



# **WAR OF THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE: PARAGUAY IN PERIL**

MARCH 15th-17th, 2024



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# MSUMUN NOTICES

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## Committee Content Warning

While MSUMUN values the discussion and awareness of most topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, fatphobic, xenophobic, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of MSUMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, MSUMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact MSUMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff. If you have questions or concerns regarding this, please reach out to your committee's senior staff before conference weekend.

Red Cedar University Model United Nations (MSUMUN) is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, MSUMUN operates with a zero-tolerance policy concerning any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, MSUMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. MSUMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.

All participants should be aware that MSUMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

### **MSUMUN Statement on Mental Health**

*Red Cedar Model United Nations* is committed to fostering a safe and secure environment for all delegates, staff, and advisors. In this, MSUMUN operates with a zero tolerance policy with regard to any and all instances of harassment and discrimination. Further, MSUMUN is committed to promoting the mental health of its participants and requires all participants to act with compassion, grace, and understanding. MSUMUN encourages participants to step out of their committee room and/or speak with a trusted individual if they are feeling overwhelmed or are otherwise uncomfortable.

Moreover, MSUMUN recognizes that some of its committees may include references to or discussions of sensitive topics. While RCMU values the discussion and awareness of these topics and a delegate's obligation to accurately represent their assigned role, all participants who engage in any bigoted, racist, sexist, homophobic, ableist, or other such comments or sentiments will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action at the discretion of MSUMUN's Secretariat. Additionally, in all things, MSUMUN pledges its Secretariat and staff to maintain approachability and inclusivity; if any participant has any questions, comments, or concerns they are encouraged to contact MSUMUN's Secretariat or, in the case of delegates, its staff.

All participants should be aware that MSUMUN's Secretariat and staff are designated mandatory reporters with MSU's Office of Institutional Equity while operating within their roles before and during the conference.

### MSU Provisional Land Acknowledgement

“We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg – Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.”<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> “Land Acknowledgement,” American Indian and Indigenous Studies, accessed December 5, 2021, <https://aiis.msu.edu/land/>.

# RULES OF PROCEDURE

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## Article I: General Rules

1. Delegates are expected to adhere to all regular MSUMUN XXIII rules and standards of decorum.
2. In the event of a dispute over the Rules of Procedure, either those of MSUMUN generally or the Paraguay Committee, the MSUMUN Secretariat will be the ultimate authority of appeal.

## Article II: Meetings

1. All of the Paraguay Committee meetings shall be attended by all specified members of the committee, unless otherwise authorized by the MSUMUN Secretariat.
2. Unless otherwise indicated by the MSUMUN Secretariat or the Paraguay Committee staff, all meetings of the committee will be held in the specified the Paraguay Committee room as designated by MSUMUN.

## Article III: Agenda

1. Items for debate may be pulled from the background guide, but are not limited to what is explicitly mentioned. Staff would like to see well-rounded and well-researched delegates bring new and relevant topics to the table.

2. Any Committee member may make a motion to restrict debate to one topic. If this motion passes, debate shall be limited to the topic specified until such time as another motion is made to either change the topic under consideration or return to general debate.
3. The Agenda is to be set at the beginning of committee, formal debate on committee topics may not begin until the Agenda has been set.
4. A Speaker's List may be opened at any time when motions are being entertained. Additionally, a delegate may request to be added to the Speaker's List at any time. If the Chair is not actively calling for speakers to be added, a delegate may send a note to the dias.

#### **Article IV: Conduct of Business**

1. The Paraguay Committee proceedings shall be conducted in the form of a permanent Moderated Caucus until such a time that a committee member makes a motion to change this.

#### **Article V: Types of Proposals**

1. Directive: A directive requires only one sponsor, though it may have more. The number of required signatories is up to the discretion of the Chair. A committee member need only move to introduce a directive in order for it to be considered by the entire committee.
2. Press Releases: A press release is usually passed in lieu of a directive if doing so is more likely to make the committee's intentions clear. A press release is written either in the form of a directive or a press release; it requires the same number of sponsors and signatories as a directive.



3. Communiques: A communique is an external communication from the entire committee with a non-committee member. Such a communication can include anything from a request of support to negotiations to even a threat. Passing this type of document can also result in the person being contacted meeting with the committee if requested.

### **Article VI: Voting**

1. Votes may be entered as For, Against, or Abstentions.
2. Any delegate who designates themselves as “Present and Voting” during roll call may not abstain on any matter.
3. Votes on non-substantive proposals or procedural matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members. Abstentions are allowed on non-substantive proposals, but not procedural matters.
4. Votes on substantive matters will be passed by the affirmative vote of a simple majority of committee members.
5. In all cases, a simple majority constitutes more than half of the For and Against votes.

### **Remaining Points**

1. Any rules and regulations are subject to change at the discretion of the Chair.
2. If you have additional questions, please visit the [MSUMUN Website](#)

## LETTER FROM THE CRISIS DIRECTOR

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Hello delegates,

I am Raifton Bartling and I am happy to be your crisis director for this committee. This is my third year doing Model UN here at MSU, and my second year as crisis director. Last year I worked with the JCC, and the previous year I was a junior staffer for the Camelot committee. This year we have a great committee that we hope you will all enjoy and learn something from.

I am in the JMC and the honors college studying International Relations, and I will be adding a minor in history if my schedule allows. I am (in contrast with many others involved in MSUMUN) not super involved with our sister organization MSUIRO, but that is because I prefer to lurk in the corner and pull the strings from the shadows (I'm not evil, trust me). In my free time, I enjoy worldbuilding, conlanguing, writing fiction, and starting (but never finishing) various other absurd projects.

I am from a town called Midland (which is by Saginaw, which I've learned is more widely known) and went to Dow High School there. I hope that you have fun, learn something new, and otherwise enjoy our committee!

All best,

Raifton Bartling

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Hi everyone,

My name is Anna Rehm and I will be your chair for this committee. I'm a senior here at MSU, majoring in International Relations and Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy. In addition, I study German and Arabic. I'm also a member of MSUIRO, which is MSU's traveling MUN team. In my free time (which I don't have very much of) I like baking, getting lost in national parks, and photography, as well as annoying my roommates and the various animals of our household (ask me for photos). I'm originally from Fort Collins, Colorado, and love exploring whenever I go back home, as well as traveling. After I complete my undergrad studies, my plan is to go to grad school and get my master's in International Security or Diplomacy and then hopefully work for the Foreign Service.

All of our staffers have worked very hard to prepare this committee. We hope you will have an enjoyable and interesting time, and unleash your inner chaos! Please know that I and all of our staffers are here should you run into any questions or concerns!

