

Understanding the Mechanisms of 1989 in Europe - A Simulation on Regime Change

Complete Manual with Actors' Cards and Facilitators' Package

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Are you interested in using the simulation? Please contact us and share your experiences!

Humanity in Action Deutschland e.V.

Kollwitzstr. 94-96, 10435 Berlin

Tel.: +49 (0)30 443082-71

Email: germany@humanityinaction.org

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CONTENT

- 1. Information for simulation game facilitators 3
 - 1.1 Some basics about simulation methodology and objectives 3
 - 1.2 Scenario outline 3
 - 1.3 The “Solution” (A common statement with proposed resolutions) 4
 - 1.4 Table of actor’s interests 6
 - 1.5 Action cards for game facilitators 8
 - 1.6 Simulation structure / schedule for game facilitators 8
 - 1.7 Practicalities 10
- 2. Information for the simulation participants 12
 - 2.1 Introduction to the Simulation Scenario: Civil Unrest in Allonia 13
 - 2.2 Basic information about the fictitious country “Allonia” 14
 - 2.3 Issues to be included in the round table agenda 14
 - 2.4. Basic Information on Marxism-Leninism 15
- 3. ACTOR CARDS 17
 - Actor Card A 18
 - Actor Card B1 20
 - Actor Card B2 22
 - Actor Card C 25
 - Actor Card D 27
 - Actor Card E 29
 - Actor Card F1 31
 - Actor Card F2 33
 - Actor Card F3 35

1. Information for simulation game facilitators

1.1 Some basics about simulation methodology and objectives

“In a simulation, participants take on the roles of relevant protagonists, and aim to make a convincing presentation of their protagonists’ positions and aims. By exploring these mechanisms through active role play, a more sustained, in-depth understanding of the subject matter is gained – and it’s a lot of fun!

Politics is a matter of negotiation. Who gets what? And how much? The goal of a negotiation is to unite conflicting interests and to reach mutual decisions concerning such issues as the distribution of money, power, security, and autonomy, amongst others. Usually, negotiations consist of lengthy wranglings about what appear to be only small steps of progress and minor compromises. Observers often find it difficult to understand why political negotiations and attempts to settle conflicts succeed or fail. Further questions might include which concessions have made an agreement possible or which demands have prevented it? Which strategic considerations are the actors led by? What scope are they given within institutional, domestic and other constraints? Which negotiation strategies are successful?

Simulating conflicts and negotiations provides a fun way of learning and understanding the political dynamics behind these processes. This level of deep understanding is the ultimate goal of simulation games. After a negotiation or conflict situation has been decided on, the participants of the game assume the roles of the different parties and agents relevant to this situation. They have to represent their “character’s” interests convincingly and aim to successfully argue these interests in the negotiations. In order to achieve this, they must identify where the scope for negotiation lies and use this to their advantage by recognizing situations that call for compromise.

A simulation will, of course, never perfectly reflect reality. Rather, a simulation game is an abstraction which inevitably involves a certain amount of simplification. Our main focus is to expose the main driving forces and mechanisms of political decision making. Also, to show that in reality, crucial steps of negotiation are usually reached in an informal fashion. This fact is taken into consideration when deciding on the time frame for our simulation games. ”

(Quote from <http://www.planpolitik.de/en/simulationgames.htm>)

1.2 Scenario outline

1. The setting of the simulation is “Allonia”, a fictitious communist country and member of the similarly fictitious Commonwealth of Communist Nations.
2. In Allonia, there is a general climate of discontent and economic depression. Due to recent food shortages demonstrations have arisen and are quickly becoming increasingly forceful.
3. If the status quo is maintained, demonstrations threaten to become so overwhelming that revolution will be inevitable. Simulation participants (7 parties / interest groups / other important stakeholders; all in all 15-30 participants) are therefore forced to take action.
4. The goal of the game is to mutually decide upon a solution that is acceptable for all parties – this must be reached unanimously.

1.3 The “solution” (common statement with your proposed resolutions)

The common statement should contain three sections (i.e. paragraphs) dealing with proposed solutions for:

- I. State & political system**
- II. Economic & labor issues**
- III. Social issues & civil liberties.**

Each section should consist of approximately five sentences and should be prepared by particular sub-commissions in several versions in order to allow options for choosing and negotiating between the actors.

The final statement therefore has the following structure:

1. section with resolutions for the political system
2. section detailing the decisions concerning the economic system
3. section detailing the agreed changes for political and civil liberties/rights

Each section should be prepared in several variations in sub-commissions (to be constituted of representatives of the actors, one representative of each actor in each sub-commission). Then, during the plenary meeting of all the actors, a final list of resolutions must be decided upon.

Note – in case the participants don't reach a common statement within the time provided (which is likely!) – ask them to meet for 5-10 minutes in their teams and decide what further steps their actors will take. They may collaborate with other teams here.

Each actor has the option of dangerous action alternatives to the round table negotiations:

5. A large number of Marxist Union soldiers (about 500,000) are still stationed in Allonia. The Marxist Union may decide to make use of their military power in order to help Allonia to re-establish peace in the country.
6. The leading political party of Allonia could use the Marxist Union troops, introduce martial law, or use their national security service against the opposition.
7. The labour movement of Allonia have enormous support from the workers and could organize mass demonstrations, or most severely claim a general strike and therefore practically stop the state's entire industrial production.
8. The Peace and Human Rights Movement could organize mass demonstrations. They also have strong links to some of the Western powers (that are for example financially supporting their movement) and the Vatican, and thus have the potential to trigger off an international reaction which could go as far as a trade embargo for Allonia.

However, it should be clearly stated, that all parties are reluctant to use these resources. This is mostly because once used, these 'actions' would stand alone and no one would be able to control what happens subsequently.

It is important for the successful implementation of the game that the participants *try* and identify with their roles. Later on in the simulation, they should be encouraged to be creative when implementing their actions – in whichever way suits their role.

The following **façade-reforms** may be provided by participants as a starting point for the discussion:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Removing censorship of some Western literature, e.g. books older than 19th century literature.
- Introduction of an additional national holiday.
- allowing for the construction of new churches
- Withdrawal of a relatively large yet in practice, an insignificant number of Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia (5,000)
- Shortening the compulsory military service from one year to 9 months.
- Extending some 'special' gestures of friendship from the MU to Allonians – e.g. allowing annually 20 students from Allonia to study at MU's universities without tuition fees (de facto indoctrination of communist ideals)
- Allowing the registration of labor movement (under certain restricted conditions)
- Allowing the citizens to legally buy/keep € 50 for personal usage (=slightly opening the currency market, but only in a minor way).

1.4 Table of actors' interests

ACTOR	Representatives of the Commonwealth of People's Republics (talks moderators)	Hardliners	Softliners	Security-Service	Peace & Human Rights Movement	Labor movement	Intellectuals
1. SIZE (4h game / 6h)	2 persons / moderators	3/6 persons	3/6 persons	2 persons	3/6 persons	3/6 persons	3 persons
GOALS	<p>Wants to preserve the stability of the system and dependence of the satellite country.</p> <p>Wants to preserve military presence of the MU in the country.</p> <p>Puts pressure on the party members to act in the interest of the Marxist Union</p> <p>They desire to retain their role as "big brother" in the region</p> <p>They are opposed to all types of actual reform.</p> <p>Desire to introduce "façade-reforms" to alleviate the tensions of the demonstrations.</p> <p>Have a strong connection with the Hardliners</p>	<p>Party members</p> <p>Only party present in public life, under influence of MU Aware that something has to happen. Keep up the appearance that everything is fine Constant competitions between the factions (competition is unknown to the public, as until now everything has been behind closed doors).</p> <p>"Old guard": close to Marxist Union; created the Communist System in Allonia ca. 40 years ago with material support and instructions from the MU</p> <p>Prefers the system as it is-opposed to the soft-liners who are gaining more power-/influence.</p> <p>Utilize the security service to spy upon the soft-liners</p> <p>Are negotiating with social movements for the first time; are opposed to actual reform, rely on the security apparatus and MU to undermine the importance of the social movements.</p>	<p>Young generation that realizes the system needs change and it is imperative that they act.</p> <p>Aware of the coalition between the hardliners and the secret service.</p> <p>They desire political and economic reform.</p> <p>Opposed to the hardliners.</p>	<p>Connected to the Hardliners, and through them, to the MU.</p> <p>Distrusts all sides.</p> <p>Aware of the fact that when the system breaks down, The Security Service may also collapse</p> <p>Are in an alliance of convenience with the Hardliners.</p>	<p>Peace movements under church protection umbrella</p> <p>They want change, but do not specify what sort of change is needed - one of them may be an informer for the security services.</p> <p>A lot of different interests, but economy is not a priority.</p> <p>Hope for change, and intend to unite all the small groups.</p> <p>Have a connection to the people.</p> <p>Voice of the public atmosphere.</p>	<p>Illegal, spontaneous, unregistered.</p> <p>Experience difficulties in the system.</p> <p>Voice of the workers.</p> <p>Possible employee is in the Security Service</p> <p>Main goal: improvement of social/economic standards (opening of the borders for the exchange of consumer goods).</p> <p>'Brain drain' problem</p> <p>Concerned about the current situation, hope to make the economy more competitive.</p>	<p>Presenting their own opinion, not group interests</p> <p>Swing vote</p> <p>Concerned about the situation, however are undecided about revolution or reform.</p> <p>They survived the system without censorship, have some personal connections to the party.</p> <p>Have so far acted within the confines of Communist doctrine.</p> <p>Recognize that life is changing in a negative way.</p> <p>Feel the pressure of the security service.</p> <p>They have the respect of the public.</p>

