



GMUNC XIII



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About the chairs

Milo De Giere - Head Chair



Hello, hello, hello delegates, my name is Milo De Giere, and I am absolutely honored to be serving as your chair for this year's GMUNC conference. I'm currently a senior, making this my third and probably last time chairing this conference. My favorite part of MUN has always been meeting all the aspiring leaders, thinkers, creatives, and whatever people may be as I watch them deliver improvised speeches, standing in front of a room full of people dressed in slightly ill-fitting business attire. As a beginner conference, I hope to see all of you grow as delegates and people, whether this is your first conference or your 60 billionth. While I technically can't get mad at you for horrid song hooks, just know I will not be happy. On the other hand if you manage to make a good keyword, good reference, a little part of me will jump with joy (use discretion; there is always a time and place to be

serious). Outside of MUN, I am a drag enthusiast and can be found in my local ceramic studio jumping around with children and grumbling at clay. Please, please, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions, are seeking advice or just want to talk, whether it's MUN or not. I look forward to seeing you all in October and wish you all the best of luck in your preparations. Please note that I don't care what a robot has to say about a historical crisis model un is for people, humans if you will, I'd much rather read bad, rushed writing than ai slop. Happy writing, and remember to cite your sources pleaseuh.

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**Now I KNOW people don't like reading background guides, but just yk, out of the kindness of your heart for Emma and I and to have a smooth committee, at least read the current situation. I know the politics of everything are weird and complicated; I was, and still am, really confused. Just shoot us an email, and we are happy to clarify or figure it out together*

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Emma Chen (she/her) - Co Chair

Hello delegates, my name is Emma Chen, and I'll be your co-chair for this year's Upper



Volta/Burkina Faso Revolution crisis. I'm currently a sophomore at Gunn high school, but trust me, I've done MUN before. Therefore, so far, I think my favorite part of MUN is literally anything that happens in committee. Especially valid crashouts, I always look back on them fondly (I really hope I looked majestic looking out of a second floor window while debating my chances of parkouring out of an AU committee). I really hope you enjoy this committee, Milo and I discussed quite a lot about all the little small things, and brace yourselves for our crisis updates! This is your chance to exercise your rights as lovely members of Burkina Faso. When I'm not at school or doing MUN related stuff, I can be found playing RPG's, listening to Ado and Ayumu Imazu, or watching horror movies. My mbti is ENTJ, and I'm

honestly one of those people who loves horrible jokes. However, I will not tolerate any Drake or Kendrick MUN hooks, please be creative! Although I will laugh at any video game references delegates make, I will be unfortunately unable to comment. Since this is a beginner conference, if you have any questions or have any random concerns, (or free concert tickets!) Just send me an email. Looking forward to seeing everyone at GMUNC!

Email: emma113star@gmail.com

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About Committee

This year, at GMUNC, this is the only non-JCC crisis, and it's gonna be lit. As the leaders of Burkina Faso, change the course of history, and do everything you can to make your goals come to fruition. Make sure to remember that murdering your fellow delegates isn't the only way to manifest it! **Delegates should keep in mind that this committee starts in November of 1982, meaning historical events that occur after that, as significant as they might be, have not happened yet. Please be accurate when possible.** . As a crisis committee, delegates will have more power to implement changes and policy through front room and backroom actions.

Foreword

I hope all of you are just as excited about the committee as we are. Although there aren't zombies or space aliens, we hope the whirlwind of coups and ideological conflict is just as entertaining. Committee is about having fun, taking risks so that you all can grow as delegates and people. We *strongly* encourage getting into character, for there is no such thing as too much. With this in mind, we are not going balls-to-the-wall crazy. Researching, debating, and retelling a historical crisis such as this one hopefully gives all of us insight into the very real lives of people from the past, present, and even future. These debates cover independence, international politics, land discussions, human rights, and all crises that we see replicated in our current world. We encourage you to take your research and preparation seriously and consider how your learning can be applied to whatever your modern interests may be. With that in mind, taking something seriously requires struggle and contemplation that cannot be gained through the use of AI or any Artificial Generative Intelligence. Please don't do it because we will find it. Similarly, there will be no tolerance for hate speech of any kind, and we encourage delegates to consult chairs if they feel this is not being respected.

Position papers are due on 10/17/26 to be considered for a research award, with the **final deadline on 10/23/26**. If you do not submit a position paper by this date, you will not be eligible for any committee awards. Please send position papers and any committee-specific inquiries to the committee email address: gmuncxiiiiburkinafaso@gmail.com. Additionally, all delegates are required to complete contact and medical forms to participate in the conference.

Please confirm with your delegation that the required documents have been submitted. We wish you the best with writing your position papers and look forward to seeing everyone on **October 24th, 2026, for GMUNC XIII!**

Email: gmuncxiiiiburkinafaso@gmail.com

Position paper deadlines: October 23th, 2026

Research award deadlines: October 17th, 2026

GMUN Conference day: October 24th, 2026

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Introduction

“If indeed existence precedes essence, one will never be able to explain one’s action by reference to a given and specific human nature; in other words, there is no determinism – man is free, man is freedom.” (Sartre)

There is a level of self-deception that lives in every person when we adopt the false notion that there are no other options but to live based on the current societal structures. Mauvaise foi or bad faith, describes what Sartre believes to be the great plague of modern societies. That we lie to ourselves to spare short-term discomfort but suffer long-term psychological impoverishment when we conform to certain traditions (Onof). [add]It is not often that someone departs from this to cause such a radical change as the formation of an entire nation.