Have fun,

Anna Rehm

## JUNIOR STAFFER INTRODUCTIONS

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### Josephine Froman

Hello all,

Most people believe my name is Josephine Froman and that I am a freshman majoring in International Relations and Economics. I also study OSINT, French, and Romanian. I hail from Northville, Michigan, but I love traveling more than anything. I'm a part of MSUMUN's sister org, MSUIRO, ~~so just like you, I enjoy the insanity of a crisis committee.~~ When not in committee I enjoy recreating the twilight baseball scene with friends, watching National Treasure, travel photography, blindfolded karaoke, and ski racing in dinosaur costumes. I hope you all have fun in committee, don't forget to make a little chaos! ;)

### Jobsan Martin

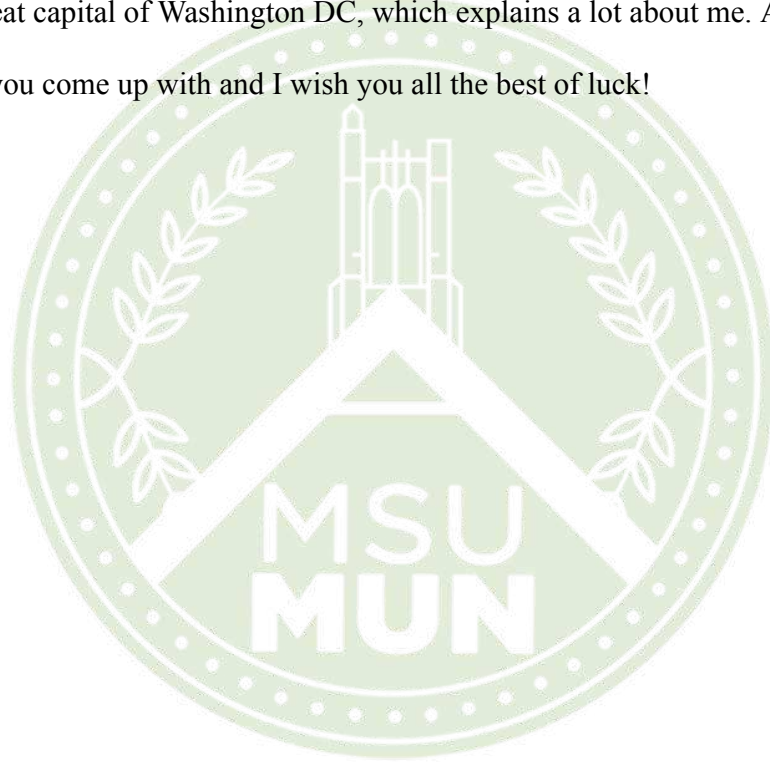
Hello everyone!

I'm Jobsan Martin-Villafuerte, and I'm a freshman studying towards Mathematics and Accounting. I'm from Holland MI, so feel free to ask about the pair of wooden shoes that, yes I indeed own. In my free time, I try to practice piano and brush up on my Russian. Other pastimes include rewatching Community and Parks and Rec. a concerning amount of times and slowly try to finish a book I've been putting off for quite a while. Us oldies here will help to make sure that your time in this committee will be a blast. We hope to see all of you soon!

## Dante Chinni

Hi everyone!

My name is Dante! I'm a freshman at James Madison College at MSU, where I'm majoring in Comparative Culture and Politics. I have a passion for creative storytelling and government, so naturally I ended up drawn towards Model UN. My hobbies include playing Dungeons & Dragons and watching 3 hour long YouTube video essays on niche topics. I was born and raised in our nation's great capital of Washington DC, which explains a lot about me. All in all I can't wait to see what you come up with and I wish you all the best of luck!



## LETTER FROM FRANCISCO SOLANO LÓPEZ

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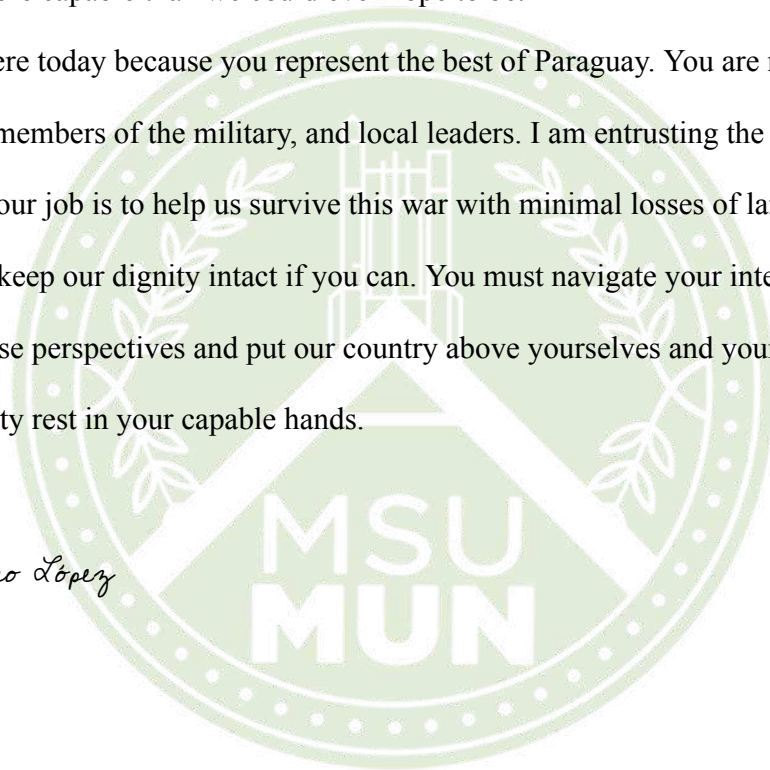
Hello honorable members of this committee,

I have called together this group because our country is facing a crisis. We are at war, and it has just become apparent that this is a war we cannot win. We are facing down an enemy that is stronger and more capable than we could ever hope to be.

You are here today because you represent the best of Paraguay. You are my trusted advisors, critical members of the military, and local leaders. I am entrusting the future of our country to you. Your job is to help us survive this war with minimal losses of land, people, and resources, and to keep our dignity intact if you can. You must navigate your interpersonal conflict and diverse perspectives and put our country above yourselves and your interests. Our lives and prosperity rest in your capable hands.

Yours,

*Francisco Solano López*



## KEY INFORMATION ABOUT PARAGUAY

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### Geography

Paraguay is a relatively large Southern American country. It is bordered by Brazil, Bolivia, and Argentina. Many rivers run through Paraguay, most notably the Paraguay River, which divides the country into two distinct parts.<sup>2</sup> In the eastern region, the landscape is hilly with plentiful forests, while the western region is marked by a flat, marshy area that is called the Chaco.<sup>3</sup> Paraguay is landlocked, but does have access to rivers, lakes, and other bodies of water, all of which are critical resources for the country.<sup>4</sup>

Paraguay is a very humid, warm country, located in a subtropical climate and has periodic droughts as well as flooding.<sup>5</sup> This region is very rich in flora and fauna, growing everything from hardwood to fruit. The capital of Paraguay is Asunción.

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<sup>2</sup> “Paraguay.” Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed October 30, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Paraguay>.

<sup>3</sup> “Paraguay: Natural Landscape | LAC Geo.” n.d. Lacgeo.com. <https://lacgeo.com/natural-landscape-paraguay>.

<sup>4</sup> “Paraguay: Natural Landscape | LAC Geo.” n.d. Lacgeo.com. <https://lacgeo.com/natural-landscape-paraguay>.

<sup>5</sup> “Paraguay.” Encyclopædia Britannica.



Map of Paraguay (please note that this map is not entirely accurate to committee)<sup>6</sup>

## Demographics

In 1857, a census was conducted that estimated the population of Paraguay to be about 1,337,000 people.<sup>7</sup> The population is fairly spread out, with several towns consisting of only a few hundred households.

<sup>6</sup> “Paraguay Map and Satellite Image.” Geology.com. Accessed January 16, 2024.

