



Houston Area Model United Nations Crisis Committee

Ashes to Ashes West: Aftermath of a Nuclear War

Crisis Directors | **Owen Butler**, Gabriel Bolanos,
and Jawad Kazi
HAMUN 48 | February 2-3, 2023

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Note to Delegates

Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN 48 and to the Ashes to Ashes Crisis Committee. My name is Owen Butler, and I am your Crisis Chair this year. Currently I am a Sophomore at the University of Texas, majoring in International Relations. In my free time I like to hang out with my friends and watch movies, but I also pass the time writing and engaging in politics. I have four years of experience attending HAMUN, and this is my second year chairing a committee. When I was in high school, I had always loved Model UN and I'm glad to be involved in any way possible to keep this tradition alive.

This year we will be discussing a "Post Superpower" world, where the United States and China are no longer the major powers they are today, and how one region of the world, being the Mediterranean and Near East, would experience the power vacuum. Ethnic tensions along with centuries old border disputes abound, and with no outside threats of force or international groups with power to stop these conflicts, it is up to old fashioned politics to keep the peace. That is not to mention the massive waves of tens of millions of refugees that are arriving weekly, or the cataclysmic food shortage that the world is to face in the coming months and years. There is, in short, no easy answer. There is no resolution to go back, or to "grow more food." The delegates will have to grapple with tough questions about how far a nation is willing to go to provide for their own people, and reckon with issues long thought extinguished. What happens to a nation that cannot provide for its people- and what happens to those with power? I urge everyone to do more research outside of the background guide to better prepare themselves for committee and know more about the ethnic and historical backgrounds of their region.

Reach out to me via the email below if you have any questions or are in need of clarification on the topics. I look forward to seeing everyone in Committee,
Good Luck,

Owen Butler

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Ashes to Ashes

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Introduction

"All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return." - Ecclesiastes 3:20

To many, the early 21st century seemed to be a period of endless progress and wealth, ushering in an expansion of democracy and peace throughout the world. But this hope was short-lived... and the facade would soon start to crack.

Invasion of Taiwan

The world as we knew it began to end on December 29th, 2028, when the People's Republic of China invaded Taiwan. Despite several initial Chinese victories, Taiwanese forces launched a stubborn resistance, maintaining a tenuous control on the island. But as the situation grew more dire, Taiwan formally declared war on China, joined in by many NATO and East Asian allies.

Peace Talks in Moscow

Just as a new world war seemed inevitable, the main international powers agreed to hold an emergency peace conference in Moscow. The heads of states of the warring nations and the top diplomatic minds of the greatest states in the world met for weeks while a ceasefire was declared, and for a time, it seemed possible that peace would prevail.

The night of February 28th at 18:00 Moscow time, a nuclear detonation was detected near the Kremlin, and communications from the city ceased.

Nobody from the conference survived.

The War of Ashes

In the coming hours after the Moscow attack, the world erupted into nuclear war. Cries of peace were drowned out as people of the world looked upon its broken governments and longed for revenge. Blaming each other for the attack on Moscow, members of NATO and the Chinese bloc retaliated by firing missiles piecemeal into each other.

This resulted in a massive nuclear exchange, known afterwards as the War of Ashes for the devastating death toll and destruction left in its wake. One by one, almost all of the major cities of the Western and Eastern world were wiped off the map by hellfire.

Now, the old age of progress, wealth, and peace has been replaced by utter chaos. And a new world order has emerged.



Drone shot capturing the wreckage of Shanghai after the War of Ashes. April 2, 2029.



An American refugee's artistic depiction of the nuclear bombing of Los Angeles. March 12, 2029.



European refugees arrive in Greece by ship. February 23, 2029.



Australians are stranded while attempting to evacuate from Sydney. February 14, 2029.

Two Months Later...

Today is April 11, 2029. Six weeks after the end of the world, survivors have begun to reorganize, reformulating local governments and new leadership out of the rubble. Yet there is still much work to be done.

Hundreds of millions of desperate **refugees** have fled to all corners of the world.

Famine, caused by the collapse of the American, Chinese, and Ukrainian food crop and the onset of nuclear winter, is now fast approaching.

A major **energy** crisis, caused by the lack of American and Russian oil, ravages many major cities that have held onto a semblance of civilization.

International trade has dragged to a halt as world shipping routes lay lined with refugees, and military vessels have become a new terrifying pirate menace.

And due to the loss of modern infrastructure and technology, **half of the world** has been **cut off** from each other.

Now, leaders from what was once the Mediterranean and Asia have gathered to rebuild society and plan for the crises that lie ahead.

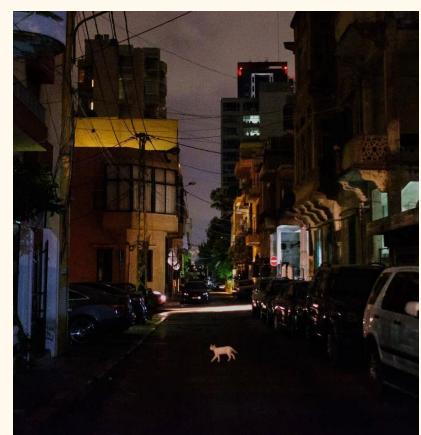
Peace and political rights are no longer the issues of the day. Now states must worry about life and death. And what wouldn't a nation do to provide for its starving people? What wouldn't those starving do? Sometimes, not everyone can win—and sometimes nobody wins.

The die is cast: what will you make out of dust and ashes?



The King of Thailand tours local rice fields to monitor current production. March 19, 2029.

Beirut suffers from another partial blackout. February 24, 2029.



Timeline

Red = Western event

Blue = Eastern event

Black = Global event

May 23, 2023 - A successful pro-Democratic coup by members of the Turkish armed forces results in the end of Prime Minister Erdogan's leadership.