ACTOR	Representatives of the Commonwealth of People's Republics (talks moderators)	Hard-Liners	Soft-Liners	Security-Service	Peace & Human Rights Movement	Labor movement	Intellectuals
POLITICAL SYSTEM			Reduce the power of the security service. In support of free and transparent elections.	-Maintain the scope of the services of the Security Apparatus. Utilization of force to silence dissent.	Abolish the security apparatus. For a Multi-Party system. Introduce a separation of powers.		Create a commission to oversee Security Service Activities
ECONOMIC ISSUES		Open border just for trade.	Economic liberalization. Some privatization		Working conditions -Food rationing	Working Conditions	
POLITICAL FREEDOMS/ CIVIL LIBERTIES/ SOCIAL ISSUES		Reduce restrictions on travel (less stringent visa laws)	Reduce restrictions on travel, speech, and assembly.	no changes!	Freedom of Travel Freedom of Assembly Freedom of Speech	Allow Unionization	Freedom of Press, Speech, Assembly

Recommended number of participants:

The party: Hardliners 3 -5; Softliners 3–5 / Security service: 2 / Peace & Human Rights Movement 3- 6 / Labor movement 3- 6 / Intellectuals 3 / Moderators:2

Note: for groups with a flexible number, the group should always be equal, e.g. if you choose to have 4, then all the 'flexible' groups must have 4. The difference in 5/6 maximum is because of the 2 security service representatives – always add them to the total number of participants on the government side.

Minimum = 18 people, Maximum = 30. You may also consider to opt for larger 'main' (party + opposition) teams, for example having 6-7 people, and only send the representatives to the round table, whilst the rest run the informal talks, send messages or recommendations, call for a break etc. – the more participants, the more time is needed for the game! It is a bit problematic because a precise number of people is needed – as the groups should be equally strong.

Make sure that every player gets a copy of the individual role card! One copy for the whole group, if the group consists of more than one person, is not enough.

1.5 Action cards for game facilitators

These are 'rescue cards', in case the participants don't manage to fully engage with the simulation and need some more extreme, external incentives in order to more fully engage in the game. You may also use them to boost the action, if this is needed. However please do not use too many of them, as the participants may become less creative.

The best way is to cut them out, fold and put them in a box. You can let the moderators pick one and announce it to the other players.

The political leader of the Marxist Union dies
A small and peaceful demonstration in a minor town is subdued by the police. During the action, a young boy is injured by a bullet and subsequently dies
The communist system in a neighboring state collapses after mass riots. The situation there is very unstable; there are rumors of dozens of deaths.
One of the opposition leaders (not taking part of the round table) is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.
Some serious domestic problems occur in a Western power that was financially supporting the opposition, causing the suspension of donations
One of the opposition leaders (not taking part of the round table) is found to be embezzling money.
One of the hardliners - _____ - during the ongoing negotiations decides to shift towards democratization. He/she publicly and dramatically states that he/she was always loyally serving the system while believing it was for the good of the people. Now realizes that he/she was fooling themselves and doesn't want to live a lie anymore
One of the opposition leaders - _____ - changes sides and joins the party – s/he was bribed.

1.6 Simulation structure / schedule for game facilitators **(6 hour game / 4 hour simulation)**

1. Introduction (20 min / 10 min)
2. Reading phase (20 min / 15min)
(Consider sending the background info in advance to all the participants)
3. Developing opinions / planning strategy (30 min / 30min)
(Approach each team/participant and make sure they know what to do, what the game is about and what their concrete task is)
4. Separate discussions between the party and the opposition (40 min / 30min)
5. Formal talks - 1st round: opening, welcome & initial statements (30 min / 20min)
(After a short opening it is recommended that groups divide into sub-commissions that will work on several variations of statement's paragraphs)

6. Informal talks – 2nd round (40 min / 30min)*
7. Formal negotiations – 2nd round (40 min / final round for the 4-hour version 35 min)
8. Informal talks – 3rd round (40 min, 6h version only)
9. Formal negotiations – final round, voting and writing the final statement (40 min, 6h version only)
10. [optional: a short break for restroom & coffee]
11. Debriefing (60 min / 45min)

**Points 6-9 are suggestions only, as the participants may initiate breaks and get-togethers suitable for them. During that phase facilitators should 'step back' and give the power of organizing the game to the moderators – it's their task! Make sure in advance, that the moderators know what they are to do - and make sure YOU know what they are to do! Read all the descriptions in advance and have a copy of each description for yourself – so you can easily refer to each actor.*

The **introduction** should include:

- a short introduction about what playing a simulation game involves: focus on this in particular if you have a group with little to no experience with simulations
- The schedule should be written out and visible to all (e.g. flipchart)
- A brief presentation of the fictitious country Allonia and of each actor – the names of the actors can also be prepared on paper and displayed
- A picture of the seating arrangement of the interest groups can be put on a flipchart, in order to visualize the “blocs” to all simulation participants

The **debriefing** should include:

- Disclosing the information about one's figures, aim and objectives, so the others will understand why they were behaving in certain ways during the game. The ones with 'dirty secrets'/alternative agendas should make it open – if they were agents etc.
- Talking about the identification of the participants with their roles: the emotions and feelings it caused etc. In particular, what was interesting, tough, challenging for the participants.
- Discussing the game itself – ask participants for their opinion of the purpose of the game. What did they learn?
- Assessing the solution: What is it worth in the political reality? Is it a façade-solution postponing or “outsourcing” the conflicts to future committee meeting – or is it based on sustainable compromise?
- If you work with a young group – discuss the difficulty of political negotiations and decision-making, including the problem of defining one's own political interests and means of achieving it as well as the importance of compromising.
- Wrapping up the discussion: thank your participants for committing to the game and for taking part in this challenging task.
- Always ask for anonymous feedback!

Do not underestimate the importance of the debriefing phase. Give the participants time to 'leave' the game and talk it over. Take care that comfortable conditions are provided, sit in circles.

1.8 Practicalities:

For the game you need:

- At least two rooms: One of them should be equipped with tables and chairs so that the formal negotiations could take place there. The other one can be just the same, but it can also be a corridor or a garden. The players need options to 'hide' when talking informally with different groups.
- A copy of the complete chapter "Information for simulation participants " and one role card for each participant
- A complete manual for the game facilitators. If possible, play the game with two facilitators, especially if the group is large. Otherwise it might be for you a bit too tense to find enough time to talk to every group during the strategy-building phase. Also during the informal talks it would be easy to observe the development of the game if you can share the task with another facilitator.
- Paper, pens, small name tags for the participants, thicker sheets of paper for large name tags with the names of the negotiating groups (to be placed on the round table).
- Water, drinks and snacks. Try to arrange the buffet so that the participants can use it as a place for informal meetings. If a catered lunch/dinner is to be served during the workshop, arrange it with the moderators so that they "include" it into the game (e.g. announce a break in negotiations and a dinner, or even a toast at the beginning of the meal).
- Flipchart and/or blackboard. Make sure you have a flipchart or a poster with the timeline (chapter 1.7.) visible for all the players all the time. You can ask the moderators to take care of the schedule during the game (they may introduce some changes during the negotiations). Your task as game facilitator is to moderate the initial phase (introduction/reading/strategy building) and the debriefing. You can prepare a poster with the visualization of all the actors (as presented in section 1.7).
- A watch so that you can control the time.
- Access to restrooms. However, the participants should be informed that if they take a break to use it, they do it still within the game. You can announce an official 15 min 'toilet & coffee' break after the game and before the debriefing.
- Pieces of paper where the participants can write their anonymous feedback during the debriefing. They could be of different color (e.g. blue cards for "what you like", red cards for "what you dislike") so that it would be easier for you to evaluate it.