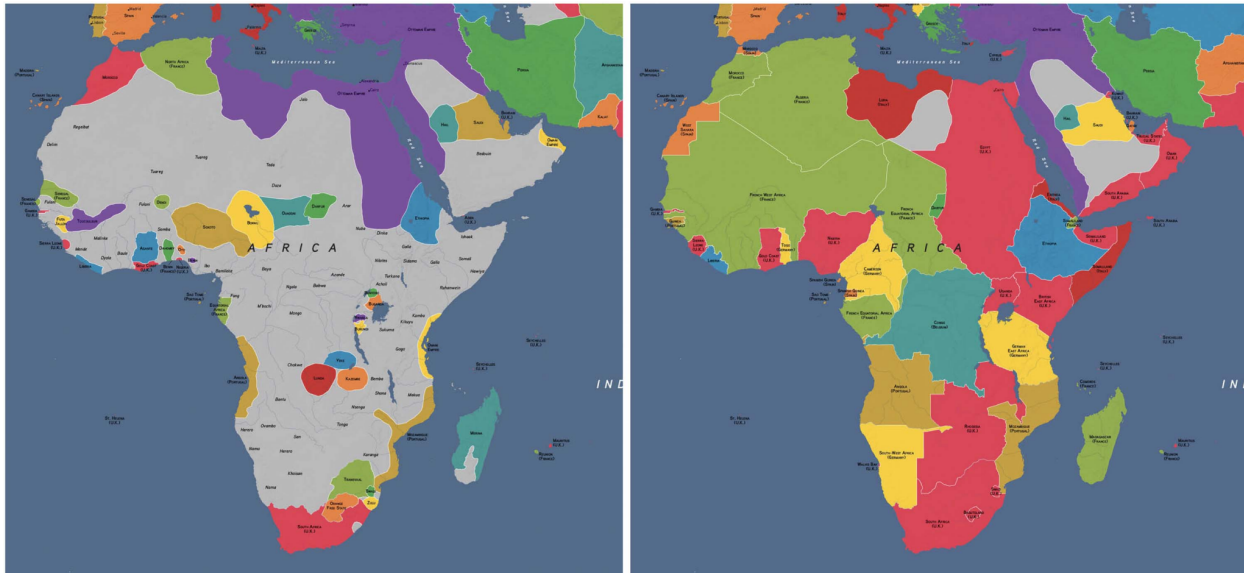
The Mossi are the most prominent ethnic group in our land of Upper Volta and responsible for perhaps the destiny of our entire people (Finnegan). Oral retellings describe the legend of Princess Yennenga, daughter of King Nedega, who made the choice to embrace such freedom (Mariez). From a young age, she felt restrained by the expectations placed on her as a female. She grew up skilled in combat and horseback riding, quickly becoming a cultural icon for the people of Gambaga (now Ghana). Once she came of marriageable age, suitors would come and go, but each proposal was vetoed by her father. Yennenga longed for such a relationship and, in an act of defiance, fled north on horseback, where she met the love of her life, Riale, a man of princely descent who similarly escaped and became an elephant hunter. The two had a son they named Ouedragogo. After years of living together in this region, Ouedragogo sets off to visit his grandfather Nedega. Recognizing his daughter's face in Ouedragogo, the old man was so overcome with happiness that he organized several days of festivities and an escort of Dagomba warriors to accompany him back to his mother. These warriors, along with the family, would come to settle the Boussane region that gave rise to the Mossi people.

From what is believed to be the 11th to 15th centuries, the Mossi people spread around the headwaters of the Volta River (Janakesho). Most notably, this collection of kingdoms included Ouagadougou, Yatenga, Tenkodogo, and Fada N'Gourma. This region was organized under a centralized power, allowing peace and internal security where other neighboring regions may have had domestic conflict. Thus, “while Djermabé plundered the Gourounsi country (...), they dared not attack the Mossi” (Tauxier 582). For nearly 500 years, this structure remained; however, as the Industrial Revolution expanded and new demands brought the ideologies of imperialism, this would change. The continent of Africa promised plentiful advancements: raw materials, new markets, and a large pool of labor (Getz). As European nations scrambled to lay claim to the continent, imperial leaders convened at the Berlin Conference to set out the rules for partition

Historical Context

Partitions and Conquest

How should the destiny of an entire nation best be determined, by the people who determined its outcome through every life decision made, or out of jealousy and hunger for power? In the year 1884, nearly 7,000 km away from the heart of Upper Volta, the Imperial powers gathered to go about claiming territories in Africa. This process would occur through three steps. The first of which involved sending out explorers who would sign treaties with local leaders to accept the protection of Europe. Geometric



lines cut borders directly through existing territories and grouped rival populations together, which continues to cause structural issues in modern times. Under the pretence of spreading Christianity and therefore “civilization,” European nations constructed military outposts for occupying forces.