February 2025 - The Libyan Civil War ends, and as-Senussi is restored to power.

June 2026 - The Iraqi Civil War ends, and Kurdistan officially gains its independence.

March 2027 - After an escalation in Indian-Pakistani relations concerning the Kashmir border, nuclear war is successfully avoided due to diplomatic efforts. India and Pakistan pledge to renew peace and ceasefire agreements.

August-November 2028 - Following the death of Kim Jong-Un, his sister and successor Kim Yo-Jong enters diplomatic talks with South Korean president Choi Mun-hee concerning possible reunification.

December 2028 - Tensions between the United States and the Republic of China reach an all-time high after Taiwan elects to assert its independence against China. US President Nicholas Hale pledges to lend Taiwan military support in the event of a Chinese attack.

December 29-January 1, 2029 - The People's Republic of China officially invades Taiwan, sparking what would be dubbed by Western media as the New Year's Invasion. Taiwan declares war on China three days later, and the nations of the world announce general mobilization.

Timeline

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January 2029 - Many members of NATO, most notably the United States, announce their support for Taiwan. Towards the end of the month, most of these countries officially join in the war against China. Japan and India remain neutral, though they adopt defensive postures. The first NATO troops leave the United States for Taiwan.

January 24-29, 2029 - As fighting stalls outside of Taipei, China agrees to a temporary ceasefire and enters peace talks with other major powers, on the condition that the emergency peace conference be held in Moscow. World leaders from nearly every country arrive in Russia, and peace talks officially begin on the 29th.

February 12, 2029 - The conference is suddenly cut short by a nuclear attack originating from a detonation within downtown Moscow. This event sparks panic across the world and causes several governments to collapse, leading to the start of the War of Ashes. It is unknown which nation or group was responsible for this initial nuclear attack.

February 12-19, 2029 - The War of Ashes takes place across the world. During this week, most major cities are reduced to rubble due to nuclear bombings, and many countries unaffected by the bombs nevertheless collapse due to the chaos.

February 13, 2029 - The Pakistani government undergoes a violent military coup, and multiple generals take control of various regions in Pakistan. This causes relations between India and the newly-forming Pakistani city states to deteriorate, and it serves as a precursor to the fall of many other world governments.

Timeline

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February 13, 2029 - Japanese Prime Minister Chikao Fujimori places Japan on lockdown, dividing it into six sections and appointing provisional governors to lead each section. After the end of the War of Ashes, this provisional government becomes permanent, marking the beginning of the reign of the New Zaibatsu. The Big Six of the New Zaibatsu broker a truce with China, promising not to intervene in world affairs any longer in exchange for avoiding nuclear attack.

February 13, 2029 - Chinese military units retaliate by launching nuclear weapons, hitting most major American population centers. NATO units respond likewise, laying waste to much of eastern China.

February 13, 2029 - Taking advantage of the chaos, North Korean general Pak Chul-Moo declares himself Supreme General in Kim Yo-Jong's absence and declares war on South Korea, bombarding major South Korean cities with a myriad of nuclear weapons. However, the rapid change in government causes North Korea to lose control of the Korean Demilitarized Zone, leading to a massive emigration of people to South Korea.

February 14, 2029 - Numerous countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, launch a state of emergency and successfully begin evacuation of major metropolitan areas. India attempts to do the same, but evacuation is undermined by large levels of unrest. While this originated from the attack on Moscow, it is further exacerbated by rising tensions between India and Pakistani city-states, as well as general discontent with the Indian government.

Timeline

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February 15, 2029 - The Russian provisional government in St.

Petersburg opens up the Russian arsenal, and many units individually decide that the attack on Moscow was the fault of Western powers. A large-scale exchange occurs between most European nations and the Russians, utterly destroying almost all major cities in Western Europe. This is collectively known as the “Day of No Night” in Europe.

February 17, 2029 - The remnants of the Chinese government gain control of several other nuclear bombs, which are used to preemptively destroy several major Canadian and Australian cities, as well as Taiwan and Hong Kong.

February 13 to 17, 2029 - Over the span of 5 days, large refugee groups manage to escape from mainland China, traveling by sea to many other Asian countries. Unfortunately, many countries turn refugees away. Other refugee groups reach cities shortly before they are destroyed by nuclear weapons and are forced to further flee to other areas. The largest cohort of refugees embark in Australia, although a significant portion also end up in Indonesia, New Zealand, and the Philippines.

February 18, 2029 - The Egyptian Anarchy begins as the new Egyptian government is unable to reassert control. After a terror attack on the British navy in the Suez, Vice Admiral MacDonald seizes and secures the canal zone to provide a safe zone for his troops and fleet.

February 18-March 2, 2029 - After a week of general unrest and panic marked by power outages, political uncertainty, and lack of international trade, the Indian government finally collapses from within. Several local leaders rise up, causing India to fragment into a myriad of small states and warlords. After around 2 weeks, India coalesces into four main governments, each fighting for control of the entire subcontinent.

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March 2029 - At this point, most civilizations from the pre-Ashes era have collapsed and re-formed into shadows of their former selves, leading to the worldwide creation of dictatorships, revival of kingdoms, and increased importance of local government. The few democracies that still exist desperately cling to existence. Radio broadcasts are the new dominant form of communication, and some governments attempt to rebuild landline communications.

March 21, 2029 - The newly formed Kingdom of Thailand successfully manages to reestablish some trade connections with important port cities in Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia, which slowly begin to ship rice from Thailand to other parts of Asia. Scientists across the globe note that temperatures are already several degrees cooler than typical, and they begin warning local governments about the onset of a nuclear winter.

March 24, 2029 - Communication networks in the Mediterranean are finally linked with that of Asia. World leaders in both regions agree to joint worldwide councils to discuss rebuilding efforts, as well as major crises that loom ahead.

