



BACKGROUND GUIDE

WAMUNC XXIV

Paraguayan Reconstruction

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to WAMUNC's Paraguayan War Committee! Our names are Caroline Gilmore and Zoe Feigel, and we have the distinct pleasure of serving as your chairs. We cannot wait to see how you tackle challenges and pursue your goals at the conference this year!

Hi delegates! My name is Caroline Gilmore. I am a freshman at George Washington University, majoring in International Affairs and minoring in Linguistics and Classical Studies. On campus, I am a freshman representative for two student organizations, Strategic Crisis Simulations, and the Women's Leadership Network. I love to bake, read, and run in my free time, especially when I am running to my favorite coffee place down the street from where I live.

My name is Zoe Feigel and I am also a freshman at The George Washington University! I am double majoring in International Affairs and Anthropology with a minor in Philosophy and a concentration in Cultures and Societies. I am also in the University Honors Program. (Fun fact: Caroline and I are roommates!) When I am not studying international politics and culture I often spend my time in my favorite student organizations like Philosophy Club, Students Against Imperialism, Dear Asian Youth, and sometimes even Cheese Club. I love running long distances, exploring DC bookstores, and listening to Taylor Swift. (Stream Taylor's Version!)

As your chairs, we cannot wait to see how you pursue your goals and tackle challenges throughout the committee. Both of us were members of our high school Model UN teams for four years. Caroline was the head delegate of her team for two years and Zoe was the Secretary General of her nationals team her senior year. We still look back on the memories from various conferences fondly. Crisis committees are Caroline's favorite to chair, and we hope this experience is educational and enjoyable!

We encourage you to familiarize yourself with the contents of this background guide and the multiple players you will be interacting with during the committee. However, please do not let the background guide be the extent of your knowledge of this topic. Research is key to understanding how your individual character is involved in this crisis and how you can best further your character's goals and character arcs throughout debate.

With all this said, we look forward to seeing you all in committee. If you have any questions or concerns leading up to the conference, please feel free to contact us. See you in Paraguay!

Warm wishes,

Caroline Gilmore and Zoe Feigel

LETTER FROM THE CD

Hi all!

First off, welcome to WAMUNC and to the Paraguayan Reconstruction Committee. As your Crisis Directors, we cannot wait to see how you handle the issues faced in the reconstruction of Paraguayan in the post-war period. We hope this committee provides the opportunity to examine this historical period with a closer lens and create solutions and stability for the nation.

The post-war period for every nation sets precedent for solidifying the differences between regimes and the changes that will be enforced. In Paraguay, the situation was no different in 1870. Delegates will have the unique opportunity to examine these issues and determine how post-war Paraguay will function.

My name is Sophie Rice and I am currently a freshman at GW studying History, International Affairs with a concentration in Security Policy, and Russian in the honors college. Additionally, I have academic interests in political science and work as an organizer. This is my first year in Model United Nations. Besides Model UN, I am a research aide for the Student Association and a member of the Strategic Crisis Simulations club. Outside of academics, I am an avid pickleball player, bowler, and Kansas enthusiast (go Royals!). Lastly, a fun fact about me is that I am a distant relative of George Washington!

My name is Josh Blaustein, and I am a first-year student at GW studying International Affairs with an International Politics concentration in the honors college (I am also considering adding a second major in either History or Philosophy). Besides Model UN, I am a part of the Strategic Crisis Simulations club. Outside of academics, my hobbies include watching football, walking the National Mall, and challenging (and losing to) Sophie in pickleball. An interesting fact about me is that I was the head delegate of my high school Model UN team along with Caroline, and competed for three years in high school.

We cannot wait to see the ideas brought to committee and advise every delegate to prepare their research in order to fully be able to understand this unique period in Paraguayan history. There is a need to understand the history of a location to avoid the mistakes in the future — it is our greatest hope that from your research comes an understanding of the path that led to war and the ways to provide a stronger Paraguay.