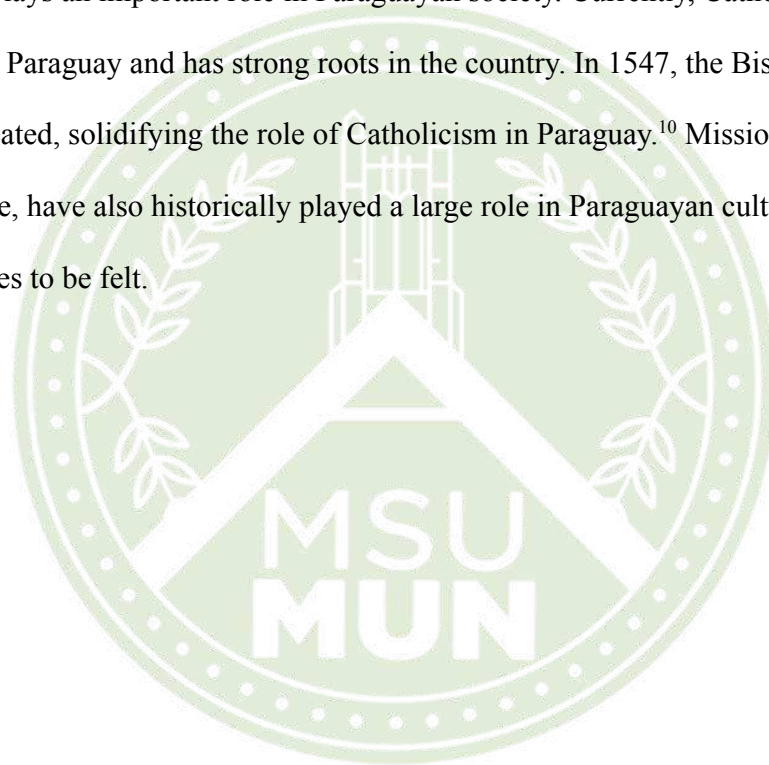
<https://geology.com/world/paraguay-satellite-image.shtml>

<sup>7</sup>Vera Blinn Reber; The Demographics of Paraguay: A Reinterpretation of the Great War, 1864-70. *Hispanic American Historical Review* 1 May 1988; 68 (2): 289–319. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1215/00182168-68.2.289>



Even under dictatorial rule, the people of Paraguay are reasonably prosperous. The Guaraní, the indigenous people of the country, were converted by Jesuit missionaries, and although this colonizing influence had detrimental impacts, it has made the Guaraní population more educated.<sup>8</sup> The official language of the country is Spanish, but a majority of the population speaks Guaraní and is of indigenous descent. Slavery was abolished in 1842, and the majority of the aristocratic class was dissolved, making class divides less extreme.<sup>9</sup>

Religion plays an important role in Paraguayan society. Currently, Catholicism is the largest religion in Paraguay and has strong roots in the country. In 1547, the Bishopric of Asunción was created, solidifying the role of Catholicism in Paraguay.<sup>10</sup> Missionaries, especially those from Europe, have also historically played a large role in Paraguayan culture, and their influence continues to be felt.



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<sup>8</sup> Chris Leuchars, *To the Bitter End: Paraguay and the War of the Triple Alliance*, Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 2002, 7.

<sup>9</sup> Leuchars, *To the Bitter End*, 7.

<sup>10</sup> “International Center for Law and Religion Studies | Paraguay: Country Info.” n.d. <https://www.iclrs.org/blurb/paraguay-country-info/>.

## COLONIAL HISTORY OF THE REGION

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South America has had a long history in which several parties have had a vested interest in the region since its discovery. The Treaty of Tordesillas particularly established a Spanish and Portuguese claim to portions of South America. A line of demarcation was established by Pope John II. The line was extended and officially sanctioned in 1506. The Portuguese claim to the continent would be far greater and thus cemented colonial possessions such as Brazil to expand into the interior of the continent.<sup>11</sup>

In 1780, the Continent of South America primarily consisted of several Spanish and Portuguese Viceroyalties. In central South America, the Viceroyalty of Brazil—controlled by Portugal—and the Viceroyalties of Peru and The Río de la Plata—controlled by Spain—comprised the region. The Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata consists of what is now Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The Peninsular War—A military conflict fought on the Iberian peninsula from 1807 to 1814 against Napoleonic France—upstaged Iberian authority over its holdings in South America. In response to the waning Spanish authority, local juntas began to take over Spain's governing role. These juntas had varying degrees of success in asserting their own will. One successful case was with the port city of Buenos Aires that held significant authority over the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata.<sup>12</sup> The increasing prominence of juntas became a vital turning point for South America, causing the start of independence movements on the continent.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> T. Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Treaty of Tordesillas," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, September 15, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Tordesillas>.

<sup>12</sup> "History of Buenos Aires." *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. Accessed October 29, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Buenos-Aires/History>.

<sup>13</sup> T. Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Peninsular War," *Encyclopedia Britannica*, August 31, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Peninsular-War>.

These independence movements were from disparate areas in South America and so were prosecuted locally and independently from one another. Simón Bolívar helped to lead the revolution in the northern part of South America, while others such as José de San Martín would help to lead the independence movements from the south. Following independence, the newly independent governments in South America would be tasked with establishing stable governments in place of their colonial rule.<sup>14</sup>

### Establishment of Brazil

The beginnings of Brazilian independence were marked by a failed rebellion against the Portuguese made by José Joaquim de Silva Xavier in 1789. His later execution became a source of lamentation towards the Portuguese Empire. The Napoleonic Wars began seeping into the Iberian Peninsula, marking the start of the Peninsular War. This caused the source of Portuguese authority to be overturned and relocated from Lisbon to Rio de Janeiro in Colonial Brazil. Dom João, the regent prince of Portugal, and various other royal and aristocratic parties ventured off to Portuguese holdings in South America. Dom João's exile rule in Brazil established itself as not only a fundamental part of the Portuguese Empire but also a staple of Portuguese governance.

In response to Brazil's growing importance, the Contra parliament which took up rule in Portugal threatened to revoke Brazil's status as an equal to Portugal. Dom João – who by this point had been declared King John IV, had a son named Dom Pedro I who declared his intention to side with Brazil in defiance against the Contra parliament. On September 7, 1822, Dom Pedro I officially declared Brazilian independence from Portugal.

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<sup>14</sup> “The Independence of Latin America.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed October 29, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Latin-America/The-independence-of-Latin-America>.

Brazil experienced less of the chaos left behind by the independence movements in South America. Dom Pedro I became Emperor of Brazil and in his first few years had dissolved the constitutional assembly. Pedro I would go on to create a relatively stable constitution that concentrated the power of the Emperor. His son became Emperor in 1831 at five years old. Over his half a century rule, he would revolutionize Brazil to become a prominent player on the world stage.<sup>15</sup>

### Establishment of Paraguay

With the creation of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata in 1775, the region which is now Paraguay had become dependent on Buenos Aires. Paraguay had grown resentful of the power centralized in Buenos Aires and asserted its independence in the Río de la Plata region in South America. With the independence of Argentina to the south, the Paraguayan region of the viceroyalty had actively fought against Argentine attempts to annex the Paraguayan region of the Río de la Plata territory. When the Spanish governor of the region required assistance from the region to protect against attacks from Buenos Aires, the Paraguayans captured the governor and declared the region independent on May 14, 1811.

Soon after, a junta was created for Paraguay under the leadership of José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia. Buenos Aires would make a military agreement with Francia, which would later become void due to unequal applications of that agreement. In response, Francia formally declared Paraguay an independent republic during a session of Congress and became dictator of the new territory. He would later become a perpetual dictator via a Congressional

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<sup>15</sup> "History of Brazil." Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Brazil/History>.

declaration. During his reign, he oversaw the Paraguayan state owning a sizable amount of wealth seized from those arrested via Francia's orders.<sup>16</sup>

### Establishment of Argentina

The region that would later be Argentina comprised much of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata. Until 1776, Argentina was a politically uninfluential part of the Viceroyalty of Peru. Following its separation from the Viceroyalty of Peru, the region became part of the Río de la Plata viceroyalty with 3 prominent cities—San Miguel de Tucumán, Córdoba, and Buenos Aires—comprising a distinct voice of authority in the region. With the rise of Buenos Aires as a port city and of enlightenment ideas in its cosmopolitan area, it was clear that the city was becoming of growing importance to the region as a whole. This burgeoning ascendancy enabled the creation of the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata region with Buenos Aires as its capital. This action was also due in part to further protect Spain's eastern colonial possessions.

