Delegate Address:

Hello to all! My name is Jackson Parrish and I will be co-chairing this committee along with Isabella Hancock. We are SMH Seniors and long-time members of Model United Nations; we look forward to providing you with a stimulating, captivating, and fascinating experience as we assume the roles of member nations of the world’s first attempt at forming a globalized peacekeeping force. Together, we will explore the hardships faced by the young League of Nations, while attempting to subdue rising fascist nations and calm aggressive regimes by using our powers as a unified body for peace. We are excited to explore this part of world history with you and hope to add some interesting twists to the post-WWII time period.

History of the League of Nations:

Following the dramatic devastation and loss of life the resulted from the First World War, United States President Woodrow Wilson became determined to ensure that war would never break out again. Wilson’s brainchild, the League of Nations, was the centerpiece of his Fourteen Points Proposal, which aimed at solving territorial disputes, maintaining peace in Europe, and preventing future conflicts. The League of Nation’s task was straightforward: to prevent war from ever again breaking out on such an incredible scale. The Versailles Treaty did not do much to eases tensions in Europe following the end of WWI, so many European governments looked to the league in order to maintain continental stability. International support was great for the formation of such a body; however, the U.S. Congress rejected Wilson’s proposal to for the nation to join the League he created, undoubtedly a product of America’s renewed isolationist approach to foreign affairs, which persisted until the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The League of Nations was to be based in Geneva, Switzerland, due to Switzerland’s historical neutrality and the presence of the Red Cross headquarters. The League possessed three sanctions (or courses of action to resolve conflict). First, it could call the leaders of the states in dispute to Geneva in order to negotiate in a peaceful manner. The League’s Assembly would oversee such disputes, essentially acting as a parliament and moderator. If the peace talks failed between the disputing nations, the League could induce economic sanctions to punish the aggressor nation, potentially forcing the country to submit to the League’s will. The third and final course of action if both mediation and economic sanctions failed was the use of force. The League itself did not possess any type of military strength, but could call upon member nations to contribute forces in order to enforce the determined course of action.

Unfortunately, military contribution was not a requirement to join and the only two nations capable of such contribution, Britain and France, were not exactly, in the wake of the First World War, willing to commit in such a manner. Essentially the league was neutered, unable to enforce its decisions, and, by with the outbreak of World War II, revealed to be a generally ineffective force.
For additional information regarding the League of Nations, please consult the resources listed below. All research and background guides should be completed prior to the first day of committee. No prewritten resolutions should be brought to committee, and they will not be accepted if presented.

**Resources:**

http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/leagueofnations.htm

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/wilson/portrait/wp_league.html

http://www.indiana.edu/~league/nationalmember.htm


http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teachinger/glossary/league-of-nations.cfm

http://www.johndclare.net/league_of_nations6.htm

http://worldatwar.net/timeline/other/league18-46.html

***It is encouraged to use these sites along with others not listed to complete your research

**Situation:**

Each delegate will represent a sovereign member nation of the League. The setting is at the League’s headquarters in Geneva during the early 30’s, and it will conclude with the beginning of WWII. Each delegate will be given the discretion to act within the parameters of his or her nation. Using action orders (notes to the chair describing a specific action that the delegate wishes to take on behalf of his or her country), a delegate may act independently from the League, use military resources as he or she wishes, and perform just about any action that is feasible for the respective nation during the 1930s. These actions will be taken on behalf of the individual nation and not on behalf of the League. The chairs will use their discretion in entertaining action orders based on their pertinence to the topics at hand/feasibility. For example, if Panama wishes to deploy forces to Spain to fight the rising threat of fascism, the chairs will not allow this to happen because Panama did not have the resources to undergo such an operation in the 30’s. The more justified the action orders are when submitted, the more likely they will pass. No matter what, the chairs will have the final say on which actions orders will be entertained, but creativity is encouraged and will be highly rewarded.
Topics for Debate:

**Topic 1: 1931 – The army of the Empire of Japan invades Manchuria.**

Attention to the League of Nations! Days ago, on September 18, 1931, Japan invaded an area of China known as Manchuria, with aggressive and systematic effort, completely flouting the Kellogg-Briand Act. The campaign is distinguished by its complete disregard for the peaceful aims of the League of Nation and can only be taken as a deliberate act of war. We must act in such a way so as to condemn these blatant acts of Japanese aggression and to render this gross violation of Chinese sovereignty a futile effort. Word has reached the international community that the United States has responded by refusing to acknowledge Japan’s illegal Manchuoko government and by supplying a proposal advocating for a cessation of hostilities, which the Japanese have bluntly rejected. In light of such obviously imperialistic intentions the League of Nations regrets to state that action of some sort—within the realms of the league’s charter—must be taken.


https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/WorldWar2/manchuria.htm


**Topic 2: 1936 - The Spanish Civil War**

A civil war of ideological scope has erupted in Spain, pitting the Nationalist rebels against the duly elected Republicans. Though we must frown upon the socialist, verging upon communist, inclinations of the Popular Front, we must, of course, acknowledge that the opposition force, the National Front, is fascist by inclination, funded by Mussolini and Hitler. Therefore, the League of Nations is placed between a rock and a hard place, between Stalin and Mussolini, whether it is better to support the Communists or to support the Fascists. A course of option could be non-intervention, to remain aloof towards this particular conflict, but the containment of fascism may be even more important than our long-standing opposition to Communism. It is up to you, members of the committee to develop a course of action that upholds the ideals of the League of Nation while containing the looming threat of fascism in Spain.

http://sitemaker.umich.edu/spanishcase/francisco_franco

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-intervention_in_the_Spanish_Civil_War


http://www.writing.upenn.edu/~afilreis/88/spain-overview.html
Further research is not just encouraged; it is expected.

**Final Comments:**

The two chairs will assume the role of Switzerland, thus serving as the moderator for the League. The purpose of the League of Nations is to act as a unified force for good, especially in addressing the two major topics for debate; however, corruption, backstabbing, and conflict are to be expected and slightly encouraged especially for the nations that possess historically aggressive roles (we are looking at you Germany and Japan). Because we are assembling as a League, the default for a debate will be a moderated caucus, and this will be the primary form of debate for the conference’s duration (stay away from the speakers list). Although the debate will focus primarily on the two topics at hand, this is indeed a historical crisis committee. Expect the unexpected, anticipate the rewriting of history, and above all, have plausible fun!