OC Club MUN V

The Napoleonic Crisis

Historical Crisis Committee

Background Guide

The Napoleonic Crisis:

French Invasion of Russia (1812)

Letter from the Chairs

Hello everyone! My name is Nikhil, and I'm a junior at Beckman High School. I'm so excited to be your Crisis Director for OCMUN 2027! This is my third year in MUN, and I've had the blessing to receive many awards, like the Best Delegate at SAIMUN in Ireland. Outside of MUN, I play tennis, watch movies, and hang out with friends. I can't wait to be able to pass my experience onto you and bring this crisis committee to an amazing start!

Hi Delegates! My name is Perneet Kaur, and I'm a freshman at UC Berkeley. I'm currently a member of Berkeley's MUN team, but outside of MUN, I love traveling, trying new things, and consuming as much media as possible (movies, shows, books, etc)! I'm looking forward to hearing all of your creative ideas in committee and am so excited to be your chair!

Hi Delegates, my name is Safiya Nawaz, and I will be one of your Co-Chairs! I do MUN at the collegiate level and I am always on the move, whether its cycling, traveling, or staying in to indulge in my hobbies (reading, video-editing, journaling, etc)! I am so excited to see everyone's creative solutions and diplomatic strategies for our committee.

I. Topic Background

Introduction

On June 24, 1812, Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte of France launched an invasion of the Russian Empire, marking a major turning point in the Napoleonic Wars. The invasion followed years of deteriorating relations between France and Russia, largely stemming from disagreements over economic policy, territorial expansion, and Napoleon's growing dominance over Europe.

Russia's continued trade with Great Britain directly challenged Napoleon's Continental System, an economic blockade intended to weaken British commerce and isolate Britain from European markets. Napoleon viewed Russia's actions as a threat to French influence and assembled an enormous multinational army, known as the Grande Armée, to force Tsar Alexander I into submission.

However, the invasion threatened more than Russia alone. Napoleon's expansion had disrupted the European balance of power, weakened the sovereignty of numerous states, and established French dominance across much of the continent. For Britain, Sweden, Prussia, Austria, and other European powers, the invasion presented an opportunity to challenge French supremacy.

The members of this committee face a critical question: how can they take advantage of Napoleon's invasion of Russia to weaken French dominance and establish a more stable European political order?

The Rise of Napoleon and French Dominance in Europe

Following the French Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte rose through the military ranks and eventually seized power in France in 1799. In 1804, he crowned himself Emperor of the French and began an ambitious campaign of military expansion throughout Europe.

Through victories against Austria, Prussia, Russia, and other European powers, Napoleon established an extensive empire and brought numerous territories under French control or influence.

Rather than directly annexing every conquered territory, Napoleon frequently established satellite kingdoms ruled by members of his family or loyal political allies. These governments were expected to provide France with troops, financial resources, and political support.

Although this system allowed France to maintain control over large portions of Europe, it also created widespread resentment. Many European governments and populations opposed French occupation, economic exploitation, and restrictions on their political independence.

The growing dissatisfaction throughout Europe created opportunities for a new coalition of powers to challenge Napoleon.

The Continental System

The Continental System was established by Napoleon in 1806 through the Berlin Decree. Its primary objective was to weaken Great Britain by preventing European countries under French influence from trading with British merchants.

Napoleon believed that Britain's economic strength depended on international trade and that restricting its access to European markets would eventually force Britain to negotiate.

However, the blockade created significant economic difficulties throughout Europe. Many countries depended on British commerce, and enforcing the restrictions proved increasingly difficult.

Russia initially agreed to participate in the Continental System following the 1807 Treaty of Tilsit. However, the economic consequences of the blockade gradually became unacceptable to Russian merchants and landowners.

By 1810, Alexander I began relaxing restrictions on trade, allowing greater commercial activity with neutral countries and indirectly benefiting British commerce.

Napoleon viewed Russia's actions as a direct challenge to his authority. This disagreement became one of the primary causes of the 1812 invasion.

For the coalition, the Continental System represents an important opportunity. Britain's ability to maintain trade and provide economic assistance to its allies could become a major advantage in weakening Napoleon's empire.