Present Day (April 11, 2029) - All delegates finally arrive at the Malta (Western) and Lahore (Eastern) Conferences. These delegates will have to confront a pressing refugee crisis, as well as the food and energy crises that lay ahead. As the first worldwide event to occur since the War of Ashes two months ago, only time will tell how these first summits will shape the future...

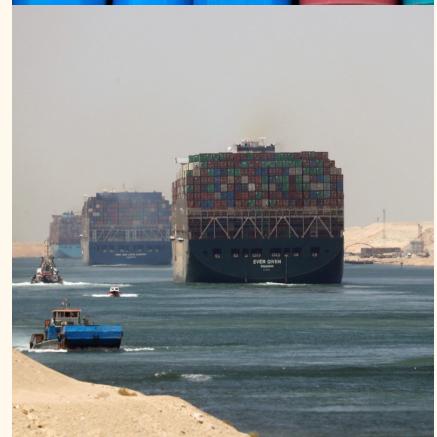
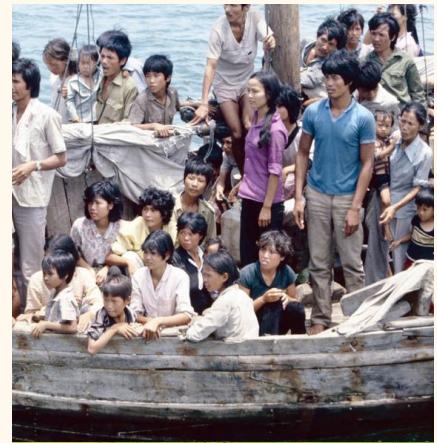
Major Issues

1. Peacefully resolve the ongoing **refugee crisis**.
 - ❑ Hundreds of millions of displaced people from affected areas currently seek shelter throughout the Mediterranean and Asia.

2. Prepare for the inevitable **food crisis** that will occur in a couple of months.
 - ❑ Apart from certain areas, like the Kingdom of Thailand, Ukraine and Southern Russia, and parts of former India, most regions are unprepared to grow their own crops.

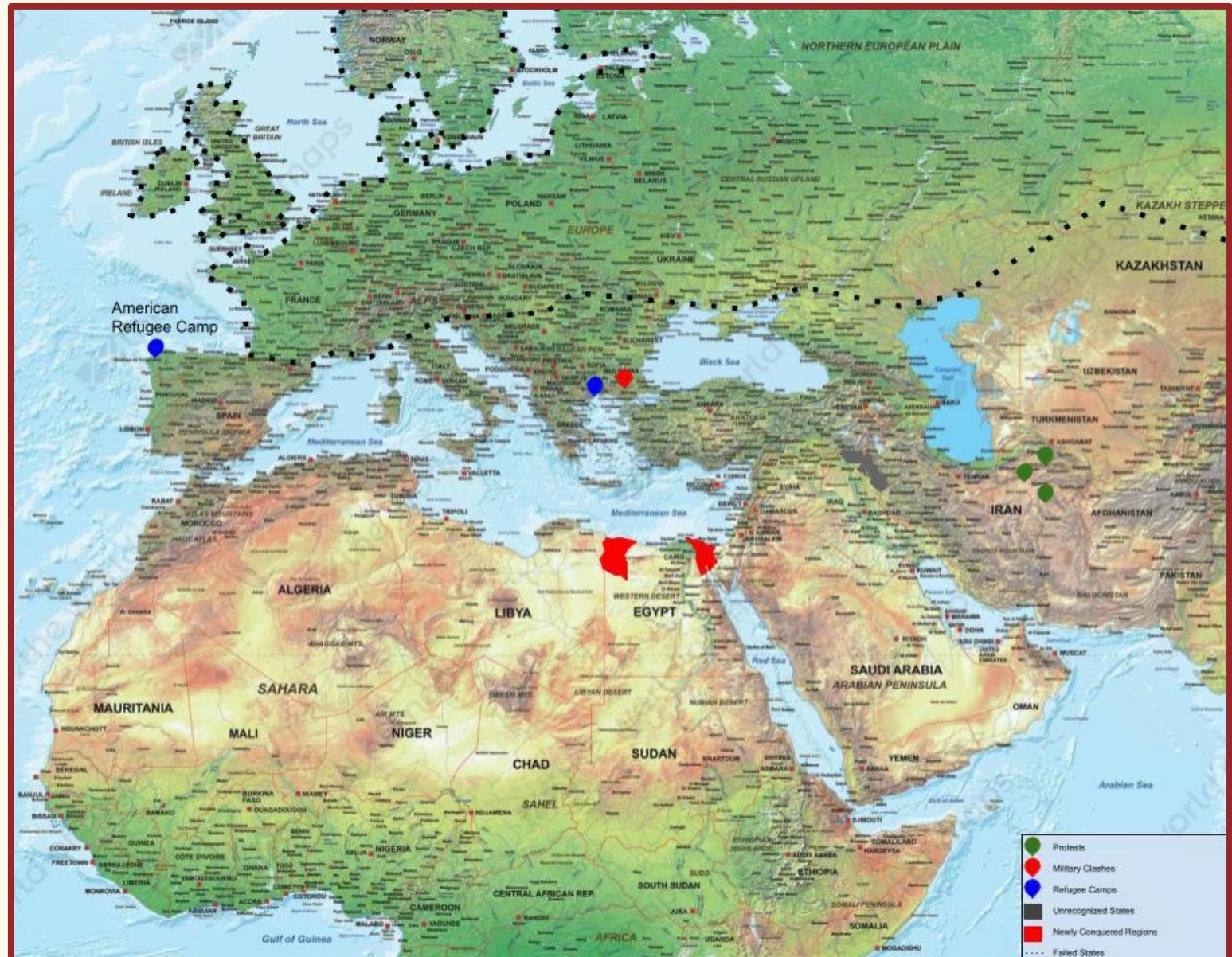
3. Tackle the major **energy crisis** caused by the lack of American and Russian fuel.
 - ❑ Certain resources, such as Saudi oil, are still available but inaccessible to the rest of the world due to the collapse of international trade.