Best,

Sophie Rice and Josh Blaustein

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

This committee begins in 1870. After the conclusion of the bloodiest war in Latin American history, the precedent that the reconstruction will set weighs heavily on the Paraguayan people and government. The creation of a new government, treatment of other nations involved, and dispelling of global and regional tensions are some of the key considerations and goals that must be addressed. Paraguay is at a crossroads: the decisions made by this committee will impact its development, recovery, and international standings as Paraguay attempts to discover its status post-war.

Throughout this conference, delegates should seek to understand reconstruction from all sides — especially focusing on those who have been historically underrepresented. As such, the committee provides space for characters of the revolution who played historically significant roles that deserve recognition. For delegates, it is important to remember the significance of organizing in communities, recognition of diversity in populations, and addressing the concerns of each character given their historical needs.

Throughout the course of the conference, delegates will be tested on their ability to draft innovative solutions based on the ever-changing situation of Paraguay. Quick and critical thinking will be highly prioritized and the content of debate is expected to remain engaging and informative. Additionally, delegates should keep in mind when discussing issues that relate heavily to the identity of those within the nation, there is a set expectation that delegates be knowledgeable and sensitive. As always, it is important to remember that especially within a historical committee, these issues are real and have impacted a multitude of people. We expect each delegate to represent their positions with care. Under no circumstances will discrimination based on race, sexual orientation, economic status, ethnicity, gender, etc be tolerated. If there are any questions do not hesitate to reach out to the Chair/Crisis Directors.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Colonial History of Paraguay, Roots of despotism, and interactions with the native Guaraní

The history of Paraguay is one steeped in colonialism and imperialism. The landlocked nation was originally discovered by Europeans in the 16th century. Before that time, Paraguay's population was made up of Amerindian tribes that were semi-nomadic and spoke various languages in the Tupi - Guaraní language family, most commonly Guaraní. The Spanish were the first to exert lasting influence on the region, as the earliest European settlements in the area were made up of Spanish priests, explorers, and colonists that would come to influence the development of the nation. These colonists, after moving from their search of gold, established their lasting heritage through Guaraní-Spanish intermarriage and a homogenous combination of Indigenous and Spanish cultures, unique in the South American region.

The extent of Spain's impact on Paraguay would continue beyond discovery and small settlements. The Spanish conquistador Juan Salazar de Espinosa founded the capital of Paraguay, Asunción, in 1537. Placed in a strategic location along the Paraguay River, Asunción rapidly grew, but, to this day remains at the mercy of its neighbors for access to the ocean.

From the onset of Spanish colonization, interactions with the native Guaraní created an added factor in the dynamics of Paraguay. The original Spaniards intermarried with the native population and by 1800, distinct European identities had disappeared. Early on, Guaraní became the identified lingua franca instead of Spanish. Interestingly, both languages had significant influences on each other, adopting words and phrases from each other. For example, words like "cougar", "capybara", and "jaguar" have made their way into English via Spanish borrowings from Tupi-Guaraní languages. However, Paraguay, since 1800, has made a strong effort to reverse the trend, establishing Spanish-only schools and positions. To this day, the sole official language in Paraguay is Spanish, and Guaraní remains only a spoken language.

Even though, by 1776, Paraguay had its own regional identity, Spain combined it with Argentina to form the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, angering many Paraguayans who saw their autonomy disappear and their regional power shifted to Buenos Aires. In 1811, Paraguayan revolutionaries deposed their governor and finally declared independence from both Spain and Argentina in 1811 and established a republic in 1813. However, Argentina did not recognize Paraguayan independence until 1852, asserting until then that Paraguay was simply a rebellious province. This perceived oppression from Argentina left many Paraguayans with a lasting distaste for Argentina, setting the two states up for decades of diplomatic tension.