The region that is now defined as Upper Volta fell into a loosely claimed French sphere of influence with no inherent structure. As a landlocked region, the Volta does not provide the same connections to international trade routes as the coastal region of the continent's trade markets. Neither did it have the same plentiful resources or fertile land as the central region. Rather, the French perceived Mossi land and Upper Volta as an ideal source of labour, observing that “the Mossi were too densely settled in an inhospitable land; they were 'an immediately exploitable capital'” (Cordell and Gregory 206).

On February 20th in, 1895, the French obtained a protectorate over Haute-Volta (Upper Volta), allowing for the subsequent conquest of the nation's capital, Oudadougou. Colonial forces captured and burned large parts of the city, eradicating the sovereign rule the Mossi empire had held for centuries. Under such an agreement, France promised to protect the weaker Haute-Volta from external aggressions

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and internal disturbance in exchange for yielding certain powers to the protector. This effectively allows imperial nations to maintain indirect control over territories without annexation (Trilsch).

Such colonial control was met with one of the largest armed resistances in the region's history. In late 1915, "Some 800,000 to 900,000 Africans in a thousand villages (approximately 8 percent of the population of FWA) were involved in the [Volta-Bani] war, with the African side mustering armies of between fifteen and twenty thousand men at its height." (Chafer 92) Inhabitants declared war on the colonial administration and vowed never to surrender arms until the last European had left the country. France, in response, mobilized a large force and powerful weaponry to crush the rebellion. Such a demonstration was hardly anticipated by the French administration and was hastily resolved by separating the colonial government into the present territory of Upper Volta from Upper Senegal and Niger. This would allow for more localized military control to hopefully curb the recurrence of armed uprisings (African American Registry).

Shortly after creating the separate colony of Upper Volta, French administrator Édouard Hesling was appointed as governor in 1919. To promote an export-oriented economy, Hesling set out an aggressive plan for infrastructure expansion to allow for the commercial cultivation of cotton. This framework built Upper Volta as an entity solely there to provide for France. Such mercantilist frameworks were relatively common in this region of Africa.

Road to Independence

Cotton promised to be the next "cash-crop" of the century to cause a revolution amounting to none other. As a crucial commodity to metropolitan life, cotton exports in theory should have made a significant amount of money. Hesling's compulsory system failed to account for the irregular and drought-like conditions of Upper Volta, as during fertile time periods all crops were directly competing for scarce labor inputs (Haas 1113). As the economy stagnated, the French government deemed the colony as not a worthy investment. Therefore, in 1932, the colony was disbanded once more and divided into parts with different governing bodies. Some parts of the former colony were governed by Côte d'Ivoire, others by French Sudan (now known as Mali) or even by the Colony of Niger. This phenomenon was a strategy employed by imperial powers to create federations too small to be economically viable on their own, forcing continued reliance on European powers. Upper Volta continues to exist as a non-political unit as war sparks on a global scale.

Troops from French West Africa, including Upper Volta, served, fought, and died for France across the 1940s war effort. Brutal circumstances and unprecedented deaths were hardly recognized even in victory. France morally would be in debt to the African colonies, an issue addressed in 1944 at the

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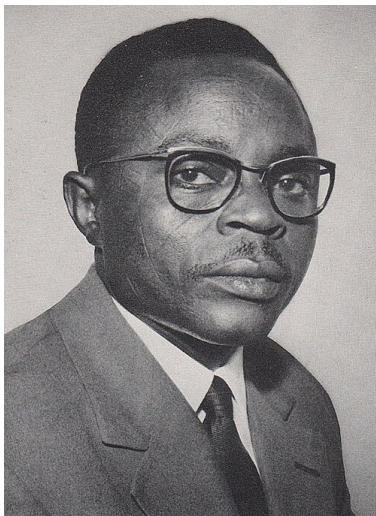
Brazzaville Conference. France promised colonial reforms to allow Africa “to choose nobly liberally the road of modernity.” (Gasano).

After World War 2, the French Fourth Republic was founded to carry out the promises from wartime. In 1947, Upper Volta became a colony once more. The French Fourth Republic (FFR) was one of great change, even in its tenuous 12-year history. With the FFR being a parliamentary republic, there were many political pitfalls within its own halls, especially on the topic of decolonization. The FFR

believed that the best way to solve the issues of unrest within its colonies was assimilation tactics, preferring to merge the colonies into what they called the French Union, eventually to be merged into the Republic itself. However, this action provoked heated rebellions in every corner of the globe. Vietnam fought back, sparking a war in the Indochina region, leaving the French Army decrepit and penniless. It got worse for France when Algeria declared war against the French colonists, which forced them into systemic poverty in 1954 (Cottrell and Dougherty).

The war was an absolute military catastrophe; the economic state was absolutely crippled, forcing them to let Algeria declare independence. The FFR ended up being completely destabilized and eventually had to be torn apart and rebuilt. Due to the fall of the financial strength of France, the government couldn't support both their own citizens and the French Union they wanted to assimilate. Therefore In 1958, Upper Volta established an autonomous government, separating itself from the French, ultimately joining the UN and declaring independence in 1960.