The Breakdown of Franco-Russian Relations

Relations between Napoleon and Alexander I had initially been established through the 1807 Treaty of Tilsit.

The treaty temporarily created an alliance between France and Russia, with both emperors agreeing to cooperate on several European diplomatic and economic issues.

However, their relationship deteriorated over several major disagreements:

- Economic disagreements: Russia's economy suffered under the Continental System, increasing pressure on Alexander I to restore trade with Britain.
- The Polish question: Napoleon's creation of the Duchy of Warsaw concerned Russia, which feared that France intended to restore an independent Poland at Russia's expense.
- French expansion: Napoleon's continued territorial expansion threatened Russian influence and created concerns about French intentions.
- Conflicting ambitions: Both emperors sought to maintain their influence over Europe, making their alliance increasingly unstable.

By 1812, diplomatic relations had effectively collapsed.

For the Sixth Coalition, the conflict between France and Russia presents an opportunity to weaken Napoleon while avoiding the mistakes that caused previous anti-French coalitions to fail.

The Russian Empire and the Invasion

Russia entered the conflict facing an enormous military challenge. Napoleon's Grande Armée consisted of hundreds of thousands of soldiers drawn from across his empire and allied territories.

Despite this numerical disadvantage, Russia possessed several important strategic advantages.

Its enormous territory made it difficult for French forces to maintain supply lines, while Russian commanders could retreat farther into the country rather than risk immediate destruction in a decisive battle

Russia's military leadership, including Michael Barclay de Tolly and Prince Pyotr Bagration, faced the difficult task of coordinating national defense while maintaining the confidence of Alexander I.

The invasion also created an opportunity for Russia to strengthen its diplomatic relationships with other European powers.

Great Britain, Sweden, and other states had significant reasons to oppose Napoleon's continued dominance. Their cooperation could provide Russia with economic assistance, military support, and diplomatic leverage.

The Sixth Coalition

The Sixth Coalition emerged from the growing opposition to Napoleon's dominance in Europe. Although the coalition would formally develop later in 1813, its eventual members had already begun positioning themselves against French expansion in 1812.

The powers represented in this committee have different motivations, political interests, and strategic priorities.

- Russian Empire: Seeks to repel the French invasion, preserve its territorial sovereignty, and weaken Napoleon's influence.
- Great Britain: Seeks to defeat Napoleon, protect international commerce, and prevent France from dominating Europe.
- Sweden: Seeks to protect its territorial interests and strengthen its regional influence while opposing French expansion.
- Prussia: Seeks to regain independence from French domination and restore its position as a major European power.
- Austria: Seeks to preserve its territorial interests and influence in Central Europe while navigating its complicated relationship with France.

Although these powers share opposition to Napoleon, their interests are not identical. Territorial disagreements, competing political ambitions, and differing military priorities could threaten coalition unity.

The committee must determine how these countries can coordinate their efforts against France while ensuring that their individual interests are protected.

II. Past Action

The French Revolution and Rise of Napoleon (1789–1804)

The French Revolution fundamentally transformed European politics by overthrowing the French monarchy and challenging traditional systems of government.

The instability that followed allowed Napoleon Bonaparte to rise to power through military success and political maneuvering. In 1799, Napoleon seized control of the French government, eventually declaring himself Emperor in 1804.

His rise created a new era of European conflict, as neighboring monarchies feared the spread of revolutionary ideas and French territorial expansion.

The War of the Third Coalition (1805)

Britain, Austria, Russia, and other powers formed the Third Coalition to challenge Napoleon's growing influence.

However, Napoleon achieved a decisive victory at the Battle of Austerlitz in December 1805, defeating Austrian and Russian forces.

The defeat significantly weakened Austria and demonstrated the difficulty of coordinating an effective military alliance against France.

The Treaty of Tilsit (1807)

Following Napoleon's victory over Russian forces at Friedland, France and Russia negotiated the Treaty of Tilsit.

The agreement temporarily established cooperation between Napoleon and Alexander I. Russia agreed to participate in the Continental System, while Napoleon recognized certain Russian interests in Eastern Europe.

However, the treaty failed to resolve fundamental disagreements between the two powers, eventually contributing to the breakdown of their relationship.

