



Cabinet of José Batlle y  
Ordóñez, 1903 (URUGUAY)

MUNUC 34



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

**CHAIR LETTER.....3**

**CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER.....5**

**COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & MECHANICS.....7**

**SENSITIVITY NOTE.....8**

**TOPIC: CABINET OF JOSÉ BATLLE Y ORDÓÑEZ .....9**

    History and Context.....9

    Current Situation.....18

    Character Biographies.....23

    Bibliography.....37

## CHAIR LETTER

---

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to MUNUC and the Cabinet of José Batlle y Ordóñez!

My name is Laura Giugno and I'll be chairing this committee. Callum and I are so excited to welcome you to Uruguay in 1903, a fascinating time in history. We're looking forward to seeing how you will shape the country!

Over the course of the committee, you'll have a chance to reshape history at one of the most critical periods in Uruguay history-- a true turning point. You'll get to come up with creative solutions to solve the problems facing the country, problems that may seem rooted in the 1900s but have themes that still echo today, such as learning to deal with new technologies in a rapidly changing world. We hope that you will think critically about the origins of the problems and learn more about your unique problem solving skills. Not only will you discover how to apply your leadership and crisis management (no pun intended) in the context of this committee, but we hope that you will take them with you in your future pursuits.

Before we discuss the meat of the committee, I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself. I'm a second year political science and philosophy major-- so please feel free to ask any questions about the majors or have some fun philosophy discussion! I'm originally from Rochester, New York (western NY or, as some of my city friends like to say, not real New York), but I love the bustle and excitement of Chicago. Outside of classes, I'm a part of the Chicago Debate Society and an intern at the Chicago Justice Project. In my free time, I love to read, go on runs, and have those eclectic conversations that UChicago is known for.

As the Chair, I prioritize civil discussion and creative problem solving. It is essential that you treat each other with respect and kindness during and outside of session-- anything less will not be tolerated. If you aren't sure if what you are saying will be hurtful or offensive to anyone in the room, please do not say it.

I view the purpose of this committee to give all of you a chance to grow, while learning about an interesting time in history and working to solve it. Collaboration is essential to this-- I know that you all want to win, but I promise that the friendships you will make in this committee are more valuable than any award.

If you have any questions or are confused, please reach out to Callum and me. Above all, we are here to make sure that you have an excellent weekend. Enthusiasm and growth is more important than coming in with a lot of competitive experience, and we will prioritize that throughout the weekend.

I can't wait to see all of you take on the job of the Cabinet of Jose Batlle y Ordóñez!

Best wishes,

Laura Giugno

[lauragiugno@uchicago.edu](mailto:lauragiugno@uchicago.edu)

Chair, Cabinet of José Batlle y Ordóñez, MUNUC 34

## CRISIS DIRECTOR LETTER

---

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Cabinet of José Batlle y Ordóñez! My name is Callum Welsh, and I'll be serving as your Crisis Director (CD) for the weekend. Laura and I are very excited to have you along for this committee here at MUNUC 34.

Over the course of this conference, you will grapple with a wide range of topical issues; from economics, trade, industry, and foreign policy to immigration, education, and social issues, Uruguay in 1903 was a nation that was remaking itself into a modern state. We aim to give you as delegates the opportunity to shape that modern state.

In the process, we hope to help you learn not only basics like how to write a good crisis arc, but also more nebulous and topical skills like how to find consensus among bitter political rivals and how to solve complex problems with complex ramifications. As your CD, I firmly believe that both the crisis format and the environment of Uruguay in this time period is the perfect setting for you to demonstrate your potential in these areas.

As a bit about myself, I'm a third year at the University of Chicago majoring in Physics; this will also be my third year staffing a MUNUC committee! I originally hail from a small town in the Sierra Nevadas in Northern California called Truckee, and while I love living in Chicago, I certainly miss the mountains of home. When not doing MUNUC, I work as a research assistant in an on-campus lab, and enjoy reading, running, and climbing.

As it relates to you as delegates, my role as Crisis Director is three-fold; firstly, it is my job, along with Laura, to come up with the challenges you will face in the front room. We will devise problems for you to tackle, which you will debate as a committee and solve by passing directives.

Secondly, and more specific to the role of a CD, is the idea of a backroom. A unique component of a crisis committee is that you will write, as your assigned character, to fictional people your character

might know (a secretary, for example, is a common choice). These personal “notes” help you enact your plans, and they typically involve you as a delegate A) asking for something to happen, B) citing what resources you wish to use to make said thing happen, and C) explaining why you want said thing to happen. The aim here is that you will frame a cohesive narrative throughout these notes about your personal plans that interact with the issues that are being dealt with in committee. It is my job as a CD to oversee the flow of these backroom arcs, to grant or re-direct your requests on their merits, and work with you to build a personal narrative that will eventually disrupt the flow of debate in the front room.

All of the above paragraph was pretty vague and summary-esque; this leads me to my third job as a CD. If you’re new to crisis, confused about any of the dynamics of committee, or even if you’re a grizzled MUNUC veteran who just wants to learn more about how to write a good backroom arc, don’t hesitate to ask me any questions you might have, or to ask for feedback after committee sessions. Myself, Laura, and the ACs are here to help. Your level of experience and comfort with crisis is much less important to us than an eagerness to learn and your resourcefulness in solving the problems we throw your way, either in the front room or back room.

I’m very excited to spend this conference with all of you, and I can’t wait to see what direction you take the Cabinet of José Batlle y Ordóñez in!

Best,

Callum Welsh

callumwelsh@uchicago.edu

CD, Cabinet of José Batlle y Ordóñez, MUNUC 34

## COMMITTEE STRUCTURE & MECHANICS

---

This committee will simulate the Cabinet of José Batlle y Ordóñez, widely regarded as the first government of “modern Uruguay.”<sup>1</sup> The committee will be chaired by President Batlle himself, played by Laura, and delegates on the committee will serve as ministers, prominent business people, governors, mayors, foreign dignitaries, and a wide variety of other qualified advisors to the president. Although each delegate has a role, they should not feel confined to only speak to that aspect of debate, all delegates and positions are allowed and encouraged to engage in any debate and speak on any topic.

Delegates will be integral in shaping both the flow of committee and the future of Uruguay; as crises arise, members of the cabinet must craft consensus within the administration, and will dictate the executive response. President Batlle has confidence in his advisors, and views consensus (in the form of directives) among his cabinet as having the gravity of the will of the people. For the purposes of the crisis committee, Delegates should thus view their passed directives as having the full force of law. However, as the President, Batlle reserves the right to overrule his advisors if he sees fit.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hudson, Rex A., and Sandra W. Meditz. *Uruguay: A Country Study*. Washington, D.C.: Headquarters, Dept. of the Army, 1992. p 14

## SENSITIVITY NOTE

---

Despite the obvious luster of Uruguay's current era of possibility, delegates should remember to be mindful of both Uruguay's complex cultural history and also common decency. For example, Uruguay was founded as an imperial colony; both slavery and native genocide were common practice for large parts of Uruguay's history. Delegates should be cognisant of these atrocities while building Uruguay's future, and we ask that delegates not repeat the mistakes of the past.

To this end, we more broadly ask that delegates have common decency towards both their fellow delegates and the citizens of Uruguay whom they govern. The committee may be set in 1903, but we ask that delegates adhere to twenty-first century social standards—we implore delegates not to discriminate against anyone (be they fictional citizens or your fellow delegates) based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, or honestly, for any reason at all. Furthermore, we would also like to reiterate that things like gratuitous violence, the sale of narcotics, attacks on civilians, etc. are well out of bounds for conference.

We want delegates to be able to explore the full potential of nation building and the excitement of running a new government, and we do hope that delegates get creative in writing directives, solving issues, and building arcs. We simply ask that delegates use good judgement and good taste when planning and executing their visions. To quote MUNUC's Secretary General, "A quick 'good idea or bad idea?' never hurt anyone."<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Rowe, Dan.