Napoleon's militaristic interests in the Iberian peninsula eventually led to the exile of Ferdinand VII and the placement of Josephine Napoleon on the Spanish throne. The colonies refused to accept the new Bonaparte king and declared their own governing juntas in support of Ferdinand VII. These groups were viewed as illegitimate and thus governing power over the empire and its colonies was transferred back temporarily under Spanish Law. This process was later reaffirmed by Creole Argentinians. The city of Buenos Aires was one of the regions which had declared itself in favor of Ferdinand VII, therefore gaining autonomy from the viceroyalty on May 25, 1810. Despite Ferdinand's return to the throne in 1814, an assembly was held in 1816 that ultimately led to the creation of the United Provinces of the Río de la Plata.

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<sup>16</sup>T. Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, "History of Paraguay." Encyclopaedia Britannica, October 5, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Paraguay>.

The United Provinces fought against Spanish Royalists in the northern regions of the country. Overtime, the United Provinces became more fragmented and authority over outlying portions of the country proved to be unwieldy. These territories would include Paraguay in 1814, Bolivia in 1825, and Uruguay in 1828. Much of the territory that now comprises Argentina had been fractured and only recently in 1860 has this problem been resolved. Currently, there is struggle over authority between the nation's autonomous capital and the rest of Argentina.<sup>17</sup>

## HISTORY OF PARAGUAY AS A COUNTRY

Prior to colonization, Paraguay was home to one primary indigenous group, the Guaraní. They kept the area virtually homogenous, attacking and driving out any other indigenous groups who crossed the Paraguay River. Near the fifteenth century, frequent raids from outside groups caused the Guaraní people to begin launching retaliatory attacks to their west, which brought them into conflict with the Incan Empire. This conflict made them allies of early European colonization efforts.<sup>18</sup>

In the year 1537, the first attempts to colonize the interior of Paraguay were made. The initial settlers were searching for gold.<sup>19</sup> There was none in the region, which meant that when the colony was established, it was able to avoid most of the slavery present in other Spanish colonies at the time. Some settlers did, however, create harems of Guaraní women, and their mixed race descendants still considered themselves to be Guaraní, and continued to populate the

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<sup>17</sup> Donghi, T. Halperin and Calvert, Peter A.R.. "History of Argentina." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, June 23, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Argentina>.

<sup>18</sup> "Guaraní." *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Guarani>

<sup>19</sup> "Paraguay: History." *globalEDGE: Your source for Global Business Knowledge*. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://globaledege.msu.edu/countries/paraguay/history>.

rural plateau areas of Paraguay. Domingo Martínez de Irala who established the colony made it the center of Spanish power in the southeastern parts of South America, and helped define the border with Brazil by building fortifications along their border. Through the next century, continued marriages between the Spanish and Guaraní people created a continued homogenous identity for the populous.

In 1776, the Spanish consolidated all their southern colonies under the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata with a capital at Buenos Aires, which ended Asunción's regional dominance. This caused resentment among the Paraguayan elite and when Argentina declared their independence in 1810, Paraguay refused to go along with them. A local Paraguayan militia managed to defeat an Argentinian army which had been sent to bring them to heel. In 1811, Governor Bernardo de Velasco turned to Brazil for further protection against Argentina. The military officers of Paraguay did not like this, and so they overthrew him and declared independence for themselves.<sup>20</sup>

The military junta established afterwards attempted to form a loose confederacy with the government in Buenos Aires. After the latter attempted to call Paraguayan soldiers to deal with its own inter-provincial struggles however, the junta called together a Paraguayan congress which declared Paraguay as a fully independent state, rejecting further attempts at regional integration.<sup>21</sup>

The lawyer José Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, who had been the power behind the military junta, was first declared one of two co-consuls for Paraguay, but soon after became dictator for life upon the vote of the third session of the Congress of Paraguay. Francia's

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<sup>20</sup> "Paraguay: History." globalEDGE: Your source for Global Business Knowledge. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://globaledege.msu.edu/countries/paraguay/history>.

<sup>21</sup> "History of Paraguay." Encyclopædia Britannica, October 5, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Paraguay>.

twenty-four year tenure as dictator saw him attempt to consolidate power in order to loot the state for himself. He confiscated the property of the church and wealthy elites, prohibited all political activity, and abolished the municipal government of Asunción, among other things.

By the time of the dictator's death, the state owned most of the land and had mostly closed its borders to all of its neighbors and to outsiders in general. Power fell upon a second consulate, but once again it soon became clear that one of them, a former instructor at a university named Carlos Antonio López was named president under a new constitution which gave the president significant power and is notable for not using the word 'liberty' even once. López ended the isolationism, was more lenient towards his political opponents, promoted the modernization and expansion of the military, and attempted to stimulate the economy by appealing to European professionals to immigrate. Like his predecessor however, he continued to take state resources for himself and his family, and owned half of the country personally.<sup>22</sup>

Francisco Solano López succeeded his father as president. His father attempted to warn him not to use the newly expanded military where diplomacy could suffice, but Francisco Solano López was overconfident and greatly underestimated the importance of Paraguay's neutrality in the face of its two giant neighbors in the Empire of Brazil and Argentina. He attempted to intervene in Uruguay, thus dragging the country into the War of the Triple Alliance.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup>“Carlos Antonio López.” Encyclopædia Britannica, October 31, 2023.  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carlos-Antonio-Lopez>.

<sup>23</sup>“Francisco Solano López.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed November 2, 2023.  
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Francisco-Solano-Lopez>.



# HISTORY OF THE WAR

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## Origins

Paraguay has long been involved in disputes with its neighbors, especially Brazil and Argentina. These two more powerful nations have primarily fought with Paraguay over boundaries and tariffs.<sup>24</sup> This, combined with the many complexities left in the region from colonization, created an agitated environment leading up to the war itself.

Uruguay has, for the past few years, had two competing factions within the nation: the Blancos and the Colorados. In 1864, Brazil helped oust the Blancos from power, and installed the Colorados into it.<sup>25</sup> Following this action, the dictator of Paraguay, Francisco Solano López, who had been steadily growing its military, declared war on Brazil. Subsequently, the President of Argentina Bartolomé Mitre allied with the Colorados and Brazil, and this “Triple Alliance” declared war on Paraguay on May 1st, 1865.<sup>26</sup> This war has thus been raging for only about two months. In the first weeks of the war, Paraguayan forces moved into Mato Grosso and Rio Grande do Sul. However, as the allied forces have grown to outnumber Paraguay’s ten to one, Paraguay has withdrawn into its own borders.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>24</sup>“War of the Triple Alliance.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, June 13, 2023.  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/War-of-the-Triple-Alliance>.

<sup>25</sup>“War of the Triple Alliance.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

<sup>26</sup> “War of the Triple Alliance.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

<sup>27</sup>“War of the Triple Alliance.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

## Engaged Militaries

### Paraguay

Over the last decade, Paraguay has been rapidly modernizing its military based on a European model. It has engaged a widespread draft, meaning that it had a standing army of almost 39,000 men at the beginning of the war.<sup>28</sup> Since then, many more have been engaged, bringing the total close to 100,000 soldiers between regular soldiers and militia members. The navy currently has 16 steamers, supported by a flotilla of smaller boats.<sup>29</sup> Paraguay has a larger standing army than any of its neighbors. However, there are issues stemming from a lack of mid-level leadership and inexperienced fighters, especially in the Navy.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, it has a smaller total population than the allies do, which means it has fewer potential forces to draw upon.

### Brazil

At the beginning of this conflict, Brazil possessed a standing army of 17,600 men, the majority of which were stationed in close proximity to Uruguay.<sup>31</sup> Since this conflict began, Brazil has been mobilizing its forces to fight, and its military is growing rapidly. In the 1850s, Brazil also underwent a revamping of their artillery, upgrading their small arms and rifles with surplus from Europe.<sup>32</sup> Brazil also has a very strong navy, the largest in South America.