Since the start of its independence, Paraguay has been marked by a period of political instability. The transition from the colonial powers to independence created a series of turmoil resulting from changing leadership. In May of 1811, Paraguayans defeated the Portuguese army in their war of independence and then elected a five man junta. However, this form of government did not last long, as, from 1814 until 1840, Paraguay fell under the dictatorship of “El Supremo” José Rodríguez de Francia who then led the nation through a period of isolationism. The “perpetual dictator” greatly prohibited political activity, confiscated the wealth of the elite, and abolished the municipal government of Asunción. Following Francis was Carlos Antonio López who ruled until 1862 when his son Francisco Solano López came to power.

The Multiple Constitutions of Paraguay

By the time of this committee, two constitutions had been voted upon and approved by the Paraguayan Congress; these are the constitutions of 1813 and 1844. Delegates in this committee will be tasked with establishing a new system of government, so previous Constitutions could be a helpful reference point in determining how Paraguay should be governed.

The Constitution of 1813 was instituted by Dr. José Gaspar de Francia and created a two-man consular form of government with a legislature of 1,000 representatives. This Constitution had 17 articles that would allow for Francia and Fulgencio Yegros to become the two consuls of this government. Each consul gained the rank of brigadier general which was aided by dividing the armed forces between the two leaders. However, this particular system of government would soon break down. By 1814, Francia would become the only leader of the nation and lead Paraguay as a dictator for two years until 1816. By the end of 10 years, Yegros and the legislature would be completely destroyed and the path was cleared for Francia to rule until his death in 1840.

The Constitution of 1844 occurred after Francia's successor — Carlos Antonio López — asked the reformed legislature to revise the constitution. The newly revamped constitution allowed López to rule with powers similar to Francia. There were three distinct branches: executive, legislature, and judiciary. The new state structure was endorsed by a general Congress and enabled more legitimacy to this new form of government. Though the legislature could make laws, the president reserved the right to determine whether they would be enforced or not. Additionally, terms for the president were extended to ten years. López was named dictator for life and ruled until 1862.

The López Dynasty and Suppression of Individual Rights and Freedoms

Jose Gaspar Rodriguez de Francia, born in 1776 can be recognized as one of the greatest figures to Paraguay. He came to rule in 1814 and can be accredited to building Paraguay into a strong, independent nation. Francia was extremely popular in the lower classes, however, he was one to often disregard human rights. Following his death in 1840, the nation was launched into chaos given he had no successor. In March 1841, Congress made Carlos Antonio López as first consul and in 1844, he was made president. This started the “López Dynasty.”

Carlos Antonio López, born in 1787, was a lawyer and one of the most educated men in Paraguay. Many people say that his government system was similar to Francia's, however it was vastly different in every other regard. Further, he had decided that he wanted to set up a dynasty, running Paraguay in a feudal system. López had positive contributions to Paraguayan society. For one he was able to become the largest landowner and begin many infrastructure projects. He oversaw rapid population growth, the construction of roads and railroads, and the implementation of a telegraph system.

Unfortunately, López had many faults: including his tight grasp on the Paraguayan citizens. He did not allow for anyone to oppose the government. He ensured the Congress and all "decision-makers" aligned with his political views. He loosened his restrictions on foreign policy and allowed for boundary disputes between Brazil and Argentina. In addition he enacted the 1842 Law of the Free Womb, which ended the slave trade and guaranteed that the children of slaves would be free at age twenty-five. Though a positive piece of legislation, there were negative impacts that served to increase the slave population and depress slave prices.

The López dynasty is rather short lived as Carlos Antonio's son, Francisco Solano López, became the next and final successor. Francisco, born in 1826 was raised to inherit the dynasty from a young age. As a result, he was often treated in luxury and arrogance. He married an Irish woman, Elisa Alicia Lynch who gave birth to five of his sons. He consolidated all of his father's power and quickly led Paraguay to war with Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay. During this time he executed his brothers and tortured his mother and sisters when he thought they were in opposition to his beliefs. He is known by historians for his oppressive rule and as someone who is to be fully blamed for an extremely deadly and unnecessary war.