# TOPIC: CABINET OF JOSÉ BATLLE Y ORDÓÑEZ

---

## History and Context

### *Geography*

Welcome to the verdurous plain and fertile coast of Uruguay! Uruguay is the second smallest country in South America, bordering Argentina, the South Atlantic Ocean, and Brazil. For reference, Uruguay is about the size of the state of West Virginia and Virginia put together, so it's not a large area compared to other countries in the world.<sup>3</sup> However, what it lacks in size, it makes up for in spirit.<sup>4</sup> The country's bustling capital is Montevideo, located near the Rio de la Plata and right on the ocean, making it a port city — the pride of Uruguay, where 300,000 live.<sup>5</sup> That's almost a third of Uruguay's total population. The Rio de la Plata, an estuary connected to the Atlantic Ocean, is not the only source of water; the plateaus and low hills, taking up about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the country and becoming steeper towards the north, are flowing with rivers and speckled with lakes.<sup>6</sup> Towards the east, south, and west edges, the land turns to flat plains, while the Atlantic coast to the east is a sandy stretch. Be warned, the water can overflow at times, causing devastating floods along the Rio Uruguay to the west. Hydropower and fish are both abundant natural resources in Uruguay, although there is also a large amount of arable land for growing rice, wheat, soybeans, and grass for cattle.<sup>7</sup> The weather also makes Uruguay desirable, with a warm climate that almost never dips below freezing. This beautiful country does have a dark side of nature, with seasonally high winds chilling the land, the

---

<sup>3</sup> "Uruguay." *Central Intelligence Agency*, Central Intelligence Agency, 22 Sept. 2021, [www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/uruguay/#geography](http://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/uruguay/#geography).

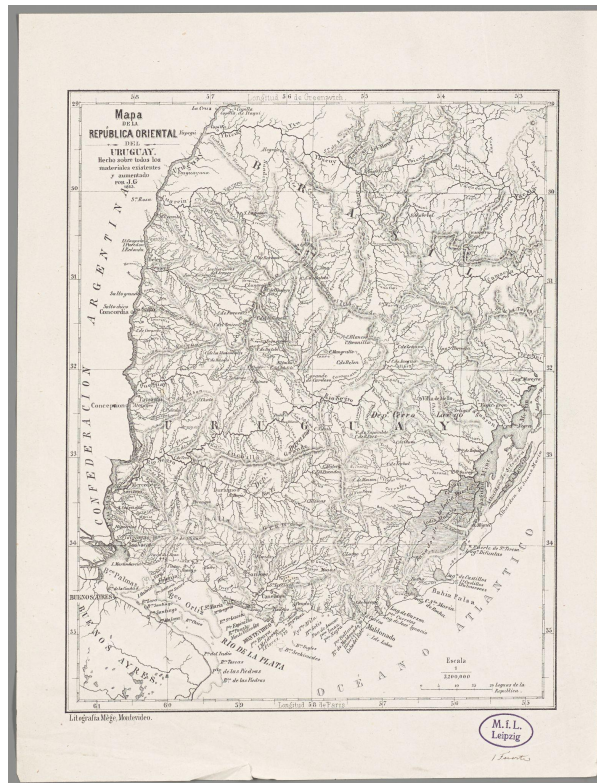
<sup>4</sup> Image: Mège, Luciano. "Mapa De La República Oriental Del Uruguay." 1863. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mapa\\_De\\_La\\_República\\_Oriental\\_Del\\_Uruguay.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Mapa_De_La_República_Oriental_Del_Uruguay.jpg).

<sup>5</sup> "I. Uruguay—1902." *De Gruyter*, Harvard University Press, 7 Apr. 2014, [www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.4159/harvard.9780674366176.c3/html](http://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.4159/harvard.9780674366176.c3/html).

<sup>6</sup> Hudson and Meditz, "Uruguay".

<sup>7</sup> International Trade Centre. "Country Profile Uruguay," n.d. <https://www.intracen.org/exporters/organic-products/country-focus/country-profile-uruguay/>.

potential for droughts, and a susceptibility to sudden, drastic shifts in the weather. Due to the lack of mountains, the flat land offers little protection to these volatile elements.<sup>8</sup>



## Technology

It's the turn of the century and "progress" is the word to describe the times. Print media was, of course, a huge part of the technology that shaped Uruguay. The discourse of print media was essential to spreading ideas, with newspapers and periodicals allowing the speedy dissemination of information.<sup>9</sup> The 1900s also marked the beginning of new industrial innovations that will shape Uruguay's economy and way of life for the coming century.<sup>10</sup> For example, the government contracted the Marconi Company to build a national network for the telegraph, allowing the state to have a strong presence throughout the country in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This, accompanied by the emergence of the railroad, both increased the communication between the government

<sup>8</sup> "Uruguay." *Central Intelligence Agency*.

<sup>9</sup> Ehrick, Christine. "Women, Politics, and Media in Uruguay, 1900–1950." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Latin American History*, Oxford University Press, 22 Aug. 2017, [oxfordre.com/latinamericanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.001.0001/acrefore-9780199366439-e-303](https://oxfordre.com/latinamericanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199366439.001.0001/acrefore-9780199366439-e-303).

<sup>10</sup> "Twentieth Century Uruguay." *Uruguay Siglo XX*, RaU Uruguay, [www.rau.edu.uy/uruguay/historia/Uy.hist4.htm](http://www.rau.edu.uy/uruguay/historia/Uy.hist4.htm).

capital cities and the rural interior, as well as facilitating the movement of troops to put down riots. Railways in particular were important for governing the interior of the country, and the state created a bank to control railway companies in 1896. However, cars haven't been imported at this time to Uruguay. Horses and carts are the primary means of transportation. Weapons such as the Krupp Artillery and Remington Repeating rifle further increased the state's power. The invention of barbed wire and subsequent fencing in the early 1870s also proved consequential, allowing farmers to guard their sheep without having to hire laborers for the job, resulting in unemployment.<sup>11</sup> Finally, refrigeration was just starting to be invented (technically invented in 1905, the technology was just becoming possible), allowing the exportation of meat to Europe. This was an important new source of trade and capital for farmers.<sup>12</sup> All in all, the turn of the century has brought technology to Uruguay that will quickly change the way of life for many of the residents, with repercussions echoing throughout the country.

### ***Independence Period***

Legally founded by treaty in 1750 and incorporated in 1776 as part of Spain's Viceroyalty of the Rio De La Plata, Uruguay began its political history as a province called the "Banda Oriental del Río Uruguay" (or "Eastern Bank of the Uruguay River" in English), usually shortened to "Banda Oriental."<sup>13</sup> Ruled by the Spanish colonial capital of Buenos Aires (now the capital of modern day Argentina), the Banda Oriental had very little political autonomy, save that its major port city of Montevideo did not have to clear outgoing shipments to Spain with the provincial viceroy.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>11</sup> Penka, Bradley. "The Early Years: A Brief History of Barbed Wire." *Brief History of Barbed Wire*, Kansas Barbed Wire Museum, [www.rushcounty.org/barbedwiremuseum/BWHistory.htm](http://www.rushcounty.org/barbedwiremuseum/BWHistory.htm).

<sup>12</sup> Jos. "The Birth of Modern Uruguay in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century." *El Nacimiento Del Uruguay Moderno En La Segunda Mitad Del Siglo XIX*, RaU Uruguay, [www.rau.edu.uy/uruguay/historia/Uy.hist3.htm](http://www.rau.edu.uy/uruguay/historia/Uy.hist3.htm).

<sup>13</sup> James, P. E., Weinstein, . Martin, Vanger, . Milton I. and Alisky, . Marvin H.. "Uruguay." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, November 9, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Uruguay>.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid



Map of the Rio De La Plata Region. The Banda Oriental was the name for Uruguay while it was under Spanish rule as a part of the Viceroyalty of the Rio De La Plata, Administered in Buenos Aires.<sup>15</sup>

Uruguay's first glimmer of independence came in 1810, when an insurrection against Spanish rule broke out in Buenos Aires and roiled the grains of revolution throughout the Rio de La Plata region. In the Banda Oriental, an Uruguayan cowboy, or gaucho, and former soldier named José Gervasio Artigas raised an army of disgruntled locals and joined forces with Buenos Aires in 1811 to overthrow

<sup>15</sup> Image: Beaumont, J. A. B. "PLATE OF THE PROVINCES OF BUENOS AYRES, BANDA ORIENTAL & ENTRE RIOS." London, 1828.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:\(1828\)\\_PLATE\\_OF\\_THE\\_PROVINCES\\_OF\\_BUENOS\\_AYRES,\\_BANDA\\_ORIENTAL\\_%26\\_ENTRE\\_RIOS.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:(1828)_PLATE_OF_THE_PROVINCES_OF_BUENOS_AYRES,_BANDA_ORIENTAL_%26_ENTRE_RIOS.jpg).