2. Information for the simulation participants

Basics about simulations as an educational tool

“In a simulation, you take the roles of the relevant protagonists, having to make a convincing presentation of their positions and aims. Exploring these mechanisms through active role play leads to a more sustained, in-depth understanding of the subject matter – and it’s a lot of fun!

Politics is a matter of negotiation. Who gets what? And how much? The aim is to unite conflicting interests and to reach decisions concerning the distribution of money, power, security, autonomy etc. Which concessions have made an agreement possible or which demands have prevented it? Which strategic considerations are the actors led by? What scope are they given within institutional, domestic and other constraints? Which negotiation strategies are successful?

Simulating conflicts and negotiations provides a playful way of learning and understanding the political dynamics behind them. This is the goal of simulation games. After a negotiation or conflict situation has been chosen, the participants of the game proceed to assume the roles of the different parties and agents relevant to that situation. They have to represent their “character’s” interests convincingly and aim to make them prevail in negotiations. In order to achieve this, they must determine any existing scope for negotiation, use it to their advantage and recognise situations which call for compromise.

A simulation will, of course, never perfectly reflect reality. A simulation game is an abstraction which inevitably involves a certain amount of simplification. The main focus lies with the aim of exposing the main driving forces and mechanisms of political decision making. Also, in a reflection of reality, crucial steps of negotiation are usually reached in an informal fashion.”

(Quote from <http://www.planpolitik.de/en/simulationgames.htm>)

Framework of the simulation

The simulation is set in “Allonia”, a fictitious communist country, member of the likewise fictitious Commonwealth of Peoples’ Republics , an international coalition of Communist Nations. There is a general climate of discontent and economic depression. Due to recent food shortages demonstrations have started and are quickly getting more powerful. If the status quo is maintained, the demonstrations threaten to become so massive that revolution will occur. Therefore the simulation participants (7 parties / interest groups / other important stakeholders; all in all 16-30 participants) have to take action.

The interest groups are:

- Commonwealth of the Peoples Republics (Moderators of the roundtable)
- Democratic Workers Party – Hardliners
- Democratic Workers Party – Softliners
- Secret Intelligence Service
- Opposition Movement / Peace & Religion Movements
- Labor Movement
- Intellectuals

The goal of the game is to find a solution that is acceptable for all the parties to the negotiations – a common statement is to be reached. The participants should try to identify themselves with their roles, and should be creative when implementing it – whatever fits their character, but is not included in the scenario – is acceptable (or if they have doubts about it – they can always ask the facilitator of the game)

2.1 Introduction to the Simulation Scenario: Civil Unrest in Allonia

Revolution! The word appears to be upon everyone's lips. For the first time in decades, the citizens of Allonia have taken to the streets. On the streets of the Sipa, the capital city, 80,000 demonstrators rallied in the city square and called for increased civil and political liberties. In the coming days, the demonstrations threaten to become ever bigger, the demands ever greater, and the possibility of revolution, ever more real.

Even a short time ago, such unrest seemed impossible. For years, residents abstained from voicing opposition to the regime, fearing they would draw the attention of the Democratic Worker's Party (DWP). The DWP came to power decades ago, having forced out the previous Fascist regime with the aid of foreign allies in a brutal war that cost millions of lives. The Party initially enjoyed the support of the population, pushing an agenda of nationalization of industry, collectivization of property, and isolation from the potential fascist influences of other countries. However, these policies quickly translated into economic stagnation as the industrial infrastructure suffered from an exodus of skilled laborers and a lack of trade with non-socialist nations. Early demonstrations were repressed quickly and mercilessly. Organizers were arrested as enemies of the State and many were never heard from again. The Secretariat for Internal Security was created to monitor civil groups for signs of dissent and had the authority to imprison activists indefinitely and without charge.

The Party, ever paranoid about dissent in its population, has severely restricted political freedoms related to speech, press, and assembly. The borders are now not only sealed to trade, but to travel as well. As the economy has suffered, the Party has demanded more and more out of a shrunken labor supply, creating oppressive working conditions.

However, a gust of change has slowly blown over the land. A new generation of Party members, more concerned with economic re-development than anti-fascist credentials have taken a more pronounced role within the Party. The Marxist Union itself has quietly introduced economic reforms designed to liberalize its economy. For a time, it was hoped that changes made to rescue the MU economy would also be mirrored in Allonia.

Ultimately, Party hard-liners in Allonia have proven less liberal than their MU counterparts. The Chairman of the DWP, Goran Bar, has led the Party for decades and is seen as out of touch with the general population. Under his leadership, hardliners have adamantly opposed any concessions in terms of political freedoms or changes. The economy, already in a deep recession, is now on the brink of utter collapse. The situation has grown so dire that, as of six days ago, the Party had to begin rationing food supplies to ensure there was an adequate supply for the winter months.

The reaction from Allonian citizens has been both immediate and forceful. Demonstrators from Churches, democratic movements, and labor groups have banded together to provide a united front against the Socialist Regime. The situation has so rattled the foundations of Allonia that the DWP has agreed to a rare meeting between themselves and the leaders of these social, political, and economic movements. The Marxist Union, ever eager to retain their influence in the future of Allonia, has sent a commission to moderate the discussions. For these parties to fail to come to an accord could prove disastrous for everyone. Failure is not an option. Revolution is brewing on the streets of Allonia...

2.2 Basic information on the fictitious country “Allonia”

- Population: 18 million, 98% Allonian
- Religion: 71% Catholics, 19% atheists, 6% Muslim, 3% other
- Capital: Sipa (2,5 million inhabitants)

- Political system: Peoples' Republic, Communist
 - Established 57 years ago during the so-called 'Glorious Revolution' that wiped out the fascist government (which itself had taken over power 25 years earlier, overthrowing the King)
 - President: Goran Bar (has been in office for 16 years now).

- Member State of the Commonwealth of the People's Republics, an international organization of the communist countries under leadership of the Marxist Union, the largest and most important communist state in the world. Its capital Wenberg is the world's largest centre of communist ideology, both politically and academically.
- Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia: 0,5 million

The political and economic system of Allonia

- Everyone has a right and an obligation to work.
- The public services are financed by the state and free of charge for all the citizens. This includes health care, social security and education on all levels.
- There is no private property of real estate and land. Everything belongs to the people, so in practice – to the state. All companies, utilities and enterprises are state-owned. Housing is also contracted, owned and rented by the state.
- The freedom of movement is very limited. There is an obligatory registration of the place of residence. All inhabitants have to register at the local municipality if they stay in a place different than their residence address, regardless of the purpose of travel.
- A passport is not something that one can keep at home and use whenever one wants it. A person has to apply for it and it is valid only for a journey it was issued for by the authorities. Passports have to be returned after coming back. However, it is likely that one will be denied a passport if the authorities have a slightest suspicion that this person can not get back from abroad (e.g. they have friends or family abroad, they are dissidents, is a friend/spouse/kin/neighbour of someone the authorities don't trust).
- The borders are closed also between the communistic states. It is relatively easier to obtain permission for visiting a country within the bloc than for a capitalistic state.
- There is a censorship office. All the 'not proper' books, TV programs, movies, press articles, music, radio broadcast and other sources of 'wrong' information or content is blocked or limited. Possession, duplication, dissemination of the forbidden information is a penal act.
- There are only two TV channels and two radio stations, all state-owned. The content is controlled by the party and is a perfect source of distribution of the official ideology and propaganda.
- Everyone works for the state (officially – for the society) and there is not a big gap between the earnings. A lawyer or doctor does not earn significantly more than a blue collar, for example. The reason behind is that all the workers are needed in the social system and all of

them have an important and irreplaceable work to do, so it is immoral to diverse the remuneration.

