

*Historical/
Specialized
Committees*

They Shall Not Pass! The Franco-Prussian War, 1870, The French Government of National Defense



CHAIR: Daniel Catapang

GWCLA XXIX

December 7th

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Letter from the Chair

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to the Greater Washington Conference on International Affairs (GW CIA) XXIX! My name is Daniel Catapang and it is my distinct honor to be serving as your Crisis Director for the French Government of National Defense.

I am currently a Sophomore at the George Washington University and I'm originally from the San Francisco Bay Area. At GW, I am majoring in Asian Studies and International Affairs with a minor in History.

I have been a delegate for MUN since my Freshman year of High School and I now compete in the collegiate circuit with GW's incredible Model UN Travel Team. Alongside GW CIA, I staff our High school conference, WAMUNC, and SCVMUN back home in California. Outside of MUN, I work as a Junior Editor and Writer at *The Globe*, our International Affairs Research Journal, I work as a Research Fellow at Vanguard Think Tank and also serve as the Director of Logistics of the Alexander Hamilton Society. I am also involved in Strategic Crisis Simulations, GW's Wargaming Society.

While the Franco-Prussian War is not a well-known conflict in the United States, the ramifications of the conflict are vast. The war led to the final Unification of Germany into a single nation-state, the end of Monarchist rule in France, and one of the first experiments with Marxism in Europe.

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In this committee, I hope that you will use the tools at your disposal alongside the tools of the committee and secret allies to set a new path for Europe. Consider your character's beliefs and ambitions and how those interact with the rest of the committee. I can't wait to see what unique and creative crisis arcs and solutions you develop in the committee.

I look forward to seeing you all in December!

All the best,

Daniel Catapang

Crisis Director

The French Government of National Defence

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (with your advisor cc'd) at

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Introduction to the Committee

It is September of 1870, as the Franco-Prussian War rages across Europe, The Emperor of the French, Napoleon III alongside over 130,000 French soldiers has been captured at the disastrous battle of Verdun. With this defeat of the Monarchy, the 2nd French Empire has all but collapsed and has allowed for the establishment of the Government of National Defense led by Louis Jules Trochu. This new government has refused to surrender to the Prussians, holding out hope that it's quickly assembled army of recruits can defend Paris from the German invaders. Yet, within the walls of Paris there remains growing discontent with the government. Socialist Agiators and workers have long hated the capitalist system of France, and with the defeat of Napoleon III and the collapse of the Empire, many of these “Communards” have begun rallying for revolution under Marxist ideals. While these ideas are popular among Parisians, the rest of the nation remains fiercely anti-socialist and traditionalist. Despite the ideological differences between the Communards Republicans and Monarchists, they all share the same hatred for the Prussians and are unwilling to compromise with them until the very last minute.

Alongside the external and internal threats to the Government of National Defense, internally there remain questions as to the future of France. This government is only an interim government, however many actors support their vision for the future of the French government. While the Bonapartists remained incredibly unpopular following Napoleon III's defeat, there remained some support for other Royalist factions such as the Orleanists and Legitimists (Bourbonists). However, the strongest support is held within the Republican Camp, composed of supporters for a third French Republic, but within the Republican camp, their supporters must contend with both Liberal Republican factions and the Communards within their ranks.

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The following is a list of terms with simplified definitions to help guide your research and understanding of the background of this committee

Interim Government: An informal government that is often established in response to a political crisis. Interim governments often lack concrete support from the people and a strong power base to enact their agenda.

The Commune of France/Communards: A Marxist rebellion centered in Paris against the French Government following the real-life defeat of France by Prussia. While this rebellion has not formally started at the beginning of the committee, the supporters of this movement will be referred to as “Communards.”

Capitalism: An economic system based on where all matters of production are privately owned. Production, trade and labor are thus allocated by the free market and the law of supply and demand.

Legitimist: Monarchist supporters of the Royal House of Bourbon to rule over France. The House of Bourbon is the historic royal house of France, with the famous King Louis XVI hailing from this house.

Bonapartist: Monarchist supporters of the Royal House of Bonaparte. The Captured Emperor Napoleon III hails from this house alongside the famed Napoleon Bonaparte responsible for the Napoleonic Wars in the early 1800s.