4. Consider **rebuilding international trade routes** and **reestablishing worldwide connection**.
 - ❑ Although more long-term goals, this would help resolve the three issues mentioned above. Trade and information could be your most valuable assets.



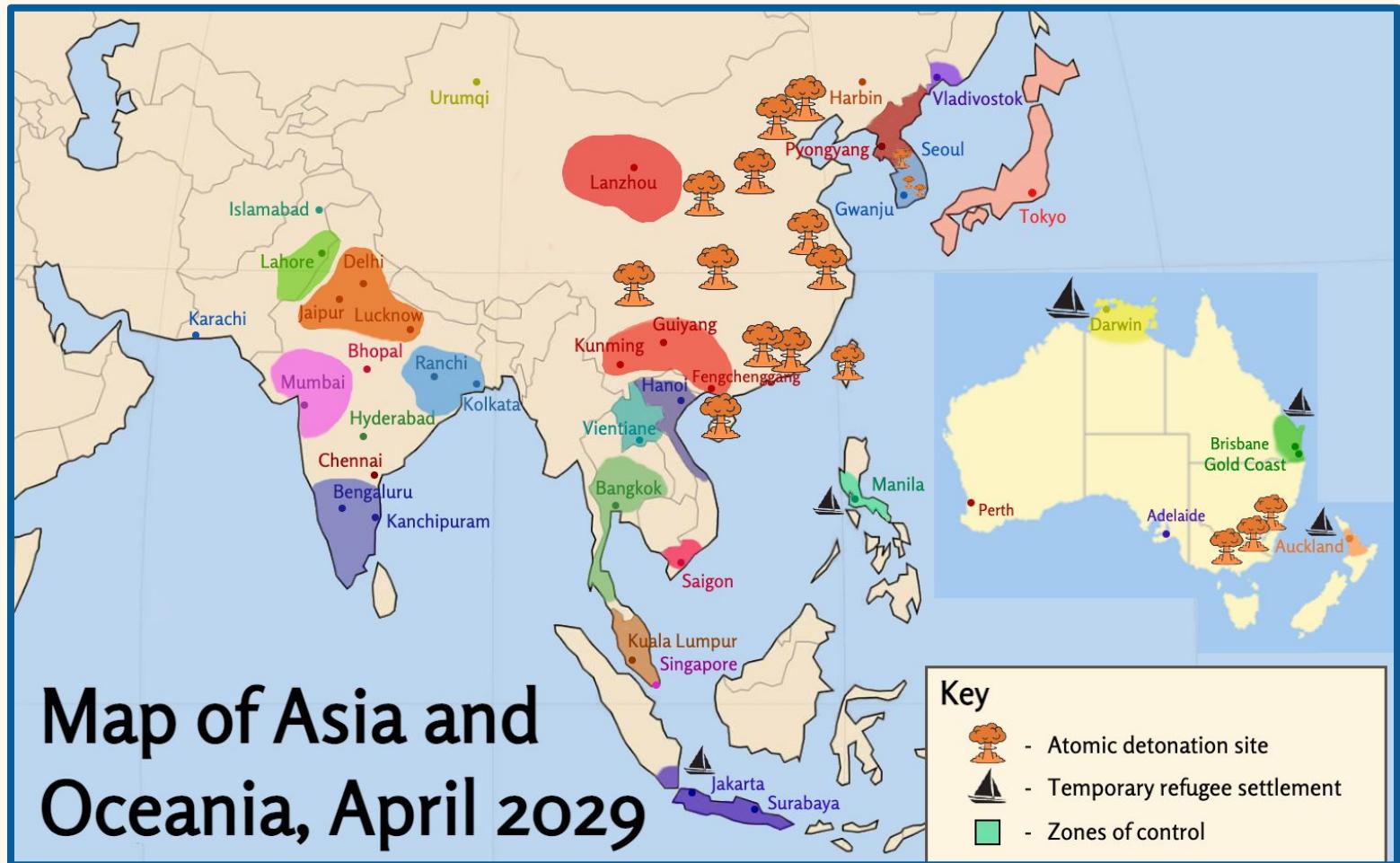
Western Council Map

North Africa, the Middle East, and Europe on April 11th



Eastern Council Map

Map of Asia and Oceania, April 2029



David Ben-Naim

Israel has always been up against a wall fighting in a corner, and nobody knows this quite like newly appointed Prime Minister David Ben-Naim. His grandfather Jacob arrived in 1948 to Israel, and fought to liberate his ancestors' homeland. His father lived much a similar life, a career officer. David served his time in the IDF, and worked in Mossad for a decade following his army service.

In 2024, he got involved with politics, and achieved a meteoric rise through the ranks of public service in the Yesh Atid party. Following the death of the former prime minister, he was elected head of the new Israeli caretaker coalition government. The towns and cities of Israel, once renowned for their vibrant life, now sit empty as men have been called up to their units, and an air of unease sits overhead. What is to become of Israel? Will they share the same fate as the broken nations of the world, their people and culture to be lost to history, the efforts of their grandfathers reduced to the ashes that now begin to settle across the globe? Israel has many enemies, and is rapidly approaching a point where they must make decisions that a weak man couldn't stomach. But David Ben-Naim is not that weak man. He has always been willing to do the dirty work to accomplish the needs of his people. As he did, as his father did, and as his father before him, he shall do nothing less than give his life for the preservation of his culture and faith, for if Israel is lost, so they shall remain lost.

Saman Rafati

Iran has made many new men since her revolution, and General Rafati is undeniably one of them. His family had always been grain farmers, and had lived in poverty since time immemorial. His father was soon drafted into the military following the beginning of hostilities with Iraq in 1980, leaving newborn Saman and his two sisters with his mother in the care of some cousins. The General lost his father shortly after in the Iraq-Iran War in the defense of Mehran.