Tumultuous Presidency of Maurice Yaméogo



Nevertheless, even after declaring independence, Upper Volta hit many roadblocks. The nation's first president came to power in October of 1958. As the Independence agreement was ratified in July of 1960, Maurice Yaméogo began to eliminate all other political opposition to establish superiority for his political party, Rassemblement Démocratique Africain. President Yaméogo was a staunch lover of France (xlvii Mc Farland). He once famously claimed that “only fools would ask for independence”, and that Upper Volta wouldn't, or actually, couldn't survive without the economic protection and strength of France. However, once he came into power, to quell the voices of his

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opposition, he became a man of love for his country and his country alone, while maintaining close technical ties with France. Even though his actions may have seemed extremely controversial, Yaméogo became an extremely admired figurehead, a man who rose, quite literally, from the dirt. Stamps were made in his honor, and he was known as the man who unified Upper Volta after the tumultuous era of World War II.

In his efforts to create a single-party system, he had come close to bankrupting the entire nation (xlviiii Mc Farland). For the most part, the Voltaic people remained dismissive; however, he was deeply envious, greedy, and desperate to the point that he wished to emulate the people who he thought had it better than him. He aligned himself with the Western ideals of high-class society, surrounding himself with sycophants who affirmed his choices (l Mc Farland).

Entering the post-war era, Communist ideologies surfaced as a prominent revolutionary ideology posing a threat to American/Western backed Nationalists and imperialist nations. France's participation in the tense international collaborations was so often rooted in fear over the power and threat that revolutionary ideals posed. To varying degrees, leaders attempted to curb its spread.

Yaméogo had the notion that the best way to tamp down communism was to disempower the working class. Driven by severe economic debt, in December of 1965, President Yaméogo announced cuts to everyone's paychecks, and still demanded that citizens continue working. Mass abstention at the election polls, boycotts of elections, and a general union strike occurred in reaction to this in the following days. After an attempt on his life, Yaméogo was tried for embezzlement. Due to fear of uprising, the government sent police and armed forces to the meeting to forcefully disband any notion of coalition. On January 1st, 1966, President Yaméogo officially declared that there would be no tolerance for strikes while declaring a state of emergency. On January 3rd, 1966, 2 days after President Yaméogo's declaration of emergency, he was forced out of office. Mobs attacked the RDA party headquarters. With mass protests erupting everywhere, the non-cooperation of the military/police, and no support from the Catholic church, Yaméogo was backed into a corner with literally no way out. With his abdication of office, the head of the military, Chief of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Sangoulé Lamizana, took power. Lamizana formed a military government that suspended the constitution and placed the nation under military control until 1970 (l-li Mc Farland).

Power to the Civilian

From 1966 to 1967, Lamizana served as Minister of Defense, Foreign Affairs, Information, Youth, and Sports. His initial popularity came simply from the removal of Yameogo. Lamizana put forward a new constitution in March of 1970, installing a regime of partial democracy aimed at bringing in civilian power while keeping him in power (BOOK). His rule was widely characterized as stable and in

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comparison, almost uneventful to his predecessor, yet the rising population of youth often critiqued his lack of substantial policies to initiate change and betterment. His military-backed regime vastly increased military popularity. Lamizana would open military schools as national institutes with the goal of disciplining the corrupt bureaucracy and to counter the influence of French-appointed chiefs. With military culture so central to people's lives, the hero story of a young man leaving the feudal systems of his rural area to be trained in the military was not uncommon and would come to inspire a generation of young thinkers. This would include young men such as Thomas Sankara, Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo, Blaise Compaore, Henri Zongo, Jean-Baptiste Lingani, and Gilbert Diendere. While rather stable and lenient, Lamizana lacked actual administration and, at best, disregarded the social and economic issues that plague the nation.



The 1970 constitution sought an interventionist economic strategy to reduce Upper Volta's reliance on foreign powers. Strict government spending cuts were made, and severe financial restraint was practiced. This system, however, lent itself to a number of abuses such as the reinstatement of patronage rather than actual economic reform. As Lamizana's reign progressed, more and more indicators pointed towards political risk or perhaps yet another coup.

Slow collapse of the Civilian Rule

In 1972, the world's attention was drawn to a dire situation in the Sahel (Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Upper Volta, Niger, Chad and the Gambia). Drought conditions significantly impacted crop production, causing estimated 20–25 million people to face starvation. Livestock on the brink of extinction and continued lackluster rainfall continue to affect populations (Springsteen). Lamizana



an

travels to Paris to request aid, ultimately forming the CILSS that same year. The Inter-State Committee to Fight Drought (CILSS) was formed to study aid projects, to fight desertification, and to apportion the huge funds which flowed in after approximately 100,000 people died. Estimations state that \$7.45 billion

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was committed to this initiative and yet still failed to address the desperate underdevelopment of France's former colonies (Brittain 41).