Orleanists: Monarchist supporters of the Royal House of Orlean. The House of Orlean last ruled France under King Louis-Philippe from 1830 to 1848, before being ousted by Napoleon III.

Marxism/Socialism: An anti-Capitalist ideology that generally seeks to establish a classless society without private property generally through violent means to allow the working class to overthrow the business ruling class. (Note: There are many different interpretations of this ideology)

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Monarchism: A political ideology based upon supporting a government ruled by a sovereign monarch, often a monarch with unchecked power in government. In France, this faction supports the restoration/continuation of the monarchy.

Republicanism: A political ideology that is committed to a government based upon democratically elected representatives to best serve the interests of the people. In France, this faction seeks to establish a third French Republic

Constitutional Monarchy: A system of government that maintains the existence of a monarch which is limited by constitutional provisions with power shared between the monarch and a democratically elected assembly.

The North German Confederation: The North German Confederation was a union of Northern German states led by Prussia. This is the state that is currently at war with France and will be referred to as “Prussia” and their citizens as “Prussians”

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Topic 1: The Franco-Prussian War and the Prussian Threat

The first and foremost issue facing the newly formed Government of National Defence is the threat of Prussia. In an unimaginable defeat for the French Empire, Emperor Napoleon III, Marshall MacMahon, and nearly all of the French army were captured after the Battle of Sedan. With little formal resistance against the Prussian forces, they are now marching onto Versailles and soon Paris. The capture of over 130,000 French soldiers, composing most of France's professional army, has left the French government severely lacking in defenses. The government has assembled 350,000 men from the French National Guard centered around Paris, however, most of these men are untrained with little to no military experience.¹ Paris itself is heavily defended with 140,000 Francs worth of defensive fortifications, including 3,000 artillery pieces. While Paris's defenders are inexperienced, the government is committed to an effective defense of the national capital.² Alongside the National Guard, France is supported by small loose bands of France's many shooting clubs. While these irregulars are great shots, they are few in numbers, unorganized, and must resort to guerilla tactics to slow the Prussian advance.³ By comparison, the Prussians are 146,000 strong, composed of well-trained soldiers. Furthermore, the Prussian superiority in Artillery had previously decimated the forces of the French Army, an advantage that is now even more pronounced with France's lack of artillery outside of Paris.⁴ While France may have a strong numeric and home-field advantage against Prussia, the odds are stacked against the French on the battlefield quantitatively.

¹Alistair Horne, *The Fall of Paris : The Siege and the Commune 1870-71* (London: Pan, 2002).

²"The Siege of Paris," Warfare History Network, August 2010, <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/the-siege-of-paris/>.

³Armchair History, "How Prussia Ended the French Empire: Franco-Prussian War | Animated History," www.youtube.com, March 9, 2021, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xVISzFmBiPU>.

⁴"The Siege of Paris," Warfare History Network, August 2010, <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/the-siege-of-paris/>.

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Globally, the conflict has been met with indifference by the rest of the world's powers. Britain had little interest in involving itself in European affairs after the heavy cost of the Napoleonic Wars.⁵ Austria remains unwilling to fight Prussia following the disastrous defeat during the Austro-Prussian War which shattered Austrian power and exacerbated its internal strife.⁶ While a group of Italian volunteers have been sent to France in support of Republicanism, Italy is informally allied with the Prussians and is unwilling to intervene.⁷ Finally, Russia remains France's best chance at any possible foreign support, with Russia seeing a united Germany as a grave threat to its power, the same as France. However, Russia's military capabilities and industry are woefully unprepared for war with a European power, with Russia already contending with its troubles with the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans.⁸ Thus, France stands largely alone, however, the overtures of the members of this committee may turn the feelings of the great powers for the betterment of France. None of the great powers sought to see a strong united Germany that would destabilize the European order, but only through careful negotiation could France have a chance to gain the support of the other great powers.

With the tenuous situation of the French Government, the Prussians are now working towards producing a peace offering to the Government. However, it is almost certain that such an offering will cost France money, land, and most importantly, prestige. The French populace, despite the desperate situation, was unwilling to

⁵Andrew McGinnis, "A Snapshot in Time: English Reactions to the Franco-Prussian War," December 17, 2015, https://vc.bridgew.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1125&context=honors_proj.