In 1998 he joined the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and worked his way through the ranks to Generalship. In that time he had fought in the Lebanese Civil War, and in the Syrian Civil War, showing bravery in combat and his commitment to his nation. Following the outbreak of conflict between the United States and China, he was recalled to lead special operations within Teheran. The Supreme Leader was killed in the attacks on the summit, and the General has had complete control over the capital following this. All of his troops look to him, and duty propels him to make sure that the nation he has served for so long maintains the values he had always fought for. Tensions with Israel must be addressed too, and he knows conflict may be just around the corner. The people don't know better than God, he knows, and the torch of the revolution must be preserved, whatever the cost.

Ibrahim Barzegar

In the northern reaches of the Razavi Khorasan province of Iran, protests rocked the typically quiet region. Ibrahim was orphaned as a child, and lived off of pocket change made from odd jobs on farms and cities. The only source of stability he had in his life was faith, and it was this that kept him safe from the flood of abuses he endured. His faith was a guiding star as he navigated life, and though he lived a life without material possessions, he was content and happy with his lot. It was in this time however that Ibrahim also developed many friends who came from marginalized backgrounds in Iran, and who suffered from the regime. He has special sympathy for People of the Book such as Jews and Christians, and believes that injustices against other people of faith, especially those who believe in the One True God but differ in interpretation, is a terrible offense. It is for this reason that he began agitating in his homeland, though his radical peaceful protests have been met with jailing and attacks by government police. He has his faith however, which is a rock which cannot be broken, even in the raging storm which engulfs the world as he simply fights for the cause he knows is right.

Isabella III

Spain has not had a Queen in approximately 150 years, and Isabella had not expected, nor been expected, to be the next monarch. The “Day of No Night”, as the papers called it, where the great nations of the world had been blotted off the map by hellfire, had also caused the death of her family, including her father the king, and her brothers, making her the next in line for the throne when their plane was shot down over the mid-Atlantic by an unknown warship. Spain however had been largely spared the fate of her allies, through divine will, or some greater confusion from that day as no nuclear detonations occurred within her borders. Though spared the horrors of nuclear war originally, now Spain lays at a crossroads. Every day uncountable waves pour over the border, by land air and sea, many requiring food and aid, and having nothing but the clothing they wear. Spain simply does not have the food to feed her own people, but Isabella cannot help but feel a responsibility to play a great part in the rescuing of the people of her allies, as Spain was spared for something greater than their own self preservation, perhaps for some real good she has to believe. Perhaps no monarch of Spain had ever seen their nation go through the perils which she now sees her people experience, but her people look to her for answers, and so she shall give them.

Nikolaos Stratigos

A very bookish boy, no-one would have pegged Nikolas to be the man he is today. He was the smallest and youngest of five brothers growing up, and spent his days in the museums, libraries, and churches of Myrtos, his hometown in Greece. He always hated the incessant buzz of tourists, and would take any opportunity to go see the old archaeological sites nearby and learn more about his people's past. Growing tired of his siblings teasing and bullying, and with no opportunity to ever leave his village, he enlisted in the Army of Greece, and soon enough was able to get into the Hellenic Military Academy, excelling in his examinations. Though talented, after graduation he was posted to the Koufovouno base in Eastern Greek Thrace. A border skirmish with a Turkish group of soldiers occurred in the day following the nuclear exchange, and though the attack was repulsed, he was left the only surviving commander of the base. Tensions continue to flare up as both sides gear for conflict, even if his own nation can't- or won't- support him. He will defend his country, and he remembers the monuments and architecture of his hometown. As a boy he remembered the legend he had been told by his Yiayia about Constantine XI, that on the fall of the city he had been turned to stone in the defense of the Golden Gate at the fall of the city, once again to rise and restore the empire. It has been 700 years since his people lost Anatolia and the East, and his people had suffered under the Turkish thumb for nearly 400 years. Those statues and grandiose palaces and ruins cannot have been the golden age of Greece, no. Her height of power surely is to come- and what greater purpose can one get than playing a part in driving the invader from the homeland? His command is decimated, short of guns and troops. He now needs the strength of God and the faith of men.

George Williams

Family members of Mr. Williams can be found nearly anywhere on the European continent. Though paternally he is English, his life was spent living in Straßbourg, Warsaw, Moscow, and Palermo as his parents were always moving for work, his father working with the English foreign ministry. He can speak no less than 6 languages fluently, and is known for being a very well spoken and mannered man. He always ranked at the top of his classes, and was studying Politics and International Relations at Oxford University alongside Medieval Studies. When the Chinese invaded Taiwan however, he enlisted against the wishes of his family, and had just finished basic training when the bombs fell. In the weeks that followed, he witnessed hell on Earth as the government collapsed, and anarchy consumed what was left untouched initially by the bombs. He along with several thousand survivors were rescued from a bomb shelter by remnants of the Royal Navy, who brought them to the ports who would accept them. And so, he landed in Thessaloniki, one of the only open port cities left in Europe, along with tens of thousands of others. The conditions in the camps have deteriorated wildly, as tents sprawl for miles, and hundreds of thousands of people cross the borders of Europe without food or medicine. There are not enough people to bury the bodies, and the living in turn have neither the food nor medicine to sustain themselves. Crime is rife, and only through his strict rationing and maintenance of discipline has the camp not collapsed. The friction between the camp members and locals, as well as the internal and intercultural tension, is palpable. Something has to change, and he will do whatever it takes to keep his people alive.