Spanish rule in the region. After many setbacks, long sieges, and foreign intervention by European imperial powers, by 1813, Artigas had successfully driven Spanish forces from the Banda Oriental. Artigas is thus generally considered to be the “father” of Uruguay.<sup>16</sup> To this day the flag of Artigas continues to be one of the official flags of Uruguay. Flown by José Gervasio Artigas, the blue and white stripes are meant to mimic the flag of Argentina—the red stripe is a symbol of Federalism, in contrast to Argentina’s unitary government.<sup>17</sup>

Uruguay’s struggle for independence, however, was far from over. Even with the Spanish in retreat, an enterprising Portuguese army in league with the Spanish Crown was marching on Uruguay from southern Brazil, and Artigas was severely outmanned.<sup>18</sup> Believing that Buenos Aires was the sole seat of power,



the newly independent Argentinian government claimed unitary sovereignty (meaning a central government) over the entire Rio de La Plata region, which includes Uruguay. Artigas and his constituents, mostly ardent supporters of federalism (meaning that the nation would be governed as a loose coalition of independent states), viewed the Argentine stance as merely the second act of colonial rule and as a shocking betrayal—in 1814, Artigas also declared war on Buenos Aires, further declaring the independence of the League of the Free Peoples: a federal republic considered to be the first Uruguayan state.<sup>19</sup> This proved to be a mistake, as without Argentine help, Artigas was

<sup>16</sup> Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "José Gervasio Artigas". Encyclopedia Britannica, 19 Sep. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jose-Gervasio-Artigas>. Accessed 29 November 2021.

<sup>17</sup> Image: *Flag of Artigas*. n.d. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag\\_of\\_Artigas.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Artigas.svg).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid

<sup>19</sup> Camogli, Pablo., Privitellio, Luciano de. Batallas por la libertad: todos los combates de la guerra de la independencia. Argentina: Aguilar, 2005, 22.



defeated by the incoming Portuguese forces in 1817, and was exiled. Uruguay itself was annexed into Portuguese territory and later absorbed into the Empire of Brazil.<sup>20 21</sup>

Both the people of Uruguay and Artigas' defeated forces were far from content with this outcome. After eight years of Portuguese and Brazilian rule, a former comrade of Artigas, Juan Antonio Lavalleja, led thirty-three men across the border into Uruguay from Brazil, and planted a flag in a busy public square in Artigas' colors that simply read "Liberty or Death". Word of the "Flag of the Thirty-Three" quickly spread through Uruguayan countryside, and thousands joined the "Thirty-Three Easterners" to fight against Brazilian rule. After amassing a large fighting force, the Thirty-Three Easterners movement declared independence from Brazil in 1825, and incorporated Uruguay into Argentina. Angered by the possible loss of a profitable port province, Brazilian forces, including a large naval flotilla on the Río de la Plata, fought the Thirty-Three Easterners both at the Argentine border and in Montevideo.<sup>22</sup>

After three years of heavy fighting between joint Argentine-Uruguayan forces and Brazil, the United Kingdom (who's commercial interests in the region were threatened by the conflict) used its geopolitical might to broker a peace. The agreement between Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil was finalized in 1828. The result was an independent Uruguay, captaled in Montevideo, and led by Juan Antonio Lavalleja as a military transition leader.<sup>23</sup>

## ***Civil War***

By the time José Batlle was democratically elected President of Uruguay in 1903, the political situation in the nation had been that of a fraught two-party battle for over 60 years. Understanding Uruguay's party conflict is central to understanding the nation inherited by Batlle.

Since their foundations in the early-mid nineteenth century, the urban-backed Colorado Party and the rural-backed Blanco Party have been Uruguay's major political powers; throughout the 1800's,

---

<sup>20</sup> Britannica, "José Gervasio Artigas".

<sup>21</sup> "Disembark of The '33 Orientales.'" Young Day School. Accessed October 22, 2021. <http://www.youngdayschool.edu.uy/webliceo/april191825.html>.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> James, "Uruguay."

they had been competing, and oftentimes fighting civil wars, for absolute control of the nation's government.

Founded unofficially in 1828 and officially in 1836 by Uruguay's first president<sup>24</sup> Fructuoso Rivera (who was appointed to the presidency by the nation's congress), the Colorado Party was originally set up to oppose Uruguay's revolutionary army party, the Thirty-Three Easterners. Rivera, a general of the Uruguayan revolution himself, argued constantly with his former commander General Juan Antonio Lavalleja, who led the Thirty-Three Easterners.<sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> Following the ultimate Uruguayan independence from Brazil, Lavalleja claimed the presidency as his own, and began an armed insurrection against Rivera.<sup>27</sup> To shore up military support and defeat Lavalleja, Rivera named his former subordinate and other leader of the Thirty-Three Easterners, Manuel Oribe, as his successor. Oribe took office as Uruguay's second president in 1835 in a peaceful transition of power. The good feelings between Rivera and Oribe did not last. Rivera's Colorado Party was intent on exiling all former Argentine troops living in Uruguay back to Argentina, while Oribe supported Argentine interests in Uruguay.<sup>28</sup> At the time this was a deeply polarizing issue, given that Argentina had fought both to control Uruguay and to free Uruguay from unwanted Brazilian rule within the preceding 30 years.<sup>29</sup> Oribe, who had close ties to the Argentine government, founded the Blanco Party in 1836 to oppose Colorado's desire to exile Argentinians.

The Colorados, still led by Rivera, responded by starting a major civil war between Colorado and Blanco factions. There was heavy infantry fighting in both the urban areas and countryside. The Colorado faction was generally supported by urban populations, while the Blancos were a primarily agrarian and rural faction.<sup>30</sup> Uruguay's capital, Montevideo fell to the Colorado's in 1838, and Oribe himself was exiled to Argentina.<sup>31</sup> Oribe and his Blanco forces, now openly backed by the

---

<sup>24</sup> Technically, Lavalleja held executive power before Rivera in the independent Uruguayan state, but he did not hold the office of the presidency itself.

<sup>25</sup> "185 Años De La Divisa Colorada." Partido Colorado, September 17, 2021. <https://partidocolorado.uy/185-anos-de-la-divisa-colorada/>.

<sup>26</sup> "Disembark of The '33 Orientales."

<sup>27</sup> James, "Uruguay."

<sup>28</sup> "Uruguayan Civil War." Academic Dictionaries and Encyclopedias. Accessed October 22, 2021. <https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/4670256>.

<sup>29</sup> Hudson and Meditz, "Uruguay".

<sup>30</sup> "La Guerra Grande." Montevideo, Uruguay: Biblioteca Ceibal, n.d.

<sup>31</sup> "Ruta De La Guerra Grande." Ministerio de Educación y Cultura. Ministry of Education And Culture of Uruguay, September 30, 2021. <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-educacion-cultura/comunicacion/noticias/ruta-guerra-grande>.

Argentinian government, fought a 13 year campaign against the Colorados to retake the country, eventually being defeated by a Colorado army backed by Brazil (who wanted to check Argentina's influence in the region) in 1851.<sup>32</sup> This brutal first war between the Colorado's and the Blancos led to a deep seated enmity between the two parties that would continue well into the twentieth century. From 1851 to 1872, Brazil used the influence of their support in capturing Uruguay for the Colorados to effectively administer the country as a puppet state under a series of ostensibly Colorado governments. Brazil's influence in Uruguayan politics waned after a joint war of Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay against Paraguay established Uruguay as a truly independent military power. Even so, the Colorado Party's hold on power remained firm.<sup>33</sup>

Despite their mutual hatred, however, the Colorados and the Blancos managed to find a way to work together in 1872 after near constant revolutions and civil wars led by the Blanco party. In return for peace, the Colorado government would give the Blancos absolute control over 4 of Uruguay's 13 "departments" (i.e states). This deal, later revised to be 6 out of 16 of Uruguay's departments, was upheld despite several more armed conflicts between the two political parties. The deal patently violated Uruguay's 1830's constitution, but constitutional law was very weak in Uruguay at the time. The government was divided into a federal government with an executive presidency, a senate, and a general assembly who elected the president, and a series of departmental governments that administered their departments as independent states and elected representatives to the Federal government.<sup>34</sup> In practice, departmental governments were often administered by whatever political party was assigned to the department under the 1872 agreement, and seats in the general assembly were effectively assigned. To this end, the election of the president, which was done by members of the general assembly, was effectively a pre-ordained process as opposed to a reflection of the will of the people.<sup>35</sup>

The arrangement stayed in place until José Batlle, a Colorado, was elected president by Uruguay's General Assembly in 1903.<sup>36</sup> That year, Batlle finally defeated a Blanco military faction and ended

---

<sup>32</sup> Hudson and Meditz, "Uruguay".