- The prices are not market-regulated (as there is no free market), but officially set up by the state authorities. Very often they don't have much in common with the real value of the product and are based on political grounds.
- There is a shortage of more luxury and expensive goods. In order to get a car or a phone land line connection you have to register by a special list and wait, sometimes several years, until it reaches your turn. Naturally, party members get it faster.
- The bureaucracy is legendary. You need to collect several different stamps and dozen or so different signatures, permissions or licenses from several offices and agencies in order to do even simply things like cutting down a tree or painting balcony in your flat.
- All the communistic state, including the Marxist Union, are members of the Commonwealth of the People Republics. The CPR is an international political organization, but also with sections responsible for military, cultural and commercial cooperation.
- The Marxist Union is the biggest and the richest in the bloc. They claim to have a leading role in the Commonwealth of the People Republics and they sometimes use this for putting pressure on the other communistic states.
- The state is officially antireligious and anticlerical. Ideologies opposing the Marxism-Leninism are banned as well. This refers also to all post-Marxist theories other than Leninism.
- Marxism-Leninism is officially learned at all levels of education, starting from the elementary school up to universities. Disputes over the ideology are not allowed and may cause a suspicion of opposing communism and therefore being an enemy of the state.

2.3 Issues for the agenda of the round table

I. State & Political System

II. Economic & Labor Issues

III. Social Issues & Civil Liberties.

Each section should consist of approximately five sentences and should be prepared by particular sub-commissions in several versions in order to allow options for choosing and negotiating between the actors. Which specific topics are to be included, is to be decided during the negotiations.

The final statement therefore has the following structure:

1. section with resolutions for the political system
2. section detailing the decisions concerning the economic system
3. section detailing the agreed changes for political and civil liberties/rights (if there are any)

2.4 Basic information on Marxism–Leninism

This section is for your reference only. If you already have some knowledge on this political system, you do not have to read that part.

Marxism-Leninism is a communist ideology, officially based upon the theories of Marxism and Vladimir Lenin, that promotes the development and creation of an international socialist, and ultimately, a communist society through the leadership of a vanguard party presiding over a revolutionary socialist state that represents a dictatorship of the proletariat. Marxism-Leninism (and its derivatives) was the dominant ideology of the international Communist movement following the ascension of Joseph Stalin in the Soviet Union, and as such, it is the political ideology and movement most often associated with the word "Communism".

Under direction of the Vanguard party, Marxist-Leninist society seeks to purge anything considered bourgeois, idealist, or religious from it. It supports the creation of a single-party state. It rejects political pluralism external to communism, claiming that the proletariat need a single, able political party to represent them and exercise political leadership. Through the policy of democratic centralism, the communist party is the supreme political institution of the Marxist-Leninist state.

Marxism–Leninism is a far-left ideology based on principles of class conflict, egalitarianism, dialectical materialism, rationalism and social progress. It is anti-bourgeois, anti-capitalist, anti-conservative, anti-fascist, anti-imperialist, anti-liberal, anti-reactionary, and is opposed to bourgeois democracy.

Additionally, Marxist-Leninism opposes other forms of Marxian socialism, including Left communism, Council communism, Social democracy and Trotskyism (which it derides as being "revisionist") as well as non-Marxist socialist movements, such as anarchism and syndicalism.

The Marxism-Leninist state utilizes a centrally planned state socialist economy. It supports public ownership of the economy and supports the confiscation of all private property that becomes public property administered by the state, while personal property is left untouched. It typically replaces the role of market in the capitalist economy with centralized state management of the economy that is known as a command economy.

Components:

1. Social. Marxism-Leninism supports widespread universal social welfare. Improvements in public health and education, provision of child care, provision of state-directed social services, and provision of social benefits are deemed by Marxist-Leninists to help to raise labor productivity and advance a society in development towards a communist society. This is part of Marxist-Leninists' advocacy of promoting and reinforcing the operation of a planned socialist economy. It advocates universal education with a focus on developing the proletariat with knowledge, class consciousness, and understanding and support for communism.

Marxist-Leninist policy on family law has typically involved: the elimination of the political power of the bourgeoisie, the abolition of private property, and an education that taught citizens to abide by a disciplined and a regulated lifestyle dictated by the norms of communism as a means to establish a new social order.

Marxism–Leninism supports the emancipation of women and ending the exploitation of women. The advent of a classless society, the abolition of private property, society collectively assuming many of the roles traditionally assigned to mothers and wives, and women becoming integrated into industrial work has been promoted as the means to achieve women's emancipation.

Marxist-Leninist cultural policy focuses upon modernization and distancing society from: the past, the bourgeoisie, and the old intelligentsia. Agitprop and various associations and institutions are used by the Marxist-Leninist state to indoctrinate society with the values of communism. Both cultural and educational policy in Marxist-Leninist states have emphasized the development of a "New Man" - an ideal class conscious, knowledgeable, heroic proletarian person devoted to work and collectivism as opposed to the unideal "bourgeois individualist" associated with cultural backwardness.

2. Economic. A central component of most Marxist-Leninist economics is the command economy. Under a command economy, the Marxist-Leninist state owns most of the capital and the land of a territory, it is a planned economy where state planning replaces market mechanisms and price mechanisms as the guiding principle of the economy. The state set long-term plans for the economy, including setting production targets and coordinated various aspects of the economy.

The Marxist-Leninist state's huge purchasing power in theory replaces the role of market forces, with macroeconomic equilibrium not being achieved through market forces but by government intervention. State commands replace the profit motive. The command economy permits a small amount of private property to remain for necessary personal use. Wages are set and differentiated according to skill and intensity of work.

Marxism–Leninism since the mid-1930s has advocated a socialist consumer society based upon egalitarianism, asceticism, and self-sacrifice. Previous attempts to replace the consumer society as derived from capitalism with a non-consumerist society failed and in the mid-1930s permitted a consumer society, a major change from traditional Marxism's anti-market and anti-consumerist theories. These reforms were promoted to encourage materialism and acquisitiveness in order to stimulate people to work better and achieve economic growth. This pro-consumerist policy has been advanced on the lines of "industrial pragmatism" as it advances economic progress through bolstering industrialization.

3. Political System. Marxism–Leninism supports the creation of a single-party state led by a Marxist-Leninist communist party as a means to develop socialism and then communism. The political structure of the Marxist-Leninist state involves the rule of a communist vanguard party over a revolutionary socialist state that represents the will and rule of the proletariat. Through the policy of democratic centralism, the communist party is the supreme political institution of the Marxist-Leninist state.

Elections are held in Marxist-Leninist states for all positions within the legislative structure, municipal councils, national legislatures and presidencies. In most Marxist-Leninist states this has taken the form of directly electing representatives to fill positions, though in some states; such as China, Cuba, and the former Yugoslavia; this system also included indirect elections such as deputies being elected by deputies as the next lower level of government. These elections are not competitive multiparty elections and most are not multi-candidate elections; usually a single communist party candidate is chosen to run for office in which voters vote either to accept or reject the candidate. Where there have been more than one candidates, all candidates are officially vetted before being able to stand for candidacy and the system has frequently been structured to give advantage to official candidates over others.

Marxism–Leninism asserts that society is united upon common interests represented through the communist party and other institutions of the Marxist-Leninist state and in Marxist-Leninist states where opposition political parties have been permitted they have not been permitted to advocate political platforms significantly different from the communist party. Marxist-Leninist communist parties have typically exercised close control over the electoral process of such elections, including involvement with nomination, campaigning, and voting - including counting the ballots.

(from: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marxism-Leninism>)

3. ACTOR CARDS

Actor Card A

Moderators: Representatives of the Commonwealth of the People's Republics

Actor Card B1-2: Members of the Party:

"The Party" is the only political representation of Allonia and strongly under the influence of the Marxist Union. There is an ongoing rivalry between two factions within the party.

Actor Card B1

Democratic Worker's Party (DWP) – Hardliners

Actor Card B2

Democratic Worker's Party (DWP) – Softliners

Actor Card C

Secret Intelligence Service (SIS)

Actor Card D

Opposition: Peace & Human Rights Movement

Actor Card E

Labor Movement

Actor Cards F 1-3: Intellectuals

- *have been invited to the round table because they have the respect of the public and are believed to represent parts of society that are not directly covered by the opposition movement.*
- *do not really constitute a group, present their own opinion, they may be swing voters*
- *concerned about the situation, yet undecided about revolution or reform*

Actor Card F1

Prof. Dr. Erich Morar
Extremist Communist Ideologist

Actor Card F2

Kaylene de Mag
Journalist

Actor Card F3

Rev. Falco Zach
Priest

Actor Card A

Moderators: Representatives of the Commonwealth of the People's Republics

You are the representatives of the Commonwealth of the People's Republics and are responsible for moderating the round table talks in the state of Allonia.

Shortly after the unrest in Allonia started, the leaders of the Commonwealth of the People's Republics held a special summit. They were worried that the demonstrations might spread and that the government of Allonia could well be overthrown. They are aware that if the situation in Allonia is not brought under control, similar unrests might appear in their own territory.