The Continental System (1806–1812)

Napoleon's Continental System attempted to economically isolate Great Britain by restricting trade throughout Europe.

Although the system created significant difficulties for British commerce, it also damaged European economies and generated resentment among France's allies and satellite states.

Russia's decision to resume greater commercial activity with neutral countries weakened the blockade and further deteriorated relations with France.

The War of the Fifth Coalition (1809)

Austria once again attempted to challenge Napoleon in 1809 by joining the Fifth Coalition alongside Britain.

Despite initial Austrian successes, Napoleon eventually defeated Austrian forces at the Battle of Wagram.

The resulting Treaty of Schönbrunn further weakened Austria and reinforced French dominance over Central Europe.

Austria's experience demonstrates the difficulty of opposing Napoleon without sufficient military coordination and reliable allies.

Russian Diplomatic Preparations (1811–1812)

As relations with France deteriorated, Russia strengthened its diplomatic position.

Alexander I pursued relationships with Great Britain and Sweden while also attempting to reduce the possibility of conflict on Russia's southern borders.

Russia recognized that a confrontation with Napoleon would require more than military resistance. Diplomatic relationships and international cooperation would be essential to preventing France from isolating the Russian Empire.

The French Invasion Begins (June 24, 1812)

On June 24, 1812, Napoleon's Grande Armée crossed the Niemen River and entered Russian territory.

The invasion represented a major escalation of the conflict between the two empires.

For Russia and its potential allies, the invasion created an urgent need to coordinate military and diplomatic responses.

The committee begins at this critical moment, when Napoleon has committed his forces to the invasion but the eventual outcome remains uncertain.

Delegates should approach the situation using only information available as of June 24, 1812. Later historical developments are not guaranteed to occur in this committee.

III. Possible Solutions

The coalition faces several interconnected challenges that extend beyond defeating Napoleon's army. Delegates must consider the political loyalties of European satellite states, the economic consequences of the Continental System, the possibility of diplomatic defections, and the long-term stability of Europe.

The committee's structure also introduces several unique considerations. Delegates may use committee directives to pursue diplomatic initiatives, influence the loyalty of French satellite states, and coordinate with other coalition members. However, the success of these initiatives will depend on the effectiveness of their proposals and the political circumstances surrounding each state.

A. Encouraging Defections from Napoleon's Satellite States

One of the coalition's most significant opportunities is exploiting dissatisfaction within Napoleon's satellite states. These territories provide France with troops, supplies, revenue, and other resources necessary to sustain its military operations.

However, many satellite governments have their own political ambitions and may be dissatisfied with French interference.

The coalition can attempt to persuade these states to abandon Napoleon and join the opposition. Successfully encouraging defections would weaken France while potentially strengthening the coalition.

Potential approaches:

- Establishing secret diplomatic relationships with satellite rulers.
- Offering political independence or greater autonomy to dissatisfied territories.
- Promising recognition of national sovereignty following Napoleon's defeat.
- Offering economic incentives to governments considering defection.
- Encouraging nationalist movements in territories under French influence.
- Exploiting disagreements between Napoleon and satellite rulers.

Delegates should consider that each satellite state has different motivations. For example, Polish leaders may prioritize independence, while Holland may be more concerned with restoring commercial activity.

B. Weakening the Loyalty of Napoleon's Satellite States

The committee's special loyalty system makes the political stability of Napoleon's satellite states particularly important.

Each satellite state begins with a loyalty score between 1 and 10. A lower score indicates declining loyalty to Napoleon, while a score of 1 represents open rebellion.

The coalition can submit directives intended to decrease these loyalty scores. If a state's loyalty falls below 3, it defects from the French committee and joins the coalition committee.

This creates an opportunity to weaken Napoleon's political structure without necessarily defeating his military forces directly.

Potential approaches:

- Funding political opposition to French rule.
- Encouraging local leaders to challenge French-appointed governments.
- Offering economic assistance to dissatisfied populations.
- Supporting demands for constitutional reforms or greater autonomy.
- Using diplomatic pressure to convince satellite rulers that Napoleon can no longer protect their interests.
- Exploiting disagreements between satellite governments and French officials.