This same drought increased pressures with surrounding nations, including Mali. Along the border between both nations, the Agachar Strip stretches for about 160 km and is located near the Beli River (Cooper). The demand for a permanent water source was only increased given the extreme drought conditions. Reports emerged of traces of precious minerals, oil, and natural gases, all of which would drastically mend the economic crisis that plagues both regions. Disputes over the arbitrarily drawn colonial borders were not uncommon within Africa. The leverage and relief that this strip could provide sparked countless small disputes that would escalate into violence (UCDP).

An already structurally fragile government clearly does not have the means to manage the humanitarian, economic, and territorial conflicts that came from the drought. Simultaneously, the civilian population, in particular labor unions, consistently call out the interventionist strategies taken by the government (Azam et al 64). It is often a sign that a government is going to collapse when military spending drastically increases. This indicates someone in leadership, like Lamizana or his precursor Yameogo, anticipates some sort of internal resistance. Lamizana dismisses his financial minister, who was relatively conservative, and begins to do just this (64). In February of 1974, President Lamizana completely discarded the 1970 constitution to establish a true military regime with the intention of a single-party system. The new government called itself the National Government for Renewal (GNR).

Almost immediately, Lamizana raises the wages for civil servants and the military, perhaps to purchase their loyalty. Between 1970 and 1975, the military budget increased from 17% to 31% (Azam et.al 65). The official attempt to consolidate into a single party occurred in 1975, when Lamizana was met with intense outrage from democratic forces. Large demonstrations by unions called for general wage increases and funding increases for health and legal fields. The GNR adopts these policies and continues to adopt most demands with pretty lax policies to draw attention away from possible corruption within the elites. Finance positions are constantly replaced solely because the situation becomes “unmanageable. Upper Volta falls into a budget deficit in 1977-78 just as the election occurs. Lamizana, by some miracle, wins the election with his lacklustre campaign. This included making many expansionist promises and widespread distributions of funds from some mysterious origin(despite the deficit). The government is forced to borrow from the central bank and some commercial banks; however, this only continues to feed the rampant issue of inflation. In a last-ditch effort to combat the unpopularity aroused by such inflation, Lamizana attempted to garner support from civil servants. Surely unrelated ... Lamizana is ousted in a bloodless military coup by Colonel Saye Zerbo, on November 25th, 1980 (Azam et al. 66).

Who would want political credibility? Certainly not Colonel Saye Zerbo



The new government called the Comité Militaire de Redressement pour le Progres National (CMRPN) abandoned all fiscal discipline. As Zerbo rose to the presidency, he enlisted young military members whom he deemed to have a bright future to support him in his endeavors. Some of these people were Thomas Sankara, Blaise Compaoré, and Henri Zongo, three members of Upper Volta's military.

The primary issue within the CMRPN was not overspending, but rather a blatant abuse of power and internal corruption. An unusually large amount of negotiated loans was being made out to civil servants that would come to drain 12% of all government revenue without repercussions. Left over from Lamizana's lack of enforcement capabilities, the CMRPN did not have the oversight necessary to control and manage the elite class of Upper Volta (66 Azam et al). His short presidency was marked by issues of

overstaffing, blatant patronage, nepotism, and outright theft from within the government. Despite the clear abuses of civil workers and the elite class, Zerbo responded to the economic issues by taxing imports specifically related to industries of the rural region of Upper Volta.

With two years of persistent economic issues, the nation finally came to a turning point in 1982 after Zerbo basically forbade emigration, depriving the country of its main source of foreign exchange. The government lost what little political credibility it had left, and a series of strikes commenced. When the people of a supposed democracy strike, it's probably not instinct as president to entirely abolish the right to strike, impose press censorship, and expel union members from assemblies, but for some strange reason this is exactly what Zerbo does. At this point, the secretary of state for information, Thomas Sankara, resigns (67 Azam et. al). A coup d'état led by Colonel Somé, having no obvious relationship to the preceding events, took place in November 1982, creating a strange political vacuum during which Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo was chosen president of the provisional government, known as the Conseil Provisoire de Salut du Peuple (CPSP).

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Current Situation

“Malheur à ceux qui bâillonnent le peuple!” “Woe to those who gag their people!”

A group of noncommissioned officers and others toppled the Upper Volta Government of Col Saye Zerbo on the night of **November 7th 1982**. He has turned our military into agents of terror. Our people have yet again demonstrated heroic struggle and triumphed. Great change is upon us; our rebirth as a nation is imminent. Where have we come from? Where are we heading? These questions demand clear and firm answers if we want to move forward confidently towards even more resounding victories, and that we will. Our lands are desolate, our people starving, ridden with disease; we have watched promising leader after promising leader rise to power only to ignore the Voltaic people. People of Upper Volta, delegates, our working class, the petit bourgeoisie, the peasantry, the lumpen-proletariat, anyone with true Voltaic spirit, the time is now.