The council of Commonwealth of the People's Republics (CPR) therefore decided to send an observer to Allonia, who could eventually even function as a mediator. This way, they are attempting to control the situation and also to steer it in the most desirable direction – that is, by calming the unrest and preserving the communist system. This 'offer' to have the talks be moderated by a CPR 'observer' has been accepted by the Allonian government as well as the opposition movement.

The composition of the round table negotiators is your idea. You have decided to include – besides the government and some groups representing the people on the streets – a wider spectrum of the society, like younger fractions of the communistic party but also some non-official representatives of social groups not directly participating in the conflict. Eventually you ended up with:

- two groups representing the State side – the Hardliners being in the government and the Softliners representing younger generation of the party, occupying less prominent positions
- two groups representing the rebelling groups – labor movement and the human rights movements
- three individually appointed experts that you believed to somehow be the voice of the groups not being represented by the other parties – academia, media and religious organizations.

Personally you oppose any actual reform, but you must act as a neutral mediator. You have strong connections with the hard-line fraction in the Democratic Workers Party and can count on support from the SIS. However, the Party members themselves are not crucial for you. If replacing the old guard with new recruits is a suitable measure, then you will part with them. All your activity aiming on preserving the system should be secret and limited to informal talks, so that in public you are able keep your image as a neutral arbitrator and that you do not fail as a moderator.

Think of your strategy!

- Formulate a brief statement of your role and interests to introduce yourself at the roundtable!
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- What solution are you going to 'lead' the participants to? Remember that you as the moderators of the talks have the power to impose the topics and aims. Make use of it!
- What is your strategy towards the opposition movements? Are you going to look for allies, buy support or threaten?
- Do you want to anyhow make use of the secret service?
- How can you influence the Party members so that your preferred solution is being voted for?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

In short your role is to:

- prevent of violence and revolution
- preserve both the stability of the system and, if possible, the dependence of the satellite country
- but before all: you have to make sure the talks run smoothly. In order to do so, make sure you:
 - Talk with all the participants about the **rules for debating** (e.g. not interrupting, making rounds with statements and round with discussions, asking for breaks etc.) **and voting** (every group shall have one voice, if it is majority or unanimity voting, shall be decided by everyone at the beginning of the formal talks) and that everyone agrees to that.
 - **Control the time**. Do not let anyone to abuse the time given – the parties are equal, when it comes to time given for their presentation.
 - **Guard the rules**. Do not hesitate to interrupt if someone abuses the rules that you agreed upon (e.g. takes to much time, threatens others with violence, starts arguing in the statements-only part, talks off-topic and similar).
 - Consider asking someone to **take notes or minutes**. It will help you organizing the topics that have been discussed and preliminary solutions.
 - If the formal talks get stuck or get too hectic/aggressive – announce a break. The parties should be given a chance to talk informally before. This should alleviate most of the tensions. Also, changes in the agenda are acceptable, you do not have to stick on the initial timetable the moderator prepared. If you need more guidance, talk to the game facilitator.
 - The first formal negotiation round should be short and specific. You should discuss the rules and then make a round of statements, at least without a consecutive discussion. It is better that it happens in informal talks.
 - Remember the *savoir-vivre*. Make sure you welcome everyone properly, that you give enough attention to the state officials and treat everyone with a proper respect.
 - Stay objective. Also, do not overuse your time for long speeches. You are a moderator, not an arbiter. This means that you only facilitate the talks, but you do not impose any solutions on the parties nor pick favorites.

Timetable:

1. Formal talks - 1st round: opening, welcome & initial statements (30 min // 20min*)
2. Informal talks – 2nd round (40 min // 30min)**
3. Formal negotiations – 2nd round (40 min // 35 min, final round, voting and writing the final statement)
4. Informal talks – 3rd round (40 min, 6h version only)
5. Formal negotiations – 3rd round (40 min, final round, voting and writing the final statement, 6h version only)

**First number refers to a 6-hours version of the game. Second, shorter one if for the 4-hours version.*

***Points 2-5 are suggestions only, as the participants – as well as you - may initiate breaks and get-togethers suitable for the particular situation.*

You are:

Marta Kopesh – working for the Ministry of Information and Public Education in Ralavia (neighboring country of Marxist Union and Allonia),

Larry Raine – from the Marxist Union, currently in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Marxist Union.

Actor Card B1

Democratic Worker's Party (DWP) – Hardliners

You are first generation party members and participated in the “Glorious Revolution”, which overthrew the fascist government with the support of the Marxist Union. You put your heart and soul into the development of Allonia and ensured its success today as an honest democratic workers state.

When you were young, you studied in the Marxist Union, where you first became acquainted with the idea of communism. You are convinced that communism is the future. During your studies you also got in contact with MU state officials, who supported you financially, politically and militarily to install the DWP as a single party in Allonia after the Glorious Revolution. These years have shaped you and you still hold strong ties with the “Old Guard” of the political apparatus of the MU.

Despite this, however, you have recently disagreed strongly with the politics in the Marxist Union which are seeing the Union becoming increasingly liberal - something that you can also see happening in Allonia: A group of young party members, the Softliners, who have not suffered the hardship of the Glorious Revolution, see this liberalization as best for the state. You however think that liberalization and modernization are the wrong tools for achieving true socialism and you fear that it might even bring about a dangerous westernization which could ultimately destroy your workers' state. In order to counteract these liberal and ‘capitalist’ tendencies you must use the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) to tighten your grip on the society of Allonia and the political ‘opposition’: You previously made sure that the slightest action against the state or any anti communist attitude in the society was quashed and therefore encouraged the SIS to install a dense network of informers within the society. You also asked the SIS to keep an eye on the Softliners within your own party.

The situation on the street also worries you deeply and you are afraid of losing control of the situation. The SIS informed you of a great increase in agitation and insubordination that was present even within your own party, a fact which troubles you the most. Even the respected intellectual Erich Morar, a true communist, now finds faults with your administration.

As for the mass demonstrations, you know that something must be done to placate the people, but you only want to create the illusion of change. The round table talks are part of this illusion. In order to improve the economic situation you might even offer to temporarily open the borders for trade or to loosen the visa requirements. You are not willing to share the real power with the Softliners, not only out of fear that they might undertake troublesome inquiries about past uprisings in Allonia. Regarding the protests, you are even willing to give further responsibilities and manpower to the SIS.

In short:

- You have created the Communist System approximately 40 years ago with material support and instructions from the Marxist Union
- You prefer the status quo and oppose reforms – prefer “façade-reforms” only to alleviate tension.
- You have close relationship with the Security Service and the Representatives of the Commonwealth.
- You do not want to give over the power
- You fear serious unrests on the street and a revolution to occur. You will do much in order to avoid it – but you also want to retain the political system as it is, because you believe in communism.

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side?
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- What solution are you aiming at? Remember that you as the people in power still have the power to impose the topics and goals. Make use of it!
- What is your strategy towards the opposition movements? Are you going to look for allies, buy support or threaten?
- What are you possible able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

Reform proposals

In order to avoid serious changes of the current system, you already proposed a list of possible reforms you are willing to introduce. Although you present them as big compromises, you actually know that they are merely façade reforms.

The following reforms/façade-reforms can be proposed by the party as a starting point for the discussion:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Removing censorship of some Western literature, e.g. books older than 19th century literature.
- Introduction of an additional national holiday.
- Allowing for the construction of new churches
- Withdrawal of a relatively large yet in practice, an insignificant number of Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia (5,000)
- Shortening the compulsory military service from one year to 9 months.
- Extending some 'special' gestures of friendship from the MU to Allonians – e.g. allowing annually 20 students from Allonia to study at MU's universities without tuition fees (de facto indoctrination of communist ideals)
- Allowing the registration of labor movement (under certain restricted conditions)
- Allowing the citizens to legally buy/keep € 50 for personal usage (=slightly opening the currency market, but only in a minor way).

Your representatives at the round table are:

Goran Bar – President of Allonia who has been in office for 16 years, truly committed both to the state and to the communist ideology, unwilling to share power. Recently heart problems have troubled him, yet he is still unwilling to step down.

Elisabeth Zopp – Minister for Media and Public Information, responsible for propaganda, controls the media and its content; newly appointed – eager to prove that she is worthy of this prominent position.

Vladimir Radko – Minister of Home Affairs for several years, governs the police and other public services. Rules and order are the main values for him.

Actor Card B2

Democratic Worker's Party (DWP) – Softliners

You are the party's young generation! You are devoted to the idea of communism but you want a kind of communism that ensures a dignified life for everybody, namely honest payment for honest work!