Delegates should consider which states are most vulnerable to political pressure and which defections would create the greatest consequences for France.

C. Supporting National Independence Movements

Nationalism is a significant weakness within Napoleon's empire.

Many territories under French influence have populations that desire greater independence and political representation. The coalition can use these aspirations to weaken Napoleon's control.

The Duchy of Warsaw is especially important because Polish leaders hope Napoleon will restore an independent Poland. If Napoleon fails to fulfill these expectations, the coalition may be able to persuade Polish officials to abandon France.

Other German and Italian territories may also be susceptible to nationalist movements.

Potential approaches:

- Promising recognition of independent European states.

- Supporting political movements opposing French occupation.
- Offering guarantees of sovereignty to defecting governments.
- Encouraging local rulers to prioritize their own national interests.
- Promoting a postwar European settlement that protects smaller states.

Delegates must consider whether supporting national independence movements could create future conflicts with the territorial ambitions of larger coalition members.

D. Exploiting Economic Weaknesses in the Continental System

The Continental System has created widespread economic dissatisfaction throughout Europe. Countries dependent on international commerce have experienced difficulties because of restrictions on trade with Britain.

Great Britain has an opportunity to use its economic influence to weaken Napoleon's system.

Other coalition members can support these efforts by expanding commercial relationships and reducing their dependence on French-controlled markets.

Potential approaches:

- Providing financial assistance to states suffering under French trade restrictions.
- Establishing new trade agreements between coalition members.
- Encouraging European governments to resume commerce with Britain.
- Offering economic incentives to countries considering abandoning Napoleon.
- Supporting merchants and political leaders opposed to the Continental System.

Delegates should consider how economic pressure can encourage political defections and weaken France's ability to sustain its military operations.

E. Establishing Diplomatic Coordination Between Coalition Members

Although coalition members share opposition to Napoleon, their individual interests may conflict.

Great Britain may prioritize protecting its commercial interests, Russia may focus on defending its territory, and Prussia and Austria may seek to regain influence in Central Europe.

The coalition must develop a diplomatic framework that allows its members to cooperate without sacrificing their individual objectives.

Potential approaches:

- Establishing a permanent representative for inter-committee or international communications.
- Coordinating diplomatic messages and negotiations.
- Establishing shared conditions for peace negotiations.
- Developing agreements regarding the treatment of defecting satellite states.
- Preventing individual coalition members from making separate agreements that undermine collective efforts.

Delegates should also consider the committee's special communications structure, including the selection of a coalition representative responsible for coordinating inter-committee communications. This position is particularly important because the representative's decisions could affect the coalition's ability to negotiate and coordinate with opposing parties.

F. Maintaining Coalition Unity While Managing Individual Ambitions

The coalition's greatest political weakness may be the conflicting ambitions of its own members.

Previous coalitions have struggled because countries were unable to agree on territorial arrangements, military responsibilities, and the conditions of peace.

The coalition must avoid repeating these mistakes while also determining how much influence each member should have over collective decisions.

Potential approaches:

- Establishing agreements that protect each member's territorial interests.
- Creating shared expectations for military and economic contributions.
- Negotiating territorial disputes before they undermine cooperation.
- Establishing procedures for resolving disagreements.
- Ensuring that smaller coalition members have meaningful political representation.

Delegates should consider how the coalition can remain unified even if its members disagree about the future of Europe.

G. Planning for the Future of France and Europe

The coalition must consider what happens if Napoleon loses his influence over Europe.

The committee's special finale introduces an additional political challenge: Napoleon will eventually be exiled to Saint Helena, and a new French leader will be selected through an election influenced by previous alliances and the political influence of satellite states.

The coalition's objective should therefore extend beyond defeating Napoleon. Delegates must consider how they can influence the political circumstances surrounding the future of France.

Potential approaches

- Encouraging satellite states to support a French leadership transition favorable to the coalition
- Increasing the political influence of defected satellite states
- Supporting a postwar French government willing to recognize European sovereignty
- Establishing agreements regarding the future of Napoleon's former territories
- Preventing emergence of another French leader capable of restoring Napoleon's dominance
- Developing a European balance of power that protects coalition members

Delegates should consider how their decisions during the conflict could affect the eventual selection of Napoleon's successor and the future political structure of Europe.