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<sup>28</sup> Thomas Whigham, *The Paraguayan War: Causes and Early Conduct*, 2nd edition, Calgary, Alberta: University of Calgary Press, 2018, 188.

<sup>29</sup> Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 189.

<sup>30</sup> Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 191.

<sup>31</sup> Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 167.

<sup>32</sup> Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 168.

## Argentina

By law, all male citizens in Argentina between the ages of 17 and 60 may be called to serve.<sup>33</sup> The army is largely based out of provinces as opposed to a large, centralized fighting force. Argentina technically has a navy, but it only has 19 ships, 2 of which carry armaments.<sup>34</sup>

## Uruguay

Uruguay has so far struggled to form a cohesive military, and the Blancos and Colorados each maintain their own separate forces.<sup>35</sup> What this means is that there are several thousand soldiers spread throughout Uruguay, with differing allegiances and training. However, almost all of them possess at least some combat experience.

## Current State of the War and Paraguay's Prospects

Paraguay suffered a critical loss in the war at the Battle of Riachuelo on June 11, 1865, the day before this committee was convened. Brazil's naval force soundly defeated Paraguay's at the mouth of the Riachuelo River.<sup>36</sup> This is a devastating development for Paraguay. It granted the Allied forces control of the Paran River system and allowed them to block off Paraguay's maritime access. Thus, Paraguay can no longer rely on imports of resources and weapons from other nations, especially the battleships they have ordered from Europe.<sup>37</sup> This loss has made it clear that Paraguay cannot win this war. Paraguay maintains several forces stationed throughout

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<sup>33</sup>Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 172.

<sup>34</sup>Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 174.

<sup>35</sup>Whigham, *The Paraguayan War*, 174.

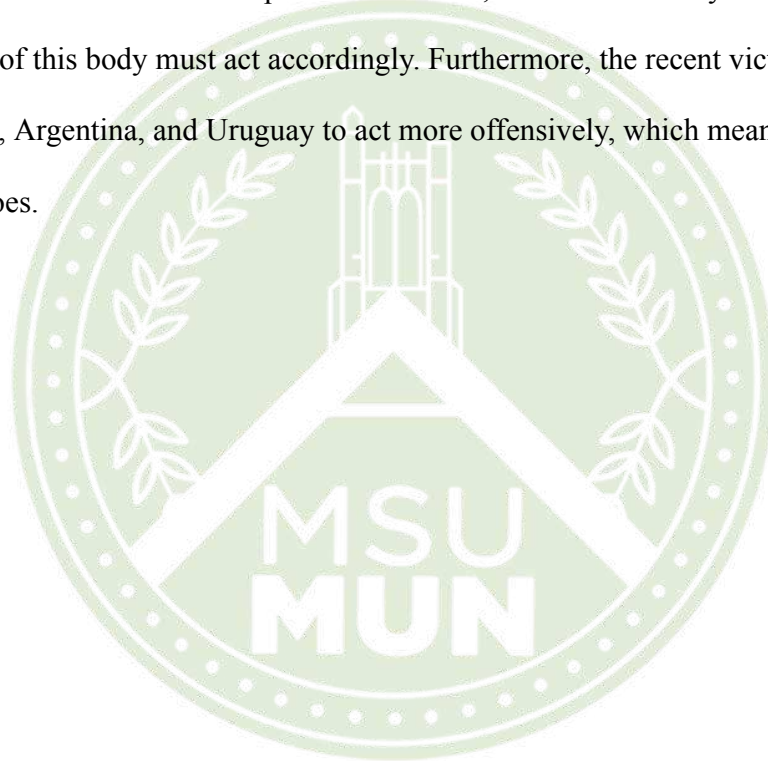
<sup>36</sup>"Brazil: Naval Battle of Riachuelo Data Magna of the Navy." *TendersInfo News*, June 17, 2022.

<https://search-ebscohost-com.proxy2.cl.msu.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edsinc&AN=edsinc.A707439289&site=eds-live>.

<sup>37</sup>"Brazil: Naval Battle of Riachuelo Data Magna of the Navy."

the region. These forces are primarily stationed within the nation's borders. While casualties have so far been sustained, there have not been any significant losses on either side. The Allies outnumber Paraguayan forces both in soldiers and in the general population.

From here, this council must decide what options remain open to Paraguay. Winning is off the table, that much is clear. Some options remain open; for instance, the council may try and sustain Paraguay's defense and hope to regain critical areas, or they may choose to cut their losses and make a deal with the Allied powers. However, a clear-cut victory is now impossible, and the members of this body must act accordingly. Furthermore, the recent victory at Riachuelo will propel Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay to act more offensively, which means this council must stay on its toes.



## ECONOMY OF PARAGUAY

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Before the war, Paraguay's economic strengths were rooted in its agricultural productivity. The country's fertile land, favorable climate, and abundant water resources along the Paraguay River created a conducive environment for cultivating key cash crops. Paraguay was a prominent exporter of commodities like yerba mate, cotton, and tobacco, which were in high demand in global markets. The revenue generated from these exports bolstered the nation's economy and allowed for economic growth and stability. However, after the start of the deadly war, this economic growth and stability was destroyed and decimated.<sup>38</sup>

The war disrupted agricultural production on a massive scale. Farmlands were destroyed, and the population was displaced. Resources that were previously dedicated to agriculture have been diverted to the war effort, resulting in a near collapse of all cash crop cultivation. The economic blockade imposed during the conflict further crippled Paraguay's ability to engage in international trade, exacerbating the nation's economic vulnerabilities. This left many of the citizens very poor, and led to a large gap between the upper and lower class, basically destroying the middle class in the process.

### Infrastructural Challenges

In addition to the economic devastation, this war has been wreaking havoc on Paraguay's infrastructure. The nation's transportation and communication networks have been severely damaged during the conflict. Paraguay's already rudimentary road network has been further decimated by military campaigns and the diversion of our very precious resources to the war

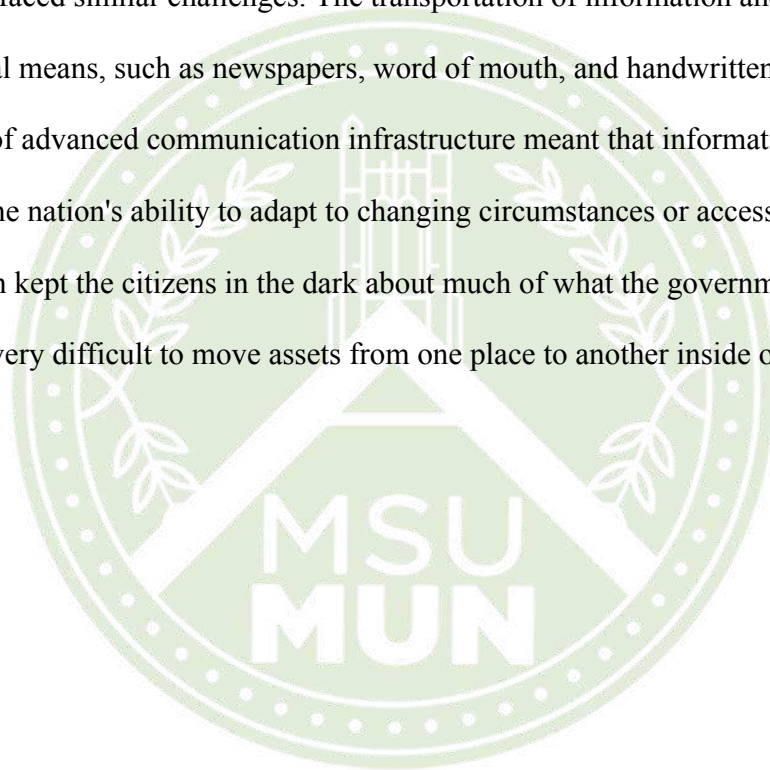
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<sup>38</sup> D. M. Hanratty and S. W. Meditz, *Paraguay, a Country Study*. Washington: Dept. of the Army, 1990.

effort. Paved roads have been transformed into gravel paths, and critical bridges and transportation routes have been destroyed.<sup>39</sup>

The Paraguay River, once a vital transportation route for all citizens, is now useless due to warships and blockades hindering the movement of goods and communication. The conflict's destruction has now extended to other crucial infrastructure components such as bridges and harbors, further slowing down any current attempts at recovery. Paraguay's communication and information flow faced similar challenges. The transportation of information and news occurred through traditional means, such as newspapers, word of mouth, and handwritten letters.