You initially supported the food rationing that sparked the social unrests, but also anticipated some sort of public discontent. However, at no point were you expecting mass demonstrations of this size! This could however be your moment – the moment to finally get rid of the 'Old guards' of the DWP. You sense that these round table talks might give you a chance to take over and you have decided to oppose the Old guards.

However, you also realize that there is a need for reform within the system. To achieve a just communist society you must open up the borders for trade with the neighboring countries as well as within the MU and other fraternal communist states. The strict centrally planned economy could even be improved by some privatization in one way or another. Actually, you may even support more of market economy, if this would prevent the state from going bankrupt. You are more and more aware on how the ideology and old ideas blinded the old guard, that fails to see that the times have changed and that people are unhappy with what Allonia has become. You hope that giving the initiative back to the people will improve the economy as well as focus them on doing their business instead of demonstrations.

The mass demonstrations also show that there does need to be some sort of political liberalization. Within limits you can imagine reducing restrictions on travel, speech and assembly; and you believe that this may promote peace within society.

But you are aware that the main issue is the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). It is not only one of the hardliner's most influential instruments of power, but people are also sick of being under surveillance all the time. You are aware that the SIS operates a very effective and widespread net of informers within the society. The information gained by the SIS is passed on to the hardliners. This way the Hardliners are always prepared to act and to quash the slightest action that they see as being against the state. You even have the feeling that sometimes the Hardliners are very well informed about your own strategies. Therefore one of your main goals is to reduce the presence and responsibilities of the SIS. For example no person should be imprisoned without trial and if this ignored, the SIS should be further monitored and controlled by the party. This position would make you popular within society and reduce the power of the hardliners. If you could only gain access to the archives of the SIS you might even be able to find some information on the hardliners which could be used against them. 40 years ago a smaller revolt was quashed through the use of the military – and it's still not clear if the MU send its troops of its own accord or because the hardliners asked them for help.

To conclude: you want to get rid of the hardliners and gain power yourself. Therefore you are willing to cooperate with actors from the society. You think that the labor movement in particular have - some good ideas about how the economy can be improved. However you also know that some civil liberties would be good to appease the demonstrations. And you need some peace to install the communism that you envision after you overthrow the hardliners and get rid of the influence of the MU.

In short:

- you realize that the system needs change and it is imperative that they act.
- you are aware of the coalition between the hardliners and the secret service. You also know that the moderators from the Commonwealth may have some hidden agenda. Therefore you should be careful before you learn what they aim at.
- you favor partially free and transparent elections
- you do much to get rid of the Old Guard and take over the power
- you know that there is a need for compromises with the people if the regime is to be supported

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side? Who should you treat carefully?
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- What solution are you aiming at? You are somewhere in the middle – in the party, so at least a bit acceptable for the hardliners, but you are still not fully discredited by the opposition movements. You may act as a bridge between the groups or win both for an option of you taking over the power from the hardliners and secure some reforms. Make use of it!
- What is your strategy towards the opposition movements? Are you going to look for allies, buy support or threaten? What can you offer in the bid?
- Is there a way that you could try to make a deal with the secret service? If you happen to do so, it may get easier for you to get the hardliners out of the saddle.
- What are you possible able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained/received?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

Reform proposals

The hardliners of your party already provided a list of possible reforms they are willing to introduce. However, you see that these are merely façade-reforms:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Removing censorship of some Western literature, e.g. books older than 19th century literature.
- Introduction of an additional national holiday.
- Allowing for the construction of new churches
- Withdrawal of a relatively large yet in practice, an insignificant number of Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia (5,000)
- Shortening the compulsory military service from one year to 9 months.
- Extending some 'special' gestures of friendship from the MU to Allonians – e.g. allowing annually 20 students from Allonia to study at MU's universities without tuition fees (de facto indoctrination of communist ideals)
- Allowing the registration of labor movement (under certain restricted conditions)
- Allowing the citizens to legally buy/keep € 50 for personal usage (=slightly opening the currency market, but only in a minor way).

Your representatives to the round table are:

Ronald Magdo

Anne Gernhoff

Antje Ahorn

All of you are in your mid-thirties, married and have children. All have tertiary education, in social and political science.

Actor Card C

Secret Intelligence Service (SIS)

You are one of the main instruments of power in the current government of Allonia – the Hardliners. You managed to institute a thorough surveillance network and you do not hesitate to recruit wives, husbands or children. Any means of putting pressure on a potential informer is welcomed by you.

During the simulation, you have managed to recruit some informers from different actor groups such as Ronald Magdo of the Softliners and Zachary Welch of the labor movement. Recently, you gained a very important source: you blackmailed one of the religious leaders, the catholic priest Falco Zach by threatening to expose his illegitimate child. You must however be cautious when contacting them, so that no one discovers that they are informers.

Lately, you have noticed growing disobedience and dissatisfaction with the current government. It is now not only restricted to smaller organized groups but is the concern of hundreds of thousands of people. With your capacity you are not able to keep track of all the developments. You are in need of more recruits and you push for it during the discussions. More surveillance should be possible.

Your worst-case scenario is the opening of your archives. It might lead to open revolt if the public realize how deeply the SIS is rooted in society, how many informers you have and with which methods you recruited them. You also keep some delicate and potentially explosive secrets about the role of the hardliners during the revolts 40 years ago in your archives. But you are also thinking about alternatives as you are not sure how much longer the hard-liners can stay in power. Maybe it would be an option to support the Soft-liners and offer them some information – perhaps even on the hardliners – as long the SIS is kept untouched.

Reform proposals

The following reforms/façade-reforms may be proposed by the party as a starting point for the discussion:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Removing censorship of some Western literature, e.g. books older than 19th century literature.
- Introduction of an additional national holiday.
- Allowing for the construction of new churches
- Withdrawal of a relatively large yet in practice, an insignificant number of Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia (5,000)
- Shortening the compulsory military service from one year to 9 months.
- Extending some 'special' gestures of friendship from the MU to Allonians – e.g. allowing annually 20 students from Allonia to study at MU's universities without tuition fees (de facto indoctrination of communist ideals)
- Allowing the registration of labor movement (under certain restricted conditions)
- Allowing the citizens to legally buy/keep € 50 for personal usage (=slightly opening the currency market, but only in a minor way).

In short:

- In alliance with the Hardliners and strongly connected to the Marxist Union.
- Aware, that if the system collapses, the Security Service could disintegrate.
- Generally opposed to any kind of social or political freedom. The furthest they would go is to grant greater freedom with regard to social interaction, i.e. general accessibility to phones or greater freedom for inter-regional travel.
- But – if something is to happen, what you care most is your own power. If your position is secured, you do not care much who gives the orders.

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- What is your strategy towards the opposition movements? Are you going to look for supporters for the old system, buy support or threaten/blackmail?
- How can you influence the Party members and the Moderators from the Commonwealth so that an acceptable (for you) solution is being voted for?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

Your representatives at the round table:

Zohra Kollwitz

Till Floyd

Frank Rytz

Actor Card D

Opposition movements – Peace & Human Rights Movement

Ever since the new regime established itself as the single dominant representative of the people in Allonia after the defeat of the fascist threat, it aligned itself to the doctrine of Communism. One of the consequences was that all the religious institutions were de facto outlawed, their work curtailed and closely monitored by the Security Intelligence Service. Most of their property had been confiscated by the State. The churches have been under special scrutiny ever since. Apart from the obvious threat its existence posed to the communist ideological, it was also deemed as a serious political threat. Therefore, church officials of all ranks and public persons not hiding their religion, especially journalists and scientists, have constantly been suspected of espionage, collaborating with the external enemy of the State. There were several cases when the State resorted to foul play to suppress their activity – from threats of violence to imprisonment and even murder.

However, even in such a hostile environment, many small and often hidden human rights organizations, as well as informal groups helping the mistreated, have managed to persevere with the help of financial and logistic contributions, not the least of which came from abroad, and not always by legal means. Through information gathered from these outside sources, but most of all through their own experience of suppression, the informal coalition of such movements in Allonia became one of the most adamant critics of the current regime.

Along the way, many small organizations allied with other like-minded groups from various local opposition movements and formed an – naturally not officially recognized – umbrella organization that you are now representing at the talks. These underground groups were often allowed to hold their secret sessions in the premises of universities, religious organizations or even schools, and, unsurprisingly, they shared common stances on many issues involving democratic reform and civil liberties. However, the efforts of these groups have continuously been undermined by the clandestine work of informants who infiltrated the movements on behalf of the Secret Intelligence Service, reporting on their activities and membership. One could never tell with complete certainty whether there was a traitor in their midst.