IV. Leading Questions

1. Which of Napoleon's satellite states should the coalition prioritize persuading to defect, and what specific political, economic, or nationalist incentives would make each state abandon France?

2. How can the coalition use its committee directives to decrease the loyalty scores of Napoleon's satellite states, and which states would create the greatest strategic advantage if their loyalty fell below 3?

3. Should the coalition prioritize encouraging the defection of the Duchy of Warsaw, Kingdom of Italy, Kingdom of Naples, Confederation of the Rhine, Kingdom of Westphalia, or Kingdom of Holland? What unique vulnerabilities does each territory possess?

4. How can coalition members exploit the economic dissatisfaction created by the Continental System to encourage satellite states to abandon Napoleon and weaken French economic influence?

5. What diplomatic agreements, financial incentives, or promises of independence should the coalition offer to satellite states, and how can it ensure these promises remain credible after Napoleon's defeat?

6. How should the coalition coordinate its directives and inter-committee communications to prevent Napoleon from exploiting disagreements between coalition members or manipulating diplomatic negotiations?

7. Given the possibility of satellite states defecting and joining the coalition committee, how should the coalition prepare to integrate these new members while ensuring that their individual political interests do not undermine the committee's objectives?

8. What should the coalition's ultimate strategy be for determining the future of Napoleon's former territories, and how can it ensure that the political settlement following the conflict protects national sovereignty while maintaining a balance of power in Europe.

Character List:

ROOM 1: THE FRENCH EMPIRE (18 delegates)

1. Louis-Nicolas Davout, Marshal of France, Commander of I Corps

Napoleon’s most disciplined and capable marshal, leading the largest and best-drilled corps in the army. He insists on order, supply, and discipline, and he often clashes with flashier commanders. His priority is keeping the army fed, controlled, and reinforced as supply lines stretch east.

2. Michel Ney, Marshal of France, Commander of III Corps

Nicknamed “the Bravest of the Brave,” Ney is a fearless, aggressive fighter who leads from the front and is adored by his men. His pride and impulsiveness make him a danger when orders call for patience. He shapes battlefield operations and army morale.

3. Louis-Alexandre Berthier, Prince of Neuchâtel, Chief of Staff

The administrative backbone of the Grande Armée, Berthier turns Napoleon’s wishes into written orders and coordinates the movement of hundreds of thousands of men. He is devoted to Napoleon and rarely challenges him. Whoever controls his communications controls how fast, and how accurately, the army reacts.

4. Armand de Caulaincourt, Duke of Vicenza, Diplomatic Adviser

Caulaincourt served as French ambassador to Russia and knows Alexander and the Russian court better than anyone in the French camp. He argued against the invasion and believes Russia will not collapse after one defeat. He handles peace feelers, Russian intelligence, and foreign diplomacy.

5. Nicolas Oudinot, Marshal of France, Commander of II Corps (Northern Army)

A brave, battle-scarred veteran who is popular with his soldiers. He commands the northern wing, which can threaten Saint Petersburg and the Baltic approaches. He is a stronger tactician than strategist and needs clear orders to succeed.

6. Claude Victor, Marshal of France, Commander of the Reserve Army (IX Corps)

Victor commands the reserve forces that guard communications and feed reinforcements to the front. His role is essential but rarely glorious, and he may feel overlooked beside the marshals in the main army. He manages reinforcements, reserve deployments, and security behind the army.

7. Jacques MacDonald, Marshal of France, Commander of X Corps

Scottish-descended and cautious, MacDonald holds the army's far northern flank toward Riga and Courland. His corps includes a large Prussian contingent, so he must keep Napoleon's reluctant allies in line. He handles northern supply routes and cooperation with Prussian forces.

8. Hugues-Bernard Maret, Duke of Bassano, Foreign Minister

Napoleon's chief diplomat and loyal servant, running foreign correspondence and alliances from headquarters. He works to hold together Napoleon's alliances with Austria and Prussia and to present the campaign favorably to Europe. He often competes with Caulaincourt, who prefers a negotiated peace.