Uruguayan War and Prelude to the Paraguayan War

The Uruguayan War took place from August 10, 1864 - February 20, 1865. It was fought between the governing party of Uruguay (the Blanco party) and the Uruguayan Colorado party (with Argentinian support). Uruguay had achieved independence in 1828, however, it still had to deal with civil disagreement. Both parties wanted to maintain their level of power and as a result the Colorado leader, Venancio Flores, launched the Liberating Crusade. This was an insurrection that targeted the president of the Blanco party and “fusionist” movement at the time.

This war became known on an international level as it escalated extremely quickly. Argentina was covertly aiding Flores as their president, Bartolomé Mitre, provided resources, and soldiers. The Brazilian Empire quickly got involved with Flores as some of the Uruguayan population was Brazilian and believed that the Blanco party had impeded on their rights.

Paraguay became involved as the Blancos in the fusionist movement sought the alliance of Paraguay for a while. The leader, Carlos Antonio López, had generally avoided any form of alliance by the way he ruled. However, after he passed, his son, Francisco Solano López, succeeded him, and the alliance was formed. He believed that power was being threatened as a result of Brazil helping the Colorado party oust their opponent.

Paraguay had generally been involved in the international politics between the neighboring nations of Brazil and Argentina implicitly. Further, they were in many tariff and boundary disputes. As Brazil and Argentina were particularly powerful, the struggle for the Paraguayans to maintain economic and political separation was difficult. Similarly, the Uruguayans had trouble with their independence from these powers.

The Paraguayan War came as a direct result of the Uruguayan War due to the conflict between Brazil and Paraguay. Later on, the war became known as the “War of Triple Alliance,” as Uruguay and Argentina also entered.

The Paraguayan War

At the beginning of the war, the Paraguayan Army had grown to a considerable size; it became significantly greater than their neighbors, though the country itself was smaller. The beginnings of their army can be traced back to the early 1800s, when Brazil — being the first to recognize Paraguay’s independence — wanted to defend it against a common enemy, Argentina. At this time, Argentina saw Paraguay as a breakaway province. To achieve this, Brazil, under Dom Pedro II, sent technical advisors to Paraguay to develop their army infrastructure and provide resources to improve their fortifications. It was during the Uruguayan War, fought between the governing Blanco Party (allied with Paraguay) and the Colorado Party (allied with Brazil and Argentina) that Paraguay saw the bulk of its armed forces get built up. Mandatory conscription was introduced, with an additional 64,000 people getting drafted into the army. While this army (which would fight in the Paraguayan War that shortly followed) was larger than Brazil, Argentina, or Uruguay’s standing army at the time, it was also poorly equipped and inexperienced, largely taking orders directly from President López.

The Paraguayan War would turn out to be the deadliest war in Latin American History. It was fought between Paraguay and the “Triple Alliance”: Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil. The war began with an attack on Uruguay from Brazil. Then the ruling Uruguayan Blanco Party called for help from their ally in Paraguay. Their ally was at odds with the Uruguayan Colorado Party. The Colorado Party was aligned with Brazil and Argentina at the time. While Paraguay did not immediately come to their allies’ defense, they did capture a Brazilian Ship in the Paraguay River, and declared war on Brazil a month later, and on Argentina three months later.

At this point, the Triple Alliance was formed, and controlled by the Colorado Party. This alliance was made official in a treaty signed in Buenos Aires in May of 1865. Paraguay quickly invaded and captured the Mato Grosso and Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil, and Corrientes in Argentina. Though these initial victories looked promising, they were short lived. After the defeat of the Paraguayan Navy by the Brazilian Navy at the Battle of Riachuelo in June of 1865, the Triple Alliance gained control of the Rio de la Plata. This allowed for staging of the Brazilian Navy and eventually a naval entrance into Paraguay. At this point, the collective army of the Triple Alliance numbered 50,000, allowing them to retake Argentinian territory and begin their invasion of Paraguay. Over the course of the next four years, the Brazilian army made its way into Paraguay: capturing forts and cities (including the capital Asunción), and forcing President López to flee. He rejected requests for surrender, and led a resistance in the mountains north of Asuncion, until he was killed in the Battle of Cerro Leon, ending the Paraguayan War.