Political Landscape

Since independence in 1960, we have yet to see a head of state leave office through an actual electoral loss. Every transition of power has been part of an endless cycle of coups. This pattern is described as praetorianism, a phenomenon in which political institutions are too weak to absorb the demands of social groups, forcing those groups to act directly rather than through former diplomatic channels. Each leader to come to power has failed to meet the demands of labor unions, junior officers, regional elites, and the education department, leading to a transfer of power to whichever portion of these groups happens to have the most immediate power. As social beings, humans derive their sense of identity and purpose from the shared norms and interaction that are upheld in society. When governments fail, the resulting frustration is typically directed at the system itself, that demand a fundamental shift from whatever just failed (Lovato et al.). Because of this radical ideologies are very effective in whatever direction they go in because it provides the people with “a train to hop onto” that makes them feel successful. This is especially apparent in the recently imprisoned group of Junior officers: Thomas Sankara, Blaise Compaoré, and Henri Zongo, who have extensive military training and schooling that exposed them to more radical teachings. This group, "Communist Officers' Group" (ROC), is directly responsible for the ousting of the corrupt and directionless Col Zerbo.

President Ouedraogo, on the other hand, is really just a physician with no real independent power base of his own, which is probably why he was chosen as a compromise between left radicals and conservatives. The main reason for his installation was to incorporate younger officers of the army into the cabinet, or in other words, skew the cabinet more radically left (Williamson 28). At the same time, Somé Yorian, who served as the officer who led the coup against Zerbo, remained Chief of Staff in the new CSP government. Yorian holds the most institutionally powerful military roles in the country.

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Politically, he represents the conservative or more moderate wing of the CSP (leans more French) (29).

The key issue within the current governing party is a stark difference between these two parties: the ROC radicals who hold less political power but garner more support and loyalty, and the conservative/moderate branch of the CSP, which, despite being unpopular, holds political power. Conservatives supported the power of Mossi chiefs and civilian political groups, while radical soldiers supported communist and/or socialist styled governments. This will continue to plague our committee because *how exactly can we decide on how democracy and the rule of law should be? What is the place and purpose of the military in politics? What political system would benefit Upper Volta the most? Should we be thinking about what the world has to say?* So many questions that you delegates will hopefully debate about extensively.

Governing Bodies

(UDV) -RDA	Rassemblement Démocratique Africain	1958-1966	Yameogo ruling single party	Under the greater RDA with factions throughout African countries. French Loyalist
GNR	National Government for Renewal	1974-1980	Military single party	Replaced the 1970 constitution
CMRPN	The Military Committee of Recovery for National Progress	1980-Nov 1982	Military junta (seized power by force)	Led by Col Zerbo known for suspending the constitution and gov corruption
CSP	(Provisional) Council of Popular Salvation	CURRENT	Military junta ~120 soldiers	Mixed progressive, radical and moderate ideologies. Head of state: Ouédraogo

Radical/Left

ROC	Communist Officers group	Military faction	Central role in Nov 7 coup with members in CSP. Radical junior officer movement connecting military bloc with civilian
LIPAD	Patriotic League for Development	Civilian party	Mass front for the communist party closely aligned with ROC
PCRV	Voltaic Revolutionary Communist Party	Civilian Party	Holds influence in trade unions and student movements. Relatively underground Marxist-Leninist and anti-imperialist
CSV	Voltan Trade Union Confederation	Trade union confederation	Part of the CSP's first acts --> legalizes major unions. Holds a prominent role in past coups

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Conservative/Moderate

(UDV) -RDA	Rassemblement Démocratique Africain	Yameogo ruling single party	Under greater RDA with factions throughout African countries. French Loyalist
	The Traditional Chieftaincy	Non-aligned??	Pre-colonial authority that opposed large movements radically or conservatively
UNDD	National union for democracy and development	Civilian party	Oppositional party usually leaning moderate-right

International

CILSS	Regional drought coordination body active since 1972	13 member states committed to food security and effects of droughts in the Sahel region.
OCP	Onchocerciasis Control Programme active since 1974	WHO organization focused on controlling and eliminating onchocerciasis

Humanitarian Conditions

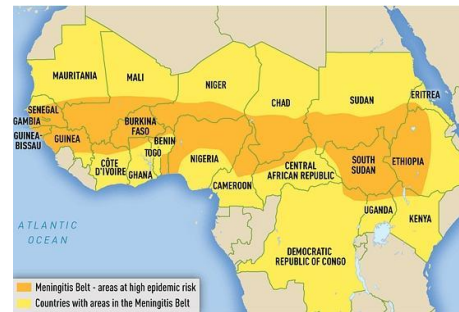
Healthcare Crisis

Onchocerciasis: Seven countries (Ivory Coast, Benin, Upper Volta, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo) are victims of Onchocerciasis, but Upper Volta is by far the most affected, with 84% of its area being infested with this disease and 90% of its population inhabiting this region of prevalence. As a consequence, the Volta Valley regions of fertile land have been completely abandoned (WHO Ministry of Rural Development 1). Onchocerciasis, otherwise known as “river blindness,” is caused by the parasitic worm *Onchocerca volvulus*, spread via bites from infected blackflies. Infective larvae are then transmitted to another human with subsequent bites (WHO Onchocerciasis). Symptoms include severe itching and various skin changes. In severe cases, infected people may develop eye lesions, which can lead to visual impairment or permanent blindness. In November 1974, the OCP was launched with the first recurrent aerial sprayings of larvicide in Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Mali, and Niger (World Bank).