In all the years of working against the regime, the opposition movements which sprang from the people's dissatisfaction with the regime has had a direct insight into the popular psyche. Even when the Party deluded itself in the early years of the regime into thinking there was no dissent among the people and that they enjoyed an unconditional support of all Allonians, human and civil rights activists were always on the lookout for new information. Over the years, you gained the reputation among the opposition groups that you were the legitimate leader in seeking reforms and more extremely, the complete abolition of the dictatorial regime.

Since the protests broke out in the streets of Allonia, the opposition movements, including the ones within your network, have begun to emerge out of the background and make themselves heard. They supported the worker's demands for a higher appreciation of their labor, but have never explicitly stated the economic issues as their priority. The latest protests caused by the terrible working conditions and food deprivation are, however, an opportune moment for you to jump on the bandwagon of the popular dissatisfaction and advocate your objectives.

Although all the different fractions and movements within this loosely connected network, you all agree that the only satisfactory end of the recent turmoil in the country can be the dissolution of the Party and wide-ranging democratic reform. You are therefore calling for free elections featuring several, democracy-oriented parties as candidates to take place as soon as possible. The main points in your common program are concerned with civil liberties, the most prominent being the freedom of assembly and freedom to travel. The religious fractions are also pushing for the right of people to freely profess their religious beliefs and practice the religion of their choice.

One of the most uncompromising and relentless demands of the opposition movements is to dissolve the secret service. You credit the secret service with many unlawful imprisonments of your fellow oppositionists and charge them with the illegal tapping of the phones and countless cases of intimidation, extortion and blackmail. For the benefit of the whole society and the individuals harmed by the SIS, you, as the opposition movements, demand the SIS archives to be opened and used to absolve the innocent of the accusations leveled against them, and prosecute the responsible figures in the Service for acts of espionage against their own people. In order not to have show-trials, but fair and just courts, you are strong proponents of the separation of powers and an independent judicial system.

Your representatives at the round table: **Henriette Lisht, Mark Larson, Lena Baroud**

In short:

- your organization 'Peace and Human Rights Movements' functions as a sort of 'umbrella' organization protecting socially and civic motivated movements
- you all want change, but do not have a specific agenda as there so many different interests to take into account. In general, however, your focus is on social and cultural matters rather than economic change.
- you want the Security Apparatus to be abolished and the files to be opened.
- You want the regime to be more democratic. You want the guilty to be punished and the law to protect the people and their rights.
- You feel somehow superior towards the whole society, as you are predominantly representatives of intellectual elite that should take care of the whole society, also the ones that cannot speak for themselves.

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side? Who should you treat carefully? Who should not be trusted?
- What solution are you aiming at?
- What is your strategy towards the Party Members? Are you going to look for allies or look for a deal with someone? What can you offer in the bid?
- What are you possible able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained / received?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

Actor Card E

Opposition Movements – Labor Movement

In the beginning, it all looked perfect. The promises of the “Glorious Revolution” were made true: Vast areas of arable land were taken from wealthy landlords and instead given to the hardworking peasants; the factories were nationalized and entrusted to the workers for self-management. The initial industrial recovery was extraordinary. The socialist ideal which seemed to be becoming reality was a matter of pride for Allonia and according to the Party; “everybody” envied their tremendous progress. In the first couple of years, the majority of the population firmly believed in this party propaganda. As time passed, however, it became increasingly difficult to hide the growing economic disparity between Allonia and its western neighbors. For Allonians it became difficult to buy quality goods or go on vacation; even owning a new car was not an option. Nevertheless, even though life in Allonia was not as rosy as the party portrayed it, everyone enjoyed a significant level of social security. The basic commodities were never scant and every worker could put the food on the table. That is *until now...*

It came as a shock to workers of the country’s biggest industrial city that the government plans to introduce food rationing in response to the food shortages. It was unconceivable that after working overtime, reducing the amount of yearly leave, and acceding to yet another reduction in salaries they should go back to the food rationing system. Distress turned truly sour when president Goran Bar turned down offers of help from the west. Several western countries had sent food and supply convoys in response to the dramatic situation in Allonia – which are now stuck at the borders and being refused entry. As a result, workers abandoned their posts and took to the streets, striking, and causing mass demonstrations and riots. The workers called for the borders to be opened so that the food convoys could enter the country and people were not left to starve.

Prior to the outbreaks, all workers were organized in a single, state-wide syndicate which was supposed to protect their rights and interests. However, in the period leading up to the crisis, it became obvious that the syndicate had only been protecting party functionaries. Therefore, some workers organized an interim, provisional body of the Allonian Workers Union (AWU). The government condemned this illegal and unauthorized unionization and proclaimed the latest developments to be counter-revolutionary. Security forces were sent to suppress the movement, but this only led to further destabilization. Now, the laborers even proposed a march to the capital to overthrow the government.

The government, which is already facing a rebellious mob on the streets of its capital Sipa, is eager to avert a crisis and thus invited the AWU to the round table talks. The AWU has set up a clear set of demands. It still believes that the peoples’ government is the best form of government, but reform is desperately needed:

- Immediate acceptance of the foreign humanitarian help
- Reforms to make the Allonian companies competitive with regard to the international market
- Privatize Allonian companies if there is no other way out of bankruptcy
- AWU is to become the official Syndicate representing the rights of the workers
- Provision for the creation of other local unions for specific trades to be written into the constitution
- Adequate payment
- Stipulate that workers must work no more than 8 hours a day, 5 days a week and that this cannot be violated by the government.

Although AWU is generally in favor of the democratization reform, their main concern is with economic issues. Therefore, their demand for the decentralization of the government has little to do with politics, but is founded upon their belief that if regional governments were given more autonomy, they would be more apt to respond to the looming economic disaster due to their inherent understanding of the local economic climate.

Labour Movement Representatives:

- Lech Stalfish – electrician from a shipyard.
- Wilma Sprout – livestock technician at a State Agricultural Farm.
- Zachary Welch– coalminer, shortly before retirement age, used to cooperate with the SIS for some time by distracting the SIS with fake or irrelevant information in order to protect his son-in-law, who was heavily involved in publishing banned books. He informed his friends about it. Several months ago he stopped responding to the SIS.

In short:

- Illegal, spontaneously set up, unregistered.
- Main goal: improvement of social and economic standards (e.g. opening borders for the exchange of consumer goods, but mostly improvement of quality of everyday life).
- Don't feel very compelled to support 'huge' reforms – although you have some general support for democratization – you are ok with both fully and partially free elections

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side? Who should you treat carefully? Who should not be trusted?
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- What solution are you aiming at?
- What is your strategy towards the Party members? Are you going to look for allies or look for a deal with someone? What can you offer in the bid?
- What are you possible able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained / received?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

Actor Card F1

Prof. Dr. Erich Morar – Extremist communist ideologist

You are a former and well respected professor at Sipa University, and are still active within academia, publishing books, giving lectures and working at the National Academy of Sciences. As a political expert you are often asked to comment on current events on the national TV channel, ALTV. You are perceived as the state's best specialist on the communistic doctrine and one of the best worldwide.

You strongly believe that communism is both the best philosophical system and political ideology. You support the Marxist Union and the hardliners within the Party, although you are not afraid to offer criticism when they introduce politics that you find detrimental to achieving the 'ideal' socialist state. You know that the current system is only representative of an imperfect 'real socialism' and believe that the politicians could achieve more by instituting the 'ideal' socialism. You are aware of the situation on the streets, but are unable to understand the workers' rebellion against a state that was created in their interest.

You were involved with communism as a teenager when you joined the communist guerilla movement that took over power in the state of Allonia. Graduating summa cum laude from political science at Sipa University, you obtained a Ph.D. at the University of Wenberg, the capital city of MU. Afterwards you returned to Sipa University and pursued an academic career. You also taught at the National School of Public Governance and most of today's leading politicians were your students.

You have many influential friends in the Marxist Union and Allonia, as well as in other fraternal communistic states. Your social network is extensive and your best friend is the former head of SIS, who during his time in office offered you his protection.

You were asked by leading Party members to partake in the round table talks and to support their façade-reforms. You decided to help them, but you also want to use the situation to push the reforms towards the 'ideal' system.