Even if the Paraguayan War ended, its ramifications continue to play a large role in the psyche and day-to-day life of Paraguayans in the time of this committee. After the war, many of the existing problems were exacerbated. Firstly, the already starving common Paraguayans find it even harder to put food on their tables after López's scorched-earth battle tactics ruined large swathes of arable land. In addition, about 60% of the pre-war Paraguayan population of 500,000 (including 80-90% of the men) died during the war. This left only about 28,000 men in the entire country. In rural areas, women sometimes outnumber men more than four to one. This created a situation where there were not enough people remaining to harvest the food. Additionally, the fact that men traditionally did the physical labor in agriculture and their numbers drastically diminished during the war made it almost impossible to efficiently harvest crops. Fields such as healthcare, higher education, and politics also suffer from the shortage of workers, especially in positions typically held by men. The utter destruction of Paraguayan industry turned a once self-sufficient and modernizing nation into an impoverished country. The nation became dependent on foreign loans and selling land to immigrants, mostly Argentine, in order to repopulate the country. As a result, a steady flow of wealthy and middle-class Argentinians continues to immigrate to Paraguay, angering many natives who still have the war ingrained in their memory

The Brazilian-Argentinian Rivalry

Brazil and Argentina have long been considered “uneasy neighbors”. The two countries, as they have attempted to distinguish themselves and their national identities, have butted heads over territory in their attempts to expand their empires into neighboring regions. They first came into direct confrontation over who would possess the Banda Oriental del Uruguay (Eastern Bank) in 1825, in what would become known as the Cisplatine War. The war ended in a stalemate, due to the decimation of Argentina's economy, its military's inability to score any decisive victories, and Brazil's lack of manpower to effectively take over. It was officially ended by the Treaty of Montevideo in 1828, which recognized that neither Argentina nor Brazil owned the territory, but rather, it was to now be known as the independent nation of Uruguay.

Brazil and Argentina once again conflicted over control of the Platine region, Uruguay, and Paraguay during the Platine War (1851-1852). This war was a large decider in who held the greater authority in the region; as Argentina was thoroughly defeated, Brazil emerged as the victor and became a dominant force of hegemony. Though Brazil and Argentina were in the Triple Alliance during the Paraguayan War, this alliance was based primarily on the two nations' mutual desire to expand their empires and dislike of Paraguay. Tensions between the two nations remain high even after the war and it is unlikely that their supporters will be amenable to working together in the committee.

The Gran Chaco Conflict

The Gran Chaco is an arid territory located in the lower Río de la Plata basin. Its ownership has been contested since 1810 as many nations want to access the territory's abundant resources — especially its longhorn cattle population and timber. Paraguay recently gained a large portion of the Gran Chaco at the end of the Paraguayan War. However, the committee should be aware of the precariousness of this ownership, as Argentina and especially Bolivia both have significant desire to expand their influence in the region.

Factions within Paraguay post-war

Paraguayan Legión- The Paraguayan Legión, officially formed in 1869, is an organization founded in Buenos Aires during the Paraguayan War which consisted of various young Paraguayan dissidents, many of them students. These dissidents are considerably liberal in their policies, and they have garnered significant support from Argentina. Legiónnaires, thus, commonly advocate for tighter relations with Argentina. Unfortunately, the leaders of the Legión, such as José Decoud, Facundo Machain, Fernando Iturburu, and Serapio Machaín, tend to fight among themselves, and have a tendency to split the faction often over minor issues.

Conservatives- Conservatives are a faction typically affiliated with the upper-class, highly educated, and old politicians that opposed López. Because they have significant wealth and come from privileged backgrounds, these politicians generally support more conservative policies, especially in comparison with the Paraguayan Legión, which has lower-class, younger members. Because they oppose the Paraguayan Legión, and by extension closer ties with the Argentinian government, Paraguayan Conservatives receive aid from Brazil.