<sup>33</sup> "War of the Triple Alliance." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed October 23, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/event/War-of-the-Triple-Alliance>.

<sup>34</sup> "Uruguay: The Constitution." Country Studies. Accessed October 23, 2021. <http://countrystudies.us/uruguay/62.htm>.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Image: *Batlle Hacia 1900*. 1901. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:JoseBatlle1900.jpg>.



the unconstitutional power apportioning agreement, returning free and fair elections to Uruguay's departments, thereby re-establishing a democratically elected federal government—this event is generally considered the end of Uruguay's intermittent civil war.<sup>37</sup>



---

<sup>37</sup> "José Batlle y Ordóñez." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed October 23, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jose-Batlle-y-Ordonez>.

## Current Situation

### ***Economy***

Uruguay is at a turning point economically. In years past, Uruguay has been built on a system of agrarian capitalism, focusing on exports such as wool, hides, sheep, and beef. Although most of the economy is still largely agrarian, there is also a middle class employed in the public sector and a very small class of industrial workers.<sup>38</sup> These economic products formed the backbone of the economy, which was complicated by the lack of small to medium farming and a lack of mineral resources. Instead, the wealthy who controlled these rural areas, held power both economically and politically. The middle class and lower class farmers, prevalent fifty years prior to 1903, were largely destroyed by the governmental policy on enclosures. The importation of barbed fencing allowed wealthy farmer owners to enclose their property, thus strengthening their property rights. However, the barbed fencing was expensive and without it, there was no way to guarantee property rights, causing small farmers to sell off their land to farmers on larger properties, who could afford the fencing. Poor farmers either lost their property to communal land, or were forced to sell their property to large landlords.

Wealth in Uruguay was based on the ranching exports produced, shaping the social dynamics of the country. However, the current Uruguay system was hard fought, with the country bouncing back from a devastating civil war, the Guerra Grande (1851-1852) that left the country with a reduced stock of cattle, a collapsed system of exports, and a reduced population due to the number of people who fled from the country. In the thirty years following that event, Uruguay has established strong property rights and the price of land surged. The building of railways in the late 19th century also led to another surge in land prices, and allowed for Uruguay to penetrate international markets. The ability to build such railways largely stemmed from the presence of massive foreign borrowing, backed up by a firm tax base. With a new international trade market came a pressure to engage in the profitable sheep and wool trade. However, the creation of sellable wool required significant

---

<sup>38</sup> Kurtz, Marcus J. *Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective: Social Foundations of Institutional Order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

labor, causing the rural population to settle into small communities as opposed to the previous, more mobile, life of the gauchos.<sup>39</sup>

Now, there is increasingly a sense in the air that the old economic ways are not working out. Batlle discussed brave new social reforms with significant economic consequences, such as reducing the wealth gap between the privileged and the poor. Talk of pensions, a state run mortgage bank, worker's rights, and shorter working hours have begun to gain traction. What will happen next to the economy of Uruguay? It is up to the newly elected Batlle and his cabinet to discover, although whatever happens, it seems that a significant change is brewing.<sup>40</sup>

### ***Social Issues***

The early 1900s have been marked with significant social shifts, as the established social classes of poor farmers or laborers and a wealthy landowning elite were shaken by a new, growing middle class of laborers and city dwellers. Perhaps the most noticeable is the population boom that has been occurring since 1880, with a population of 463,867 in 1880 growing to a projected population of 1,081,084 in 1910. The system of national public education is also taking hold. The roots for that were laid in 1877 with the Law of Common Education. This issue seems to be on the mind of José Batlle, and he often speaks of his desire for expansion of the system through increasing access to secondary education across the country, instead of just in the capital. He further wanted to make this schooling system free of charge for the people who participated in it. The workers in the tiny, mostly artisan labor force in Uruguay sometimes use strike tactics to advocate for better working conditions, but are frequently defeated due to lack of effective mobilization. This is due to a largely agrarian population, focused on production of exportable goods. Today in 1903, there is very little industrialization, instead there exists a small artisan class and a much larger farming workforce, focused on production and exportation of wool. However, most of the middle class in Uruguay at this time are public employees of the state.

The ability to advocate for social issues is further complicated by the lack of widespread suffrage, as the President is elected by a legislative body. The Representatives of that body are elected by only

---

<sup>39</sup> Kurtz, *Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective*

<sup>40</sup> Pendle, George. *Uruguay*. 3d ed. London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

31,862 of the 1 million residents of Uruguay in 1910, showing the restriction of suffrage. Those who can vote are unable to vote anonymously, introducing a largely corrupt system of achieving power. This makes it difficult for public servants to band together to advocate for any significant change. Rather, they are pressured to vote in the way that is desired by the elites of society, or risk facing serious consequences. In the same vein, Uruguay has a large bureaucracy dedicated to education, along with implementation of state law, that forms the key constituency to provide the Colorado Party votes in elections.<sup>41 42</sup>

Other social issues facing Uruguay at this time involve religion. The trends of increased European immigration in the late 1800s has caused conflict between a population of Catholics and liberal advocates, due to an influx of practicing Catholics from European states. Uruguay was a traditionally secular state, due to its lack of status during the colonial period the Catholic Church never established a significant presence there. However, the influx of religious immigrants has upset the more secular status quo. The conservative Catholic ideology sometimes comes in conflict with the women's movement and reforms such as the legalisation of divorce. However, other liberal sects of Catholicism argue that women's rights can be found through the Church, despite the Church having limited influence in Uruguay.

Women's rights are an essential movement of this time, with the system of public education allowing women to enter into a profession. The women's movement focuses on the intersectional oppression of females by both capitalist structures and the patriarchy. The movement is intent on achieving the right of women to marry who they desire, and has been taken up by strands of the anarchist movement of the time, supported by a small press. Women also have involvement in the small working class, boycotting the factories when they felt that their rights were violated. This allows the mobilization of women away from the home, putting them on more equal footing with their male colleagues.<sup>43</sup> The social issues in Uruguay are pressing at present time, and it is up to the cabinet of Batlle to figure out how to resolve these competing interests.

---

<sup>41</sup>Kurtz, *Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective*

<sup>42</sup> Vanger, Milton I. "Politics and Class in Twentieth-Century Latin America." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 49, no. 1 (February 1, 1969): 80–93. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00182168-49.1.80>.

<sup>43</sup> Ehrick, Christine. *The Shield of the Weak: Feminism and the State in Uruguay, 1903-1933*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005.

## ***Foreign Policy***

Uruguay's foreign policy at the turn of the century is both a regional and global story. In the Rio De La Plata Region, both of Uruguay's neighbors, Brazil and Argentina, are becoming increasingly powerful in terms of political, economic, and military might; Uruguay is effectively sandwiched between the two "behemoths" of the South American world.<sup>44</sup> The Batlle administration's foreign policy on a regional scale will thus largely focus on these two neighbors.

It is particularly noteworthy that both Argentina and Brazil have controlled Uruguay at several points throughout the 19th century, and have fought proxy wars against each other in Uruguay. They have even appointed Uruguayan heads of state by forceful military intervention. Brazil, in an attempt to expand its influence and curb the influence of Argentina, have even forced Uruguay to sign a (now void) treaty that allowed Brazil to invade Uruguay whenever the former saw fit.<sup>45</sup> Furthermore, several political and military factions within the country (including the Blanco uprising recently defeated by Batlle y Ordóñez) have been either sponsored by or were sponsors of the Brazilian or Argentinian governments.<sup>46</sup> To put it shortly, Uruguay has spent the nineteenth century being pushed around by its two more powerful neighbors, both of whom view themselves as having at least a marginal say in Uruguay's internal affairs, and both of whom have an eye for Uruguay's rich farmland and bustling coastal ports. Managing the efforts of these two countries to exert their influence on Uruguay is a clear necessity for the Batlle administration.