9. Pierre Daru, Count Daru, Head of Army Administration and Supply

Napoleon's master administrator, responsible for money, provisions, and paperwork for an army of hundreds of thousands. Practical and honest, he understands how fragile the supply system is. He may have to deliver bad news to an Emperor who dislikes hearing it.\

10. Jean-Baptiste Bessières, Marshal of France, Commander of the Imperial Guard Cavalry

One of Napoleon's oldest companions, commanding the elite cavalry that protects the Emperor and serves as his final reserve. He is cautious and careful with the Guard's strength. His voice matters whenever Napoleon must decide whether to risk his best troops.

11. Laurent Gouvion Saint-Cyr, General, Commander of VI Corps (Bavarian Corps)

A talented, calculating tactician who is respected but cold, and never one of Napoleon's favorites. He commands the Bavarian contingent, giving him direct insight into German allies' morale and complaints. He is a useful and independent-minded voice on German troops and defensive operations.

12. Jérôme Bonaparte, King of Westphalia (Rump State: Westphalia)

Napoleon's youngest brother, king of a state created in 1807 as a "model" Napoleonic kingdom. He enjoys royal status but little of Napoleon's trust, and his officers and ministers are watched by French overseers. His kingdom supplies many soldiers and vital revenue but harbors resentment toward French demands.

13. Charles-François Lebrun, Duke of Piacenza, Governor-General of the Dutch Departments (Rump State: Holland)

An experienced elder statesman who governs the Netherlands for Napoleon after its annexation to France. He must funnel revenue and sailors to the war effort while British naval pressure has crippled Dutch trade. He knows the merchants' resentment and the real limits of what Holland can give.

14. Ludwig Yorck von Wartenburg, Prussian Lieutenant General, Prussian Auxiliary Corps (Rump State: Prussia)

A stern, deeply patriotic Prussian officer commanding a contingent that Prussia was forced to provide under its alliance with France. He serves under MacDonald but resents French dominance. He is torn between his duty to the alliance and his hope of restoring Prussia's independence.

15. Prince Józef Poniatowski, Minister of War, Duchy of Warsaw (Rump State: Warsaw)

A Polish national hero and nephew of the last Polish king, commanding the Polish troops in the Grande Armée. Poles are fighting in hope that Napoleon will restore an independent Poland. If

Napoleon sacrifices that goal to win in Russia, Poniatowski must choose between loyalty to France and loyalty to Poland.

16. Karl Theodor von Dalberg, Prince-Primate of the Confederation of the Rhine (Rump State: Rhine)

An elderly archbishop-prince and the senior figure of the German states bound to Napoleon in the Confederation of the Rhine. He supplies troops and resources but must manage princes who resent French demands. Prussia and Austria are quietly courting him.

17. Joachim Murat, King of Naples, Commander of the Reserve Cavalry (Rump State: Naples)

Napoleon's brother-in-law and the dashing leader of the army's cavalry, famous for daring charges and reconnaissance. As a king he wants to be treated as a sovereign, not a subordinate. If he feels ignored, he may look for other options.

18. Eugène de Beauharnais, Viceroy of Italy, Commander of IV Corps (Rump State: Italy)

Napoleon's stepson and a loyal, level-headed commander, trusted to rule the Kingdom of Italy and lead an Italian-heavy corps. He supplies money, infantry, and food, and keeps reserves and southern logistics moving. Italy's closeness to Austria makes his position more delicate than it looks.

ROOM 2: THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND THE SIXTH COALITION (17 delegates)

1. Michael Barclay de Tolly, Minister of War, Commander of the First Western Army

A disciplined, calm strategist who is both Russia's war minister and commander of its largest army. He favors trading space for time to preserve the army and stretch French supply lines. Many nobles distrust him as a foreigner and want a decisive battle.

2. Prince Pyotr Bagration, Commander of the Second Western Army

A charismatic, aggressive veteran adored by his soldiers and eager to fight rather than retreat. He distrusts Barclay and resents being second to him. His smaller army risks being cut off from the main force.