⁶Scott Lackey, "The Habsburg Army and the Franco-Prussian War: The Failure to Intervene and Its Consequences," *War in History* 2, no. 2 (1995): 151–79, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/26004436>.

⁷S. William Halperin, "Bismarck and the Italian Envoy in Berlin on the Eve of the Franco-Prussian War," *The Journal of Modern History* 33, no. 1 (March 1961): 33–39, <https://doi.org/10.1086/238710>.

⁸Mike Wells, "Russia and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 | History Today," www.historytoday.com, December 2006, <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/russia-and-franco-prussian-war-1870-71>.

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surrender to the Prussians, a sentiment shared by many of France's leadership. However, the increasing economic and political cost of the war is taking a toll on France. This committee must decide whether it must take the burden of humiliation and accept Prussian peace or fight it out in hopes of some sort of better deal with the Prussians.

Topic 2: Political Instability in the French Republic

The socioeconomic and political cost of the war is starting to weigh heavily on the French populace. With the complete collapse of the French government, there are now questions of what government shall succeed the interim government. There remain several different political factions and ideologies vying for a succession of France. At the same time, the virtual collapse of the French economy preceded by decades of lower-class anger against the bourgeois has sparked a rise in Marxist and Socialist agitators in the city of Paris known as the Communards. Thus, the Government must contend with the foreign threat of the Prussians while balancing the integral strife within France.

Rising Communard Sentiment in Paris

Inspired by the ideas of Karl Marx and other socialist thinkers, the Communards centered around the city of Paris have been increasing in presence and power. While varied in their ideals from Social Democracy to a violent revolution against the bourgeoisie and to seize the means of production. Their power and influence are largely centered in Paris, a cultural hotbed for socialist thought for decades. While such ideas are gaining increasing popularity among the working class of Paris, few outside Paris and especially in the rural parts of France are open to the radical ideals of the Communards. Much of the rest of France remains largely conservative, sticking to the ideals of Monarchism and/or Republicanism alongside traditional Christian values. While these Communards may hate the Liberals and the Monarchists, they still detest the Prussian invaders far more and are unwilling to work with them or any government that bows to Prussian demands. Thus this has led to a situation where the French

Government of National Defence must choose between fighting to the end with the Prussians or accepting peace at the potential threat of a Communard uprising.⁹

Political Factionalism in France

Alongside the Communards of Paris, there remained several different political factions who wished to see their ideals in power in France. First are the Republicans, who adhere to the ideals of the French Revolution of Liberty, Equality, and Brotherhood. They are determined to bring France out of this crisis as a Liberal Democratic Republic and end the rule of Kings while holding out against the radicals of Paris.¹⁰ However, conservatism still holds strong among the French populace and the idea of Monarchy is not out of the question for France. Three houses are vying for the throne of France. First is the House of Bonaparte which is the house of the former emperor, Napoleon III. While their claim to the throne is considered the most legitimate to many, the failure of Napoleon III on the battlefield had made this house the most unpopular among the French public.¹¹ Second is the House of Orlean, which once ruled France under King Louis Philippe before his disposition in the 1848 Revolution. The House of Orlean represents the ideals of a Constitutional Monarchy, where the power of the monarch is limited by a fairly elected assembly.¹² Finally, there is the House of Bourbon which historically ruled France for much of its history, and the house which King Louis XVI hails from. The House of Bourbon last ruled France in 1830 under King

⁹David A. Bell, "The Life and Afterlife of the Paris Commune," [www.thenation.com](https://www.thenation.com/article/world/paris-commune/), November 15, 2022, <https://www.thenation.com/article/world/paris-commune/>.

¹⁰"Third Republic | French History | Britannica," in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Third-Republic-French-history>.

¹¹"Bonaparte Family | French History," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, n.d., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Bonaparte-family>.

¹²"House of Orléans | Royal Family, Bourbon Dynasty, French Monarchy | Britannica," www.britannica.com, n.d., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/house-of-Orleans>.

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Charles X.¹³ The House represents the ideals of Absolute Monarchism in France which perhaps is the least popular among the public but has garnered greater support following the rise of the Communards and the failures of Napoleon III. Thus the committee must contend with the varying factions of France that wish to earn the leadership of France. Delegates will be expected to consider their character's factional loyalty in their decisions that will greatly affect the future of the French people.