On a more global scale, Uruguay has a clear foreign policy issue requiring the attention of the president and the cabinet: economic imperialism. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, Great Britain has begun heavily investing in Uruguay. From extending civil war era governments massive loans to purchasing the national railroad service, British influence over Uruguay has risen extremely high. At one point, British companies even owned Montevideo's water and gas utilities before being forced to return control to the city's government.<sup>47</sup> British citizens also came to Uruguay en masse to purchase large swaths of ranchland. Before the advent of refrigeration, it was a

---

<sup>44</sup> Knarr, James C. *Uruguay and the United States, 1903-1929 Diplomacy in the Progressive Era*. Ashland: The Kent State University Press, 2013, 6.

<sup>45</sup> Hudson and Meditz, "Uruguay". 14

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 19-20

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 18

British meat-salting company that dominated Uruguay's meat export market.<sup>48</sup> In a country where ranching is the largest industry, Britain's quasi-colonial control over Uruguay cannot be understated. Previous Uruguayan governments have attempted to curb this influence by nationalizing industries like rail and utilities, but British influence remains.<sup>49</sup> The Batlle y Ordóñez administration will have to deal with lasting 19th century British influence by either continuing to promote national industry or by finding new international partners to deal with like the United States or other South American nations.

---

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 16

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., 18-19

## Character Biographies

### 1. Martín C. Martínez - Minister of Finance

Martín grew up a farmer, who loved nothing more than working the fields with his eleven brothers and sisters. That all changed one fortuitous evening, when a man came up to Martín as he was finishing up his day at work. Martín's father came out and introduced the man as Miguel, a powerful force in the international trade scene. He happened to be looking to learn about farming to make a trade deal, and wanted to stay with the family for a while. Over the course of that year, Martín and Miguel developed a strong friendship, a bond as close as brothers. Miguel begged Martín to leave his farmer lifestyle and serve as his assistant. After a long deliberation, Martín said goodbye to his family and left to start a new life. He was an instant success, traveling to Europe to secure trade deals using his uncanny charm, the very thing that recommended him to Miguel in the first place. When Miguel retired, Martín took over the empire and was the clear choice when President Batlle was deciding who to appoint as Minister of Finance.

### 2. José Romeu - Minister of Foreign Relations

Born in Montevideo in 1862 to an English mother and a Spanish Father, José Romeu has been steeped in cultural pluralism his entire life. After studying international relations at Oxford during his youth, and going on to get an international law degree from the University of Montevideo, Romeu quickly rose through the ranks of Uruguay's foreign service as a diplomat to Argentina. Given his extensive experience and commitment to foreign service (as opposed to serving partisan aims), Romeu was the obvious choice for Batlle y Ordoñez's Minister of Foreign Relations. From antagonistic neighbors in Brazil and Argentina to imperializing European powers knocking Uruguay's door, Romeu will be a busy man. As Minister of Foreign Relations, Romeu will be responsible for balancing the interests of Uruguay with the often less than friendly desires of the outside world. The official duties of Romeu's post include corresponding with foreign dignitaries and helping the committee come up with solutions to its national and international problems that not only promote the interests of Uruguay but also build stronger bonds with allies and adversaries alike. Given his work as a diplomat, and his time in elite circles abroad, Romeu naturally has extensive contacts both in Argentina and the United Kingdom, both of whom are very interested in Uruguay. Romeu has

spent his entire career in service to Uruguay. However, now that he is the one in charge of the foreign service, it remains to be seen how Romeu might use this position to serve the people.

### **3. Juan Campisteguy - Minister of the Interior**

Born in Montevideo in 1859 to a soldier fighting in the Great Siege, Juan Campisteguy originally studied to be a lawyer. After finishing law school in 1887, fate had a different plan for him. Due to his connection with the Colorado Party and his belief in liberalism, he became a soldier in the Colorado Militia that overthrew one of Uruguay's 19th century military dictatorships. A skilled politician and loyal Colorado, Batlle y Ordóñez originally tapped him to be the Minister of Finance, but at Campisteguy's request, he was re-named the Minister of the Interior. In this role, Campisteguy will be responsible for a wide array of Uruguay's leading problems: regulating land use for industry and farming, considering environmental issues and conservation, and managing Uruguay's diverse landscape of rangeland, rainforest, and burgeoning cityscape. From law school, the army, and from his finance days, Campisteguy is well connected with the nation's wealthy and powerful—whether he uses his new position to help his friends, himself, or the people of Uruguay remains to be seen.

### **4. Juan Alberto Capurro - Minister of Education**

Juan Alberto Capurro never thought he would be a teacher, no less the Minister of Education. Born in 1838 in the rural northeast of the country, Capurro spent his youth exploring the vast countryside. He was never without his notebook, and he loved to write down detailed descriptions of everything he saw. In his adulthood, he became a prolific novelist, being wildly popular within Uruguay, and widely hailed as one of the best Spanish language authors of his generation. He began teaching literature and writing at a schoolhouse in his hometown to local teenagers as a mere pastime—word of his class became so widespread that he was soon teaching outside to crowds of hundreds. Tapped by Batlle to lead the Ministry of Education, Capurro was chosen because of his apparent belief that education should be free and for everyone. He will be responsible for increasing access to education in an increasingly interconnected age, and for overseeing the operation of the nation's schools. Although obscure in political circles, Capurro is well loved by the public for his books, and is now a very visible figure to the nation's parents, who trust him with their children's education.



## **5. Christiano Gallinal Metivier - Minister of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries**

Born on a farm in the Rio Negro Department, Christiano Gallinal Metivier has always been on a mission to make Uruguay's agriculture industry more profitable, more efficient, and more productive. Growing up as a ranch hand on a goat farm, and later working as a milk and meat seller, Metivier gained crucial insights into every aspect of Uruguay's largest industry. He eventually saved up enough money from this work to go to business school at the University of Montevideo, and is well versed in modern business practices. Metivier was especially remembered by his professors for not only being able to quickly find potential profit in any situation, but also for his ability to think about problems from every end of a supply chain. Metivier is inheriting an Uruguay uniquely suited to his business acumen. The recent invention of refrigeration combined with large foreign investments in Uruguay's agricultural sector has left him at the regulatory helm one of most lucrative business opportunities since the turn of the century. Having made powerful friends among his business school classmates, Metivier is well connected with large scale farmers throughout the nation, and knows more than his fair share of small farmers eager to work their way to the top. As the new minister of agriculture, everyone in the ranching business wants his ear. The duties of his post explicitly entail regulating the market control of big farms, promoting better and more profitable farming practices, and expanding Uruguay's agrarian economy from one of local subsistence to a global agricultural powerhouse. Whether he uses his governmental post to champion a regulatory agenda, to boost Uruguay's economy, or simply to line his own pockets remains entirely up to him.

## **6. Shayana Rodriguez Coheña - Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining**

Having trained extensively as a geophysicist at Oberlin College in the United States, Dr. Shayana Rodriguez Coheña left her post as a researcher at the Colorado School of Mines to return to her native Uruguay and assume the position of the Minister of Industry, Energy, and Mining. Coheña is well versed in the in and outs of mineral extraction, but her skill set extends much farther. Between possessing the analytical skills of a scientist and an eye for business passed down to her from her father (who ran a successful cannery in Montevideo), Coheña is the perfect person to lead Uruguay from its agrarian roots and into a new century of industry. The duties of her post include fostering

new industries like factory scale manufacturing and food export, dealing with the import of fuels (as Uruguay has no proven hydrocarbon reserves), and overseeing other key facets of both resource extraction within the nation and the allocation of those resources to expand opportunities for fledgling industries. Coheña has several close friends from her years in the United States, many of whom would likely be interested in investing in Uruguay. Via her previous work, Coheña was also extensively exposed to environmentalism, and unlike many of her predecessors and co-workers, is open to the idea that resource extraction and energy use should be done in a responsible manner that protects not only the interests of the economy and of the state, but also of the natural ecosystem; such an opinion is highly controversial and relatively unpopular, and to what degree she decides to use her new office to press an environmental agenda or leaves this entirely up to the Minister of the Environment remains unseen. Between balancing economics, fiscal policy, resource abundance, ecological concerns, and all the facets of a modern industrial government, Coheña is a crucial government official.