The façade-reforms draft includes such ideas as:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Removing censorship of some Western literature, e.g. books older than 19th century
- Introduction of an additional national holiday.
- Permission for the building of additional churches - without providing subsidies.
- Withdrawal of a relatively large yet in practice, an insignificant number of Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia (50,000)
- Shortening the compulsory military service from one year to 9 months.
- Extending a gesture of special friendship from the MU to Allonians – e.g. allowing annually 20 students from Allonia at MU's universities without tuition fees (de facto allowing them to deepen communistic indoctrination)
- Allowing registration of labor movement under certain restricted conditions
- Allowing the citizens to legally buy/keep € 50 for personal usage (thereby slightly opening the currency market, but only in a minor way)

In short:

- You truly believe in the socialist system and ideology
- You believe that what Allonia has now is only the 'Realsocialismus' and the people should be aiming for the 'ideal' socialism, when finally every worker will be happy
- You support the Marxist Union and the hardliners, as well as the moderators from the Commonwealth of the People's Republics, although you are critical of them as well. In your opinion they are trying to achieve the 'ideal communism' in a wrong way or not trying hard enough.

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- What solution are you aiming at?
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side? Who should you treat carefully? Who should not be trusted?
- How can you approach the rebelling groups? Are you going to look for allies there?
- What do you want the Party Members to do? Try to be specific in suggesting means for avoiding blood of workers being shed.
- Is there anything you would like to discuss with the other two experts being invited?
- Make use of your special position within the negotiators. You are a sole actor so you are not limited by any formal recommendations. And you are being given attention as an authority.
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?
- What are you possibly able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained / received?

Actor Card F2

Kaylene de Mag - Journalist

You are a journalist and for the past 7 years you have been working for the state's only weekly political periodical named "Forward". Your expertise is in social and sociological issues and you wrote some significant articles on working conditions and the state's attitude towards and policies concerning the working class. Previously you worked at the "People's Rostrum", the state's only daily newspaper, which you left after you discovered that your supervisor was probably working for the secret service.

You are in your mid-forties and have three children. Your husband is a well-known and respected engineer, working in the construction industry. Family and faith are important values for you.

You are truly against communism, but you have only recently been open about this, even though you are aware that this means putting your job at risk. The catalyst for this change was your mother confessing to you that the man that you believed to be your father is not in fact your biological father – your biological father died of cancer one year ago and your mother kept this secret for a time after his death. Your step-father, called Al de Mag, was one of the most important Labour Movement activists and was one of the first to start organizing independent (and most often illegal) labor movement in enterprises. He was even imprisoned for a time because he refused to stop organizing these independent labor movement. He also betrayed his companions by revealing their names. The horrifying part of the story is that your real father was one of the Party's most prominent leaders at the time and that he had an affair with your mother. He paid her for keeping her pregnancy secret and this money significantly helped her to support you during your studies.

After the initial shock subsided, you made the decision to acknowledge your non-biological father and to treat him as the only father you had, even though he is now deceased. You have therefore decided to continue his work by striving for the people's freedom and to abolishing the communist system.

You are widely recognized in the society, especially by blue collar workers, both as a popular and respected journalist and as your father's daughter. You have a feeling that you owe something to the society and that you should not waste the trust that has been placed in your hands.

You find communism increasingly detrimental to society, and you want it to be abolished immediately. You want all the archives to be opened, the guilty to be punished and the system changed according to what the citizens want. However, you don't really believe in such 'spontaneous' social movements. Admittedly, at the beginning you used to be part of the peace movement, but you broke away because you believed that the social movement was too vague and it is rather the labor movement that are 'concrete' and that can effectively enforce changes. In your opinion it is the unions and not the social movements that have the potential to take power.

You are aware that you may be disliked by the peace and human rights movement's leaders, as you in some way "betrayed" the cause by openly stating that they are not strong enough to make a change. You continue to hope that perhaps the leaders of the peace movement are more anti-communist than you are and that maybe you could have a common goal, after all.

You have been invited to the talks at the round table as a non-formal representative of the journalistic environment and a natural authority for many at the streets. However, your mandate is not a democratic one, as you have been appointed and not elected. Therefore you would rather support free or at least partially free elections and let the future, elected body to take most of the bidding decisions, although you are aware that some decisions will have to be taken now in order to peace the crowds on the streets and prevent bloody revolution.

In short:

- You are 100% anticommunist
- The unions have in your opinion the potential to take over power
- you are a respectable authority among the workers, but also among the intellectuals
- You are not particularly liked by the Peace and Human Rights Movements leaders.
- You want the communistic system to be abolished and free elections being introduced, as well as civil liberties

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- What solution are you aiming at?
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side? Who should you treat carefully? Who should not be trusted?
- What is your strategy towards the opposition movements? Are you going to look for allies there?
- What do you want the Party Members to do?
- Is there anything you would like to discuss with the other two experts being invited?
- Make use of your special position within the negotiators. You are a sole actor so you are not limited by any formal recommendations. And you are being given attention as an authority.
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?
- What are you possible able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained / received?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?

Actor Card F3

Rev. Falco Zach - Priest

You are a Catholic priest and a social activist from a small parish 40 km east of Sipa. Ten years ago you obtained a Ph.D. in theology, with a focus on the charitable policies of the Church. You also work part-time at the University of Sipa, where you give lectures to theology students. You are respected for your intellect and for your production of many publications concerning the role of religion in people's lives. For many years, you have been very active in volunteering at the Red Cross, Caritas and other catholic organizations. You enjoy working with the working class, helping and supporting them on the lowest, most organic level. You are widely known for your striking charisma whilst preaching and for your unusual ability to write sermons that manage to touch the hearts of the general public.

However, your immaculate public image is tarred by the fact that you have a six-year-old illegitimate daughter. The Church managed to keep this information a secret from the public and officially you are the god-father of the girl. You have severed the relationship with the girl's mother and since then you live in chastity. You have no idea how the secret service discovered your secret two years ago.

You subsequently became a secret agent and are instructed on how to teach the priests-to-be, what policies you should advocate during your sermons and so forth. A couple of weeks ago you were given unusual instructions. Due to the civil unrest in the state the Party decided to meet with the representatives of the labour movement and the opposition movements. You will be asked to participate in these talks as an advisor. Your task will be to provide some fake 'religious' or 'social' justifications for the façade-changes the Party is to propose. You are to somehow support them, by advocating that they are for the good of the people: you should use such arguments as "people are not ready for such changes", "we shouldn't act rashly", "we should take it easy", "we should think twice before putting people, and especially priests, at risk", that "acting unreasonably might be harmful to both the church and to confessors" etc.

Here you can find the list of the façade-reforms provided for you by the Secret Intelligence Service:

- Lowering the retirement age
- Removing the censorship towards some Western literature, e.g. books older than 19th century literature.
- Introduction of an additional national holiday.
- Permission for the building of additional churches - without providing subsidies.
- Withdrawal of a relatively large yet in practice, an insignificant number of Marxist Union soldiers based in Allonia (50,000)
- Shortening the compulsory military service from one year to 9 months.
- Extending a special gesture of friendship from the MU to Allonians – e.g. allowing annually 20 students from Allonia at MU's universities without tuition fees (de facto allowing them to deepen communistic indoctrination)
- Allowing registration of labor movement under certain restricted conditions
- Allowing the citizens to legally buy/keep \$50 for personal usage (thereby slightly opening the currency market, but only in a minor way)

You will of course try to support the Church and the opposition movements in any area that you can, even if you have not been instructed to do so.

In short:

- Openly you still play the role of a “good Catholic”, however you are being forced to cooperate with the system.
- You was blackmailed by the security service when they discovered that you have an illegitimate child
- Supports façade-reforms, using ‘ ‘understanding’ arguments such as: “people are not ready for such changes, we shouldn’t act rashly, we should take it easy, we should think twice before putting people, and especially priests, at risk, that acting unreasonably might be harmful to the church” etc.
- When possible, you try to act according to your beliefs and not along what you are being told to.

Think of your strategy!

- Think of a short statement (3-4 sentences) that you will present at the opening of the formal talks. Formulate your demands short and clear.
- What solution are you aiming at?
- Are you willing to somehow full the regime and support secretly the opposition movements? If so, what cover story are you going to invent for the use against the secret service?
- Who may be your natural ally? Who can you try to win to your side? Who should you treat carefully? Who should not be trusted?
- What is your strategy towards the opposition movements? Are you going to look for allies there?
- What do you want the Party Members to do?
- Is there anything you would like to discuss with the other two experts being invited?
- With whom are you going to talk to first? What are you going to say and/or propose?
- Make use of your special position within the negotiators. You are a sole actor so you are not limited by any formal recommendations. And you are being given attention as an authority.
- What are you possible able to compromise over? What is most important to you? What can you give up if it is not possible to be retained/received?
- What is your alternative if the initially taken strategy does not work?