The OCP has had promising effects on redevelopment in rural regions. After its implementation, measured regions experienced a 14% increase in production rate between 1980 and 1982 and an 82% increase in products marketed (WHO Ministry of Rural Development 11). As a primarily agricultural and livestock-based economy, repairing these key regions is fundamental to the nation's prosperity. *With this in mind, the current organization only covers 7% of affected areas; in what ways can this initiative be expanded to other regions without relying on international aid?*

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Meningococcal meningitis is a severe bacterial infection that causes swelling in the protective brain and spinal cord membrane, transmitted through respiratory droplets or saliva (Cleveland Clinic). The Meningitis Belt describes a region that spans across the West to East regions of the African continent in well a belt shape. This region is especially susceptible in cycles of 5 to 10 years due to its long dry seasons and following rain. Winds that carry dust, high temperatures, and low humidity in this described season can cause damage to the respiratory system, increasing the risk of this invasive disease. Other factors like population immunity and crowded living conditions affect the spread of disease as well. Historically, this has been treated with an intramuscularly given sulfonamide (CDC).



Between January and May of 1979, an epidemic of group C meningococcal meningitis broke out in eastern Upper Volta, reaching a total of ~539 cases reported, with a 10% fatality rate. Contrary to meningitis epidemics that bombarded the region in prior years, this particular strain was more infectious and treatment-resistant. Vaccination efforts have the potential to reduce the number of cases in coming meningitis seasons; however, Upper Volta, like many other belt nations, lacks the means for immunizations on that scale (Broome et al.).

Health Frameworks: Despite extensive demand for healthcare reform and increasing rates of disease throughout upper volta, the public health system is underfunded. Chronic budget deficits such as those seen during Lamizana's rule left little room for health spending, even if systems for infrastructure may exist. And even where facilities such as a disease surveillance system or a public hospital exist, utilization is low and continues to fall.

In an effort to address this, Upper Volta receives international aid focusing on the field of “disease control,” an often favored approach by global donors despite its poor performance in application. Particularly in low- and middle-income countries, these eradication programs, implemented in numerous countries, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, and South and Southeast Asia, on paper are receiving piles and piles of money thrown at them and have short-term success but lack the oversight or planning really for long-term recovery (Unger et al.). Because of this, longer-term care, such as investment in the actual medical professionals and institutions for receiving care get handed to the private sector. This becomes especially important when we consider health reforms that are best performed publicly, like mass vaccination efforts to curb the rate of malaria, meningitis, and infant deaths. Early initiatives that have been put into place on paper, like the OCP and meningitis response programs, both mirror this form of healthcare. *How should balancing the private and public sectors for healthcare influence Upper Voltaic policies?*

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Literacy and Education

As of 1983, Upper Volta's literacy rate stood at approximately 7 percent, among some of the lowest in the world (World Factbook 1982 245). With such limited literacy rates, the country's administrative, economic, and military capacity is severely limited to a select few. A population with limited literacy cannot easily staff civil service roles, participate in labor organizations, or participate in agricultural and health interventions that are necessary to the prosperity of the nation. Literacy is directly related to who gets to hold power and have a say in political decisions. Currently (especially during Lamizana's time), these positions are inhabited by wealthy merchants, military elites, and feudal landlords who contribute to the rampant internal corruption in Upper Volta. *Only ... how would education reforms even be funded within the existing budget, or are only the elite worthy of dictating?*

Economics More Like Ec-OhNo-mics

Evolution: GDP per capita Burkina Faso		
Date	GDP per capita	GDP P.C. Annual Growth
1983	\$233	-10.9%
1982	\$261	-9.1%
1981	\$287	-15.0%
1980	\$338	30.7%
1979	\$259	15.5%
1978	\$224	27.2%
1977	\$176	13.2%
1976	\$155	1.7%
1975	\$153	22.6%

Upper Volta continues to be structurally landlocked and agriculture-dependent since independence. Roughly 90% of the population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, with cotton as the main cash crop being produced. Commodity dependence like this leaves countries' economies particularly unstable, as its product prices rely on international market prices. Supply, demand, seasonality, and other factors can have grave implications for a country like Upper Volta. Cash crops in particular promote overfarming to keep up with demand or to make an actual profit. This can lead to overfarming, putting natural resources and land in extenuating circumstances (Coke-Hamilton). With such little variation, one little weather change can crash the entire economy.

Poor regulation in government finances continues to worsen the budget deficit. There is a habit within the government of patronage, overspending on personal gain and military funding, and mysterious loans that accounted for depleting 12% of the total government's revenue. This forces reliance on global powers, the central bank, and other commercial lenders, which directly contribute to inflation (Azam et al. 66)

International

France and other international powers have been in a prolonged ideological standoff involving the United States and the Soviet Union. Many colonial powers were increasingly paranoid over countries siding with the USSR and reacted strongly to nationalist and socialist movements, in some cases resulting in brutal conflicts (Armchair Historian ~7 min). **Delegates should research how Upper Volta fits into global contexts (I'm tired and will not be).*