## **7. Gabriel Terra - Minister of Labour and Social Welfare**

A part of the small industrial class in Uruguay, Gabriel was a city kid through and through. The son of two textile workers, he grew up immersed in the machines hinting at big industry in Uruguay. However, he also saw the poor working conditions of the factory where his parents worked, with fibers filling the air and the heat often being unbearable, and his parents always coming home after long days, only to catch a few hours of sleep and do it all again. Gabriel was employed at the same factory that his parents worked, but felt that the conditions were inhumane. Despite the small number of workers and lack of political capital, Gabriel was determined to make a change. He rallied his fellow workers and led multiple strikes and political protests, always unsuccessful, but always gaining national attention. A firebrand, Gabriel was the force between a movement to unionize and became known throughout the nation for both advocating that industrialization is the way of the future and that better working conditions were necessary. In a twist of fate, he became good friends with the textile factory owners, largely due to his earnest appreciation of industrialization and jovial nature when not advocating for massive reforms. The textile industry has become a better environment due to his advocacy, leading to greater productivity and his textile boss friends enthusiastically recommending him for the job of Minister of Labor.

## **8. Gabriel Sanchez Ainsa - Minister of the Environment**

Born in the town of Rivera in northeastern Uruguay, Gabriel Sanchez Ainsa grew up surrounded by natural beauty. Watching Rivera's natural wonders, the rivers and waterfalls of the Parque Nacional, be damaged by gold prospectors in the 1880's was a truly formative experience for Sanchez. Getting his law degree from the University of Montevideo, Sanchez fought tooth and nail during his early career for legal protections for the environment against the interests of ranchers and industrialists. In a nation attempting to develop itself via increased industrialization and export of agricultural products, he found himself mostly ignored by both the people and government officials. However, public opinion has turned, and there are those who support his environmentalist ideas both in and out of the government, Don Pepe's reformist ideals led him to being appointed as the Minister of the Environment for the new government. In charge of protecting Uruguay's natural beauty and resources for future generations, Sanchez will go to any length to ensure that ranching, mining, and industry do not destroy the nation's environment. He must also balance his personal beliefs with the ideals of a rapidly developing nation that needs expanded industry and agriculture to meet the challenge of a new century. How Ainsa will use his new post and meager yet extant public following to shape Uruguayan environmental policy, through either legal or less than legal means, remains to be seen.

## **9. Jacobo Dujeno - Chairman of the Colorado Party**

Born in Montevideo at the start of the Great Siege (1843-1851), Jacobo Dujeno spent the first years of his life living under constant fear of the Blanco Party, who were attacking the city. It is no surprise then that he spent his life as an ardent and active Colorado, and enlisted as an infantryman in the Colorado's militia. Being discharged after expressing his doubts about the nation's power sharing scheme and about the military dictatorships he was serving, Dujeno became increasingly involved in Colorado politics, and believed that the party should be defined not by its desire for power and its hatred for its Blanco rivals, but instead by the party's supposed founding ideals of self-determination for all and support for a liberal federal government. With Batlle y Ordóñez's election and defeat of Blanco militias, Dujeno's political ideas came swiftly into the mainstream of the Colorado Party, and he was elected as its chairman the following year. In charge of drumming up

support for the new face of the Colorado Party, Dujeño must work to convince the nation that the Uruguayan government can be a stable force for good, that civil war is not the sole means of enacting political change, and that keeping the Colorado party in power via free and fair elections is best for not just the Colorados, but for the entire nation. Dujeño, armed with an extensive network of pollsters, election precinct captains, and low level local officials all throughout the country, must overcome years of prejudice and hatred to work with the Blanco party to maintain a lasting, successful (and for Dujeño, hopefully Colorado led) Uruguayan government.

#### **10. Alfredo Mussio Fournier - Minister of Health**

Like many of Uruguay's leaders, Dr. Fournier has both a global network and a deep connection to his homeland. Born in Montevideo and trained as a medical doctor in Argentina, Fournier is well connected to an international community of medical professionals, particularly in the UK. Due to famously successful clinical results of many of his early medical experiments Alfredo returned to Uruguay as one of the nations most prominent and well respected physicians. Specializing in biochemistry, Dr. Fournier has written interesting papers in the past about adapting Uruguay's native fauna for pharmacological use. In his position as Minister of Health, Fournier is officially tasked with promoting scientific advancement in medicine, working with infrastructure authorities to provide clean water, stopping the spread of disease, regulating medicine, and advocating a generally healthy lifestyle to the public. While a popular figure in the medical community, Alfredo has not shared his intentions for his new office. Alfredo's colleagues can only speculate whether he will use his position to dabble in his interest in pharmaceuticals or whether he will dedicate his attention solely on the public health of his people.

#### **11. Pilar Jiménez de Aréchaga - Minister of Tourism**

Now that the government has secured and stabilized the country, and Uruguay is increasingly involved in global trade and welcoming immigrants from abroad, the nation is well poised to welcome foreign visitors. Born in Rome, Italy in 1872 to Argentinian parents, Pilar Jiménez de Aréchaga found this to be true for herself when she visited Uruguay for the first time as a young girl en route to Argentina. Inspired by Uruguay's natural beauty, she dreamed of leaving Rome behind and building a cabin in the country's lush forests. After studying business and linguistics at the

Sorbonne, Pilar made her dream a reality, and emigrated to Uruguay in 1894. She used her business and linguistic acumen to start a travel agency, and since, business has been booming. Her tourism campaigns to attract the attention of Europeans particularly impressed Don Pepe, and needing a Minister of Tourism to fill the newly created role, he named her to the post. Pilar is responsible for making sure there are visitors to welcome—it's up to her to promote Uruguay as a global destination, highlighting its unique culture, economic opportunity, and natural beauty. Building up Uruguay's tourism is no small task. Fortunately, Pilar is creative and well connected. Her uncle Marco is high up in the Epsilon Line, a leading British transport and cruise fleet. She also is close with her cousin Jeffo, who runs her agency's Italian side operations. Pilar can speak five languages fluently, run a profitable business, and is even internationally licensed to captain steamships of almost every variety. How she will use her new position and her numerous skills to shape Uruguay's future is up in the air.

## **12. Juan Fuentes - Minister of Justice**

The career of Juan Fuentes has followed an interesting path. Born in Artigas in 1873, Fuentes is one of the youngest members of Don Pepe's cabinet. Starting out as a rank and file officer in Uruguay's National Police, Fuentes was quickly recognized by his superiors for having an unparalleled mind for investigation. Promoted to detective inspector when he was only 21, Fuentes went on to catch criminals of all stripes. He was well loved by the citizenry, and was dubbed the "Sheriff of Artigas" by locals. As his career progressed however, Fuentes decided he wasn't making a big enough difference in Uruguay. He quit the force and enrolled in a joint bachelors law degree at the University of Montevideo in 1897 so that he could, in his words, "not only do justice but change how justice is done." Fuentes worked for many years as both a public defender and prosecutor, taking only the cases he wanted. He claimed he did so in order to only "litigate his conscience," but critics poignantly accused him of only taking cases he knew he could win. A surprise pick for Minister of Justice, Fuentes's new job lands him back at the National Police—although this time, he is in charge. His other official duties include serving as the nation's attorney general, and working with the committee to craft the national policy for how the law is enforced. With deep ties to the nation's law enforcement, from street cops in Artigas to department heads, Fuentes has a unique influence within Uruguay. Ironically, he also has some ties to the criminal underground from his time as a

prosecutor—keeping some people out of jail earned him some favors. How Fuentes chooses to use his position—as a paragon of justice or as something else entirely—remains to be seen.