¹³John Graham Royde-Smith, "House of Bourbon | Definition, History, Dynasty, Members, & Facts | Britannica," in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/house-of-Bourbon>.

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Committee Format and Procedure

This committee will feature full crisis elements, including a backroom and directives. Instead of the traditional resolutions found in GA-style committees, this committee will enact all actions via directives. These directives are only a few pages long (at the discretion of the chair) and include brief actionable points on what the committee intends to do. Typically, these directive rounds will occur following each crisis update and take 30-45 minutes to draft and pass. These directives are meant to allow the committee to directly influence crisis updates and the flow of the committee.

The backroom will allow delegates to utilize their character's portfolio of resources to engage in activities behind the scenes of the committee (front room). You will be provided pads that will allow you to write covert notes (not to be seen by anyone in the committee) to characters who will carry out your commands. The Crisis Staff will collect these notes every so often (at the Crisis Director's discretion) and will incorporate the actions conducted by your character in the backroom to be brought up into committee. When you write your first note, please write a "manifesto" that will outline the overall goal of your character and how you will accomplish that goal in your backroom. Please be concise and neat in your notes and we highly encourage the use of actionable bullet points in your notes. Delegates are encouraged to use their backrooms creatively to tackle the issues at hand effectively and within the scope of their characters and committee however, **any content in backroom notes that encourages genocide, deliberate civilian deaths, war crimes, and/or discrimination based on race, gender, age, or sexual orientation is strictly prohibited. (At Crisis Director's Discretion)** While delegates are not prohibited from collaborating with the Prussians in their backroom, they will have to provide sound reasoning as to why they would collaborate with their most hated enemy.

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Guiding Questions:

- 1) Should the French Government agree to peace with Germany? Consider how this will shape your domestic stability and France's international prestige
- 2) How should the government address the Communards? Should they seek to cooperate with the Commune or Destroy it by Force?
- 3) Who should rule France after this crisis? Will France return to the Republic or shall it return to one of the three Royal houses? Or shall France embrace Marx and break the chains?
- 4) What shall be done with Emperor Napoleon III? Shall he be exiled?, Executed for treason? Or shall he reclaim his birthright?
- 5) How will France recover from this disastrous war with Prussia and how will this defeat shape the entire European landscape?

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Character List:

Disclaimer: While these are real historical figures who lived during the period, many of these people have had their backgrounds modified, exaggerated, or invented to provide a better experience for all delegates.

Louis Jules Trochu, President of the Government

In the wake of the failure of the Battle of Sedan and the virtual decapitation of the French Government, Trochu has taken the place as the de facto leader of France. However, he is a military man with minimal experience in matters of state, but it is his leadership that must lead France through the Prussian threat and Communard crisis. While he is ultimately loyal to France, he is known to have some Orleanist leanings and may be willing to see a new man on the throne of France.

Léon Gambetta, Minister of the Interior

Léon Gambetta, the Minister of the Interior, is a passionate and energetic orator who played a pivotal role in rallying the French people during the Franco-Prussian War. Known for his strong republican ideals, he advocates for resistance and national unity in the face of adversity. Gambetta's dynamic leadership includes organizing the defense efforts and overseeing internal affairs to maintain order and morale. His commitment to the cause inspires many, making him a key figure in the Government of National Defense.

Jules Favre, Vice-President

Jules Favre, the Vice-President of the French Government of National Defense, is a seasoned statesman and a skilled lawyer. Favre's eloquence and firm republican principles guide his efforts to seek a resolution to the conflict while maintaining France's

dignity. His role is crucial in representing the government's stance both domestically and internationally.

Adolphe Le Flô, Minister of War

Adolphe Le Flô, the Minister of War, is an experienced military leader with a steadfast commitment to France's defense during the Franco-Prussian War. His primary responsibility involves overseeing military operations and ensuring the army is well-equipped and strategically positioned. Le Flô's leadership is characterized by his dedication to reorganizing and strengthening the French forces amid the ongoing conflict. His efforts are vital in coordinating the defense strategies and supporting the overall war efforts of the Government of National Defense.