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Key Information

- I. **Mercantilism** — defined in the 16th/18th centuries, European countries looked at the colonies that they were ruling over; they wanted to maximize exports and minimize imports from the ruling country. All in all, a zero-sum game where one side has to lose for the other side to gain.
- II. **Balkanization** — when a larger body fractures into many smaller, hostile states. An example is when the USSR fell apart; it became a cluster of aggressive bodies.
- III. **Coup** — every single time coup is written in the background guide above, it isn't the impressive definition; it's short for *Coup d'État*, which means a government takeover and can be both done by force or by agreement.
- IV. **Puppet government** — Although it seems easy to define, here's still a recap. It's when a country still has the outward appearance of independence, with its own flags, governments, laws and so and so forth. However, internally, the officials are bought off, or even part of another country.
- V. **Protectorate** — indirect colonial control where a weaker state technically has sovereignty but the colonial powers actually control its foreign and domestic affairs. Ex: Haute-Volta and France
- VI. **Patronage** — Loyalty is exchanged for favors, especially monetarily, rather than earned through political performance. Ex: Since independence, the Voltaic government has been struggling with debt because of a lot of patronage.
- VII. **Austerity** — spending cuts from the government intended to reduce a deficit; in the case of Upper Volta its really only causing strikes and coups
- VIII. **Onchocerciasis (river blindness)** — disease spread through blackflies with devastating effects for Upper Volta.
- IX. **Mossi** — The largest ethnic group in Burkina Faso

1895	French protectorate over Haute-Volta
1915-1916	Volta-Bani War
1932	Colony dissolved
1947	Upper Volta re-established as a colony
1960	Independence!!! → Yameogo becomes president
1966	Coupe against Yameogo → Lamizana takes power
1970	New constitution → Partial civilian rule
1972-1974	Drought Crisis
1980	Lamizana ousted by Zerbo
1982 (may)	Sankara, Compaore, Zongo imprisoned
1982 (Nov)	Zerbo Ousted → CPSP formed with Ouedraogo in power
<u>Technically havnt happened (and may not this is only to historically ground you)!!!</u>	
1983 (Aug)	Sankara becomes president → forms CNR
1984	Renamed Burkina Faso → Land of the upright people

This is a secret background guide reading appreciation: If you send an email to the committee stating: "Come on, Upper Volta, you better coup" with a candy/snack/other? request I will bring it to you in committee, but you do also have to recite it again out loud in committee; extra points for saying it with a little flair. :)

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Goals For Committee

- Break the endless coup cycle beyond just taking preventative measures
- Rebuild trust between the Voltaic people and the government
- Reduce economic dependency on colonial powers
- Find a style of government that can satisfy both the Western supporters and the Radicals
- Rebuild trust with the countries around Upper Volta
- Prevent more civilian unrest
- Bring the nation out of its financial, disease, famine, and educational crisis for increased quality of life

Questions to Consider

- What trends can explain the constant cycle of coups and political unrest? How can understanding this help us to create just structures for the future?
- What factors need to be present in society and government for successful reform?
- In the event of a civilian uprising, which has proven to be very successful, what is the “right” course of action?
- What unique or alternative strategies can be adopted to place Upper Volta on the global stage?
- What frameworks and regulations, if any, should be reinforced in the government?
- How is the cycle of systemic economic struggle in Upper Volta going to be broken?
- Labor Unions have been the things that make or break a government in this situation; how are you going to satisfy the workers and teachers while navigating national debt?
- Remember the French! How can things be balanced between nationalistic African countries, including Upper Volta, and the economic stability that Western nations can offer?
- How can we incorporate women and youth populations into framing policies?

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Committee members

By approximate affiliation/role

1. Jean Baptiste Ouédraogo (Current Head of State)
2. Thomas Sankara (Radical junior officer, ROC Regroupment des Officiers Communistes)
3. Blaise Compaoré (ROC)
4. Henri Zongo (ROC)
5. Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lengani (ROC)
6. Adjutant Christophe Saba (Permanent Secretary of the Popular Council of Salvation)
7. Gilbert Diendéré (Young soldier under Compaoré's command)
8. Hama Arba Diallo (Diplomat **Later historical role**)
9. Frédéric Kiemde (Legal Specialist **Later historical role**)
10. Serge Théophile Balima (Media Professional **Later historical role**)
11. Soumane Touré (General secretary of Confédération Syndicale Burkinabè)
12. Adama Touré (National Union of African Teachers)
13. Babou Paulin Bamouni (Civilian - Prominent journalist)
14. Joseph Ki-Zerbo (Supporter of the National Union of African Teachers)
15. Philippe Ouédraogo (Representative of the African Independence Party)
16. Patrice Zagré (Prominent Marxist philosophy teacher)
17. Archbishop Paul Y. Ouédraogo (Archbishop of the Bobo-Dioulasso)
18. Frédéric Guirma (President of the Comité d'Action pour une Transition Civile)
19. Colonel Gabriel Somé Yorian (Conservative member of the CSP leader of coup against Zerbo)
20. Colonel-Major Fidèle Guébré (Conservative member of the CSP)
21. Maurice Yaméogo (Former Upper Voltan president, RDA)
22. Saye Zerbo (Former Upper Voltan president, french loyalist)
23. Ambassador of France (Null)
24. Ambassador of Libya (Null)
25. Ambassador of Ivory Coast (Null)

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