### **13. Devin Haas - Minister of Transportation**

Born in Dusseldorf, Germany, Devin Haas has always had a fascination with trains. The son of a railroad engineer and a Deutsche Bank Rail Line ticket collector, Haas studied metallurgical science and business at ETH Zürich, and quickly turned his family's modest savings into a bonafide railroad fortune. Investing in successful rail projects all over Europe, Haas opened his own railroad at the age of 29. However, betting it all on the failed Berlin-Baghdad railway project between the German Empire and the Ottoman Empire, Haas lost almost his entire fortune and decided there was no more money to be made in European rail markets. Seeing his desperation, and eager for his experience, the Uruguayan government and British rail companies contracted Haas to help expand Uruguay's rail system and connect it with the rest of South America. Haas emigrated to Uruguay to live closer to his work in 1894. After completing his work, he chose to remain in the country, and was named it's Minister of Transportation in the new government. In charge of further developing not only Uruguay's railroads, but also roads, ports, and any other transportation infrastructure, Haas has extensive contacts among members of the rail and infrastructure business at every level. Furthermore, he has an eye for making Uruguay one of the most connected countries in South America. Especially with overseas commerce becoming one of the nation's leading industries, Haas must help provide the infrastructure to ensure Uruguay's growth. He has also heard of a new form of transportation being developed in the United States, one that had been considered a complete pipedream for many years: flight. Where Haas decides to turn the attention of his post remains to be seen.

### **14. Daniel Sanchez - National Security Advisor**

Born in Mexico City in 1830, Daniel "Dan" Sanchez has made a career out of soldiering. Fighting in the final year of the Mexican-American war when he was eighteen years old, Sanchez first served under General Antonio López de Santa Anna. A deep liberal, Sanchez's next action as a soldier was helping overthrow the Santa Anna government in Mexico in 1855. Despite being offered a high ranking defense position in the Mexican government, Sanchez was urged by his younger brother to

instead come to Uruguay to fight for the Colorados in the Uruguayan civil war. After a long military career in Uruguay, both as part of Colorado militias and the regular army, Sanchez gained a well earned reputation as a grizzled infantry officer and an expert in tactics. Even in Uruguay's new era of peace and despite being a former general himself, Don Pepe recognized that he would need experienced advisors in the field of defense. Sanchez was the obvious choice, and was named National Security Advisor in the new government. Sanchez's official duties in his new role include advising the government on matters of defending Uruguay both from any threat of foreign invasion and also from internal revolt. Well loved by current and former soldiers alike in all echelons of the Uruguayan armed services, Sanchez holds sway not only over the government's official defense policy, but also over the more... unofficial facets of the nation's military. How Sanchez will use his influence and new position is as of yet unknown.

### **15. Giacomo Garibaldi - Special Advisor**

It could be said that Giacomo Garibaldi's connection to Uruguay runs in the family. Born in 1860 in Milan, Giacomo is the grandson of famous Italian general, patriot, and independence fighter Giuseppe Garibaldi. After being exiled from Italy after a failed attempt to overthrow the monarchy of Piedmont, Giuseppe fled to South America, where he raised a volunteer army of so-called "redshirts" to help fight for Uruguay's independence. Giuseppe is widely hailed as a national hero of Uruguay, and later returned to Italy to found the modern Italian state. Educated at the Accademia Militare di Modena, Giacomo has spent his life in his grandfather's army, and is a cavalry officer by training. During the numerous skirmishes and battles Italy fought during the late 19th century, Giacomo proved that he was more than just his name, demonstrating both wit and courage in battle. Furthermore, he has a keen mind for mathematics; his comrades used to make fun of him for using his leave days to math at a school near their base. Given that his grandfather is a revered figure in Uruguay by Colorados and Blancos alike, and that Giacomo himself has proven himself a talented man, Don Pepe has invited to Uruguay as a Special Advisor to the President; wanting to live up to his grandfather's legacy of making meaningful change in Uruguay, Giacomo was fast to accept. Giacomo's role in the new government is to advise the president on matters of defense, diplomacy, trade, and the general business of effectively governing the state. Armed with a sharp mind, a

famous name, and many overseas connections, Giacomo Garibaldi has nearly limitless potential on shaping the future of the Uruguayan state; how he will use his influence remains to be seen.

#### **16. Andres Perez-Stark - Economic Advisor**

Andres was literally born with a silver spoon in his mouth. The son of two wealthy ranch owner, he was brought up with every possible convenience offered in the new era of the twentieth century. For example, the emergence of refrigeration allowed Andres to consume more of the grass fed cows, owned by his parents. At the age of twenty, Andres realized that his passion in life was economics, and then promptly shipped off to university. At university, Andres got to study his favorite thing — money. And he was quite good at it; he received an A in every economics class, and supported the economy by paying his teachers for the grade. After graduating top of his class, Andres went into the family business and married Aldonza Lorenzo, the daughter of the prominent railroad baron who oversaw the construction of the national railroad system. Andres thus lived many happy years, with his wife, six children, wealthy grandfather, and — of course — lots of gold. However, when he heard that Batlle was calling for reform, he rushed to offer his help as an economic advisor. After all, he wanted to make sure that the reform was conservative, and that economic principles were the deciding factor in the system.

#### **17. Juan Koobatian - Trade Advisor**

Juan always loved ships. As a boy, he would go with his father to the docks. His father was employed by the government as a ship inspector, a member of the middle class, and made sure that his son was well educated in shipbuilding. Juan dreamt at night of becoming a ship builder and, as he grew older, gained employment at the docks in ship repairs. In this job, he befriended all of the captains who brought goods too and from the ports in Montevideo. However, when he told his father that he dreamed of becoming a ship builder, his father forbade him from pursuing this profession. Instead, he told him to find a job that was more practical and came with a higher salary attached. Juan was heartbroken, but decided to obey his father. He asked his dock friends what he should do, and they suggested that he attempt to become a manager at the port, overseeing trade coming in and going out. At first, Juan was sure this would be impossible, as he had no connections to the bosses who oversaw trade. However, he was determined to succeed, so he asked all of his captain friends for



help. Cervantes, a seasoned sailor, happened to be a buddy with one of the overseers through cards and managed to get him a job. Now, Juan is the leading expert on trade and exports, and he knows of everything that happens at the ports of Montevideo.

### **18. Victor Magado - Mayor of Montevideo**

Victor knows everyone. The son of a popular butcher, Victor always ran the front desk. An incorrigible gossip with an excellent memory for names, Victor quickly became a community fixture, serving meat and good conversation to whoever walked in the door. As a young man, he went out with his friends one night and made a pact to run for the mayorship, partly as a joke. However, Victor's uncanny ability for making connections and convincing people to campaign for him allowed him to win in a landslide. It didn't hurt that he managed to charm the head of the police force in Montevideo, the most influential group in the city. Now, as the youngest mayor of the century, he's been learning the ropes of governing and continuing to charm his voters. A national voice of reason and the man who spearheaded numerous crime reforms, he is known for his partnership with the police department to reduce crime to zero in his city and for his excellent cooking ability.

### **19. Lorenzo Ramos - Governor of Artigas**

Lorenzo is a part of a political dynasty in Artigas that has had a monopoly on power for decades. The second son of the kingmaker of Artigas, it was always assumed that he would not amount to much while his brother took over the city. Because of this, he spent his childhood sneaking around the city, taught by his father's network of spies. He became so talented at this that he is almost never caught when listening in on important meetings and his best friend is the head of the Artigas spy network. His brother, Juan, fell in love with a peasant girl, just as he was poised to take over the family legacy. After being forbidden by his father to court and marry her, Juan decides to run away with her, escaping to the south with the assistance of Lorenzo and his network of spies. Suddenly the first son, Lorenzo was thrust into the political arena by his father, gaining an iron grip on power due to his ability to find out the secrets of his rivals. President Batlle quickly decided that Lorenzo would be important to have in his cabinet, both to keep a potential threat close, stopping Lorenzo from using his spy network against him, and to keep Artigas closely aligned with the Batlle presidency.

## **20. Estrella Hernandez - Science Advisor**

Estrella, from her early childhood, has always loved science. From a young age, her father and mother would find her conducting experiments in their small home in the rural center of the country. As poor farmers without access to the fencing necessary to enclose their land, Estrella's family didn't believe that they would be able to support her strange experiments. As a teenager, Estrella ran away to Montevideo to pursue her passion for science. She managed to convince a local university instructor to take her under his wing and showed an incredible aptitude for experimental design. After she managed to produce some sparkly explosions for the national independence day, teachers in the capital began to ask her to come in and do demos. She quickly took this idea and began doing public science experiments for anyone who wanted to come and watch her work in the lab. These took off as a form of entertainment, catching the attention of a wealthy businessman, Miguel Quixote. Quixote decided to become her first sponsor, providing funding as her experiments became more and more flashy, and providing her with the funds to get accepted into the Scientific Coalition of the Americas. Estrella began to focus her experiments on fertilizer, trying to come up with the ultimate fertilizer recipe to produce the best crops. Now a national figure, Estrella was the first person who President Batlle thought of when he wanted help navigating the science of the new era.