Lopistas- Lopistas are Paraguayans who generally support carrying on the legacy of Francisco Solano López. They don't have support for any foreign South American government, as there were no regional nations that supported López originally. Lopistas are generally conservative in their policy, which puts them more in opposition to the Legión than the Conservatives. In fact, Lopistas saw Legiónnaires as traitors to their country, as they refused to support López and the Paraguayan state during wartime and instead stayed in Argentina.

COMMITTEE TOPICS

BORDERS - The Gran Chaco region is contested with Bolivia, and, seeing weakness in the Paraguayan state, the Bolivian government could potentially mount an attack and further devastate Paraguay.

FAMINE - Vast swathes of Paraguayan territory have been destroyed by scorched-Earth tactics, and some of the most fertile Paraguayan land has been lost in the peace agreement with Brazil and Argentina. Along with further employment issues due to the gender imbalance that will be discussed later in this section, the famine seems as if it will devastate the commoners of Paraguay. Currently, most Paraguayans can't even rely on subsistence farming because they can't afford farmland, as most of the land is owned by a very small amount of individuals.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE - Currently, Paraguay has no government, as the old one died with López. Should Paraguay adopt an American-style democracy? If so, who gets to vote? Should it establish a dictatorship like the old one? If so, who should be dictator? Should it adopt a monarchy? If so, how will the ruling family be decided? No matter what government is adopted, how will you ensure that popular support backs your choice? Developing rules for the continuity of the Paraguayan government is essential to ensuring future stability within the nation.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES - Basically as soon as they won the war, Brazil and Argentina returned to a state of animosity towards one another. Because of this, both nations are vying to push Paraguay into their sphere of influence. Will Paraguay pursue closer relations to Brazil? Argentina? Somewhere in the middle? Will Paraguay find another country which will lend its support? Or will Paraguay perhaps turn to isolationism?

QUESTIONS OVER CULTURE - In Paraguay, most cultural artifacts are destroyed, and many purveyors and leaders of old cultural establishments are now dead. Due to this, a variety of questions about Paraguay have arisen. Is Paraguay still a monolingual country? What about the Guaraní population? Should the use of Guaraní be

encouraged or discouraged? With a vastly reduced number of upper class Spanish speakers, as well as a recognition that tens of thousands of Guaraní joined and died for the Paraguayan cause, there is a growing movement to ensure Guaraní rights, and claim the Guaraní as a national symbol of Paraguay, much in the same way as the Gauls are to France, and the Boricuas to Puerto Rico.

GENDER DISPARITY - During the Paraguayan War, almost $\frac{2}{3}$ of the population (including 80-90% of the men) of Paraguay died. At one point, there were 4 women for every man on average, although the ratio was likely far higher in rural areas. A variety of topics are exacerbated by the current gender ratio:

- **DETERIORATION OF SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND FAMILY FINANCIAL STABILITY:** Because of the vast number of dead fathers, many children are left orphaned or with one parent. Many prevailing social and familial structures have been disturbed. Moreover, because many men were the breadwinners of their family, many widows and their children find themselves without a source of income, increasing poverty levels drastically and lowering average household financial stability and standard of living. Additionally, because of the imbalance in gender demographics, men suddenly find themselves in a position of increased power in relationships, leading to a significant increase in domestic violence
- **PRODUCTION GAP AND LAGGING ECONOMY:** Many labor-intensive jobs on farms and in production that were typically done by men are now unable to be employed, establishing a vast deduction in the productivity of the population.
- **DEMANDS FOR GENDER PARITY:** Because of the lack of men in society, women find themselves taking on the positions which men used to have, but they do not have the same rights and opportunities that men do. Due to this, there are increasing calls for gender parity or at least a discussion on giving certain rights to women and opening up sectors of the workforce previously unavailable to them.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