3. Mikhail Kutuzov, Veteran General

A cunning, patient veteran who has just finished the war with the Ottomans with the Treaty of Bucharest, freeing Russian troops for the west. He has no field command at the moment but is respected by the army and the nobility. Alexander has never fully trusted him.

4. General Levin Bennigsen, Senior General

A Hanover-born general who fought Napoleon at Eylau and Friedland and is a veteran of Russia's earlier wars against France. He sits in Alexander's inner circle and is a rival and critic of Barclay. He wants a real command and a decisive engagement.

5. Admiral Pavel Chichagov, Commander of the Army of the Danube (Southern Operations)

A former navy minister with strong ties to Britain, newly appointed to command the southern army after peace with the Ottomans. His force is Russia's best chance to threaten Napoleon's flank or rear. His biggest challenge is distance, since he must reach the main theater in time.

6. Count Fyodor Rostopchin, Governor-General of Moscow

A fiercely conservative, theatrical, anti-French official who runs Moscow's defense, public order, and morale. He is a master of propaganda and distrusts foreigners and liberals. He is determined to rally nobles and commoners behind the Tsar.

7. Count Karl Nesselrode, Chief Diplomatic Adviser to Alexander I

A smooth, quiet diplomat who has served in Paris and now guides the Tsar's foreign policy from headquarters. He handles correspondence with potential allies and opens secret channels to France's dissatisfied partners. He is more influential than his official rank suggests.

8. Ataman Matvei Platov, Commander of the Cossacks

The veteran leader of the Don Cossacks, a rough, brave, fiercely independent commander. His irregular horsemen harass French scouts and foragers and raid supply columns. He wants glory and plunder and doesn't always follow orders.

9. Baron Heinrich vom Stein, Prussian Reformer

A famous Prussian statesman driven out of Prussia under Napoleon's pressure and now serving as Alexander's adviser. He is a passionate German nationalist who wants to raise Germany against French rule. He is the Coalition's best link to Prussian and German opinion.

10. Crown Prince Charles John (Jean Bernadotte) of Sweden

A former French marshal who became Crown Prince of Sweden and holds the real power while the king is weak. He has no loyalty to Napoleon and is moving Sweden toward Russia, with hopes of gaining Norway. He knows French methods and Napoleon's personality from years of service.

11. Lord Castlereagh, British Foreign Secretary

Britain's new Foreign Secretary and a calm, calculating diplomat who controls British money and diplomacy. He is committed to defeating Napoleon but wary of Russian and Prussian ambitions. His job is to fund the Coalition while protecting British trade and interests.

12. Arthur Wellesley, Earl of Wellington

The British commander in the Peninsular War, now driving into Spain with an army that pins down large French forces. In committee he represents the Spanish front and its possibilities for pressuring France. He is highly practical and values careful, patient war.

13. Prince Karl Schwarzenberg, Austrian General

A refined Austrian aristocrat and former ambassador to Paris who now commands Austria's corps attached to Napoleon's army. He serves a government that is allied to France out of necessity, not affection. He holds the key to Austria's future choices, and his actions could shift the whole balance of the war.

14. Count Peter Wittgenstein, Commander of I Corps (Northern Front)

A capable, steady corps commander assigned to cover the northern approaches to Saint Petersburg. He faces Oudinot's and MacDonald's French and allied forces, which outnumber him. He is crucial to protecting the capital and the northern flank.

15. Colonel Alexander Chernyshev, Aide-de-Camp and Intelligence Officer

A young, charming officer who spent years in Paris as military attaché and secret agent, gathering intelligence on Napoleon's preparations. He serves as the Tsar's courier and spymaster. He is ideal for espionage, secret diplomacy, and sabotage.

16. Dmitry Guryev, Minister of Finance

He manages Russia's money problems, including a weakened paper ruble, falling trade revenue, and the cost of mobilization. He must find the funds for the war and is central to any British financial support or trade arrangement. He understands how economic pressure can win allies.

17. Admiral Alexander Shishkov, State Secretary

A retired admiral and writer, passionately patriotic and hostile to French influence. As the Tsar's secretary he writes manifestos and appeals meant to rally nobles, clergy, and peasants. He is the committee's voice for propaganda, nationalist messaging, and religious appeals.

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