## **21. Huebertes Delgado Molina - Media Advisor**

Huebertes was always a storyteller. From a young age, he would create stories and put on plays for his government employee parents. He desired to become an entertainer, spending the first few years of his twenties building up a modest following as a one man actor. However, his parents intervened by the time that he turned twenty five, and insisted that he find a more practical job, joining them in the bureaucratic government. He followed his parents' wishes, unwilling to disappoint them, but continued to try to make people smile and entertain people at his job. He quickly rose to popularity in the office on education, known for his witty turns of phrase and hilarious renditions of workplace drama. At night, he continued to follow his dream and build up an acting following, now under the anonymous name "The Daring Delgado." As he rose through the government bureaucracy, he became more and more well known for his humor and skill in acting. His reputation only truly exploded when he decided to create a campaign to publicize the school

system throughout the country, using radio stations, newspapers, and posters. This campaign was so successful that enrollments almost doubled, due to his clever marketing ideas. When President Batlle was looking for a person to help him market his strategies to the people of Uruguay, he remembered the ads for public education that Huebertes created, and knew that he had to have Huebertes running his media outreach.

## **22. Carlos Joven Ronaldo - Secretary to the President**

Carlos prided himself on his penmanship. From a young age, Carlos would copy his grandmother's recipes for her, so that she would be able to replicate them. As a child living with his grandfather and grandmother, poor farmers renting land from a wealthy landowner, he was taught from a young age to help around the house and farm. He became remarkably efficient at getting tasks done quickly and developed a cool head in a crisis, focused on getting the job done no matter what was going on. One day, the wealthy landowner, Roberto, noticed Carlos' skill at reading and writing, and drafted him to pen letters and papers. Carlos quickly became a fixture of the house, the one who everyone turned to in a crisis, even Roberto, for a level head and calm advice. As Carlos advanced in age, he took the money that he had saved and left for Montevideo, where he got a job in the government, writing reports. There, he quickly rose through the ranks. While he was unnoticed in office politics because he was so unassuming, he was able to solve even the toughest crisis. After he rose to the top position in the department controlling government press releases, he became famous throughout his department for providing a helping hand to everyone, and quickly became the most popular leader to govern. President Batlle had heard of Carlos' reputation for incredible efficiency, and sought him out to hire him on the spot for the position of secretary.

## **23. Padre Francisco Roberto Serrano - Religious Advisor**

Padre Francisco Roberto Serrano was born in Italy, to a religious family of farmers. He decided from a young age that he felt called to enter the priesthood. As a young man, after taking his vows, Padre Francisco learned that there was a need for priests in Uruguay. Having always wanted to travel, he volunteered to be sent by the Vatican to promote Catholicism in Uruguay and cohesion within the Church. Once he arrived, he quickly became well known for giving fiery sermons at the Church that he established, focusing on repentance and evangelisation. He begged his followers to turn to God,

so that their sins may be forgiven, and people would come from miles to hear his impassioned speeches. He also developed a reputation for charity work, going into the poorest parts of Montevideo and traveling across the country in his modest horse and buggy, to preach and to minister to the poor. Padre Francisco became the face of the Catholic sect of the nation, vowing to promote Catholic interests and rekindle the faith of the entire nation. His vow was well publicized and he became the administrative and spiritual leader of the Catholic Church in Uruguay, making him a household name and a clear choice when President Batlle was looking for a religious advisor.

#### **24. Miguel Vilaro Rubio - Cultural Advisor**

From boyhood, when he first watched a traveling performance of Henrik Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* in his hometown of Artigas, Miguel Vilaro Rubio has been fascinated with arts and culture. As a young adult, he studied playwriting in Milan, and returned home with a global mindset and a determination to amplify the stories of Uruguay through the arts. Being the owner of a Montevideo theater, Miguel became a well loved figure in the community and developed many strong friendships with others in the industry. However, his position as Cultural Advisor to the government will require all of his popularity and skill. The duties of his new position involve promoting the arts, theater, music, and other cultural events on a national scale. Miguel must also represent a vastly multicultural population and navigate the desires of a fairly religious population and a secular government agenda. What his personal agenda is and how he will use his position to shape Uruguay's cultural identity remains to be seen.

## Bibliography

"185 Años De La Divisa Colorada." Partido Colorado, September 17, 2021.  
<https://partidocolorado.uy/185-anos-de-la-divisa-colorada/>.

*Batlle Hacia 1900*. 1901. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:JoseBatlle1900.jpg>.

Beaumont, J. A. B. "PLATE OF THE PROVINCES OF BUENOS AYRES, BANDA ORIENTAL & ENTRE RIOS." London, 1828.  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:\(1828\)\\_PLATE\\_OF\\_THE\\_PROVINCES\\_OF\\_BUENOS\\_AYRES,\\_BANDA\\_ORIENTAL\\_%26\\_ENTRE\\_RIOS.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:(1828)_PLATE_OF_THE_PROVINCES_OF_BUENOS_AYRES,_BANDA_ORIENTAL_%26_ENTRE_RIOS.jpg).

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "José Gervasio Artigas". Encyclopedia Britannica, 19 Sep. 2021, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jose-Gervasio-Artigas>. Accessed 29 November 2021.

"Disembark of The '33 Orientales.'" Young Day School. Accessed October 22, 2021.  
<http://www.youngdayschool.edu.uy/webliceo/april191825.html>.

Ehrick, Christine. *The Shield of the Weak: Feminism and the State in Uruguay, 1903-1933*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005.

*Flag of Artigas*. n.d. [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag\\_of\\_Artigas.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flag_of_Artigas.svg).

Hudson, Rex A., and Sandra W. Meditz. *Uruguay: A Country Study*. Washington, D.C.: Headquarters, Dept. of the Army, 1992.

International Trade Centre. "Country Profile Uruguay," n.d.  
<https://www.intracen.org/exporters/organic-products/country-focus/country-profile-uruguay/>.

James, P. E. , Weinstein, . Martin , Vanger, . Milton I. and Alisky, . Marvin H.. "Uruguay." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, November 9, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Uruguay>.

"José Batlle y Ordóñez." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed October 23, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Jose-Batlle-y-Ordenez>.

Knarr, James C. *Uruguay and the United States, 1903-1929 Diplomacy in the Progressive Era*. Ashland: The Kent State University Press, 2013.

Kurtz, Marcus J. *Latin American State Building in Comparative Perspective: Social Foundations of Institutional Order*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

"La Guerra Grande." Montevideo, Uruguay: Biblioteca Ceibal, n.d.

*Map Of Rio De La Plata. Wikimedia Commons.* Accessed October 22, 2021.

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old\\_maps\\_of\\_the\\_R%C3%ADo\\_de\\_la\\_Plata#/media/File:\(1828\)\\_PLATE\\_OF\\_THE\\_PROVINCES\\_OF\\_BUENOS\\_AYRES,\\_BANDA\\_ORIENTAL\\_&\\_ENTRE\\_RIOS.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Old_maps_of_the_R%C3%ADo_de_la_Plata#/media/File:(1828)_PLATE_OF_THE_PROVINCES_OF_BUENOS_AYRES,_BANDA_ORIENTAL_&_ENTRE_RIOS.jpg).

Pendle, George. *Uruguay*. 3d ed. London: Oxford University Press, 1963.

"Ruta De La Guerra Grande." Ministerio de Educación y Cultura. Ministry of Education And Culture of Uruguay, September 30, 2021. <https://www.gub.uy/ministerio-educacion-cultura/comunicacion/noticias/ruta-guerra-grande>.

"Uruguay: The Constitution." Country Studies. Accessed October 23, 2021.  
<http://countrystudies.us/uruguay/62.htm>.

"Uruguayan Civil War." Academic Dictionaries and Encyclopedias. Accessed October 22, 2021.  
<https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/4670256>.

Vanger, Milton I. "Politics and Class in Twentieth-Century Latin America." *Hispanic American Historical Review* 49, no. 1 (February 1, 1969): 80–93. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00182168-49.1.80>.

"War of the Triple Alliance." Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. Accessed October 23, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/event/War-of-the-Triple-Alliance>.