Léon Martin Fourichon, Minister of the Navy

Léon Martin Fourichon, the Minister of the Navy, is a seasoned naval officer tasked with overseeing France's naval operations during the Franco-Prussian War. His responsibilities include maintaining the strength and readiness of the French fleet, protecting maritime interests, and ensuring supply lines remain open. Fourichon's leadership is marked by his strategic planning and efforts to modernize the navy amidst the conflict. His role is crucial in supporting the government's overall defense strategy from the sea.

Ernest Picard, Minister of Finance

Ernest Picard, the Minister of Finance, is a skilled economist responsible for managing France's financial resources during the Franco-Prussian War. His primary duties involve securing funding for the war effort, stabilizing the economy, and managing the national budget under challenging circumstances. Picard's pragmatic approach and financial acumen are essential in ensuring the government can sustain its

defense and public services. His role is critical in maintaining economic stability and supporting the Government of National Defense

Jules Ferry, Secretary of the Government

Jules Simon, Minister of Education, Religion, and Arts

Jules Simon, the Minister of Education, Religion, and Arts, is a respected intellectual and advocate for liberal values in the French Government of National Defense. He focuses on maintaining educational institutions, preserving cultural heritage, and ensuring the freedom of religious practices during the turbulent times of the Franco-Prussian War. Simon's dedication to enlightenment principles drives his efforts to promote education and the arts as pillars of national morale and identity. His role is vital in upholding the cultural and intellectual fabric of France amidst the conflict.

Adolphe Crémieux, Minister of Justice

Adolphe Crémieux, Minister of Justice, faces the challenge of maintaining law and order amidst rising communard tensions in Paris within the French Government of National Defense. His legal expertise and commitment to upholding the rule of law are crucial as he navigates the complexities of the Franco-Prussian War and the growing revolutionary fervor. Crémieux's leadership becomes paramount in balancing security needs with respect for civil liberties amidst the tumult of civil unrest.

Emmanuel Arago, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Emmanuel Arago, as the Minister of Foreign Affairs in the French Government of National Defense, plays a crucial role in navigating diplomatic relations amidst the Franco-Prussian War and the rise of the Paris Commune. His diplomatic finesse and strategic vision are instrumental in maintaining France's international standing and seeking support from foreign allies. Arago's leadership is pivotal in ensuring that

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France's interests are represented effectively on the global stage during this tumultuous period.

Pierre Frédéric Dorian, Minister of Public Works

Pierre Frédéric Dorian, as the Minister of Public Works in the French Government of National Defense, is tasked with overseeing infrastructure and construction projects crucial for the war effort and civilian welfare. His expertise in engineering and administration ensured the efficient management of resources despite the challenges posed by the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune uprising. Dorian's leadership is indispensable in maintaining essential services and rebuilding infrastructure amidst the disruptions of conflict and social upheaval.

Henri Rochefort, Communard Sympathizer

Henri Rochefort, a prominent journalist and Communard sympathizer, serves as a vocal advocate for the Paris Commune's ideals within the French Government of National Defense. His impassioned rhetoric and incisive critiques challenge the established order and advocate for radical social change amidst the turmoil of the Franco-Prussian War. Rochefort's influence as a dissenting voice highlights the deep divisions within French society and the government's struggle to reconcile competing visions of reform and revolution.

Louis-Napoléon, Bonapartist Leader

Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, the charismatic leader of the Bonapartist movement, seeks to restore the glory of the Napoleonic Empire amidst the turmoil of the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune uprising. Leveraging his name and familial legacy, Louis-Napoléon rallies support from loyalists and disillusioned citizens alike, promising stability and prosperity under his leadership. His ambitious vision for a Napoleonic resurgence poses a significant challenge to the republican government's

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efforts to maintain control and shape the future of France amidst competing royalist factions and revolutionary fervor.

Prince Philippe, Orleanist Leader

Prince Philippe, as the leader of the Orleanist faction, champions the restoration of the House of Orléans to the French throne amidst the tumult of the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune uprising. With a focus on constitutional monarchy and liberal reforms, he appeals to moderate republicans and disillusioned citizens as a potential solution to the nation's instability.

Count Henri, Legitimist Leader

Count Henri, as the leader of the Legitimist faction, staunchly upholds the divine right of kings and the legitimacy of the Bourbon monarchy amidst the chaos of the Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune uprising. His unwavering commitment to traditional values and royal prerogatives resonates with conservative elites and devout monarchists, who see him as the rightful heir to the French throne. Count Henri's steadfast refusal to compromise on matters of principle, such as the tricolor flag, underscores the deep ideological divisions within the royalist camp and the challenges of restoring monarchy in a republican age.