The lack of advanced communication infrastructure meant that information traveled slowly, limiting the nation's ability to adapt to changing circumstances or access external knowledge, which kept the citizens in the dark about much of what the government was doing. Similarly, it was very difficult to move assets from one place to another inside of the country.



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<sup>39</sup>Mario Pastore, "State-Led Industrialisation: The Evidence on Paraguay, 1852-1870," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 26, no. 2 (1994): 295–324. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/157945>.

## CURRENT STATUS OF POLITICS IN PARAGUAY

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The current president of Paraguay is Francisco Solano Lopez, who is at this time two years into his ten year appointment to the position. He was given this position by the Congress of Paraguay which granted it to him unanimously upon the death of his father. The politics of Paraguay take place within the context of a presidential republican system with separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches, but the latter two are de-facto subordinate to the president.

No formal constitution exists, and as a result the politics and government of the country are not well regulated. The Congress of Paraguay passed the “Law that establishes the political administration of the Republic” in 1844 upon the ascension of President Carlos Antonio López, which does give some outline of how the government is supposed to function. According to it, the president's sweeping powers include the ability to manage church affairs even in appointing bishops, to pardon or commute the sentences of the convicted, and broad preponderance over military matters.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> “Update: Legal System and Legal Research in Paraguay.” UPDATE: A Guide to the Legal System and Legal Research in Paraguay - GlobaLex. Accessed November 2, 2023. <https://www.nyulawglobal.org/globalex/Paraguay1.html>.

## OVERVIEW OF OPPOSING FORCES

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### Brazil

In the War of the Triple Alliance the Brazilian Empire broadcasts its strength through its military might and success, yet domestically the country is in turmoil.<sup>41</sup> Under Emperor Pedro II there has been a constant change of Prime Ministers, fermenting political instability. The only constant influence is the Marquis of Caxias (“The Iron Duke”), a loyal right hand to Pedro II and Army Marshal (highest rank in the Brazilian Army) who continues to advocate for further violence against the people of Paraguay. Even with the last few decades of political instability, the monarch has remained firm and expanded the Empire. In this time: the Brazilian population grew from four million to 14 million people, the export value multiplied by 10, and the tax revenue increased by 14 times. Despite this unprecedented growth the people of Brazil remained largely unhappy. In a failed grab for public support the emperor has now alienated the rank and file of the military, the landed aristocracy, and the clergy. The demand for change is slowly becoming apparent. The economy of Brazil is not doing well either. All the economic distress within the country comes from the root of the continued practice of slavery. There are around 700,000 slaves in Brazil as of 1865. Most of the power in the country resides in the owners of sprawling plantations with hundreds of slaves that produce sugar, cotton, and coffee for global sale. Many slaves are being freed during the war—Paraguay liberates plantations that they take over—which decreases goods for export and weakens the economy. The war has crippled the country’s ability to suppress slave revolts and capture escaped slaves. Slave rebellions and

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<sup>41</sup> “Independence of Brazil.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Accessed October 26, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Brazil/Independence>.



abolition movements are growing to boycotting products produced by indentured people, further weakening the economy. This sharp downturn in what used to be a steadily growing economy causes many Brazilian soldiers to question the current governmental system in Brazil and whispers are spreading about a possible military rebellion.

Diplomatic relations for Brazil are on the decline as well. While ties with the United States and most of Europe are cordial, relations with the United Kingdom are downright hostile. Starting in 1862, the Christie Question began with the British seizing Brazilian slave ships under The Aberdeen Act (a British policy allowing British ships to capture Brazilian slave ships and arrest slave traders on the vessel). Tensions were further inflamed by the suspicious looting of an English shipwreck. The incident then progressed to attempts by English sailors to start a mutiny against the crown. The sailors were arrested and diplomatic ties were cut. Within the Region, Brazil strongly aids the Colorado Party in Uruguay with both financial and military support and has a complex history with Argentina that has been put aside for the purpose of defeating Paraguay. The history of Brazil's overthrow of a former Argentine Dictator in 1852 is not forgotten by either country.

### Argentina

The internal affairs of the second power player in the Triple Alliance against Paraguay, Argentina, are also in disarray.<sup>42</sup> Starting in 1852, a series of civil wars tears the country apart. This invites a revolving door of Argentine Presidents which further destabilizes the country. The political pressures against any sitting leader greatly influence policy, with most presidents making extreme efforts to appease their political rivals. This is what leads Argentina into the War

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<sup>42</sup> "History of Argentina." Encyclopædia Britannica, June 23, 2023.  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Argentina>.

of the Triple Alliance. President Bartolomé Mitre caves to the extremist voices in his government and intervenes in the conflict on the side of Brazil and Uruguay. Economically, Argentina is rapidly growing and excelling in foreign trade. The monumental international demand for cattle products and raw mined materials powers its trade. Large infrastructure projects such as ports and railroads are being built en masse. The country has strong ties to European investment which have offset any economic harm caused by the war. Due to the large population of European immigrants flocking to Argentina, its foreign ties have never been stronger.

### Uruguay

The country at the epicenter of this conflict, Uruguay, has a long and storied past with both its allies and enemies.<sup>43</sup> Becoming an independent nation in 1828 after its separation from Brazil, Uruguay has long been coveted by its larger neighbors to the north and south. Internal conflicts have marred its development with the Guerra Grande (“Great War”) spanning over a decade. Factions of the first two presidents, José Fructuoso Rivera and Manuel Oribe, battle for control of the country. Oribe’s militia, wearing white, became known as the Blanco Party and were supported by the Argentine dictator of the time. Rivera’s band of militants displayed red colors and became known as the Colorado Party. With the Blancos controlling the interior of the country and the Colorados controlling Montevideo, the Guerra Grande started in 1839 and ended in 1851 without a clear victory for either side. As a result of this grueling conflict, the country is devastated and bankrupt. The Colorado Party in 1865, assisted by a Brazilian army, ousts the Blancos from the government. This worries Paraguay that the regional balance of power may be

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<sup>43</sup> “Uruguay.” Encyclopædia Britannica, October 17, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Uruguay>.

disturbed, so it intervenes and sparks the War of the Triple Alliance.<sup>44</sup> Commerce in Uruguay is greatly disrupted by the war, furthering the country's economic problems. The goods of wool and beef are not in high demand by its neighboring countries and due to the constant fighting Uruguay has no other diplomatic ties outside of its region. The country's trade apparatus withers further.



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<sup>44</sup> "War of the Triple Alliance." Encyclopædia Britannica, June 6, 2014.  
<https://www.britannica.com/event/War-of-the-Triple-Alliance>.