Kemal Güngör

Turkey must Liberalize, Turkey must expand, Turkey must Turkify the homelands- no, Turkey must survive. General Kemal Güngör is not necessarily a Conservative, he is not exceedingly religious or particularly devout in any of his religious observances. He is however, the champion of conserving the Turkish state. His family lives comfortably in Ortaköy, his parents high ranking members of the Turkish government. In his life he never wanted for anything, but felt a sort of pressure to help uphold and maintain society and the security he could so clearly see, even if others couldn't. Having first tasted politics as a cadet officer during the 2016 Coup attempt through his opposition to the coup and involvement in reopening the city of Istanbul, he continued to climb the ranks of the Turkish military. In the 2023 Coup however, his actions were unable to stop the revolution from toppling Erdogan, only succeeding in making many new enemies in the new unstable Republic. He knows Turkey functions currently, but revolution is a dangerous thing. Even if the Republic, or more importantly the Turkish State, survived a Liberalizing revolution, the survival of the Republic requires new actions which may prove... unpopular. Why fix what's not broken Güngör believes, but the winds of change have shifted course, and may soon blow the Turkish government over, perhaps this time for good.

Matthew Glanville

Admiral Glanville grew up on a ranch near Cheyenne, and originally had no interest in the Navy. His Freshman year of highschool, he was working as a ranch hand for an old ranch owner near where his family lived. It was here that his employer told him about his time in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Campaign in the Second World War, and his personal experience at the Battle of the Coral Sea and at Midway aboard the USS Yorktown. Matthew (Matt to his friends) had a change of heart after hearing this, and by the time he graduated, Annapolis was the only place he was interested in attending. 25 years later, he found himself as the Commander of the Naval Surface Force Atlantic. During the anarchy following the attack on the conference, his submarines engaged with the Chinese mainland, though he remains adamant he never gave the order to attack until after American cities had already been targeted as well. It has been weeks now, and his ships are overflowing with refugees picked up from the Eastern Seaboard of America, a flotilla of nationless individuals. What they need is a home, and Lord knows if no compromises can be made, he has the guns and the willpower to find a new home. The strong do what they will and the weak suffer what they must, and haven't the American people suffered enough? The American Aeneid awaits.

Frank Lewis

Perhaps it's ironic that Frank used to work as a fireman considering his job seemingly has been to proverbially put out fires within the camp for the past few weeks. Frank was on the last ship out of Savannah, and he knows there's nothing left to go back to. Ashes and a dull gray waste are all that occupies much of the homeland. On the ship he quickly gained the confidence of his fellow refugees for his cool and reasoned approach to their situation. Once they reached the camp in Galicia, their problems only multiplied as they had to worry about the lack of sanitation and supplies in camp. In true American fashion, he was chosen by a democratic vote to represent the American refugees in the camp, and also to act on behalf of those who still need a safe harbor. Now he certainly has a tall task in front of him, but the hard times should be behind them. His fellow refugees simply ask for supplies and the allowance for more refugees to arrive from America. Conditions currently can be worse he knows, he saw how it was back in Savannah. He won't, he can't let it happen here. Not to these people who have been through so much.

Constantine VIII

The Ecumenical Patriarch was tired well before the conflict broke out between the East and West. His 84th birthday had come and gone, and the days began to grow longer. His faith and duty to his work was unmatched, uncountable. He knows that his purpose is to save as many souls as possible, and maintain the church in the path of what Christ would wish for. He is a practical man, he knows that many nations are struggling to feed their own people, and a hard decade of famine awaits them all, even without the refugee crisis. As he contemplates this issue however, he cannot help but remember the Feeding of the Five Thousand. Shortly after the death of John the Baptist, the crowds of sick and hungry who had followed Jesus were fed with only five loaves of bread and two fish. We need such a miracle now, and through faith, God will provide. We must provide the bread and the fish, we must save the sick and hungry who have followed us through the desert. To live a life in the glory of God, the people must be helped.

Akam Mohammadi

The Kurds have earned their freedom through blood and steel. For too long they have been oppressed and marginalized, denied self determination and a homeland for their own people. In the 2026 Iraqi Civil War, following a failed coup attempt by members of the Iraqi armed forces, the Kurds broke free in Northern Iraq. Though at first a loose coalition of Kurdish groups, quickly they asserted borders and began forming a legitimate government which could be recognized. At present, Akam is one of six Commanders who make up the Junta that rules Kurdistan. The Kurds control their borders, their currency, and their government for the first time in nearly a hundred years. God only knows the path which will lead to the permanent preservation of this state and her people, who live surrounded by enemies and have no allies. What Akam does know however is that he, and the people of Kurdistan, will not submit tamely, nor submit at all. As he surveys his command, his chest swells with pride. We might be crushed, but surely we could not be conquered.

Andranik Serob

Journalism didn't pan out as a career, Andranik's father had been right. It did however lead to his running for Prime Minister, and his shocking victory in a general election after a certain scandal was leaked to his press friends to be published in the morning papers surrounding the leader of the opposition. So now, Andranik sits at the head of government, unsure of what to do next. He hadn't planned on a nuclear war or anything other than a peaceful stay in government followed by a nice retirement to a large house somewhere- maybe Paris or London? But now, he has to buckle down. Even if he is not ready, or really qualified for this job, he has been chosen by the people to lead. He will do what it takes to keep Armenia and her people safe, fight for her preservation, and pursue her interests in any way shape or form he can. He is not to do the job he wants to do, but instead the job that he has to do.

Eleni Constantinou

Cyprus has long been a contentious issue in the eastern Mediterranean. It has always been viewed as a prized possession, and has traded hands an innumerable amount of times. President Constantinou simply wishes for peace. She has personally long held that Cyprus must be unified, even if some concessions must be made, even though that particular personal belief has been internalized over the years to appeal to the Cypriot people. They do not want to give in any more, for they've already given half their nation, and the lives of their fathers and grandfathers. Eleni simply wants to make sure they don't inadvertently give up the rest of their nation in any action too rash. Sometimes action must be taken, but not when a route to peace lay ahead. Either her people will have to take this humiliation, though in safety, and accept the status quo, or they will have to act. If they act however, actions must be quick and absolute, and they will need numbers, much more than those that led to the humiliation of '74. Necessity is the most demanding of bedfellows.