Adolphe Thiers, Republican Leader

Previously the Prime Minister of France and a leader of the 1830 July Revolution Against King Charles X, Thiers is a champion of the Republican liberal ideals. While he did support the rule of the more liberal King Louis-Philippe, the rise of Napoleon III motivated his rise towards developing France into a true Republic. In this era of instability for France, Thiers is ready to build a new path for France and is a champion of the idea of a 4th French Republic.

Philippe-Ferdinand-Auguste de Rohan-Chabot, Ambassador to the United Kingdom

Chabot serves as the Ambassador of France to the United Kingdom and is responsible for managing the relationship between France and her historic enemy, Britain. However, as the decades have gone on, the British and French have increasingly gotten closer diplomatically, however, there remains great Anglophobic sentiment in France. With Prussia taking Britain's place as France's greatest rival and threat, Chabot will be key in working with Britain as a potential ally in this conflict.

Charles de Banneville, Ambassador to Austria-Hungary

Banneville serves as the Ambassador to Austria-Hungary and is in charge of all French affairs with the Empire. Following the recent defeat of the Austrians by Prussia in the Austro-Prussian War and the current war waging with Prussia, Austria-Hungary presents itself as an ideal potential ally in this conflict. However, Austria-Hungary is wary of getting into any additional conflict with Prussia as it faces its internal strife. Thus it is the task of Banneville to gain as much support from the Austrians as possible.

Henry de Bellonnet, Ambassador to the United States

Bellonnet serves as the first and foremost guide to Franco-US affairs as ambassador. The United States is hesitant to involve itself in any foreign conflict, however, the US presents itself as a massive economic ally for France. With France and the US's shared history of friendship tracing to the Revolutionary War, there is precedent to gaining US support in this conflict. Thus it is the task of Bellonnet to communicate with the US and gain their support in this conflict.

Alexandre Glais-Bizoin, Minister of Trade

The current conflict between Prussia and France has heavily disrupted French trade. France is dependent on imports of goods, notably coal to fuel its industry.

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Furthermore, the disruption of trade has increased the prices of goods which has only fuelled the fire of revolution in France. Thus it is the task of Bizoin to ensure the return of steady trade flows in France, whether that be for the Empire of the Republic.

Louis-Antoine Garnier-Pagès, Minister of Health

Pages work to ensure the health and well-being of all Frenchmen. With the casualties suffered in the raging conflict, Pages must work to ensure the proper treatment and safety of all of France's soldiers. At the same time, Pages must contend with a lackluster public healthcare system for French civilians, which has increased socialist agitations among the angry lower class.

Eugène Pelletan, Minister of Labour

Pelletan is principally responsible for the issues of labor and worker affairs. With the rising socialist tensions among the workers of France, Pelletan must work to quell further discontent among the working class. At the same time, Pelletan must ensure that he is not associated with the Communards with any thought of reforms for the workers and balance the interests of the highly influential bourgeoisie class of France.

Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian Volunteer

Garibaldi is a famed leader of the Italian Nationalists who fought for the unification of the Kingdom of Italy. He is an experienced field commander with many renowned victories. Now he is the commander of the Italian volunteers in the Franco-Prussia War on the side of the French to support Liberal Republicanism across the world. He is no fan of Emperor Napoleon III and his empire, but he is a champion of the French Republic.

François Achille Bazaine, Marshal of France

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Bazaine is now one of the highest-ranking military leaders of France following the disastrous defeat at the Battle of Sedan. He commands a formidable French force, however he has no love for the communards or the Republicans in the government. He is a fierce conservative leader and seeks to ensure that France remains a bastion of tradition against the liberal and radical socialist forces of the world.

Louis Charles Delescluze, Communard Leader

Delescluze serves as a prominent leader of the Communards in Paris. For now, he serves as a representative of Communards and their interests in government as a last hope for some sort of peaceful solution to the tensions. With the support of thousands of Socialist Parisians, he holds enormous influence in the city and is ready and willing to separate himself from the Empire and the Republic to fulfill his Marxist-Leninist dream.

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