Pedro was not well liked by the nobles of Naples.

Mary of Austria

Born 1505 Mary was Charles' younger sister. Prior to committee Mary acted as the Queen of Bohemia and Hungary being deemed quite capable in politics and governance. Despite her ability Mary did not enjoy governing and frequently requested to resign from her roles. At committee start Mary was recently appointed as Governor of the Netherlands.

Mary, while not a protestant was deeply sympathetic to the movement with Martin Luther dedicating multiple psalms to her. Mary's faith was often called into question with Charles warning Mary that if any of his family became a follower of Luther they would become his greatest enemy. Additionally Mary enforced her brother's laws on religion as little as possible with her governorship being fairly tolerant of other faiths.

Ines de Suarez

Born 1507 Ines was a Conquistadora involved in the conquest of Chile. While having no official title Ines was well respected by the Spaniards in the Americas. Ines was known for her bravery in battle and vast medical knowledge. She is widely credited with the successes of the Chile expedition.

Ines maintained influence in Chile throughout her life and was essentially the governess of Chile. She had good relations with both Pedro De Valdivia and Francisco Pizarro.

Cathrine of Aragon

Charles' aunt Cathrine was Queen consort of England married to Henry VII, who would later become infamous for his six wives. Prior to her marriage Cathrine was the Aragonese ambassador to England, the first female ambassador in European history. Cathrine successfully led England to victory against the Scots while Henry was campaigning in France. At committee start while still married to Henry their relationship is strained, due to the lack of a suitable heir. Cathrine and Henry did have a child, Mary, but because there was no male heir Henry was displeased. By this point Henry had begun to petition the church to annul their marriage. Despite Henry no longer wanting Cathrine, she held substantial influence in the English court, finding many supporters such as Thomas More, Mary Tudor, John Fisher, and both the Pope and Martin Luther.

Nicholas, Count of Salm

Nicholas, a senior Austrian military leader, led the defense of Vienna against the Ottoman siege. The First Siege of Vienna was thought to be a lost cause with Ferdinand pleading with Charles to send relief however due to Nicholas' skill the Ottoman forces were repelled. Nicholas had vast military experience being named a member of the Order of the Golden Fleece, capturing French King Francis in the battle of Pavia, and defeating a peasants revolt in Tirol. Nicholas' incredible military skill could be attributed to Georg von Frundsberg, the father of Landsknecht, who he trained under. As Georg von Frundsberg's successor Nicholas became captain of the Landsknecht.

Christian II of Denmark

Christian was the king of the Kalmar union, a union consisting of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. However by 1523 Christian had been deposed and was exiled to the Netherlands. Despite being married to one of Charles' sisters, Charles had no love for Christian and took his children after his sister Isabella's death. Christian while exiled in the Netherlands Christian frequently wrote to Martin Luther and even became a Lutheran by 1531 Christian reconverted to Catholicism healing his relationship with Charles. At committee start Christian appears to be organizing an expedition to reconquer Scandinavia. Perhaps with Charles' support Christian could regain his crown, expand Spanish influence to the north, and land a preemptive blow against the protestant stronghold of Sweden.

Peter Martyr d'Anghiera

Historian in the services of Spain Peter had significant influence in the court of Spain. Peter was named Chronicler by Charles and in this role he acquired information about numerous prominent figures often writing gossipy letters about them.

Peter was a renaissance man performing many different roles in his service to the court, including acting as ambassador to Egypt, he also had a great understanding of geography being the first European to understand the significance of the Gulf Stream.



Pedro Machuca

While not much is known about Pedro's personal life he was a renowned architect. Having trained under Michelangelo, Pedro engineered the Spanish architectural renaissance. Pedro was hired numerous times by Charles, even building his palace in Granada. In addition to his architectural achievements Pedro was a famous painter as well. Most of his architectural work is in Southern Spain in cities such as Almeria, Jean, and Cordoba. Pedro has a hand in the future development of Spain and how this rising empire will look.