- Guaraní cultural conflict
 - Establish Guaraní as a co-official language, or a recognized minority language, or continue to maintain it as a forbidden language
- Bolivian border conflict
 - Try to negotiate with Bolivia, or bring in a third party arbitrator, or find a way to build up Paraguay's army in the Gran Chaco with the consent of its stronger neighbors, Argentina and Brazil
- Famine
 - Establishing a more efficient aid network, finding new efficient methods of production
- Poverty
 - Establishing a central bank, distributing aid from the government, establishing public works projects to raise employment, selling land at lower prices or limiting the extent to which an individual can own vast swathes of land
- Gender disparity
 - Encouraging women's education and access to certain male-dominated fields, or pulling more immigrants into the country with various incentives
- International Alliances
 - Develop closer ties to Brazil or Argentina, remain isolationist, or maintain a foreign policy in between those options

CHARACTER LIST

- **Eliza Lynch**, an Irish native, was the partner of dictator Francisco Solano López, and stayed strongly aligned with him until his death (in fact, towards the end of the war, López actually gave her all of his properties, making her the single largest landowner in the country). An advocate for women's rights, Lynch set up schools and hospitals for women, and organized a women's group called "Las Residentas" to aid the soldiers during the war. During her time in Paraguay, Lynch was detested by the elite Paraguayan class due to her humble roots but had great support among the common Paraguayans. Lynch currently lives in Paris, deported

from Paraguay when the Brazilian army captured Asunción. Nevertheless, she maintains an almost legendary image in the minds of the Paraguayan people, and seeks to resurrect the image of Francisco Solano López.

- Cirillo Antonio Rivarola was a main political opponent of Francisco Solano López who consistently advocated for liberal reforms contrary to the position of López's administration. However, Rivarola was perhaps only liberal in reference with López - he would be considered conservative in comparison with the Legionnaires. In 1869, Rivarola was captured by the Brazilian army, and cooperated with his captors due to his distaste for López. Due to this, he receives massive support from Brazil, but he is still relatively disliked by all Paraguayans who were loyal to López or the Legión. Nevertheless, even in the face of these challenges, Rivarola continues to seek to hold political office, democratize Paraguay, and align it closer with Brazil.
- Salvador Jovellanos was one of the founders of the Paraguayan Legión, an organization founded in Argentina during the War of the Triple Alliance which fought against López's Paraguay. Throughout the course of the war and his time in office, Jovellanos and the Legión enjoyed close ties with the Argentinian government. He and his fellow Legionnaires generally support relatively similar liberal ideologies, but each person has independent aspirations and personal views - for example, unlike many other Legionnaires, Jovellanos had a working relationship with López before the war, to the point where López selected him specifically to study in Europe. Thus, Jovellanos sees himself as a member of no faction, and all of them at the same time, as he lies in the middle of a great Paraguayan political divide between the Argentina-supporting Legionnaire liberals, Brazil-supporting conservatives, and López-loyal Lopistas.
- **Higinio Uriarte**, the cousin of Juan B. Gill, shared many anti-López and pro-Brazil sentiments with his cousin. Uriarte was noticeably absent during the Paraguayan War, as he was studying abroad at the time, and only returned once the fighting had concluded.
- **Adolfo Saguier** was the cousin of Francisco Solano López and a Paraguayan politician. Though he studied in Europe for the majority of his uncle Carlos Antonio López's rule, he returned in the last five years and helped convict a group of insurgents plotting against López. He then served as commander of the artillery in the Battle of Curupaiti. He remains loyal to the legacy of his cousin Francisco.