## CHARACTERS:

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### Pedro de Yandú (fictional)

Pedro de Yandú is a rural Guaraní community leader who was well respected in his locality and rose to several minor provincial positions there. As the War of the Triple Alliance progressed and the Spanish elite dwindled in numbers, the government began to rely increasingly on Guaraní leaders to fill government positions. Pedro began to rise within the ranks, first at the local level, then at the provincial level. In his local and provincial posts his primary focus had always been on the faithful administration of his duties, always within the bounds of the law (or at the very least, within the bounds of the political norm, as he has very likely taken part in the bribery and corruption necessary to get things done). His mild-mannered demeanor and steadfast equity towards the rural Guaraní communities where previous leaders had been more prone to favor Spanish elites led him to become quite popular among the rural communities, causing him to become their unofficial political spokesperson. Despite his constituents' general consensus, he has shown no real interest in spearheading country-wide reforms with the aim of promoting more inclusion of the Guaraní people in political life, but it is unclear whether this is because he has no such ambitions or merely because he had not yet achieved a high enough position to seek to enact such change.

### Estanislao Iglesias (fictional)

Estanislao Iglesias is the current mayor of the capital city of Paraguay, Asunción. He was put into this role by Carlos Antonio López, the father and predecessor of Francisco Solano López, and has retained it ever since. He has always recognized that patronage by the two López

presidents is what has kept him in his place, and as a result has always supplicated himself extensively to them and gone along with their policy and project goals. He takes no shame in participating in the spoils system of Paraguayan politics and is especially noted for taking excess city funds directly for himself and his family. Nevertheless he views this as an inherent part of the system and otherwise seeks to elevate the city economically, politically, and socially (and of course, to dip directly into the public gains therefrom). He has never shown any greater political ambition beyond his current position, and works primarily to keep the status quo of his post and the quality of life it brings him. For the last two decades this has meant loyalty to the López presidencies - but with the war turning against Paraguay and the looming possibility that Brazil may be able to bring their navy up the river to attack Asunción, he may have to rethink his loyalties.

### José Berges (real)

José Berges is the current Minister of Foreign Affairs. He has served under Francisco Solano López throughout the entirety of his reign. He holds incredible loyalty to López and his fellow ministers. He rose to his position through his skill at diplomacy and he is noted as being one of the most persuasive Paraguayans when dealing with foreign actors. Berges is famous for his no-nonsense and realistic attitude when dealing with any problems that may face Paraguay's foreign policy. He has strong ties to countries far away with friends in England, France, and the United States. He also has some contacts within each of the Triple Alliance countries, but cannot publicly speak with them out of fear of being accused of treason. Berges wants to have a successful career and to make an impact on the world. For a long time that means blindly following López, but the tides may be beginning to change. Though Berges has remained a loyal

supporter of López for years, the dictator is beginning to grow suspicious of anyone close to him with any foreign ties at all. With the ongoing war, Berges' far-reaching foreign ties are losing relevance. With danger lurking both outside and within Paraguay for Berges, who knows what he will do next?

### **Cristian Duarte (fictional)**

Cristian Duarte is a businessman first and a treasure-hunter second. Amassing his wealth through business ventures in Paraguay he likes to spend his money in search of even more, namely gold. His business has skyrocketed in wealth due to his investment in large estates owned by the rich, but his heart is not in it. Ever since he was a child, Duarte has been searching for buried treasure and now he has a chance to find it. As families flee the ongoing war, they have been burying their valuables en masse. Known as Plata Yuyguy, the race is on to discover these buried caches of gold. Duarte has become obsessed with finding these, sometimes even forsaking his health or well-being to search. Additionally, there have been recent rumors of a British shipwreck (reportedly carrying treasure) that washed up upon the Brazilian shore in Rio Grande do Sul, but since it is in Brazilian territory no one can access it. Duarte has the skills from both his job and passion to 'fix' many things. He knows plenty of people in government and is very resourceful.

### **Rafael Barbosa (fictional)**

Rafael Barbosa was born and raised in São Paulo, Brazil. He was exiled 10 years ago due to running an internal smuggling ring that disturbed the internal Brazilian market for coffee beans. He now resides in Asunción. Barbosa has extensive underground ties in the import and

export business in both Brazil and Paraguay. This network could be mobilized to bolster Paraguayan resources, but only if there is something in the deal for Barbosa. He holds no ideological ties to Paraguay but has a deep resentment of the Brazilian Emperor Pedro II. Rafael Barbosa wants only for the power and prestige he had back in Brazil, and revenge on Pedro II for his exile. Barbosa lives by the saying “The enemy of my enemy is my friend,” but people should never think for a second that he won’t do just about anything to get what he wants.

### **Catalina Ramos (fictional)**

Catalina Ramos was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She loves her home country, but she can no longer live there after she was forced into exile by President Bartolomé Mitre only a few months ago. Ramos had been a longstanding and outspoken voice against the chaotic turmoil of the Argentinian government. When Mitre took power Ramos was initially optimistic, he seemed to want reform but as time would tell he would only cave to the extremists and launch her beloved country into war. She spoke out and was silenced and subsequently exiled from Argentina. Ramos opposes her home country’s government but still wants to see its reform for the betterment of her fellow Argentinians. She has multiple contacts in the Argentinian government that quietly agree with her and are willing to shape policy from within. She is willing to work with the Paraguayan government, after all, they provided her sanctuary, but everything she does needs to benefit her people back home as well.

### **Balthasar Corbo (fictional)**

Balthasar Corbo is a Blanco party official from Uruguay. He was an aide to Former President Bernardo Berro during his presidency, and fled to Paraguay following the overthrow of

the Blanco Party by the Brazilians. In Uruguay, he had a reputation for ruthlessness and cunning with which he dispatched the enemies of the President (sometimes including unruly members of the Blanco Party itself). He has since supported Paraguayan efforts in the war, especially as they are concerned about putting the Blanco Party back in charge in Uruguay. Until Paraguay began to lose the war he occupied himself chiefly with coordinating between the Paraguayan government and those still in Uruguay who wished to see the Blanco Party return to power. Now that the war has shifted increasingly towards the advantage of the Triple Alliance, Corbo has found himself increasingly without the patronage of the Paraguayan government. Despite his rapidly dwindling support base in Paraguay, Corbo's self-serving disposition has always led him to rebound from setbacks.

### **Agustín Ignacio Rodgriez (fictional)**

Agustín Ignacio Rodgriez is a priest living in a small town in Paraguay close to the border of Brazil. He is the current head of the local church and the Catholic school established to address the educational needs within his community. Agustín is an adamant voice for the poor within northern Paraguay and has published many pamphlets and essays arguing for the government's acknowledgement of the conditions of towns such as his. His recent work, *An Address to the Fields of Influence from the Fields of Grain* voiced its adamant concern on the effect of current conflict on the nation's poor. This work was directed towards the upper echelon of Paraguayan society. Agustín has worked with other localities of the Catholic church in nearby villages and the remnants of Jesuit institutions in Paraguay to promote regional awareness and support for the impoverished in the region affected by the conflict.



### Ernesto Castillo Reyes (fictional)

Ernesto Castillo Reyes is an entrepreneur in the lumber industry who formerly worked for a shipping line. He established his enterprise in Buenos Aires to address the lumber needs for the city's growing prominence and for the city's relative ease of importing and exporting lumber using the city's sophisticated port system. Reyes' business is currently experiencing hardships due to tariffs between Paraguay and Argentina ultimately decreasing lumber imports. The conflict has further disrupted the flow of lumber into Buenos Aires and as of currently, Reyes only relies on the Brazilian lumber market to keep his business afloat. The higher prices he is forced to pay within the Brazilian lumber market is putting the stability of his business at risk and has become a source of protest which he has repeatedly addressed to the government of Buenos Aires.

### Alvaro Francisco de Paula (fictional)

Alvaro Francisco de Paula is among one of the more renowned figures in the Paraguayan Navy. He used to be Lieutenant Commander of the *Cordillera* prior to becoming the current head of the Paraguayan Navy. He has a resolute militaristic experience roughly equal to that of Pedro Ignacio Meza, the former head of the Paraguayan Navy. During Meza's 4 day hospitalization at the Fortress of Humaitá, Alvaro was tasked with temporary command of the Paraguayan Navy by the Minister of War given his militaristic accomplishments. After Meza's death shortly after, Alvaro was made the *de facto* and later permanent head of the navy. He has already drafted plans to defend the Fortress of Humaitá given its strategic importance requiring the use of the Navy and defensive installations. Alvaro is currently in the process of drafting potential offensives with the Fortress being the base of operations for said offensives.