Mohammad II as-Senussi

Libya has long sat ununified, different factions scrabbling over the desert sand. Bayonets had long been dulled by the time Mohammed II as Senussi arrived on the political scene from his self imposed exile in Egypt in 2025, and with a friendly donation of arms and money from close friends in Saudi Arabia, Benghazi, and two months later Tripoli, were under his control. His government claimed to be a continuation of the pre-1951 government which functioned as a constitutional monarchy under the leadership of members of the Senussi clan. Mohammed II is not a dumb man, in fact he is very highly educated, and has been his whole life. He knows the people of Libya want- need- an end to war. He know that the support he has or believes to have is not out of any love of civil liberties, but a final push to end the war. Libya has been mostly pacified now, and other than tribal conflicts with groups deep within the desert (whom he earnestly feels are more of a nuisance than a threat), the main area of issue has to do with Egypt. The Egyptian civil war, having been set in motion by the death of their President at the peace talks, has led to some border issues and the capture of many of the border and coastal towns near Libya. Some Egyptians see him not as a Libyan or Egyptian, but an outsider who might also be able to bring peace to their homeland. Libya, and the future of his dynasty lie on a knife's edge.

Winston MacDonald

It has never been an easy life for any member of the MacDonald. Winston MacDonald was no exception, having worked through the ranks of the Royal Navy to a Vice Admiral. He always was willing to put in the extra work, and suffered through uncountable sleepless nights. All wasn't for naught- when hostilities broke out, he was put in charge of ferrying tens of thousands of soldiers, along with a sizable part of the Royal Navy, from Europe through the Suez into the East. His ships watched helplessly as news reports rolled in about the attack on the conference. They watched less helplessly as Chinese ICBM's inbound to Europe and North America flew high above, and did their best to shoot down these, though with extremely limited success. Undeniably they also fired several dozen nuclear weapons at China, but Winston would happily explain himself to any tribunal on that matter, he simply had done his job.

In the days that followed, a general paralysis took place in his forces, not least caused by even him being unsure of what to do now that the chain of command had fallen silent- other than calls for help. He dispatched several ships to go pick up survivors, and following an Egyptian terror attack on his ships which were passing through the Suez, rapidly took control of the surrounding areas to secure a base of operations. Even if the Empire may be temporarily lost in the West, the sun shall not set, and her people will be protected through any and all means possible.

"Conquer we must, as conquer we shall"

Hassan IV

Change is not always possible or necessary. There are men, enemies of the state no doubt, who feel that the monarchy in Morocco is an old relic of days gone by. Hassan IV is under no illusions about the safety of his position. The people want stability, livelihoods, and food. His government can no longer provide all of these things since the collapse of the world markets, and discontent is growing. Something must be done to distract the mobs from doing something they will regret- something which won't improve their position either. Many of his advisors have suggested a point of expansionism, if not to secure more food sources than to unify the nation. Whatever is to be done, it must be accomplished quickly. The fate of Morocco, and the fate of you and your family are on the line.

Luis De León

Even the critics of Luis De León cannot fault him for his intelligence. Luis graduated from the University of Barcelona Medical School at the top of his class, and was undeniably one of the most promising students in the university, and many were confused when he began to dedicate more of his time to writing, his passion. In time, he grew to be a well renowned author on many subjects, and his unique political philosophy which involved a very powerful central government with large amounts of economic control, but maintained the role of the Catholic church and the Monarchy at the head of government. Through this he was able to first serve as the mayor of Barcelona, and three years later was nominated by the Queen to be Prime Minister of Spain following the death of the former Prime Minister in the attacks. He now has a daunting task ahead of himself, not the least of which is the population and food crisis, and every day he hears worrying reports from the south about Moroccan troops near Ceuta. He certainly has his work cut out for him. May God grant that we know how to do everything, but not have to do it at all.

Georgi Popov

It is rare for a man of Prime Minister Popov's background to attain such heights as he has reached. He was a simple farmer and layman, who cared for nothing more than his farm and his horses. In 2023 his simple farm was taken by the Bulgarian government in order to build a road, and he lived job to job attempting to provide for his family. It was seeing the circumstances of his fellow farmers that had been forced off their land and deprived of their livelihood that drove him into politics and involvement in the Agrarian Party. Over several years, he had reached a senior position in the party and won the Prime Ministership. He is not a dumb man- he is quite intelligent though perhaps not the most educated individual, and is a believer in the power of the people. Let the people have their land, their homes, and their bread!

Bachir Haddad

Lebanon is strangely a case of stability in the years leading up to the Sino-American war. In the mid 2020s, a series of conferences between the Christian and Muslim groups within Lebanon took place, and a framework for peace was further developed upon. Lebanon functioned somewhat like it had previously, with certain positions in government reserved for different minority groups, but even the most uncritical observer could see the increased role of powerful militia factions in government. Bachir Haddad is a loyal soldier and representative for Lebanon. Even though he is a Maronite, he knows the importance of maintaining the coalition of power in his homeland. Perhaps one day his people will take power and take back their homeland, but until then, peace must be their purpose and their battle.

Saud V

It was not expected that Saud V would have to work, at least not before he assumed leadership of Saudi Arabia. He had all of the privileges and wealth that come with being a prince of that nation, but saw the benefit of working in the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia in order to foster more friendly relations between the Saudi people (especially the military), and the crown. His family has seen other monarchies, with their tradition and honor now scattered into the dust and sand. That is no way for a noble family to die, that is no way for a culture to be decapitated. Saud V has to help deal with the crisis which now faces his family and his people. Saudi Arabia needs oil to flow to keep their nation afloat, and with the United States and Russia no longer producing large amounts of oil, they are the primary producer of oil. It is just as great an issue that the United States is no longer able to buy their oil, and their main source of income is in the wind. Something needs to be done, and be done fast.