- **Facundo Machaín** was a Paraguayan lawyer and politician, who had a background in journalism. He is considered a persuasive public speaker, as he is well-liked by the public. Machaín is president of the Gran Club del Pueblo and an elected member of the National Assembly. Machaín has ties to the Paraguayan Legión, but is considered moderate in comparison with his Legiónnaire allies. His highest priority is ensuring the stability of Paraguay, regardless of faction.
- **Bernardino Caballero** descended from Spanish nobility, was a Paraguayan War veteran. He became President Francisco Solano López's assistant in Humaitá, and continued to rise through the ranks throughout the war until becoming a cavalry general. Caballero was captured by the Brazilians in early 1870, and continues to be imprisoned, but during his time in jail he became rather friendly with the Brazilians, which is unique among López loyalists like himself, who usually looked at the opposing figures of the Paraguayan War with disdain. As he is due to be released very soon, Caballero seeks to become involved in politics in Paraguay, aligning himself with the López loyalist faction. Nationalist Paraguayans view Caballero as their golden war hero for his loyalty and dedication. Since the war and his capture, Caballero's political influence has only grown, and with Brazilian backing not far away, he is definitely one to watch.
- **Juan Gualberto González** served in the health department of the Paraguayan military during the war. He was taken prisoner by the Triple Alliance and forced to serve in their army until being released and returning to Asuncion in 1869. Upon his return, González joined the Paraguayan Union Lodge No. 30, and became a freemason. González was married to a notable Paraguayan education advocate, Rosa Peña Guanes, and the two had multiple children.
- **Francisco Isidoro Resquín** was an esteemed general in the Paraguayan War. During the war, he was in the retinue of General López, and was briefly a prisoner of war in Brazil. Resquín is seen as a strategist and war historian, as he wrote down one of the few histories of the war.
- **Ramona Martinez** was a Guaraní servant of President López and his wife Eliza Lynch. While working as a nurse on the battlegrounds, Martinez became a war hero in the Battle of Itá Ybaté, for picking up a sword and attacking the enemy after witnessing the injuring of Major Francisco Ozuna, becoming a figure of inspiration for all, especially the indigenous Guaraní population, whom she consistently advocated for.

- **José Díaz de Bedoya** was a Paraguayan politician. Before the war, Bedoya lived in exile in Buenos Aires for opposing the government of Francisco Solano López, and, while there, belonged to the Paraguayan Legión. He advocated for liberal reforms and closer ties to Argentina, which lent him and his Legión massive support.
- **Juan Silvano Godoi** was an academic and historian who became involved in Paraguayan politics after the war. As a popular writer, Godoi lambasted autocratic leaders, and sought to liberalize Paraguay into a more democratic nation.
- **José Segundo Decoud** was a leading figure of the Paraguayan Legión. While in the Legión, Decoud was an outspoken proponent of a “free vote by the people” and the direct vote, and believed that the true power of the government should lie in the hands of the citizens who elected them. Although Decoud initially supported the Legión due to its liberal agenda, after becoming disillusioned by the infighting of the Legiónnaires, he began to support more conservative Paraguayan political players.
- **Benigno Ferreira** was a man of great military prowess who had a great deal of support from the Argentine government as a member of the Paraguayan Legión. However, his extreme loyalty to the Argentine government is troubling to many within the Paraguayan government and citizenry, not to mention the Brazilian government across the border. Nonetheless, Ferreira continues to hold very Liberal positions with the support of Buenos Aires, such as supporting the abolition of slavery and moving towards gender equality.
- **Juan Bautista Gill** was a conservative who intensely supported conservatives in Paraguay against Legiónnaires. Although he himself was anti-López, he was able to reach across the aisle many times to Lopistas over their shared disdain for liberals, and, by extension, Argentina. In fact, as a result of his anti-Argentinian values, Gill developed extremely close ties with Brazil. His alleged support from Brazil is so significant that it worries many people in every party that he is in fact a “puppet”.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How should Paraguay deal with the land disputes occurring as a result of war?
2. Who should lead Paraguay post-war, under which form of government, and how should the issue be decided effectively?
3. How can the nation ensure that long-oppressed groups have a say within the new government?
4. How should Paraguay rebuild its population after the losses it incurred during the war?
5. Who on the international stage should Paraguay establish its closest diplomatic relations with?
6. What should Paraguay do to ensure cultural sustainability after the cultural losses from the Paraguayan war?
7. How should Paraguay reckon with the change in both gender demographics and productivity?
8. What actions should Paraguay take to ensure trust and honesty in the new national government?