### Francisco Isidoro Resquín (real)

Francisco Isidoro Resquín is the current Brigadier General for the Paraguayan Army. He was recently promoted to this post following Wenceslao Robles' vocal rejection of the National Order of Merit award and demotion to Second Lieutenant after the fact. Resquín was a captain prior to 1859 and later became colonel afterward. Under the title of colonel, he helped to lead in the invasion of the Corumbá and the Mato Grosso region in Brazil. Following a Brazilian offensive in the current Mato Grosso Campaign, he is under current orders to retreat across the Paraná River along with the cattle herded by his army. Resquín has taken the liberties of documenting the war as it develops, with one remaining hopeful that someone may take away something from his account of the current conflict.

### Ramona Martínez (real)

Ramona Martínez is a nurse and slave of President Francisco Solano Lopez. While present at a battle in her capacity as a nurse, she took up a sword and led a charge against the enemy after an officer was wounded and no longer able to lead his men. She became famous throughout the country as a result of this escapade, with some newspapers declaring her the Joan of Arc of the New World. As a result of the incident the President was unable to recall her into his direct service (given both her newfound popularity and the relative unimportance of the matter given the more dire needs of the war), and so she became a de-facto free person. She holds some informal sway over the commoners and soldiers alike. A great deal of influence has been thrust suddenly upon her: only time will tell how she uses it.

### **Floria Alonso (fictional)**

Floria Alonso is a Lieutenant in the Navy. As one of only a few women in higher ranks within the Paraguayan military, Floria is focused on the equitable treatment of women in the army and the navy, as well as maintaining the strength of the military through her contributions of women, as manufacturing employees and soldiers. She is a powerful strategist and has quickly risen through the ranks of the Navy. Despite the fact that she descends from a long line of respected military officers, Floria often finds that her superiors do not take her seriously due to her gender. Floria hopes that through including more women in this cabinet, Paraguay will be able to move past their sexist beliefs and see the usefulness of women in power. Her ultimate goal is to protect the interests of Paraguay, which includes the interests of Paraguayan women.

### **Inocente Yeruta (fictional)**

Inocente Yeruta is a prominent feminist in Paraguayan society. She campaigns for women's rights, especially the right of women to own property and get divorced. She also campaigns for women to get involved in the war, as she sees that as their way to gain equal rights within Paraguayan society. She hopes that more policy protecting the interests of women can still be prioritized during wartime because, without such policy, strong and able women such as herself will not be able to save Paraguay from the hole it continues to dig itself into. It is her belief that an influx of women into upper leadership could save the lives of many Paraguayans. When she is not busy advocating for women, she owns and runs a restaurant in Ciudad del Este, which is right along the Paraná River.

### **Rafe Ayala (fictional)**

Rafe Ayala is the leader of the town of Encarnación. This town is located right along the Paraná River, near the Argentine border. Ayala is primarily concerned with protecting his town, and others like it, in consideration to their proximity to the border. It is his belief that the Paraguayan government is ignorant of the impacts of the war on everyday citizens and hopes to bring perspectives from his townspeople to educate institutional elites that are not facing displacement or physical fear from the consequences of war. He believes that if Paraguay continues to ignore its citizenry that the empire will fall, regardless of whether the sword that brings it down is foreign or domestic. He is a lawyer by trade but has dedicated the past two decades to leading his town. He is very well-respected in the region, and his decisions carry a lot of weight among the citizens of even other towns.

### **Hernan Otazu Cabrera (fictional)**

Hernan Otazu Cabrera is a fruit farmer in eastern Paraguay, near the border with Brazil. The area he lives in is very good for agriculture and he makes a very good living from his large farm. However, the war concerns him. While war provides an opportunity to help supply troops on their way to Brazil, the risk of property destruction and damage is simply too great for him and other agricultural workers. Hernan has heard of the demolition of farm property from those who live and work closer to the borders of Paraguay and he fears for his families safety and security if the war continues. He hopes that by approaching the conflict from a food production and cash crop perspective, he may be able to show officials how important it is to preserve his livelihood and promote agricultural production for years after the war. He wants nothing more than to protect his family and friends in the area.

### Eliza Lynch (real)

While technically not the wife of Francisco Lopez, Eliza Lynch is the closest thing to a First Lady that Paraguay has. Born and raised in Ireland, Mrs. Lynch would move to Paris and marry a French Army surgeon. Here she would enter the court of the French Princess for a brief time before meeting Lopez as he toured Europe. Despite still technically being married at the time, she would leave with him for Paraguay within the year. She is credited as being the reason that Paraguay was so rapidly modernized. She was popular amongst the populace of the nation and would soon become one of the most important figures in contemporary Paraguayan culture. Some blame her for influencing Lopez's opinion as being the reason that Paraguay is in this war, but this is likely a mean-spirited rumor. Regardless she certainly holds the ear of the president, perhaps more than anyone else in Paraguay.

### Cirilo Antonio Rivarola (real)

Coming from an affluent and influential family, it is no wonder that Rivarola would become as much of a prominent figure as he has, although this is much to the president's chagrin. During the War of the Triple Alliance, he rose to the rank of sergeant and while on the front line, he distinguished himself as a strong and capable military officer. Despite this, he is far from beloved. He is said to be a Colorado Sympathizer, and many feel a need to keep a close eye on him for his political beliefs, even if there is no evidence of him taking action. He is often at odds with the president on policy issues and dislikes how the president got the country into the war in the first place. In a nation at a time of crisis, many think that his views but a target on his back for enemies both within and out of the country. Despite this, he still faithfully serves the nation of Paraguay, even if he is viewed with a suspicious eye by his peers.

### William Stewart (real)

Born in Edinburgh and living in Europe for most of his life, William Stewart may seem out of place at first glance. A well-qualified physician who trained at the Royal College of Surgery, it would seem as though he would have better career options as well. But Stewart came to Paraguay for one reason above all others: it was the most interesting job offered to him. Upon arriving in Asuncion, he met with Lopez and would become well acquainted with the political life in Paraguay. While he may have had the backing of Lopez, there was still the political web to worry about, and as a foreigner he was at a disadvantage. While he is a doctor by trade, he has a considerable skill at navigating these political webs and has gained some influence despite his outsider status. He spent much of his time before the war ingratiating himself with the ruling family and by training as many qualified men as he could in his trade. Coming from a completely different way of life than the people of Paraguay, he is fascinated by the Paraguayan lifestyle and its differences from Europe.

### Vincente Barrios (real)

For one reason or another, the name Vincente Barrios has slowly increased in reputation during the War of the Triple Alliance. Being from a wealthy family, Barrios would spend most of his life in the military of Paraguay. However, his military life only began to take off after he made an interesting career decision: he married the president's sister. Lopez was greatly endeared to his new brother-in-law and put him in charge of a campaign into Brazilian territory. This campaign would prove to be strategically insignificant, but Lopez would promote Barrios to Brigadier General, as he was happy with the amount of supplies that Barrios was able to capture. This may seem at first like an amazing career move for Barrios, but it also has caused him to be pushed into a new limelight of responsibility. Some question whether Barrios is actually fit for

his new position, and if the good graces of the president will last long enough for him to make it through the war in one piece.



## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What steps could Paraguay take to mitigate its losses?
- What should the country be willing to give up in the war? What is non-negotiable?
- How can the country balance the numerous differing views present in the committee?
- What does your character bring to the table? What unique perspectives do you add?





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