Joseph Falzon

Perhaps everyone has had a turbulent time in leadership over their career- except for Mr. Falzon that is. His father had been involved in bringing Malta into the EU, and he always understood the need for their central Mediterranean Island nation to work with others. A charismatic leader and practical man, he has been at the helm of the nation through this crisis, and even had suggested to the president himself the idea of a conference in Malta. He was the chief architect of this idea, and knows that without a functional world order, there will be no future for Malta, or many other countries in the region. In order to secure a safer tomorrow, he has to lead the charge from the bottom up. The United Nations may have failed, just like the League of Nations before it, but now- now we have a chance to perfect this system, and achieve peace everlasting, and evermore. Being a commonwealth nation, he remembers his education on Churchill in his youth

“We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle, nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job.”

Their island nation, just as Britain once stood, lies alone in a sea of chaos, the torch of liberty and civilization against the dark clouds on the horizon. Only through cooperation shall Malta survive.

Pyotr Alexandrovich Bogaewsky

Dispatch after dispatch hurriedly carried into his command in Sevastopol told him the grim story he knew all too well. Looting, rioting, and general disrule cropped up whenever he turned his head away. Just this morning, the Russian refugee camps at the juncture of the Don and Azov Sea had risen up and killed several platoons of guards and local auxiliary troops. Did they not know that the soldiers had no food either? Another report came in, the revolting brigade in Melitopol had been decimated for their insubordination and cruelty. His generalship had been marked by the piecemeal mobilization of Russian forces after the attack on Moscow. As Russia fell into chaos, he attempted to do his duty to provide best for those Russians he could save. He was a cossack by birth, and had spent many years in Rostov and at a Military Academy in Crimea. His great-grandfather fought with Pyotr Wrangel in Crimea, and the despair and destruction which Russians had inflicted upon each other in the War was unmatched. Now he wished nothing more than to play the part of his Great-grandfather and Wrangel himself had played, being the torch of peace and civility. The Kuban is the greatest source of grain in Russia, he just needs a few months until harvest- and there's no telling whether anyone will still be in possession of their heads come Late Summer. There may be no justice in the steppe, but by God Pyotr would not die scrabbling in the dust with no dignity. Instead they would advance unwavering with their bayonets affixed into a better tomorrow, their enemy barbarism, their cause civilization.

Pope John Paul III

The Earth, Gods creation, in all of its majesty and wondor is crumbling. The church had progressed through the last two millennia to being the head of society in every aspect other than direct governance. Beyond the obvious role of Churches in the spiritual and community life in the world, they were the only source of education, healthcare, and welfare in the swirling abyss of darkness. It is in these ways that the church has provided for the maintainance of their flock. Christianity is a religion of the masses, of the poor and dejected. Now the people need their faith more than ever, now they need salvation and a cause to strive for. It is faith, in the purest form which will save the people of the world. Pope John Paul III had survived the destruction of Rome, that etarnal city. He had returned to his childhood home of Salve, near Maria di Leuca. An old and relatively plain chapel was where his Papacy was seated, greatly different from that of St. Peters. Sick and wounded filled the hallways and the pews had been moved to make space, monks working to attempt to save as many lives as possible. First he knew there must be a stabilization of the region, and the people must be healed and fed through the natural abundance of Sicily. He also knew that now, in their darkest hour, might be a chance for a reunion of the Churches of East and West. Pride could no longer triumph over faith, and the people would have their One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. This would not be for himself, but for all of Christianity, the moment of reunion, and the rehabilitation and restoration of faith.

Ali Hussain

From the crop of turmoil and uncertainty springs forth a certain unwavering determination that cannot be simply 'put down.' Ali Hussain lived, until a few months ago, as a farmer in the Western Nile Delta, near Alexandria. He grew corn, and was content with his life and means. Even when his government froze with inaction after the deaths of their higher officials, he had faith in the system, and kept his head low. Within days of this, he had changed. The onset of the Egyptian Anarchy, and the destruction of their cities by riots alongside losing the canal and parts of Western Egypt all were too much for Ali to hear. He gathered up a group of men, farmhands and landowners nearby, and secured a border for their security in their fields. What was originally only a group of a few hundred, a few dozen miles wide, has now become many millions large, and has control over northern Egypt. Its leaders bicker from the lack of forward message, but stability Ali knows is key. We cannot lose what we have accomplished, for then Egypt may never escape this anarchy again. The invaders may need to be thrown back, but at present, the government is a house of cards, and the wind might blow it in. Foreign influence outside of the Libyans and British also include different nearby parties who wish to gain from the disorganization and fragile state of Egypt. Justice sometimes can only be found at the tip of one's saber.

Mostafa Ahmed Kattan

There is no Iraqi government, at least not outside of the direct path of the new regimes rifles. The people can be oppressed and made to fear and walk in line, as they are now, but that is not healthy for a state. What good can come of making a new authoritarian cult in Iraq? Instead, and maybe as a part of any process of becoming a proper state, he can open up trade again, and establish some validity in the systems of old. Similarly, he looks east to Kurdistan, that living embodiment of Iraqi failure. Maybe their new government can claim its mandate to rule and legitimacy from correcting the mistakes of the 21st century, and returning Iraq to a peace that hasn't been felt in two generations. Old equipment from half a dozen conflicts sit rusting and falling apart in the deserts and towns of Iraq, and the endless sight of modern buildings reduced to rubble has destroyed much of the Iraqi psyche. This must end, and there must be progress. The Americans no longer can use our fields and nation as a playground for their weapons of war, but now a more sinister threat of Iranian and Israeli influence looms over the border. Whatever the decisions of the warlords or Iraq, a long night awaits all.

